



NOTIFICATION

2026 Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo: Call for Exhibitors

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to announce that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and with the generous support of the Republic of Korea through the Bio-Bridge Initiative, is organizing the 2026 Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo, to be held in the margins of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2026 in Yerevan, Armenia from 19 to 30 October 2026.

The Expo aims to showcase and facilitate access to state-of-the-art technologies and innovations relevant to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#). Please find attached herewith a concept note about the Expo.

A limited number of exhibition spaces will be made available free of charge to exhibitors from accredited public and private sector entities and not-for-profit organizations, to be selected on the basis of the criteria outlined in section “D” of the attached concept note.

Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, and private sector organizations wishing to participate in the Expo as exhibitors are invited to complete and send the expression of interest form available at the following link: <https://www.cbd.int/tsc/applicationexpo> as soon as possible but no later than **19 July 2026**. The Secretariat will evaluate the expressions of interest received against the above-mentioned criteria and communicate with selected exhibitors by 15 August 2026.

For further information, please contact the Secretariat’s technical and scientific cooperation team at: kristina.taboulchanas@un.org with copy to sojung.kang@un.org.

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

(Signed) Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD national focal points, ABS focal points, Cartagena Protocol focal points, SBSTTA national focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations





CONCEPT NOTE

2026 BIODIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EXPO at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 19-30 October 2026, Yerevan, Armenia

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Bio-Bridge Initiative, is organizing the 2026 Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo to be held in the margins of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 17) from 19 to 30 October 2026 in Yerevan, Armenia.

I. CONTEXT

The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (KMGBF) sets out an ambitious roadmap to a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Target 20 of the KMGBF focuses on strengthening capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation necessary for effective implementation. This is crucial for enhancing the abilities, resilience and effectiveness of individuals, institutions and systems at various levels for improved biodiversity-related decision-making, action and outcomes. Section C of the KMGBF also provides that the implementation of the Framework should be based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge and practices, recognizing the role of science, technology and innovation.

Cutting-edge technologies and innovations hold unprecedented promise for expanding the boundaries of what is possible to achieve in terms of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable development. If harnessed in an appropriate and sustainable manner, they can be instrumental in supporting transformational change on the ground.

Building on the 2018 Innovation and Solutions Fair held at COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and the 2024 Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo at COP 16 in Cali, Colombia, the event will showcase technologies and innovations that can be leveraged to address key biodiversity challenges and support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the KMGBF.

II. BIODIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EXPO

A. Objectives

The main objectives of the Expo will be to:

1. Showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovative solutions relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including indigenous and traditional technologies, and gender-inclusive innovations.
2. Promote technology and innovation opportunities that can support the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols, and the KMGBF.
3. Facilitate networking among participants and foster strategic partnerships for the development and/or deployment of new technologies and tools.

B. Outcomes

It is expected that, as a result of the Expo:



1. Delegates will be better informed about technologies and innovations that may offer solutions to their specific issues and challenges and can explore possibilities of accessing and deploying them in their respective countries or communities.
2. Delegates will understand and appreciate the potential of technology and innovation in supporting the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols, and the KMGBF.
3. Exhibitors and delegates will share experiences and lessons learned regarding the application of those technologies and innovations for biodiversity.

C. Exhibition Booths

The Expo will provide a dedicated exhibition space for exhibitors from public and private sector entities, academic and research institutions, not-for-profit organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and young entrepreneurs and innovators to showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovative solutions relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The space will be divided into five (5) booths of 3m x 3m, each fitted with:

- Partition walls;
- Lighting and two power sockets;
- One table and two chairs; and
- Access to Internet Wi-Fi.

Each booth will be allocated free of charge to selected exhibitors for three days. This will allow up to a total of 20 exhibitors over the two-week period of COP 17. The rotations will be as follows:

- *Rotation 1:* 19 to 21 October 2026
- *Rotation 2:* 22 to 24 October 2026
- *Rotation 3:* 25 to 27 October 2026
- *Rotation 4:* 28 to 30 October 2026

Side events: Expo exhibitors may wish to organize side events or participate in relevant side events organized by other partners, particularly those related to science, technology, and innovation. The side events, which may be in the form of panel discussions, round tables or TED talk-type events, would provide valuable opportunities for Expo exhibitors to share their experiences, perspectives and lessons learned regarding the application of technology and innovation for biodiversity. The deadline to request a side event is **30 June 2026** and applications can be submitted at <https://www.cbd.int/side-events/>.

D. Criteria

The criteria that will be considered for selecting the exhibitors include:

1. *Relevance for biodiversity:* Selected exhibitors will present solutions that explicitly support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols, and the KMGBF.
2. *Diversity of exhibitors:* Selected exhibitors will come from public and private sector entities, academic and research institutions, not-for-profit organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and young entrepreneurs and innovators.
3. *Innovations and technologies at different stages of development:* The Expo will include technologies and solutions that are already being used widely, as well as prototypes under development and showing great potential.
4. *Accessibility and scalability:* Priority will be given to technologies and solutions that are low cost and easy to implement, and adaptable to various environments.

5. *Geographical balance*: Exhibitors will come from both developing and developed countries.
6. *Self-sponsorship*: Although exhibition booths will be provided free of charge, exhibitors will be expected to cover the costs of their travel and subsistence in Armenia, as well as the cost of the display and exhibit materials for the booth.
7. *Accreditation as observer*: Once selected, exhibitors will be required to complete registration as participants to COP 17. For this, they must either represent organizations that hold valid accreditation as observers to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties or participate as part of the delegation of an organization that possesses such accreditation (e.g., a non-governmental organization or business association). Please refer to notification [2026-041](#) for further information on the accreditation process for new organizations.

E. Terms and Conditions

Exhibition spaces will be allocated once the overall demand has been assessed based on the criteria above. The application for exhibition space, when and if accepted by the Secretariat, shall constitute a contract between the exhibitor and the Secretariat. The contract includes the terms and conditions specified below:

1. The number of free exhibition spaces is limited and will be allocated according to a selection process based on the criteria outlined above.
2. The Secretariat will honour location requests but reserves the right, if necessary, to amend and modify allocations up to and including the day of the Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo.
3. The Secretariat reserves the right to remove, decline, or prohibit any exhibit which, in its opinion, is not suitable for or in keeping with the objectives and/or character of the Expo.

The exhibitor shall:

1. Refrain from selling or buying any materials, wares, or any other items to or from a visitor or any other exhibitor throughout the duration of the Expo;
2. Indemnify and save the Secretariat harmless from and against claims, actions, losses, damages, expenses and costs whatsoever made by any person arising out of the ownership, handling and use of techniques and technological products exhibited at the Expo;
3. Ensure that none of the techniques and technological products displayed or demonstrated poses a threat to safety and security; or creates unacceptable level of noise and odour, where applicable; and
4. Refrain from any conduct or message that would detract from the image of integrity or professionalism of the Secretariat and not engage in any activity that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations for the duration of the Expo.

F. Information for Exhibitors

Individuals or organizations interested in participating in the 2026 Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo are invited to fill out the application form available at the following link: <https://www.cbd.int/tsc/applicationexpo> as soon as possible but no later than **19 July 2026**.

Information regarding venue, registration, visa, and other matters will be communicated to selected exhibitors and will be made available on the CBD's website in due course.