



KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

January 31, 2023

1. On December 7-19, 2022, the latter half of the UN Biodiversity Conference (hereinafter — “COP15”)¹ was held in Montreal, Canada. COP15 was originally supposed to take place in Kunming, China, in 2020, but postponed several times because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first part of the Conference was held in a hybrid format (mostly online) in Kunming, only in October, 2021.

2. The core target of the COP15 was to develop and coordinate global goals in the biodiversity protection by the years 2030 and 2050 due to completion of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (including the so called Aichi Biodiversity Targets).² The Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework (hereinafter — “**Framework**”)³ has become the main document of the COP15. It contains 4 global goals and 23 specific targets. The Framework is intended to determine post-2020 actions plans for the nature within a broader sustainability effort, because biodiversity conservation is increasingly recognized as an important part of sustainable development. The Framework contains measures to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and implement the concept of living in harmony with nature by 2050, reform subsidies for projects potentially harmful for biodiversity. It contains requirements for the companies to disclose their risks, dependencies, and impacts on biodiversity.

Framework’s Global Goals

3. Global goals:

- conservation and recovery of all ecosystems by 2050, reverse of human induced extinction of known threatened species, tenfold reduction of extinction rate and risk of all species, safeguarding the genetic diversity;
- sustainable use and management of biodiversity;
- fair and equitable sharing of the financial and non-financial benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, information and knowledge, connected with genetic resources, and dramatic increase of these benefits by 2050;

¹ UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15). URL: <https://www.unep.org/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15>; <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-15> (the date of access: 17.01.2023).

² Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets. URL: <https://www.cbd.int/sp/> (the date of access: 17.01.2023).

³ Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework. URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf> (the date of access: 17.01.2023).



- securing the adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Framework, and equitable access to all Parties.

Framework's Targets

4. Targets named in the Framework are aimed at fulfilling these goals. According to the Global Biodiversity Outlook,⁴ issued in 2020, none of the 20 biodiversity protection targets, known as Aichi Biodiversity Targets, have been fully achieved globally during the past 10 years of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. For this reason, the Framework includes provisions to make the stated goals measurable and to monitor countries' progress on their way to achieving them.

5. The first set of 8 targets is aimed at reducing threats to biodiversity. It includes incentives to cover all areas with spatial planning, restore at least 30% of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems by 2030, as well as provide and create conditions by 2030 for effective conservation and management of at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas ('30x30' pledge), to halt extinction of species and conserve threatened species. These targets also provide sustainable attitude to wild species, eliminating impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity, reducing pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity, minimizing impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

6. The second set of 5 targets is aimed at meeting people's needs through sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing, as well as sustainable use of wild species, sustainable management of agriculture and aquaculture, recovery and strengthening of ecosystem functions of nature, increasing the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban areas.

7. The third set of tools and biodiversity solutions includes 10 targets that prescribe to:

- integrate biodiversity agenda into regulations and strategic documents;
- take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity;
- ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices in order to reduce by 2030 the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner;
- establish and implement biosafety measures;
- identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform subsidies for projects, harmful for biodiversity;
- increase total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries (including support to the least developed countries in the amount of US\$ 30 bln per year by 2030);

⁴ Global Biodiversity Outlook. URL: [cbd.int/gbo5](https://www.cbd.int/gbo5) (the date of access: 17.01.2023).



- strengthen communication and information exchange, ensure that information and knowledge are accessible;
- ensure the equitable and effective representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, etc. in decision-making;
- attract at least US\$ 200 bln per year for environmental protection measures.

8. Target 15 in the third set of targets prescribes to disclose risks and impacts on biodiversity. The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) will be a tool to implement this target as is the case with Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). TNFD will launch its own financial disclosure system in 2023. Each state, which is a member of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, will have to create for companies and financial institutions an assessment and information disclosure system related to risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity.

9. During the COP15 there were produced over 6 documents, revealing core principles and methods to implement the Framework.⁵ The headline indicators of the Framework are contained in the Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework.⁶

10. One of the COP15 outcome was also the decision to create a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources. The decision describes basic principles providing legal frames for access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization. This mechanism should be designed on the COP16 scheduled for 2024.⁷

Framework's Implementation

11. Although the Framework is not legally binding, governments have to demonstrate their progress in fulfilling the national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, similarly to nationally determined contributions intended to achieve as set forth in the Paris Agreement. Such a policy will influence companies and banks, assets owners and managers, insurance companies.

12. Despite that negotiators have smoothed some of the wording, however, the Framework pushes the world business-community to start evaluating and disclose information about their impact on nature and biodiversity.

13. Some participants expressed concern that the goal to restore 30% of the land area and the sea has no clear baseline that can make it difficult to measure progress. They also noted that only over 40% of the

⁵ Decisions supporting implementation of the Framework (and that are of equal standing to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework): (a) Decision 15/5 on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; (b) Decision 15/6 on planning, monitoring, reporting and review; (c) Decision 15/7 on resource mobilization; (d) Decision 15/8 on the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support nationally determined priorities for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; (e) Decision 15/9 on digital sequence information on genetic resources; (f) Decision 15/13 on cooperation. URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf> (the date of access: 17.01.2023).

⁶ Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf> (the date of access: 17.01.2023).

⁷ Decision 15/9. Digital sequence information on genetic resources. URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-09-en.pdf> (дата обращения: 17.01.2023).



World ocean surface lies within the range of national jurisdictions where littoral states may take certain protective measures. As far as high seas concern, a draft agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction is currently being negotiated in the UN.⁸ The success of this process will determine whether the global goals of protecting the biodiversity of the World ocean as a whole can be achieved.

14. There were also concerns about the lack of ambitious provisions for financing the implementation of the Framework, the lack of quantitative indicators for reducing the use of pesticides, and a number of other provisions of the Framework. Nevertheless, the Framework as a whole can be considered as a significant step in achieving the aim to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the coming decades.

15. The next conference (COP16) will be held in Turkey in the latter half of 2024.

⁸ The United Nation's website. URL: <https://www.un.org/bbnj/> (the date of access: 17.01.2023).

