



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Subregional dialogue on biodiversity monitoring and reporting for countries in Western Asia

Manama, 21–23 December 2025

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Objectives and programme of the dialogue

Annotated agenda of the dialogue**

Introduction

1. By its decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review and in its decision [16/32](#), the Conference of the Parties provided additional guidance. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties, adopted the procedures for the global review to be undertaken at the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties and identified national reports as a primary source of information for the global review. By its decision [15/5](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which is composed of a set of headline, binary, component and complementary indicators for use in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports and in its decision [16/31](#), the Conference of the Parties endorsed technical updates to the headline and binary indicators.
2. Between the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention, in collaboration with other United Nations entities and several regional and subregional partners, held a series of 12 regional and subregional dialogues to support Parties in revising and updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and aligning their national targets with the Framework. The dialogues provided Parties with a forum for sharing experiences and identifying challenges, opportunities, solutions and needs related to the updating and revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including the setting or revising of national targets in alignment with the Framework.
3. In subparagraph 24 (e) of its decision [16/32](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to convene, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, subregional and/or regional dialogues, taking into account the experiences and lessons learned from the previous dialogues. The Conference of the Parties made further requests related to exchanging knowledge and building capacity with regard to the monitoring framework for the Framework and the provision of capacity-building and development support from regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres.
4. As of the end of October 2025, 142 Parties had submitted national targets, and 58 Parties had submitted revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Those numbers reflect

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good progress in the implementation of the request for such submissions contained in decision [15/6](#). During the present intersessional period (2025–2026), it is expected that Parties will complete their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and begin implementation and monitoring. Parties were requested by the Conference of the Parties in its decision [15/6](#), to submit their seventh national reports by 28 February 2026.

5. Establishing and improving monitoring systems is fundamental to implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and ensuring that Parties are on track to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework. Many Parties have indicated, however, that they have yet to establish monitoring systems or adapt existing ones. This issue has been highlighted repeatedly in previous regional and subregional dialogues and during meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties, and Parties have identified it as an area where additional support was needed.

6. The present dialogue is organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the UNEP China Trust Fund, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting will be opened at 9 a.m. on 21 December 2025 with brief introductory remarks by representatives of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Secretariat of the Convention, UNDP and UNEP. Participants will be invited to introduce themselves.

Item 2

Objectives and programme of the dialogue

8. A representative of the Secretariat will provide an overview of the objectives, programme and expected outcomes of the dialogue and how it relates to the mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

9. The focus of the dialogue will comprise these main components:

(a) Identification of challenges, successes and solutions related to developing and monitoring national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Framework;

(b) Strengthened capacities for the preparation of the seventh national report, including the use of the online reporting tool;

(c) Support for Parties to identify opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation and to identify opportunities for Parties to leverage support from donors and partners.

10. The proposed organization of work is provided in the annex below. The workshop will address these objectives primarily through the sharing among Parties of experiences and lessons learned. The aim is for the results of the workshop to provide insight that will be relevant for the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework which will take place at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 3

Progress in developing and monitoring national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

11. As at end of May 2025, 133 Parties had submitted national targets and 51 had submitted revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This represented good progress in the implementation of the request for such submissions contained in decision [15/6](#) of the Conference of the Parties. During the present intersessional period (2025–2026), most Parties will

complete and begin to implement and monitor their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Parties were requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/6 to prepare and submit their seventh national reports by 28 February 2026.

12. Establishing and improving monitoring systems are fundamental to implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and ensuring that Parties are on track to achieve the goals and targets under the Framework. Many Parties have indicated, however, that they have yet to establish monitoring systems or adapt existing ones. They highlighted that challenge repeatedly, in previous regional and subregional dialogues and during meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties, as an area where additional support was needed.

13. The session will provide Parties with an opportunity to share information on how national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets have been or will be developed and details on how they plan to monitor progress.

14. Discussions will be focused on these topics: (a) development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets and (b) regional cooperation.

Topic A. Development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets

15. A representative of the Secretariat will introduce the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review and the procedures for the global review set out in decision 16/32, including presenting the key timelines for submitting national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national reports and the global review.

16. Representatives of UNDP and/or UNEP will provide a presentation on support for updating, capacity building, and accelerating implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans

17. Each Party will be invited to briefly share their experiences and lessons learned in the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Framework, highlighting good practices and challenges in this regard.

18. Representatives of UNDP country office for Bahrain, women and youth will be invited to share their experiences in contributing to the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

19. A group discussion aimed at identifying key priorities and actions will follow the presentation.

Topic B. Regional cooperation

20. A representative of the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia will make a presentation on the needs of the region. The presentation will include a series of questions for consideration by participants over the following days.

21. A representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia, as the technical and scientific cooperation support centre, will share information on the centre's workplan for supporting the region.

22. A representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council will share information on their activities in the region, including the follow up from the Dialogue in Oman on national biodiversity strategies and action plans that was held in Salalah, from 22 to 25 July 2024, which was organized jointly with the Gulf Cooperation Council (see document [CBD/NBSAP/OM/2024/10/2](#)).

23. A representative of UNDP or UNEP global teams will share the status of national targets and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the support that has been provided by GEF, UNEP and UNDP to support Parties in updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

24. The session will also provide a framing for the discussion during the remaining days of the workshop.

Item 4

Special session on a regional biodiversity and wildlife programme

25. The session will serve as a step towards elaboration of the scope and direction of the regional biodiversity and wildlife programme whereby countries reflect on challenges, priorities, and exchange perspectives. This session will also contribute to the preparations for the regional consultation workshop on the programme that the National Center for Wildlife of Saudi Arabia and UNEP Regional Office for West Asia plan to convene in Riyadh in April 2026.
26. The session aims to: (a) introduce the concept of regional biodiversity and wildlife programme and its strategic objectives and partners, (b) explain the programme rationale, added value, and alignment with the Framework, (c) engage Parties and stakeholders to gather initial reflections on regional priorities and thematic needs and strengthen collaboration.
27. A representative of UNEP will provide a short presentation to introduce the regional biodiversity and wildlife programme, which will be followed by a facilitated discussion.

Item 5

Biodiversity monitoring

28. The Secretariat will provide a presentation to introduce the monitoring framework for the Framework. Representatives of the Global Ecosystems Atlas and the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network will provide a presentation on steps that could be taken to develop a national biodiversity monitoring system, in particular for ecosystem extent and species monitoring-related data.
29. A group exercise will be conducted to enable the sharing of information on key priorities and actions for enhancing regional cooperation in monitoring.

Item 6

Preparation and submission of the seventh national report

30. A representative of the Secretariat will provide an overview of the guidance and template for the seventh and eighth national reports, as contained in decisions [15/6](#) and [16/32](#) of the Conference of the Parties, including national reporting under the Protocols to the Convention. Representatives of Parties will be invited to share their countries' experience or approaches in reviewing or assessing progress towards achieving national targets and the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
31. A representative of the Secretariat will highlight key features and functionalities of the online reporting tool as related to the seventh national report and answer the questions of participants. A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre will give a presentation on the target tracker tool and how it could be used to include global data in national reports.
32. Parties will be invited to share their countries' plans for completing the updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan and submitting the seventh national report.

Item 7

Discussion on opportunities, challenges and next steps

33. Participants will review a summary of the key points emerging from the presentations, discussions and group exercises conducted during the dialogue and engage in group discussions on needs, challenges and opportunities. The discussions will be framed by the issue of how national biodiversity strategy and action plan-related action could be accelerated through national, regional or global support.

Item 8

Closure of the meeting

34. The dialogue is scheduled to be closed at 4 p.m. on 23 December 2025, with brief closing remarks delivered by representatives of the Supreme Council for Environment of Bahrain, UNEP, UNDP and the Secretariat of the Convention.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
Sunday, 21 December 2025		
8–9 a.m.	Registration	
9–9.30 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting	Brief opening remarks by representatives of the Supreme Council for Environment of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
9.30–9.40 a.m.	Item 2. Objectives and programme of the dialogue	The Secretariat will introduce the expected outcomes of the dialogue
9.40–10 a.m.	<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>	
10 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 3. Progress in developing and monitoring national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	(a) Development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets – Introductory presentation by the Secretariat – Joint presentation by UNDP/UNEP on support for updating, capacity-building, and accelerating implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans – Countries provide brief presentations sharing the status of their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (5 minutes per country)
12.30–1.40 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
1.40–3 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	– Presentation by representatives of the UNDP country office for Bahrain, women and youth on their involvement and contributions to the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans – Group discussions on key steps that can be taken for countries to accelerate the updating and revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans including opportunities or solutions to address challenges faced by countries in the region
3–3.20 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
3.20–5 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	(b) Regional cooperation – A representative of the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia, the Gulf Cooperation Council and UNDP or UNEP global team will provide a presentation.

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
Monday, 22 December 2025		
9–10.15 a.m.	Item 4. Special session on the Regional Biodiversity and Wildlife Programme	– Presentation by a representative of UNEP-ROWA – Facilitated group discussion
10.40–11 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	– Group discussions (continued) – Groups reporting back to plenary session
12.30–1.40 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
1.40–3 p.m.	Item 5. Biodiversity monitoring	– Introductory presentation by a representative of the Secretariat. – Remote presentation on the Global Ecosystems Atlas by a representative of the Group on Earth Observations-Biodiversity Observation Network – Introduction of break-out group exercise and starting of group work
3–3.20 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
3.20–4 p.m.	Item 5 (<i>continued</i>)	– Group work continues – Groups reporting back to plenary session
4.30–9.30 p.m.		Tour of the Bahrain National Museum and Muharraq Nights
Tuesday, 23 December 2025		
9–11 a.m.	Item 6. Preparation and submission of the seventh national report	– Overview by a representative of the Secretariat of the guidance and template for the seventh and eighth national reports – Demonstration of the online reporting tool for the seventh national report by the Secretariat via remote connection – Parties will be invited to share their countries' plans for completing the updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan and submitting the seventh national report
10.40–11 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 7. Discussion on opportunities, challenges and next steps	– Summary of key points emerging from the discussions and exercises undertaken during the dialogue – Breakout group discussions reflecting on opportunities, challenges and next steps

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
12.30–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 7 (<i>continued</i>)	– Presentations by each Party or group – Discussion of the key points emerging from the presentations, discussions and exercises conducted during the dialogue
3.30–4 p.m.	Item 8. Closure of the meeting	Brief closing remarks by representatives of the Supreme Council for Environment of Bahrain, UNEP, UNDP and the Secretariat of the Convention