

Agenda Item 8.2: Update on the preparations for the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17)**Purpose:**

1. To provide the Meeting with an update on the Preparations leading up to the CBD COP17;

Background:**17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD:**

2. This working paper provides an update on the Pacific's preparation leading up the CBD COP17 to be held in Yerevan, Armenia from 19 – 30 October 2026 which includes the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
3. The CBD COP17 will be critical as this will be the first COP to consider the findings from the first global review of collective progress towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
4. The Global report draws on the Parties submissions including national reports, targets and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), scientific assessments, and other knowledge and perspectives from indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders to provide the first global picture of progress towards halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
5. The CBD COP17 will also have High-Level Segment hosted by the Government of Armenia and will be convened from 27 – 28 October 2026. The focus of the HLS will be to galvanise leadership and political momentum in support for the effective implementation of the KMGBF and other decision to be adopted at the Conference.
6. Pacific Voice Amplification Plan: Support the launch of the Pacific Voice Amplification Plan for COP 17 CBD through official parallel events in the Blue Zone, which are accessible to duly accredited COP participants.
7. Asia-Pacific SBSTTA Bureau Representative: The Pacific's current SBSTTA Bureau representatives are from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (Coastal Resource Advisor, RMI Environmental Protection Authority) and the Federated States of Micronesia (Assistant Secretary, Marine FSM Department of Resources and Development, Substitute for Cartagena Protocol for FSM). The Bureau guides SBSTTA's scientific and technical work and advises on CBD COP preparations, including key document review.
8. SPREP has an observer role in the 2025 Informal Advisory Group for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). The IAG supports voluntary EBSA implementation options, as extended through COP decisions 14/9, 15/6, and 16/6, and advises the CBD Secretariat on the description, modification, and management of key ocean areas.

Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for CBD COP17:

9. The Preparatory Meeting will assist the Pacific Island countries coordinate regional positions, share updates, and refine strategies to advance the region's priorities at COP 17 and will continue to promote policy coherence across the UNFCCC and CBD processes.
10. The Regional Preparatory meeting will be held in Pacific Harbour, Fiji at the Pearl Resort from 21 to 25 September 2026. A drafted programme of the Preparatory Meeting is attached as WP8.2/Att.1.
11. The main objectives of the Preparatory Meeting are to:
 - a) **Strengthen climate–biodiversity synergies:** Build on lessons from the Pacific's COP 16 experience to identify priority entry points for stronger links across climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, conservation finance, and capacity building in the implementation of revised NBSAPs and NDCs.
 - b) **Support evidence-based policymaking:** Provide a platform for NDC and NBSAP focal points to discuss how scientific evidence and policy coherence can better inform national policymaking on the climate–nature nexus in a coordinated and holistic way.
 - c) **Improve whole-of-government coordination:** Strengthen coordination among CBD and UNFCCC focal points, relevant government experts, and non-state actors.
 - d) **Align sector strategies:** Promote synergies with sector-specific strategies and action plans, including those related to food systems, disaster management, climate change, and biodiversity.
 - e) **Build negotiation capacity:** Deliver negotiation skills training in collaboration with the Pacific Climate Action Network (PICAN), which is developing a CBD negotiation skills toolkit.
12. A timeline of preparations leading up to the CBD COP17 is attached as **WP8.2/Att.2**.

Regional CBD Coordination

13. **Regional ABS/Nagoya Protocol and BBNJ coordination:** SPREP co-hosted the Pacific Regional ABS/Nagoya Protocol and BBNJ workshop with the University of the South Pacific (USP), 3BIO, and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC). The workshop strengthened regional dialogue on access and benefit-sharing and emerging biodiversity governance issues related to BBNJ. It brought together Nagoya Protocol and BBNJ National Focal Points from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Palau, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, and Kiribati. Preparations are also underway for other regional events.
14. **Target 3 implementation and the Pacific 30x30 pathway:** SPREP convened the first regional workshop on Target 3 implementation (30x30) with the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, supported by Australia's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). The workshop provided a Pacific pathway for 30x30 by enabling countries to share experiences, learn from one another, and identify practical approaches to advancing Target 3 in the Pacific context. It also strengthened national and regional implementation and helped shape a unified Pacific voice ahead of the 11th Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and CBD COP17.

15. **Integrated KMGBF implementation:** SPREP co-hosted the workshop on *Accelerating the Implementation of the KMGBF through an Integrated and Synergistic Approach* with UNEP, CBD, UNDP, COBSEA, GEF, the KMGBF Action Initiative, and FAO. The workshop focused on a whole-of-society approach to KMGBF implementation, including collaboration across health, agri-food systems, climate, other key multilateral environmental agreements, and NBSAPs.
16. **Global engagement and visibility:** SPREP increased engagement in collaboration opportunities and side events at SBSTTA 28 and SBI 7, helping strengthen the global visibility of Pacific biodiversity priorities.
17. **NBSAP Accelerator support:** Through the Matchmaking Mechanism, the NBSAP Accelerator is supporting member countries, including Vanuatu, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Samoa. Discussions are ongoing with Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Review of the Global Report:

18. The CBD Secretariat [Notification 2026-047](#) invited reviews and comments on the Global Report to be submitted through the CBD Review template or through the [Clearing House Mechanism](#).
19. SPREP hosts the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Center (TSCC) Pacific and will provide input during the peer review period for the first draft of the global review report, from 2 to 29 June 2026. Six Pacific countries submitted their reporting to CBD, these are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Vanuatu. SPREP is contributing to the global review through the TSCC call on the aggregate Asia-Pacific profile and will support future regional analysis for Members' 8NR submissions by June 2029.
20. **Revised global report:** By 18 July 2026, before SBSTTA 28, a revised and scientifically edited second draft of the global report will be released. It will incorporate peer review comments and be accompanied by an information document summarising the review process and resulting changes.
21. **Global report launch:** The global report will be launched before the global review agenda item begins at COP 17, as it will serve as a key source of information for the review.

[Twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice \(SBSTTA 28\) and Seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation \(SBI-7\):](#)

22. SPREP will continue to provide the technical assistance and support to the Pacific delegation participating in the Twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-28) held from 27 July – 1 August and the Seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-7) convened from 4 to 12 August 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya. These subsidiary body meetings constitute an important milestone leading up to CBD COP17.

23. SPREP's limited presence in past intersessional meetings highlights the need to strengthen its technical and scientific support role as host of the Pacific TSCC. These meetings offer an opportunity to reflect Pacific priorities in global biodiversity discussions, particularly on the KMGBF monitoring framework, progress review, 30x30 implementation, locally managed marine areas, NBSAPs, national reporting, implementation support, financing, and the role of traditional knowledge, customary governance, and community-led conservation.
24. **Engagement at SBSTTA 28 and SBI 7:** Strengthen Pacific participation in collaboration opportunities and side events at SBSTTA 28 and SBI 7 to increase the global visibility of Pacific biodiversity priorities. SPREP will also support the coordination of regional positions, advocate for Pacific interests in key negotiations, monitor policy developments relevant to the region, and identify opportunities for partnerships, technical support, and resource mobilization to advance implementation of the KMGBF. During SBSTTA-28/SBI-7, recommendations related to the global review of progress towards the KMGBF will also be considered, providing an important opportunity to ensure Pacific perspectives are reflected in outcomes.
25. **Preliminary findings of the Global Report:** SBSTTA 28 will present preliminary findings from the Global Report on collective progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The report assesses national targets, their alignment with global targets, and progress reported through national reports and indicators.
26. **Alignment and scope:** The report distinguishes between target alignment and scope. While Parties self-report how their national targets align with global targets, the CBD Secretariat also assessed whether those targets cover the full elements of each global target. This helped identify gaps, including areas such as subsidy reform under Target 18.
27. **Post-SBSTTA-28/SBI-7 finalisation:** Following SBSTTA-28/SBI-7, the Global Report with recommendations from the global review will be formally edited, formatted, and translated ahead of publication at COP 17.
28. Confirm to engage in the Women's Caucus during the SBI-7 with all the TSCCs on strengthening gender-responsive processes within the activities carried out by TSCCs, as well as on building cross-regional solidarities and shared learning.

Recommendation:

29. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the progress in preparation of the CBD COP17 and the Preparations to the Pacific Regional CBD COP17 workshop held in Fiji, 21 – 25 September 2026. Encourage members attending CBD COP17 to actively engage and participate fully in the Pacific Regional Preparatory workshop and COP process and COP17; and
 - 2) **Encourage** Members to engage actively in CBD COP17 preparatory processes, pre-COP, intersessional meetings, and COP17 negotiations.
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