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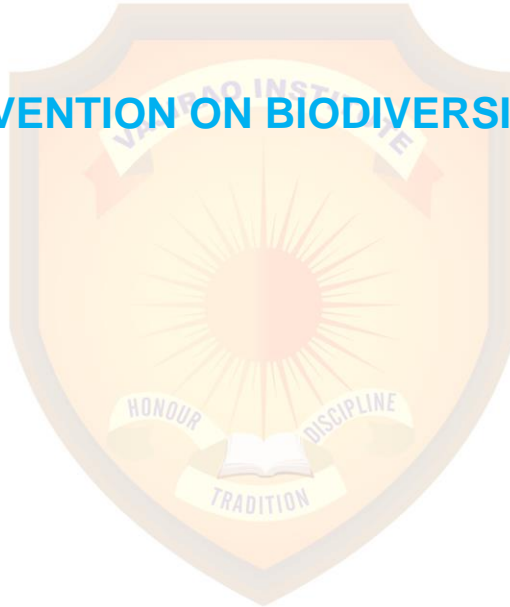
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(06 November 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- CoP 16 OF UN CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY (UN CBD)
- MCQs



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CoP 16 OF UN CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY (CBD)



- The 16th Conference of Parties (**COP-16**) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Cali, Colombia from October 21 to November 1, 2024.
- During this conference, **India launched an updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).**
- **COP16 Theme: Peace with Nature**

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HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS CoP 16 OF UN CBD?

The **16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16)** to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** ended in **confusion and indecision** on **Saturday** after almost 12 hours of negotiations.

The summit **aimed to address critical issues about biodiversity conservation and protecting nature**. While some important agreements were made, **key issues remained unsolved, meaning countries will have to continue talks at a meeting in Bangkok in 2024**.

ORIGIN & PREVIOUS CoPs OF UN CBD

- **Origin:** The Convention was **opened for signature in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit)**.
 - The Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**) **entered into force on 29 December 1993**.
- **Secretariat:** Montreal, Canada.
- **Ratification:** The CBD has been **ratified by 196 nations**, making it one of the most widely adopted international treaties.

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- The **United States** is the only **UN member state** that has not ratified the **convention**.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1993

- Legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity
- CBD Conference of Parties is the governing body of the Convention

MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

- **COP 1 (1994):** Nassau, Bahamas
 - Proposed 29 December as International Day for Biological Diversity
- **EX COP 1: First Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties**
 - At Cartagena, Colombia (Feb 1999) & Montreal, Canada (Jan 2000)
 - Adoption of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- **COP 5 (2000):** Nairobi, Kenya
 - UNGA adopted 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity
- **COP 6 (2002):** The Hague, Netherlands
 - Global Taxonomy Initiative, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted
- **COP 8 (2006):** Curitiba, Brazil

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- Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) Report 2 (GBO 1 in 2001)
- **COP 10 (2010):** Nagoya, Japan
 - Nagoya Protocol (Access to Genetic Resources and Fair & Equitable Sharing of Benefits) adopted
 - Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- **COP 11 (2012):** Hyderabad, India
 - GBO 3
- **COP 14:** Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

COP 15 :

PHASE-I

- **Theme:** Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
- Held in Kunming, China (October 2021)
- Kunming Biodiversity Fund

PHASE-II

- Held in Montreal, Canada
- Adopted Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

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- **4 goals & 23 targets** to be achieved by 2030.
- **30 by 30 Target** - restore 30% degraded ecosystems and protect at least 30% of the world's lands, oceans and coastal areas by 2030
- No single country met all 20 Aichi targets (expired in 2020) within its own borders

THE 23 TARGETS



Reducing threats to biodiversity

Target 1: Biodiversity Inclusive Integrated Land / Sea Use Planning

Target 2: Ecosystems Restoration

Target 3: Protect And Conserve Land And Sea Areas

Target 4: Management Of Species And Genetic Diversity

Target 5: Harvest, Trade, And Use Of Wild Species

Target 6: Invasive Alien Species

Target 7: Reduce Pollution Risks And Negative Impact

Target 8: Minimize The Impact Of Climate Change



Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

Target 9: Sustainable Use For Multiple Benefits

Target 10: Sustainable Management Of Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries And Forestry

Target 11: Regulation Of Air, Water, Hazards And Extreme Events

Target 12: Increase Access To Green And Blues Spaces

Target 13: Access And Benefit Sharing

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Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

Target 14: Mainstreaming Biodiversity

Target 15: Sustainable Production, Supply Chains And Disclosure Of Risks

Target 16: Eliminate Unsustainable Consumption

Target 17: Strengthen Biosafety Regulatory Capacity

Target 18: Repurpose Harmful Incentives

Target 19: Resource Mobilization

Target 19: Resource Mobilization

Target 20: Capacity Development, Technology And Scientific Cooperation

Target 21: Communication, Awareness, And Knowledge Management

Target 22: Equitable And Effective Participation In Decision Making

Target 23: Gender Equality In Decision Making And Implementation



KEY OUTCOMES

- **Global Tax on Genetic Data from Nature: Cali Fund**
 - **Genetic data** from nature (called **Digital Sequence Information**, or DSI) is increasingly used in products like medicines but has often been accessed without payment. A major agreement at COP16 was the decision to introduce a **global tax** on companies that profit from using this data.

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- **Criteria for Companies:** Companies will need to meet two out of three criteria:
 - Sales of over **\$50 million**.
 - Profits of over **\$5 million**.
 - **\$20 million** in total assets.
- **Contribution to DSI Fund:** Companies meeting these criteria will have to contribute **1% of their profits** or **0.1% of their revenue** to the DSI fund.
- **Potential Fund Size:** The fund could raise more than **£1 billion** (about **\$1.25 billion**) each year for nature conservation.
- **Benefit to Indigenous Communities:** At least **50% of the fund** will go to **Indigenous communities** involved in conservation work, ensuring that poorer countries benefit from the use of their natural resources.
- **Indigenous and Local Communities' Permanent Role in Decision-Making:**
 - A significant achievement at COP16 was the decision to give **Indigenous peoples and local communities** a **permanent role** in the UN biodiversity process. This means they will no longer need to rely on governments to represent their interests in environmental talks.

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- For over **20 years**, **Indigenous groups** had only an **informal role**, but now they will be able to participate in discussions directly. This is the **first time** any **UN environmental body** has taken such a step.
- **Inclusion of Afro-descendant People:** The decision also includes **Afro-descendant communities**—people of African descent living in the Americas—giving them formal recognition in biodiversity decision-making.
- **Failure to Raise \$200 Billion Annually for Biodiversity Protection:**
 - One of the main goals of COP16 was to agree on a plan to raise **\$200 billion** every year by **2030** to protect nature. This target was set in **2022** but no clear plan was made to achieve it.
 - **\$20 Billion Pledge for Poorer Countries:** Richer countries had promised to give **\$20 billion** each year to help poorer countries protect biodiversity, but this goal was not met, leaving developing nations frustrated.
 - **Frustration from Developing Countries:** Representatives from countries like **Sierra Leone** expressed anger, saying that governments can easily raise money for crises like **pandemics** and **wars**, but are not willing to provide similar funding to protect the planet's nature.

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- **No Progress on New Finance Mechanism:**

- Poorer countries, especially those in **Africa** and **Brazil**, called for a new way to distribute biodiversity funds. The current system, managed by the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, is seen as **difficult to access** and controlled by richer nations. This issue was not resolved at COP16.

- Countries from the Global South argued that a **fairer** and more **transparent** system was needed to ensure that all nations have access to the financial resources they need.

- **No Agreement on How to Monitor Progress:**

- One of the most critical issues that remained unresolved at COP16 was **how to monitor progress** on the **23 biodiversity targets** set at **COP15 in Montreal (2022)**.

Despite having a draft monitoring framework agreed upon by most countries, **COP16 ran out of time** to formalize it.

- Without a clear system for **tracking progress**, the risk is that these targets, which aim to halt biodiversity loss, will remain **unmonitored** and therefore **unachievable**.

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- **National Biodiversity Targets**

- **Submissions:** Out of the CBD's 196 Parties, **119 countries submitted national biodiversity targets to help achieve the 23 targets** outlined in the KMGBF.
- **NBSAPs:** As of now, **44 countries have submitted National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans to support these targets.**
- **New Thematic Action Plan:** Introduced to **address inequities through capacity-building, technology transfer,** and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.

- **Synthetic Biology**

- **Definition:** Synthetic biology involves using **engineering principles to create new organisms or modify existing ones through techniques such as DNA sequencing** and genome editing.

- **Invasive Alien Species**

- **Guidelines:** Proposed guidelines for **managing invasive alien species,** which include **creating new databases, enhancing cross-border trade regulations,** and improving coordination with **e-commerce platforms.**

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- **Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health**

- **Approval:** A Global Action Plan was approved to address the emergence of **zoonotic diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, and promote sustainable ecosystems.**
- **One Health Approach:** Embraces a **holistic approach recognizing the interconnected health of ecosystems, animals, and humans.**

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS

India has been actively involved in the **CBD processes**, with a delegation led by **Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh.**

Key highlights from India's participation include:

- **Updated Biodiversity Plan:**

- **India plans to spend approximately ₹81,664 crore (around \$10 billion) on biodiversity and conservation initiatives from 2025 to 2030.**
- From 2018 to 2022, the **country invested ₹32,207 crore (about \$4 billion) in biodiversity efforts.**

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- **Funding Requirements:**

- To meet future financial requirements for biodiversity initiatives, **India emphasized the need for funding beyond regular government allocations.**
- Indian officials stressed that **international financial support would be essential to achieve the targets outlined in the KMGBF.**
- **Target 19 of the KMGBF calls for mobilizing \$200 billion per year for biodiversity,** including \$30 billion through international financing.

- **Significant Conservation Initiatives:**

- India highlighted its **establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance, which aims to protect seven major big cat species,** reflecting a commitment to global wildlife conservation.
- **The number of Ramsar sites in India has increased from 26 to 85 since 2014, with projections to reach 100 soon.**
- These sites are wetlands recognized for their ecological significance.

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MCQs

1. Which of these conventions were adopted in the Rio Earth Summit?

1. United Nations Convention to combat desertification
2. United Nations Convention for Biodiversity
3. United Nations Convention to combat desertification.

- (A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 3
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) All of the above

Ans. (D)

2. Consider the following statement and mark the correct one:

1. The Aichi Biodiversity targets had to be met till 2020.
2. The Aichi Biodiversity targets were adopted in CoP 10 of CBD.

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 & 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)

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3. Which country has signed the UN Convention on Biodiversity (UN CBD) but not ratified it?

- (A) USA
- (B) Egypt
- (C) Japan
- (D) France

Ans. (A)

4. Consider the following statements wrt CoP 16 of UN CBD and mark the correct one:

1. Global Tax on Genetic Data from Nature has been approved.
2. Indigenous and Local Communities' Permanent Role in Decision-Making has been enabled.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 & 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)

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