



Work under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relevant to the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Part I of the BBNJ Agreement

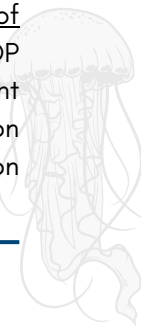
Setting global goals and targets for biodiversity, and monitoring progress towards these

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD has significant experience in developing global goals and targets for biodiversity, in line with the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Currently, Parties to the Convention and its Protocols are working to implement the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), which contains targets for 2030, such as Target 1 on spatial planning, Target 2 on restoration, Target 3 on area-based conservation (i.e., '30x30'), Target 4 on species conservation, Targets 5, 9 and 10 on sustainable use of biodiversity, Target 13 on benefit-sharing and Target 14 on biodiversity mainstreaming, among others. These are translated and implemented at the national level through national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

Facilitating coordination and cooperation across global and regional (including sectoral) bodies and organizations

The CBD Secretariat, together with UNEP and FAO, coordinate the [Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue](#), an ongoing process that brings together key global intergovernmental bodies as well as regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies to identify tangible opportunities for enhancing cooperation and coordination within and across regions and sectors and ways to strengthen their roles in achieving global objectives, including in the context of the BBNJ Agreement.

The CBD Secretariat has long-standing experience in coordinating with other conventions and organizations to strengthen cooperation and synergies in different thematic areas. The CBD Secretariat is a member of the [Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions](#), which was formed through CBD COP decision VII/26 and brings together the heads of the secretariats of eight biodiversity-related conventions to explore opportunities to strengthen coordination across their processes. The Secretariat also engages actively in coordination mechanisms such as UN-Oceans and the UN Environmental Management Group.





MARINE GENETIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS

Part II of the BBNJ Agreement

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization is the third objective of the Convention, which was further elaborated in the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. The Nagoya Protocol also addresses traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

The Nagoya Protocol establishes an [Access and Benefit-Sharing \(ABS\) Clearing-House](#) and requires Parties to share certain types of information through the Clearing-House, e.g. information on national measures to implement the Protocol, national focal points and competent national authorities, and permits issued at the time of access. The CBD Secretariat has extensive experience working with Parties to support the publication of information on the ABS Clearing-House.

The ABS Clearing-House also enables the sharing of information such as:

- [Community protocols](#) developed by indigenous peoples and local communities to address access to their traditional knowledge, among other things;
- [Codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices](#) on access and benefit-sharing developed by organizations; and
- [Capacity-building initiatives](#) and resources.

Digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources

In 2022, the CBD COP established a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI, including a global fund. The COP adopted the modalities of the mechanism in 2024 and named the global fund the 'Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources' (see [decision 16/2](#)). The Cali Fund was [launched](#) on 25 February 2025.

The modalities of the multilateral mechanism provide that all users of DSI should share benefits and commercial users of DSI should contribute monetary benefits to the Cali Fund. Entities that meet certain thresholds are expected to contribute a portion of their profits or revenues to the Cali Fund. Money will be disbursed from the Cali Fund through direct allocations to countries and should:

- Support the realization of the objectives of the CBD in developing country Parties, and Parties with economies in transition;
- Benefit indigenous peoples and local communities (where appropriate, at least half the money of the Cali Fund should support their self-identified needs); and
- Support building of capacity to generate, access, use, analyse and store DSI.

The multilateral mechanism is to be implemented in a way that is mutually supportive of and adaptive to other international ABS instruments on DSI. The governing bodies of other international instruments are invited to collaborate with the mechanism and, where appropriate, to streamline processes. The modalities also indicate that should any other intergovernmental forum decide to make use of the multilateral mechanism to share benefits from the use of DSI, then the Cali Fund should also support the realization of the objectives of these agreements.



MEASURES SUCH AS AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT TOOLS, INCLUDING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Part III of the BBNJ Agreement

Description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)

Since 2011, the CBD Secretariat has facilitated the process to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) on the basis of a set of scientific criteria adopted in decision [IX/20](#). As of 2024, 338 EBSAs have been mapped and described through 15 CBD regional workshops, reviewed by the CBD COP and included in the [EBSA repository](#). Furthermore, the adoption of new EBSA modalities (decision [16/16](#)) at COP 16 has revitalized the EBSA process.

The EBSA process is the only intergovernmental process of its kind to focus on purely on the ecological and biological significance of all parts of the ocean, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction. EBSAs provide a valuable knowledge base to support a range of management tools, including area-based management tools under the BBNJ Agreement, among other types of tools.

Area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area- based conservation measures (OECMs)

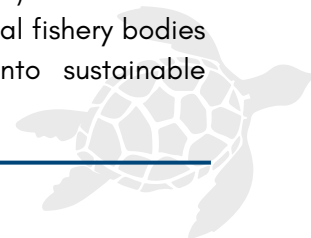
Significant experience and guidance have been developed under the CBD on area-based conservation, including with respect to effectiveness, equitability, representativity and connectivity. This includes, for example:

- Guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of MPAs, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats ([IX/20, annex II](#))
- Criteria and guidance on the identification and management of OECMs, adopted in decision [14/8](#)
- Guidance on the designation and management of area-based conservation measures, covering aspects such as governance, stakeholder engagement, and ecological representativity ([14/8](#))

Mainstreaming biodiversity into various sectors, in particular into the fisheries sector

Various forms of CBD guidance could inform measures focused on mitigating and minimizing various pressures, including measures applied through area-based management tools under the BBNJ Agreement. This includes, for example:

- COP decisions on mainstreaming of biodiversity into key relevant sectors, including into fisheries and aquaculture ([XIII/3](#)), and in energy, mining and infrastructure ([14/3](#))
- Commitments from high-level segments of meetings of the Conference of the Parties, such as the [Cancun Declaration](#) on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being (CBD COP 13)
- Significant technical work and collaboration with FAO, regional fishery bodies and other organizations on mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable fisheries management





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Part IV of the BBNJ Agreement

Biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessments

The CBD voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment (EIA), endorsed in decision [VIII/28](#), were later annotated to specifically address biodiversity in marine and coastal areas, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction ([UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23](#)). These provide guidance on integrating biodiversity considerations throughout the EIA process, including screening, assessment, reporting, and monitoring.

These guidelines could serve as a valuable resource for work under the BBNJ Agreement in its development of standards and/or guidelines related to EIAs. Additionally, they can be used by Parties to the Agreement in preparing EIAs, ensuring that biodiversity-related considerations are effectively integrated into all stages of the EIA process.

Guidance on key pressures on marine and coastal biodiversity

Guidance developed under the CBD COP on key pressures such as anthropogenic underwater noise ([decision XII/23](#)), ocean acidification ([decision XII/23](#)) marine debris ([decision XIII/10](#)), and work to synthesize experiences and knowledge on these issues, including through:

- [CBD Technical Series No. 99 on the impacts of underwater noise](#)
 - [CBD Technical Series No. 83 on marine debris](#)
 - [CBD Technical Series No. 75 on the impacts of ocean acidification](#)
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Mainstreaming biodiversity into various sectors

CBD guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity into key relevant sectors, including into fisheries, aquaculture and tourism ([XIII/3](#)), and energy, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors ([14/3](#)), could help inform measures to prevent, minimize or mitigate impacts on biodiversity in the context of EIAs.

Description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)

The CBD EBSA process, referred to above, can provide a valuable source of information on features and areas that may require enhanced caution with respect to human activities, including through the use of EIAs under the BBNJ Agreement.





CAPACITY-BUILDING AND THE TRANSFER OF MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Part V of the BBNJ Agreement

Capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation

Putting in place the means of implementation is a key focus of work under the CBD, and such efforts can also enhance capacity for implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, as well as provide key lessons learned. This includes, for example:

- CBD [Technical and Scientific Cooperation \(TSC\) Mechanism](#), comprising a network of 18 subregional TCS support centres
- [Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity-Building and Development](#), adopted in decision [15/8](#)
- [Sustainable Ocean Initiative](#) (SOI), a global capacity building platform coordinated by the CBD Secretariat that builds bridges across sectors and identifies needs and opportunities support developing countries in their implementation efforts
- Implementation of a strategy for resource mobilization for the Global Biodiversity Framework ([decision 15/7](#))

Coordination of clearing-house mechanisms

The CBD Secretariat coordinates three clearing-house mechanisms—the [CBD Clearing-House Mechanism](#), the [Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House](#) (under the Nagoya Protocol), and the [Biosafety Clearing-House](#) (under the Cartagena Protocol)—which support information exchange, scientific and technical cooperation, and knowledge sharing among CBD Parties. Additionally, the CBD Secretariat supports the coordination of national clearing-house mechanisms, which play a key role in facilitating the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The Secretariat's experience offers valuable insights for the development, operationalization and management of the Clearing-House Mechanism under the BBNJ Agreement.
