



COP16
COLOMBIA
Paz con la Naturaleza

United Nations Biodiversity Conference

COP 16 / CP-MOP 11 / NP-MOP 5

Cali, Colombia, 21 October - 1 November 2024

CCIM STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGO XLIII

CBD COP16: results and outstanding issues

Ines Verleye, Biodiversity & Governance, DGEM



Health
Food Chain Safety
Environment

Convention on Biological Diversity, a Rio Convention

- CBD adopted in Rio during UNCED in 1992, together with UN FCCC
- 196 Parties (*all, except US and Holy See*)
- 3 objectives reflect 3 pillars of Sustainable Development
 - conservation of biodiversity
 - sustainable use of its components
 - access to, and fair & equitable sharing of benefits of genetic resources (ABS)
- Covers all biodiversity on three levels: genes - species - ecosystems
- **December 2022: COP15** - Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
 - UN system-wide, all of government and society, all actors





October 2024: COP16/MOP11/MOP5

**Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on
Biological Diversity
Sixteenth meeting**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on
Biological Diversity serving
as the meeting of the Parties
to the Cartagena Protocol
on Biosafety
Eleventh meeting**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity
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
Fifth meeting**

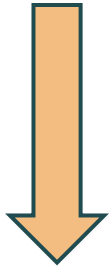
- Meetings of the Convention and its two Protocols concurrently
- Biggest Biodiversity meeting ever
 - Over 45 substantive Agenda Items between the 3 - some addressed in close proximity
 - > 23 000 registered participants 'Blue zone' + > 900 000 visitors in 'Green zone'
- **Focus on implementation GBF and key COP15 decisions**
 - relevance for both CBD & Protocols



COP15/MOP10/MOP4 set the framework to 2030

Parties agreed on the GBF and its implementation package

- the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- the Kunming-Montreal GBF monitoring framework (MF)
- Decision on planning, monitoring, reporting and review (PMRR)
- Decision on resource mobilization (RM)
- Decision on capacity building & dev./techn. & scient. cooperation (CB & SC)
- Decision on benefit sharing for Digital Sequence Information (DSI)



COP16/MOP11/MOP5 to operationalize key COP15 decisions

Several substantive discussions to implement GBF Targets:

- Marine issues, Climate/biodiversity, CB&SC, mainstreaming, health, biotech., etc.

Key political priorities:

- Finalization of Monitoring Framework & Mechanisms to improve PMRR
- Strategy for RM + global mechanism for biodiversity finance
- The Digital Sequence Information mechanism + fund
- Involvement of IPLCs (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities), African Descent



Main substantive outcomes

Important progress achieved on several issues

- Review of national targets and NBSAPs aligned with the GBF:
 - 119 national targets and 44 NBSAPs (11 MS+EU) as of 1 November 2024
 - => *BE revised NBS adopted by ICL/CIE last Thursday 23/1/2025*
- Biodiversity Mainstreaming: specific approach set out for next years
 - In margins of COP16: launch Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group
 - => *MEX & Colombia co-lead, BE one of co-founders*
- Global Action Plan on health and biodiversity
- Modalities regarding EBSAs - result of a decade of negotiations
- Biodiversity - Climate nexus: framework for enhanced synergies at different levels
- Selection of Technical and scientific cooperation support centres
 - => *RBINS: 1 of the 4 European TSC centres!*

Furthermore, many key decisions on invasive alien species, risk assessment of GMOs, Synthetic Biology, etc. will provide guidance to Parties to contribute to the GBF Targets.

Main political outcomes

COP16 achieved remarkable success on two of the 4 political ‘big-ticket’ items :

- Operationalization of the digital sequence information (DSI) mechanism, and the establishment of the **Cali fund for DSI - unique and innovative instrument**
 - Receive payments by commercial and large user industries (e.g. pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agrifood, etc.) deriving benefits from the use of DSI, based on their turnover (0.1 percent of sales or 1 percent of profits, whichever is higher)
 - Disburse funds to developing countries, supporting implementation of the GBF and NBSAPs, with at least 50 percent of the funds to benefit IPLCs
- Increased involvement of **IPLCs in CBD decision-making**
 - establishment of a Subsidiary Body on Article 8j under the CBD
 - formal recognition of ‘people of African descent’ in the context of the CBD, => high political priority for Colombia

COP16 did not reach agreement on RM and ran out of quorum on Saturday morning 2/11
=> The clock was stopped and all other items, in particular PMRR/MF, remain pending

Political priority that stopped the COP16: RM

Resource Mobilization is the major outstanding item for COP16.2 - **L34**

➤ **Two parts**

- update of the **Strategy for Resource Mobilization**: much progress, very few outstanding issues
- whether or not to establish a **dedicated global financing instrument for biodiversity** under the authority of the COP: major political split, lack of trust, exacerbated by actions/choices by PCDY

➤ **Postmortem of the situation at COP16**

- CoChairs/Contact Group: 10xsessions + many other interactions (*bilateral, COP16 PCDY team*)
- COP16 PCDY: no priority given to RM (first IPLCs & DSI), no political investment until last 24h, gravely underestimated the complexity, no involvement Secr. nor CoChairs in endgame
- RM collateral damage for DSI Cali Fund
- L34 (final text) rejected by EU+MS, mainly due to late availability without option to amend
- Reaction GRULAC/Africa: nothing can be discussed until the RM decision is adopted
- Delicate trust build-up during COP16 => washed away by unfortunate EU intervention
- Polarization in EU, in particular due to GEF interests interfering with constructive approach

Follow-up to COP16 October 2024: step 1



COP16
COLOMBIA
Paz con la Naturaleza

United Nations Biodiversity Conference

COP 16 / CP-MOP 11 / NP-MOP 5

Cali, Colombia, 21 October - 1 November 2024

Silence Procedure, 3 - 6 December 2024

Second Resumed Session, 25 - 27 February 2025

Step 1: First resumed session of COP16 - December 2024

- Budget not adopted before quorum ran out in Cali
 - could not wait until 2025 as essential for functioning of the Secretariat & organization of COP16.2
- Budget adopted in 1st resumed session of COP16 by Silence Procedure

Follow-up to COP16 October 2024: step 2



COP16
COLOMBIA
Paz con la Naturaleza

United Nations Biodiversity Conference

COP 16 / CP-MOP 11 / NP-MOP 5

Cali, Colombia, 21 October - 1 November 2024

Silence Procedure, 3 - 6 December 2024

Second Resumed Session, 25 - 27 February 2025

Step 2: Second resumed session of COP16 - Rome 25-27 February 2025

- When COP16 stopped: still 7 substantive and 3 reporting decisions (besides budget)
- Order at COP16.2 important!
 - => resource mobilization, the monitoring framework, PMRR, Financial Mechanism, Cooperation, MYPOW, appointment of the CBD ES

Preparation COP16.2: heavily focused on RM but unclear

- plenary sessions, informal consultations, no meetings in parallel, no side-events
- But mainly “black box”: many questions and vague answers - ministerial consultations?, new text vs L34? (1 week before COP16.2?), ministerial involvement in Rome?, chairing?, ...

Conclusion and expectation for COP16.2

CBD Cali meetings October 2024 - successful but stranded

- Several groundbreaking and long-awaited decisions
- Political misjudgement & underestimation of complexity of RM by Colombian PCDY
=> COP PCDY gambled and lost

Resumed COP16.2 in February 2025 - outstanding issues all connected

- **RM**: Main issue - nothing will move until that is done - very polarized
- **Monitoring Framework/PMRR**: highest EU/MS priority - not controversial yet...
- **Financial Mechanism**: no major issues left - key guidance to the GEF
- Cooperation: no major issues left
- Multi Year Programme of Work: may still need extensive deliberations
- Appointment of the CBD ES: administrative but politically charged

Political and technical preparations very unclear

- COP PCDY doing outreach but lack of clarity on process is very worrying
- All very concerned about the lack of transparency & political leadership

„Investing in biodiversity for people and planet“

Thank you!

