



MINISTÈRE
DE LA TRANSITION
ÉCOLOGIQUE,
DE L'ÉNERGIE, DU CLIMAT
ET DE LA PRÉVENTION
DES RISQUES

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Press kit

UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

COP 16

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EDITORIAL

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The science is clear: the collapse of biodiversity is one of the main challenges of this century. Due to human activities, the planet's ecosystems are being damaged and are disappearing. Over one million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction today; an unprecedented phenomenon since the last mass extinction 65 million years ago.

The loss of species is irreversible. This situation is all the more severe as the diversity of living organisms is essential to our survival: it is the source of all food production and a large portion of the economy, it enables us to cure diseases, it helps slow down climate change and it fights against pollution. In this aggravating context of the triple planetary crisis concerning climate, biodiversity and pollution, the preservation of life is not only a question of protecting nature and a moral imperative, but also an essential condition for the survival of humanity.

The previous COP15 on the Convention on Biological Diversity, organised in December 2022 in Montreal, enabled the historic adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This defined 23 targets to be achieved, including the protection of 30% of land and ocean areas by 2030. Now comes the time to accelerate its implementation in order to reinforce the effects in the field, in a concrete manner.

During the COP16, which is taking place in Cali in Columbia from 21st October to 1st November, the States will review their commitments, in particular through their strategies and national

action plans. Procedures for monitoring each State's commitments must be finalised on this occasion. Financial matters will also be central to the discussions, as the tools required to support the goals laid down during the COP 15 need to be specified. The discussions will also focus on benefit-sharing linked to the commercial exploitation of the sequencing of genetic resources found in nature.

In Cali, I will champion a powerful ambition for the protection and restoration of nature. We have already taken action at national level: France was one of the first countries, in late 2023, to adopt a National biodiversity strategy in line with the COP 15 Global Framework. On an international level, our country doubled its aid amount in favour of biodiversity, with 1.1 billion Euros in 2023. I will also highlight various innovative financial initiatives in favour of living systems, such as the funding of country partnership for forests, nature and climate or the definition of high-level principles enabling the deployment of biodiversity credits, which finance nature protection.

The COP16 on biodiversity will be immediately followed by the COP29 on climate in Azerbaijan, the COP16 on desertification in Saudi Arabia, and the last session of negotiations for the adoption of a treaty against plastic pollution, in South Korea. Finally, France will host the Ocean Conferences in Nice in June 2025. These international events are crucial steps in finding common solutions against the triple planetary crisis.

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest. The river has several sandy banks and a clear, turquoise-green water. The surrounding forest is dense with various shades of green. In the bottom left corner, there is a semi-transparent yellow and green circular graphic element.

UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

COP16

HOW DOES THE UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE - COP16 WORK ?

The United Nations' Convention on biological diversity (CBD) is one of the three major Conventions of Rio, established on 5th June 1992 during the United Nation's Conference on environment and development, often also called the Earth Summit. **In a context of global biodiversity collapse**, it aims to ensure the preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as to maintain a fair and equitable share of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. It is the main international instrument for biodiversity preservation.

It is accompanied by two protocols: **the Cartagena Protocol** on the prevention of risks in biotechnology and **the Nagoya Protocol** on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation. France approved the CBD in 1994, the Nagoya protocol in 2016, and the Cartagena protocol in 2003.

The State Parties of this Convention meet every two years, during the Conference of the Parties (COP), to work towards its implementation. In 2022, the COP15 concluded with the adoption of a Global Biodiversity Framework, called the Kunming-Montreal global framework. This document lays out the roadmap for international action in favour of biodiversity until 2030 and offers a vision of society in harmony with nature by 2050.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE COP 15

The **15th COP for the Convention for Biological Diversity (CDB)**, took place in Montreal from 7th to 19th December 2022. It enabled the adoption of **a strategic global biodiversity framework for the 2020-2030 period, the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework**.

This framework sets **4 major goals and 23 key targets** to reduce the pressure on biodiversity, to protect it and use it sustainably. The new framework differs from the previous one with an implementation and monitoring which requires more transparency and liability from the Parties regarding the implementation of their goals.

THE MAIN TARGETS ADOPTED DURING THE COP 15

TARGET 2

Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems.

TARGET 7

Reduce pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity.

TARGET 18

Reduce harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion per year, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity.

TARGET 3

Conserve 30% of land, waters, and seas.

TARGET 8

Minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience.

TARGET 19

Mobilize \$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \$30 billion through international finance.

TARGET 22

Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE COP16

1. Finalise the implementation of the global framework

The COP15 enabled the adoption of an implementation mechanism enabling transparency and liability regarding the commitments made. This mechanism provides for the production:

- **of national biodiversity strategies (called NBSAP for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans)** in line with the global framework's goals and targets;
- **of national reports** stating the implementation and based on common indicators;
- **of a global implementation review** in 2026 aiming to evaluate the global ambition and renew the political commitments for the implementation of the framework during the COP17.

The COP16 should finalise certain elements of the implementation mechanism, in particular certain indicators which make up the monitoring framework as well as the adoption of procedures regarding the organisation and reporting of the global review. It will also provide an opportunity to draw up a review of the national commitments made, based on an analysis of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) which need to be drawn up or revised by the States, in line with the Kunming-Montreal global framework.

The deployment of the Global biodiversity framework fund (GBFF)

In a little over 18 months, a total of 220 million USD in contributions have been collected. From June 2024, the first projects were approved and the governance was finalised. These first projects benefited several countries (Mexico, Brazil, Gabon), helping them comply with the aims of the global biodiversity framework.

UN Biodiversity Conference COP16 in a nutshell

The Convention on biological diversity will take place from 21st October to 1st November 2024 in Cali, Columbia. It aims to reinforce and accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework, while leaving space for financial challenges, to define the monitoring tools of the aims set by the framework.

2. Mobilise all sources of biodiversity funding

The Kunming-Montreal framework calls for a mobilisation of all economic policy levers and all sources of funding, both public and private, and both domestic and international. This represents a unique level of ambition amongst other multilateral agreements on the environment.

Four targets focus on the mobilisation of all sources of funding (14, 15, 18 and 19). Targets 14 and 15 focus on the sectoral integration of biodiversity and the alignment of public and private financial flows in favour of biodiversity. Target 18 provides for the identification and gradual phasing out of harmful subsidies for biodiversity with a reduction target of 500 billion USD per year from 2030. Target 19, relating to funds to implement the global framework, includes two numerical targets to be achieved: a global target of 200 billion USD of funding per year from all sources to be mobilised by all countries; an increase in international funds from developed countries and from countries able to contribute towards developing countries, small island developing States and the least developed countries, to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030.

The COP15 also asked the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to establish a Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework fund (*Global biodiversity framework fund*, GBFF) dedicated to supporting the implementation of the global biodiversity framework.

The COP16 aims to reinforce and finalise the **funding mobilisation strategy** for the implementation of the framework. The member countries should also decide if the Fund adopted at the COP15 (GBFF) is enough or if a new separate fund dedicated to biodiversity needs to be established.

3. Define a multilateral sharing mechanism on the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI)

The multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism linked to the commercial use of information derived from digital sequence on genetic resources (DSI)

must enable a broad mobilisation of resources to support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. In 2010, the Nagoya protocol established a first bilateral benefit-sharing mechanism linked to the use of material genetic resources. The global biodiversity framework broadened this consideration to electronic forms of tangible genetic resources, called digital sequence on genetic resources (DSI), in particular by providing the implementation of a multilateral mechanism, including a global fund.

The challenge of the COP16 is to define this multilateral mechanism and the dedicated global fund. The discussions will enable the following to be specified: venture contribution modalities (voluntary or obligatory), fund beneficiaries (all countries or only southern countries), interactions with the sharing of non-monetary benefits (technologies), the role of databases, as well as the governance of funds (accommodation by the GBFF or creation of a new fund). For France and the European Union, it will be essential to ensure that the mechanism guarantees legal certainty and clarity for all DSI users and maintains free access to data, in particular for the research sector. France and the European Union shall also ensure that the mechanism applies to all commercial DSI users and does not create any distortion of competition.

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

FRANCE'S COMMITMENT TO SERVE BIODIVERSITY DURING THE COP16

France bears witness to a long-standing commitment to biodiversity, both on a bilateral and multilateral level. During the COP16, France wishes to do its utmost to:

ENCOURAGE the Parties who have not yet done so to publish a **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**

SUPPORT the adoption of a solid monitoring framework covering the 23 targets of the framework and the adoption of ambitious methods to conduct the global review

HIGHLIGHT the increasing power of multilateral development banks, and of the Global biodiversity framework fund

MAKE A SUCCESS OF the Global biodiversity framework fund (GBFF) by promoting its quick launch since 2024

ADOPT a mechanism guaranteeing legal certainty and clarity for all digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI) users and free access for the research sector.

SUPPORT the adoption of a global action plan on biodiversity and health

SUPPORT the integration of biodiversity in all economic and political sectors

SUPPORT the adoption of ambitious decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity

FRANCE TAKES ACTION TO STOP BIODIVERSITY COLLAPSE AND REVERSE THE GLOBAL TREND

The protection and restoration of nature is a priority for the French government which is committed, through various funds, to developing innovative initiatives to support living systems.



1. An ambitious biodiversity fund in France

France actively participates in the funding of biodiversity. The country's contribution to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) strongly increased in 2022 to stand at 360 million USD over 4 years. The French Development Agency (AFD), for its part, has boosted the proportion dedicated to biodiversity and optimised the traceability of its actions in favour of biodiversity. Its objective of doubling its biodiversity funding between 2019 and 2025 has already been achieved, with 1.1 billion Euros of funding granted in 2023. The AFD is also committed to aligning all of its funding with the Kunming-Montreal framework by 2027, in the context of its climate-nature roadmap.

France is also involved in several country partnerships for forests, nature and climate, and in initiatives aiming to mobilise innovative sources of financing such as biodiversity certificates. To support developing countries in achieving the 30x30 preservation target, France created The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC for N&P) with Costa Rica in 2020. This coalition brings together 120 Member States and offers technical and financial assistance tools to help countries create protected areas.

Alongside these international funds, France has also taken on the commitment to eliminate or reform all public support that is harmful to biodiversity by 2030, thanks to its new national biodiversity strategy (NBS). The ecological compensation regime for biodiversity offsets brought about by contracting authorities was renewed through the Green Industry law with the creation of natural sites of compensation, restoration and renaturalisation (SNCRR). With the publication of texts relating to the SNCRR in the days to come, the first pilot projects are emerging and will enable the natural spaces to be protected and restored through compensatory and voluntary measures.

THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL ON BIODIVERSITY CREDITS

To meet the funding challenges linked to biodiversity raised in the Global biodiversity framework, France and the United Kingdom launched a joint initiative during the Paris Summit in June 2023. Chaired jointly by Dame Amelia Fawcett (president of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and Sylvie Goulard (former Deputy Governor of the Banque de France), a High-Level Panel was formed with some twenty experts to foster a global roadmap on biodiversity credits.

During the COP16, high level principles as well as recommendations will be presented to lay the foundations for high integrity biodiversity credit markets at various levels, including a global market, with some thirty pilot projects already experimenting with biodiversity credits.

2. A national Biodiversity strategy 2030 deployed in France and Overseas

France launched its national Biodiversity strategy 2030 in November 2023, and has endeavoured to encourage all Parties to revise their strategy or national targets (112 countries have published at least 1 national target and only 35 countries have submitted their revised strategy — figures dated October 24, 2024), with the support of the diplomatic network and French public operators.

The national biodiversity strategy 2030 (NBS) is a collective response to deal with the emergency, and to preserve biodiversity in France. It accelerates France's commitment in favour of biodiversity by offering 40 precise measures based on 4 axes to achieve the goals laid down by the global biodiversity framework by 2030:

- reduce the pressure applied on biodiversity;
- restore degraded biodiversity wherever possible;
- mobilise all actors;
- guarantee all means of achieving these goals.

3. The construction of a national nature restoration plan to meet the adopted European regulations

Entered into force in August 2024, the regulations on the restoration of nature helps to reverse the trend regarding the loss of nature, achieve climate neutrality, and improve Europe's resilience to the effects of climate change. These regulations will implement a set of measures to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea zones by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.

The French Government has launched several consultations identifying the needs in terms of knowledge, the reinforcement of existing public policies, new actions to be conducted to establish a national nature restoration plan. This plan will enable the territories to be accompanied in the restoration of degraded ecosystems, whether they are land, coastal, forest, agricultural, urban, or marine ecosystems.

4. The Water Plan, an action plan for a resilient and concerted management of water

All 53 measures of the Water plan, launched by the President of the Republic in March 2023, have been initiated. This plan focuses on several flagship measures, such as the fight against diffuse pollution, the restoration of aquatic environments and wetlands, and the sustainable management of water resources to ensure their availability and their quality.

The Water plan is in line with the ambitions of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 by contributing to the restoration of degraded ecosystems. One of its major axes aims to reinforce the resilience of aquatic ecosystems and further enhance the solutions based on nature in the face of mounting pressures, especially by integrating the problems of climate adaptation and by mobilising all actors - communities, farmers, manufacturers and citizens - and focussing on concrete actions.

5. The One Water Summit, a summit under the French and Kazakh Presidencies to improve the global governance of water

The management of water brings together all aspects of climate change, biodiversity and pollution. Today, it is at the heart of climate adaptation policies. To bring the question of water to the attention of the heads of State and the government, the president of French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, and the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, announced during the COP28, the organisation of a One Water Summit, which will be held in early December 2024 alongside the COP16 on desertification in Riyadh.

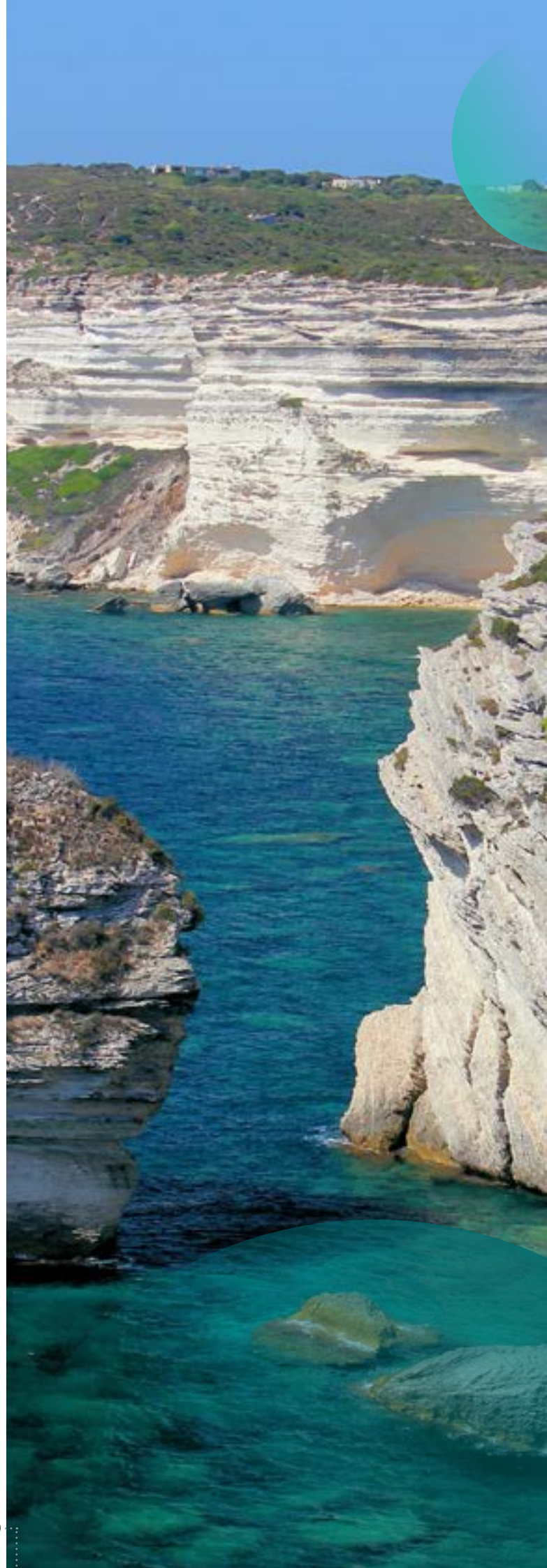
In line with the United Nations Conference on water in 2023, this summit will contribute to further discussions and to the ongoing processes at the United Nations to improve the global governance of water and meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation. The One Water Summit will provide concrete solutions before the preparation of the next United Nations Conference on water in 2026, while integrating the existing initiatives in the water sector (World Water Forum, Dushanbe Conference, World Water Week).

6. France committed to Ocean conservation

Oceans and marine biodiversity are threatened today by various pressures linked to the effects of climate change, pollution and the overexploitation of marine resources. The third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), organised in Nice, France from 9th to 13th June 2025, will bring together all the Member States of the United Nations, specialist agencies, civil society, the private sector and international donors to propose concrete solutions towards Ocean conservation.

This conference will put the emphasis on three priorities to make the ambitious Nice Ocean Agreements project a success:

- work to complete the multilateral processes linked to oceans to raise ambitions to protect the oceans, and in particular the entry into force of the **international High Seas and marine biodiversity Treaty**;
- mobilise funding to preserve and sustainably exploit oceans, seas and marine resources for the purpose of sustainable development (SDG14) and support the development of a sustainable blue economy;
- strengthen and spread knowledge linked to marine sciences for a better policy decision-making.



UPCOMING EVENTS

COP16

BIODIVERSITY

Cali, 21st Oct - 1st Nov

COP29

CLIMATE

Baku, 11th Nov - 22nd Nov

COP16

DESERTIFICATION

Riyadh, 2nd Dec - 13th Dec

ONE WATER SUMMIT

Riyadh, alongside the
COP 16 on desertification

PLASTIC TREATY

Busan, 25th Nov - 1st Dec

UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

Nice, June 2025

PRESS CONTACT

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