

NOTIFICATION

Questionnaire on the status of implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity

Dear Sir or Madam,

The purpose of this notification is to invite Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to respond to a questionnaire on the status of implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.

As you are aware, in [decision 15/28](#), the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on their activities and results from the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030), in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as appropriate, and requested the Executive Secretary to compile the submissions and to make them available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In this context, the Secretariat has prepared an online questionnaire available at the following link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/11mkFjJCvc>. Parties are invited to respond to the questionnaire at their earliest convenience, but no later than **20 June 2025**. In addition, Parties are welcome to submit a report or any relevant documents on their progress in implementing the Plan of Action to complement the questionnaire.

An offline template is provided in the annex of this notification to facilitate internal coordination. For official submission, please complete and submit the online questionnaire.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int in case you have any questions.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and effort to complete this questionnaire in a timely manner and for your commitment to the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD national focal points
cc: SBSTTA focal points

Annex

Questionnaire on the status of implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity

OFFLINE TEMPLATE

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in [decision 15/28](#), adopted the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.

In the same decision, COP invited Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on their activities and results from the implementation of the Plan of Action, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), as appropriate, and requested the Executive Secretary to compile the submissions and to make them available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at a meeting held prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This questionnaire aims to facilitate the submission of information from Parties. The submission at the national level on the status of implementation of the Plan of Action provides a better understanding of how soil biodiversity was reflected in the preparation of NBSAPs as well as in the national targets and indicators.

The Secretariat will compile the responses, as well as relevant policies, regulations or frameworks that have been implemented, and identify gaps and needs to further support countries in implementing the Plan of Action aligned with the KMGBF. The analysis of the responses will be made available for consideration by the 27th meeting of the SBSTTA.

INSTRUCTIONS

This online questionnaire consists of 10 questions and is divided into three sections:

- I. General information;
- II. Overview questions;
- III. Status of implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.

The space for comments can be used to provide an information on relevant policies, regulations or frameworks as well as linkages to the NBSAPs, targets and indicators.

This offline template is available to facilitate internal coordination. **For official submission, please complete and submit only one online questionnaire per Party.**

DEADLINE

Please complete the online questionnaire, to the best of your ability, and in line with the appropriate Ministries and relevant institutions at national level as applicable, by 20 June 2025. Any follow up questions or comments can be directed to the CBD Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int).

(I) General information

Party: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

Full name of the contact person: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

Title of the contact person: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

Email address to contact: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

(II) Overview questions

1. Is the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity being (directly or indirectly) taken into account in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) aligned with the KMGBF?

- ☐ It is directly addressed in the NBSAP.
☐ It is indirectly addressed in the NBSAP.
☐ It was not addressed in the NBSAP.
☐ Under development.
☐ Other: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

2. Are there any national target(s) and indicator(s) for monitoring soil biodiversity in place?

If yes, please indicate in the comments.

- ☐ Yes
☐ None
☐ Under development
☐ Other: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

3. Is fungal biodiversity, as per the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, included in any national policy or strategy? If yes, please provide information on which policy/strategy as well as hyperlinks in the comments.

- ☐ Yes
☐ None
☐ Under development
☐ Other: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

4. **Analysis of gaps:** Which of the following items do you perceive as barriers to implement the Initiative on Soil Biodiversity at national level? You can select multiple answers.

- ☐ Lack of information and knowledge
☐ Lack of capacity and resource limitations
☐ Policy and institutional constraints
☐ Lack of research at national level
☐ Others: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

5. **Analysis of opportunities:** Which of the following items do you perceive as opportunities to enhance the implementation of the Initiative on Soil Biodiversity at national level?

You can select multiple answers.

- ☐ Link the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) with the NBSAPs and the KMGBF monitoring framework.
- ☐ Link the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) with a government's strategy for the agricultural sector.
- ☐ Enhance capacity, technology and use of tools to implement the Plan of Action (2020-2030).
- ☐ Other:

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

(III) Status of implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity

The following questions are based on activities defined in the Plan of Action (2020–2030).

6. Element 1: Policy coherence and mainstreaming

6. 1. Develop and implement coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of soil biodiversity.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

6. 2. Foster activities to safeguard and promote the importance as well as the practical application of soil biodiversity, and integrate them into broader policy agendas such as food security, ecosystem and landscape restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation, urban planning and sustainable development.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

6. 3. Promote the implementation of good practices of sustainable soil management and spatial planning in a participatory manner.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

6. 4. Strengthen synergies between scientific evidence, conservation, restoration and sustainable practices, farmer-researcher community practices, agricultural advisory services and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to better support policies and actions.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

6. 5. Address linkages between soil biodiversity and human health, nutritious and healthy diets and pollutant exposure.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

6. 6. Promote ways and means to overcome obstacles to the adoption of good practices in sustainable soil management associated with land tenure, the rights of users of land and water, in particular women, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, recognizing their important contributions through their knowledge and practices, gender equality, access to financial services, agricultural advisory services and educational programmes.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

7. Element 2: Encouraging the use of sustainable soil management practices

7. 1. Promote the improvement of soil health and the enhancement of soil organism abundance and diversity through sustainable agricultural practices.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

7. 2. Facilitate, for all relevant stakeholders, access to information, policies, tools and enabling conditions, such as access to technologies, innovation and funding, as well as to traditional practices that promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at the field level.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

7. 3. Facilitate site-specific remediation of contaminated soils, preferring those alternatives that show minor risks to biodiversity, while exploring the implementation of bioremediation strategies that use native microorganisms.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

7. 4. Prevent the introduction and spreading, and minimize the impact of invasive alien species that present a direct and indirect risk to soil biodiversity, and monitor the dispersion and eradicate, control or manage those already established.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

7. 5. Promote sustainable soil and associated water and land management practices that maintain, restore and promote the resilience of carbon-rich soils (such as peatlands, black soils, mangroves, coastal wetlands, seagrasses and permafrost).

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

7. 6. Promote conservation, restoration and sustainable management of soil biodiversity, and implement where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction while considering potential impacts on indigenous peoples and local communities, small-scale food producers and peasants.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

8. Element 3: Awareness-raising, sharing of knowledge and capacity-building

8. 1. Increase understanding and appreciation of the role of soil biodiversity and soil health in managed and other ecosystems.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

8. 2. Increase understanding of the causes and consequences of soil biodiversity decline and engage targeted key stakeholder groups on the importance of soil biodiversity for health, well being and livelihoods.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

8. 3. Build and strengthen the capacities of key stakeholder groups, as appropriate, in designing and implementing sustainable soil management practices and the sustainable application of soil biodiversity and consider traditional knowledge and practices.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

8. 4. Promote awareness-raising and sharing of knowledge through tools and digital technology, and promote capacity-building and mutual learning, including at the local and field levels by developing collaborative activities, such as peer-to-peer learning, for the promotion of best practices for soil biodiversity assessment, management and monitoring.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

8. 5. Enhance education on, and knowledge of, soil biodiversity, soil health and the ecosystem functions and services they provide, through the update of educational curricula for professionals and foster scientific and technical cooperation and transfer of technology in developing countries.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

8. 6. Support citizen science campaigns and awareness-raising activities to engage relevant stakeholders in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, including celebrations on 5 December of World Soil Day¹.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

9. Element 4: Research, monitoring and assessment

9. 1. Promote research on sustainable soil management practices that ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

9. 2. Increase national capacities on soil biodiversity taxonomy and design targeted strategies to fill the existing gaps.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

9. 3. Facilitate the data collection, storage and curation of samples and encourage the development of indicators and monitoring mechanisms.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

9. 4. Promote further research to identify risks to soil biodiversity under climate change and potential adaption measures and mitigation tools, as well as risks caused by the use of hazardous or toxic chemicals.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

9. 5. Promote research, information management and dissemination, data collection and processing, community-based monitoring, transfer of knowledge and technologies and networking.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

9. 6. Promote access to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources in the soil, considering the potential to develop new products and medicines, in line with the third objective of the Convention and with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

☐ Implemented ☐ Under development ☐ Not relevant ☐ Others

Comments: [Click here to enter your answer.](#)

10. Additional comments

In this section, you can provide additional comments on relevant policies, regulations or frameworks as well as linkages to the NBSAPs, targets and indicators:

[Click here to enter your answer.](#)

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¹ See General Assembly resolution [68/232](#) of 20 December 2013 on World Soil Day and International Year of Soils.