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Agenda item 13
Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to provide herewith, for the information of participants at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

2. The document provides an update on the work of FAO on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This information document summarizes activities on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors and other relevant areas of work under FAO.

3. The report is circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

REPORT BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

I. Introduction

1. This report provides an update to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since COP15.[1] It aims to inform the COP on the progress made in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors and other relevant areas of FAO's work. The report is complemented by separate information documents detailing activities since COP15 related to the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators,[2] the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030,[3] the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW),[4] and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty).[5]

II. SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

2. A description of activities undertaken to support the implementation of COP15 decisions and overall implementation of the CBD are presented by agenda items of COP16 with references to relevant decisions. The document also presents activities contributing to relevant agenda items of the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP11), and of the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP5).

3. The term "agricultural sectors" as used by FAO includes crop and livestock agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture[6] and thus cuts across several CBD thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues.

4. Recent reports, tools and guidance provided by FAO after COP15 can be found in the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub.[7]

A. Agenda item 8. Progress on the preparation of targets and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by parties in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Decision 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Recommendation SBI-4/1. Review of implementation: progress in the preparation of revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the establishment of national targets in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Recommendation SBI-5/X.

5. FAO assists countries in updating and implementing their national targets and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). To achieve this, FAO supports the engagement of agrifood stakeholders in both national and global biodiversity planning and implementation efforts. Since COP15, FAO has actively supported countries through various initiatives, including at the global level through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities with agrifood stakeholders; at the regional level by assisting with the development of regional biodiversity strategies and actions plans; and at the national level by facilitating

[1] CBD/COP/15/INF/23 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/d8be/e5af/ff0b5fe9783da03305fbff1a/cop-15-inf-23-en.pdf
[2] CBD/COP/16/INF/14 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/daea/6c7d/f7d4c1cc86645a10a98c38f5/cop-16-inf-14-en.pdf
[3] CBD/COP/16/INF/13 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8097/1f19/e37995d6157e799d83afa77a/cop-16-inf-13-en.pdf
[4] CBD/COP/16/INF/15
[5] CBD/COP/16/INF/20 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2359/33d7/63cb7700faca571a2df0dfc8/cop-16-inf-20-en.pdf
[6] Article I.1 of FAO Constitution. See FAO. 2017. *Basic texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.* Volumes I and II. Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/mp046e/mp046e.pdf
[7] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/en

the engagement of agrifood stakeholders in national target-setting processes, for example, by providing financial and technical assistance on relevant targets and indicators. Since COP15, FAO has supported over 40 countries in developing and implementing NBSAPs. Key activities are outlined below.

Stakeholder engagement

6. FAO's assistance responds to the need for a comprehensive 'whole-of-society' and 'whole-of-government' approach in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the KMGBF and NBSAPs.

7. For example, FAO co-organized with Université Laval, the Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie of Quebec, and the CBD Secretariat the *International symposium Agriculture, Biodiversity and Food Security: From Commitments to Actions* held in Quebec City, Canada, from 30 April to 2 May 2024.[8] The symposium sought to highlight agriculture as a source of solutions to biodiversity-related challenges and to promote and facilitate the collective commitment of all agrifood actors in the implementation of the KMGBF and its targets. The event allowed to share experiences in the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in agriculture; identify constraints and opportunities related to the further integration of biodiversity into agrifood systems, while also considering the challenges of climate change and land degradation; and engage in dialogue with stakeholders involved in the integration of biodiversity and agriculture. More than 250 people from 39 countries participated, including farmers, members of agricultural producers' associations and organizations of young professionals for agricultural development, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and governments, technicians, scientists, elected officials and many others, with more than 30 percent of the participants from the agriculture sectors. Key outcomes of the symposium include a Technical Roadmap for the implementation of the KMGBF by the agricultural sectors[9] and a web interface for sharing knowledge and experiences,[10] including those from the Symposium.

Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

8. Under the third phase of the EU-funded programme *Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP countries Phase 3* (ACP MEAs 3),[11] FAO, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, convened a series of regional and cross-sectoral information webinars for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to unpack the KMGBF with a focus on targets related to agricultural biodiversity.[12]

9. FAO provided technical and financial support for the development of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy,[13] and for the review and update of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)[14] and of the East African Community (EAC). FAO also supported in the Pacific region a highly consultative multistakeholder process for the development of the Pacific Action Plan on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (2024-2030).[15]

10. FAO supported, participated in and contributed to regional NBSAP dialogues convened by the CBD Secretariat in 2023 and 2024 in the African (30 May–2 June 2024, Nairobi), Pacific (18–21 March 2024, Nadi, Fiji) and the Caribbean (15–17 April 2024, Georgetown) regions to promote the active participation of agricultural sectors.

11. FAO collaborated with the Secretariats of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the African Union to convene regional COP16 preparatory meetings. In the Pacific, FAO supported and sponsored 16 official delegates from the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery of eight Pacific

[8] https://245.quebecconference.org/en
[9] https://245.quebecconference.org/en/technical-roadmap
[10] https://interfaceabsa-ulavalchaireddsa.com/
[11] https://www.fao.org/in-action/building-capacity-environmental-agreements/en/
[12] https://www.fao.org/in-action/building-capacity-environmental-agreements/global/kunming-montreal-global-biodiversity-framework/en/
[13] https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44029-doc-AU_Biodiversity_Strategy_12_08_2024.pdf
[14] https://www.fao.org/in-action/building-capacity-environmental-agreements/resources-news/news/news-details/en/c/1681329/
[15] APRC/24/INF/16 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ffe37060-53f7-456a-8de4-705c0468b81e/content

Islands (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati) to participate in the Pacific Regional COP16 Preparatory Meeting in Apia, Samoa, from 9–14 September. This meeting, organized by SPREP in collaboration with FAO, allowed delegates to share their approaches, experiences, and lessons learned in setting national targets. For the African region, FAO and the African Union Commission co-organized and co-funded African Regional consultations through the African Group of Negotiators to prepare for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its 26th meeting and for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) at its 4th meeting in May 2024. An upcoming COP16 preparatory meeting is planned for October.

12. FAO has provided technical support to countries for national target setting and/or for reviewing and updating NBSAPs. Among others, FAO is extending technical expertise and financial support to revise and update the NBSAPs of the Cook Islands (2002), Solomon Islands (2016–2020) and Vanuatu (2018–2030). Regional and national specialists have been hired to work with National Biodiversity Coordinators to validate national priorities for the sustainable management of biodiversity for the agricultural sectors, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries, ensuring these priorities are integrated into the NBSAP in line with the Pacific Action Plan.

13. At the field level, FAO builds capacity among farmers and extension officers on sustainable biodiversity management within agrifood systems through the Farmer Field School approach, promoting sustainable farming practices, such as integrated pest management, soil fertility management and sustainable rice intensification. FAO has assisted its Members in developing policies and mechanisms to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for resource-use efficiency.

14. With support from the Flexible Voluntary Contributions (FVC) programme and ACP MEAs 3, the project *Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (FVC/GLO/193/MUL)[16] is being implemented in Madagascar and Uganda. This project provides technical and financial assistance to develop national targets, review NBSAPs, align national agricultural policies with the KMGBF, and test and upscale biodiversity-friendly practices at the field level for sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry. Additionally, it disseminates lessons learned and knowledge products on aligning agricultural policies and practices with the KMGBF.

15. FAO has assisted countries in the ACP regions in preparing Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) proposals, including Burkina Faso, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Asia and the Pacific

16. In Asia and the Pacific, FAO has provided support to the NBSAP revision and implementation in Lao PDR and Indonesia through national workshops and knowledge development, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As for Madagascar and Uganda, in Lao PDR, the FVC/GLO/193/MUL project provides technical and financial assistance to develop national targets and review NBSAPs, align national agricultural policies with the KMGBF, test and upscale biodiversity-friendly practices at the field level for sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, and disseminate lessons learned and knowledge products on aligning agricultural policies and practices with the KMGBF.

17. A regional Technical Cooperation Programme is being developed to provide dedicated support to six countries (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Nepal, Palau, Sri Lanka, Thailand) on biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture sectors, improving enabling policy frameworks including NBSAPs, enhancing indigenous people and local communities' capacities and building resource partnerships. FAO also contributed to the NBSAP Dialogue for countries in South and East Asia (23 to 26 January 2024, Tokyo), and assisted Indonesia, Lao PDR and Nepal in preparing GBFF proposals.

[16] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/projects/project-detail/mainstreaming-biodiversity-across-agricultural-sectors/en

Europe and Central Asia

In Europe and Central Asia, in line with the Regional Action Plan on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors,[17] FAO is engaging with 17 programme countries through institutionalized biannual Regional Dialogues. These dialogues provide a forum for intra- and inter-regional knowledge exchange. The 2023 Dialogue[18] focused on strengthening countries' commitments to integrate biodiversity for food and agriculture in NBSAPs, highlighting the resilience benefits for agrifood systems. FAO participated in the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) region and other EU Member States NBSAP In-Person Dialogue on 28–29 August 2024, Brussels, Belgium, convened by the European Commission in coordination with the CBD Secretariat.

18. FAO has developed and disseminated the *Biodiversity in Action*[19] knowledge material series, aimed at increasing the recognition of biodiversity's role for food and agriculture. This series highlights the interconnected nature of biodiversity for food and agriculture with climate change, food security and nutrition, land degradation, and desertification, and emphasized specific categories such as soil biodiversity.

Latin America and the Caribbean

19. FAO's support in Latin America and the Caribbean has focused on implementing biodiversity projects, including those supported by GEF, aimed at contributing to NBSAP implementation, even for those not yet updated. FAO provides technical support to countries in developing and implementing strategies, programs, and plans that contribute to specific KMGBF targets. FAO also assisted Venezuela, Cuba and Ecuador in preparing GBFF proposals.

20. For example, FAO is assisting with the National Landscape Restoration Plan in Chile, the National Forestry Restoration Programme in Ecuador, the National Mangrove Management Plan in Jamaica, the National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme in Trinidad and Tobago, and the AFOLU 2040 Initiative of the Central American Integration System (SICA) (Targets 2 and 10). Additionally, FAO aids in developing governance for the integrated National Protected Area System in Chile (Target 3) and implementing the Plurinational Policy and Strategy for Comprehensive and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity. It promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the sustainable use zones and buffer zones of Ecuador's State Subsystem of Protected Areas and within the Areas Under Special Administration Regime in the Caroní River in Venezuela (Target 5). In Chile and Argentina, FAO has supported the development and implementation of national strategies on invasive alien species, and in Venezuela, it is currently assisting in designing a specific strategy for marine and coastal environment invaders (Target 6). For marine environments, initiatives aimed at sustainable fishing and biodiversity conservation have been supported in Argentina and Brazil through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. In the Caribbean, efforts have focused on promoting national blue economy priorities, marine spatial planning, developing and validating national marine spatial plans with participatory, climate-sensitive, and gender-sensitive approaches, designing, validating, and implementing national blue economy strategies, and creating marine protected areas and OECMs (Target 9).

Implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

21. The Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (FA BFA),[20] developed by the Commission in response to the country-driven report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*,[21] was endorsed by the FAO Council in 2021. It contains more than 50 individual actions grouped into three strategic priority areas: characterization, assessment and monitoring; management (sustainable use and conservation); and institutional frameworks.

[17] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc1159en
[18] https://www.fao.org/platforms/green-agriculture/events/events-detail/second-regional-dialogue-on-biodiversity-mainstreaming-across-agricultural-sectors-in-europe-and-central-asia--accelerating-national-action/en
[19] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc0576en ; https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc0576en; https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc8834en
[20] https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en
[21] https://doi.org/10.4060/CA3129EN

22. The Commission, at its 19th Regular Session, noted with satisfaction the high degree of mutual supportiveness of the KMGBF and the Commission's FA BFA and Global Plans of Action (GPAs) and recommended continuing to encourage Members and the Commission to continue to review the FA BFA. It invited Members to implement the FA BFA and the GPAs in harmony with the KMGBF, including by integrating the implementation of the FA BFA and the GPAs into national policies and actions plans on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including NBSAPs, as appropriate, and requested the Secretariat to support countries in this regard, including by assisting in mobilizing the necessary resources.[22] The Commission recommended that FAO contribute to the development of tools and guidelines, as appropriate, facilitating the implementation of the FA BFA, the GPAs and the KMGBF in a mutually supportive, coherent, consistent and non-duplicative way.

23. The Commission established an Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (ET BFA), which held its first session in July 2024. The ET BFA is tasked to: (i) review the situation and issues related to biodiversity for food and agriculture and advise and make recommendations to the Commission on these matters; (ii) consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work on biodiversity for food and agriculture as well as any other matters regarding BFA referred to the ET BFA by the Commission; (iii) report to the Commission on its activities. At is first session, held in July 2024, the ET BFA reviewed the FA BFA and considered draft guidelines for the implementation of the FA BFA. It also reviewed a compilation of existing indicators and databases in the light of the strategic priorities and actions of the FA BFA and noted that for some actions no indicators are currently available. It also noted the importance of monitoring the status of BFA and the implementation of Commission instruments, including the FA BFA.[23]

24. In 2023/24, the Commission Secretariat, in collaboration with the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and with financial support from the government of Germany, held regional workshops aimed at supporting countries in the implementation of the FA BFA and identifying gaps and needs. The workshops held in close collaboration with the FAO Regional Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Near East and North Africa, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific, highlighted that guidelines and other information products are needed to support countries in the creation of institutional and enabling frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture.[24]

B. Agenda item 9. Digital sequence information on genetic resources

Decision 15/9. Digital sequence information on genetic resources
Report of the WGDSI-2.

25. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its 16th Regular Session, established a workstream on digital sequence information (DSI).[25]

26. In 2023, the Commission, at its 19th Regular Session, took note of the draft study on *The role of digital sequence information in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture: opportunities and challenges*[26] and requested its finalization and submission to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.[27]

27. The Commission noted that there is still no internationally agreed definition of DSI nor agreement on the term to be used. The Commission requested the Secretariat, building on previous work and avoiding

[22] CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 36. http://www.fao.org/3/nn203en/nn203en.pdf
[23] CGRFA/ET-BFA-1/24/Report https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b0409581-9545-4d1b-bebc-f310e5ea389c/content
[24] CGRFA-ET-BFA-1/24/4/Inf.2 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6c3f3f7f-fea7-457e-a352-811647080943/content; CGRFA/ET-BFA-1/24/4/Inf.3 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/47dcf7c6-1a82-4e80-8264-fca6e7e4a38b/content; CGRFA/ET-BFA-1/24/4/Inf.4 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/06133a0d-c7b6-4207-b28e-cb899c08b073/content; CGRFA/ET-BFA-1/24/4/Inf.5 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a3ede4d3-6946-461e-91d8-af81118b1c8c/content.
[25] CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 86. http://www.fao.org/3/a-ms565e.pdf
[26] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8502en
[27] https://www.cbd.int/meetings/WGDSI-02

duplication, to invite Members to submit information on domestic ABS measures applying to DSI and their actual or potential implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including their exchange, access to them and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, and to compile this information for the Commission.

28. It further encouraged Members to coordinate future work on DSI, including ABS for DSI, among relevant sectors, with a view to ensuring consistency and mutual supportiveness of the ongoing processes in different fora. The Commission further requested the Secretariat to continue monitoring developments regarding DSI in other fora, and participate where relevant, with a view to considering their implications, including potential opportunities and challenges for the Commission and its Members. It further requested the Secretariat to closely engage with the unfolding processes under the CBD, as well as in other bodies, to ensure that the distinctive features of GRFA requiring distinctive solutions for ABS are appropriately reflected in the development of relevant rules and mechanisms for the sharing of benefits from the use of DSI on genetic resources.

29. The Commission requested the Secretariat to continue to hold, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the CBD, the International Treaty and other relevant international organizations, virtual and/or in-person open-ended workshops on DSI, as appropriate, with a view to sharing information about gaps in knowledge and technical capacity-building needs and activities related to DSI on GRFA.

C. Agenda item 10. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

Decision 15/5. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework
Decision 15/6. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review
Recommendation SBSTTA-26/1. (placeholder for L doc – SBSTTA-26/L.10)
Recommendation SBI-4/2. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

30. FAO has supported the process to further develop and implement the monitoring framework for the KMGBF through various means, including through participation in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the KMGBF, established by Decision 15/5.28 FAO acts as a custodian agency for, or facilitates the development of, five headline indicators and one proposed headline indicator. Additionally, FAO is a custodian agency for over 20 other indicators proposed in the monitoring framework (Table 1). This section provides updates on these headline indicators, offers information on possible options to address needs related to the implementation of the monitoring framework, and presents further relevant statistical data and databases.

Table 1. Indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for which FAO is custodian or contributing agency

Title	Goal/Target	Notes
Headline indicators		
2.2 Area under restoration	Target 2	Under development
5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	Target 5	SDG 14.4.1
7.2 Aggregate Total Applied Toxicity	Target 7	Under development
10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Target 10	SDG 2.4.1
10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management	Target 10	SDG 15.2.1
[Land use and tenure indicator]	Target 22	Proposed as HI
Component and complementary indicators		
Forest area as a percent of total land area	Goal A	SDG 15.1.1
Mountain Green Cover Index	Goal A	SDG 15.4.2.a
Level of water stress	Goal B, Target 11	SDG 6.4.2
Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	Targets 5 and 9	SDG 14.6.1

[28] ntf-2023-040-indicators-en.pdf (cbd.int)

Above-ground biomass stock in forest	Target 8	Subindicator of SDG 15.2.1
Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities	Goal A, Targets 4 and 9	SDG 2.5.1.a
Number of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities	Goal A, Targets 4 and 9	SDG 2.5.1.b
Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction	Goal A, Targets 4 and 9	SDG 2.5.2
Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	Target 9	SDG 2.3.1
Cropland nutrient budget	Target 7	
Pesticide use per area of cropland	Target 7	
Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	Target 10	SDG 2.3.2
Total number of transfers of crop material from the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture received in a country	Target 13	Subindicator of SDG 15.6.1
Change in water use efficiency over time	Target 16	SDG 6.4.1
Women's ownership of agricultural land	Target 22	SDG 5.a.1(b)
Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex	Targets 22 and 23	SDG 5.a.1(a)
Women's equal rights to land ownership	Targets 22 and 23	SDG 5.a.2
Soil organic carbon stocks/ Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	Target 10	Contributing agency for SDG 15.3.1
Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation; and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure	Target 23	Contributing agency for SDG 1.4.2

Headline indicators

Target 2. Indicator 2.1 Area under restoration

31. In collaboration with the Task Force on Monitoring, FAO has developed the methodology for reporting on the headline indicator[29] and a support program to accelerate monitoring and reporting of areas under restoration.[30] Indicator 2.1 requires a comprehensive database built on cross-sectoral and cross-society collaboration to capture restoration across all ecosystems. The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)[31] has been developed in line with the Target 2 headline indicator methodology to accelerate reporting by providing a framework for compiling areas under restoration across all ecosystems. The FERM streamlines monitoring and reporting for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Target 2 of the KMGBF. A resource guide and e-learning course, to be launched at CBD COP16, will support countries in their planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of restoration, aligned with Target 2. The FERM aims to reduce Parties' reporting burden by identifying alignment between existing reporting frameworks and existing information on forest restoration from Rio Conventions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as the Global Forest Resource Assessment, and is being compiled into a default dataset to support country reporting to the KMGBF.

32. Country pilots in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Peru, and Vietnam are being supported by FAO and CIFOR/ICRAF to assess their readiness for Target 2 reporting and identify data flows for monitoring and reporting ecosystem restoration. During the reporting period, the FERM has been further developed to align with the AHTEG recommendations, incorporating direct input from AHTEG members.

[29] CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/92cf/b458/18519b4c0b487bf9bfc23988/sbstta-26-inf-14-en.pdf
[30] https://www.fao.org/3/cdic6821en/cc6821en.pdf
[31] https://ferm-search.fao.org/search

Target 5. Indicator 5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (SDG indicator 14.4.1)

33. FAO has an ongoing programme of work to upgrade its global State of Stocks index,[32] an indicator used to report on the progress of SDG 14.4.1. The methodological updates include broadening the scope to cover around 2 500 disaggregated and some aggregated stocks. This not only provides a higher resolution of the state of the resources in each region but also addresses information gaps within specific geographic areas.[33]

Target 7. Indicator 7.2 Aggregated total applied toxicity

34. In response to the recommendation of the AHTEG at its third meeting, the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, convened an expert meeting on 23-24 January 2024, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, to define a suitable headline indicator 7.2 for Target 7b (pesticide risk reduction).[34]

35. The report from this meeting was submitted as an information document to the SBSTTA26.[35] More detailed information on headline indicator 7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT), as discussed during the expert group meeting, was provided in a metadata sheet included in the document *Guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*.[36]

36. Both information documents supported the consideration of document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2[37] on the monitoring framework for the KMGBF that was prepared on the basis of the results of the work of the AHTEG on all the indicators for the KMGBF, including headline indicator 7.2 (ATAT).

37. Following SBSTTA26, the Executive Secretary of the CBD invited Parties and Observers to submit their views on the guidance document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.[38] FAO facilitated the expert group's review and consolidation of the comments and suggestions received on the metadata sheet for headline indicator 7.2 (ATAT) based on which the CBD Secretariat prepared the document CBD/COP/16/INF/3[39] for information at COP16.

Target 10. Indicator 10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2.4.1)

38. Data on the official SDG indicator 2.4.1 is currently scarce, as countries are still building their capacity to adapt their agricultural surveys to collect the necessary information.[40,41] As a provisional, stop-gap solution, the UN Statistical Commission has approved the use of a proxy[42] for monitoring progress towards productive and sustainable agriculture, based on widely available national-level statistics. The proxy consists of seven sub-indicators capturing the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic and social) in the agricultural sphere and shall be used as a "practical interim solution" while FAO continues to work with countries "to strengthen capacity-building activities for the official indicator".

Target 10. Indicator 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management (SDG 15.2.1)

[32] COFI:FM/I/2024/6 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/92ea84c9-fb94-417e-831b-4d7bd89b39b9/content
[33] For more information: https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/news/41441
[34] CBD/IND/AHTEG/2023/3/2 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/f22d/ab58/236acdd54779ab58b97aecf1/ind-ahteg-2023-03-02-en.pdf
[35] CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/18 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/0a14/7f94/990fe660e145605eb181e528/sbstta-26-inf-18-en.pdf
[36] CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/92cf/b458/18519b4c0b487bf9bfc23988/sbstta-26-inf-14-en.pdf
[37] CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/d140/f363/5a2af2b9b67c9e69b645fb84/sbstta-26-02-en.pdf
[38] Notification 2024-033 https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-033
[39] CBD/COP/16/INF/3 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/80af/1256/4f0e7bc3a3263b61bc9c5093/cop-16-inf-03-en.pdf
[40] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7088en
[41] https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/Indicator2.4.1-proportion-of-agricultural-area-under-productive-and-sustainable-agriculture/
[42] https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_55/documents/2024-36-FinalReport-E.pdf

39. Data for SDG indicator 15.2.1 is collected by FAO through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). Assessments have been carried out at regular intervals since 1946 and are now produced every five years. The FRA 2025 data collection was launched in February 2023 with a first workshop for the Caribbean region, which was followed by 13 other regional workshops throughout 2023.[43] Altogether, 299 FRA national correspondents, their alternates, and collaborators from 150 countries and territories participated in these events. In addition, a series of virtual meetings were organized to support the reporting. These workshops focused on providing technical assistance and guidance to national correspondents on the compilation and finalization of their FRA 2025 country reports. At the same time, they provided a forum for national correspondents to connect and share experiences with colleagues from other countries in their respective regions.

40. The FRA 2025 data collection, validation and cleansing were finalized during the first half of 2024. Altogether, 236 national or territorial reports for FRA 2025 were prepared. The analysis of data, drafting of the global report and developing of the FRA 2025 data dissemination interface will be completed by early 2025, and the results will be published in the fourth quarter of 2025. A pilot enabling flexible reporting for the countries who have expressed their interest in updating their reports has been scheduled to take place in 2024.

Target 22. Land use and tenure indicator, proposed headline indicator

41. FAO is leading the development of the land indicator, which, as requested during the 12th meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J-12) of the CBD held in Geneva in November 2023, includes components on land use and land tenure (see paragraphs 99 and 100). This indicator was discussed in the AHTEG and at SBSTTA26.

42. The SBSTTA26 recommendation to COP16 on the monitoring framework includes a bracketed suggestion to elevate the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities land indicator to headline status for Target 22 (CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.10, recommendation paragraph 2 and the bracketed headline indicator in the annex p. 18). The land use and tenure indicator is fully operational, has globally available data and is ready to be deployed globally if adopted by COP16.

43. FAO, through its Global Land Observatory, is proposed as a custodian for this indicator, which is developed in collaboration with other partners such the International Land Coalition (ILC), Forest People's Programme (FPP), World Resources Institute (WRI) and LandMark.

Addressing needs related to the implementation of the monitoring framework

44. In assessing needs related to implementing the monitoring framework of the KMGBF, the AHTEG noted several gaps,[44] including the following ones. For headline indicator 1.1 *Percent of land and sea area covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans*, a methodology has not been developed due to the lack of identifiable data sources. For Target 4, there are currently no indicators available to monitor the management of human-wildlife interactions to minimize conflicts. Additionally, for Target 4 and Goal A, headline indicator A.4 only partially addresses the genetic diversity within populations of domestic species, indicating a need for further development. For Target 10, no indicators exist to monitor progress towards the sustainable management of areas under aquaculture, and the current indicators only partially inform on the increase in adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices.

45. Regarding Target 1, FAO is updating its integrated land use planning guidelines through an inclusive global consultation process, which could support the development and monitoring of indicator 1.1 on biodiversity-inclusive integrated land use planning.[45]

46. FAO is supporting the development of the component indicator for the human-wildlife conflict part of Target 4, led by the IUCN Specialist Group on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence and to be presented to Parties at COP16, and the methodology for Sustainable Use of Wild Species Indicator for

[43] https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/fra-2025-regional-workshops/en/
[44] CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19 https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/83c7/2c1c/631991634c41a9f57de495b3/sbstta-26-inf-19-en.pdf
[45] COAG/2024/18 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8e2fc4bc-086d-4294-95ba-f69ce18f03e9/content

Targets 5 and 9 through the joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW).

47. In addition to complementary indicators on plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (SDG indicators 2.5.1 and 2.5.2), indicators considered for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and to be included in AquaGRIS in 2025, could also be used to monitor progress towards Targets 4, 6 and 10 of the KMGBF for aquatic species and subspecies.[46,47] These indicators include, for example, the average and frequency distribution of effective population size of wild stocks, average effective population size of farmed types, extent of *ex situ* conservation for threatened wild stocks (a) and important farmed types (b) AqGR and extent of species introductions for which a risk assessment was conducted.

48. Regarding sustainable aquaculture, although specific indicators are still under development, the adoption of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA) by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its 36th session may help advance efforts in this area (see paragraph 143).[48,49]

49. Finally, efforts are made to improve data collection and availability for specific biodiversity-friendly practices such as agroforestry. In parallel with the FRA country reporting process, FAO is working on a special study on the scaling-up potential of agroforestry through improved monitoring methodologies and statistics. A stocktaking of existing agroforestry datasets and methodologies for agroforestry monitoring at national, regional, and global levels has been completed, and the results of the global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry are foreseen to be published in 2025.[50,51]

Relevant statistical data and databases

50. FAO is responsible for the compilation, analysis and dissemination of a comprehensive variety of statistical data on food, agriculture and the sustainable management of natural resources. It provides free and unrestricted access to 22 major databases[52] and produces publications with key statistical content covering different topics under FAO's mandate and strategic goals. A key database is FAOSTAT,[53] the world's most comprehensive statistical database on food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, natural resources management and nutrition for over 245 countries and territories starting from 1961 to date. These data are used in the Global Biodiversity Outlooks, in biodiversity assessments such as those from IPBES, and in monitoring frameworks, e.g., for several component and complementary indicators of the KMGBF.[54] Other databases include those dedicated to genetic resources for food and agriculture such as DAD-IS,[55] WIEWS[56] and the recently launched AquaGRIS[57] for animal, plant and aquatic genetic resources respectively.

D. Agenda item 11. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Decision 15/7. Resource mobilization
Decision 15/15. Financial mechanism
Recommendation SBI-4/3. Resource mobilization
Recommendation SBI-4/4. Financial mechanism

Global Environment Facility

51. FAO GEF project and programmes address priority areas of the CBD as follows: (i) mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels, including fisheries and

[46] CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5 https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/c6305ab7-e3a6-42a1-ace0-257dec8f8a56
[47] CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5/Inf.1 https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/1e772bfe-60b4-473b-889b-2f157af18ec7
[48] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2423en
[49] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np423en
[50] COFO/2024/INF/6 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/7f57210b-d0ed-471c-9790-54317cdfde2a/content
[51] COFO/2024/3 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/05ac0770-7a8c-48c1-9e30-18b4b38de29e/content
[52] https://www.fao.org/statistics/data-dissemination/agrifood-systems/en
[53] http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home
[54] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/data-and-indicators/en
[55] https://www.fao.org/dad-is/en/
[56] https://www.fao.org/wiews/en/
[57] https://www.fao.org/fishery/aquagris/en

forestry; (ii) promoting the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture; (iii) supporting countries in meeting their biodiversity goals and targets related to the agriculture sectors, including the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the CBD; (iv) prioritizing policy actions that have a positive impact on biodiversity, at the ecosystem, species and genetic levels, and ecosystem services; and (iv) scaling up existing initiatives that support biodiversity mainstreaming, identifying gaps and future priorities, and promoting cross-sectoral collaboration at all scales.[58]

GEF-8

52. The 8th GEF replenishment cycle (GEF-8) spans from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026. During GEF-8, FAO has supported 91 countries in accessing more than USD 645 million in GEF grants and USD 4.34 billion in co-financing.

53. After a competitive process, FAO was selected to co-lead three GEF-8 Integrated Programmes (IPs).

54. The Food Systems IP together with its partner International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with the total grant of over USD 280 million and (FAO as lead Agency in 22 countries with USD 181 million grant and USD 1.4 billion in co-financing). The programme will enable countries to catalyze transformational change to more sustainable food systems worldwide, with important biodiversity benefits. It spans 32 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania, and specifically targets a selection of globally important food crops and commodities (rice, wheat, maize, cocoa, palm oil and soy), livestock and aquaculture: these have been prioritized because of the potential that exists for delivering environmental benefits, especially reductions in threats to biodiversity, through the transformation of the production, landscape and value chain systems associated with them.

55. The Clean and Healthy Oceans (CHO) IP, along with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Latin America Development Bank (CAF), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (Global Coordination Project). The CHO IP with a total grant of over USD 112 million (FAO as lead Agency in 4 countries with USD 24.6 million) aims to address marine hypoxic zones by curbing coastal pollution from agriculture, industrial, and municipal sources. The Integrated Program seeks to create enabling policies for integrated planning and governance reforms, establish partnerships, and leverage investments to maximize global environmental benefits, poverty alleviation, and improved economic development.

56. The Critical Forest Biomes IP - Indo-Malaya, a sub-program with over USD 42.6 million in GEF grants and USD 185.6 million in co-financing, is co-led by IUCN and FAO. The IP has an overall goal of conserving globally critical intact forest landscapes through interventions inside and outside protected areas. The Integrated Program, with child projects in Lao PDR, Thailand and Papua-New Guinea, will build on the comparative strengths of IUCN and FAO to create enabling policies for integrated planning and governance reforms, by establishing partnerships and leveraging investments to maximize global environmental benefits, poverty alleviation and improved economic development.

57. In addition to leading three IPs, FAO is participating in eight other GEF-8 Integrated Programs (IP):

- Ecosystem Restoration IP (Vietnam child project in total USD 11.8 million, Sao Tome and Principe child project USD 5.3 million, Cote d'Ivoire child project USD 4.3 million, Nepal USD 2.7 million GEF grants and USD 241.6 million total co-financing);
- Sustainable Cities IP (Chile child project USD 5.3 million, Zimbabwe child project USD 4 million, and Algeria child project USD 3.3 million, with total USD 147.3 million in co-financing);

[58] These areas of work are aligned with the *FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors*, approved by the FAO Council in 2019. The FAO GEF portfolio supports countries in achieving the aims and objectives of this Strategy, among other priorities.

- Amazon IP (Guyana child project USD 4 million, and Venezuela child project USD 6.7 million);
- Critical Forest Biomes IP in Guinean Forests (Togo child project USD 4.7 million);
- Critical Biomes IP in Mesoamerica (Panama child project USD 10.7 million, and Nicaragua chid project USD 13 million);
- Elimination Hazardous Chemicals IP (Pakistan child project USD 3.7 million);
- Blue and Green Islands IP (Cabo Verde child project USD 11.3 million, Mauritius child project USD 9.4 million, Cuba child project USD 9.3 million, Vanuatu child project USD 4.5 million, Trinidad and Tobago child project USD 4 million);
- Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator IP (Costa Rica child project USD 6 million).

58. To support consistent monitoring of GEF projects implementing actions on restoration and alignment with KMGBF Target 2, FAO is consolidating the GEF portfolio under the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring and coordinating with the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Program Global Coordination Project, implemented by Conservation International to support streamlining restoration data and improve country reporting capacities on the headline indicator for Target 2.

59. FAO is the lead Implementing Agency for the GEF-8 Program *Central Asia Water and Land Nexus (CAWLN) for Ecosystem Restoration, Improved Natural Resource Management and Increased Resilience* (USD 29 million and USD 215 million in co-financing) targeting to enhance water-land nexus approaches and implementation to strengthen water security, increase resilience, and improve rural livelihoods in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya river basins. The Integrated Program, with seven child projects in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, focuses on establishing partnerships and leveraging investments to maximize global environmental benefits, alleviate poverty, and improve economic development.

60. Furthermore, the GEF-8 Small Grants Programme (SGP) 2.0 was launched in 2023. The SGP is aimed to empower local communities by providing financial and technical support to civil society organizations (and community-based organizations, enabling them to develop and implement innovative local actions that address global environmental issues. FAO joined the SGP Partnership in February 2024. Participation in the SGP is important as it fosters grassroots innovation and community-led solutions, which are crucial for achieving long-term environmental sustainability. FAO is currently supporting 13 countries in designing and delivering SGP interventions across a wide range of landscapes and seascapes in line with national priorities and local needs. FAO's current SGP portfolio has a core SGP allocation of USD 10.14 million with additional STAR resources up to USD 7.1 million. FAO is working with the participating countries to submit the Global SGP PIF under Tranche II by 18 September 2024, CEO endorsement is expected by mid-2025 following which execution will start in the second half of 2025.

61. In preparation for COP16, the FAO Office in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has prepared a new compendium of publications analyzing initiatives funded by the GEF and supported by FAO and its local counterparts between 2013 and 2023. It showcases how various projects have made significant contributions aligned with the target of the KMGBF, particularly in strengthening sustainable practices in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry, as well as in reducing biodiversity loss and protecting endangered species. The FAO GEF portfolio contributed to Targets 1 to 11, 13 and 14, 18, 19 and 22 of the KMGBF.

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

62. In the framework of the KMGBF, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) was established in 2023. The GBFF is hosted by the GEF Trust Fund. A first programming tranche was launched in February 2024, with two calls for proposals issued in February and March 2024. Three FAO Project Preparation Grant (PPG) requests were submitted and approved in the second round: Samoa (USD 1.16 million with USD 1.15 in co-financing), Palau (USD 1.16 million with USD 1.12 million in co-financing), and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (USD 6.56 million with USD 12 million in co-financing). FAO

is now supporting its member countries in preparing PPG requests for the third GBFF call for proposals, due on 30 September 2024, that address key KMGBF targets linked to food and agriculture.

Green Climate Fund

63. FAO has actively promoted a climate-biodiversity-food security and nutrition nexus as a key approach to accelerate progress towards the three global goals simultaneously. Such an integrated approach to designing solutions can deliver multiple benefits, promote efficient use of limited financial resources, help better manage risks and uncertainties and build long-term resilience of agrifood systems.

64. FAO has supported Nigeria in formulating a readiness proposal titled *Integrated Actions to Tackle the Nexus Challenges of Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Agrifood Systems*. This project aims to help Nigeria harmonize policies and eliminate competing objectives. This initiative represents an important step in directing private and public investments towards productive, climate- and biodiversity-friendly systems, creating a virtuous cycle of co-benefits that sustainably improve the well-being and resilience of farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, and forest dwellers.

65. In alignment with this approach and contributing to the GCF Strategic Plan 2024–27, particularly the target of conserving, restoring, or sustainably managing 120–190 million hectares, FAO has supported the mobilization of USD 200 million in four countries since COP15

66. In Malawi, the project *Ecosystems-based Adaptation for resilient Watersheds and Communities in Malawi (EbAM)* (USD 53.2 millions) aims at increasing the resilience of rural communities at watershed and farm level to climate change through the ecosystem-based adaptation approach involving the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

67. In Cambodia, the project *Public-Social-Private Partnerships for Ecologically-Sound Agriculture and Resilient Livelihood in Northern Tonle Sap Basin (PEARL)* (USD 42.9 million) aims to increase the climate resilience of agricultural production in the Northern Tonle Sap Basin (NTSB). The project includes support for 16 target Community Protected Areas and four Community Forests to adopt improved catchment forest management through agroforestry and other livelihood diversification activities.

68. The project *Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA)* (USD 39.3 million) aims to transform the country's agricultural system to be more climate-resilient, especially in rural areas. The project focuses on enhancing biodiversity through integrated farming and agroforestry systems, utilizing indigenous, stress-resistant crop varieties, and improving micro-watershed management. Additionally, it seeks to enhance soil quality, water quality, and water availability.

69. The project *Upscaling Ecosystem-Based Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Rural Communities in the Valles Macro-region of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (RECEM-Valles)* (USD 63.3 million) aims to enhance ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience within vulnerable rural communities. It focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, restoring degraded ecosystems, and protecting biodiversity. These actions directly contribute to several biodiversity objectives, including preventing ecosystem degradation, conserving natural habitats, and promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity.

E. Agenda item 12. Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management

Decision 15/16. Knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism
Recommendation SBI-4/5. Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer
Recommendation SBI-4/6. Clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management

70. The Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) Initiative is a CBD Secretariat-led programme aimed at strengthening national capacities in knowledge management to support evidence-based biodiversity planning, policy and decision-making, implementation as well as monitoring and reporting of progress towards the achievement of the KMGBF goals and targets, through various activities, including organization of KM4B webinars and training sessions. At the invitation of the CBD Secretariat,

FAO has contributed to the Training Course on KM4B[59] on the development and management of knowledge hubs,[60] taking FAO's Biodiversity Knowledge Hub as an example, and on knowledge management in the KORE – Knowledge platform on emergencies and resilience, in particular on Leveraging knowledge assets for building resilient agrifood systems in fragile and food insecure contexts.[61]

71. FAO offers over 600 multilingual e-learning courses via the FAO elearning Academy, free of charge as a global public good, as the result of a collaborative effort involving more than 500 partners across the world. The FAO elearning Academy has now reached a global audience of more than 1 million users, and the courses are fully aligned with the SDGs and cover thematic areas such as climate-smart agriculture, sustainable food systems and nutrition, sustainable forestry and fisheries, water management, soils restoration, food safety, food losses, sustainable management of natural resources and responsible governance of tenure. In 2023 only, 91 FAO multilingual certified e-learning courses were published. Thirsty-six (36) e-learning courses have been matched to one or more targets of the KMGBF in the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub, with more being assessed.[62]

72. FAO has supported the design and development of the *Learning Platform: Master the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Your One-Stop Shop for E-learning Resources*[63] managed by UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development and launched on 30 September 2024. Forty-five (45) courses from the FAO elearning Academy have already been included and matched to one or more targets of the KMGBF.

73. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO Campus[64] is offering regional tailored capacity-building opportunities related to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

74. A resource guide and e-learning course, set to be launched at CBD COP16, will support countries in planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting restoration efforts in alignment with Target 2. In addition, a publication entitled *Delivering on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through Agrifood Systems* (in press) describes the interrelations between biodiversity, agrifood systems and the targets of the KMGBF.

F. Agenda item 13. Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions

Decision 14/6. Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators
Decision 15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations
Decision 15/28. Biodiversity and agriculture
Decision 15/11. Gender Plan of Action
Recommendation SBI-4/9. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

FAO Resolutions after COP15 that have welcomed KMGBF

75. In 2023, at its 19th Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) endorsed a draft resolution, which the FAO Council adopted at its 174th session as Resolution 1/174.[65] The resolution welcomes the KMGBF, requests FAO and the Commission, and encourages the Governing Body of the International Treaty and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, to contribute to the implementation of the KMGBF, and invites Members to consider integration of FAO instruments and policies into NBSAPs.

[59] https://km4b.cbd.int/course
[60] https://youtu.be/YF6EfQRhPto
[61] https://youtu.be/1nFV5Lx_XlA
[62] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/en
[63] https://www.learningfornature.org/en/e-learning-catalogue-the-kunming-montreal-global-biodiversity-framework/
[64] https://capacitacion.fao.org/
[65] Resolution 1/174 https://www.fao.org/3/no069en/no069en.pdf

76. In 2023, the Governing Body of the International Treaty adopted Resolution 1/2023[66] at its 10th session, which welcomed the KMGBF and acknowledged that the achievement of the goals and targets of the KMGBF would contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the International Treaty. The Governing Body invited Contracting Parties to encourage effective liaison between the respective national focal points of the CBD and the International Treaty in national processes related to KMGBF implementation and mainstream the implementation of the International Treaty within NBSAPs and other relevant policies, plans and programmes to support KMGBF implementation. The Governing Body also decided to add "GBF implementation and follow-up actions" as a milestone for the 11th session of the Governing Body in the Multi-Year Programme of Work.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

77. FAO and UNEP co-lead the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 worldwide, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions, the IUCN, the Global Landscapes Forum, the Center for International Forestry Research and other key partners, ensuring strong cooperation with countries, other UN agencies and partners. FAO, through the Task Force on Best Practices and the Task Force on Monitoring, leads the support to Members globally in enhancing their ecosystem restoration efforts on the ground, sharing information and knowledge on successful restoration initiatives, and monitoring progress.

78. Decision 15/13 invites the FAO and UNEP to continue to liaise closely with the secretariats of the Rio conventions and relevant partner organizations in the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and to provide a report on its progress to the COP for consideration at its 16th meeting. A progress report on the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) has been prepared by FAO and UNEP with the support of the CBD Secretariat and is available as document CBD/COP/16/INF/13.

UN Environment Management Group

79. FAO continued to engage with the UN Environment Management Group, which aims to commit the UN system, under a Common Approach, to mainstreaming biodiversity and catalysing collective action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems. The Group initiated the *UN Common Approach to Biodiversity Webinar Series*, aimed at enhancing system-wide implementation of the Common Approach and the KMGBF, as well as exchanging tools, case studies, and lessons learned. Events in the series included "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agrifood Systems", hosted in partnership with FAO and IFAD in June 2024.

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators

80. The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (International Pollinators Initiative) was formally established in 2000, as one of the cross-cutting initiatives within the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity of the CBD. At its 14th meeting, the COP adopted the Plan of Action 2018−2030 for the International Pollinator Initiative and invited FAO to facilitate its implementation. FAO facilitates the implementation of the International Pollinators Initiative by providing guidance and technical advice to countries and supporting decision-making processes. An information document[67] is made available to COP16 to report on progress of the work carried out by FAO to facilitate the implementation of the International Pollinators Initiative's Plan of Action (2018–2030) under CBD Decision 14/6.

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity

81. COP15 adopted with Decision 15/28 the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity and, in paragraph 7, invited FAO through the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)[68] to facilitate its implementation. FAO is leading, through the GSP´s

[66] Resolution 1/2023 https://www.fao.org/3/no025en/no025en.pdf
[67] CBD/COP/16/INF/14
[68] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/en/

International Network on Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB),[69] the implementation of the Plan of Action, in collaboration with governments, academic and research bodies, and other relevant international organizations such as the CBD Secretariat and the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI).[70]

82. FAO established a Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB) to monitor and forecast the conditions of soil biodiversity and soil health by Parties and other Member States. The GSP's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) and NETSOB, in collaboration with other international initiatives such as the GSBI and the Soil Biological Observation Network (SoilBON)[71] presented an implementation plan for GLOSOB at the 12th GSP Plenary Assembly in June 2024, including a tiered approach with different indicators and metrics to monitor soil biodiversity. The GSP is now working to secure funding to start implementing national benchmark sites for soil biodiversity monitoring and to develop a training programme to measure and monitor soil biodiversity.

83. To assess national capacities for monitoring soil biodiversity and to identify and address the direct and indirect drivers of soil biodiversity loss and land degradation, NETSOB designed a survey on national initiatives and capacity to assess soil biodiversity as well as the methods and metrics used. The global survey was sent to more than 70 000 researchers and practitioners in over 130 countries, and more than 2 000 responses were received. Results of the survey will be published in a special issue of the journal *Soil Organisms* in 2024.

84. The GSP's Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and NETSOB are building and strengthening the capacity of laboratories in developing and adopting harmonized protocols for sampling and measuring soil biodiversity functional groups and functions, promoting tools to collect and digitize soil biodiversity data and to improve mapping capabilities of Parties, acknowledging the differences in soil types across regions. In coordination with GLOSOLAN,[72] NETSOB members have published harmonized standard operating procedures for soil microbial biomass[73] and respiration.[74] Standard operating procedures for enzyme activity, soil mesofauna, and nematodes are being finalised. This effort to harmonise methodologies is essential as a preliminary step to addressing the request to the GSP to include soil biodiversity as a component of soil survey studies and to develop soil biodiversity indicators.

85. Within the framework of the GSP, two other technical networks help to conserve and sustainably manage soil biodiversity. The International Network on Black Soils (INBS)[75] aims to protect highly productive and carbon-rich agricultural soils from unsustainable management practices and excessive use of agrochemicals, and to prevent carbon loss, mitigate erosion processes, as well as nutrient imbalances, acidification, compaction and loss of soil biodiversity. In addition, the International Network on Soil Fertility and Fertilizers (INSOILFER)[76] aims to adopt and implement sustainable soil fertility management, avoid underuse, misuse and overuse of fertilizers, and reduce the environmental and health impacts of unsustainable fertilizer use leading to soil biodiversity losses and promote the use of alternative high quality nutrient sources including biofertilizers.

86. COP Decision 15/28 also invited academic and research bodies, relevant organizations, networks and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, farmers, women and youth, to increase knowledge and promote awareness-raising activities on the importance of soil biodiversity and to promote further research in order to address gaps identified in the plan of action. FAO launched in 2024 two background study papers on *Sustainable use and conservation of soil microorganisms and invertebrates contributing to bioremediation and nutrient cycling*[77] and *Sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion*[78] as part of the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food

[69] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/netsob/en/
[70] https://www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org/
[71] https://www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org/soilbon
[72] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/glosolan/en/
[73] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9423en
[74] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc4082en
[75] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/inbs/en/
[76] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/global-soil-partnershipinsoilferen/en/
[77] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0147en
[78] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0155en

and Agriculture. The GSP is also contributing soil biodiversity insights to an ongoing assessment of the contribution of livestock to food security and sustainable agrifood systems. NETSOB is also publishing several scientific papers that review scientific literature over the past decade to examine methods and geographic distribution of soil biodiversity measurements. The network is also working on compiling case studies on best practices for conserving and sustainably using soil biodiversity that will be published in 2025.

87. The GSP raises awareness and develops capacities on the multiple benefits and applications of soil biodiversity through its Global Soil Doctors programme.[79] This farmer-to-farmer training programme shares current knowledge and tools for soil health assessment and sustainable soil management practices that avoid, reduce, or reverse soil biodiversity loss. To date, the Global Soil Doctors Programme has built the capacity of 657 trainers and 1 800 Soil Doctors farmers, having reached over 11 500 farmers in 21 countries.

88. The GSP continues to expand its RECSOIL[80] initiative to recarbonize agricultural soils and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation promoting the adoption of sustainable soil management practices and tools to increase the soil organic carbon stocks and soil biodiversity of agricultural lands. The initiative is being implemented in four countries, namely Costa Rica, Ghana, Mexico, and Togo, where the baseline has been defined and sustainable soil management practices are being implemented. Four other countries have joined the initiative and are launching their pilot project (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, and Uzbekistan). The RECSOIL initiative builds on the Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential map (GSOCseq)[81] to identify hotspots that can significantly contribute to mitigating agricultural emissions, contribute cost-effectively to mitigating climate change, preserve soil biodiversity and increase the resilience of terrestrial ecosystems. The RECSOIL initiative also contributes to restoring degraded lands and is supporting countries to improve their reporting capacities on several of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular on target 2.4 on sustainably managed agricultural land and target 15.3 on combating desertification and land degradation.

International Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition

89. Recalling Decision 8/23 A *Agricultural biodiversity – A. Cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition*, FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other stakeholders are supporting the implementation of the cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition. The initiative, which aims to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in programmes contributing to food security and improved human nutrition, is built around four elements and their supporting activities.

90. FAO contributes to the four elements of the cross-cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition by developing and documenting knowledge (Element 1), integrating biodiversity, food and nutrition issues into research and policy instruments (Element 2), conserving and promoting the wider use of biodiversity for food and nutrition (Element 3) and raising public awareness (Element 4).

91. To support Element 1 of the Initiative and expand the knowledge base on the nutritional benefits of biodiverse foods, FAO, in collaboration with INFOODS, published the FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity (BioFoodComp). Version 4.0 of BioFoodComp includes composition values for foods at within-species level (i.e. variety/cultivar/breed level) and for wild and underutilized foods.[82] It contains data on 10 156 foods, of which 3 118 (31 percent) are identified as wild plant or animal foods (belonging to more than 1 200 species). In addition, to increase the availability of food composition data, FAO is updating the FAO/INFOODS global food composition database for fish and shellfish (uFiSh), published in 2016.[83] The update, due to be published in 2025, aims to expand the coverage of species, including small fish consumed whole and seaweed species.

[79] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/soil-doctors-programme/about-the-programme/en/
[80] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/areas-of-work/recsoil/recsoil-home/en/
[81] https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/gsocseq-map/en
[82] https://www.fao.org/3/a-i7364e.pdf
[83] https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/df0d00ee-cd30-460f-962c-72126322cb3d

92. To support Element 2 of the Initiative and mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into policies related to nutrition, FAO published the *Voluntary Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition*, endorsed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its 15th Regular Session.[84] Since their launch, the Voluntary Guidelines has guided relevant progresses as highlighted by the increase in the availability of food composition data to fill evidence gaps, the inclusion of biodiversity into food based dietary guidelines and the development of communication material for different audiences. Specific examples are provided below.

93. FAO provides technical assistance to its Members in developing, revising, and implementing food systems-based dietary guidelines[85] and food guides based on their nutritional situation, food availability, culinary cultures and eating habits, while now incorporating environmental and sustainability considerations. FAO supported 35 countries, of which 22 since COP15, with the development or revision of their food-based dietary guidelines. Where appropriate, biodiversity has been integrated into nutritional instruments and neglected and underutilised species have been valued and promoted.

94. FAO conducted a review of national policies on climate change, biodiversity and nutrition to assess the coherence and interlinkages between these topics. Only 46 out of 196 FAO Member States had national policies or strategies relating to climate change, biodiversity and nutrition, with a total of 140 documents available for review (covering the timeframe 2015–2020). Climate change and nutrition were considered fully in 13.7 percent (7/51) of the policies categorized under biodiversity, while 25 percent (12/48) of nutrition policies and 26.3 percent (10/38) of climate-change policies did not even mention biodiversity. The study, presented in a publication launched in 2021, serves as the basis for an update of the review, intended to be available in 2025/2026, to identify changes in the inclusion of the nexus of climate change, biodiversity, and nutrition in policy decisions.

95. To support Element 3 of the Initiative, which seeks to conserve and promote the wider use of biodiversity for food and nutrition, FAO supported the implementation of the GEF project *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agrobiodiversity to Improve Human Nutrition in Five Macro Eco-regions* in Bolivia which concluded in 2023. The project aimed to conserve agrobiodiversity *in situ* in five macro eco-regions and improve the livelihoods of local people by mainstreaming the valuation, conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in national policies, regulatory framework, and programmes (health, education, rural development and food security), providing market incentives, and a process of awareness-raising and training in the use of agrobiodiversity in sustainable management of natural resources. Among its various activities on nutrition, the project seeks to deliver 1 000 new documents and data entered into the National Information System (SNI) on native agrobiodiversity, nutritional value and adaptability to climate change to ultimately identify 51 underutilized and wild cultivated species for their conservation and incorporation into local diets.

96. More broadly, FAO is currently working to enhance nutrition sensitivity in its GEF-8 programming design, recognizing healthy diets as both an outcome and a driver of agrifood systems change that can advance GEF's work on biodiversity and support the achievement of global environmental benefits. A guidance note on how to enhance nutrition in GEF programming was developed based on the review of a selection of relevant GEF-6 and GEF-7 projects in FAO's portfolio.[86]

97. In 2023, FAO joined forces with the United States Department of State and the African Union to lead the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) initiative for Africa. VACS aims to identify nutritious and climate-resilient neglected crops, from a variety of food groups (e.g. cereals, legumes, fruits, vegetables and nuts/seeds). VACS seeks to increase investments in support of breeding activities needed to enhance productivity of these crops and to foster their adoption across the region.

[84] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i5248e
[85] https://www.fao.org/nutrition/education/food-based-dietary-guidelines
[86] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7337en

98. To support Element 4 of the Initiative, communication materials such as podcast episodes[87] and testimonies presenting good practices and solutions to protect biodiversity and improving diets. Launched in 2022, the Local Heroes Initiative provides a platform to young local heroes tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and malnutrition by offering them training and technical support to develop their own video stories.[88] Country-relevant experiences, such as the one in Mexico on the conservation of traditional agrifood systems for improved access to healthy diets and nutrition were showcased during the International Day for Biological Diversity 2024.[89]

G. Agenda item 14. Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities

Decision 15/10. Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities
Decision 15/20. In-depth dialogue on the thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues conducted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions
Decision 15/21. Recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Decision 15/22. Nature and Culture

99. One of the outcomes of the 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J-12) of the CBD, held in Geneva in November 2023, was the *Joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity: review and update of the four adopted traditional knowledge indicators*.[90] Parties requested the CBD Secretariat to facilitate a scientific and technical review of traditional knowledge indicators within the monitoring framework for the KMGBF as adopted at COP15.[91]

100. In that context, FAO, together with the International Land Coalition (ILC), Forest People's Programme (FPP), World Resources Institute (WRI), and LandMark, has taken the lead on the development of a land indicator – which, as requested in WG8J-12, includes a land use and land tenure component. This indicator, strongly supported by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), is now being recommended as a headline indicator for KMGBF Target 22 (Land tenure and land use). FAO, through ESP Land Tenure Team, is proposed as potential custodian.

101. FAO is committed to the recognition of the collective and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly concerning their lands, territories, and resources, as well as their right to free, prior, and informed consent, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007).[92] The *FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* emphasize the importance of land tenure security for Indigenous Peoples. This is intrinsically linked to environmental conservation efforts.

102. In the context of ongoing efforts related to Article 8(j), FAO participated in the World Summit on Traditional Knowledge Related to Biodiversity, held in Bogota from 26 to 29 August 2024. This summit was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, IIFB, and the International Women Biodiversity Network, with the CBD Secretariat as partner.

103. During the summit, FAO engaged in various sessions, presenting its ongoing work on the proposed headline indicator for land tenure and land use under Target 22, and explaining its relevance to Article 8(j). FAO also highlighted the benefits of Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration practices in supporting the implementation of the KMGBF through Indigenous-led initiatives. At the IIFB Summit, FAO was

[87] https://soundcloud.com/unfao/sets/climate-change-biodiversity
[88] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyFu_1RRKpk&list=PLzp5NgJ2-dK6Csi4KN1q6JA8DkvjbdZ3Z
[89] https://www.fao.org/newsroom/story/traditional-agrifood-systems-conserve-biodiversity-and-support-nutrition-in-mexico/en
[90] CBD/WG8J/REC/12/4 https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/wg8j-12/wg8j-12-rec-04-en.pdf
[91] CBD/COP/DEC/15/5 https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf
[92] https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

nominated by the Indigenous Caucus to contribute to the comprehensive report of the Summit and the Recommendations document. Furthermore, the Indigenous Caucus to the CBD has extended an invitation to FAO to serve as a facilitator in the negotiations concerning the Article 8(j) Programme of Work.

104. The Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems [93,94] is a collaborative platform for the co-creation of knowledge, uniting Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts from universities, research centres, UN bodies, and Indigenous organizations. It is set to launch a pivotal document at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in December 2024. This document, titled the *Pulaaku Paper*, will underscore the critical role of Indigenous Peoples' mobility, nomadism, transhumance, and collective rights in the conservation of biodiversity.

105. FAO is actively implementing the Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration Programme.[95] This initiative aims to support the achievement of targets 2, 3, and 22 of the KMGBF. It aligns with global commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UNCCD. Furthermore, this programme is part of Initiative 4 of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The FAO's efforts are conducted within the frameworks of AIM4Forest and the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme. The Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration Programme is designed to safeguard the rights, food systems, and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples. It underscores the significant contributions of Indigenous Peoples to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

106. During the Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF) in 2023,[96] FAO organized a technical session on the CBD COP15 and the UNFCCC COP28. This session included participation from Indigenous Youth representing the seven sociocultural regions, as well as high-level representatives from governments, philanthropic organizations, the scientific community, and academia. The UNGIYF stands as the sole high-level forum within the United Nations dedicated to Indigenous Youth, providing a unique platform for dialogue and discussion among Indigenous Youth from all seven socio-cultural regions globally. The 2023 session saw the attendance of 186 Indigenous Youth and culminated in the adoption of the Rome Declaration on Safeguarding Seven Generations in Times of Food, Social, and Ecological Crisis.[97]

H. Agenda item 16. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including implications for the programmes of work of the convention

Decision 15/2. Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Decision 15/3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Recommendation SBSTTA-25/2. Scientific, technical and technological inputs that should inform the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Recommendation SBSTTA-26/2. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

107. Accessing high-quality data, policy guidance, tools, learning materials, and other resources is crucial for conserving, restoring, and sustainably using biodiversity in agrifood systems. Launched in

[93] https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/secretariats/global-hub/en
[94] C 2021/21 https://www.fao.org/3/ne021en/ne021en.pdf
[95] https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/pillars-of-work/indigenous-peoples--knowledge-and-climate-change/indigenous-peoples--biocentric-restoration/
[96] https://www.fao.org/events/detail/biennial-un-global-indigenous-youth-forum/
[97] https://social.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/EN_2023%20Rome%20Declaration%20on%20Safeguarding%20Seven%20Generations%20in%20times%20of%20Food%2C%20Social%20and%20Ecological%20Crisis.pdf

December 2023, the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub[98] facilitates access to biodiversity-related resources developed by FAO. The aim is to strengthen countries' capacity to mainstream biodiversity in agrifood systems, implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, and achieve food security for all.

108. The Hub currently features over 370 FAO resources,[99] such as guidelines, methodologies, standards, indicators, policy guidance, and much more, that are relevant to one or more of the 23 targets of the KMGBF. Users can search and filter these resources by target, type of resource, intended use, global region, and technical tag. These functionalities are intended to facilitate the planning, implementation, and monitoring of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and support the integration of biodiversity in agrifood system policies, programmes, and practices.

109. The Hub also currently includes four other modules. Through the data and indicators module,[100] users can access information on over 20 indicators under FAO custodianship, which are included in the monitoring framework for the KMGBF, as well as access key databases and information systems. The country reports module[101] collates reports prepared by countries for FAO on a range of topics related to biodiversity. The learning module[102] features over 20 multilingual self-paced e-learning courses related to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Through communities,[103] users can engage with relevant stakeholders on topics related to biodiversity and agrifood systems. The FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub can be accessed through the CBD's webpage on Guidance Notes for the 2030 targets.[104]

I. Agenda item 17. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

Decision 15/17. Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors
Recommendation SBI-4/10. Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity

110. Multiple activities of FAO contribute to mainstreaming biodiversity across agrifood systems. A selection of activities, updates and new developments that took place since COP15 are given below.

FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors

111. Since 2019, the *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* (Strategy) has guided FAO's work on biodiversity.[105] The *2021–23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* (Action Plan)[106] concluded in December 2023, with 176 out of 182 deliverables completed (97 percent). More detailed information on the implementation of the deliverables, categorized by outcome of the Strategy, can be found in the progress report submitted to FAO's Committee on Agriculture at its 29th Session.[107]

112. Following the adoption of the KMGBF and the completion of the 2021–23 Action Plan, the *Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors 2024-27*[108] was developed to further operationalize the Strategy. This new Action Plan is fully aligned with the KMGBF, with its actions and deliverables mapped to the KMGBF targets.

[98] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/en
[99] https://biodiversity-hub.review.fao.org/
[100] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/data-and-indicators/en
[101] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/country-reports/en
[102] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/learning/en
[103] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/communities/en
[104] https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets
[105] https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en
[106] https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5515en.
[107] COAG/2024/INF/5 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/1d28ac47-ac4e-4f20-ac27-77c6a0d2fe88/content
[108] https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/efef8ccc-dc90-4eb4-a710-cf530a769869

113. Mainstreaming biodiversity is a regular item on the agenda of relevant FAO Governing and Statutory Bodies, including Regional Bodies. In 2023 and 2024, the Technical Committees, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture received updates on the implementation of the Strategy[109] and actively participated in preparing the Action Plan 2024–27.

114. The coordination and delivery of FAO's biodiversity-related work have been further strengthened since COP15. This includes the FAO-wide internal technical network for knowledge exchange on biodiversity, which comprises 196 members from over 50 Divisions, Offices, and Units. Additionally, 38 Biodiversity Focal Points have been nominated across FAO's Divisions, Offices, and Units. The list of these focal points is available on the FAO Biodiversity webpage.[110]

115. Since COP15, country offices have been invited to nominate biodiversity focal points. As of the time of reporting, biodiversity focal points have been nominated for 108 country and regional offices to enhance the coordination and delivery of FAO's biodiversity work, contributing to the four outcomes of the FAO Strategy. In 2023, 113 Country Offices (78 percent) reported that their current Country Programming Framework includes biodiversity-specific activities and outputs, with an additional 22 offices (15 percent) planning to incorporate biodiversity in the future. They also reported supporting 88 Members in 2023 in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments related to biodiversity.

116. Acting on the recommendation of the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific,[111] FAO has completed the development of a Pacific regional action plan on biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture sectors following multistakeholder consultative approach.[112] In Europe and Central Asia, the Action plan for mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors in Eastern Europe and Central Asia 2022–2023 is being renewed.[113]

Mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture

117. To raise awareness and share knowledge, the FAO organized and conducted technical webinars on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. These webinars followed the First International Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, whose proceedings were published in late 2022.[114]

118. FAO, in collaboration with international and local partners, support several activities in 19 countries on *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, in particular through both national and international initiatives. These include support for improving capacities of stakeholders in managing local crops and varieties; promoting market-based incentive mechanisms; identifying platforms for scaling up successes; promoting the creation of an enabling policy environment identifying and characterizing germplasm in field genebank collections; enhancing *in vitro* conservation infrastructure and capacities; and, establishing community seed banks.

119. The FAO Council, at its 163rd Session approved The 10 Elements of Agroecology[115] as an analytical tool to help countries to operationalize agroecology. Visual narratives using the 10 Elements of Agroecology provide guidance for policymakers and stakeholders to co-design and combine the most effective policies to unlock transformation in the socio-ecological and political contexts in which they are operating.[116] The framing of the FAO 10 Elements of Agroecology as well as the complementary High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security report

[109] CGRFA-19/23/6.2; CL 174/INF/4 WA 1; IT/GB-10/23/15/Inf.1; COFI:FM/I/2024; COAG/2024/INF/5; COFO/2024/6.3; COFO/2024/INF/7; COFI/2024/9
[110] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/our-work/strategy-and-action-plan/roster-of-fao-biodiversity-focal-points/en
[111] APRC/2022/REP, para 30.(i)) https://www.fao.org/3/ni607en/ni607en.pdf
[112] APRC/24/INF/16 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ffe37060-53f7-456a-8de4-705c0468b81e/content
[113] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc1159en
[114] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3716en
[115] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i9037en
[116] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4049en

(CFS-HLPE) on 13 principles of agroecology are referred to in the context of KMGBF Target 10 because they are compatible and necessary to achieve KMGBF objectives.[117] The Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE)[118] is a digital tool developed by FAO to generate evidence on the multidimensional performance of agroecology across different dimensions of sustainability. Data collection takes place at production systems and community or territory levels. To date, TAPE has been used in 58 countries, assessing over 12 000 farms, in support of policies and development projects.

120. Every year 12.5 million tonnes of plastics are used in agricultural production, in items such as plastic mulch, greenhouse covers and irrigation pipelines.[119] These help farmers grow more food with less resources, but when abandoned in the environment, they degrade into microplastics, contaminating the soil, reducing crop yields and accumulating in fruits and vegetables, with concerns for food safety and food security but also biodiversity. KMGBF Target 7 aims to 'preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.' To address this issue, in July 2022, FAO's Committed on Agriculture (COAG) recommended that FAO develop a Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture, to guide policymakers in drafting policies and legislation for a more sustainable use of plastics in agriculture.[120] The Voluntary Code of Conduct will be considered by the 29th session of the Committee on Agriculture.[121]

Mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry

121. FAO supports Members globally in enhancing their ecosystem restoration efforts on the ground, sharing information and knowledge on successful restoration initiatives, and monitoring progress. Through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, which is providing technical support for the implementation of multiple projects in 18 countries worldwide,[122] FAO assists countries by providing policy advice and technical assistance, including on Indicator 2.1 (Area under restoration) of KMGBF Target 2.

122. FAO and 25 partners shaped RESULT Asia, a regional programmatic framework to restore at least 100 million hectares by 2030 in Asia.[123] A regional Technical Cooperation Programme project of FAO, that covered seven countries in Asia, helped shape national action plans, improve capacities and improve resource mobilization, including through regional and national investment events.

123. In the framework of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its Action Plans, FAO is in the process of developing a comprehensive Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry, with a planned duration of five years (2024-2028). Its purpose is to enhance the role of sustainably managed forests and of trees outside forests in biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use. This programme builds on the recommendations of the FAO and CIFOR global review of biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry.[124] In this context, in July 2024, FAO co-organised an international workshop on mainstreaming Forest Biodiversity in the Asia and the Pacific region, identifying gaps and priority actions of a potential global program on mainstreaming forest biodiversity

124. At the regional level, FAO supports initiatives such as the development of the African Union Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa 2020–2030.[125] The framework integrates biodiversity conservation and use through sustainable forest management and restoration, supportive policies and governance mechanisms.

125. FAO is the Chair and a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and continues to implement activities in support of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and its Global Forest

[117] https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pstr.0000048
[118] https://www.fao.org/agroecology/tools-tape/en/
[119] https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7856en
[120] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e9afa285-7dd8-44e7-a606- e16a6ad9181e/content
[121] COAG/2024/8 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/5578973a-5059-4683-a0a5-2d58e90f8da6/content
[122] https://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/en/
[123] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c7f0e8b4-287d-4046-be26-b85d00d9b914/content
[124] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2229en
[125] https://afforum.org/oldaff/sites/default/files/English/English_235.pdf

Goals.[126] FAO advances global forest policy coherence within and across the UN system and the Member Organizations of the Partnership.

Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture

126. At the 36th session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the working paper COFI/2024/9 entitled *The implications for fisheries and aquaculture of global biodiversity frameworks and agreements*[127] was discussed by FAO Members, who welcomed FAO's progress in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, and related 2024–27 Action Plan, in particular in relation to fisheries and aquaculture actions.

127. FAO supports cooperation across Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the implementation of existing strategic initiatives including the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity and the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway[128] and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a renewed declaration for resilient prosperity reaffirming that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face significant economic and environmental challenges despite advancements in development.

128. Through the EAF Nansen *Programme Supporting the Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management considering Climate and Pollution Impacts*,[129] FAO continues to investigate the occurrence of litter and plastics in the ocean.

Cross-cutting activities

129. With the newest additions, the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS)[130] now consists of 89 systems in 28 countries around the globe.[131] These sites typically feature important agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems, traditional knowledge, cultural values and landscapes of global importance and also provide multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security for small-scale farmers. A GIAHS is a living, evolving system of human communities in an intricate relationship with their territory, cultural or agricultural landscape or biophysical and wider social environment.

130. FAO supports countries and regions in developing bioeconomy strategies that prioritize biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. For instance, Namibia's bioeconomy strategy, supported by FAO, aims to enhance value-addition and the sustainable utilization of biodiversity. FAO also helps countries enhance policy coherence to achieve global sustainability objectives, with eight countries highlighting bioeconomy in their NBSAPs and nine reporting on bioeconomy practices in their Biodiversity National Reports. To aid countries, FAO has developed tools like the FAO Bioeconomy toolbox,[132] a step-by-step guide for developing sustainable bioeconomies, and the FAO Bioeconomy dashboard,[133] which shows how countries' bioeconomies contribute to the KMGBF goals. The dashboard also provides examples of bioeconomy actions and good practices. FAO's publication, *Sustainable and Circular Bioeconomy in the Biodiversity Agenda*, presents opportunities to conserve and restore biodiversity in agrifood systems through bioeconomy practices.[134] An upcoming FAO publication will offer a comprehensive horizon scan of the latest global bioeconomy developments, noting that almost all countries prioritize biodiversity conservation in their bioeconomies.

131. Working with UNEP under the UN Montevideo Programme FAO/UNEP collaboration work plan, FAO has prepared Legal Guide on how to mainstream biodiversity into national legal frameworks concerning the food and agriculture sector, to be published shortly.

[126] https://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/index.html#:~:text=The%20Strategic%20Plan%20features%20a,twice%20the%20size%20of%20France
[127] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np470en
[128] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/samoapathway.html
[129] https://www.fao.org/in-action/eaf-nansen/en/
[130] http://www.fao.org/giahs/en/
[131] https://www.fao.org/giahs/giahsaroundtheworld/en/
[132] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8856en
[133] https://www.fao.org/in-action/sustainable-and-circular-bioeconomy/dashboard/en/
[134] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3417en

J. Agenda item 19. Sustainable wildlife management

Decision 15/23. Sustainable wildlife management
Recommendation SBSTTA-25/7. Sustainable wildlife management

132. FAO works on sustainable wildlife management through initiatives and projects such as the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)[135] and the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme.[136] A detailed progress report highlighting the collaborative accomplishments of CPW in 2022–2024 is available as document CBD/COP/16/INF/15.

133. FAO provides technical assistance to support the coordination and implementation of African Union's Regional Forestry and Wildlife Strategies. Currently, FAO is providing support in the Review of the African Strategy to Combat Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the African Wildlife Strategy.

134. Following the mandate given by the recommendations from the 24th Session of the FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AWFC),[137] FAO is working on developing capacity-building activities to strengthen existing capacities of Member States to manage human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and promote coexistence.

135. In relation to the knowledge creation, in close collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), Human–Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group (HWCCSG), in 2023, FAO produced 25 case studies[138] from various regions of the world to capture the diverse approaches undertaken by projects in comprehending, planning, and addressing various facets of HWC situations, all while fostering coexistence between human populations and wild animals. The case studies are integrated into the recently published IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence.[139]

136. In 2023, FAO produced an information brief entitled *The Wildlife-Livelihoods-Health Nexus: challenges and priorities in Asia and the Pacific Region*.[140] The recommendations from the brief are expected to stimulate coordinated actions and promote policy changes and investments across sustainable use and management of wildlife resources, rural livelihoods, and One Health.

137. Through the SWM Programme, FAO and the consortium of implementing partners (CIFOR, Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement [CIRAD] and Wildlife Conservation Society [WCS]) are directly contributing to the implementation of CBD Decisions 14/7 and 15/23 on sustainable wildlife management and ultimately of the KMGBF (especially Target 5 and 9) through the following actions: managing and improving the sustainability of wild-meat supply at the source; reducing demand for unsustainably managed and/or illegal wild meat in cities and towns; and creating the enabling conditions for a legal, regulated, sustainable and safe wild-meat sector.

138. The following achievements are noteworthy:

- Through the SWM Programme's legal component, FAO has completed legal analyses in 14 countries worldwide on the sectors relevant to the sustainable management of wildlife. Those have been further validated by governments and made available online through the Legal Hubs.[141] These Hubs provide a wealth of resources, including over 3 000 legal texts and insightful legal analysis, facilitating public access to and understanding of legal information (including customary norms and practices) for sectors relevant to sustainable wildlife management. This has facilitated the participatory development of legal and institutional architectures to support "fit-for-purpose"

[135] https://www.fao.org/forestry-fao/wildlife-partnership/en/
[136] https://www.swm-programme.info/
[137] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b93fe25b-6927-4988-a36a-3d7b42e8a587/content, para 33-35
[138] https://www.hwctf.org/case-studies
[139] https://doi.org/10.2305/YGIK2927
[140] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/43a00a22-3d79-4fa1-b82f-60c07abb2a2e/content
[141] https://www.swm-programme.info/legal-hub

wildlife management systems that meet the objectives of biodiversity conservation, human well-being and resilience.

- In eight of the 14 countries where the legal analyses were completed, they triggered and/or informed government-led legislative work to address identified priorities. In Central African countries, namely Gabon, Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the SWM Programme is supporting the drafting respectively of the wildlife-related regulations, legislation and policy. It is also supporting in the Southern Africa region, particularly in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Madagascar the drafting of wildlife-related legislations, regulations and policy instruments. In Guyana, FAO assisted with the drafting of a Law on inland fisheries and aquaculture and is now participating in the development of food-safety regulations on wild meat.
- The first phase of the SWM Programme (2017–2024) was funded by the European Union (EU) with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). The progress report, highlighting the accomplishments of the SWM Programme from Phase 1 is accessible as document FO:AFWC/2023/INF.4.[142]
- In July 2023, FAO welcomed additional funding from the EU to extend and scale up the SWM Programme. This second phase will run from until May 2029 and is part of NaturAfrica, the new EU initiative for biodiversity conservation in Africa. The new phase will focus on increasing the impact and sustainability of the SWM Programme by completing and scaling up the models and sharing lessons learnt, tools and innovations at national, regional, and international levels as well as encouraging partners and countries to implement the *Voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector*, annexed to the Decision 14/7.

139. As part of the second phase, the SWM Programme has expanded its work into the Asia–Pacific region, leveraging lessons from the first phase to support community-led biodiversity conservation and sustainable wildlife use under a One Health approach. Moreover, the SWM Programme has received an additional top-up to further expand its legal and institutional component and in particular its Legal Hub in consideration of the impact that this online portal had in informing and/or triggering policy and law reform processes. As a result, the new Legal Hub will feature new sectors as well as new countries to create a supportive environment for sustainable wildlife management.

140. The CPW, in cooperation with the SWM Programme, has convened in June 2024 a two-day multi-stakeholder event at FAO in Rome, Italy, to finalise and validate a set of legal diagnostic tools to review national legislation on the various sectors applicable to wildlife management. Indeed, throughout 2024, the diagnostic tools developed and implemented by the SWM Programme since 2018 have been reviewed and improved to better incorporate One Health and community rights-based approaches, alongside key principles from MEAs, including CBD. The validated tools will be used in the coming years to undertake country-specific legal analyses, which will be shared on the Legal Hub and will continue informing law reform processes.

141. In response to the SBSTTA 25/7 request, the CPW produced a gap analysis report that identifies areas of use of wild species within the CPW's mandate and scope (CBD/COP/16/INF/6)[143] that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant MEAs and by competent intergovernmental organizations, in line with the mandate of the CBD and the goals and targets of the KMGBF.[144] The overall aim is to support the implementation of CBD Decision 15/23 on sustainable wildlife management.

K. Agenda item 20. Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity

Decision 15/24. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

[142] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3ef63287-881a-4b07-908b-d99782e82fc4/content
[143] https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/5fc9/73ca/69bb289dbcf82268aaf0e864/cop-16-inf-06-en.pdf
[144] The original focus of CPW is on terrestrial vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographic areas. For the purpose of the inventory exercise, the Partnership agreed to address the broader issues of sustainable use of wild species, beyond terrestrial vertebrate wildlife. Fishing and logging practices, as well as gathering of aquatic resources are included in the inventory.

Decision 15/25. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas
Decision 15/26. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work
Recommendation SBSTTA-26/7. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity
Recommendation SBSTTA-26/8. Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

142. The FAO flagship publication *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SOFIA) is the only high-quality benchmark publication for global status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture. Since 1971, FAO has been publishing regular analyses of the state of fish stocks, including the summary updates. The 2024 edition of the SOFIA publication focused on Blue Transformation.[145] Key findings from the 2024 edition include that for the first time aquaculture contributed a larger aquatic animal production (51 percent) than capture fisheries. It also reported that the fraction of marine fishery stocks within biologically sustainable levels decreased to 62.3 percent in 2021, 2.3 percent lower than in 2019. SOFIA 2024 notes how aquatic food systems are directly related to many KMGBF targets such as management of aquatic spaces; reduction of species extinction risk; sustainability of use and trade of wild aquatic species; and actions to deter and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. FAO is working across stakeholder groups to identify the opportunities and challenges for the timely implementation of the framework in aquatic food systems.

143. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its 36th session adopted the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA).[146,147] The GSA are a set of shared and agreed principles and practices that all countries can use to transform their domestic aquaculture industries while collectively building a future in which the sector will be synonymous with food security and nutrition, equitable livelihoods, restored ecosystems, and climate resilience. They have clear objectives, aiming to promote economic, social, and environmental sustainability, as well as animal health and welfare. Overall, they present a comprehensive and adaptable framework designed to address the challenges posed by the rapid growth of the aquaculture sector and support its sustainable expansion and intensification. Section B provides guidance for promoting sustainable aquaculture focusing on who, what and how to: develop and implement effective policy and planning, and legal and institutional frameworks, and integrate aquaculture into public policies for food systems and economic development, considering an ecosystem approach to aquaculture; manage natural resources and aquaculture operations sustainably, considering the ecosystem and the impact of climate change and natural disasters, conserving aquatic biodiversity, managing genetic resources for sustainable seed supply, supplying sustainable feed, and strengthening biosecurity and animal welfare; enhance social responsibility, decent work, youth employment and gender equality, including women's empowerment in aquaculture; and establish sustainable aquaculture value chains, transparent and predictable market access, and trade, including reduction of aquatic food loss and waste.

144. As part of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted at the 168th session of the FAO Council, FAO has launched global information system for aquatic genetic resources entitled AquaGRIS.[148] The global information system on aquatic genetic resources (AquaGRIS), developed by FAO, is the first ever global database to collect and store detailed information on existing farmed types and wild stocks of aquaculture species. A farmed type is a descriptor applied to farmed aquatic organisms at a level below species, including strain, variety, hybrid, triploid, monosex group, other genetically altered form, and wild type. The primary scope of AquaGRIS is to function as a tool for countries to build their own registries of aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) used for aquaculture and to monitor their conservation, sustainable use and development status. A national registry created using AquaGRIS provides a given

[145] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0683en
[146] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2423en
[147] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np423en
[148] https://www.fao.org/fishery/aquagris/home

country with a detailed overview of available AqGR, their characteristics and their management status, which can be used in the development or revision of national aquaculture strategies.[149]

145. Since the last report to the Committee in 2022, FAO has published four technical guidelines to support the implementation of the provisions foreseen in the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries: *Methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing*: 1.1 *Principles and approaches*,[150] 1.2 *A practical guide to delivering an estimate*,[151] 1.3 *A catalogue of examples*,[152] and 1.4 *Developing and using indicators of performance*,[153] for a total number of 39 Technical Guidelines in the series.[154]

146. FAO published several eLearning courses since COP15 to build the capacity of Members and practitioners. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) series includes six courses. The first four courses review the steps and activities of the EAF management process, while the additional two courses focus on specific aspects of EAF.[155] Other series focus on Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)[156] and Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as a threat to sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine ecosystems. The IUU series focuses on the international framework of instruments setting the minimum requirements and standards for States to more effectively fight IUU fishing.[157]

L. Agenda item 21. Invasive alien species

Decision 15/27. Invasive alien species
Recommendation SBSTTA-25/6. Invasive alien species

147. FAO continues to cooperate with the CBD and other relevant stakeholders to address the issue of invasive alien species (IAS), including in support of achieving KMGBF Target 6. FAO hosts the database on introduced aquatic species (DIAS[158]), which is periodically updated with information provided by CBD Parties and other stakeholders. The FAO global information system on aquatic genetic resources[159] (AquaGRIS) includes information on non-native species and introduced farmed types used in aquaculture, risk and controls related to their use in aquaculture, and transfers of farmed types between countries for aquaculture purposes. Through its Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox,[160] FAO promotes the use of the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

148. The Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), hosted by the FAO, provides technical support, knowledge development and capacity building on the awareness and minimization of plant health risks to support sound management and control of IAS as plant pests in alignment with relevant international frameworks.[161,162]

149. The IPPC Secretariat is working with CBD Secretariat to refresh and re-instate the joint workplan of the two organizations. This work is of significance considering Target 6 of the KMGBF, as well as the COP15 request that the CBD, subject to the availability of resources, continue collaboration with the IPPC,

[149] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/7493258e-e420-4840-a95d-cfec8833219d/content
[150] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6434en
[151] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9076en
[152] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9054en
[153] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1273en
[154] https://openknowledge.fao.org/search?f.isPartOfSeries=FAO%20Technical%20Guidelines%20for%20Responsible%20Fisheries,equals&spc.sf=dc.date.issued&spc.sd=DESC
[155] https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=784
[156] https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=1124
[157] https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=1127
[158] http://www.fao.org/fishery/dias/en
[159] https://www.fao.org/fishery/aquagris/
[160] http://www.fao.org/sustainable-forest-management/toolbox/tools/tool-detail/ru/c/225022/
[161] https://www.ippc.int/en/news/ippc-secretariat-attended-the-virtual-meeting-of-the-liaison-group-of-biodiversity-related-conventions-to-advance-joint-work/
[162] https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-ippc-community-contributes-to-development-of-the-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework/

as well as other members of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, towards developing a globally harmonized and operational voluntary guidance on the cleanliness of sea containers and their cargoes. Thus, the 18th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-18) in 2024 adopted the revised CPM Recommendation 6 on *Minimizing the pest risk associated with the sea-container pathway*[163] in which emphasis was given to the inclusion of the development of harmonized guidance material around pest prevention related to sea containers. In addition, guidance developed by the IPPC includes *Sea Container Supply Chains and Cleanliness: An IPPC Best Practice Guidance on Measures to Minimize Pest Contamination*,[164] an IPPC information leaflet *Reducing the Spread of Invasive Pests by Sea Containers*,[165] and the IPPC factsheet on *Sea Container Cleanliness*.[166]

150. As of March 2024, the CPM has adopted 46 International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures,[167] 33 Diagnostic Protocols and 46 Phytosanitary Treatments in support of the management of IAS. In addition to the adopted International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and CPM Recommendations, the IPPC Secretariat publishes phytosanitary guides, reports[168] and training material.[169]

151. FAO facilitates activities of four regional forest invasive species networks across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Near East, and Europe and Central Asia, covering nearly 90 countries.[170] In November 2023, FAO launched a fifth network for Latin America and the Caribbean, currently representing forest and environment agencies from 15 countries. These networks support capacity-building workshops on the management of forest invasive species and act as platforms for sharing information and resources.

152. In 2022, FAO's activities in managing native pest outbreaks and the spread of invasive species included forest health projects in Argentina, Azerbaijan, Chile, Ethiopia, Kosovo, and Myanmar. The FAO is leading a GEF project in Indonesia on Strengthening Capacities for Management of Invasive Alien Species (SMIAS) and will start implementing a GEF project in Venezuela in 2024, aimed at developing a national strategy for the prevention and management of coastal and marine invasions (GCP/VEN/11115/GFF).

153. At the request of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, a global open-ended workshop on biological control agents (BCAs) and biostimulants was held on 23-24 September 2024 at FAO Headquarters in Rome.[171,172] The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the CABI International, and the International Organization for Biological Control, with support from the European Union through the ACP MEAs 3 programme. Participants emphasized that scaling up the adoption of successful biocontrol practices can significantly advance global efforts to meet several goals outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This includes Target 6, focused on controlling invasive alien species; Target 7, aimed at reducing pesticide pollution; and Target 10, which seeks to ensure agriculture remains both productive and sustainable. The workshop aimed to raise awareness of the potential of BCAs and biostimulants. With regulators from Europe, Africa, the USA, and Latin America present, the workshop also considered the regulatory frameworks relevant to biocontrol agents and biostimulants, including rules on access and benefit-sharing. Speakers identified regulatory gaps as well as unnecessary restrictions.

M. Agenda item 22. Biodiversity and health

Decision 15/29. Biodiversity and health
Recommendation SBSTTA-26/9. Biodiversity and health

[163] https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84233/
[164] https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/0bde85e9-ad53-4b10-974e-9228f3b9608b
[165] https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88372/
[166] https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/cc629c98-b6ac-4e31-ba4a-2e0f77b9bd88
[167] https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/
[168] https://www.ippc.int/en/news/ippc-secretariat-launches-new-ippc-pest-reports-bulletin-to-facilitate-global-phytosanitary-information-exchange/
[169] https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/
[170] https://www.fao.org/forestry-fao/pests/94102/en/
[171] https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/open-ended-workshop-on-biological-control-agents-and-biostimulants/en
[172] https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/news/news-detail/global-workshop-in-biological-control-agents-and-biostimulants/en

154. The draft decision for COP16 Agenda item 22 recalls to cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VIII/23. Relevant FAO activities since COP15 are reported above under Agenda item 13: Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions.

155. FAO, through the One Health quadripartite, collaborates with WHO, WOAH and UNEP to address health challenges at the animal–human–ecosystems interface. This is achieved through multisectoral, multidisciplinary and transnational collaboration at local, national, regional and global levels within the One Health approach.[173] Under the quadripartite, FAO builds capacities and provides technical assistance related to, among others, zoonotic diseases including those transmitted from livestock and wildlife, risk assessments, epidemiology and laboratory diagnostic capacity, biosafety and biosecurity, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and associated emergency outbreak responses. FAO co-manages and continuously updates the EMPRES Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i)[174] and the joint FAO–OIE–WHO Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface (GLEWS+).

156. Countries have received assistance with risk assessment of emerging infectious diseases at the wildlife–livestock–human interface using tools developed by FAO and Quadripartite. For instance, the Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool was developed by FAO, WHO and WOAH, and technical experts provided guidance on the establishment of joint risk assessment processes at national level.[175] Additionally, countries have been supported in strengthening their capacities to mainstream biodiversity under the One Health approach.

157. Following the 2020 joint statement,[176] which called for a pragmatic, factual, and science-based approach to addressing wildlife management challenges arising from the pandemic, CPW partners have outlined four guiding principles to direct decision-making toward actions that reduce the risk of new zoonotic disease emergence and spread. Building on this, the partnership is preparing an updated information brief, with key highlights to be presented at COP16. This document will summarize recent developments in sustainable wildlife management (SWM) from a One Health perspective, showcasing major initiatives and new partnerships among CPW Members since 2020, as well as key ongoing CPW collaborations in One Health, supporting Targets 4, 5, and 9 of the KMGBF.

N. Agenda item 25. Biodiversity and climate change

Decision 15/30. Biodiversity and climate change
Recommendation SBSTTA-25/8. Biodiversity and climate change

158. Agrifood system solutions hold the potential to play a central role in the implementation of commitments made in the Paris Agreement177 and the KMGBF. FAO reported to COAG, at its 29th session, on *FAO's work on the climate change, biodiversity and food security nexus, with a focus on scaling up agrifood system solutions for more sustainable and inclusive development*.[178] The document informed COAG that, guided by the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors[179] and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031[180], and their respective Action Plans[181,182] FAO has extensive experience in providing technical and policy support to Members on the three agendas of food security and nutrition, biodiversity and climate change. This includes helping Members to develop a coherent set of agrifood system interventions and solutions that can be integrated into their NBSAPs,

[173] https://www.fao.org/3/cb9403en/cb9403en.pdf
[174] http://empres-i.fao.org/
[175] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb1520en
[176] https://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1316021/
[177] UNFCCC. The Paris Agreement https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement
[178] COAG/2024/14 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3521ba7f-ec60-4ce9-bd79-617608c356bb/content
[179] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/ca7722en
[180] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc2274en
[181] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7014en
[182] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0709en

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other sustainable agriculture and food system plans.

159. FAO has developed and officially launched in 2024 the Adaptation, Biodiversity and Carbon Mapping Tool (ABC-Map),[183] a geospatial tool[184] which has been designed specifically for the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector. This tool supports governments and international institutions in their commitments under the three Rio Conventions. The biodiversity section of the tool includes a set of complementary indicators which help track trends and pressures on biodiversity, support biodiversity safeguards, and assess potential impacts of planned actions on biodiversity.

160. This publication *Biodiversity and Agrifood Systems in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*[185] examines the impact of NDC actions on biodiversity within agrifood systems and identifies opportunities to leverage NDCs for co-benefits in climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and food security. Key findings from the report indicate that while NDC actions in agrifood systems generally offer potential co-benefits for biodiversity, significant gaps remain. Notably, there is insufficient representation of aquaculture and non-forest ecosystems. Based on these findings, the publication provides actionable recommendations for policymakers.

161. FAO organized three regional webinars[186] in 2024 to explore opportunities and challenges related to accessing finance for, and implementing projects on, the Biodiversity–Climate–Food Nexus, including through the GCF and the GEF. The seminars also provide an opportunity for participants to share their views on key needs and on opportunities to overcome barriers in applying the Biodiversity–Climate–Food Nexus to the design and implementation of projects and programmes.

162. In collaboration with WHO and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), FAO supports the implementation of the UNFCCC COP Presidency Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN) launched at COP27 by the Government of Egypt. As part of this effort, FAO has published *Climate Action and Nutrition – Pathways to Impact*[187] and organized a series of high-level events on I-CAN at global events such as the UNFCCC COPs and the Committee on Food Security (CFS) to highlight options for integrated actions jointly addressing these concurring and mutually reinforcing crises.

[183] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd2007en
[184] https://abc-map.fao.org/
[185] Brierley, I., Wooden, E., Crumpler, K., Bélanger, J. 2024. *Biodiversity and agrifood systems in Nationally Determined Contributions*. NDC Thematic Policy Brief. FAO, Rome. *In press.*
[186] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/news/detail/biodiversity-climate-food-nexus-webinars/
[187] https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8415en