The Convention on Biological Diversity Guide for Experts

INTERNAL CO-OP4CBD BIODIVERSA DOCUMENT
(not for diffusion)

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III/ Toolkit: ways to scientifically support CBD

1° Level 1: Beginners

Prerequisite of such an engagement: None, low resources required

Objective: Get to know CBD and some of its relevant actors

A. Discover CBD main activities

Tool N°1.A	Discover CBD main activities
Prerequisite	Get familiar with the CBD history
Stakeholders involved	None
Timeframe	Before further involvement
Costs	In-kind costs
Objectives	• Understand how the CBD works (see in introduction). • Understand how the CBD adopts decisions. • Understand how the CBD defines its strategy. • Understanding the source of CBD knowledge.
Description (context & content – step by step)	In 2022 at COP15 the CBD adopted a framework, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) that defines the CBD strategy, including a vision and goals for 2050 and targets to be met by the Parties by 2030. Through its COPs, its subsidiary bodies (SBSTTA, SBI, SBA8j), and various expert groups (see Tool n°1.C), the CBD creates its governance space where biodiversity issues are negotiated, refined, and translated into propositions of actions. Indeed, at each COP, the Parties adopt decisions necessary to monitor the effective implementation of this framework and adapt the objectives. The CBD draws on a wide range of sources to inform its decisions: national reports, scientific assessments (such as those from IPBES, other intergovernmental structures), recommendations from its subsidiary bodies, inputs from civil society experts (NGOs, IPLC etc.). Once the decisions have been adopted and published, Parties and relevant organizations must ensure that they are properly implemented, knowing that meeting the targets is not mandatory for Parties.

Outcomes	Get familiar with the CBD framework and its strategic documents
Resources	

B. Understand CBD timeframe

Tool N°1.B	Understand CBD timeframe
Prerequisite	Discover CBD main activities (Tool 1.A)
Stakeholders involved	Secretariat of the CBD Initiatives working alongside the CBD Subsidiary Bodies and their bureaus CBD COP Bureau Parties Negotiators Knowledge holders Fellow researchers Other national actors
Timeframe	To consult before engaging into CBD activities.
Costs	In-kind costs

Activity's objectives

- Understand the time frame of CBD meetings and activities
- Better anticipate further Subsidiary Bodies and COP meetings
- Prepare for an involvement into CBD activities, in accordance with annual processes
- Be able to plan activities related to the CBD, on a long-term perspective

Description (context & content – step by step)

The CBD operates in different timeframes:

- **The Convention's timeframe**

The Convention itself is meant to be implemented over decades. It entered into force in 1993 and has been implemented since then.

- **The Strategic plan's timeframe**

Parties decide on decennial strategies for biodiversity. These strategies are currently oriented towards a 2050 vision "Living in harmony with nature". A "Strategic Plan for CBD" was adopted from 2002 to 2010. Then, the "Aichi targets" from 2010 to 2020(22). For the period 2022 to 2030, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) was adopted. This framework supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and builds on the Convention's previous strategic plans. Through the CBD (Article 6), Parties commit to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. In line with this Article, Parties develop:

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), that plan national actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (NBSAPs submitted in 2024).

- National reports, that provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the strategic plan (7th National reports on February 2026, 8th National reports in 2029)

The KM-GBF requires Parties to adjust NBSAPs and national reports to fit with the new targets defined through the framework.

- **The meetings' timeframe: COP and Subsidiary Bodies meetings**

CBD activities follow a specific timeframe. As an example, under the period of implementation of the KM-GBF (2022-2030) are organized:

- COP every two years (e.g., 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030)

- Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA): between each COP (intersessional)

- Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI): between each COP (intersessional)

- Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j): to be defined through a modus operandi*

Description (context & content – step by step)

**The modus operandi defines the functions, areas of work, procedural matters regarding the creation of a new body in the CBD framework – for the SB8(j) it should be determined during its first meeting organized in October 2025.*

The discussions and topics raised at the COP are often the following steps of the previous years of intersessional discussion meetings (subsidiary bodies meetings).

This meetings' time frame is the same since 1993 and the start of the implementation of the CBD and applies whatever the strategic framework.

- **The Decisions timeframe:**

Decisions adopted by COPs have already been negotiated at one or more intersessional meetings. Draft decisions are also shaped between negotiations by written submissions and outcomes of expert group meetings.

COP Decisions are meant to be implemented by Parties and can be updated during CBD meetings. All decisions of the CBD on substance are taken in consensus of all Parties negotiating (see Tool n°2.F). Parties can specify a deadline for the implementation of the decisions or insist on the level of urgency for implementation (e.g., "as soon as possible"). Several decisions can impact the implementation process of several national policies (e.g., update of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans…). It can also engage actors that are not governments (e.g., Major Groups – see Tool 1.D…).

Outcomes

- Increase engagement with CBD processes according to the agenda
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and participation in CBD meetings
- Anticipate and prepare for the next milestones related to CBD implementation annual processes

Resources