

Webinar on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): Outcomes, follow up and way forward

7TH MARCH 2023, 09.00H – 11.15H (UTC+1)

Background

In December 2022, after 4 years of negotiation, the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) finally adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), complemented by decisions on Monitoring, Reporting and Review, Resource Mobilization, Digital Sequence Information and Capacity Building. The agreement has been celebrated as a success. It will guide global action on nature and biodiversity until 2030, aiming at halting biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems while respecting indigenous and local communities' rights.

Important targets that have been negotiated to reach its mission to reverse and halt biodiversity loss are the 30x30 target (protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030); the restoration of 30 per cent of terrestrial and marine ecosystems; the reduction to near zero of the loss of areas of high biodiversity value; the reduction of harmful subsidies by at least 500bn USD per year; the halving of food waste as well as raising reliable international financing for implementation of the GBF.

Taken together, the GBF and the Paris Agreement contain a comprehensive set of commitments, the implementation of which will put nature on a clear path to recovery and bring us closer to a global economy that conserves biodiversity and is based on sustainable use of biodiversity.

The swift, efficient and effective implementation of the Framework is also needed to keep the 1.5°C goal alive and requires the engagement of all government, all society and economy.

The Mediterranean basin is an important biodiversity hotspot and one of the most biodiversity rich regions in the world. However, the Mediterranean ecosystem is under alarming pressure due to pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss and overconsumption of its natural resources.

Among the main drivers of biodiversity loss on land are unsustainable agricultural practices. Monocultures, industrial-style farming, the extensive use of herbicides, and recurring tillage and land-use change negatively affect the diversity of both flora and fauna. Also the marine biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea faces various forms of human threats, including plastics and chemicals pollution, overexploitation of marine living resources, as well increasing water temperatures due to climate change, and the invasions of species alien to the Mediterranean Sea.

The webinar will recall and build around the COP15 outcomes and analyze the related implications for the Mediterranean region, including the coordination and converge of efforts, actions, plans needed to reach the 30x30 target as well as the financial opportunities and innovative solutions in place and in-the-making to promote management, conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and reversal of the current declining biodiversity trends.

Programme

	Organizations	Speakers
9:00-9:10	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM EU CoPresidency • UfM Jordan CoPresidency • UfM Secretariat - Water Environment and Blue Economy Division 	<p><i>Moderated by UfM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Davor Percan, Head of Unit Regional and Bilateral Environmental Cooperation, DG ENV, European Commission • Mr. Abdallah Alzyoud, Director Assistant, Head of Policies & Strategies, Ministry of Environment, Jordan • Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Deputy Secretary General, UfM
9:10 – 9:50	<p>Session 1: Overview of the main outcomes of COP15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG Environment. International biodiversity team • Jordan COP15 Negotiator 	<p><i>Moderated by UfM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Anne Theo Seinen, DG ENV, European Commission • Ing. Eng .Belal Qtishat, Director of Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Environment of Jordan
9:50 – 10:55	<p>Session 2: How to implement COP15 decisions in the Mediterranean, with focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Restoration/Protected areas/spatial planning</i> ✓ <i>Mainstreaming biodiversity protection into agriculture and fisheries</i> ✓ <i>Financing and resource mobilization</i> <p><i>Short overview of existing programmes/initiatives in the region relevant for the implement of the GBF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Countries views <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morocco 	<p><i>Moderated by Mr. Patrick Wegerdt, DG ENV, European Commission</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Alessandra Sensi, Head of Sector Environment, Green and Blue Economy. UfM Secretariat • Mr. Reda Benhima, Head of the Department of Preservation of Biodiversity, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development Morocco

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spain <p>✓ Stakeholders' views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU Mission Ocean & Waters and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) • UNEPMAP - SPA/RAC • UNDP Biofin initiative • FAO • The Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity • European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - EBRD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Noelia Vallejo Pedregal, Head of Area, Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain • Ms. Elisabetta Balzi, Head of Unit, Healthy Oceans & Seas, DG Research and Innovation, EU • Mr. Khalil Attia, Director SPA/RAC – UNEP/MAP • Mr. Kishan Khoday, Regional Team Leader, Nature, Climate and Energy, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States • Mr. Frederic Castell, Senior Natural Resources Officer FAO • Ms. Carole Martinez, Policy Manager, MedPan • Mr. Adonai Herrera Martinez, Director Environment and Sustainability, EBRD
10:55-11:10	Q&A	<i>Moderated by Mr. Patrick Wegerdt, DG ENV, European Commission</i>
11:10-11:15	Closing remarks	UfM Co-Presidency and Secretariat