



Biodiversity and Climate Change

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Two highly intertwined crises

Climate change is impacting wildlife, contributing to the rapid loss and redistribution of biodiversity we are witnessing

The loss of biodiversity is deepening the climate change crisis, altering Earth's capacity to sequester and store the carbon we emit, *while removing opportunities for our societies to adapt to the new climatic normal*

LINKS BETWEEN THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY CRISES



RAPIDLY CHANGING CLIMATIC CONDITIONS ARE DIRECTLY THREATENING THE LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF MANY SPECIES

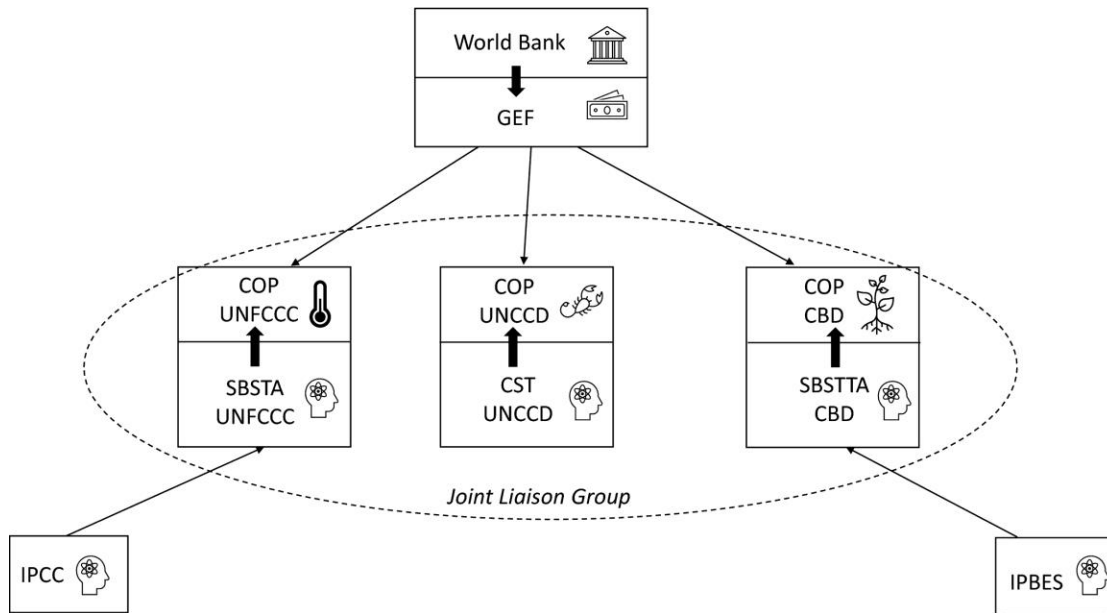
SPECIES ARE CHANGING THEIR DISTRIBUTION IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, IMPACTING ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING AND STABILITY



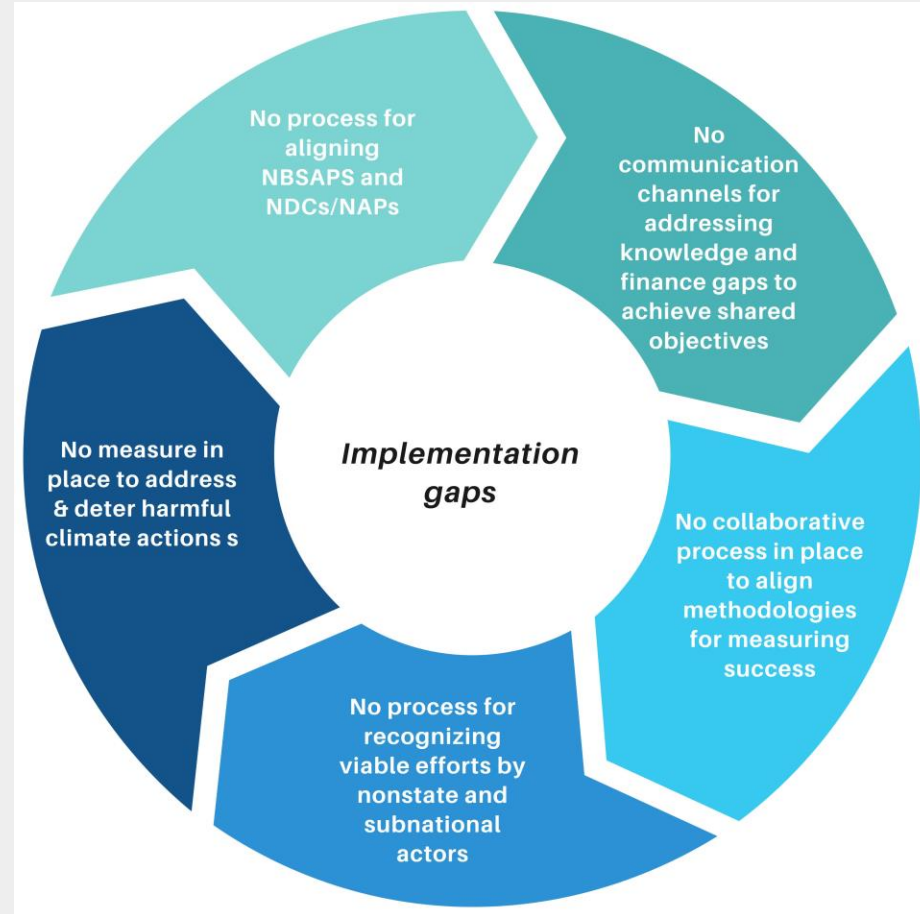
RAPID DEGRADATION AND/OR LOSS OF ECOSYSTEMS REDUCES OUR PLANET'S ABILITY TO STORE CARBON

Intertwined crises but siloed infrastructures

- Separate conventions
- Separate budgets for each conventions
- Separate action agendas
- Separate scientific platforms
- Existence of a UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC Joint Liaison Group BUT this group meets relatively rarely + any recommendation put forward needs to be supported by all COPs



Siloes and consequences



What's needed?



- Alignment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans to achieve shared objectives
- Oversight of where finance (both public and private) is being allocated towards achieving the goals of the Conventions, ensuring that it is not being allocated in a manner that undermines the goals of one Convention at the expense of another
- Development and strengthening of methods to monitor and review progress on interdependent UN objectives
- Identification and management of climate actions that are harmful to biodiversity
- Organisation of joint technical expert dialogues, including experts from different disciplines and holders of traditional knowledge
- Strengthening of synergies at regional and sub-regional levels to increase the effectiveness of products, initiatives and projects relevant to all three Conventions.

Stronger synergies in the planning and implementation of national climate, biodiversity and land restoration plans, investments and strategies



Coherence, Interoperability, Time & Cost saving

Ecosystems as a pivotal concept for integrated response across UN conventions

Fundamental role of ecosystems

- For climate regulation
- For climate change adaptation
- For delivering on the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework
- For meeting land degradation neutrality target
- For disaster risk management

Encouraging alignment on guidance on ecosystem-based approaches and principles across UN conventions

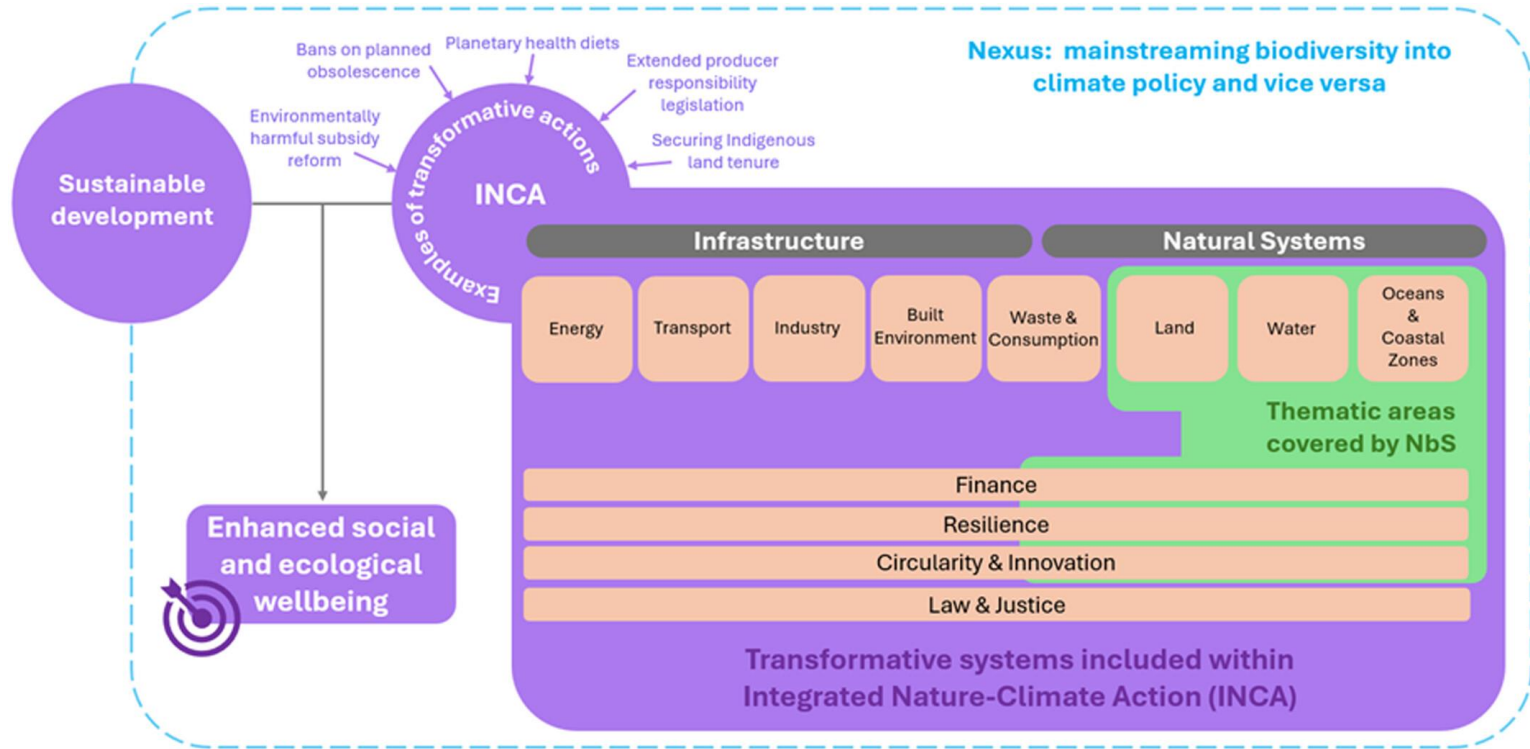


Some of the key issues for alignment

- Oversight and funding of actions
- Global relevance versus local relevance
- Keeping abreast with developments in climate and biodiversity sectors, including diversification of actors and accumulating experience
- Identification and consideration of situations where alignment is not possible (eg, ecosystem restoration not always good for disaster reduction)
- Forging guidelines that optimise convention targets delivery and aligned with principles relating to environmental justice and just transitions



Beyond place-based solutions



Thank you 😊

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Biodiversity and Climate Change under the CBD and at SBSTTA-27

- Biodiversity and climate change under the CBD
- SBSTTA-27 - what we can expect

Many thanks for Mathias Bertram for contributing many of the slides!



Biodiversity and Climate Change contact group at COP16 in Cali
Foto credit – Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Looking Back: CBD COP Decision 16/22

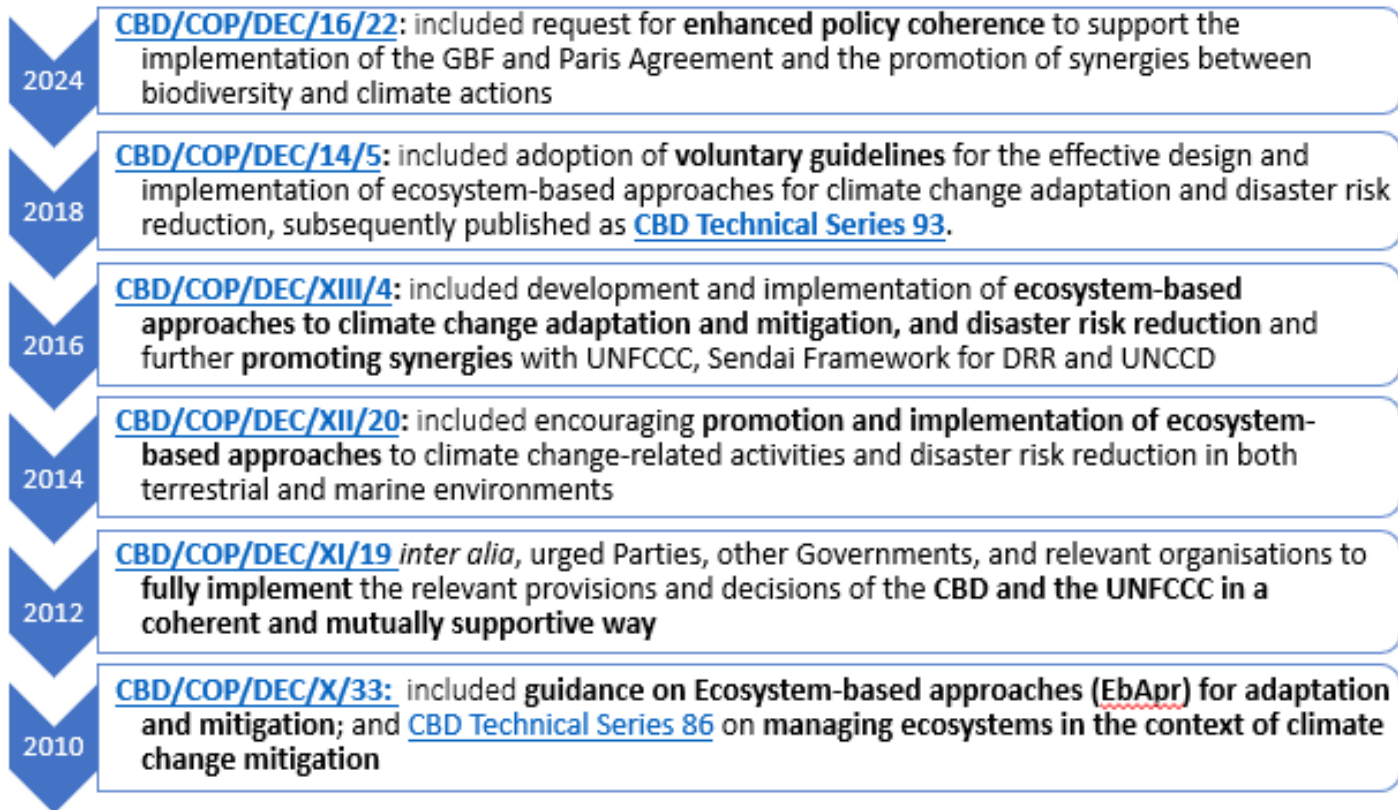
A strong decision strengthening biodiversity and Climate synergies at many levels between:

- **Science** : enhanced collaboration between **IPBES & IPCC**
- **Conventions** : Enhanced cooperation between CBD and UNFCCC COP presidencies, secretariats & exploring options for enhanced policy coherence including a potential joint work program for the Rio conventions
- **Policies** : Strengthening cooperation between **CBD & UNFCCC** national focal points & aligning **NBSAPs** with climate policies and plans (such as **NDCs**)
- **Partnerships** : enhanced cooperation & collaboration via existing initiatives, partnerships and coalitions on the biodiversity & climate change nexus
- **Practice** : Accelerating implementation and scaling up of **Nature-based Solutions & Ecosystem-based Approaches** with social and environmental safeguards e.g. via guidelines

Many of our requests, dating back to the Vilnius SBSTTA 25 European preparatory workshop, have been included in the final document



Looking further back...



SBSTTA 27 Agenda Item 5

2 main elements -

a) Supplement to the CBD Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

b) Options for enhanced policy coherence, including a potential joint work programme of the Rio conventions

Item 5

Biodiversity and climate change

19. In its decision [16/22](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction providing voluntary guidance and tools based on good practices for the design, effective implementation and scaling up, as appropriate, of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation to support the implementation of Targets 8 and 11, as well as other related targets, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, where appropriate, consistent with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, noting Mother Earth-centric

⁴ CBD/SBSTTA/27/2.

⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/27/3.

⁶ See CBD/SBSTTA/27/3/Add.1.

⁷ See CBD/SBSTTA/27/3/Add.2.

⁸ See CBD/SBSTTA/27/3/Add.3.

a) Guidelines on EbA & EcoDRR and developing a supplement on NbS & EbA on climate change mitigation

CBD/COP/DEC/16/22 – Biodiversity and Climate Change

4. **Encourages Parties to use the tools and information** available under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction,⁹ **or their updated versions**, as decided by the Conference of the Parties, as well as relevant tools and guidance developed under other biodiversity-related conventions

12. **Invites the respective bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Parties** to consider using the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction for Parties to integrate biodiversity and social safeguards in mitigation and adaptation measures;

17. **Requests** the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts, to **develop a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction** providing voluntary guidance and tools based on good practices for the design, effective implementation and scaling up, as appropriate, of **nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation** to support the implementation of Targets 8 and 11, as well as other related targets, of the Framework, where appropriate, consistent with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, noting Mother Earth-centric actions, as recognized by some countries, in line with different national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, **including updating guidance for fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards, based on existing safeguards**, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

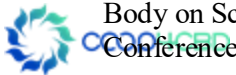
→ making use of the current guidelines by CBD parties

→ making use of the current guidelines by UNFCCC bodies and parties

→ **Request the Executive Secretary to develop a supplement to the guidelines, i.e. update with NbS & EbM, fit-for-purpose safeguards**

19. March – 2 virtual Online-Consultations with 76 participants across 43 countries,

7-9. May – expert workshop in Cambridge with 46 participants,



Supplement development

- **For SBSTTA 27 consideration a short 6-7 page document** (part of a draft recommendation) will be prepared covering only new key additional elements (e.g. link with NbS, GBF, updated principles and safeguards)
- **Sections:** key messages; introduction; principles&safeguards; overarching considerations for design, implementation and scaling up; mainstreaming; stepwise approach for design and implementation
- Afterwards a **longer document** with additional tools and guidance for practitioners will be prepared for peer review and adoption at **CBD COP 17**.

Proposed structure of the supplement

- Aligning with the content of original voluntary guidelines (and highlighting new priorities)
- Updating with new findings and policy frameworks such as UNEA 5/5, GBF and COP16 decision
- Emphasis on climate change mitigation and on fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards to achieve GBF targets 8 & 11

Principles

- Build resilience and enhance adaptive capacity
- Ensure inclusivity and equity in planning & implementation
- Design at appropriate scales and coordinate across sectors
- Integrate diverse knowledge systems
- Facilitate active learning
- Address multiple policy objectives

Safeguards

- Promote fair and equitable access to benefits
- Ensure transparent governance
- Respect rights
- Promote full, effective, inclusive participation
- Apply EIA, robust MEL frameworks
- Prevent transfer of risks and impacts
- Prevent harm to biodiversity, ecosystems
- Use resources sustainably

b) CBD COP Decision 16/22 - Options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence on Rio Conventions

CBD/COP/DEC/16/22 – Biodiversity and Climate Change

19. Further requests the Executive Secretary to invite Parties, observers and other stakeholders, to submit by May 2025 their views on options for enhanced policy coherence, including a potential joint work programme of the Rio conventions, to be compiled by the Executive Secretary for the attention of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, to submit its compilation for consideration the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to invite the executive secretaries of the other Rio conventions to collaborate on the organization of a technical information exchange in 2025 to further explore options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement;



→ 70+ Submissions by parties, observers and other groups (CBD Notification 2025-05)

→ Technical Information Exchange (TIE) as hybrid event, 15 June in Bonn

Note: the TIE also had an impact on Climate SBs, where SBSTA 62 consultations resulted in a review mandate for cooperation between international organisations (including Rio synergies) through submissions for UNFCCC SBSTA 63 in the run-up to COP 30 in BRA.

Submissions under CBD Notification 2025-05



Convention on
Biological Diversity



71 submissions, including **11** from **38 parties** (MEX, GMB, ZAF, BRA, COL, JPN, GBR, CAN, PER, NZL, EU with 27 member states) and **60 from hundreds of observers** (including UNCCD, UNDRR, coalitions of NGOs, scientists, CBD Women, UN Youth)

Diverse proposals including some **common topics**:

- alignment of national strategies,
- nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches,
- monitoring, reporting, and verification,
- role of scientific assessments and evidence-based policy,
- knowledge management and capacity building,
- resource mobilization,
- Indigenous Peoples and local communities,
- whole-of-society approach,

& mechanisms and formats:

- Strengthening science-policy interfaces (SPI) of IPBES, IPCC and UNCCD;
- strengthening the existing Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio Conventions (potentially through a Joint Work Program);
- creating an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) or expert group;
- creating a stand-alone agenda item under the UNFCCC (a work programme on nature);
- creating a Party-led joint work programme or joint work mechanism across the Rio Conven

Notification 2025-005

Submission of views and
information on biodiversity
and climate change

[...] Representatives of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as well as observers and other stakeholders in those processes, are welcome to also submit their views. National focal points to the CBD are encouraged to engage with their

📅 2025-01-28

📅 Action required by 2025-05-01

📄 Submission received: 71

Subject(s): Climate Change and Biodiversity

And there's so much more not explicitly on the agenda that could come up...

- Financing (integrated approach to cc and biodivers.)
- Principle of CBDR + capabilities
- Human rights-based approach to NBS and ecosystem-based approaches
- Definitions, e.g. NBS
- Geo-engineering
- Inappropriate use of tree plantations and biomass energy, hydroelectricity
- Meaningful engagement between CBD – UNFCCC, IPCC – IPBES and the science-policy interface generally
- Links to other agenda items beyond synergies (eg IAS)
- ...

Thank you!

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