

Agenda Item 8.2 : Preparations for CBD COP16

Purpose:

1. To facilitate actions arising from outcomes of CBD COP 15 in (Kunming) Montreal, Canada, December 2022.
2. To facilitate and coordinate preparations for the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia in October 2024

Background:

Actions Arising from COP 15

3. Since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal GBF at COP15 in 2022, CBD Parties and observer organisations were requested by the CBD Secretariat to nominate experts for ad hoc technical groups and to join in Informal Advisory Groups or Committees. Pacific Parties to CBD were encouraged to nominate experts.
4. The following are subsidiary bodies and initiatives for which SPREP has submitted expressions of interest for hosting, or submitted experts who are there to support national experts and where needed raise key issues and challenges for the Pacific:
 - a. Expert for the *Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal GBF*. – (SPREP Consultant – Tiffany Straza)
 - b. *Informal Advisory Group for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)*. – (SPREP Coastal and Marine Adviser)
 - c. *Sustainable Ocean Initiative Workshop on Ocean-related Capacity-building needs for the Kunming-Montreal GBF*. – (SPREP Coastal and Marine Adviser)
 - d. *Global Partnership for the implementation of Target 3*; (Biodiversity Adviser) and
 - e. *Hosting Sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centre to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (TBC at CBD COP16)* – (Biodiversity Adviser)
5. A Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBF Fund) was established in response to decisions from the CBD COP15 to scale up financing to support Parties with the implementation of the GBF. The GBF Fund is administered by the GEF Member states are required to revise their NBSAPs to align with the GBF as a pre-requisite to access to the GBF Fund. All Parties to the CBD are to submit their revised NBSAPs by COP 16.

Pacific NBSAP Dialogue

6. A Pacific regional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) for the Pacific countries was hosted by the Government of Fiji in Nadi, from 18 to 26 March 2024, co-organised by SPREP, Secretariat of the CBD and the United Nations. The dialogue provided an opportunity for Pacific countries and Partners to share experiences and lessons learned to facilitate the revision of NBSAPs, including alignment of national targets with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets. As an outcome of the Pacific dialogue, countries have shared plans on the next steps required for revising or updating their NBSAPs including submission of national targets by the CBD COP16 and identified some areas that would need further support such as development of national financing plans.
7. The NBSAP Dialogue involved over 90 participants including government representatives from 14 PIC environment departments as well as some participants from agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Also attending were technical representatives from CROP organisations included OPOC, SPC and SPREP, members of partner organisations of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), and the Australian government as SPREP metropolitan member.

Preparations for CBD COP16

8. CBD COP16 is hosted by Colombia in Cali in October 2024. A Pacific preparatory meeting is convened from 9-14th September 2024 at the SPREP Campus in Apia, Samoa. This meeting will:
 - a. support development of regional briefs and positions on priority agenda items,
 - b. identify opportunities for countries to lead on different priority items,
 - c. build enhanced negotiation skills,
 - d. development of a Pacific communication plan and media briefs
 - e. facilitate enhanced Pacific youth engagement.
 - f. Coordinate One-CROP support at COP 16
9. The pre-COP will involve representatives from the 14 PICs from the SPREP focal points, as well as agriculture/fisheries/forests representatives through support from FAO to encourage multi-sectoral consideration of issues. Observers will include NGO members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), and CROP partners including SPC and OPOC.
10. SPREP will coordinate the work of the One-CROP and provide mechanisms for PIRT engagement to support the engagement of countries at COP16.
11. For the first time Pacific Permanent Missions to the United Nations based in New York attended the CBD COP including the Ambassador of Samoa (who was also outgoing Chair of PSIDS and incoming Chair of AOSIS) and the Ambassador of Fiji. PSIDS engagement may continue at COP 16 and SPREP has established links with Pacific missions to the UN in New York particularly the Ambassador for Vanuatu as the current PSIDS Chair. SPREP Focal Points are encouraged to coordinate with their respective missions to the UN in New York

Support for Pacific preparations and attendance at COP

12. SPREP acknowledges and thanks New Zealand for financial support provided for SPREPs activities relating to engagement and participation of PICs in the CBD and other biodiversity MEAs. SPREP likewise acknowledges the technical and financial support of PIRT partners and the Secretariat of the CBD, Pew Charitable Trust, UNEP, FAO and the ACP MEA3 project.

Recommendation:

13. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **Encourage** Members to strengthen their national coordination for COP 16 including with their respective missions to the UN in New York;
 - 2) **Ensure** country delegations attending CBD COP16 are actively engaged and participate fully in the CBD COP 16 process and negotiations; and
 - 3) **Note** that SPREP is liaising closely with PSIDS Chair and will coordinate One CROP and PIRT support to Pacific delegations to CBD COP 16.
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