



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Recent Developments on Pollution and Biodiversity

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UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030





Why is pollution important under the CBD

Pollution, in all its forms, is harmful to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and the health of people, animals, plants and other organisms.



Direct driver of change

Alongside land/sea-use change, overexploitation, climate change and invasive species, pollution is recognized by IPBES as one of the five direct drivers of biodiversity loss.



Undermines nature's contributions to people

It affects the ability of ecosystems to provide clean air and water, soil fertility, pollination and pest control.



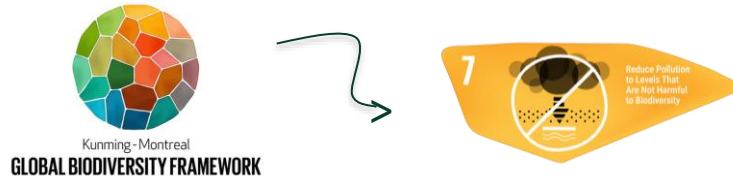
A health issue

Direct and indirect exposure to pollutants (particularly early in life) increases the risk of multiple non-communicable diseases over the life course.





CBD work on pollution is cross-cutting



Pollution is cross-cutting: It intersects with almost every area of CBD work, from species to ecosystems.

What is Target 7?

“Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including [...] by reducing excess nutrients, pesticide and highly hazardous chemicals risk, and plastic pollution.”

- Adopted as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP 15 (2022).
- Covers excess nutrients lost to the environment, pesticides, highly hazardous chemicals, and plastic pollution.
- The target allows us to complement work done by the Chemicals and Waste Conventions by bridging the gap between pollution management and ecosystem health.



Pollution runs across several areas of CBD work

Beyond Target 7 itself, **pollution considerations have been mainstreamed into other areas** of the Convention's work, such as:



Biodiversity & Health

The Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health (GAP, COP16) proposes voluntary actions on pollution across the health-biodiversity interface.



Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries & Forestry

Sustainable intensification, integrated pest management and agroecological approaches reduce reliance on pesticides and fertilizers harmful to biodiversity and pollinators.



Marine & Coastal

Work under the CBD has addressed various pollution-related issues, such as marine debris and underwater noise.



Biodiversity & Health: pollution in the Global Action Plan

The Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health sets out voluntary actions for pollution under its Target 7 theme:



Raise awareness of the negative impact of pollution from all sources, heavy metals, highly hazardous chemicals and plastics (including microplastics), and air, light and noise pollution, on biodiversity and human health.



Promote environmentally sound management of public health, medical and veterinary waste, including to avoid the inappropriate use and disposal of antimicrobials, pharmaceuticals, medical products and heavy metals.



Minimize pollution from waste and wastewater municipal systems, and integrate biodiversity and health considerations into local and municipal waste and wastewater management plans.

Source: CBD/COP/DEC/16/19, Annex I — Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health (COP16, Cali, 2024).





Progress on Target 7 as per Global Report

Progress in addressing pollution is **uneven and remains insufficient** to achieve the target.

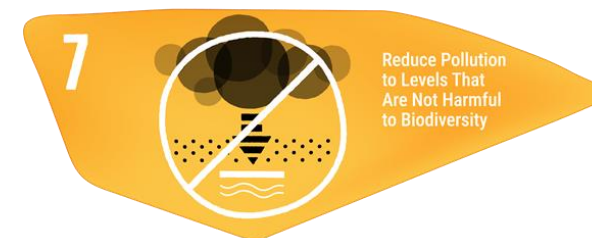
Most Parties (60%) acknowledge that they are **not on track** to meet national targets associated with Target 7

Major gaps in data availability hinder assessment of progress



Progress on Target 7 as per Global Report

- Target 7 includes diverse sources of pollution, which Parties have addressed differently in setting national targets.
- The element addressed by the fewest # of Parties in national targets is reducing the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals
- Even where legal frameworks to reduce pollution exist, enforcement action is often weak and implementation capacity may be insufficient



116

Parties have submitted 261
national targets related to
GBF Target 7 (pollution)

What to expect at COP 17: a draft decision on new areas of work

SBSTTA has identified biodiversity and pollution as a potential area warranting further work under the Convention

→COP will consider this and make a decision

Establish an **AHTEG** to develop guidance on ways to address the impacts of pollution on biodiversity



SBSTTA to consider the outcomes of the work of the AHTEG

Requests the ES to engage with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution and relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations **to hold a technical expert workshop on approaches to contribute to filling the gaps in tools and guidance to meet Target 7.**



Prepare a report with a mapping of the work that may be undertaken by various entities towards meeting Target 7 and presented to COP 18

Item 17(a) Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity in the context of the Framework



Going forward

No single actor can do this alone → Close collaboration between the CBD, BRS and Minamata Conventions can support Parties in addressing pollution while producing co-benefits for the environment and human health.

- **Information sharing:** Use data and evidence from across processes to inform decisions.
- **Formal liaison:** Between the CBD and other MEAs, so coordination on pollution and biodiversity is intentional, not incidental.
- **Joint country support:** Coordinated technical assistance instead of parallel pathways, using NBSAPs and other national reporting processes as a practical vehicle for implementation.



Thank You!



Kunming-Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



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Biological Diversity

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