

31st SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS

5, 6, and 7 September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 8.2: Post-CBD COP15 Roadmap for implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework through 2030

Purpose of paper:

1. To provide an update and inform Members of the actions required to implement the outcomes and decisions of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in December 2022, Montreal Canada.
2. This paper will cover:
 - Key outcomes and achievements of CBD COP15
 - Supporting partners
 - Engagement in ongoing global processes
 - Next steps

Background:

Key Outcomes and Achievements of CBD COP15

3. All 14 Pacific island countries attended the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-5), 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15); 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP MOP-10) and 4th Meeting of the National Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP MOP4) held in Montreal, Canada 3 – 19 December 2022. Each country had between one to four delegates attending. This was the largest Pacific delegation to ever attend a CBD COP, emphasizing the importance of the negotiations towards a new global framework and ensuring the Pacific Voice and priorities were heard at these meetings.
4. SPREP, SPC and OPOC also attended COP15 and a OneCROP coordination approach was adopted to support the Pacific during the negotiations.
5. The High-level Segment was attended by the Premier of Niue and Ministers from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Vanuatu. Ambassador of Samoa to the UN, and Chair of PSIDS, as well as the Fiji Ambassador to the UN.

6. The attendance of the Chair of PSIDS at the daily Pacific regional meetings was a new undertaking and was valuable in ensuring linkages across the other important meetings including the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution.
7. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted in Montreal and it will guide biodiversity policy through four overarching goals and 23 targets categorised in the following: reducing threats to biodiversity (targets 1 – 8), meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing (targets 9 – 13), and tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming (targets 14 – 23) to be achieved by 2030.
8. The implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF will be supported by the following COP decisions:
 - a. Kunming-Montreal GBF monitoring framework
 - b. Planning, monitoring, reporting and review
 - c. Resource mobilization
 - d. The long-term strategic framework for capacity building and development to support nationally determined priorities and implementation
 - e. Digital Sequencing Information (DSI)
 - f. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

Supporting Partners

9. SPREP would like to thank and acknowledge the Government of Australia for providing financial and technical assistance to enhance Pacific engagement at CBD COP15 including support for the attendance of additional delegates to the COP meeting. We would also like to thank the ongoing collaboration with partners especially to SPC, OPOC-PIFS, Australia and New Zealand delegation, Pew Charitable Trusts and the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) which enhanced our support to Members during COP negotiations.

Engagement in ongoing global processes:

10. Since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, the CBD Secretariat has invited Parties and observer organisations to nominate experts for ad hoc technical groups, to participate in meetings (both virtual and in-person) and to join in Informal Advisory Groups or Committees. In accordance with the SPREP mandate, we have submitted nominations to a number of these committees to ensure that in the event Members were unable to attend, SPREP would be present to raise key issues and challenges in the Pacific. However, it is vital to note that the CBD Secretariat is encouraging the Pacific Parties to commit and engage in these various discussion forums especially as these are important in the lead up to negotiations during CBD COP16 in 2024.
11. Notifications from the Secretariat of the CBD are received directly by country CBD focal points. Note that SPREP also shares and sends out reminders regarding these to broader government biodiversity focal points as part of our support to members.

12. The following are areas for which SPREP has submitted nominations and been accepted to contribute:
- a. Expert for the *Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal GBF*. An expert from Australia and SPREP were the only successful nominations accepted from across the Oceania region. As a result of the limited number accepted from the region SPREP is supporting an informal Oceania Panel of Experts with experts from the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand with the overall goal of providing advice to the two experts for indicators that are relevant to the Pacific. A SPREP circular invited country representatives, organisations and individuals interested in being involved in this panel of experts.
 - b. *Informal Advisory Group for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)*.
 - c. *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Workshop on Ocean-related Capacity-building needs for the Kunming-Montreal GBF*.
 - d. *Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) on Capacity-building for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol*.
 - e. Meeting to develop a *Global Partnership for the implementation of Target 3*.

Next Steps

13. SPREP continues to provide support to Members with the implementation of COP15 decisions including the alignment of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the Kunming-Montreal GBF. To support Parties with the process of reviewing and updating NBSAPs and implementation of COP decisions, SPREP in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and partners including the members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (PIRT), and dependant on resources, will convene a series of regional webinars and face-to-face meetings on priority topics such as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture sectors to name a few, and will continue this process leading up to COP16 in 2024.
14. There have been a number of existing global initiatives such as the NBSAP Accelerator, and GEF/UNEP/UNDP Rapid Grants supporting NBSAP revisions, as well as a new GBF Fund under GEF which is in the process of being established as a result of a COP15 decision. Countries are encouraged to consider joining or endorsing relevant initiatives that can provide the resources to assist countries with reviewing, updating, monitoring and implementation.

Recommendation:

15. The Meeting is invited to:
- 1) **Note** the update and outcomes of CBD COP15.
 - 2) **Encourage** Members to commit to the ongoing global processes associated with the CBD.
 - 3) **Direct** the Secretariat to continue to collaborate with partners and seek additional resources to support the implementation of COP15 decisions and outcomes.