



Expectations Paper

CBD COP 17 - October 2026

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From Commitments to Accelerated Delivery

WWF Expectations for CBD COP17

COP17 must mark a decisive shift from commitments to accelerated delivery and put the world on a credible pathway to achieving the mission and targets of the KM-GBF. The first Global Review provides a critical opportunity for Parties to **raise ambition, accelerate action and address the systemic drivers of biodiversity loss**, backed by stronger political leadership and the financial and institutional conditions needed for effective, inclusive and transformative delivery.

To translate this shift into action, COP17 should:

- Close the global **ambition and implementation gaps** by urging Parties to strengthen the scope and coverage of national targets and urgently increase the pace and scale of action across all KM-GBF targets, with particular attention to those the Global Report identifies as **furthest off track**.
- **Drive transformative change in the systems underlying biodiversity loss** by removing barriers, scaling practical solutions and triggering **positive tipping points** across food, finance and governance.
- Fulfil commitments under KM-GBF Target 19 by **mobilising adequate, predictable and accessible resources, including international biodiversity finance** under Target 19(a); **aligning financial flows** with biodiversity objectives; **repurposing harmful incentives**; advancing a fit-for-purpose future financial architecture and broader contributor base; and strengthening capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and knowledge management.
- Make biodiversity a **whole-of-government priority** through stronger cross-sectoral integration and national implementation mechanisms.
- Advance rights, equity and inclusive implementation through **whole-of-society approaches** and stronger participation, leadership and stewardship of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other rights holders.
- Strengthen **policy coherence** and implementation **synergies** across the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions and processes.
- Strengthen implementation through **multi-stakeholder partnerships**, learning and cooperation, including regional collaboration, peer learning and science-policy exchange.

- **Strengthen accountability** through improved monitoring, transparency, reporting, review, collective learning and **corrective action**.

Success will be measured by whether COP17 generates a credible response to **the ambition and implementation gaps** through:

- The adoption of **ambitious COP decisions**. (See Box 1.)
- Statements and declarations of **high-level political will**.
- Announcements and evidence of concrete additional actions and initiatives that accelerate and scale up implementation. (See Box 4.)

Only a decisive shift in pace and scale of delivery will get the KM-GBF on track to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Box 1. WWF asks for key COP17 decisions

1. PMRR and Global Review

- Adopt clear and specific recommendations for strengthening ambition and urgently speeding up and scaling up implementation including by:
 - Increasing action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and transform relevant economic and financial systems and sectors.
 - Ensuring adequate, predictable and easily accessible means of implementation.
 - Strengthening mainstreaming (whole-of-government) and whole-of-society approaches.
- Establish mechanisms to track and report how Parties respond to the Global Review, including through future national reports and regional and subregional peer-learning processes.
- Strengthen accountability within the Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review (PMRR) system.
- Improve comparability and transparency of national monitoring and reporting, including through support for national monitoring and knowledge management systems.

2. Resource Mobilisation

- Deliver on resource mobilisation commitments and scale up biodiversity finance (Target 19), including by increasing international biodiversity finance to at least USD30 billion per year by 2030 (Target 19(a)).
- Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity finance.
- Accelerate aligning financial flows with biodiversity objectives (Target 14).
- Accelerate repurposing of harmful subsidies (Target 18).
- Strengthen biodiversity-climate finance synergies.
- Ensure equitable and direct access to biodiversity finance for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other rights holders, and operationalise robust environmental and social safeguards.
- Advance negotiations on the future financial architecture and on expanding the contributor base.
- Ensure the effective, equitable and transparent implementation of the multilateral mechanism on DSI, including the Cali Fund.

3. Mainstreaming

- Strengthen implementation of Targets 14, 15, 16 and 18.

- Develop and implement national nature-positive transition pathways in key sectors and ensure businesses and financial institutions embed nature in their transition plans.
- Adopt whole-of-government, cross-sectoral implementation mechanisms.
- Mobilise key sectors, ranging from infrastructure to trade and health, including through supporting sector-specific multilateral communities of practice.

4. Rights, Equity and Governance

- Adopt the modus operandi for the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j).
- Fully embed a human rights-based approach across COP decisions and CBD implementation.
- Accelerate implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.
- Strengthen whole-of-society implementation across the KM-GBF, including in implementing Targets 22 and 23 and relevant elements of other targets (e.g. Targets 1, 3, 9 and 21).

5. Climate-Nature Synergies

- Strengthen cooperation between the Rio Conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- Align biodiversity and climate implementation strategies and actions, including NBSAPs and NDCs, across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- Urgently speed up and scale up the application of high-integrity nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.
- Ensure biodiversity is reflected across climate and other environmental plans and agendas and vice versa.

COP17: The Implementation COP

CBD COP17 comes at a pivotal moment for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). Four years after its adoption, important progress has been made, but implementation remains insufficient and uneven. The Global Report confirms that the world is not yet on track to achieve the KM-GBF's 2030 mission and targets. Ambition remains too low in many countries, implementation is lagging across key targets, and progress on addressing the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss remains particularly weak (See Box 2.).

Box 2. [Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the KM-GBF](#)

Extracts from the *Summary of the Conclusions and Key Messages of the Global Report*:

Overarching message:

“The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has generated unprecedented global engagement, and has driven action, innovation, collaboration and learning experiences across all 23 of its targets. However, unless collective implementation accelerates rapidly, the 2030 targets and mission will not be achieved. While it is too early to detect change in biodiversity outcomes, the slow rate of current progress represents a long-term risk, as achieving the 2030 targets and mission are the foundation for putting the world on a pathway towards the 2050 goals and vision.”

‘..., progress is uneven between the targets, with targets addressing indirect drivers of biodiversity loss particularly lagging behind; uneven across different ecosystems, with marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems showing consistent gaps in coverage; and weak on the cross-cutting issues and

COP17 should deliver across eight Action Areas

1. Close the ambition and implementation gaps

COP17 must address both the ambition and the implementation gaps. National commitments do not yet add up to the global ambition embodied in the KM-GBF, and implementation is falling short even where commitments have been made. Parties should therefore commit to strengthening national ambition where necessary and accelerating comprehensive implementation across all targets, especially those addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss, mainstreaming, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity finance and actions to conserve unrepresented biomes such as freshwater and oceans.

2. Put transformative implementation at the centre

COP17 should move beyond reporting progress and focus on understanding and overcoming the barriers preventing implementation. Building on the Kunming Dialogue, governments should continue to engage in multi-stakeholder dialogue to identify evidence-based actions and policy reforms appropriate to different national contexts and capable of advancing implementation at the speed and scale required. The conference should inspire practical solutions and scalable approaches that create and enhance the enabling conditions and address the drivers of biodiversity loss, thereby triggering positive tipping points or 'snowball effects' across systems that drive biodiversity loss, particularly food, finance and governance systems for the benefit of people and nature (See Box 3).

Box 3. From implementation gaps to positive tipping points: accelerating transformative change

The KM-GBF provides clear goals, targets and implementation guidance. The central challenge is creating the political, economic and institutional conditions needed to deliver the targets at the scale and speed required. COP17 should therefore focus on helping countries move beyond isolated actions and accelerate systemic implementation across multiple KM-GBF targets.

A key objective should be to identify and scale interventions capable of generating positive tipping points: moments where change becomes self-reinforcing and accelerates progress across the main drivers of biodiversity loss, including food, finance and governance systems. For example, reforming harmful incentives can unlock progress across multiple targets, not just Target 18. Such tipping points emerge when enabling policies, institutions, incentives and partnerships are aligned.

The task for COP17 is therefore to create the conditions under which biodiversity-positive choices become easier, more attractive and ultimately the default option for governments, businesses and society.

Examples of positive tipping points that COP17 should promote:

Food systems

Restoring degraded lands, scaling nature-positive production, reducing and repurposing harmful agricultural subsidies and supporting healthy and sustainable diets, reducing food loss and waste,

and protecting Indigenous and traditional food systems and territorial governance can create self-reinforcing transitions towards sustainable food systems.

Financial systems

Aligning public finance, development finance and private investment with biodiversity objectives, incorporating nature-related risks into financial regulation, and redirecting harmful subsidies can shift capital flows at scale towards nature-positive outcomes.

Governance systems

Whole-of-government implementation approaches, stronger national biodiversity institutions, rights-based governance and cross-sector coordination can embed biodiversity across decision-making systems and create lasting political commitment beyond electoral cycles.

3. Demonstrate tangible progress on resource mobilisation

Demonstrating tangible progress includes meeting international finance commitments under Target 19; broadening the contributor base; mobilising additional private finance, including through innovative mechanisms; improving the effectiveness, predictability and accessibility of biodiversity finance; including for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other rights holders; accelerating subsidy reform; and strengthening climate-biodiversity finance synergies. COP17 should also advance negotiations on expanding the contributor base and on a fit-for-purpose post-2030 financial architecture, including clear criteria for an effective, equitable, accessible and accountable financial mechanism. Finance remains essential and it must support credible and nationally owned implementation pathways capable of delivering transformative change.

4. Make biodiversity a whole-of-government priority

Many barriers to implementation lie outside environment ministries. COP17 should strengthen efforts to mainstream biodiversity across economic sectors and embed biodiversity objectives into finance, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, trade, health and development decision-making. Governments should move towards whole-of-government planning and implementation approaches, supported by robust cross-sectoral national implementation architectures that connect biodiversity with economic resilience, food security, water security, human health, human security and social wellbeing.

5. Advance rights, equity and inclusive implementation

The transition to implementation must be built on a human rights-based approach and a whole-of-society approach. COP17 should strengthen the participation, leadership and stewardship of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth and other rights holders and stakeholders. It should agree on the modus operandi for the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j); advance implementation of the new Programme of Work; urge Parties to enhance the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action; and ensure that rights, equity and inclusion remain embedded across COP decisions, CBD processes and national implementation efforts.

6. Strengthen policy coherence and implementation synergies

COP17 should strengthen coherence across the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions and processes, so that their respective mandates, tools, knowledge and implementation mechanisms reinforce and accelerate KM-GBF delivery rather than create duplication or fragmentation. This should include closer coordination among the three Rio Conventions and greater policy coherence across action on species, ecosystems, sustainable use, ecological connectivity, restoration and health.

Integrated planning, implementation and financing across sectors and institutions can help countries deliver multiple objectives, make more effective use of limited public and private resources, and generate benefits for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, sustainable food systems and ecosystem restoration.

7. Strengthen implementation through partnerships, learning and cooperation

COP17 should help countries move from isolated successes to scalable solutions. This requires stronger regional cooperation, peer learning, science-policy collaboration, multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships across society and sectors. The conference should encourage coalitions of willing countries and non-state actors that can accelerate implementation, share lessons and generate political momentum before 2030.

8. Strengthen accountability for delivery

A credible KM-GBF requires stronger accountability for implementation. COP17 should reinforce the Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review (PMRR) framework, improve transparency of implementation efforts and outcomes, and strengthen mechanisms that enable collective learning and corrective action. Accountability must extend beyond tracking commitments to assessing implementation and real-world biodiversity outcomes.

Box 4. Examples of implementation commitments that Parties could announce at COP17

Political leadership

Heads of State and Government commit to overseeing KM-GBF implementation through national biodiversity councils or cabinet-level mechanisms.

Parties commit to:

- Integrating biodiversity into national development plans and medium-term fiscal frameworks.
- Publishing national biodiversity implementation roadmaps to 2030.

Transformative implementation and mainstreaming

Parties commit to:

- Identifying, supporting and scaling policy interventions capable of generating transformative change in food, finance and governance systems before 2030.
- Developing national sectoral transition plans or pathways.
- Adopting time-bound plans to reform environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies.
- Developing national food systems transition strategies linked to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
- Reducing food loss and waste and overconsumption.
- Establishing national targets for nature-positive agriculture, biodiversity-friendly land-use planning, and sustainable fisheries.

Finance

Parties commit to:

- Increasing domestic biodiversity finance.
- Developing roadmaps to align financial regulation with nature-related risks.
- Developing nature-positive sovereign bonds, biodiversity funds or payment-for-ecosystem-services mechanisms.
- Providing additional international biodiversity finance towards Target 19.a.

Rights and governance

Parties commit to:

- Recognising and ensuring Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land, territorial and resource rights.
- Developing national implementation plans for Target 22 on participation.
- Advancing gender-responsive implementation.
- Establishing new partnerships to implement NBSAPs.

International cooperation

Parties commit to:

- Establishing or strengthening regional implementation initiatives.
- Establishing or strengthening transboundary ecosystem partnerships.
- Joining coalitions of like-minded countries, such as the [Freshwater Challenge](#), the [Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group](#), the [Positive Tipping Point Alliance](#), and the [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](#), or establishing new coalitions focused on areas such as subsidy reform, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity finance or food systems transformation.

Together, these announcements would demonstrate tangible implementation momentum at COP17 alongside negotiated outcomes.



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