

THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: A YOUTH4NATURE PERSPECTIVE

TRANSLATING THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH AUDIENCES



AN ILLUSTRATED REPORT

HELLO!

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

We created this document for a youth audience. We used 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. Our report 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




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
- 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

JUNE 1992

Convention on Biological Diversity adopted at the Rio Earth Summit

DECEMBER 1993

Convention on Biological Diversity enters into force

NOVEMBER 1994

First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD

NOVEMBER 2001

The CBD publishes the First Global Biodiversity Outlook

OCTOBER 2010

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including Aichi Biodiversity targets adopted

OCTOBER 2020

Post-2020 Plan for Biodiversity

DECEMBER 2022

COP15 and KM GBF

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 GBF, 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 was adopted by all 196 Parties.



WHAT IS THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK?

THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK ADOPTED DECISIONS AIMED AT GUIDING BIODIVERSITY POLICIES THROUGH 4 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.



196 COUNTRIES

THE 15 TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WAS HELD FROM THE 7-14TH DECEMBER 2022 IN MONTREAL, CANADA

THIS IS THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT GLOBAL EVENT FOR BIODIVERSITY IN OVER A DECADE!

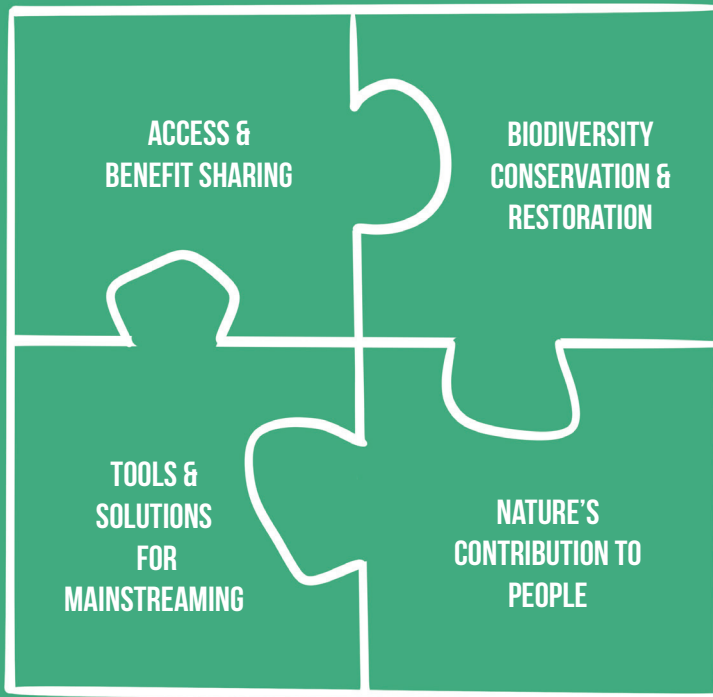
AT COP15 THE NATIONS FINALIZED THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH WILL DRIVE NATURE-RELATED POLICIES FROM INTERNATIONAL TO LOCAL SCALES FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS

THIS IS AN AMBITIOUS AGREEMENT THAT ALL MEMBERS AGREED UPON. IT CAN SET US UP ON THE PATH TO A SAFE FUTURE FOR THE PLANET AND HUMANITY

THIS SOUNDS GREAT! BUT YOU MIGHT WONDER: WHAT DOES THIS ACTUALLY MEAN IN PRACTICE?

LET'S BREAK THIS COMPLICATED POLICY LANGUAGE DOWN TOGETHER!

WHAT'S IN THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK?



THINK OF THE KM GBF AS A DOCUMENT THAT IS BROKEN UP INTO FOUR BIG PUZZLE PIECES - THERE ARE FOUR OVERARCHING GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED, AT A GLOBAL LEVEL, BY 2050.

EACH COUNTRY HAS A DIFFERENT PUZZLE AND THEY ARE TRYING TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE THEIR PUZZLE PIECES FIT TOGETHER.



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 KM GBF, THIS MEANS THAT ALL GOALS AND TARGETS ARE MEANT TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY ALL PARTIES.



THE KM 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.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



HOW IS THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GBF RELEVANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

HOW DOES THIS TEXT APPLY TO ME AS A YOUNG PERSON?

LET'S LOOK AT SECTION B. THE PURPOSE OF THE KM GBF IS OUTLINED AS A FRAMEWORK TO:

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

[...]“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. 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 KM GBF'S GOALS AND TARGETS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD.



THE FOUR OVERARCHING GOALS OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GBF



THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE KM 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 THIS REPORT TO COMPARE THE ACTUAL TEXT TO WHAT A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE MIGHT LOOK LIKE IN INTERPRETING THE TEXT.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
PER GOAL

HOW YOUTH
ARE CONNECTED

GOAL A

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & RESTORATION

Natural ecosystems are deeply interconnected 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

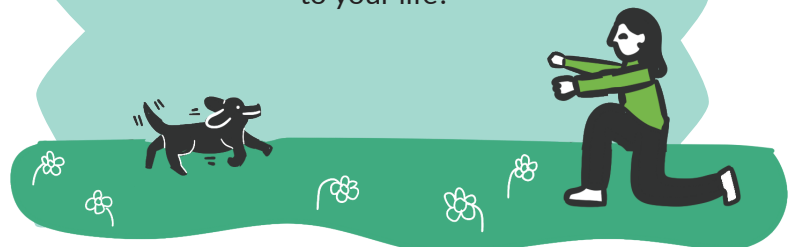
NATURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEOPLE

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.

Sustainable 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. We need to also assess the status and trends of resources in the context of local communities

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 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?



GOAL C

ACCESS & BENEFIT SHARING

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.

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.



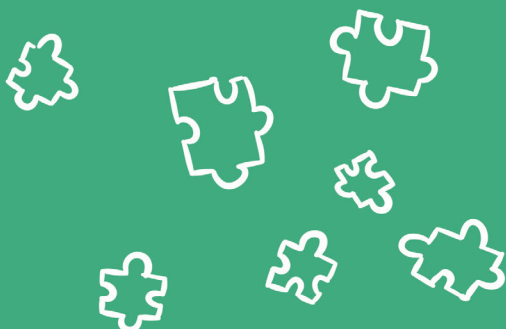
GOAL D

TOOLS & SOLUTIONS FOR MAINSTREAMING

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 KM GBF. There is special consideration in implementation when establishing these systems in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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 KM GBF.

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.



TARGETS OF THE KM GBF

WE PICKED 7 OF THE 23 TARGETS THAT MAY BE MOST RELEVANT FOR YOUTH, SIMPLIFIED SOME OF THE TECHNICAL TEXT, AND SUGGEST SOME WAYS THAT THEY CAN RELATE TO YOU AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE!



TARGET 3

REDUCING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

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.

Quality or quantity?

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

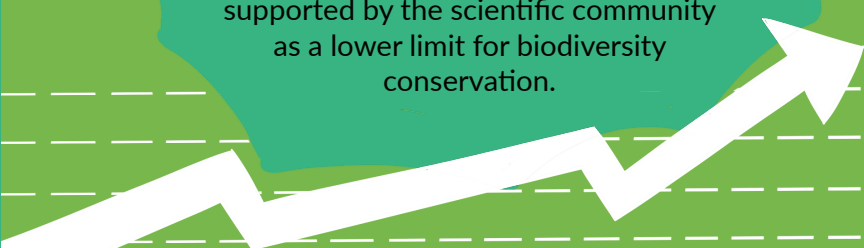
This target follows up on Aichi Target 11 that focused on establishing PAs for conservation, which, at the time, was the leading method to conserving biodiversity.

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-based 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.





TARGET 8

CLIMATE CHANGE

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.

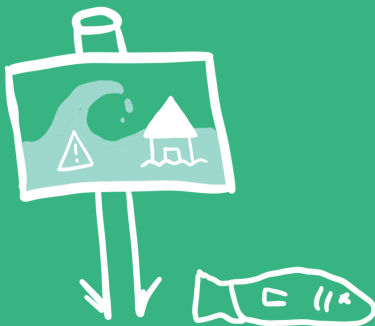
In the context of preserving biodiversity, the KM GBF identifies the key drivers of biodiversity as land and sea use change, exploitation, invasive alien species, and pollution.

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.

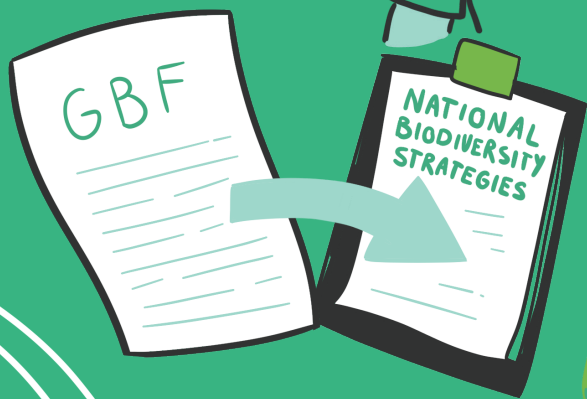
This target explicitly defines a role for nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation as adaptation and mitigation tools so that Member countries can use them to achieve this target.

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



ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF THE KM GBF IS ITS EXPLICIT OUTLINING OF TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR COUNTRIES TO LEVERAGE WHEN ACHIEVING THE OTHER TARGETS IN THE KM 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.

Target 14 highlights the importance of mainstreaming the alignment of financial flows with nature which means considering 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.



PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING



PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING

TARGET 14

TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINSTREAMING

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 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.

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 and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and align them both with the KM GBF as a whole and with other climate-related commitments such as their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

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.

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-wide goals for all societies, recognizing that key drivers and solutions lie in our economic, financial and governance decision-making.



TARGET 21

ACCESSIBILITY

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.

Effective actions on conserving biodiversity are better made when we have the best available data and information on ecosystems.

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.

This target especially values data and information held by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as rights holders and decision makers in conservation and sustainable use of nature.

If traditional knowledge is used, countries are also reminded that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from Indigenous knowledge-holders is required.



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.

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.



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.

TARGET 22

INCLUSIVENESS & INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

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.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT UN CBD AND COP15?

Check out our Youth4Nature blog and find out
how you can get involved!

www.youth4nature.org/blog/cop15

Feel free to also have a look at the UN CBD materials
and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network:

www.cbd.int/gbf
www.gybn.org



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