



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Subregional dialogue on biodiversity monitoring and reporting with a focus on ecosystem restoration (Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework)

Bangkok, 2–5 September 2025

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Introduction and overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue

Report of the subregional dialogue on biodiversity monitoring and reporting with a focus on ecosystem restoration (Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework)

Introduction

1. The subregional dialogue on biodiversity monitoring and reporting with a focus on ecosystem restoration (Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) was held in Bangkok from 2 to 5 September 2025. The dialogue was organized jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity, with the support of the Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Nature Restoration project funded by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative.
2. The dialogue, which aimed towards enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, included a training session on the preparation of the seventh national report and the use of the online reporting tool. It supported participating countries in accelerating monitoring and reporting on ecosystem restoration in the context of Target 2 of the Framework and provided for the sharing of subregional, national and local experiences and challenges in that regard. The dialogue included a training-of-trainers session for the representatives of the technical support centres of the region.

Item 1

Opening of the dialogue

3. The dialogue began on 2 September with the welcoming remarks of representatives of the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Bangkok, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning of Thailand.

* [CBD/ECR/OM/2025/1/1](https://www.cbd.int/ecr/om/2025/1/1).

Item 2**Introduction and overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue**

4. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity gave a presentation on the objectives and programme of the dialogue. Those objectives were to achieve: (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; (d) increased capacity of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to provide methodological support and backstopping to countries in monitoring and reporting on the Framework, with a focus on Target 2; and (e) identification of opportunities for donors and partners to support countries in developing or strengthening their monitoring systems. While those outcomes directed a particular focus on Target 2, they were also relevant to other targets and elements of the Framework.

Item 3**Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

5. A representative of the Secretariat provided an introduction to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/5 and the technical updates endorsed in decision 16/31 of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, adopted in decision 15/6, and the procedures for the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework set out in decision 16/32. Representatives of the Group on Earth Observations and the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) delivered technical presentations on developing data flows for monitoring species- and ecosystem-related indicators, including through the Global Ecosystems Atlas and the use of the “BON in a Box” tool box.

6. After the introductory presentations, representatives of Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and India shared information on their countries’ experiences with respect to monitoring and highlighted their countries’ efforts towards achieving ecosystem restoration on a national scale. The presentations were followed by a facilitated group discussion aimed at identifying key priorities and actions that would need to be taken to develop or improve national monitoring plans, systems and indicators.

7. After a report back from the group discussion, a representative of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity made a presentation on the topic of how a regional monitoring strategy and system could be developed to support countries in the region, which included consideration of regional needs identified through a survey conducted before the dialogue.

Item 4**Fundamentals of Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

8. A representative of the Society for Ecological Restoration delivered a presentation on the key elements of Target 2, including a discussion on how to determine the spatial extent of degraded areas in each of the three major ecosystem types and define the baseline. A representative of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity gave a presentation on results derived from surveys, including a self-assessment of Target 2 alignment and reporting readiness, that were circulated and completed by Parties prior to the start of the dialogue.

9. In a group discussion convened following the presentations, participants were able to share examples, including on how to assess degradation and determine baselines, derived from country and local-level experiences. A report back from the group discussion was provided.

10. In a separate session, a representative of the Society for Ecological Restoration gave a presentation on the topics of defining restoration outcomes and implementing effective restoration to achieve national targets. Breakout group discussions were held following the presentation and a report back was provided.

Item 5

Tools for geospatial monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with a focus on its Target 2

11. Representatives of FAO delivered two presentations in which they provided an overview of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Nature Restoration project, the Target 2 Roadmap, the headline indicator and metadata for Target 2 and associated tools for geospatial monitoring. Following those presentations, representatives of Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand gave presentations focused on national experiences related to implementing and monitoring Target 2. Participants were then divided into groups to enable further discussion on the implications of the presentations for national-level action. Following the discussions, the members of each group provided a summary of their observations.

12. After the report back, a representative of FAO delivered a presentation on the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring. Following that presentation, a representative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, provided an overview on the subject of land degradation neutrality and Sustainable Development Goal 15.3.1 and the associated complementary indicator for Target 2. A representative of FAO provided an overview of Target 22 and the International Land Coalition made a presentation on its LandMark mapping tool which included information on how the tool could support disaggregation for indigenous and traditional territories as related to Targets 2, 3 and 22. A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre delivered a presentation covering the World Database on Protected Areas, the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures and the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness.

13. Following the presentations, a representative of FAO introduced a group exercise on the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring tool. Participants were invited to try to use the tool during a training session.

Item 6

Preparation and submission of the seventh national report

14. A representative of the Secretariat delivered 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. The representative provided a demonstration on the use of the online reporting tool related to the seventh national report, which was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Item 7

Action plans to address national needs for monitoring and reporting, with a focus on ecosystem restoration

15. Representatives of Malaysia, Mongolia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic delivered presentations on their countries' experiences and approaches with respect to reviewing progress towards achieving national targets and implementing their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

16. A facilitated group discussion was held to address gaps and needs related to Target 2 based on self-assessment results. Representatives of Parties provided information on one of the priority action items of their country.

Item 8

Conclusions and next steps for subregional priorities

17. A representative of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership delivered a presentation on opportunities for leveraging matchmaking support for implementing and monitoring national biodiversity strategies and action plans. A representative of the United Nations Development Programme delivered a presentation on the umbrella programme under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and preparation of the seventh national report. A representative of FAO provided an overview of GEF and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. A representative of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre spoke briefly about support and relevant initiatives, such as the National Monitoring Support Initiative under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

18. Following those presentations, a representative of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity presented a set of key observations which emerged in the course of the dialogue and are contained in the annex below. Those key observations were considered and discussed by the participants in the dialogue.

19. Consideration of this agenda item concluded with closing remarks by representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention, FAO and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The dialogue was closed for government representatives following completion of the consideration of the agenda item.

Item 9

Training-of-trainers session for the technical and scientific cooperation support centres from Asia and Oceania

20. The Society for Ecological Restoration led a closed training session for representatives of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres in attendance. The organizers of the dialogue reviewed key content arising from the dialogue and available training materials with a view to enabling the participating centres to host similar dialogues for the countries in their respective subregions.

Item 10

Closure of the dialogue

21. The dialogue was formally closed at 5.30 p.m. on 5 September 2025.

Annex

Key observations emerging from the dialogue

The situation

1. Restoration is linked to various targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. Across the region, varied approaches to restoration are reflected in a wealth of experiences and a diversity of indicators and monitoring methodologies.
3. In most countries, there is a range of institutions and stakeholders engaged in work on restoration indicators and monitoring as a basis for reporting and effective decision-making.
4. Most countries in the region have set national targets addressing restoration. These targets do not always refer explicitly to enhancing biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. However, such elements are often addressed in the actions, policies and approaches that Parties have established to support the attainment of their targets.
5. Restoration efforts are biased mostly towards terrestrial ecosystems.
6. Various types of guidance and a range of tools exist to support the development of monitoring systems and data collection that would inform restoration activities.
7. Multiple organizations are active in the region and positioned to help countries with respect to the monitoring of and reporting on restoration initiatives.
8. A majority of the Parties have started the process of preparing their national reports and indicated that they will be able to submit their national reports, or parts of it, by the reporting deadline.

Challenges

9. Limited financial resources and lack of incentives hinder efforts to establish long-term and sustainable monitoring approaches as well as restoration activities.
10. Limited human resources and capacity for ecosystem restoration remain a challenge, especially as related to the expertise needed in wetland and coastal and marine ecosystem restoration.
11. The diversity of actors engaged in work on monitoring and restoration makes the coordination of initiatives and the systematic recording of data challenging.
12. The lack of harmonization and coordination among national ministries, governance levels and stakeholders undermines restoration efforts, as a result of competing interests, conflicting policies across different ministries and differing jurisdictions and land rights.
13. While guidance and tools for monitoring and reporting do exist, awareness and use of them are often limited.
14. Data and baselines are often limited, outdated or inaccessible or are not collected in a systematic manner. Moreover, the best way to make use of the available data is not always clear.
15. Identifying degraded areas is challenging in many contexts. The reasons for this include different definitions of land degradation.

Needs/actions/opportunities

16. Improving national monitoring plans requires making them clearer, more coordinated and aligned so that they can address national needs and international commitments.

17. The large number of governmental institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, and civil society organizations engaged in work on monitoring reporting and restoration offers an opportunity to enhance activities if efforts can be better coordinated and sustained.
 18. More reliable baselines, practical indicators and stronger collaboration across institutions and communities are needed.
 19. While there is urgency related to the preparation of the seventh national report, efforts to improve monitoring, reporting and restoration need to be viewed in a broader and longer-term context.
 20. Understanding degradation and clear setting of baselines connected with global frameworks, involving experience on the ground, will help to build more effective monitoring systems.
 21. Restoration needs to be undertaken within the national context, with consideration of different ecosystems and human demands.
 22. Capacity development activities on restoration strategies, from the national to the community level, are needed.
 23. There is a wealth of experience, expertise and knowledge in the region related to restoration monitoring and reporting which can be leveraged to support mutual learning.
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