

## FEBA Journey at CBD COP 16

21 October – 1 November 2024



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Supported by:



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based on a decision of the German Bundestag

## About this Journey

The [Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity \(COP 16\)](#), hosted by Colombia, will take place from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali.

This document delineates a journey through COP16 for individuals interested in following events related to Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) – an approach that falls under the umbrella of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) – and countless other related, cross-cutting topics. The items listed in this document also relate to the breadth of topics covered by the [FEBA Working Groups](#).

*Note:* Speakers and event details are subject to change. Be sure to confirm all event details via accessing the official schedules of the organising parties.

IUCN will host the ‘Unite for Nature, Home of Union’ pavilion in the COP16 Blue Zone, which will provide a platform to showcase the collective work of the Union. Events at the Pavilion can be found [here](#).

Stay up to date throughout COP16 by reading IISD’s [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#) (ENB).

## About FEBA

The [Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation](#) is a global collaborative network of more than 100+ agencies and organisations involved in EbA working jointly to share experiences and knowledge, to improve the implementation of EbA related activities on the ground, and to raise awareness and understanding of EbA in adaptation planning processes and multilateral policy frameworks. IUCN serves as the FEBA Secretariat. The coordination of the FEBA network is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The CBD COP recognizes FEBA as a key partner “to support Parties in their efforts to promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation” (Decision 14/5). The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) serves as the FEBA Secretariat.

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## FEBA News ahead of COP16

A fundamental objective of the FEBA network is to amplify the collective voice of the EbA community and improve collective understanding, share experiences and knowledge, accelerate implementation, and build a strategic policy influence around biodiversity and climate adaptation. In preparation for the upcoming CBD COP 16, FEBA, through its thematic expert working groups, are launching two knowledge products to inform COP negotiations and promote the interlinkages between climate and nature.

In January 2024, FEBA established an expert working group under the guidance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) to assist in national target setting and implementation of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Targets 8 and 11 – focusing on the links between climate change and biodiversity and specifically via EbA approaches. Over the last few months, the working group has developed a publication providing consolidated evidence, guidance, and case studies on EbA to support the uptake of EbA across national strategies and plans under the Rio Conventions – with a primary focus on CBD and UNFCCC. The publication will be launched at CBD COP 16 and will be uploaded to the [working group's webpage](#) in due course.

The intersection of health and nature-based solutions (NbS) offers a promising pathway to concurrently address public health, biodiversity, and environmental challenges. The World Health Organization (WHO), through its Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health (ECH), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the FEBA network co-chair an expert working group (EWG) on Biodiversity, Climate, and NbS. Through this working group, a joint IUCN-WHO Report on Nature-based Solutions for Health is being launched to provide evidence-based guidance and practical recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders. The report emphasises how NbS can enhance health outcomes and contribute to biodiversity conservation while enhancing opportunities for climate adaptation and mitigation. The publication will be launched at CBD COP 16 as part of the official programme (more details below) and will be uploaded to the [working group's webpage](#) in due course.



## Events of interest

### Calendar of events

All times are listed in Cali local time. [Find your local timezone here](#). Details on events can be found in consecutive pages.

Week 1

Monday, 21 Oct	Tuesday, 22 Oct	Wednesday, 23 Oct	Thursday, 24 Oct	Friday, 25 Oct	Saturday, 26 Oct	Sunday, 27 Oct
<p><b>Formal opening of COP 16 negotiations, Pavilions and side events</b></p> <p>Can we have it all? Approaches to equitable and inclusive nature-based solutions aiming for climate resilience, gender equality and a nature-positive future 10:30-11:30 (Nature Positive Pavilion)</p> <p>Let's talk monitoring: National strategies to track and inform implementation of the GBF 13:20-15:00 (Sinu - Africa meeting room; Plaza One)</p>	<p>Rainwater and Biodiversity: adaptation strategy to climate change 08:00-10:00 (Green Zone, La Casa Humboldt, Centro Cultural Comfandi, Cali)</p> <p>A global knowledge service for biodiversity (GKSSB) – supporting Parties’ needs for monitoring implementation of the KM-GBF 11:40-13:20 (Atrato - Contact Group 5 meeting room, CEVP Ground floor)</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples’ Contributions to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: The Costa Rican National Plan on Indigenous Peoples’ Biocentric Restoration and the ongoing work in the South Andean region 13:20-14:40 (Plaza One, Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room)</p> <p>Inclusive Conversations: Exploring the Role of a Human Rights-Based Approach for Biodiversity and Climate Action 13:20-15:00 (Farallones - Youth meeting room, Plaza One)</p> <p>Ecological Connectivity: A Key to Powering Delivery of the KMGBF 15:00-16:20 (Pacífico - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities meeting room, Plaza One)</p> <p>Forging Integrated Ecosystem-based Solutions: Sustainable Soil Management in Black Soil Regions for Rio Convention Synergies 18:00–19:20 (Plaza One, Pacífico - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities meeting room)</p>	<p>Integrating Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) into Biodiversity Conservation within the Energy Industry 10:10:11:30 (Juscancz, Plaza One)</p> <p>Enhancing Subnational Contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework: Needs for metrics, methodologies and practical frameworks to achieve whole-of-government implementation of the GBF 13:20-15:00 (Plaza One, Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room)</p> <p>Youth leadership and agroecology catalyzing biodiversity conservation in agrifood systems 16:30–17:50 (Plaza One, Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room)</p>	<p>Nature-based Solutions for Health: Report Launch 10:30-11:30 (KMGBF Pavilion)</p> <p>Leveraging Nature Positive Agriculture to Achieve Sustainable Food Systems and meet multiple GBF Targets 11:40-13:00 (Plaza One, Sumapaz - JUSCANZ meeting room)</p> <p>Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework: How UN-Oceans can support States in meeting their obligations under the GBF with a focus on the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus, including development and implementation of NBSAPs 16:30-17:50 (Plaza One, Sanquianga - GRULAC meeting room)</p>	<p>Boosting Coral Health: Caribbean Strategies for Climate Resilience 09:00-11:00 (ICRI Pavilion)</p> <p>Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring: Why integration of multiscale tools is needed 13:20-14:40 (Plaza One, Paramos – NGOs meeting room)</p> <p>The Freshwater Challenge 18:00-19:20 (Plaza One: Cocora - Subnational and Local Authorities meeting room)</p>	<p>Harnessing Nature for advancing global biodiversity and climate goals 09:00-10:30 (IUCN Pavilion)</p>	<p>Sixth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity 09:00-18:30 (Room Atrato)</p> <p>The Great Blue Wall: Africa's Vision for Global Ocean Conservation 11:00-12:30 (#ForCoral Pavilion)</p> <p>Gender equality for climate and conservation solutions: Advancing Target 23 and Objective 1 of the Gender Plan of Action towards gender equality for biodiversity impact” 14:15:15:45 (IUCN Pavilion)</p> <p>Mainstreaming biodiversity in climate action: the role of nature-based solutions 17:30-19:00 (EU Pavilion)</p>

Calendar of events (continued)

Week 2

Monday, 28 Oct	Tuesday, 29 Oct	Wednesday, 30 Oct	Thursday, 31 Oct
	<p>The Great Blue Wall: Africa's Vision for Global Ocean Conservation 16:30-17:50 Plaza One - Youth Pavilion</p>	<p>Prosper with Nature: safeguarding biodiversity and human rights in energy transition mineral supply chains 09:00-10:30 (IUCN Pavilion)</p> <p>Non-State Actors Advancing Nature-Based Solutions for Biodiversity and Resilience Action 12:30-13:30 (Peru Pavilion)</p> <p>Enhancing Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change and Biodiversity: A Policy Framework for the Rio Conventions 13:20-14:40 (Plaza One, Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room)</p>	<p>Peatland Power: Cultivating Biodiversity, Climate Resilience and Livelihoods 11.40-13.00 (Plaza One, Mavecure - Business and Industry Organizations meeting room)</p>

## Monday, 21 October 2024

### Can we have it all? Approaches to equitable and inclusive nature-based solutions aiming for climate resilience, gender equality and a nature-positive future

Time: 10.30 – 11.30 | Venue: Nature Positive Pavilion

Organised by: IISD / IUCN Climate Change & Energy Transition Team / GAC

**Description:** Climate change, biodiversity loss, and poverty are inter-related crises that require integrated responses at scale. In this session, we will share perspectives from policymakers, experts and practitioners implementing the Government of Canada's Partnering for Climate Initiative. The event will include a moderated panel with discussants sharing perspectives on tools and approaches for integrating inclusive nature-based solutions that are centred on gender equality and social inclusion, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation. The session will take the format of a moderated panel and a Q&A period. See more at <https://www.naturepositive.org/events/nature-positive-at-the-un-cbd-cop/>.

**Speakers:** Global Affairs Canada, International Institute for Sustainable Development, IUCN, SOCODEVI, others.

### Let's talk monitoring: National strategies to track and inform implementation of the GBF

Time: 13.20 – 15.00 | Venue: Sinu – Africa meeting room; Plaza One

Organised by: UNEP-WCMC, ACB, SPREP, SANBI, Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, governments of Colombia, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa, Uganda

**Description:** The side event aims to showcase the work ongoing in countries participating in the National Monitoring Support Initiative, strengthening national monitoring of implementation of the KM-GBF through NBSAPs. It will facilitate exchange between these countries and other Parties, to share best practice, lessons learned so far, and gaps, needs and opportunities for national monitoring; and foster a dynamic discussion among attendees.

**Speakers:** Representatives from the government of Germany, UNEP-WCMC, SANBI, Asean Centre for Biodiversity, Humboldt Institute (Colombia), Mexico and SPREP.

## Tuesday, 22 October 2024

### Rainwater and Biodiversity : adaptation strategy to climate change

Time: 08.00 – 10.00 | Venue: Green Zone, La Casa Humboldt, Centro Cultural Comfandi, Cali

Organised by: International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA), Geneva, Switzerland and Instituto Cinara, Universidad del Valle, Colombia

**Description:** Rainwater management, biodiversity restoration and adaptation to climate change. To mitigate the multi-faceted climate change crisis and the loss of biodiversity, better rainwater management is essential. This session seeks to propose concerted action strategies to value rainwater, posing the following questions: How do we advance the management of rainwater in coherence with biodiversity conservation and climate change policies? How can we raise awareness and engage the State, regional and local entities, and citizens, to implement urban and rural planning and regulation systems for the comprehensive management of rainwater?

**Speakers:** Margarita Pacheco, Co-funder International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA), Switzerland and Board Member Fundación Natura, Colombia / Marc Sylvestre, Director, International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA), Switzerland / Luis Dario Sanchez, Profesor titular, CINARA, Universidad del Valle, Colombia / Biol. Ana Dorly Jaramillo, Fundación Rios y Ciudades, Cali, Colombia / Dr. Sarika Kulkarni, Raah Foundation, Mumbai, India / Ing© Stephny Trejos y Karen Lizath Delatorre, Programa PISA-Univalle, Cinara, Colombia / Beyer Fernández Palacios, Ecopetrol, Colombia / Instituto Regional da Pequena Agropecuária Apropriada (IRPAA), Brazil / Dr. José Arturo Gleason Espíndola, Universidad de Guadalajara/Asociación Mexicana de Sistemas de Captación de Agua de Lluvia A.C. (AMSCALL), Mexico.

### A global knowledge service for biodiversity (GKSSB) – supporting Parties’ needs for monitoring implementation of the KM-GBF

Time: 11.40 – 13.20 | Venue: Atrato - Contact Group 5 meeting room, CEVP Ground floor

Organised by: UNEP-WCMC, European Commission, CBD Secretariat, UNDP

**Description:** A global knowledge service for biodiversity (GKSSB) – supporting Parties’ needs for monitoring implementation of the KM-GBF.

**Speakers:** TBC.

### Inclusive Conversations: Exploring the Role of a Human Rights-Based Approach for Biodiversity and Climate Action

Time: 13.20 – 15.00 | Venue: Blue Zone, Farallones - Youth meeting room, Plaza One

Organised by: SwedBio, BES-Net, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO, Soka Gakkai International and Climate Development and Knowledge Network

**Description:** This side event aims to present the outcomes and findings of the dialogue process on the Human Rights-based Approach for biodiversity and climate action including considerations for NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs and Land Degradation Neutrality targets; it will present steps for implementing an HRBA and examples of best practice.

**Speakers:** Representatives from State parties, Women, IP & LC, Youth, Researcher/practitioner, Funder.

### Indigenous Peoples’ Contributions to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: The Costa Rican National Plan on Indigenous Peoples’ Biocentric Restoration and the ongoing work in the South Andean region

Time: 13.20 – 14.40 | Venue: Plaza One, Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room

Organised by: gcr, FAO, IIFB, Mesa INDIGENA, INBRA

**Description:** The vital role that Indigenous Peoples play in addressing the climate, ecological and biodiversity crises has been increasingly recognized on the global stage. This high-level side event will analyse the importance of the Indigenous Peoples’ biocentric restoration approach, to present an alternative way to restore degraded lands that emanate from Indigenous Peoples’ worldviews and knowledge. Biocentric restoration centers Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and cosmogonies and allows the community to restore their territories in ways that are rooted in ancestral beliefs, knowledge, and practices. “Biocentrism” broadly refers to the belief that all living things within an ecosystem have intrinsic and equal value. The session will elaborate on the design and launch of different biocentric restoration plans are underway, aligned with the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), in particular target 2, target 3,



target 22 and target 23, and the pillars of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This session will explain the potentialities of a Costa Rican National Plan on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration and explore ongoing work for a Regional Plan in the South Andean Region at the local level in Peru and Bolivia, as contributions for the achievement of target 2, 3 and 22 of the KMGBF. The session will include good practices and lessons learned from the different projects on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration developed worldwide.

**Speakers:** TBC.

### Ecological Connectivity: A Key to Powering Delivery of the KMGBF

Time: 15.00 – 16.20 | Venue: Pacifico - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities meeting room, Plaza One

Organised by: Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (CLLC, CMS, IUCN WCPA, UNEP-WCMC, WWF)

**Description:** This side event will highlight the importance of ecological connectivity in addressing the interrelated challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, and ecosystem degradation. It will provide participants with insights into: collaborative efforts happening around the world to maintain, enhance, and restore connectivity; how connectivity is already being addressed in National Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs); and the opportunities for its effective integration as Parties continue to revise and update their plans.

**Speakers:** Representatives from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, others.

### Forging Integrated Ecosystem-based Solutions: Sustainable Soil Management in Black Soil Regions for Rio Convention Synergies

Time: 18.00 – 19.20 | Venue: Plaza One, Pacifico - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities meeting room

Organised by: MEE - P.R. CHINA | UNEP | FAO | MEE-TCARE | UNEP-IEMP | UN Decade | IGSNRR,CAS | ISS,CAS | ChinaBDH | CAU | DEE, Jilin | DEE, Heilongjiang

**Description:** This side event aims to inspire large-scale, accelerated efforts to advance integrated ecosystem-based approaches for sustainable soil management in black soil regions in China and beyond. These efforts can stimulate the conservation and sustainable use of black soil resources around the world, with significant implications for food security, biodiversity and ecosystem health, climate resilience, and livelihoods. This aligns closely with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and multiple international environmental conventions, particularly the CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD – collectively known as the Rio Conventions. Specifically, the event is expected to inform deliberations at the CBD COP16 for potential Decision 28 on biodiversity and agriculture, which focuses on addressing the direct and indirect drivers of soil biodiversity loss and land degradation. The event will: 1. Share the latest findings on the pressures to black soil health. 2. Demonstrate efforts that utilize integrated ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of black soil resources. 3. Discuss how multi-stakeholder engagement, international cooperation, capacity development, and financial mechanisms could be leveraged to advance current endeavours.

**Speakers:** Representatives from Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China (MEE China); UNEP; FAO; International Network of Black Soils (INBS); Technical Centre for Soil, Agriculture and Rural Ecology and Environment; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of People's Republic of China; Beidahuang Group Co.,Ltd; Chinese Academy of Sciences; other black soil countries (tbc).

Wednesday, 23 October 2024

## Integrating Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) into Biodiversity Conservation within the Energy Industry

Time: 10.10 – 11.30 | Venue: Juscanz, Plaza One

Organised by: IUCN Climate Change and Energy Transition Team, Ipieca, Fauna&Flora

**Description:** This side event will explore how the industry and conservation organisations including IUCN and F&F align with GBF targets, particularly those related to IPLCs, and make positive contributions to nature conservation while engaging with IPLCs. The side event will benefit from the inputs from IPLC representatives, IUCN and F&F, who will provide an external perspective on IPLCs and management of biodiversity to challenge the industry to go better, act as a “critical friend” and independent voice to the industry, and share their learnings on community engagement, biodiversity conservation, and just transition. The event will emphasize a just and fair transition for workforces and communities across the energy transition. The panel will share case studies, insights in engaging with IPLCs to enhance biodiversity conservation. IPLC representatives will be present to share their experience on engaging with businesses as well, allowing honest discussions regarding opportunities, challenges, lessons learnt, and good practices.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## Enhancing Subnational Contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework: Needs for metrics, methodologies and practical frameworks to achieve whole-of-government implementation of the GBF

Time: 13.20 – 15.00 | Venue: Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room Plaza One

Organised by: IUCN UA, ICLEI, UNEP-WCMC, SBTN, REgions4, NParks

**Description:** The side event will discuss biodiversity metrics, target-setting and available frameworks to measure subnational governments’ contributions to the GBF.

**Speakers:** Representatives from subnational and city governments, ICLEI, IUCN, Singapore National Parks, UNEP-WCMC, SBTN.

## Youth leadership and agroecology catalyzing biodiversity conservation in agrifood systems

Time: 16.30 – 17.50 | Venue: Plaza One, Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room

Organised by: World Food Forum | Global Youth Biodiversity Network | UN FAO

**Description:** Agriculture is a major sector for global food security, economic growth, and livelihoods. Through interactive discussions at this side event, we aim to bring together diverse voices, including young people, to share experiences, best practices, and youth-driven solutions that can make our agrifood systems work for biodiversity and people. The World Food Forum, led by the Youth Policy Board, in collaboration with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), hosted two Thematic Assemblies and a global survey related to biodiversity conservation and restoration in agrifood systems. The sessions examined the interconnectedness between agrifood systems, and the importance of integrating youth and focusing on rights based approaches, such as agroecology, for the effective implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This side event aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s Goals A and B, which aim to protect the biodiversity and reduce threats to it, as well as Target 10,16 and 22 which emphasize

the need to sustainably manage and utilize agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry to ensure biodiversity conservation and resilience. This event aims to: •Present the outcomes of the youth consultations; •Launch the call to action; •Promote Agroecological Approaches; •Foster Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration.

**Speakers:** Representatives from WFF (YPB); GYBN; Leading expert in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity; Farmer representative from the IP and/or LC; Policymaker; Researcher; Youth Representative (TBC).

## Thursday, 24 October 2024

### Nature-based Solutions for Health: Report Launch

Time: 10.30 – 11.30 | Venue: KMGBF Pavilion

Organised by: WHO

**Description:** The intersection of health and nature-based solutions (NbS) offers a promising pathway to address public health, biodiversity, and environmental challenges simultaneously. To support the growing global effort to integrate health into NbS policies and practices, the IUCN-WHO Report on Nature-based Solutions for Health is being launched to provide evidence-based guidance and practical recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders. The report emphasizes how NbS can enhance health outcomes, contribute to biodiversity conservation, while enhancing opportunities for climate adaptation and mitigation. It focuses on how nature-based approaches—such as ecosystem restoration, green infrastructure, and sustainable land use—can serve as preventive and adaptive strategies to reduce health risks, improve mental and physical well-being, and support resilient communities. The event will present the report's 10 practical recommendations for leveraging NbS to improve health outcomes, aligned with global frameworks like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will feature examples on how to effectively implement these recommendations at multiple levels, showcasing case studies and best practices across sectors, from public health to conservation and urban planning.

**Speakers:** Cristina Romanelli, WHO; Ali Raza Rizvi, Head, Climate Change & Energy Transition Team; Pragyan Pokhrel, IUCN, Programme Officer, Forest and Grasslands; Dr. Jonathan Jennings, Executive Director, Health in Harmony; Dr. Fabrice Declerck, Alliance of CIAT-Bioversity International; EAT Forum, Science Director; Dr. Catherine Machalaba, OHHLEP; Dr. Chadia Wannous, WOAHA (TBC); Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chair UNPFII.

### Leveraging Nature Positive Agriculture to Achieve Sustainable Food Systems and meet multiple GBF Targets

Time: 11.40 – 13.00 | Venue: Plaza One, Sumapaz - JUSCANZ meeting room

Organised by: Belgium, Alliance of Bioversity-CIAT, World Banana Forum/FAO, WWF, BAIF, Fundacion Alpina

**Description:** Adopting nature-positive approaches to agriculture is key to achieve sustainable food systems, boost local economic growth and contributes to multiple targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Nature-positive agriculture leverages traditional knowledge and innovative technologies and practices to restore ecosystems health and build resilience against climate change, while conserving biodiversity. This approach is founded on four main pillars: conservation, sustainable management of biodiversity, land restoration, and waste management. This side event aims to present the main pillars and benefits of adopting a nature-positive agriculture and its contributions to achieving the GBF. The session will showcase examples of how this approach can be implemented across countries and adapted to local conditions and cultures, while maintaining the four pillars. Examples include work on banana diversity evaluation, promotion and production,

small roots and tubers in Colombia, intercropping in Kenya, local specialty mango in India and circular economy, among others. By hearing countries' experiences, we will reflect on the challenges and opportunities to scaling up these approaches across regions, including how to measure the impact of these interventions on various dimensions of biodiversity, and how to integrate them into countries' NBSAPs in support of implementing the GBF.

**Speakers:** Carlo Fadda, Alliance of Bioversity/CIAT; Belgium rep (confirmed); Matheus Lima, World Banana Forum, FAO; BAIF Foundation (confirmed); India rep (tbc); Kenya rep (tbc); Kolping (tbc); Elver Hernando García, Coordinador Técnico Nacional, Fundación Alpina (confirmed); Sebastian Carpentier, Alliance of Bioversity/CIAT – Moderator (confirmed).

## Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework: How UN-Oceans can support States in meeting their obligations under the GBF with a focus on the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus, including development and implementation of NBSAPs

Time: 16.30 – 17.50 | Venue: Plaza One, Sanquianga - GRULAC meeting room

Organised by: UN-Oceans | CTED | DESA | UNDOALOS | CBD | UN ESCAP | FAO | IOC | IAEA | ILO | IMO | ISA | ODA | UN-OHRLS | OHCHR | UNHCR/ACNUR | CITES | CMS | UNFCCC Secretariat | UNESCO 2001 Convention | UNCTAD | UNDP | UNESCO | UNEP | UNIDO | UNITAR | UNOPS | UNODC | UNU | WB | WMO | UNWTO

**Description:** UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance, strengthen and promote coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in relation to activities relating to oceans and coastal issues. This joint side event aims to focus on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) goals and targets related to the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus and showcase the most innovative and relevant work of UN-Oceans members, both individually and via inter-agency cooperation, that is contributing to implementation of the GBF. Using examples of past successes and achievements it will aim to hear from parties to the CBD on priority needs for future support in relation to the implementation of the KM GBF, and related global instruments and frameworks. It will address issues such as ocean observations, science, and data; transboundary species management; marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures; nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, such as through enhancing marine and coastal resilience, protection and restoration; and linkages to a sustainable ocean-based economy. A particular attention will be given in discussion to ways to support and empower SIDS and LDCs, and other under-represented groups including Indigenous Peoples and local communities and youth.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## Friday, 25 October 2024

### Boosting Coral Health: Caribbean Strategies for Climate Resilience

Time: 09.00 – 11.00 | Venue: Blue Zone, ICRI Pavilion

Organised by: Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (Lead); Perry Institute of Marine Science (Co-organizer)

**Description:** Coral reefs play a vital role in Caribbean climate adaptation by mitigating storm surge impacts, reducing wave energy by an average of 97%, and enhancing community resilience against severe climate events. However, unprecedented sea temperatures in 2023-2024 have led to devastating coral bleaching, particularly affecting *Acropora* spp., with mortality rates nearing 100% in some areas. This situation

underscores the urgent need for identifying and propagating thermally resilient coral genotypes for restoration efforts.

Thermal stress has also heightened coral susceptibility to diseases like White Plague and Stoney Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), demanding increased vigilance from researchers, managers, and restoration practitioners. Tracking disease progression and identifying resilient coral genotypes are crucial for maintaining reef diversity and informing germplasm movement strategies.

Building robust networks involving researchers, managers, industry, and local communities is essential for effective coral reef management. Integrating traditional knowledge with scientific research, as part of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), can enhance the long-term sustainability of coral conservation and community livelihoods. The Caribbean Coral Health Forum (CCHF), led by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), serves as a key platform for exchanging knowledge on coral health, mass bleaching events, and collaborative efforts, including joint events at COP16 and COP29.

**Speakers:** Valeria Pizarro, Senior Scientists, Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS); Ancilleno Davis, CEO, Science and Perspective; Assistant Professor, University of the Bahamas; Kendon James, Technical Officer, Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF); Steven Canty, Research Biologist, Smithsonian Institution; Fabian Kyne, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF); Thomas Dallison (ICRI).

## Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring: Why integration of multiscale tools are needed

Time: 13.20 – 14.40 | Venue: Plaza One, Paramos – NGOs meeting room

Organised by: FAO | CBD | Coalizão Brasil | IUCN | UN Decade

**Description:** The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets among its twenty-three targets to be achieved by 2030, the restoration of 30 percent of degraded ecosystems. Upscaling forest and landscape restoration is crucial for meeting this goal, and it has been supported by increasingly sophisticated and integrated tools – globally, notable examples are Restor and the IUCN Barometer, and at the national level, the Brazilian Restoration and Reforestation Observatory. Yet these advances also highlight challenges in achieving standardized reports at multiple scales. The side event will explore how governments can collaborate with civil society organizations and the private sector to ensure effective restoration monitoring at both national and global levels. Panelists will discuss the main challenges involved in integrating various restoration monitoring platforms, and the role of international institutions in fostering ecosystem restoration. Strategies for countries to engage in global restoration initiatives while accommodating their unique local and regional contexts will also be discussed. The event will consider how the Observatory of Restoration and Reforestation can enhance transparency, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and facilitate the dissemination of crucial information for effective ecosystem restoration monitoring in Brazil. The panel will also explore how technological innovation can continue to support and advance restoration monitoring efforts worldwide.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## The Freshwater Challenge

Time: 18:00 – 19.20 | Venue: Plaza One: Cocora - Subnational and Local Authorities meeting room

Organised by: Brazil | Gabon | Mexico | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | WWF | Ramsar convention on wetlands | FAO | UNEP | TNC | Wetlands International | CI | IUCN | UNCCD

**Description:** Freshwater Ecosystems (Inland Waters) have suffered the greatest loss of biodiversity in the last 70 years, and yet are the foundation of water resilience for people and nature and essential for adaptation to the climate crisis. 45 countries recognize this and have joined the Freshwater Challenge (FWC), committing to restore and protect rivers, wetlands and lakes as part of their NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs, LDN and national strategies. This event will highlight how these countries are putting this into action, and how we have the data,



knowledge and tools to ensure freshwater biodiversity thrives as our rivers are revived. This is a critical part of the peer-to-peer support member countries have requested in mobilizing action on Inland Water restoration and protection. The event will showcase leading examples of T2, T3, T8, T14, T20, T21 for Freshwater / Inland Waters and build peer to peer learning between countries on facets of freshwater restoration planning. It will also share understanding of the global datasets and platforms that are available.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## Saturday, 26 October 2024

### Harnessing Nature for advancing global biodiversity and climate goals

Time: 09.00 – 10.30 | Venue: IUCN Pavilion

Organised by: IUCN Climate Change and Energy Transition Team

**Description:** Nature-based Solutions (NbS) offer an integrated approach and can provide mutually reinforcing benefits for bolstering climate and biodiversity, enhancing resilience and adaptation worldwide. In Sub-Saharan Africa, collaborative approaches are essential in addressing challenges faced by communities. Enshrined in various Rio COP decision, this session will further this global nature-climate momentum, by showcasing the potential of the 315 million CAD investment under Canada's Partnering for Climate (P4C) to enhance the adaptation and resilience capacity of biodiverse ecosystems, supported by NAbSA. Gender responsiveness and inclusive governance are foundational pillars contributing towards KM-GBF targets 8 and 11. The diverse actors of the P4C community will foster shared understanding of ensuring that climate-biodiversity nexus solutions are equitable, locally relevant, and globally scalable. The session will convene climate and biodiversity decision-makers and inform discussions on this critical COP 16 agenda item, including supporting the implementation of KMGBF Targets 8 & 11. Speakers will share experiences on NbS leveraging local to global levels and illustrating how community-driven approaches can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of NbS.

**Speakers:** IUCN moderator – Ali Raza Rizvi, Head, Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, IUCN; Céline Heinbecker, Director, Global Affairs Canada; Veronica, Lo, Senior Policy Advisor, IISD; Tristan Tyrrell, Programme Management Officer for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Dry & Subhumid Lands at the Secretariat of the CBD (TBC); Claire Cockett, Head of Nature-based Solutions, WWF-UK; Verónica, Ruiz, Resilience Programme Manager, IUCN

## Sunday, 27 October 2024

### Sixth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity

Time: 09.00 – 18.30 | Venue: Blue Zone, Room Atrato

Organised by: Humboldt and Smithsonian as CSP Co-Chairs, CBD Secretariat, IUBS, University of Tokyo

**Description:** The Humboldt Institute and the Smithsonian on behalf of the Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP), the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), the University of Tokyo and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) jointly co-host the Sixth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the Ninth International Conference on Sustainability Science. Objectives of the Forum: Deepen the understanding of the integral role science, technology, and innovation play in the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Develop actionable recommendations to mitigate biodiversity loss, promote sustainable management, and foster revolutionary change, aligned with the 2050 Vision. Facilitate

the exchange of knowledge and experiences, while highlighting scientific solutions to advance the execution of the GBF. Identify and bridge current gaps, fostering collaborations among the scientific community, policymakers, and stakeholders to generate effective solutions and support the Parties' requirements. Promote interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration to integrate various knowledge systems and practices into sustainable biodiversity management strategies, recognizing their significance in enhancing resilience and sustainability. Reflect upon and generate key messages about the role of nature and biodiversity in the consolidation of Stable and Lasting Peace scenarios.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## The Great Blue Wall: Africa's Vision for Global Ocean Conservation

Time: 11.00 – 12.30 | Venue: #ForCoral Pavilion

Organised by: IUCN's Climate Change and Energy Transition Team and the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

**Description:** This session will focus on the implementation of best-practice coastal and marine conservation in the WIO, and the integration of Nature-based Solutions and the Regenerative Blue Economy into MPAs and LMMAs. The session is structured around two main panels, each addressing critical aspects of the Great Blue Wall (GBW) initiative. The GBW is a comprehensive roadmap aimed at accelerating ocean conservation actions, restoring and protecting critical blue ecosystems, and fostering socio-ecological resilience through practical, on-the-ground efforts.

**Speakers:** Thomas Sberna, IUCN, Regional Head – Coastal and Ocean Resilience; Dr. David Obura, Cordio, Director; Mihari Network or African IPLC Network; Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, Mission Blue, Chairman, Founder and President; Stephanie Bouziges-Eschmann, Secrétaire générale du Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM); Maike Heidemeyer, Odisea, Head of Science; Alfredo Giron, WEF, Head of Ocean; Laure Katz, Head of the Blue Nature Alliance, Conservation International; Marie-May Jeremie, SeyCCAT, CEO; Someone from Global Fund for Coral Reef (GCFR)? to connect governance/science and financing; Tony Siantonas, Global Director, Regenerative Business, Technoserve; Kristian Teleki, Flora and Fauna, CEO.

## Gender equality for climate and conservation solutions: Advancing Target 23 and Objective 1 of the Gender Plan of Action towards gender equality for biodiversity impact

Time: 14.15 – 15.45 | Venue: IUCN Pavilion

Organised by: IUCN's Climate Change and Energy Transition Team and the Human Rights and Conservation Team

**Description:** Around the world, women and girls are essential caretakers of nature. Women and men have differentiated priorities, needs, roles, and relationships with biodiversity and for conservation to be effective and successful, gender equality must be at the core of sustainable solutions to ensure that women's unique knowledge and experiences are part of the solution and both women and men can equally benefit from them. As we face the dual challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, it is crucial that our efforts in conservation also advance global biodiversity action while upholding and protecting human rights.

Join us for this unique event, focused on Objective One of the CBD's Gender Plan of Action and its contributions to Target 23 on gender equality, talking with conservationists, policy and government leaders to learn how IUCN and its partners are working collaboratively to pioneer a world that values and conserves nature by placing gender equality and women's safety and protection at the heart of conservation.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## Mainstreaming biodiversity in climate action: the role of nature-based solutions

Time: 17.30 – 19.00 | Venue: EU Pavilion

Organised by: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Committee of the Regions (CoR), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Description:** This side event will explore and promote nature-based solutions which simultaneously tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, addressing the urgent need to increase synergies between UN CBD and UNFCCC processes, highlighting the involvement of local authorities and civil society.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## Tuesday, 29 October 2024

### The Great Blue Wall: Africa's Vision for Global Ocean Conservation

Time: 16.30 – 17.50 | Venue: Plaza One – Youth Pavilion

Organised by: IUCN's Climate Change and Energy Transition Team and the Eastern and Southern Regional Office

**Description:** The Great Blue Wall (GBW) is a Western Indian Ocean (WIO)-born, African-driven roadmap to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030, aiming at unlocking unprecedented nature-based recovery efforts through dramatically accelerating and upscaling ocean conservation actions while enhancing socio-ecological resilience and the development of a regenerative blue economy. The GBW objectives are to unlock regenerative livelihood opportunities for 70 million people in the WIO, create 10 million blue jobs, support other regions engaged in equivalent efforts and achieve a net gain of critical blue ecosystems in 2030 by conserving and restoring more than 2 million ha of critical ecosystems and consequently sequestering more than 100M tons of carbon. It aspires to achieve this by catalyzing political leadership and financial support.

The GBW crucially promotes the Regenerative Seascapes concept, which seeks economic development, climate action, and biodiversity outcomes that benefit communities and ecosystems. The GBW supports the effective and equitable implementation of the 30x30 conservation target in critical blue ecosystems and the delivery of effective OECMs, as well as the restoration and sustainable use of natural resources and the implementation of Nature-based solutions for climate resilience. The successful management of these areas relies on the stewardship of IPLCs, women and youth and ensures climate justice.

**Speakers:** TBC.

## Wednesday, 30 October 2024

### Prosper with Nature: safeguarding biodiversity and human rights in energy transition mineral supply chains

Time: 09.00 – 10.30 | Venue: Blue zone, IUCN Pavilion

Organised by: IUCN NL, Rainforest Foundation Norway, Mighty Earth, Auriga Nusantara, A Rocha Ghana, Center for Transnational Environmental Accountability, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance

**Description:** To move forward and achieve a responsible transition to a low-carbon future, the mining of Critical Energy Transition Minerals such as nickel, bauxite, lithium and cobalt must be implemented in such a way that it adequately protects forests, rivers, oceans and wildlife, secures human rights, respects the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and reduces health risks. Rigorous safeguards throughout the transition mineral supply chains are necessary to ensure that the transition is in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement and their corresponding national action plans.

The event highlights the impact of the steep increase in demand for Critical Energy Transition Minerals in various biodiversity-rich countries. Case studies from Indonesia, West Africa and other countries illustrate the impact on the environment and biodiversity. A panel of experts proposes a set of actions, safeguards and best practices that can be implemented throughout the value chain, from production countries to end users, to prevent the energy transition from leading to further biodiversity loss, while momentum in the green transition is maintained. The discussion focuses on what is needed to bring the energy transition in line with the Kunming GBF targets and global climate commitments.

**Speakers:** Coenraad Krijger, director, IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands; Timer Manarung, Chairman, Auriga Nusantara; Jasmine Puteri, senior advisor, Rainforest Foundation Norway; Daryl Bosu, deputy national director, A Rocha Ghana (TBC).

## Non-State Actors Advancing Nature-Based Solutions for Biodiversity and Resilience Action

Time: 12:30 – 13.30 | Venue: Peru Pavilion

Organised by: Sharm el Sheik Adaptation Agenda

**Description:** As the world faces the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation, non-state actors, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the private sector, subnational governments such as cities, states and regions, are at the forefront of efforts to protect, restore, and conserve nature. This event will showcase the critical contributions of Race to Resilience Partners in advancing nature-based solutions (NbS) that address climate and biodiversity challenges, focusing on those that enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems to disasters and climate change.

Building on the evidence on the role of nature in delivering biodiversity protection, climate adaptation, and emissions reductions, and how NbS have been traditionally used and continue to be critical to boost socio-economic resilience and sustain local livelihoods. Additionally, the event will address the need to redirect financial flows from nature-negative to nature-positive activities, emphasizing the importance of innovative financial solutions aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement.

**Speakers:** Ramiro Fernandez, MC - Campaigns Director at Climate Champions Team; Jorge Gastelumendi, Senior Director Atlantic Council Resilience Center; RtR Global Ambassador / RM HLC COP28 - TBC; Gregg Brill, NBS and Biodiversity Lead - CEO Water Mandate; Ali Raza, Global Head IUCN's Climate Change and Energy Transition Team; Torsten Thiele Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORAA); other speakers TBC.

## Enhancing Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change and Biodiversity: A Policy Framework for the Rio Conventions

Time: 13.20 – 14.40 | Venue: Marie Khan Women's Caucus meeting room

Organised by: Egypt, Germany and IUCN

**Description:** This year there is high expectation for coordinated implementation across the Rio Conventions to deliver globally agreed goals, and this will be a prime theme of discussion at all three Rio summits. The current

revision of climate and biodiversity strategies (such as NDCs, NBSAPs and NAPs) is a unique opportunity for accelerating delivery. COP 16 comes at a critical time for related work under the CBD. COP 16 must advance efforts to dismantle silos between science and policy on climate change and biodiversity - at the national and global levels; enhance information, data, and knowledge exchange; and build capacity for integrating biodiversity and climate change priorities into national plans and strategies.

Recognising this opportunity, the ENACT Partnership will host a high-level side event to explore ways to address these priorities. The event will serve as a bridge for climate and biodiversity decision-makers and inform discussions on this key COP 16 agenda item. To commence the event and guide the ensuing discussions, the ENACT Partnership will launch a policy paper supporting NbS decision-making on climate and biodiversity.

**Speakers:** ENACT Co-Chairs: H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt; H.E. Ms. Steffi Lemke, Minister of the Environment, Germany. IUCN: Dr. Grethel Aguilar, Director General; Ali Raza Rizvi, Head, Climate Change & Energy Transition. Ministers representing ENACT Partner countries will lead a high-level panel discussion (exact speakers TBC).

## Thursday, 31 October 2024

### Peatland Power: Cultivating Biodiversity, Climate Resilience and Livelihoods

Time: 11.40 – 13.00 | Venue: Plaza One, Mavecure - Business and Industry Organizations meeting room

Organised by: Wetlands International | BMZ | FAO | TNC | Synchronicity Earth

**Description:** Peatlands are a powerful nexus linking biodiversity, climate, water and community resilience. As a nature-based solution, they play a critical role in climate mitigation and adaptation by sequestering carbon, buffering impacts of droughts and floods, and are important for biodiversity as wetland habitats. Yet the pressure on these ecosystems is immense, with agriculture and forestry among the main drivers of global peatland loss. This side event will explore how peatland landscape protection, restoration and sustainable use can benefit of biodiversity, climate and people, playing a critical role in achieving the Biodiversity Plan. It will showcase stories and case studies from South America, Africa, Europe and Asia and provide practical routes for including peatlands in NBSAPs that reinforce the links between biodiversity and climate action, deliver multiple targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and enhance synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements. Highlights will include: Exploration of peatlands restoration and management on Lake Junín, also known as Lake Chinchaycocha; The launch of a new 3-year global project "Livelihoods from Sustainable Peatland Landscapes" to promote sustainable peatland management and contribute to global knowledge exchange on best practices and sustainable financing; Discussion of peatland ecosystem restoration in Indonesia for climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood development.

**Speakers:** Potential speakers from: BMZ (Germany), Uganda, Indonesia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Wetlands International, FAO, Greifswald Mire Center / Michael Succow Foundation, TNC. Please note, not all speakers are confirmed currently.