COP16 SUMMIT, U.N. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: COP16: Will financial roadblocks continue to hinder conservation efforts?

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

COP16 in Cali, Colombia, advanced inclusive biodiversity measures and established the Cali Fund but faced setbacks due to funding gaps and weak monitoring. India presented an updated biodiversity plan, emphasizing conservation and community involvement toward 2030 goals.

COP16 Summit U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity

Location and Purpose

- Event: Held in Cali, Colombia
- Objective: Strengthen global efforts to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Cali Fund for Biodiversity Financing

- Establishment: Created to support biodiversity efforts.
- Funding Source: Contributions from biotech and pharmaceutical companies, requiring 0.1% of revenue or 1% of profits from genetic resource products.
- Allocation: Half of the funds dedicated to Indigenous communities in recognition of their role in biodiversity conservation.

Inclusive Decision-Making

• Indigenous Representation: A permanent body was established to ensure Indigenous and local community voices in conservation decisions.

Recognition of African Heritage

• Heritage Acknowledgment: The contributions of African descent communities to biodiversity were officially recognized, with efforts to incorporate traditional conservation practices.

Invasive Species Defense

• **Proposals**: Guidelines developed to combat invasive alien species, improve trade regulations, and work with e-commerce platforms for control.

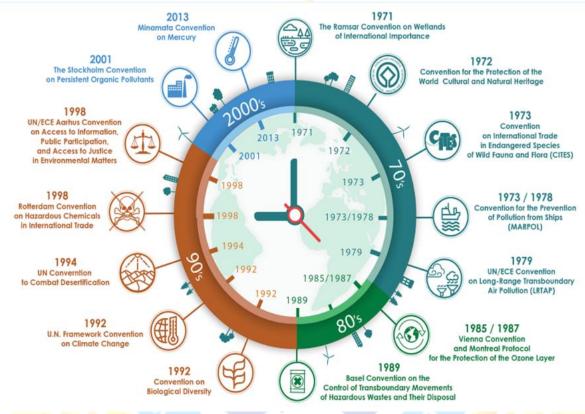
Marine Conservation - Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)



• **Marine Health**: New updates to EBSAs were agreed upon to support essential ocean ecosystems.

One Health Approach

• Global Action Plan: Introduced a plan linking ecosystem, animal, and human health to combat biodiversity loss and reduce health risks like zoonotic diseases.



Synthetic Biology

• Conservation Potential: Discussed the benefits of synthetic biology for conservation, emphasizing regulatory frameworks to manage risks.

Challenges and Setbacks

- **Funding Gap**: The \$700 billion annual goal for biodiversity remains unmet, with only \$163 million pledged.
- **Monitoring Issues**: Lack of a strong monitoring framework, with limited countries updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

India's Role

• **Updated NBSAP**: India presented a revised plan focusing on halting biodiversity loss by 2030, with goals of achieving human-nature coexistence by 2050.



• **Strategy**: Emphasis on inter-agency cooperation, financial solutions, and community-led restoration.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/cop16-will-financial-roadblocks-continue-to-hinder-conservation-efforts-explained/article68854326.ece

