



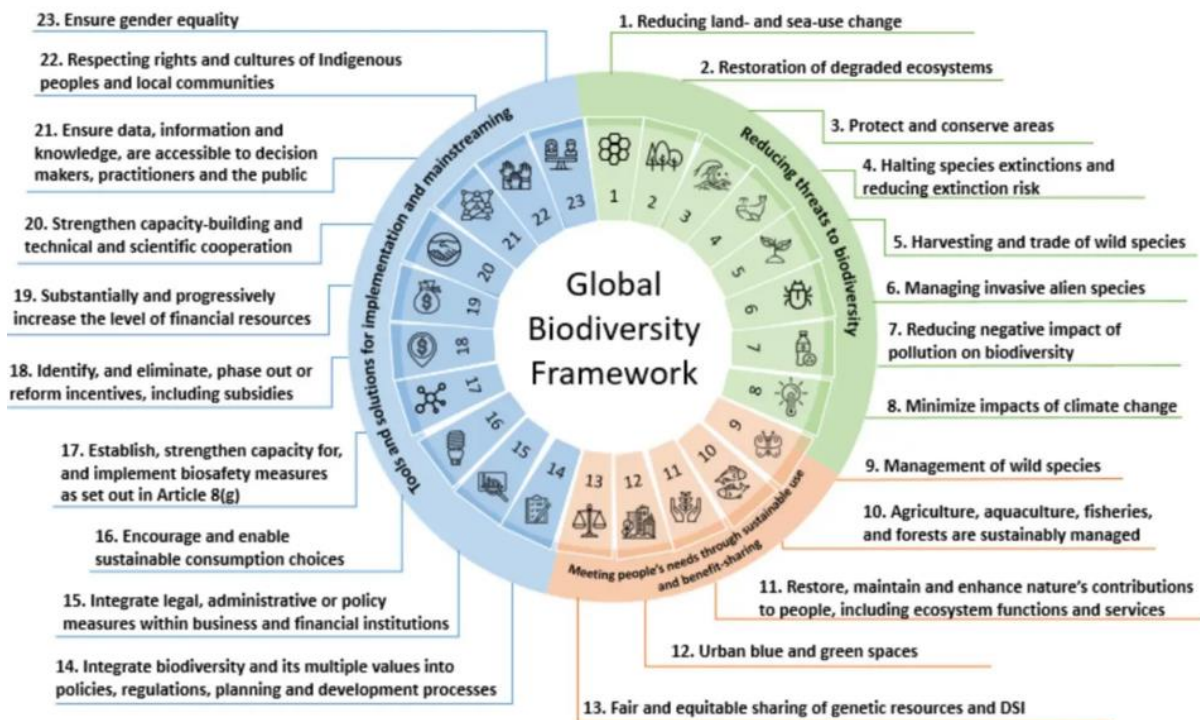
COP16 TALKS BEGIN : ENVIRONMENT

NEWS : World lags on 2030 nature goals as COP16 talks begin

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Countries are lagging behind on the ambitious goals set by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to halt nature destruction by 2030. The COP16 summit in Colombia aims to address funding gaps and boost global efforts towards biodiversity conservation.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Themes and Targets



Destruction of Nature:

- Human activities such as **logging, overfishing, and habitat destruction** are accelerating the loss of biodiversity. This trend is causing widespread environmental damage and loss of species.

COP16 Summit:

- The **16th Conference of the Parties (COP16)** under the **1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** will focus on **reversing biodiversity loss** and meeting global targets set for 2030.
- The key goal is the **“30 by 30” initiative**, which aims to **preserve 30% of the world's land and sea areas** by 2030 to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems.



Lagging Conservation Efforts:

- Countries are required to submit **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** to outline how they will meet the biodiversity targets.
- As of now, only **31 out of 195 countries** have submitted their NBSAPs, indicating that many nations are falling behind.
- Wealthier countries like **European nations, Australia, Japan, and Canada** have been more proactive in submitting plans.
- Developing countries are lagging due to a **lack of funding and technical expertise** to draft these comprehensive plans.
- The **United States** participates in COP meetings but is not obligated to submit an NBSAP since it never ratified the **CBD**.

Funding for Conservation:

- A major focus at COP16 is finding **new financial resources** to help poorer nations achieve biodiversity goals.
- At **COP15 in 2022**, countries set a target to reach **\$20 billion annually by 2025** in biodiversity funding for developing nations.
- In 2022, the funding had only reached **\$15.4 billion**, suggesting that the 2025 target is achievable but could have been set higher given the increasing conservation needs.

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund:

- After COP15, the **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund** was created to financially support conservation efforts worldwide.
- However, the fund has only raised **\$238 million** so far, which is far below expectations and highlights the challenge of securing sufficient financing.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- The **CBD** is a **multilateral treaty** with three main goals:
 1. **Conservation** of biological diversity.
 2. **Sustainable use** of biodiversity resources.
 3. **Fair and equitable sharing** of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.
- It was opened for signature during the **1992 Earth Summit** in Rio de Janeiro and entered into force in 1993.
- The **United States** remains the only UN member state that has not ratified the CBD.

Supplementary Agreements:

1. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:

- Focus: Governs the **movement of living modified organisms (LMOs)** across borders.
- Adopted: January 29, 2000, and entered into force on September 11, 2003.



2. Nagoya Protocol:

- Full name: **Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS)**.
- Provides the legal framework to ensure fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources.
- Adopted: October 29, 2010, in Nagoya, Japan; entered into force on October 12, 2014.

Strategic Initiatives:

- The UN declared **2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity** and 2011-2020 as the **UN Decade on Biodiversity**.
- The **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**, which includes the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**, was a key focus area to combat biodiversity loss during that period.

Current Focus Areas:

- **Marine and Coastal Biodiversity:**
 - Efforts are underway to identify **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)** to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems.
 - A new **international legally binding instrument (ILBI)** is being developed to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (under the **BBNJ treaty/High Seas Treaty**).

Source : <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/world-lags-on-2030-nature-goals-headed-into-un-cop16-talks/article68778473.ece>