



PRESS RELEASE

New dates announced for UN Biodiversity Convention meetings crucial to development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- *UN Biodiversity Conference now scheduled for May 2021, with November 2020 dates announced for meetings of the CBD's two subsidiary bodies. These dates are being kept under review in light of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *Despite adjusted road map, the Convention on Biological Diversity remains committed to developing a robust and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
- *Post-2020 framework expected to play a significant role in building resilience and galvanizing international cooperation in the face of growing environmental, health and development challenges.*

15 July 2020 – New dates have been announced for three key UN meetings, including the UN Biodiversity Conference, crucial to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

As approved by the Bureau, the fifteenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-15), originally scheduled for October 2020, will now be held 17-30 May 2021, in Kunming, China.

Dates and venue have also been announced for the meetings of the Convention's two subsidiary bodies.

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) will be held 2-7 November 2020, and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) takes place 9-14 November 2020. Both meetings will convene in Quebec City, Canada.

“While nature is being degraded at unprecedented rates, our dependency on biodiversity has never been more evident,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary. “One of the most important lessons of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is that safeguarding nature is critical for protecting human health and wellbeing.”

“These meetings provide us with a tremendous opportunity to ensure that the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity is integrated into policies that will guide the post-pandemic economic and development recovery plans.”

Information regarding the dates of the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be made available in due course.



To maintain momentum ahead of the UN Biodiversity Summit in September 2020 and COP-15, and facilitate to preparations for SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3, a series of special virtual sessions of SBSTTA and SBI will be held 15-18 September 2020.

These sessions will include the launch of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which will provide a summary of the status of the world's biodiversity, and the testing of a Party-led review process through an open-ended forum. The sessions will provide the global community further opportunities to galvanize efforts at all levels to build a better future in harmony with nature.

Given the ongoing uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into account current restrictions on travel and the convening of large physical gatherings, it is possible that further adjustments may be required to the schedule of meetings. The CBD Secretariat continues to monitor developments and will announce any further changes that may become necessary.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15

The **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice** plays a key role in assessing the current status of the world's biodiversity and in bringing emerging issues related to the conservation of biodiversity to the attention of the global community.

Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:

www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-24

The **Subsidiary Body on Implementation** has four areas of work: (a) review of progress in implementation; (b) strategic actions to enhance implementation; (c) strengthening means of implementation; and (d) operations of the Convention and the Protocols.

Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3): www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-03

Preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic

resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 127 Parties.

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