

Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

23-25 January, 2024, Universal Postal Union, Bern, Switzerland

Provisional Programme

(version 15 January 2023)

Introduction

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its fifteenth meeting through [decision 15/4](#). Implementation of the Framework and achievement of its goals and targets is not only fundamental to achieving the objectives of the CBD and its Protocols, but is also directly relevant to the mandates, interests and activities of a wide range of other initiatives, including other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). This has been recognized not only in the decisions of the CBD COP, but also in decisions of the governing bodies of several other MEAs.

During the development of the Framework, two consultation workshops were organized ([Bern I](#) and [Bern II](#)) which brought together party and secretariat representatives of a range of MEAs to contribute perspectives of other MEAs to its development and subsequent implementation. The valuable role of the 'Bern Process' has since been recognized in a number of decisions of MEA governing bodies, and through [decision 15/13](#) the CBD COP invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build on the Bern Process. In addressing this mandate, UNEP has convened the Bern III Conference with the support of the Government of Switzerland.

The Conference will be held at the headquarters of the Universal Postal Union in Bern, Switzerland starting at 09:00hrs on Tuesday 23 January and ending at 17:30hrs on Thursday 26 January. The Conference will be convened in person, with participation by invitation only. It will be co-chaired Ms Clarisse Kehler Siebert from Sweden and Ms Camila Isabel Zepeda Lizama from Mexico, who will be supported by facilitators and the conference planning team.

Goals and objectives

The Bern III Conference aims to contribute to efficient and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by identifying practical opportunities to drive and coordinate an inclusive, collaborative approach in implementation of the Framework while respecting the respective mandates of participating MEAs. The primary objectives of the conference are to:

- Identify opportunities to strengthen cooperation and collaboration within and among Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions, Rio conventions and other relevant MEAs in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at all appropriate levels.
- Suggest concrete steps that could be taken to strengthen cooperation and collaboration, while recognizing and respecting the roles and mandates of each MEA.
- Share practical experiences of cooperation and collaboration in implementation.

Deliverables

The Bern III Conference aims to identify practical opportunities, and encourage participants to follow up within their own constituencies in order to maximise impact. In this context there will be some flexibility in terms of deliverables and how they are used, but these are expected to include:

- A [conference report](#) which identifies the key elements discussed, and any conclusions and other options for action
- A potential [roadmap](#) of actions and milestones at appropriate levels, building on the discussions and any identified conclusions and options for action

- Identification of next steps for the Bern Process, building on the experience of the Bern III Conference.
- A strengthened network of “friends of the Bern process”, championing synergies among their respective MEA negotiations.

Key inputs

In order to help participants prepare, a number of key inputs have been identified, presented or referred to in the preparatory webinars, and/or available from the [conference webpage](#). These include:

- [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- Co-Chairs paper with options for enhanced collaboration to strengthen the policy, engagement and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- [Information paper 1 – Mandates](#) summarizing mandates relating to the Bern Process and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the governing bodies of participating MEAs.
- [Information paper 2 – Meetings](#) listing upcoming meetings of MEA advisory and governing bodies, together with other relevant meetings
- [Information paper 3 – Cross-mapping MEA strategies](#) identifying key entry points for cooperation and collaboration amongst MEAs in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Case studies from participants (parties, civil society, MEA secretariats)

Participants may also find it useful to be aware of the report of the [Bogis-Bossey Expert Meeting](#) held to help prepare for the Bern III Conference, and the [GEF 8 Programming Directions](#) will also be referred to during the Conference. Other inputs are likely to be drawn attention to during the conference.

Time	Session
Day 1 (January 23)	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration (also open on 22 January 2pm)
9:00 – 9:45 am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of the Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ambassador Felix Wertli, Head of the International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Switzerland • Tita Korvenoja, Chief of Branch, Environmental Conventions and Policy, Law Division, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) • Co-Chairs of the Bern III Conference: Clarisse Kehler Siebert, Senior advisor, CBD & Cartagena Protocol, Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden and Camila Isabel Zepeda Lizama, Director General for Global Affairs at Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chief Climate and Biodiversity Negotiator, Mexico • Check-in of all participants with the facilitators
9:45 – 10:30 am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Input to create a level playing field amongst participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches by input givers: CBD, UNEP, GEF, Co-Chairs
10:30 – 11:30 am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extended coffee break with poster session and dialogue with the input givers in mixed groups
11:30 – 11:45 am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Chairs highlight some of the options they foresee to move forward towards 2030
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open discussion in plenary to establish where participants have questions on the input and/or questions to be raised and discussed during the conference
12:45 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 5:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Key topic for deliberation 1: Exploring opportunities for collaborative progress in delivering the KMGBF at the global level

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chairs present the 4 goals to form the structure of the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supporting the achievement of KMGBF targets enables all MEAs involved to achieve their own goals more effectively and efficiently; ○ Engaging with the GBF contributes to enhanced collaboration among MEAs and other relevant agencies with shared concerns/priorities/topics/targets; ○ Monitoring and reporting processes for the KMGBF use the same indicators, data sources and systems as other relevant MEAs to the extent possible, enhancing transparency and efficiency; ○ The roles of relevant MEAs in supporting the KMGBF are clearly recognized, both in preparing for implementation, and in the global review of collective progress towards the 2030 targets. • Table discussions in separate MEA groups: What needs to be done to achieve these goals and what is required to achieve it? • Tea break • Presentation of summaries of the discussions and feedback in plenary
5:20 – 5:30 pm	7. Co-Chairs' take-aways from the afternoon
5:00-5:15 pm	8. Group photograph
6:00-7:00 pm	9. Guided walk through Bern's Old City - UNESCO World Heritage (bring warm clothes and walking shoes). Meeting point is outside the CASINO BERN (Casinoplatz 1, 3011 Bern); Directions will be announced.
7:00 pm	10. Reception by Switzerland at the Bern Rathaus (Townhall), Main hall, Rathausplatz 2, 3011 Bern. The reception will begin with addresses by Ms. Katrin Schneeberger, Director of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and Mr. Alec von Graffenried, Mayor of the City of Bern

Time	Session
Day 2 (January 24)	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am	11. Summaries of the first Conference day and framing of the second day
9:30 am – 1:00 pm	12. Key topic for deliberation 2: Support for planning and implementation of the KMGBF at the national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chairs present the 4 goals as the framework for the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance cooperation in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs), ensuring that focal points for other relevant MEAs and relevant government units are engaged, and that the plans for achieving the targets of the KMGBF include mutually beneficial actions; ○ Create avenues for ongoing dialogue, collaboration and capacity-building on biodiversity-related issues, both within governments and with a broad range of stakeholders; ○ Continue efforts to align national monitoring, assessment and reporting systems across MEAs (in the spirit of KMGBF-implementation), to create efficiencies and reduce the burden on focal points; ○ Seize opportunities for collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels to advance the GBF and other relevant MEAs, aiming to foster lasting partnerships and mutual learning. • Table discussions on individual goals of participants' choice to come up with action items or recommendations • Coffee break • Presentation and discussion of the actions and recommendations in plenary and in a world café format • Summary by Co-Chairs

1:00 – 2:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 – 4:15 pm	13. Open panel to discuss and align on the ideas for national level planning and implementation opportunities with Co-Chairs and all participants
4:15 – 4:45 pm	Tea break
4:45 – 6:30 pm	14. Key topic for deliberation 3: Enhancing practical ways and mechanisms that facilitate cooperation for effective implementation of, and coherent and impactful policy and engagement for the KMGBF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chairs introduce the session • Panel discussions to flesh out the potential topics for discussion on day 3 on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy coherence and engagement ○ Integrated implementation
6:30 – 7:00 pm	Break
7:00 – 9:00 pm	15. Story-telling on the case-studies in an open-mike format with supper provided – exploring success factors and hurdles, challenges, potential and lessons learned

Time	Session
Day 3 (January 25)	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am	16. Summaries of the second Conference day and framing of the third day
9:30 – 10:30 am	17. Table discussions on specific questions arising from the panels on the key topic for deliberation 3: Enhancing practical ways and mechanisms that facilitate cooperation for effective implementation of, and coherent and impactful policy and engagement for the KMGBF
10:30 – 11:00 am	Coffee break
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	18. Develop results of the table discussions to continue to build the roadmap and identify further topics/questions to be resolved during the Bern III Conference
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 3:45 pm	19. Open Space session: participants are invited to propose further topics/questions for discussion during the Bern III Conference. These are then deliberated at new tables to come up with additional results to pave the way forward
3:45 – 4:30 pm	20. Extended tea break for participants to read through the roadmap and offer written feedback and additional ideas
4:30 – 5:30 pm	21. Closing round: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the written feedback on the roadmap • Presentation of the essence of the rapporteur's report and its timeline for review • Feedback on the Bern III Conference • Summary and closing by the Co-Chairs and Switzerland
5:30 pm	End of the Bern III Conference