

Concept Note

Regional Dialogue for the Member States of the South African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

19 - 23 MAY | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



G20 SOUTH
AFRICA
2025



**INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIODIVERSITY 2025**

Harmony with nature and sustainable development

Background and Objectives

Biodiversity plays a crucial role in ecological sustainability, economic development, and community livelihoods. However, biodiversity loss continues to threaten these benefits, necessitating coordinated global, regional and national action. Article 6 (a) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires Parties to develop, implement, and periodically update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). In its decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to update or revise their NBSAPs in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). To enhance implementation of the Framework, the African Union Commission, Southern African Development Community (SADC), and East African Community (EAC) have updated their Regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Countries are at various stages of updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to align them with the Framework. These updates aim to support Member States in the effective implementation of the objectives of the CBD and its Protocols and goals and targets of the Framework.

In accordance with Article 6 of the CBD, NBSAPs serve as the principal instrument for the national implementation of the Convention. The adoption of the KM-GBF at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in December 2022 necessitates a thorough review, revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans to ensure their alignment with this new Framework. The present regional dialogue offers an opportunity to

reflect on the outcomes of the 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 16, COP/MOP11 and COP/MOP5), held from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, and resumed from 25 to 27 February 2025 in Rome, Italy. Key discussions of the present dialogue will revolve around regional and national priorities and their alignment with the National and Regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Participants will also discuss the workplans and priorities proposed by two sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centres (TSCs)- the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD).

This dialogue will aim at accelerating the revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as well as fostering the integration and synergies of the CBD Protocols, relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), agri-food system and One Health into the NBSAP. It will also enhance capacities for implementation, monitoring and reporting of national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Framework.

To this end, , the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the CBD Secretariat, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Commonwealth and African Union Commission, with technical support from the South African National Biodiversity Institute, will convene SADC and EAC Member States, along with a few more anglophone African countries and stakeholder groups including IPLCs, women and youth, in Cape Town, South Africa from 19-23 May 2025.

The dialogue is organized with the financial support of UNEP, GEF, FAO, UNEP China Trust Fund, African Union Commission, the Commonwealth and the European Union.



I Target Audience

The dialogue agenda will cover the following key points. A detailed programme of the dialogue is contained in the annotated agenda for this dialogue (CBD/NBSAP/OM/2025-01/Add.1).

- National Focal Points for the CBD from EAC and SADC Member States including other Anglophone countries;
- National Focal Points for the ITPGRFA from EAC and SADC Member States. Representatives from the African Union Commission;
- Representatives from regional economic communities (SADC Secretariat and EAC Secretariat);
- Representatives from the CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres from Africa (SANBI, RCMRD, COMIFAC, CSE, OSS);
- Representatives from International, Regional development partners and donors; International organizations, civil society organizations, academia, and private sector stakeholders;
- Representatives from IPLCs, women and youth organisations; National stakeholders.

I Dialogue structure and expected outcomes

The dialogue agenda will cover the following key points. A detailed programme of the dialogue is contained in the annotated agenda for this dialogue (CBD/NBSAP/OM/2025-01/Add.1).

- Regional implications of the outcomes of COP 16, COP-MOP 11 and COP- MOP 5: regional strategies and priorities;
- Updating NBSAPs: good practices, challenges and solutions;
- Integration of the CBD Protocols, relevant MEAs, agri-food system and One Health into the NBSAP;
- Tracking progress in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the KMGBF: the implementation of the monitoring framework and national reporting;
- Capacity development for implementing and monitoring national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans.

I Structure

The dialogue will be comprised of presentations, group and panel discussions, action planning. Interactive dialogue and breakout sessions will be organized to enable interactive participation of audience.



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Expected Outcomes

- Identification of regional priorities for the implementation of the outcomes of COP 16, COP-MOP 11, and COP-MOP 5, informing regional strategies and priorities;
- Accelerated national processes of updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, through exchanging best practices and identification of challenges and opportunities for updating and revising National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
- Strengthening integration of the CBD Protocols, relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), agri-food systems and One Health into NBSAPs;
- Improved tracking the implementation of NBSAP and KMGBF implementation through enhancing capacities for the implementation of the monitoring framework and national reporting; (e) Enhanced capacity for implementing and monitoring NBSAPs and regional BSAPs.

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