



Convention on
Biological Diversity

**Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,
Astrid Schomaker, at the opening of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body
on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

27 July–1 August 2026
Nairobi

Distinguished delegates,

Please allow me to echo the words of our Chair by welcoming you all to the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Thank you, Susan, for welcoming us on behalf of Inger and thanks to United Nations Environment Programme colleagues, as well as the Government of Kenya, for the warm welcome and for hosting us in the Programme headquarters in beautiful Kenya.

I also wish to thank Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute for their generous financial support, which has enabled the participation of delegates from 118 Parties.

Dear delegates,

This is a very important moment for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. With only some four years remaining until 2030, the focus must now shift from commitments and planning to accelerated implementation, measurable results and real progress towards the goals and targets of the Framework.

Put differently, we are now moving from the initial phase of national alignment towards the much more complex challenges of demonstrating collective progress, strengthening implementation, broadening and bringing in more actors and ensuring accountability.

The work of the Subsidiary Body at the present meeting is therefore central to providing the scientific and technical basis for informed decision-making by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, in Yerevan.

A major focus of the present meeting will be the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework. The draft global report constitutes a strong evidence base, not least thanks to your strong engagement by submitting an unprecedented number of national reports and many peer review comments over the past months. As such, it provides an important opportunity to assess where we stand, identify persistent gaps and strengthen the scientific and technical basis for collective action. This process is not simply an exercise in reporting, it is a critical mechanism for understanding whether the current ambition and efforts are sufficient and being implemented on the scale and at the pace required to achieve the targets of the Framework by 2030 and the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Closely linked to this discussion is the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Reliable, scientifically robust and accessible indicators remain essential for measuring progress and supporting evidence-based policymaking. At this meeting, you are asked to consider technical updates to indicators and metadata, as well as the capacity and technical needs of Parties in implementing the monitoring framework through national reporting processes.

The work at the present meeting also highlights the growing importance of strengthening the science-policy interface. The assessments prepared under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services continue to provide essential evidence for transformative action. Allow me to add that the business and biodiversity assessment that you will be considering is a very important contribution to our work, especially from the perspective of the global review. For our Framework to succeed, we need business to work with nature, not against it. The Platform assessment shows the way.

At the same time, scientific and technological developments continue to evolve rapidly. Your discussions on synthetic biology will therefore also be particularly important in advancing work on capacity-building, technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and the assessment of opportunities and potential risks associated with recent technological developments.

Delegates,

Several agenda items before you directly address the implementation dimensions of the Framework.

Discussions on sustainable wildlife management will contribute to advancing global guidance that promotes inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple knowledge systems, the recognition of rights and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

Your work on the strategic review and update of the programme of work on protected areas is equally significant. Adopted more than two decades ago, this programme has played a foundational role in global conservation efforts. The present review offers an important opportunity to update and align this programme with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The agenda before you also includes important work related to marine and coastal biodiversity, including the implementation of modalities for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. The scientific and technical cooperation with the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction for its future implementation remains an important area for your deliberation.

Dear colleagues,

The breadth and complexity of this agenda reflect the scale of the biodiversity crisis itself, as well as the complexity of biodiversity governance. Likewise, they also reflect the growing momentum and growing engagement of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, scientific organizations and the many partners working to support the implementation of the Framework.

The work of the Subsidiary Body is therefore more important than ever. Your work provides the scientific credibility and technical foundation upon which effective implementation depends.

I encourage all delegates to engage constructively, pragmatically and collaboratively throughout this meeting. By working together, we can help to ensure that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework becomes not only a shared global commitment but also a measurable and transformative reality during this decisive decade for biodiversity.

I thank you for your continued dedication to the Convention and wish you a productive and successful meeting.

Thank you.