



# The International Day for Biological Diversity 2023

**For Prelims:** [Biological Diversity Day](#), [UNFCCC COP 15](#), [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

**For Mains:** [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), [Outcomes of COP 15](#), Environmental Pollution & Degradation, Importance of Green Finance in sustainable development

## Why in News?

The [International Day for Biological Diversity \(IDB\)](#), celebrated on **22<sup>nd</sup> May** 2023, raises awareness about the importance of biodiversity for sustaining life on Earth.

- The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services highlights the **risk of extinction for around one million species**.
- To address the biodiversity crisis, the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) was adopted at the [15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties](#) (COP 15) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
  - This framework sets ambitious targets for 2030 and provides a roadmap for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity.

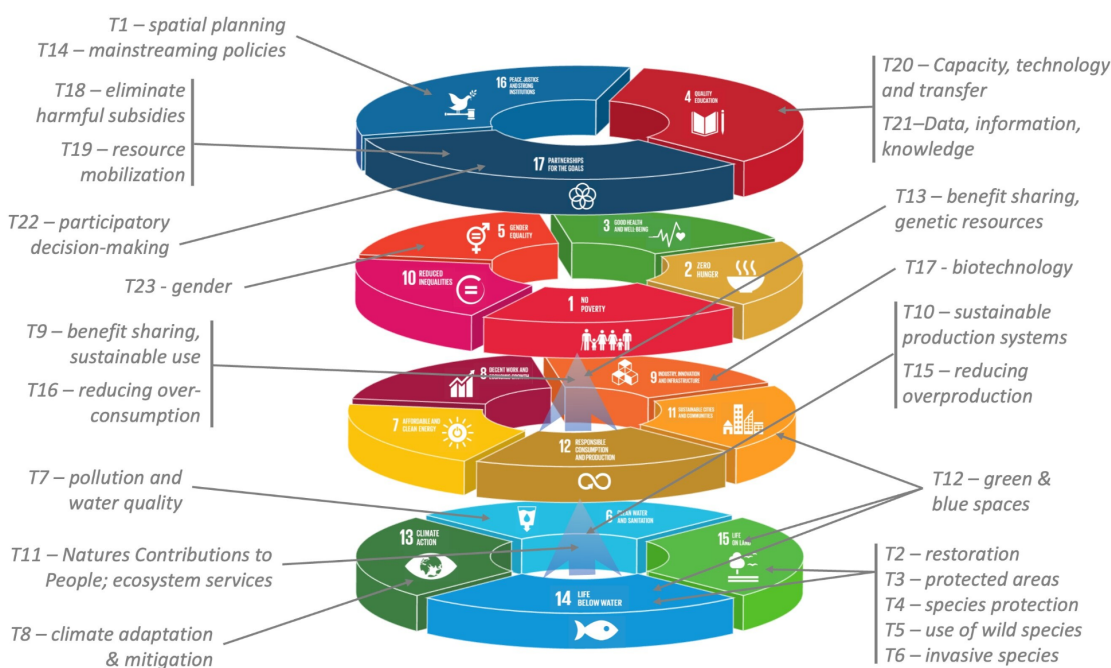
## What is International Day for Biological Diversity?

- **About:**
  - The [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) in 1993 proclaimed **22<sup>nd</sup> May** as IDB to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
    - The UNGA also declared the period **2011-2020** as the **United Nations (UN) Decade on Biodiversity** to promote the implementation of a strategic plan on biodiversity and its overall vision of living in harmony with nature.
    - It also declared **2021-2030** as the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** and the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**.
- **Theme:**
  - The theme for 2023 is **“From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity”**, which signifies the **pressing requirement to go beyond mere commitments and transform them into concrete actions** aimed at revitalizing and safeguarding biodiversity.

## What is Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

- **About:**
  - It calls for **urgent and integrated action** to reflect **biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy** but crucial issues - like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity-friendly supply chains have been left to discuss later.
    - It is **not a binding international agreement**.
  - It **calls upon the parties to mainstream biodiversity protection in decision-making** and recognise the importance of conservation in protecting human health.

- The theme of the declaration is **Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth.**
- By adopting this, the **nations have committed themselves to support the development, adoption and implementation** of an effective post-2020 implementation plan, a capacity building action plan for the [Cartagena Protocol on biosafety](#).
  - The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by **living modified organisms** resulting from modern biotechnology.
- As per the declaration the signatory nations will ensure that the **post-pandemic recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation** and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting sustainable and inclusive development.
- **30 by 30 Target:**
  - The declaration made a reference to the '30 by 30' target which is a **key proposal being debated at the COP15**, that would afford **30% of the Earth's land and oceans protected status by 2030.**
- **Main targets:**
  - The framework consists of **four goals and 23 targets for 2030.**
  - **The four goals are:**
    - **Conserve and restore biodiversity.**
    - **Ensure sustainable use of biodiversity.**
    - **Share benefits fairly and equitably.**
    - **Enable transformative change.**
  - **The 23 targets are:**



#### ▪ **Challenges with Implementation:**

##### ◦ **Limited Timeframe and Urgency:**

- With just seven years remaining to meet the GBF targets, immediate action is imperative due to the **critical state of around one million animal and plant species threatened with extinction.**
  - The urgent need to address biodiversity loss requires **accelerated efforts and comprehensive implementation strategies.**

##### ◦ **Funding Gap:**

- The Signatories aim to **ensure 200 billion USD per year is channelled to conservation initiatives**, from public and private sources. Raising international financial flows from developed to developing countries to at least USD 30 billion per year by 2025, and at least 30 billion USD a year by 2030. But this **funding has yet to be fulfilled.**

- **Lack of specific funding commitments for biodiversity**, as seen in recent **statements from the G7**, hinders the financial support required for effective implementation.
- **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP):**
  - Member states agreed to realign their [NBSAPs to the GBF](#), but progress in submitting the revised plans has been slow.
    - **Spain is the only country that has submitted its realigned NBSAP** so far, highlighting the need for more countries to develop and submit their plans to the CBD secretariat before COP16 in 2024.
- **Balancing Conservation and Indigenous Rights:**
  - The **target of protecting 30% of land and water has raised concerns regarding potential infringements on the rights of indigenous communities.**
  - Striking a balance between conservation efforts and respecting the rights and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples is essential for successful implementation.

**[Source: DTE](#)**

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