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**CBD Parties, Major Stakeholders,
Rights Holders, Convene for
Critical Meetings in Panama City**

Ahead of the 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference in Armenia¹, the Panama meetings will pave the way for the first review of progress in implementing the world's blueprint to halt and reverse biodiversity loss

Historic new subsidiary body elevating the role of indigenous peoples and local communities will hold its inaugural meeting.

Opening day press conference:

Monday 20 October, 9:00 a.m. Panama Time

/ 10:00 a.m. EDT / 4:00 p.m. CEST, available on [UN Web TV](#);

To join the interactive Zoom feed, please register here: <https://bit.ly/3IWhL2T>

Panama City / Montreal -- Delegates from 196 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity convene in Panama Monday for two important meetings running from Oct. 20-30.



SBSTTA-27, will prepare the first global review of progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the historic agreement to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, articulated around 23 action targets, unanimously adopted by the Parties in 2022. The targets must be achieved by 2030 to put the world on the path to living in harmony with nature—the vision adopted within the KMGBF.

SB8J-1, the second meeting, will see the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention meet for the first time, marking a historic milestone for indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and key actors in the endeavour to address the loss of biodiversity—the foundation of all life on Earth.

The two meetings bring together representatives of governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists and representatives of civil society, including women and

youth groups, to pave the way toward the 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference (COP17) in Yerevan, Armenia, en route to the 23 goals of the KMGBF for 2030.

Preparations for the 1st global review of the historic agreement of 2022

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27) will review the draft outline of the first Global Report of Progress, which will serve as a key input to COP17 and a second review at COP19 in 2030.

“The global review represents a critical checkpoint for the world,” said CBD Executive Secretary Astrid Schomaker. “Healthy, biodiverse ecosystems underpin every aspect of human life, from food and water to medicine and climate regulation. The global review will tell us how far we have come and how far we still have to go. It will make clear whether Parties are on track, and where we must accelerate action to deliver on promises to safeguard the planet’s life-support systems.”

An Advisory Group has developed an annotated outline for the global report on collective progress towards the implementation of the Framework (document CBD/SBSTTA/27/2 [here](#)).

The outline provides a blueprint for how progress will be analyzed, how different sources of information will be pulled together, and how the report can inform decision making under the Convention. The global report will use national reports of the progress by each Party which are due in Feb 2026, along with information in the NBSAPs and national targets and the best available science and data.

SBSTTA-27’s agenda also includes:

- Advancing coherent approaches to addressing biodiversity and climate change interlinkages, which will also be addressed by COP30 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Brazil, 10-21 November);
- Addressing risk assessment of living modified organisms, the spread of invasive alien species, and biodiversity-health interlinkages;
- Advancing progress under the [Soil Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (2020-2030) and cooperation on pollinators;
- Reviewing programmes of work adopted under the Convention, which are useful for guiding implementation of the KMGBF; and
- Translating new IPBES assessments, including the Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments, into policy advice

Full information, including the agenda and documents for SBSTTA-27, can be found [here](#).

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SB8j-1: Landmark 1st meeting of a new body for indigenous leadership in biodiversity governance

SB8j is the first permanent UN body dedicated to elevating the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity decision-making. At its first meeting it will finalize its rules of procedure, develop guidance for the inclusion of indigenous and traditional territories in conservation and restoration planning, and offer advice on integrating traditional knowledge into the KMGBF global progress report.

“The creation of this body represents a turning point,” said Ms. Schomaker. “For the first time, indigenous peoples and local communities have a permanent seat at the table in global biodiversity governance. Their knowledge and stewardship are essential to achieving our shared goals.”

The session will also feature a thematic dialogue on resource mobilization for conservation efforts led by indigenous peoples and local communities-- a recognition of their central role as custodians of much of the Earth’s remaining biodiversity.

A webcast news conference to mark the opening of SB8j is scheduled for Monday 27 October at 9:00 a.m. Panama time (10:00 a.m. US EDT; 4:00 p.m. CEST).

Full information, including the agenda and documents for SB8j-1 can be found [here](#).

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Meetings at a glance

- **SBSTTA-27: 20-24 October 2025. Opening day news conference: 20 Oct. 9 a.m. Panama time (10 a.m. US EDT / 4 p.m. CEST). To join the interactive Zoom feed, please register here: <https://bit.ly/3IWhL2T>**
- **SB8j-1: 27-30 October 2025, Opening day news conference: 27 Oct. 9 am Panama time (10 am US EDT / 4 pm CEST). To join the interactive Zoom feed, please register here: <https://bit.ly/3IWhL2T>**
- **Venue: Atlapa Convention Center, Panama City**

UN Web TV Broadcasts (English: webtv.un.org/en; Spanish: webtv.un.org/es); French: webtv.un.org/fr; Chinese: webtv.un.org/zh; Russian: webtv.un.org/ru; Arabic: webtv.un.org/ar.

The CBD Events app (<https://www.cbd.int/cbd-events>) will enable participants to download in-session documents and read them offline on their mobile devices. Participants will also be able to access the calendar of events and follow any updates in real time.

Media accreditation: [Onsite registration and details:](http://www.cbd.int/participation/panama-2025/media/checklist)
www.cbd.int/participation/panama-2025/media/checklist

Full information and documents: www.cbd.int/conferences/panama-2025 (Click grey boxes along the top to view official documents for different events in Panama, including for media).

Earth Negotiations Bulletin daily updates: <https://enb.iisd.org/cbd-subsidiary-body-scientific-technical-technological-advice-sbstta27-sb8j1>

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About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Established in 1992, the CBD is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

With 196 Parties, the CBD has near universal participation among countries. It helps to address threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the active involvement of relevant stakeholders and rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, women, NGOs, sub-national actors, and the business community.

The Cartagena Protocol to the CBD that entered into force in 2003 and currently has 173 Parties aims to safeguard biological diversity from potential risks posed by genetically modified organisms (GMOs) resulting from biotechnology. It focuses on safe transport, handling, and use of living modified organisms, considering their potential adverse effects on biodiversity and human health. It also has a supplementary protocol on liability and redress.

The Nagoya Protocol to the CBD entered into force in 2014 and has 141 Parties. It provides a transparent bilateral legal framework to providers and users for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources.

Website: www.cbd.int

X: @UNBiodiversity

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNBiodiversityConvention

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¹ The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity will convene in Yerevan, Armenia, 19–30 October 2026. The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP-12) and the sixth MOP to the Nagoya

Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP-6) will convene concurrently.