



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General

29 April 2025

English only

Subregional dialogue for the Pacific small island developing States on biodiversity monitoring and reporting

Apia, 29 and 30 May 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 it provided additional guidance in its decision [16/32](#). The monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which provides a set of headline, binary, component and complementary indicators for use in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, was adopted in decision [15/5](#), and technical updates to the headline and binary indicators were endorsed in decision [16/31](#).
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 of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in aligning their national targets with the Framework. The dialogues provided a forum for Parties to share experiences and identify challenges, opportunities, solutions and needs as they worked through the cycle of planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting and review in relation to national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
3. In subparagraph 24 (e) of 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. In addition, the Conference of the Parties made further requests related to exchanging knowledge and building capacity with regard to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the provision of capacity-building and development support from regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres.
4. As at the end of March 2025, 127 Parties had submitted national targets and 49 had submitted revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Those numbers represent good progress in the implementation of the request for such submissions contained in decision [15/6](#). During the present intersessional period (2025–2026), most Parties will complete their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and start implementing and monitoring them. In

* CBD/NBSAP/OM/2025/2/1.

addition, Parties must also prepare and submit their seventh national reports by 28 February 2026, as requested in decision [15/6](#).

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

6. The present dialogue is jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, with the support of the Government of Samoa.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

7. The dialogue will be opened on 29 May 2025 with brief introductory remarks by representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and UNEP. Participants will then 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. The proposed organization of work is provided in the annex.

9. Building on the experience from the previous regional and subregional dialogues, the primary purpose of the present dialogue is to identify challenges, successes and solutions related to monitoring the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among Parties. As Parties will be establishing or improving their national monitoring plans and preparing and submitting their seventh national reports during the present biennium, the dialogue will be focused on national monitoring and reporting. An additional objective is to strengthen regional cooperation in the field of monitoring. The expected outcomes of the dialogue include: (a) enhanced capacities for the development of national monitoring plans and systems and the development and use of indicators as a means of supporting the effective implementation of the Framework and its monitoring framework; (b) strengthened capacities for the preparation of the seventh national report, including through the use of the online reporting tool; (c) strengthened regional cooperation in monitoring and reporting; and (d) the identification of opportunities for donors and partners to support countries in developing or strengthening their monitoring systems.

Item 3

Implementation of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the national and regional levels

10. To put the dialogue in context, a representative of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) will introduce the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in decision [15/5](#) and the technical updates endorsed in decision [16/31](#), as well as the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review adopted in decision [15/6](#) and the global review procedures contained in decision [16/32](#).

11. Discussions will be focused on three topics: (a) the development of national monitoring plans and systems; (b) the development and use of indicators; and (c) regional cooperation in monitoring.

Topic A. Development of national monitoring plans and systems

12. A presentation will be made by representatives of the Global Ecosystems Atlas and the Group of Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) on steps that can be taken to develop a national biodiversity monitoring system. A representative of the Global Ecosystems Atlas will also make a presentation on the development and usage of the Global Ecosystems Atlas. A representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations may be invited to make a presentation on forest ecosystem restoration monitoring. Three Party representatives will be invited to share their countries' experience and lessons learned in the development of national monitoring plans and systems when updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including good practices, challenges, solutions and needs. A facilitated group discussion will follow to identify key priorities and actions that need to be undertaken to develop or improve national monitoring plans and systems.

Topic B. Development and use of indicators

13. A technical presentation on developing data flows for monitoring species- and ecosystem-related indicators will be made by representatives of the Global Ecosystems Atlas and GEO BON. The representative of GEO BON will discuss the need for standardized data and current major data gaps, in particular on species monitoring-related data, and give a presentation on essential biodiversity variables and pipelines for converting data into indicators to help with monitoring progress towards biodiversity targets, including through the use of the "BON in a Box" toolbox. The representatives of two Parties will then be invited to share their countries' experience and lessons learned in the development and use of indicators when updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Group exercises will be conducted to develop selected indicators, including methodologies, data flows and challenges.

Topic C. Regional cooperation in monitoring

14. A representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme will make a presentation on how a regional monitoring strategy and system could be developed to support countries in the region, taking into account regional needs identified through a survey conducted before the dialogue. A group discussion will then be held to identify key priorities and actions for enhancing monitoring at the regional level.

Item 4**Preparation and submission of the seventh national report**

15. 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](#). A representative of UNEP will give a presentation on support available from the Global Environment Facility for updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and preparing the seventh national report. Representatives of the Secretariat will share suggestions for national reporting under the Protocols. The representatives of three Parties will be invited to share their countries' experience or approaches in reviewing progress towards national targets and the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

16. A representative of the Secretariat will give a demonstration of the use of the online reporting tool for the seventh national report, followed by questions and answers and testing of the tool by participants. A representative of UNEP-WCMC will give a presentation on the target tracker tool and how it could be used to include global data in national reports.

17. A representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, as a subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre, will share information on support provided by the Programme to countries in the region for enhancing their monitoring and reporting capacities.

Item 5

Summary of the dialogue and next steps

18. A representative of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership will make a presentation on opportunities for leveraging matchmaking support for implementing and monitoring national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

19. Participants will review a summary of the key points emerging from the presentations, discussions and group exercises during the dialogue. Representatives of Parties will be invited to share their countries' plans for completing the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and submitting the seventh national reports.

Item 6

Closure of the meeting

20. The dialogue is scheduled to be closed at 5 p.m. on 30 May, with brief closing remarks by representatives of UNEP, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
Thursday, 29 May 2025		
8–9 a.m.	Registration	n/a
9–9.30 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting	– Brief introductory remarks by representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Self-introduction by participants – Group photo
9.30–9.40 a.m.	Item 2. Objectives and programme of the dialogue	– Presentation by a representative of the Secretariat of the objectives, programme and expected outcomes of the dialogue
9.40–10 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	Item 3. Implementation of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the national and regional levels	– Introductory presentation by a representative of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contained in annex I to decision 15/5, as well as of the technical updates endorsed in decision 16/31 – Introductory presentations by a representative of the Secretariat or of UNEP-WCMC on the enhanced multidimensional approach to for planning, monitoring, reporting and review and the global review procedures, as contained in decisions 15/6 and 16/32. <i>Topic A. Development of national monitoring plans and systems</i> – Presentation by representatives of the Global Ecosystems Atlas and the Group of Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) on steps that can be taken to develop a national biodiversity monitoring system – Presentation by a representative of the Global Ecosystems Atlas on the development and usage of the Atlas – Presentation by a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on forest ecosystem restoration monitoring. – Presentations by the representatives of three Parties on their countries' experience with the development or improvement of national monitoring plans and systems for the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The presentations may include examples of good practices, successes and challenges

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
		– Facilitated group discussions on priorities and actions that could be taken to develop or improve national monitoring plans and systems
12.45–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<i>Topic A (continued)</i> – Report by the groups in plenary session <i>Topic B. Development and use of indicators</i> – Technical presentation by representatives of the Global Ecosystems Atlas and GEO BON on the development of data flows for monitoring species- and ecosystem-related indicators – Presentation by a representative of GEO BON on biodiversity monitoring, the development of essential biodiversity variables and the resources available in the “BON in a Box” toolbox for indicator development – Presentations by the representatives of two Parties on experiences, key lessons and good practices in developing or using indicators for the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans – Facilitated group exercises on selected indicators, including methodologies, available data flow and challenges
3.30–3.45 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
3.45–5.30 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<i>Topic B (continued)</i> - Facilitated group exercises on selected indicators (<i>continued</i>) - Report by the groups in plenary session <i>Topic C. Regional cooperation in monitoring</i> – Presentation by a representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme on how a regional monitoring strategy and system could be developed – Facilitated group discussions on key actions and priorities for enhancing a regional monitoring system
Friday, 30 May 2025		
9–11 a.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<i>Topic C (continued)</i> – Group discussions (<i>continued</i>) – Report by the groups in plenary session
11–11.20 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
11.20 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	Item 4. 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, as contained in decisions 15/6 and 16/32 – Brief presentations by the Secretariat on national reporting under the Protocols – Presentations by Party representatives on their countries' experience with or approach to reviewing the implementation of national targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans
12.45–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	– Demonstration by a representative of the Secretariat of the use of the online reporting tool for the seventh national report, followed by questions and answers – Presentation by a representative of UNEP on support for national reporting available from the Global Environment Facility – Presentation by a representative of UNEP-WCMC on the target tracker tool and how it could be used to include global data in national reports – Presentation by a representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme on the support provided by the Programme, as a subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre, for national monitoring and reporting
3.30–3.45 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
3.45–4.45 p.m.	Item 5. Summary of the dialogue and next steps	– Presentation by a representative of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership on opportunities for leveraging matchmaking support for implementing and monitoring national biodiversity strategies and action plans. – Summary of key points emerging from the discussions and exercises undertaken during the dialogue and presentations by representatives of Parties. – Sharing by Parties of their countries' plans for completing the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and submitting the seventh national reports
4.45–5 p.m.	Item 6. Closure of the meeting	Brief closing remarks by representatives of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention