

Agenda Item 7.5: Update on the Pacific's journey to CBD COP15 and next chapter

Purpose of paper

1. To report on preparations leading up to the CBD COP15 meeting in Montreal, Canada.

Background

2. The CBD COP15 meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada from 5 – 17 December 2022. The Pacific and SPREP will be attending the meeting in person.
3. Prior to the CBD COP15, a series of meetings and workshops were held for the Pacific to support the Pacific's engagement and discussions on priorities issues into key meetings such as the meetings of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and the meetings of the Open-ended Working Groups (OEWG) on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The Pacific representation in Nairobi was boosted with Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Samoa attending the meeting, with SPREP joining virtually.
4. Palau attended the Experts Technical Meeting on indicators for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held from 29 June – 1 July 2022 in Bonn, Germany. This expert meeting contributed to a scientific and technical review of the proposed indicators and monitoring framework for the global biodiversity framework and focused on a comprehensive analysis of high-level indicators and the feasibility of Parties to use them. To assist with Palau's preparations for the Expert technical meeting, SPREP provided an overview of the links between the indicators used in the State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands report against the GBF. A survey on the GBF indicators completed in June 2022 was also provided to support their preparations for the meeting.
5. Campaign activities were carried out to promote Pacific key messages and priorities including submission of statements for the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2022 and a series of social media posts highlighting priority issues.
6. A hybrid Pacific preparatory meeting will be convened from 26 – 30 September 2022 in Nadi, Fiji to support development of regional briefs on priority agenda items, identify opportunities for countries to lead on different priority items and development of a Pacific communication plan and media briefs.
7. A media event is planned to be hosted in Montreal prior to the CBD COP15 inviting journalists to a Q&A session with Pacific leaders that will deliver key messages on the Pacific's priority agenda items.

8. Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is expected to be adopted at CBD COP15. Parties are required to develop or review/update their National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAPs) to reflect the new targets and goals of the GBF. The Secretariat will work to support countries with this process as requested.

Recommendation

9. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the progress in preparation for the CBD COP15;
 - 2) **Propose ways** in which the Secretariat can support countries to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - 3) **Direct** the Secretariat to continue to support countries in developing and/or reviewing National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans; and implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework

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