

THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

A YOUTH4NATURE PERSPECTIVE

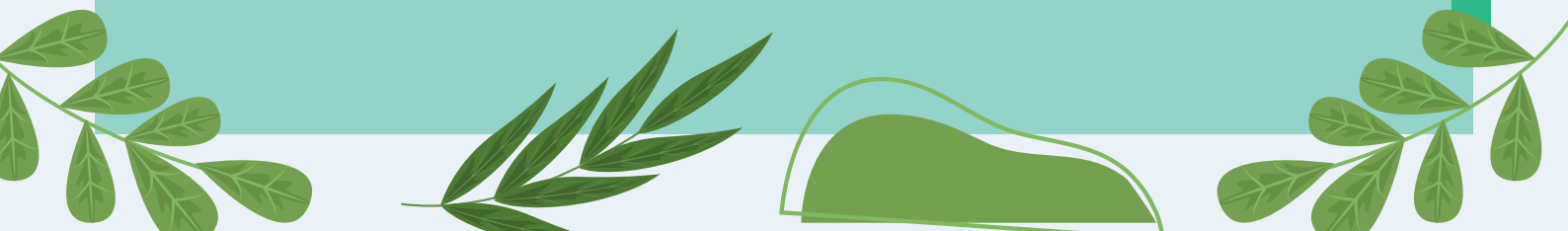
HELLO!

Youth4Nature (Y4N) is pleased to present its illustrated report on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF).

This document is created for a youth audience. It uses graphic visuals and storytelling tools to highlight key parts of the KM GBF text, such as elements related to the nature-climate nexus and nature-based solutions, that may be relevant for youth audiences in their local contexts and aims to translate technical terms and concepts into simpler language to empower youth in their understanding and encourage reflection and inspire effective action for biodiversity.

We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we have enjoyed writing it!

**For people and the planet,
Youth4Nature**



DEAR READERS:

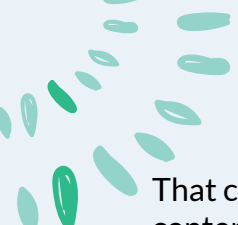
How did we get here? Context behind COP15 and the KM GBF.
To understand the importance of the Global Biodiversity Framework, we need to rewind.

LET'S ZOOM OUT TO THE BIGGER PICTURE FIRST:

- ◆ The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) is the international legal instrument for “the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources” and has been ratified by 196 nations (“the Parties to the Convention”).
- ◆ Between 2011 to 2020, the UN CBD focused their work on a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Under the UN CBD, the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) was scheduled to take place in 2020 in Kunming, China under the presidency of the Chinese government, to discuss what comes next after the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. During this time, the international community recognized that: the Aichi Biodiversity Targets had limited success given its heavy focus on quantitative values for each target and lacked national targets and strategies for implementation.

It is vital to have a holistic point of view to conservation so that society could get to a point where we can live in harmony with nature.





That climate change and biodiversity are related and cannot be discussed separately, centering biodiversity in these discussions would be a key tool to address the consequences of climate change and vice versa. But the COVID-19 pandemic had other plans. Initial meetings scheduled for COP15 were postponed several times.



As a result, COP was split into two meetings for the first time in its history. The first session was held virtually in October 2021, with the purpose of continuing the UN CBD's technical work and protocol implementation. The first session was attended by Party members and included a High Level Segment. After two days of high-level meetings, the Kunming Declaration was adopted by all Parties with the intention of building political momentum towards the KM Global Biodiversity Framework, a renewed agreement and commitment to protecting the world's natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

The second session of COP15 addressed the final items of the agenda, including finalizing negotiations of the KM GBF language. This meeting was held in Montréal, Canada, in December 2022. After countless meetings and discussions, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted by all 196 Parties.



THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (GBF)

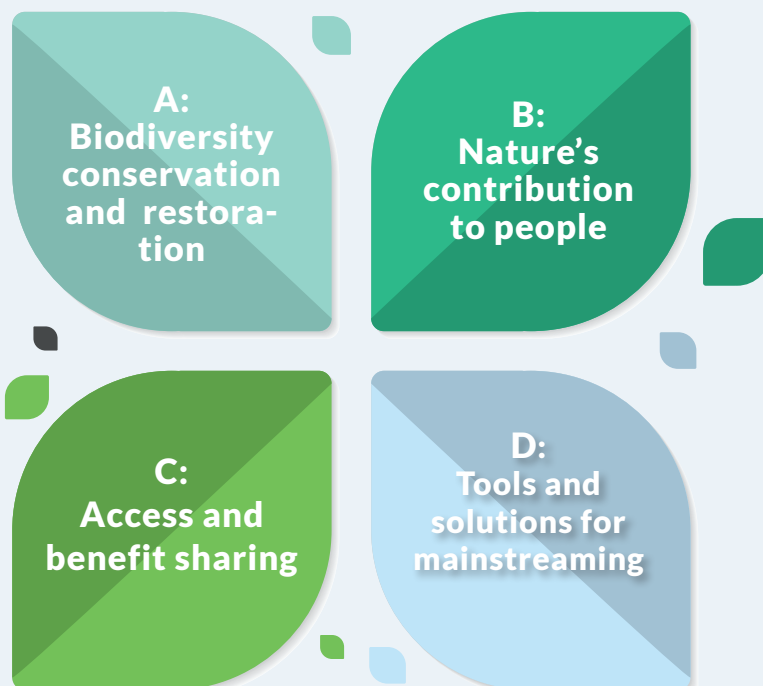
adopted decisions aimed at guiding biodiversity policies through four overarching goals to be achieved by 2050 and a set of 23 targets to be reached by 2030, to achieve a vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Interested in learning more about UN CBD and COP15? Check out this [Youth4Nature blog](#)

BUT WHAT IS THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK REALLY SAYING?

Think of the GBF as a document that is broken up into four big parts -- there are four overarching goals to be achieved, at a global level, by 2050. To achieve this, the main thing to remember about the document is that it is a learning framework, where each Member country is encouraged to use the GBF to build their own capacity while implementing global biodiversity policies for their specific needs within their specific capacities.

The four goals are:



These are big goals though, so we can consider further breaking down these goals into targets -- there are 23 action-oriented targets, which are to be achieved, at a global level, by 2030. Remember that because all 196 Parties have agreed to the GBF, this means that all goals and targets are meant to be implemented by all Parties.

SOME OF THE OTHER REASONS WHY WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT THE GBF - A HISTORIC AGREEMENT FOR NATURE, BUT ALSO A HISTORIC AGREEMENT FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The GBF is a document, similar to other United Nations Conventions documents, that sets ambitious global goals and targets. It is, as the title says, a framework. It provides an overall structure and is a reference for every Party to consider how they will carry out biodiversity-related work, conserve nature, and ensure its sustainable use. It can also be used to keep Parties accountable to what they have agreed to do.

Some of the goals and targets within the GBF have fixed target numbers, and are accompanied by decisions that also include a monitoring framework, dedicated financial resources, and several mechanisms for planning, reporting, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Framework.

In order to set the scene for the core parts of the GBF, Parties have also agreed to what is called “preamble” text. In the GBF, this preamble text is under Sections A to G. The text in these sections is also important because it outlines underlying conditions that allow for the targets and goals to be achieved.

For example, as a young person or young professional, you might be thinking about how this text could apply to you. Well, if we look to Section B, the purpose of the GBF is outlined as a framework “to catalyze, enable and galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments, and subnational and local authorities, *with the involvement of all of society*, to halt and reverse biodiversity loss [...]”. This means that youth communities, among others, are recognized as being central in achieving the goals set up in that Framework. If we keep reading onto Section C, there is text that states “*the implementation of the Framework should be guided by the principle of intergenerational equity which aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and to ensure meaningful participation of younger generations in decision-making processes at all levels.*”



Not only is this text important to the document itself, but it is also important to the youth movement within the biodiversity landscape because this is the first time ever that youth are mentioned in UN CBD texts. This is a huge win but it also presents a huge challenge and opportunity to think about what the GBF's goals and targets mean for young people across the world. As such, Youth4Nature, would like to offer some perspectives into the goals and targets of the GBF.

Note that the entire text of the GBF has been carefully negotiated by all Parties to the UN CBD (and we mean, very carefully negotiated, down to every punctuation mark you read). In an effort to preserve the integrity of this agreed-upon text, Youth4Nature has created a table that compares the actual text to what a youth perspective might look like when thinking about the meaning and interpreting the text. It is important to mention that the real and immediate challenge now is to initiate the implementation of the GBF. The first step in the GBF implementation is to ensure the alignment of the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plans (NBSAPs), which all Parties have already made.

The youths can play an important role in facilitating this alignment at the country-level using the skill sets and domain knowledge existing within their network(s). During this alignment process Parties can also review/revisit numeric/quantitative elements in the 23 Targets as per the requirements/needs of the country. There is also a need to map the existing skill sets and domain knowledge within the youth organizations and to leverage it to achieve the four GBF Goals and 23 Targets.



Y4N is presenting a report, with accompanying summary of portions of the Global Biodiversity Framework, specific sections addressed in the framework related to youth and nature-climate nexus and graphics for social media, that breaks down the Global Biodiversity Framework for our youth community and audience, also inclusion of specific information about how nature based solutions and how it does/ does not align with the Global Youth Statement and translate the technical terms in a simple language to other languages (French and Spanish)

that will help to empower youth to understand and to reflect on their views on policy framework and take an effective action for biodiversity in the years to come.

It is the key for Y4N to translate the framework and Ensuring that youth understands the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is vital as it will drive nature-related policies from international to local scales for the next ten years.

We hope you will make a good use of this summary to understand effectively about the outcome of the Convention on Biological Diversity; become agent of change for biodiversity, become a citizens, decision makers, business persons, advocates and parents that will carry a culture of living in harmony with nature all the way to 2050 and beyond.



THE FOUR OVERARCHING GOALS OF THE GBF AND HOW YOUTH ARE ENGAGED

Goals

What are some key takeaways or messages of this Goal?

How are youth connected to this? What can youth do?

GOALA -

The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;

The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species are maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

The natural ecosystems are deeply inter connected and must be either preserved, improved, or returned to their previous state. By doing this, as a society, we can take a step in the direction of halting or even reversing human-caused losses of nature.

Everyone will be affected by the loss of nature.

Young people can think about their local ecosystems and what elements are important to preserve to ensure that those ecosystems, as a whole, can continue to exist.

GOAL B -

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and

The ecosystems around us play many different roles in our lives and hold value and meaning depending on how we sustainably use and manage them. Sustain-

Youth recognize that in order to ensure a sustainable future, we must carefully consider the who, why, what, where, when, and how of the resource within its natural



Goals

services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

GOAL C -

The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

What are some key takeaways or messages of this Goal?

able use and management of resources also takes into consideration other factors such as who is using the resource, where the resource is coming from, why it is being used, and how the local ecosystem and its members are affected.

When we think about biodiversity and conservation, we often focus on large landscapes or species that we see around us. This Goal looks at biodiversity at its core, through a genetic lens, outlining how genetic diversity and its equitable use is important and holds value, especially to traditional knowledge holders.


How are youth connected to this? What can youth do?

ecosystem.

Youth can consider what value nature brings to your daily life - what does nature mean to you? What does it contribute to your life?

Youth have an integral role in advocating for the sustainable use of genetic resources, and have an integral role in continuing to advocate for different knowledge systems and rights and access held by their traditional knowledge holders.

Youth can play a role in keeping users accountable for fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources.



Goals	What are some key takeaways or messages of this Goal?	How are youth connected to this? What can youth do?
<p>GOAL D- Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.</p>	<p>This Goal focuses on implementation and having strong financial, and other systems in place, such as technical and scientific capacity, that can enable the global community to come together and deliver the rest of the GBF. There is special consideration in implementation when establishing these systems in LDCs and SIDS.</p> <p>For the first time ever, this Goal assigns a specific dollar value to biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Youth can consider contributing through different avenues that exist in their communities and focus on building their capacity through training to further the goals of the GBF.</p> <p>We encourage youth to challenge traditional institutions to critically think about the roles they play in conservation work and hold them accountable to closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year.</p> <p>Youths also need to initiate dialogues with the Corporate Leaders/Philanthropists etc. and urge them to contribute and plug the gap in finances required for effective biodiversity conservation</p> <p>TLDR: Young people to secure the bag.</p>



TARGETS OF THE GBF

Targets

Reducing Threats to Biodiversity - Target 3

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)

- Protected areas (PAs) refers to a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature
- Area-based conservation measures refers to areas that are achieving the long term and effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas) referred as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)
- Sustainable use refers to use of resources in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term degradation of the environment, thus maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations
- Indigenous refers to place-based human ethnic culture that has not migrated from its homeland, and is not a settler or colo-

Further breaking down elements of the target text

Quality or quantity?

Target 3, also known as the “30x30” conservation target, focuses on area-based conservation measures of PAs and OECMs.

This Target follows Aichi Target 11 that focused on establishing PAs for conservation, which, at the time, was the leading method to conserving biodiversity.

There is now growing recognition that OECMs are also important areas that can be key biodiversity hotspots, and in some cases, can be even better in preserving biodiversity.

Furthermore, there is recognition that Indigenous-managed lands and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous peoples, must be included to achieve Target 3 so that the global community can move towards more integrated rights-ba-

Targets

Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)

Further breaking down elements of the target text

cial population.

- Traditional territories refers to the geographic area identified, owned, and used by Indigenous peoples through the practicing of specific customs and beliefs.

sed conservation.

Measuring progress and achieving success in Target 3 not only depends on how much land is conserved (i.e. it's not just about conserving at least 30%), but will depend on how well countries are able to prioritize conservation over other land-uses, and collaborate and include Indigenous land management practices and other human rights-based approaches in their conservation measures.

The target level of at least 30% is well supported by the scientific community as a lower limit for biodiversity conservation.

Targets

Reducing Threats to Biodiversity - Target 8

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)

- Resilience refers to the ability of biodiversity to withstand and recover from impacts/actions of climate change
- Mitigation refers to actions that limit the negative impacts of climate change through efforts that reduce carbon emissions and enhance carbon sinks
- Adaptation refers to the process of adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects
- Disaster risk reduction (DRR) actions refers to contributing to the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts by analyzing and reducing the causal factors and lessening vulnerability and improving preparedness of high risk communities
- Nature-based solution (NbS) refers to actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems, that address societal challenges such as climate change, human health, food and water security, and disaster risk reduction effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing

Further breaking down elements of the target text

In the context of preserving biodiversity, the GBF identifies the key drivers of biodiversity as land and sea use change, exploitation, invasive alien species, and pollution.

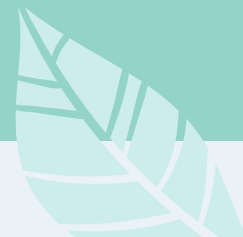
Today, around one million species of an estimated 8 million animal and plant species are already threatened with extinction.

There is a clear need for resilience and how biodiversity can withstand and recover from climate change impacts, through the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems and increasing the integrity of managed ecosystems.

This Target explicitly defines a role for NbS and EBA as adaptation and mitigation tools so that Member countries can use them to achieve this Target.

This Target is also an opportunity to further discuss the climate-nature nexus and bridge UNFCCC and CBD commitments.

Targets	Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)	Further breaking down elements of the target text
	<p>human well-being and biodiversity benefits</p> <p>- Ecosystem-based approaches (EBA) refers to ecosystem restoration and enhancement of ecosystem services to protect society against negative impacts of climate change .</p>	
<p>Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming- Target 14</p> <p>Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those</p>	<p>- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) refers to tools used to assess the significant effects of a project or development proposal on the environment with stakeholder engagement; there are multiple types of EIAs</p>	<p>One of the strengths of the GBF is its explicit outlining of tools and solutions for countries to leverage when achieving the other targets in the GBF. This Target outlines an approach that embeds biodiversity into the work of all sectors in actions related to policy, finance, and accountability and monitoring.</p> <p>Target 14 highlights the importance of mainstreaming the alignment of financial flows with nature which means consider-</p>



Targets

with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)

Further breaking down elements of the target text

ring where investments are made, what biodiversity-related risks and impacts will occur, and how investments will impact biodiversity at a larger level for both the environment and society.

While in previous years, biodiversity conservation funding was mainly supported by the public sector, there is now recognition that public funding alone will not be sufficient in reaching the goals set by the global community.

Private sector funding will play an important role in setting up new innovative financial mechanisms and bringing new innovative investments to support biodiversity conservation.

Countries are encouraged to consider how biodiversity will be integrated into their National Biodiversity Strategies (NBSAPs) and align them both with the GBF and with other climate-related commitments such as their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Targets

Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming - Target 16 (Sustainability)

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)

- Sustainable consumption choices refers to making choices today that will positively impact the planet tomorrow, especially in practicing the 9Rs of a circular economy: Refuse, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, Recycle and Recover in addition to making informed consumption decisions that consider materials from ethical, verified/verifiable, and locally-sourced supply chains

- Reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner refers to lessening overall consumption by each person in the world for food, water, transport, housing, waste management, and other purposes; reducing consumption is a responsibility we all bear and must be approached in a way that respects our cultural values and lived experiences

- Overconsumption refers to a situation where the use of a natural resource has exceeded the sustainable capacity of that system, also known as reaching planetary boundaries

- Harmony with Mother Earth refers to

Further breaking down elements of the target text

This Target is focused on encouraging countries to support their citizens in thinking about how biodiversity is impacted by our consumption patterns and systems at a broader scale.

This could include consideration for life cycles of products, how our economies are structured, and increasing regulation to large corporations and companies that supply the products that we use on a daily basis.

One of the main drivers of biodiversity loss is the increase in agriculture and urban land use.

Ecosystems that are rich in biodiversity are increasingly cleared to feed growing populations, producing waste and pollution in the process.

Today, an estimated one-third of all the food produced in the world goes to waste. When we waste food, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport, and package it.

There is an opportunity to set systems-wi-

Targets	Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)	Further breaking down elements of the target text
	<p>amicable and holistic co-existence between humanity and nature</p>	<p>de goals for all societies, recognizing that key drivers and solutions lie in our economic, financial and governance decision-making.</p>
<p>Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming- Target 21 (Accessibility)</p> <p>Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equitable governance refers to the fair and impartial application of the rule of law and to the inclusive distribution of information, benefits, and opportunity amongst all stakeholders involved - Integrated and participatory management of biodiversity refers to ensuring and embedding active and inclusive engagement of all relevant stakeholders in approaches that support, enhance, and/or protect biodiversity - Traditional Knowledge (TK) refers to knowledge or practices passed down from generation to generation that form part of the traditions or heritage of Indigenous communities 	<p>Effective actions on conserving biodiversity are better made when we have the best available data and information on ecosystems.</p> <p>In this Target, it is important to remember the 'best available' form of data will look different in different contexts and can include data that is not only quantitative, but also qualitative, and also encompasses different systems of knowledge such as traditional knowledge held by Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>This target especially values data and information held by IPLCs as rights holders and decision makers in conservation and sustainable use of nature.</p> <p>If traditional knowledge is used, countries are also reminded that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from Indigenous</p>

Targets	Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)	Further breaking down elements of the target text
		<p>knowledge-holders is required.</p> <p>Target 21 seeks to democratize biodiversity data, empower policymakers, and inform stakeholders with open data. This means the data that is collected and organized can be accessed by all users and can directly support progress towards other global commitments.</p> <p>Data sets can advance the world in the right direction; to protect our planet, the creatures that we share it with, and to ensure we have the knowledge needed to make this a better world for nature and people.</p>





Targets

Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming - Target 22

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Breaking down specific terms of the target text (glossary)

- Gender-responsive refers to actively addressing the different needs, perspectives and representations of all genders in a fair and impartial manner; activities and actions, especially related to biodiversity, need to go beyond simply increasing awareness

Further breaking down elements of the target text

Biodiversity conservation is a human right in advancing towards the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. Implementing solutions to reverse and halt biodiversity loss requires all of society to be more engaged and resilient, including the world's youngest citizens, children and women.

Participation can take multiple forms based on a young person's age, gender, and other identity intersections, indigenous and local community required scale of involvement, means or resources available (such as in-person or online), and ability for an organization to meaningfully participate in consultations, collaborative partnerships, or in activities led by young people.

Reframing young people as partners, ensuring their equitable access to climate and nature knowledge, and providing opportunities for meaningful participation will help harness their unique body of knowledge, experiences and views for more effective and relevant climate-biodiversity policies.

