

Key Asks for SBSTTA 27

Centering Human Rights in the CBD

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in 2022 was a historic step in recognising the vital link between human rights and biodiversity. Parties agreed that the *“implementation of the Framework should follow a human rights-based approach, respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights”* (KMGBF, Section C). Since then, many Parties revised their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national targets, incorporating several elements of a human rights-based approach (HRBA).

Shifting from commitment to practice, SBSTTA 27 and SB8j 1 are decisive moments to ensure guidance and decisions across agenda items uphold human rights at their core. Only by doing so can the KMGBF deliver the transformative change urgently needed to reverse biodiversity loss and safeguard the rights of those who most depend on and care for it.

In this brief, the Human Rights & Biodiversity Working Group sets out key asks for Parties and observers to ensure that recommendations coming out from SBSTTA 27 advance the effective and equitable, rights-based implementation of the KMGBF.

Item 3: Planning, monitoring, reporting, and review: global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- **We call on Parties to report on Section C, especially on HRBA, in their 7th National Report.**
- **Ensure that the Global Report and the global review process comprehensively analyse and review how Section C and its principles have been considered and integrated in National Reports.**
- **Ensure that non-state actors, particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities, people of African descent, women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, civil society organisations and other rightsholders are engaged fully and effectively in the National Report development process, and their contributions to KMGBF implementation are appropriately accounted for in the global report and review.**
- **Establish a concrete process in which rightsholders particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth, can contribute to the global review. Encourage and support independent and complementary reporting** e.g. Local Biodiversity Outlooks 3, and other community-led monitoring and reporting.
- **Scientific and traditional knowledge are complementary and equally valid.** IPBES stresses Indigenous and Local Knowledge as a knowledge foundation that can contribute towards more just and effective outcomes. **Recognise and ensure traditional knowledge is integrated in the global report, in line with the SB8J mandate.** Ensure that the new PoW on Article 8(j) is fully integrated in SBSTTA advice.
- **Integrate the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) mid-term review process and results into the global review and report,** using evidence from it, as well as from the IPBES Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments to show that gender justice is integral to equitable and sustainable outcomes, and to advance gender equality through improved funding, leadership, and accountability for women and girls.
- **Ensure Parties report on all headline and binary indicators of the monitoring framework, and include indicators relating to rights, equity, gender and traditional knowledge,** particularly to monitor targets 22 and 23^[1], in their national plans and reports.

^[1] In particular, but not limited to, the four TK indicators including HI 22.1; and the indicator co-developed for the national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.

Item 4: Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- **Integrate key findings from IPBES Transformative Change and Nexus Assessments in national planning, monitoring and reporting processes.** Parties are urged to consider and apply the vast amount of well-established evidence in support of the promotion of rights and equity for positive outcomes for people and nature.
- **Integrate human rights as a core element of any IPBES assessment** in line with [COP16 decision 16/11](#), which invites IPBES *'to explore ways to raise awareness of and include in its work matters related to the human rights-based approach, as relevant'*. This is necessary to help close a key knowledge gap related to biodiversity and human rights and advance transformative change for people and planet. **This invitation to IPBES should be reiterated in the proposed COP17 decision recommended by SBSTTA 27.**

Item 5: Biodiversity and climate change

- **Climate change and biodiversity loss are interrelated global crises** that require urgent, coordinated, and inclusive responses that are human-rights-based, gender-responsive, socially inclusive, and environmentally effective.
- We call on Parties to **break down policy and funding silos** and adopt integrated nexus responses, as evidence from the IPBES Nexus assessment shows this would reduce trade-offs, lower costs, and avoid the heavy losses of inaction^[2].
- **Enhanced coordination between the Rio Conventions:** I) **Need for aligned monitoring** and integrated reporting systems; II) **Secure land tenure** for Indigenous Peoples and local communities and women, as foundation for biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable land management^[3]; III) **Full and coherent implementation of the Gender Action Plans (GAPs)** across the Rio Conventions; IV) **Increase equitable and direct access to finance** for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth, while reducing and reforming harmful incentives and subsidies.
- Parties are called to **enhance collective actions, including by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based approaches** including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity, not solely nature-based solutions or market-based approaches. **These actions must be grounded in the full respect, protection, and fulfilment of all human rights**, in line with international human rights law and instruments.
- **Request the Secretariat to compile existing information on carbon and biodiversity credits, offsets and other market-based approaches and their effects on biodiversity and human rights.** These should reflect diverse views, experiences and knowledge, and commit to the imperative of phasing out fossil fuels.
- **The Supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines** for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction **must ensure that NbS/EbA implementation under the KMGBF is human rights-based, gender-responsive and evidence-based**; and is consistent with cautions about NbS in [UNEA resolution 5/5](#).
- The Supplement also needs to provide information on how to assess trade-offs of NbS through the lens of diverse values and based on an HRBA.
- **The Supplement should be complemented by effective social and environmental safeguards that comply with international human rights law and instruments.** Accessible and well-resourced grievance and redress mechanisms should be put in place to uphold rights and accountability.

^[2] This could include common consultation mechanisms for NBSAPs, NDCs and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) processes across the Rio Conventions.

^[3] Relevant tools and instruments such as the [UNCCD Decision 26/COP14](#) and the [FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure \(VGGT\)](#) need to be better integrated.

Item 6: Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- **States must take their obligations under international human rights law into account when implementing their obligations under environmental treaties - such as the CBD.** The International Court of Justice has clarified this in its [Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change of 23 July 2025](#) (ICJ AO, para 404).
- **States' obligations regarding human rights law should be reflected in the ongoing work supporting the strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work in addition to being implemented** in all existing programmes of work (6a), as well as the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity (6b), and the areas of potential further work (6c). Considering the gap in guidance for the implementation of the KMGBF following a human rights-based approach, **the topic of human rights, including intergenerational and gender equity, should be among the areas where CBD will advance further work.**
- **The review and analysis of the programmes of work should take into consideration the recommendations of the IPBES Nexus Assessment (2024).**
- **Biological and Cultural Diversity remains a critically important cross-cutting issue** for the implementation of [decision 15/22](#), of the KMGBF, and to strengthen the implementation of a number of elements in PoW Art 8(j).
- **Gender and Biodiversity remains a critically important cross-cutting issue** for achieving T23, as well as all other targets, through the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. Consistent and systematic work on this and future SBSTTAs is recommended, including looking into synergies with the GPA midterm review results.



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