

A future useful resource: the CBD experts' guide

A resource **jointly developed** by two EU-funded initiatives, **joining forces** to train experts to engage in CBD:

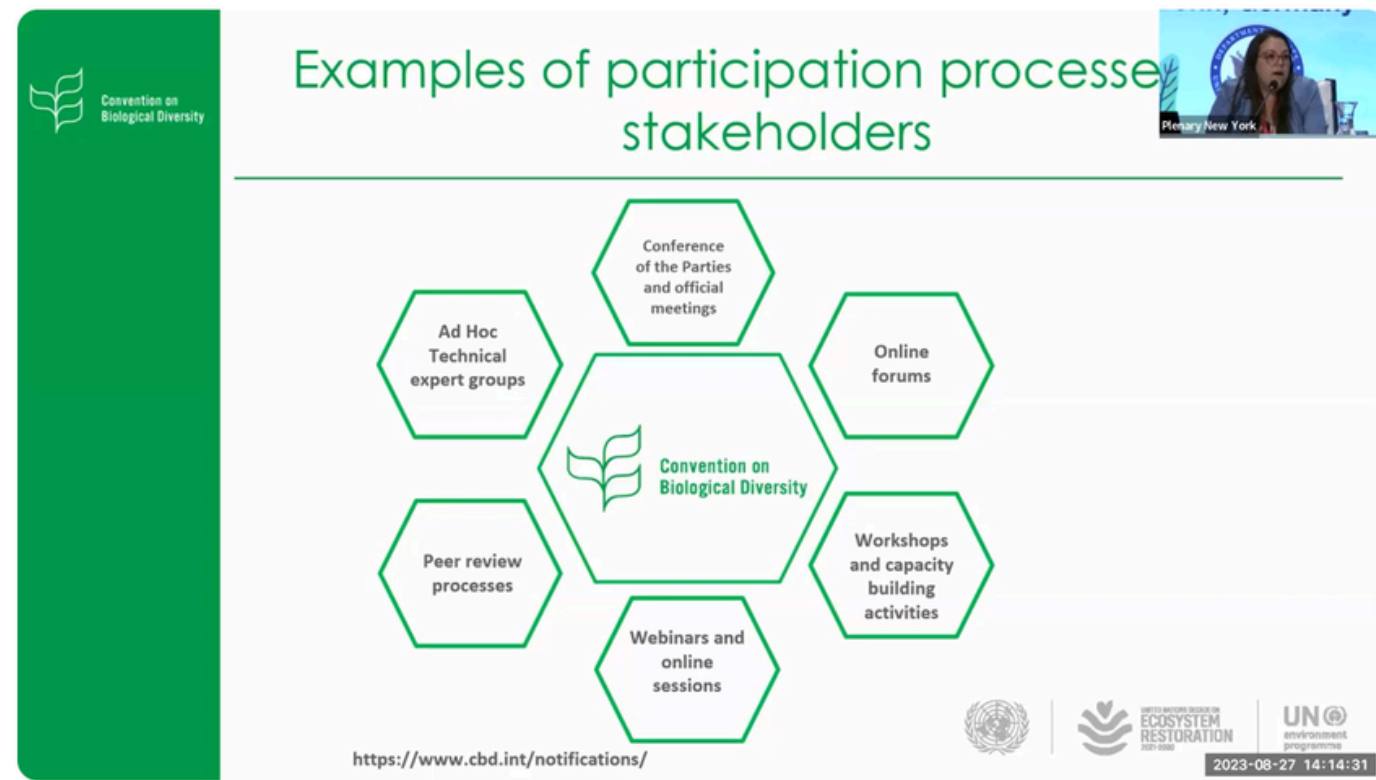


- Horizon Europe-funded project (2022-2026)
- Aims to enhance coordination and leverage existing expertise and initiatives within the EU to support the implementation of the CBD
- Technical and scientific cooperation
- Capacity-building activities

- A **20-year** old network of 80+ partners from 40+ countries
- **>800 Mio€** over 7 years (2021-28)
- **Funding** excellent **research** with an impact on policy and society
- Rolling out a wide portfolio of **pan-European activities** (e.g., monitoring)
- Incl. **CBD/MEAs capacity-building** events and learning materials for its funded researchers



Why this guide?



SCBD: Presentation at IPBES 10 Stakeholder Day (2023)

- Knowledge expected to **inform** CBD processes (i.e., negotiations, implementation, monitoring)
- Examples of **successful engagement** of experts (e.g., post-2020 GBF)
- /!\ Engagement as a **challenge** for experts, and thus **not sufficiently involved** in CBD

“Develop [...] **training** in effective engagement” as a recommendation for improving scientific engagement (Carroll et al., 2023)

Why this guide?



Biodiversa+ CBD capacity-building events



CO-OP4CBD training sessions

- Several **initiatives** rolling out “one-off” capacity-building events targeting experts
- /!\ **No long-term, to be used at any convenient time, global resource** providing a **comprehensive** overview of ways to engage with the CBD

Why this guide?



- A dozen of learning materials focusing on the CBD
- Designed for different **types of stakeholders** (e.g., negotiators, IPLCs) OR obsolete
- /!\ No learning material focusing on the engagement of **experts** in the CBD

A guide for whom?



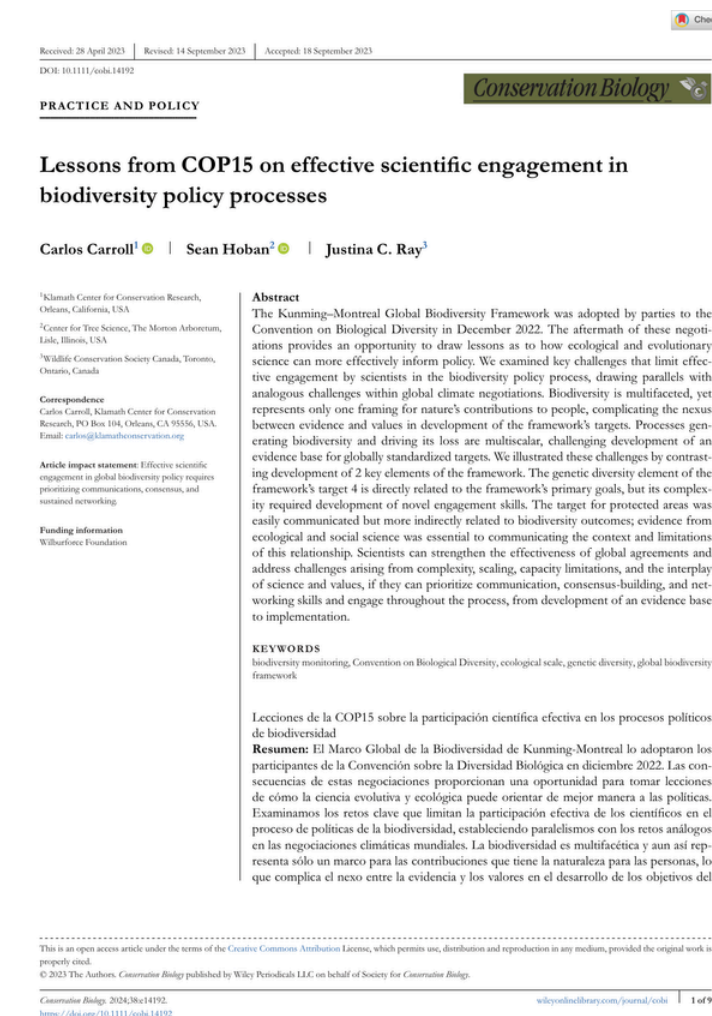
Photo credits: IISD/ENB – Mike Muzurakis (GYBN & Women's Caucus)

- Experts? Anyone having an **expertise in CBD issues** (e.g., researchers, TEK holders, professionals, Youth, Women, etc.)
- From **all disciplines, knowledge systems and regions**
- Incl. **early career researchers, members of civil society organisations**

An evidence-based learning material

- A guide drafted building upon existing **literature and expertise** (e.g., going through two external reviews)
- Reviewed by recognised experts in CBD processes

Carroll et al.: Lessons from COP15 on effective scientific engagement in biodiversity policy processes (2021)



A toolkit tailor-made to its users



- A **general introduction** to the CBD and what is **expected** from such science-policy interfaces
- **30+ tools**, incl. visuals
- Experts not having the same **level of engagement** with the CBD and **constraints**
- Hence, a **stepwise** approach, ranging from **Beginners**, to **Advanced** and **Experts**

A toolkit tailor-made to its users

1

Outcomes

- Get familiar with the CBD framework and its strategic documents

Resources



Is there a **prerequisite** to engage this way (e.g., prior knowledge, ties)?

B. Understand CBD timeframe

Tool N°1.B Understand CBD timeframe

Prerequisite Discover CBD main activities (Tool 1.A)

- Secretariat of the CBD
- Initiatives working alongside the CBD
- Subsidiary Bodies and their bureaux
- CBD COP Bureau

Stakeholders involved

- Parties
- Negotiators
- Knowledge holders
- Fellow researchers
- Other national actors

Timeframe To consult before engaging into CBD activities.

Costs In-kind costs

Who to engage with/alongside?

Are there **time constraints**?

Are there **economic costs** required and any possible **financial support**?

2

What is the **aim** of such an engagement?

How to engage in a practical manner?

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*

3

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



What will be the **outcomes** of such an engagement?

Are there **further useful resources**?

What comes next?



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TO ACCESS THE GUIDE ONCE OUT**

- **Publication** tentatively scheduled over the course of the summer
- Sessions at **major international events** to promote the guide
- **Make use of it, disseminate it!**
- In the end, **engage alongside the CBD**, both challenging and rewarding

CO-OP4CBD MOOC on CBD

Objectives

- Understanding the frame of the CBD action: history, context, organization
- Knowing the strategic framework in which it applies (decennial strategies, NBSAPs...)
- Learning about concrete CBD processes and mechanisms (functions, bodies and stakeholders engaged)
- Getting skills to take part in CBD processes and mechanisms (rules of procedure, terminology, tips for negotiations...)

Targeted Audience

- Staff working in CBD frameworks (negotiators, CBD National Focal Points...)
- Scientific experts
- Holders of traditional ecological knowledge
- Civil servants / policymakers

CO-OP4CBD MOOC on CBD

Teaching methods and tools

A flexible, dynamic tool that can be adapted to suit different profiles. Written content, questionnaires, videos, quizzes, games, targeted exercises... (role-playing)

An interactive tool

- 3 sections – 20 sequences
- Sections quiz and general evaluations

A format that could last and be used beyond the life of the project



To be uploaded in Summer 2026!