Confederação Nacional da Indústria

THE INDUSTRY'S PERSPECTIVE FOR COP16 ON BIODIVERSITY

Brasília
2024

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PRESENTATION

The 16th United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) will be a landmark meeting for the sustainable development agenda, particularly for South America. The meeting will take place from October 21st to November 1st, 2024 in Cali, Colombia.

On this occasion, heads of government from around the world, the scientific community, the productive and financial sectors, indigenous peoples, local communities, and non-governmental organizations will have the opportunity to assess the progress in defining new biodiversity targets.

These targets should guide national policies and programs with the aim of reversing global biodiversity loss by 2030 in line with the commitments made in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022.

Brazil has some of the greatest biodiversity in the world and has the potential to lead by example in finding balanced solutions that reconcile environmental protection and economic progress. The proactive participation of the Brazilian industry at COP16 is essential to ensure that the decisions taken are relevant and applicable to the national context.

As the main representative and interlocutor of Brazilian industry, the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI) coordinates consensus building among the industry's organizations to identify the necessary actions that will drive the country's progress towards the full implementation and monitoring of the targets.

This document, entitled “The Industry's Perspective for COP16 on Biodiversity”, addresses issues that the CNI considers strategic for Brazil and the national industry in the Cali negotiations. With this, we aim to once again contribute to this key debate on the future of the planet and the well-being of people.

Enjoy your reading.

Antonio Ricardo Alvarez Alban

President of CNI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the theme “Peace with Nature”, COP16 will be an important milestone in the global discussions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes goals and targets for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity. In this document, the CNI presents the contextualization and considerations on the key strategic issues for the country and national industry in the COP16 negotiations.

Progress in updating the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) is of great importance. The CNI was actively involved in this process in collaboration with the Brazilian government and contributed to the definition of national biodiversity targets. These targets represent key commitments to the protection and sustainable use of natural resources and form the basis for the promotion of new policies and incentives.

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and reviewing the Biodiversity Plan will also be discussed at COP16. It is imperative that these mechanisms are clear and efficient, allowing transparent monitoring of progress, identifying gaps, and enabling informed decision making to achieve the targets set.

In addition, the Conference will be a crucial moment in which countries will have to face the challenge of mobilizing concrete financial resources from all sources to accelerate the implementation of their environmental commitments. Currently, the resources earmarked for biodiversity are estimated to cover only 16 to 19% of the total needs to halt biodiversity loss, resulting in an average deficit of $711 billion per year.

Another aspect of great interest to the Brazilian industry is the negotiations on the multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism. The Brazilian industry can make an important contribution to the development of a fair and effective mechanism, based on its experience with national legislation on access and benefit-sharing (Law No. 13,123/2015). This issue puts Brazil and the industrial sector in a strategic position in the negotiations to promote technological development and innovation in a fair and inclusive way.

Finally, the document includes considerations on the link between biodiversity and climate change, as well as synthetic biology. These two topics are relevant to the industry as they impact risk mitigation strategies and the exploration of opportunities for the sector. Understanding and improving the links between biodiversity and climate change is crucial to identify synergies and create resilient and adapted solutions, while synthetic biology is emerging as an area with great potential for innovation.

With this document, the CNI underlines its leadership and commitment to sustainability and proposes concrete pathways and solutions for Brazil to continue moving towards a future where conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and economic prosperity are fully integrated.

Enjoy your reading.

Roberto Muniz

CNI's Institutional Relations Director

ACRONYMS

ABS: Access (to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources) and fair and equitable benefit-sharing

AHTEG: Ad Hoc (temporary) Technical Expert Group

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

COP Conference of the Parties

DSI: Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources

NBSAPs: National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

IPBES: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

GBF: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

CP: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

m-AHTEG: Multidisciplinary Ad Hoc (temporary) Technical Expert Group

MEAs: Multilateral Environmental Agreements

NP: Nagoya Protocol on ABS

SEC: Socio-Economic Considerations

SBSTTA: Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

TNFD: Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

INTRODUCTION

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD or Biodiversity Convention) is a United Nations treaty to which 196 countries, including Brazil, are parties, with the aim of promoting the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources.

The CBD was established in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio-92 or Eco-92), along with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The CBD Secretariat is responsible for organizing the Conference of the Parties (COP) and for providing technical and scientific support to the decisions of the Convention. The CBD also has a Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and a Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), which are supporting bodies, as well as *ad hoc* working groups that may be established with a mandate to address specific issues.

The first three editions of the CBD COP took place between 1994 and 1996. Then the Biodiversity Convention Conferences began to take place every two years, with the exception of the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, when, after the 14th COP, which took place in Egypt in 2018, the Conference was held in person again only in 2022 in Canada.

ASSESSMENT OF COP15

The 15th COP of the CBD (COP15) took place in Montreal, Canada, from December 7th to 19th, 2022. The signatory countries to the Convention adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), also known as the Biodiversity Plan. This instrument defined four goals and 23 targets to address the challenges related to biodiversity loss by 2030, with the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

The goals and targets relate to the reduction of threats to biodiversity, the sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It also addresses the integration of biodiversity into all sectors of society, including the private sector, and the means to implement the targets.

A topic of great interest to industry is Digital Sequence Information (DSI). Genetic sequences derived from rich biodiversity represent a valuable resource for scientific and technological development. In this context, the nations have agreed to develop an innovative approach for the equitable distribution of the benefits that arise from the utilization of these digital sequences of genetic resources.

The CNI document “Results of COP15 on Biodiversity for the Brazilian Industry”[1] provides further details of the deliberations of the 15th COP as well as the industry's position sent to the government at the time.

[1] BRAZILIAN NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY - CNI. **Resultados da COP15 de biodiversidade para a indústria brasileira**. Brasília: CNI, 2023. Available at: https://static.portaldaindustria.com.br/media/filer_public/3d/0f/3d0f1a6f-1b43-453f-8b7c-52fcff664c99/resultados_da_cop15_de_biodiversidade_para_a_industria_brasileira.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

COP16

The CBD negotiations in 2024 include the 16th COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP 11), and the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits (NP-MOP 5).

All of these meetings are referred to in this document as "COP16 on Biodiversity" and will take place between October 21st and November 1st, 2024, in Cali, Colombia.

Prior to these meetings, the 25th and 26th meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-25 and SBSTTA-26), the 4th and 5th meetings of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI-4 and SBI-5), meetings of the open-ended working group on the indicators, and the 1st and 2nd meetings of the open-ended working group on the Multilateral Mechanism for the Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (WGDSI-1 and WGDSI-2) were also held. These earlier meetings formulated recommendations to be considered for decision at COP16 on Biodiversity.

The theme chosen by Colombia, the host country, for COP16 is "Peace with Nature". The meetings will focus on the progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF or Biodiversity Plan) adopted at COP15.

The main topics of negotiation at COP16 include:

- Progress in updating the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans with the targets and goals of the Biodiversity Plan;
- Defining the monitoring framework for the Biodiversity Plan, including the indicators to be considered for each target;
- Creating a multilateral mechanism for the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources;
- Mobilizing resources to close the biodiversity financing gap

Other important topics include discussions on the Nagoya Protocol; Synthetic Biology, Risk Assessment and Risk Management; Biosafety; Capacity Building and Development, Technical and Scientific Cooperation; Health and Biodiversity; definition and protection of key areas of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity; and mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.

INDUSTRY'S PROPOSALS

Progress in updating the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

Background

With the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022, the Parties have committed to updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

In Brazil, the NBSAP update process in 2023 and 2024 was led by the federal government under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA). The process included a public consultation and sectoral and general workshops to discuss the national biodiversity targets and the actions needed to implement them.

In 2023, the CNI actively participated in the public consultation on the update of the NBSAP, aligning itself with the demands and prospects of the industrial sector. Later, in 2024, the CNI, in collaboration with the federal government and other actors, presented the industry's vision for the biodiversity targets. In this context, the Business Sector NBSAP Update Workshop was organized in collaboration with the MMA and the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), with the different industry segments represented. The CNI was also present at the general workshop, highlighting the contributions of the industrial sector to the proposed targets and actions.

During COP16, Brazil, together with the other CBD signatory states, will present its updated national targets and, depending on the progress achieved, also its renewed NBSAPs. An interactive panel[2] on the Convention portal provides details of each country's national biodiversity targets and information on the submission of the countries' NBSAPs[3].

Industry considerations

- When internalizing national biodiversity targets and implementing the GBF, it is important to ensure that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is taken, including the involvement of the industrial sector.

[2] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **National targets**. 2024. Available at: https://ort.cbd.int/national-targets. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[3] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).** 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/nbsap. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

- The online reporting tool provided by the CBD can be used to ensure transparency in the submission of the NBSAPs updated and/or revised by the 196 Parties to the CBD, including the respective national biodiversity targets.

- We recommend including an analysis identifying the headline indicators reported by CBD signatory countries in their NBSAPs and integrating them into the dashboard[4] for the submission of national biodiversity targets available on the CBD information exchange platform ("Clearing House Mechanism").

- In line with Annex I of Decision 15/6[5], which consolidates the standardized template for the submission of national biodiversity targets by the 196 Parties to the CBD, it is necessary to ensure clarity and consistency in the provision of all critical information required in this Annex. The list of "critical information" includes, for monitoring purposes, the determination of the headline indicators that should be included in the national reports to be submitted in 2026 and 2029.

[4] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **National targets analyzer**. 2024. Available at: https://ort.cbd.int/national-targets. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[5] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

Monitoring framework for the Biodiversity Plan

Background

In order to monitor the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan, the CBD signatory countries have also adopted the Monitoring Framework, including the definition of indicators to review progress in relation to the goals and targets of the Biodiversity Plan (Decision 15/5[6]). In addition, an *ad hoc* technical expert working group was set up to discuss the indicators in order to implement this monitoring structure.

The Monitoring Framework currently consists of headline, component and complementary indicators. Headline indicators are based on methodologies validated by the CBD Parties and represent the minimum set of indicators that capture the full scope of the goals and targets. The component and complementary indicators are an optional list that can be adopted by countries.

The indicators are basic information tools that provide a large amount of data on the GBF goals and targets. It should be noted, however, that the indicators must be selected taking into account the availability and accessibility of the data to be used to achieve them and translate them into measurable progress.

At COP16, countries will update the Monitoring Framework based on the recommendations of the SBSTTA and the Working Group on Article 8(j)[7].

Industry considerations

- The robustness, transparency and interoperability of national monitoring systems should be prioritized to ensure predictability and confidence of the economic operators involved.
- It is important to ensure that industry has the opportunity to actively participate in the process of establishing the headline indicators and binary indicators that should be part of the national reports to be submitted by Brazil in 2026 and 2029.

[6] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[7] Article 8 (j): Subject to national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices. Available at: https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/decreto/1998/anexos/and2519-98.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

- This negotiation represents an opportunity to strengthen and improve the use of indicators adopted by Brazil under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[8] by identifying and addressing existing gaps.

- It is also an opportunity to contribute to the strengthening of monitoring systems (public and private) at regional and national levels, which will be implemented to measure progress in the implementation of biodiversity targets and potential sectoral biodiversity plans.

- It is essential to ensure that inclusive and collaborative processes are established for the development of global biodiversity indicators, including through the active participation and expertise of industry.

- In line with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, we recommend promoting the use of voluntary sustainability frameworks and standards that guide companies and financial institutions to assess, measure and report on their biodiversity risks, impacts and dependencies in a way that is not costly and ensures competitiveness and greater fluidity in industrial relationships.

[8] IBGE website: https://odsbrasil.gov.br/relatorio/sintese; IPEA website: https://www.ipea.gov.br/ods/

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing

Background

In Decision 15/6[9], the COP recognized the need to undertake additional work to develop procedures for the global review of progress related to the Biodiversity Plan. The decision included the establishment of a forum for voluntary reviews by countries and the definition of reporting templates to document the achievement of the goals and targets set out in the Biodiversity Plan.

During COP16, countries are expected to adopt a new decision based on Recommendation 4/22[10]. This deliberation will take into account comments and impressions gathered through the global review processes, as well as lessons learned from the voluntary review forum.

Industry considerations

- In line with the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature" and taking into account the cooperation of all stakeholders, it is important to ensure a participatory process to formulate proposals that will enable the full realization of the global biodiversity targets by 2030.

- We recommend facilitating the participation of industry, civil society organizations, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, and all levels of government in all phases of the development and implementation of the NBSAP, as well as in the preparation and provision of information for the 7th and 8th national reports to the CBD.

- We understand that the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, as set out in Decision 15/6, should be carried out in a facilitating, non-intrusive and non-punitive manner, in order to respect Brazil's sovereignty and not impose undue burdens on the country.

[9] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[10] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 29 May 2024**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-04/sbi-04-rec-02-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

Global multilateral mechanism for the sharing of benefits for DSI

Background

At COP15, countries agreed to develop a special approach for the sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) under the Convention, as set out in Decision 15/9[11]. This approach led to the proposal of a Multilateral Mechanism (MLM) for the use of DSI.

Decision 15/9[11] set out several characteristics for the MLM and emphasized that it must be efficient, practical and feasible; be able to generate more benefits, including both monetary and non-monetary, than costs; be effective; be safe and clear for providers and users of DSI; should not hinder research and innovation; be consistent with open access to data; among others.

In addition, the Decision led to the creation of a fund to serve as a financial structure for managing the resources arising from benefit-sharing and called for the formation of an *ad hoc* group responsible for working together to improve the multilateral mechanism and provide recommendations to COP16.

The deliberations of this group, which took place in November 2023 and August 2024, resulted in a Recommendation[12]. This document contains several points to be discussed during COP16, including the definition of the best alternative for the trigger leading to benefit sharing.

Industry considerations

- The MLM should promote the sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of DSI and support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework to strengthen a sustainable bioeconomy and promote research, innovation and investment based on biodiversity.

- The sharing of benefits should be the consequence of a research and innovation process that results in a product that has used genetic sequences, along the lines

[11] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-09-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[12] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/wgdsi-02/wgdsi-02-rec-01-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

of how Brazilian legislation deals with the obligation to share benefits from access to genetic resources.

- The MLM should be a multilateral mechanism that establishes common, predictable and efficient bases that provide legal certainty. It should be based on simple and transparent procedures that encourage broad participation and guarantee the right to access and utilize DSI.

- For the MLM to be implemented in a cost-effective manner that ensures legal certainty and broad participation, it is necessary to define elements inherent to its operation, such as: a) concept and scope of DSI; b) use of DSI; c) access to DSI; d) eligibility for benefit sharing (generative factor based on the use of DSI according to paragraph 2 of Decision 15/9[11]); e) differences between public and private DSI banks that may lead to obligations or exemptions under the MLM.

- The MLM should not restrict or charge for access and use of DSI, otherwise it would harm, discourage or limit investment in research and innovation. The mechanism should create multilateral rules in practice that catalyze the use of sequences as an essential element of biodiversity-based innovation.

- It is important to recognize that it is impossible to track all digital genetic sequences used in innovation processes, nor to characterize which sequences have led to the innovation associated with a product that uses DSI.

- The MLM should not result in double payments for users who innovate by using DSI. In this sense, the rules of the MLM should make clear that there will be no overlap and/or conflict between national systems and the MLM.

- Benefit sharing under the MLM will be only one of the sources of funding needed to mobilize resources related to the Global Biodiversity Framework and has a complementary nature.

- Indigenous peoples and local communities should directly benefit from benefit sharing.

- The MLM should be applied by all Parties to the CDB as a multilateral mechanism for sharing the benefits that arise from the utilization of DSI.

- The MLM should respect other specialized international mechanisms as long as they do not conflict with the mechanism established under the CBD.

Mobilization of financial resources

Background

At COP15, countries agreed to adopt a strategy for mobilizing financial resources in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework, as set out in Decision 15/77[13]. In order to monitor the progress of this strategy, an advisory committee was set up with the task of reporting on progress at the subsequent COP16. In addition, the establishment of a special fund together with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was proposed to support the implementation of the GBF.

The revised resource mobilization strategy is on the decision-making agenda for COP16[14]. In addition, countries will assess a proposal from Bolivia outlining a "Roadmap for the operationalization of financial resources in line with Target 19". This target sets the goal of mobilizing 20 billion dollars annually by 2025 and at least 30 billion dollars annually by 2030 for the implementation of the biodiversity targets.

Industry considerations

- Brazil needs to systematize and clearly present information and data on the financial resources it has mobilized internally for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in order to ensure that its contribution is recognized and valued in international negotiations.

- When collectively mobilizing public and private financial resources, it is essential to promote synergies between the climate and biodiversity agendas to accelerate the achievement of climate change mitigation and adaptation targets, as well as the targets for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, while avoiding double counting of the financial resources allocated to these goals[15].
- The diversification of biodiversity financing promotes innovative financial solutions such as green bonds, blended finance and Payments for Ecosystem

[13] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-07-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[14] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 29 May 2024**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-04/sbi-04-rec-03-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[15] It should be noted that the GEF is not limited to financing projects that enable developing countries to achieve the biodiversity targets, but also supports activities and projects related to climate change mitigation and adaptation under the UNFCCC. In this sense, avoiding double counting refers to not counting the same item or activity twice.

Services (PES). In this sense, it is important to develop guidelines and share best practices.

- Flexibility in the integration of biodiversity into private finance avoids the introduction of binding and restrictive lists that do not take into account regional and local specificities, thus ensuring a diversity of financing modalities.

Biodiversity and Climate Change

Background

In 2000, the 5th COP of the CBD emphasized the risks of climate change for coral reefs and forests and highlighted the serious impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods. In 2001, SBSTTA formed an expert group to assess the interconnections and provide guidance on ecosystem resilience and synergies with climate action. In 2004, the issue of "biodiversity and climate change" became an overarching part of the CBD agenda. Since then, subsequent COP meetings have encouraged the promotion of ecosystem-based approaches, nature-based solutions, and the integration of biodiversity into climate policy.

A breakthrough was achieved at COP15 with the adoption of Decision 15/30[16]. Building on this progress, COP16 will seek to deepen discussions by building on the inputs and information on the interrelationship between biodiversity and climate change provided by CBD signatory countries, as well as other governments and relevant organizations. These inputs, together with the insights from the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), will provide the background for the consideration and possible adoption of Recommendation 25/8[17].

Industry considerations

- Promoting the Brazilian perspective on "nature-based solutions" (NbS) that stimulate sustainable innovation and scientific research is critical, in line with the guiding principles of United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 5/5[18] on "Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development", adopted in March 2022.

- To promote effective mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management measures aiming to limit global warming to below 1.5°C compared to pre-

[16] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2022. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-30-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[17] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **recommendation adopted by the subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice on 19 october 2023**. 2023. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-25/sbstta-25-rec-08-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[18] UNITED NATIONS DIGITAL LIBRARY. **Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development**: resolution 2022. Available at: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3999268?v=pdf#files. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

industrial levels, it is essential to integrate strategies that prevent biodiversity loss and increase the resilience of ecosystems.

- Mobilizing new and additional resources should be a priority to collectively increase investments in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable infrastructure.

- We recommend cautiously monitoring and assessing the upcoming and still early conceptual and legal debate on “biodiversity credits” under the CBD. In 2022, a voluntary international alliance called The Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA) was established, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). This alliance aims to support the implementation of the GBF, with a focus on Targets 19(c) and (d), which encourage the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through financial instruments and “biodiversity credits… as social safeguards”.

- Synergistic solutions between the biodiversity and climate change agendas that promote strategies for integrating production and conservation need to be identified and maximized. Examples include the promotion of agroforestry systems, the combination of trees and agricultural crops to increase climate resilience and sustainable productivity, and the use of biomass as a renewable energy source.

Synthetic biology

Background

In 2018, COP Decision 14/19[19] approved the establishment of a "horizon scanning"[20], process, a comprehensive and regular monitoring and assessment of the latest technological developments in synthetic biology with the aim of "reviewing new information regarding the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the CDB and those of the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol". At that time, however, neither the timeframe was defined nor "how" such a process should be put into practice.

At its 15th meeting, the COP adopted Decision 15/31[21]. With this decision, the COP initiated a process of "horizon scanning" to monitor and assess technological advances in synthetic biology with the support of an *ad hoc* expert group and an open-ended online forum.

The SBSTTA revised a document prepared by the CBD Secretariat, taking into account feedback from the peer review, and adopted Recommendation 26/4[22]. At COP16, countries must take a decision based on Recommendation 26/4[22].

Industry considerations

- By leveraging international cooperation and developing innovative technologies, we must ensure that advances in synthetic biology are accessible globally and that their applications benefit all sectors.

- Promoting financial and technical support for training and technology transfer initiatives is essential, especially for developing countries, and includes research, development and innovation (RD&I) in the field of synthetic biology.

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[19] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2018. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-19-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[20] The "horizon scanning" process consists of "mapping and collecting information and solid evidence on technological developments in the field of synthetic biology" (Agroicone, 2019).

[21] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity**. 2022. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-31-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

[22] CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. **Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on 18 May 2024**. 2024. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-26/sbstta-26-rec-04-en.pdf. Retrieved on: Jul 20. 2024.

- It is important to ensure that a broadly informed debate on the benefits and challenges associated with synthetic biology is promoted, ensuring equal representation of the scientific and technical community on this issue and including their participation in the discussions of the *ad hoc* technical expert group on this topic.

- The introduction of restrictive barriers such as a global moratorium, which could hinder the progress of synthetic biology research, should be avoided. This is important to ensure the continuity of innovation and the exploration of its potential to benefit different sectors of society.

- Recognition of the potential benefits of synthetic biology is crucial, especially in terms of its ability to contribute to the targets of the GBF.

- To realize the identified benefits of synthetic biology, clear and strategic guidelines should be established, including capacity development and strengthening, with a focus on building a solid RD&I infrastructure.

- As a priority, the positive impacts of synthetic biology should be communicated and widely disseminated, highlighting its role as a driver for sustainable technological and economic advances.

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