



The Monitoring Framework: Serve the COP, save the GBF, do the work, NOW

By Mirna Ines Fernandez Pradel (TWN) and Jago Wadley (PAN UK)

“SBSTTA serves the COP, not the other way round.”

COP15 asked SBSTTA-26 to recommend a clear course of action on the GBF Monitoring Framework, following the extensive work of the AHTEG.

COP16 hosts Colombia don't want questions from SBSTTA, it wants and deserves advice, as do Parties to the CBD, and the entire world.

But there are proposals to bracket the entire work of the AHTEG on the Monitoring Framework, and kick the can on to/leave it until COP16. We are familiar with the excuses: there isn't time to do the work, there wasn't time to read the documents, it is difficult to decide what to recommend.

SBSTTA needs to step up and perform, today!

Parties to SBSTTA-26 need to:

- Endorse the revised Monitoring Framework submitted by the AHTEG, while encouraging ongoing work to finalize indicator methodologies and fill the gaps;
- Recommend that COP16 endorses and adopts the revised Monitoring Framework put before it in Cali, Colombia, while providing scope and a mandate for methodological refinements and revisions to be made prior to COP17, the possible reintegration of component and complementary indicators from the original, (as and where workable methodologies are identified or developed), and a review schedule moving forward.

Paragraph 6 of the current recommendation for COP in the contact group non-paper would prevent finalization prior to 2026 of various nearly completed indicator methodologies that are critical to informing NBSAP development and measuring implementation in key GBF targets.

The non-paper was also missing paragraph 4 of the original suggested recommendation to COP 16 in CBD/SBSTTA/26/2, which: “Encourages the organizations listed in annex II to continue to work with Parties and relevant organizations to develop and improve headline indicator methodologies, to propose updates and to share proposed updates to the metadata with the Executive Secretary, including on headline indicators 1.1 and 9.1 which do not yet have a methodology” Such advice should be reinstated.

Finally, paragraph 25 requests the Executive Secretary to work with Parties and other actors to conduct research and undertake work to fill the gaps in the monitoring framework. The process to address gaps could be best designated to the AHTEG in an extended mandate.

A GBF without a Monitoring Framework is an acronym without an aim. Parties to the CBD need the GBF Monitoring Framework to inform NBSAP development, implementation, and reporting. SBSTTA needs to advise the COP to give it to them.

Serve the COP, save the GBF, do the work, today!

Deliver on your NBSAPs... with Agroecology

By Faris Ahmed, independent researcher and consultant

Agroecology has captured the world's attention as a holistic, multifunctional approach to the polycrisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and food insecurity. Spread around the world by farmers and food provisioners, agroecology is a science, practice and movement that is strongly premised on equity and the rights over their territories, waters and genetic resources. It has 13 Principles (CFS) and 10 Elements (FAO) are widely recognized by governments.

Agroecology is an unparalleled opportunity to simultaneously achieve the goals of the Rio Convention by achieving multiple national targets. Investing in agroecology and using a food systems lens, produces multiple benefits right across the development spectrum, simultaneously addressing 15 of the 17 SDGs. While agroecology is part of Target 10 of the KMGBF, it is critical to Target 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23.

Parties have expressed growing interest in agroecology, and it is mentioned in 7 out of 8 NBSAPs currently submitted by governments. It is imperative to include agroecology and agroecosystems approaches in national strategies.

However, it is challenging to integrate a multidimensional approach into single targets or ministries. A whole of government frame is essential, one,

that adopts a food systems lens -- promoting synergies and co-benefits for climate, health, food and nutrition security and livelihoods -- from food production to distribution, consumption and waste.

National and subnational governments can include agroecology in their national plans in the following ways:

- Ensure the central place of agroecology in the development of national goals, targets, and indicators in their NBSAPs; as well as NDCs, SDG and LDN strategies and action plans.

- Increase the resources and support for developing multi-sector national planning frameworks and modalities that enhance the coherence and impact of multiple interventions.

- Support the full and inclusive participation of vital farmer, food producer and IPLC organizations at the front lines of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in the development, implementation and monitoring of national action plans.

For more information please visit: <https://www.agroecology-pool.org/national-biodiversity-strategies-and-action-plans/#:~:text=The%20Global%20Alliance%20for%20the,%20through%20policies%2C%20practices%2C%20and>

Self-withering: The Biodiversity Convention and its new Global Biodiversity Framework

By Dr S. Faizi

The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted at the end of 2022 marked another step in the process of weakening of the enforcement of the treaty that is finely balanced on the North-South axis.

The CBD articles that protect the interests of the South continue to remain silenced, the West winning a virtual amendment of the treaty by default. The adoption of the GBF itself was procedurally flawed and while some of its 23 targets to be achieved by 2030 are meaningful, some are problematic.

The target of increasing the global coverage of protected areas to 30 per cent each of the terrestrial and marine areas is likely to exclude the traditional caretakers of biodiversity and lead to further alienation of the historical custodians of biodiversity. The nature-based solutions (NbS) promoted by the GBF are likely to cause even more damage to the natural systems. The CBD provisions that are particularly favourable to the South are excluded from the GBF.



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