



CONCEPT NOTE

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

This year, Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, a worldwide agreement on goals and targets to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss.

The adoption of this new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is particularly important for African countries. It will require new public policies to transform society to be "nature-positive" while adapting strategies and means for sustainable development.

To reach agreement, it is crucial for African countries to be well coordinated and prepared to participate strategically and meaningfully in the global process. The last round of negotiations, in Nairobi in June 2022, was widely regarded as a failure as few agreements were reached. The negotiations are now in their final phase, with only four months to prepare compromise texts for final discussion at COP15 in December 2022 in Montreal.

Negotiation topics are complex and common positions are best advanced through face-to-face discussions and interactions. To this end, the Republic of Gabon, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Republic of Senegal, Chair of the Conference of African Ministers of the Environment (CAME), will organize a meeting of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity, from September 1-4, 2022, in Libreville, Gabon.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

The aim of the four-day meeting is for negotiators to consolidate an African position on key elements that are currently hampering global agreement on several sections of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework text. This meeting will be the only in-person opportunity that Parties will have to prepare for the next OEWG and the COP. It is therefore crucial that sessions are carefully used to cover only essential points, reflecting on items most important for the Africa region to include in the GBF, and areas where the Africa region accepts to compromise, so that global agreement can be achieved.

Specifically, it aims to:

- take stock of the ongoing negotiations;
- assist the intersessional working group in presenting African positions;
- discuss key or blocking elements of certain themes, goals and targets;
- identify brackets to be lifted in OEWG5;
- identify 'red line' items most important to include in the GBF;
- identify areas of compromise in the GBF;

- develop a roadmap to COP-15 and its protocols;
- prepare key policy messages for African leaders, including the AMCEN Decision on Biodiversity.

3. AGENDA

Day 1 : September 1st

TIME	SESSION	MODERATOR
From 7.30 AM	Participant registration	
7.45 AM	Arrival of participants	
8.30 AM – 9.00 AM	Opening Ceremony AGN – Biodiversity + CITES	
9.00 AM – 10.00 AM	Group Photo and Welcome Cocktail	
10.00 AM – 11.30 AM	Synergies across Conventions CBD, CITES, Climate, Desertification	Stephen Mouba
11.30 AM – 1.00 PM	Subregional consultations (SADC, ECOWAS, etc.)	
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	LUNCH	
2.00 PM – 3.30 PM	Adoption of agenda CBD, Presentation of results from Nairobi and Bonn, Intersessional working groups, ToRs of AGN	Chair
3.30 PM – 3.45 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
3.45 PM – 5.00 PM	Work session 1: Draft elements of a possible decision operationalizing the post-2020 GBF	Michelle Lee
5.00 PM – 5.30 PM	Work session 2: Identification of task group & key messages for AMCEN decision on Biodiversity	Chair
5.30 PM – 6.00 PM	<i>Expert information session: Resource mobilization</i>	
From 6.00 PM	Friends of Libreville (resource mobilization)	

Day 2 : September 2nd

TIME	SESSION	
8.30 AM – 8.45 AM	Summary of Day 1	Samuel Timpo, Tsayi Mouvagha
8.45 AM – 10.30 AM	Work session 3a: SBI outcomes on Resource mobilization and financial mechanisms, Targets 18, 19.1, 19.2, Goal D	Chair
10.30 AM – 10.45 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
10.45 AM – 11.30 AM	Work session 3b: SBI outcomes on Resource mobilization and financial mechanisms, Targets 18, 19.1, 19.2, Goal D (end)	Chair
11.30 PM – 12.00 PM	<i>Expert information session: Targets 1, 2, 3</i>	
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM	Work session 4a: Targets 1, 2, 3, Goal A	Mme Prudence
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	LUNCH. Optional brown bag Q/A on RM and T1, 2, 3	
2.00 PM – 3.30 PM	Work session 4b: Targets 1, 2, 3, Goal A (end)	Mme Prudence
3.30 PM – 3.45 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
3.45 PM – 4.15 PM	<i>Expert information session: Target 8 Climate change</i>	
4.15 PM – 6.00 PM	Work session 5: Target 8, Nature-based solutions, Ecosystem-based approach	Stephen Mouba

6.00 PM – 6.30 PM	<i>Expert information session: DSI, Access & benefit sharing</i>	
6.30 PM – 7.00 PM	<i>Optional Q/A on DSI, Access & benefit sharing</i>	
From 7.00 PM	Friends of Libreville	

Day 3 : September 3rd

TIME	SESSION	MODERATOR
8.30 AM – 8.45 AM	Summary of Day 2	Samuel Timpo, Ntakadzeni Tshidada
8.45 AM – 9.45 AM	Work session 6: Review and comments on first draft AMCEN decision on Biodiversity	Chair
9.45 AM – 10.30 AM	Work session 7: Technical and Scientific cooperation	Chair
10.30 AM – 10.45 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
10.45 AM – 1.00 PM	Work session 8: DSI, Target 13, Goal C	Mphatso Kalemba
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	LUNCH. <i>Optional brown bag Q/A on Target 8</i>	
2.00 PM – 3.30 PM	Work session 9: Biosafety, Target 17, Cartagena Protocol, Risk assessment, Synthetic biology	Eric Okoree
3.30 PM – 3.45 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
3.45 PM – 6.00 PM	Work session 10: Sections A-E, H-K, Targets 14, 15, 16	Eric Okoree
From 6.00 PM	Friends of Libreville	

Day 4 : September 4th

TIME	SESSION	MODERATOR
8.30 AM – 8.45 AM	Summary of Day 3	Samuel Timpo, Ntakadzeni Tshidada, Tsayi Mouvagha
8.45 AM – 10.30 AM	Work session 11: Bbis	Ntakadzeni Tshidada
10.30 AM – 10.45 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
10.45 AM – 1.00 PM	Work session 12: Options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms	Michelle Lee
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	LUNCH. <i>Optional brown bag Q/A on TBD</i>	
2.00 PM – 3.30 PM	TBD	Chair, Stephen Mouba, AUC
3.30 PM – 3.45 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
3.45 PM – 4.15 PM	Work session 13: Finalization of AMCEN decision on Biodiversity	Chair, Stephen Mouba, AUC
4.15 PM – 5.00 PM	Work session 14: Political Message to Ministers	Chair, Stephen Mouba, AUC
5.00 PM – 5.15 PM	Meeting report	Chair, Stephen Mouba, AUC
5.15 PM – 5.45 PM	Planning and next steps	Chair, Stephen Mouba, AUC
5.45 PM – 6.00 PM	Closing of the meeting	Chair

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The following participants will be invited:

- 2-3 Biodiversity/CITES representatives per country (54 countries);
- 2 representatives of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN);
- 2 representatives of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA);
- 2 representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- 2 representatives of the African Development Bank (ADB) ;
- 3 representatives of the African Union (AU)
- 10 representatives of Gabon;
- 5 thematic experts.

For the ministerial opening session, speakers invited are CBD Secretariat, the African Union Commission, the United Nations, Senegal (AMCEN), China, Egypt, Morocco and Gabon.