

**05– 11 – 2024**

- News: Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)
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## **Conference of Parties (COP 16) to CBD**

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### **Key Highlights of Conference of Parties (COP 16) to CBD**

- India launched the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) at COP 16 to the CBD aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

### **Operationalization of the Cali Fund**

- Cali Fund was established to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources.
- At least 50% of the Cali Fund will focus on the self-identified needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly women and youth.

- DSI refers to genomic sequence data that plays a fundamental role in environmental and biological research.

### **Permanent Subsidiary Body**

- Parties agreed to establish a new permanent subsidiary body on article 8j that deals with preservation and maintenance of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples.
- They also adopted a new Programme of Work on indigenous peoples and local communities.
- It outlines specific tasks to ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities meaningfully contribute to the conservation, sustainable use, and fair sharing of biological diversity.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

- Parties agreed to develop a new “Strategy for Resource Mobilization” to help secure USD 200 billion annually by 2030 to support biodiversity initiatives worldwide.
- Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) was launched at COP 16 with a USD 200 million contribution from China.

- Another goal is to **redirect USD 500 billion per year in subsidies that harm biodiversity by 2030.**

### **National Biodiversity Targets**

- **119 countries out of CBD's 196 Parties, submitted national biodiversity targets to help reach the 23 KMGBF targets.**
- **To date 44 countries have submitted National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans to support the implementation of national targets.**

### **Synthetic Biology**

- **COP-16 introduced a new thematic action plan to help address the inequities through capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.**
- **Synthetic biology uses engineering principles to create new organisms or modify existing ones through DNA sequencing and genome editing.**

### **Invasive Alien Species**

- **It proposes guidelines for managing invasive alien species through new databases, improved cross-border trade regulations, and enhanced coordination with e-commerce platforms.**

## **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)**

- COP 16 agreed on a new and evolved process to identify EBSAs.
- Established in 2010, EBSAs identify the most critical and vulnerable areas of the ocean and have since become a focal point in ocean conservation efforts.

## **Sustainable Wildlife Management and Plant Conservation**

- A decision on sustainable wildlife management emphasised the need for monitoring, capacity-building, and inclusive participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, and women.
- Progress in plant protection should be measurable and consistent with global biodiversity targets.

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

- At COP 16, CBD Parties approved a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health designed to help curb the emergence of zoonotic diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, and promote sustainable ecosystems.
- The strategy embraces a holistic “One Health” approach that recognizes the health of ecosystems, animals, and humans as interconnected.

## **Risk Assessment**

- In Cali, Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety welcomed new, voluntary guidance on assessing the risks posed by living modified organisms (LMOs) containing engineered genes.

## **Recognition of People of African Descent**

- A further decision was taken to recognize the role of people of African descent in implementing the Convention.