

#POST2020 #FORNATURE #COP15

2030 ACTION TARGET 17
**MANAGE IMPACTS
OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**



THE POST 2020

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

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Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.

Objective:

The Convention on Biological Diversity requires that Parties, as far as possible and as appropriate, establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology, which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account the risks to human health. To achieve the 2050 Vision, there is a great potential to advance considerations of the issue of biotechnology, including strengthened capacity and improved management to reduce impacts on biodiversity and human health.

Component:

Measures to manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology – The Cartagena Protocol, in Article 16, requires Parties to adopt measures and strategies for preventing adverse effects and for managing and controlling risks identified by risk assessments (Articles 16.1 and 16.2). Parties are also required to take measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements (Article 16.3); to ensure that Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) undergo appropriate periods of observation prior to use (Article 16.4); and to cooperate in identifying LMOs and their traits that may pose risks, and in taking appropriate management measures (Article 16.5).

Indicators (Headline in bold)

17.0.1 Indicator of measures in place to prevent, manage and control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity taking into account human health
 17.1.1 Number of countries that carry out scientifically sound risk assessments to support biosafety decision-making
 17.1.2 Number of countries that establish and implement risk management measures
 17.1.3 Percentage of countries with mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of and access to information on potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health
 17.1.4 Percentage of countries with systems in place for restoration and compensation of damage to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

Further explanation of target elements

Biotechnology – Under the Convention, “biotechnology” means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use (Article 2 of the Convention).

Reducing risk – Biotechnology is a very new field, and much about the interaction of LMOs with various ecosystems is not yet known. Some of the concerns about the new technology include its potential adverse effects on biological diversity, and potential risks to human health. Potential areas of concern might be unintended changes in the competitiveness, virulence, or other characteristics of the target species; the possibility of adverse impacts on non-target species (such as beneficial insects) and ecosystems; the potential for weediness in genetically modified crops (where a plant becomes more invasive than the original, perhaps by transferring its genes to wild relatives); and the stability of inserted genes (the possibilities that a gene will lose its effectiveness or will be re-transferred to another host)⁷¹. Risk assessments are required under the Biosafety Protocol to make decisions on import of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment in accordance with scientifically sound risk assessments⁷², and can be effective tool to reduce the risks associated with new biotechnologies.

Linkages

Objectives of the CBD – conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

GBF targets

Reducing threats to biodiversity – T2 ecosystem restoration, T4 species recovery, T5 trade, harvest and use, T6 invasive species, T7 pollution, T8 climate/ecosystem-based approaches

Meeting people’s needs – T9 sustainable management of wild species & customary sustainable use, T10 managed/productive ecosystems, T11 nature’s contributions to people, T13 access to genetic resources

Tools and solutions – T14 biodiversity values, T15 businesses, T16 responsible choices, T18 harmful incentives, T20 traditional knowledge & education, T21 equitable participation and rights over resources

Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

GBO-5 pathways

Biodiversity-inclusive one health transition, sustainable food systems transition, sustainable agriculture transition, land and forests transition; sustainable fisheries and oceans transition

[Click here to for more information on the First draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)

⁷¹ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Cartagena Protocol. https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_faq.shtml

⁷² CBD. Risk Assessment. http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art15.shtml