



**Co-operation for the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**Report on training materials and satisfaction  
questionnaires that will contribute to the  
further development of training content**

**Deliverable D4.4**

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## Summary

This report presents the activities, tools and methods implemented by the CO-OP4CBD project in response to *Task 4.3. Learning, training and familiarization* of the Grant Agreement. This report shows how the project has chosen to structure the capacity building activities through dedicated training session and training materials and tools.

Going through the activities, this report details which kind of content has been produced, how it has been produced, for which purpose, and how it was disseminated and valorised afterwards. It presents also the feedback received by the project from the participants to the activities and the beneficiaries of the training materials.

This report details the eleven training sessions that have been delivered until October 2025 and presents the Guide for Experts and the Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) that are being developed by the CO-OP4CBD partners. It showcases also the organisation of the training materials throughout a Training Corner that has been developed by partners on the project's website.



## List of abbreviations

AHTEG: Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group

AHSTAG: Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group

BSAP: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

CHM: Clearing-House Mechanism

COP: Conference of the Parties

EU: European Union

FRB: French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity

GBIF: Global Biodiversity Information Facility

HUN-REN CER: HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research

IAG: Informal Advisory Group

IPBES: Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

IPLCs: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature

KM-GBF: Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

LBSAP: Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

MEA: Multilateral Environmental Agreement

MNHN: French Museum of Natural History

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

NFP: National Focal Point

NGO: Non-governmental Organisation

NINA: Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

RBINS: Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

SBSTTA: Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

SBI: Subsidiary Body for Implementation

SB8j: Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to Indigenous People and Local Communities

SCBD: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

SPI: Science – Policy Interface

TSC: Technical and Scientific Cooperation

WPIEI: Working Party on International Environment Issues



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## Introduction

This report aims to present in detail the activities, tools, and methods implemented by the CO-OP4CBD project in response to Task 4.3 — Learning, Training, and Familiarization — as defined in the Grant Agreement. **The central objective of this task is to develop training materials capable of bridging the gap between scientific expertise and policymaking**, ensuring that both knowledge holders and policymakers can better understand CBD processes and contents at a level suited to their roles. In line with this ambition, the partners have produced a wide range of training material addressing the history, institutional processes, and operational mechanisms of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as thematic content relevant to current CBD negotiations and implementation.

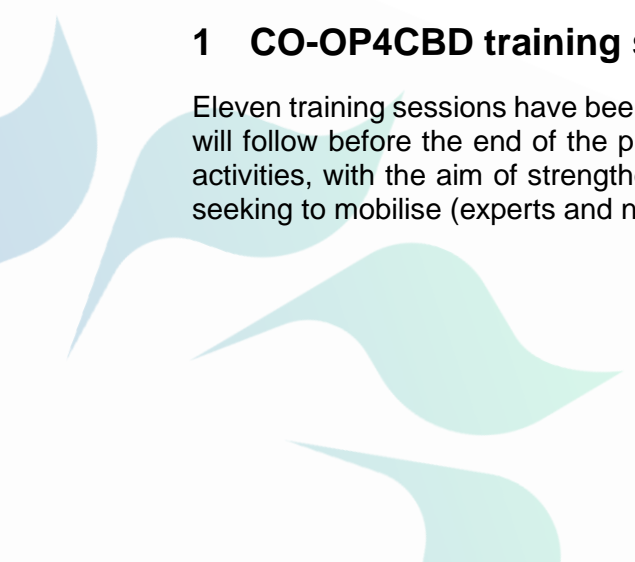
To effectively deliver these materials, the partners carefully considered how best to structure Task 4.3. This led to the organisation of **dedicated workshops**, the creation of a **training corner on the CO-OP4CBD website**, and **close coordination within the training materials working group** to ensure consistency with the broader activities of the different work packages of the project. The training corner is meant to gather all the training materials organized in a user-friendly way, by the type of content and topics, allowing the user to access the training content more easily and eventually dive deeper into the topics using complementary resources. The training materials task force was put in place to coordinate the training activities with other activities of the project to ensure the consistency of the project production with all the project's objectives. Together, these actions support a coherent and accessible training framework that meets the needs of the project while remaining aligned with other ongoing CO-OP4CBD initiatives.

A key point of discussion among partners was the **long-term sustainability** of the training resources beyond the project's duration. To ensure lasting value and continued accessibility, the consortium decided to integrate the developed materials into two complementary tools: the **CBD Guide for Experts**, which provides structured support for those engaging directly with CBD processes, and the **CO-OP4CBD MOOC**, designed to offer open, scalable, and enduring access to foundational and thematic CBD knowledge. These formats alongside the training corner will help preserve the project's legacy and support a broader audience in understanding and engaging with global biodiversity governance. Furthermore, as per the Grant Agreement of this project, upon its finalization the training resources will be shared with the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) to be made available in the global Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), as well as with the website of the European Commission's Science Service (currently under construction).

It is to be mentioned that all training materials are developed with the support of recognised experts on the Convention on Biological Diversity (we regularly convene reviewing committees). We also develop these materials in line with the suggestions and needs expressed by participants and, more broadly, the communities we aim to support.

## 1 CO-OP4CBD training sessions

Eleven training sessions have been organised to date as part of the project. At least four more will follow before the end of the project. The training sessions are one of the project's main activities, with the aim of strengthening the capacities of the communities that the project is seeking to mobilise (experts and negotiators).



## **1.1. Training for experts on CBD SBSTTA-25 agenda items (lead: FRB, 4 September 2023, online)**

### **Context of the training**

In the framework of Task 4.3. Learning, training and familiarization and closely linked with Task 2.2. Preparation of technical outputs for CBD meetings, the project provided an online targeted training session on the topics of the of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice - 25- (SBSTTA-25) meeting: invasive alien species, biodiversity and climate change, plant conservation, sustainable wildlife management, monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The invited experts presented each topic specifically focusing on the historical background, policy context, current discussions, and key issues underpinning the topic in question.

The objective was to inform and update experts and CBD delegates on the forthcoming SBSTTA discussions. The training session served as a starting point of the project's SBSTTA preparation sequence. It was followed by a series of complementary events, including the Vilm meeting (11 to 15 September 2023), dedicated to the review of SBSTTA agenda items by national and regional experts, a set of Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) meetings, focused on preparing EU positions for biodiversity negotiations, and national coordination meetings aimed to define regional and national positions.- On 18-19 September 2023 in person in Paris, the project organised a training for experts on SBSTTA-25 agenda items informed by the outcomes of the targeted training session and to produce Technical Issue Briefs. This was followed by a Task 2.3 dialogue on the 2 October 2023 in Brussels, organized back-to-back to a Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI) to share the Technical Issue Briefs with European negotiators. The SBSTTA-25 meeting was held from 17 to 19 October 2023.

### **Participants at the training**

Approximately 150 participants attended the online training session, reflecting a broad geographical representation (EU, associated countries and countries outside of the project's target regions), and interest in the offer, including attendees from academia, NGOs, and civil service. Invitations were sent based on the list of experts identified and compiled by WP1 and Task 2.1 and were additionally shared via the project website and social media. Participation was assessed as highly successful by the project team and ranked among the highest for online meetings. Apart from the project staff, eight expert presenters were identified through the project's team contacts and invited to present the relevant SBSTTA-25 agenda items. Of these, two presenters of a single topic did not attend the training session.

### **Training feedback: key elements**

All participants found the training highly useful, particularly in the context of national and regional preparations for the SBSTTA-25 agenda. Comments from national and European officials were very positive, with appreciation expressed for the initial immersion and the comprehensive overview of the agenda's items. From the project's perspective, several points were noted for consideration. Questions were raised about the suitability of the SBSTTA preparatory sequence (T.4.3, T.2.2, T.2.3) given an already busy European calendar, with the Vilm meeting, the regular WPIEI, and national preparatory meetings. Another issue was raised concerned the need for more pluralistic content, i.e., the potential value of inviting multiple speakers per topic, including experts addressing political aspects.

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## **Training materials**

All the training materials are available online through the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#), namely PowerPoint and video recordings on:

- **“Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”**, presented by *Arildo de Souza Dias, Goethe-University Frankfurt/Single Earth, Giacomo Delgado, ETH Zurich, and Robin Goffaux, French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation provided an overview of past and current CBD discussions on monitoring framework indicators, and a reflection on the indicators already developed and some of the potential issues they may raise.
- **“Improving Cooperation for the Convention on Biological Diversity”**, presented by *Robin Goffaux, FRB/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation provided an overview of the science-policy interface surrounding the SBSTTA meeting, covering the upstream dialogue on the preparation of European and national positions, the provision of scientific advice during the negotiations, and the downstream participation in monitoring implementation and anticipating future issues. The presentation highlighted the role of CO-OP4CBD in facilitating this process.
- **“Invasive Alien Species”**, presented by *Roseli Pellens, Institute of Systematics, Biodiversity and Evolution (ISYEB)/MNHN*. The presentation provided an overview of the CBD discussions on invasive alien species.
- **“Sustainable Wildlife Management”**, presented by *Marie-Christine Cormier-Salem, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)*. This presentation provides an overview of the CBD discussions on sustainable wildlife management.
- **“UN CBD Process in the context of a new Global strategy”**, presented by *Pierre Spielowoy, MNHN/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation provided an overview of the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as links to the previous strategic framework. It then discusses the timeline for implementing the goals, developing indicators, and monitoring progress.
- **“An introduction to the global strategy for plant conservation”**, presented by *Carly Cowell, Botanic Gardens Conservation International*. This presentation provides an overview of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, from the first strategy adopted in 2002 to the latest one expected to be adopted (at this stage) by COP16. It addresses the challenges faced by CBD States Parties and stakeholders in implementing the strategy, the general philosophy behind it, several case studies, and Botanic Gardens Conservation International’s work in this context.

### **1.2. Capacity building training session for experts on the UN CBD processes and mechanisms (lead: MNHN, 4 October 2023, online)**

#### **Context of the training**

The training was held in view of upcoming SBSTTA-25 meeting (13-18 May 2024), to improve understanding and knowledge on its context, priorities and on-going challenges. It offered an overview of CBD history, mechanism and processes. It presented targeted content on SBSTTA mechanisms to enable the participation of SBSTTA experts and CBD National Focal Points (NFP) in upcoming meetings, in alignment with the CBD agenda. The meeting was structured into three complementary parts thus bringing both knowledge and concrete skills to engage in CBD negotiations:

- CBD Negotiation history, outputs and main challenges

- CBD Mechanisms and processes
- Role of scientific community

### **Participants at the training**

The target audience included SBSTTA experts and CBD NFPs. The communication towards participants was made through social network (LinkedIn) and the CO-OP4CBD website. The training gathered 150 trainees, coming from different types of organizations. Among them, 73 from Academia and Research Institutions and 59 were coming from national governments. Seven participants were coming from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other from intergovernmental organizations (5) or private sector (15). The geographical coverage was large covering most of European countries as well as African countries (Cameroun, Nigeria, Ethiopia). For the training, 5 external speakers were mobilized to share a presentation. They were identified through the partners networks (members of partner institution to CO-OP4CBD) and for their knowledge on key topics of the training (a representant from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for example) and experience in UN CBD processes).

### **Training feedback: key elements**

Of the 150 participants at the training, 13 answered the feedback survey<sup>1</sup> shared by the CO-OP4CBD partners. Although the training was online, none of the participants had difficulties to connect to the meeting. The communication was considered as very efficient prior to the event by most of the participants (11 out of 13), and the general organization was deemed to be a satisfying experience (8 out of 13 rated it a 5/5). Some suggestions however emerged from the training, such as, participants being keen on receiving confirmation of their participation beforehand or needing to have a clear overview on the agenda items. In general, the online format was considered as a good way to reach a larger audience and as the most cost-effective for participants. The content given, gave the audience answers that met their needs which to a score of 4,4/5 regarding the relevance of the themes. The transferability of the content was also highlighted, and most of respondents considered they would transfer this knowledge and recommend such training to colleagues. As part of the feedback, trainees mentioned their interest for other topics such as:

- Risk and dependencies of economic sectors on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Actions focused on urban biodiversity
- Biodiversity indicators for genetic biodiversity
- Plant conservation
- Biodiversity and nature conservation

### **Training materials**

All the training materials are available online via the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#), namely PowerPoint, PDF and video recordings on:

- **“The UN CBD: Global Governance of Biodiversity and Genetic Resources”** *presented by Kristin Rosendal, Fridtjof Nansens Institute (Norway)*. This presentation gives an

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<sup>1</sup> Link towards the survey results: [Feedback Questionnaire - COOP4CBD online training session October 4th\(1-13\) \(1\).xlsx](#)

overview of the UN CBD's development, highlighting the milestones for its implementation and evolution (Protocols, Global Biodiversity Framework, etc.). It sheds light on achievements related to GBF objectives and scope for success.

- **“Challenges for biodiversity conservation in the context of the CBD”** presented by *Peter Bridgewater, Australian National University*. This presentation describes the context of emergence for the UN CBD. It focuses on the evolution of approaches regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources. An overview of the different strategic plans and targets adopted throughout the UN CBD's history is also provided.
- **“UN CBD’s Main Processes and Mechanisms”** presented by *Pierre Spielowoy MNHN/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation details the main processes and mechanisms of the UN CBD, describing the Convention's organisation, mandates and involved stakeholders. It introduces the UN CBD’s main actors, meetings, conduct of business and tools to understand UNCBD meeting documents.
- **“Role and Importance of the Technical and Scientific Expertise in Supporting the UN CBD and its Protocols”** presented by *Erie Tamale, Capacity Building and Knowledge Unit, CBD Secretariat*. This presentation covers the role of Technical and Scientific Expertise in the UN CBD context. It provides information on the dedicated provisions in the Convention's text as well as Decisions. Finally, it introduces possible opportunities for engagement of Technical and Scientific Expertise in UN CBD processes.
- **“UN CBD’s SBSTTA: Role and Organisation”** presented by *Pierre Spielowoy MNHN/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation describes the role and organization of SBSTTA in the context of the UN CBD. It specifically addresses precision in the terminology (science/technical/technology) employed by this framework and the UN CBD Articles that are relevant in this context. It finally makes the link between SBSTTA and IPBES activities.
- **“Role of a UN CBD SBSTTA National Focal Point”** presented by *Hendrik Segers Belgian CBD and SBSTTA NFP, RBINS/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation provides targeted information on the role of a UN CBD NFP and a SBSTTA NFP. It also presents the related terms of reference and a diagram to explain NFPs' roles and margin for action in UN CBD processes.
- **“Next SBSTTA’s Agendas and Main Challenges”** presented by *Robin Goffaux, French SBSTTA NFP FRB/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation introduces the SBSTTA-25 agenda and challenges in the KM-GBF's context. The focus is thus on SBSTTA-25 issues, agenda items and documents in preparation for the meeting.
- **“Global Partnership for Plant Conservation: three decades of interactions with the UN CBD”** by *Maité Delmas, French GPSC NFP, MNHN/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation focuses on the establishment of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, its key achievements and the creation of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC). It provides information on related tools and support actions such as the role of National GPSC Focal Points and the GPSC Toolkit. Advice on joining the GPPC is also offered.

For each presentation available, short resume were added to describe the content of the presentation and clarify its objectives. The aim is to facilitate the use of these resources and to orient the users towards the training content that could match its needs. As part of capacity building support, most of the email addresses of presenters were added to the presentation.

### **1.3. Training session on the Bioland Tool (lead: RBINS, with the support of MNHN, 8 November 2023, Brussels)**

#### **Context of the training**

The training was organized with the objective to present the Bioland Tool and its functionalities, as part of the agenda of the EU Clearing House Mechanism Training and Networking Session. The training built upon practical experiences from the Belgian and Dutch Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) National Focal Points regarding the use of the Bioland Tool. It also enables it to cover related topics, such as, the data reporting tool for MEAs (DaRT) and other facilities such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity (GKSSB). It was held in-person, in Brussels (Belgium) and co-organized by the French Museum of Natural History and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The day was divided into two main parts:

- General introduction to the Bioland
- Topics related to Bioland interoperability functionalities.

#### **Participants at the training**

The targeted audience for this training were CHM National Focal Points and national experts working on the CHM or Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC). The communication towards participants were made through social networks (LinkedIn) and the CO-OP4CBD website. It gathered 12 trainees. Most trainees came from government institutions and others from academia and research institutions. The rest of the participants came from the relevant ministries and national agencies. Most of the participants came from European countries (mainly Netherlands, Czech Republic, Hungary, UK, Finland or Slovenia).

#### **Training feedback: key elements**

Of the 12 participants of the training, 7 answered the survey questionnaire<sup>2</sup>. Communication prior to the event was considered to be very good, and the overall organization received an evaluation of 5/5. Regarding recommendations for the partnership, trainees mentioned targeting communication towards a wider audience, as well as encouraging participants to forward the information. The three sessions of the Bioland Tool training were considered to be highly relevant. One of the participants mentioned that the content was heavy in its content and another highlighted that it would have been beneficial to get other inputs from more countries. In terms of transfer and skills development, the trainees highlighted that they would be able to use the knowledge acquired, into their work. In conclusion, trainees suggested topics for next training such as:

- Case-studies on real world situations
- Advanced training on the Bioland Tool
- Functioning of the CBD, CHM and other institutions/organizations/funds related to the topic.

#### **Training materials**

All the training materials (are available online via the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#) along with the training programme, in PowerPoint and PDF, namely:

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<sup>2</sup> Link towards the survey results: [Feedback Questionnaire - COOP4CBD Brussels Workshop 8-10 November \(1-7\).xlsx](#)

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- **“The Clearing House Mechanism”** presented by Han de Koeijer, Belgian CHM NFP, RBINS/CO-OP4CBD. This presentation introduces the Convention's Clearing House Mechanism— its history, and the decisions that govern it. It also lists the activities in its Work Programme, how the topic interacts with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and future issues.
  - **“Web-Portal Biodiversity: Biodiversity-CHM.NL”** presented by Rob Hendriks, Dutch CHM NFP. This presentation introduces the Dutch National CHM. It outlines its layout, purpose, content, development phases and some future issues.
  - 6 “Bioland 1.0 Training Manual” in PDF meant to guide the Bioland Tool users in their utilization of the Bioland version used until early 2025. It complements the training session on the Bioland Tool delivered also during this event.

#### **1.4. Training session on the UN CBD’s Technical and Scientific Cooperation and CHM Network session (Lead: MNHN, with the support of RBINS, 9-10 November 2023, Brussels)**

##### **Context of the training**

The aim of this training session was to introduce and dive into the TSC processes and mechanisms of the UN CBD, including the CHM and the reporting processes. The training was held on-site over two days. The programme was structured in different sequences:

- Day one on “Training on the CBD’s Technical and Scientific Cooperation mechanism”, with focus on CBD technical and scientific mechanisms Framework and possible links with the CHM
- Day two on a “CHM Network session”, with a discussion of priorities and next steps of the EU CHM network.

##### **Participants at the training**

The training was held back-to-back with the CHM Network session and gathered 12 trainees. The communication towards participants was made through social networks (LinkedIn) and the CO-OP4CBD website. Participants came from European countries (Netherlands, Czech Republic, Hungary, UK, Finland or Slovenia). For this training, 5 external speakers were identified for their knowledge regarding reporting processes and monitoring framework. Some CO-OP4CBD partners were mobilized in order to share their experience and their perspective from the UN CBD negotiation arena.

##### **Training feedback: key elements**

The survey questionnaire used for the training on Bioland Tool (8 November 2023) was the same as the training of the 9-10 November 2023. Of the 12 participants at the training, 7 answered the survey questionnaire<sup>3</sup>. The trainees considered that it was very relevant to combine the training sessions with the networking session held the 8 November. On 9 November 2025, the participants considered three topics as highly relevant, namely: the presentation of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC IAG), the presentation on the CHM in the context of the CBD’s TSC and the TSC in the KM-GBF. For 6 out of 7 respondents, the topics covered during the networking session were highly relevant. As for recommendations, trainees mentioned that the training could have been delivered on a longer timeslot due to the important amount of information shared. They also

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<sup>3</sup> Link towards the survey results: [Feedback Questionnaire - COOP4CBD Brussels Workshop 8-10 November\(1-7\).xlsx](#)

highlighted the benefit and importance of on-site training. Topics of interest were highlighted by trainees for future training, among which:

- Practical arrangements for setting-up and manage a CHM
- Use of knowledge to create a national CHM
- COP16 Outcomes regarding TSC
- Functioning of the CBD's CHM.

### **Training materials**

All the training materials are available online via the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#) under PDF and PowerPoint formats along with the training programme, namely:

- **“CBD’s Technical and Scientific Cooperation processes and mechanisms”** *presented by Pierre Spielowoy, French MHNH/CO-OP4CBD.* This presentation introduces the definition of technical and scientific cooperation in the context of the Convention, outlines its main mechanisms and processes and reviews the main decisions of the COP on this matter.
- **“Technical and Scientific Cooperation in the KM-GBF”** *presented by Jorge L. Ventocilla, RBINS/CO-OP4CBD.* This presentation provides an overview of topics related to scientific and technical cooperation in the context of the CBD and how they link to the objectives and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **“The Global Biodiversity Information Facility”**. *This presentation introduces the “Global Biodiversity Information Facility” presented by André Heughebaert, Belgian Biodiversity Platform.* a global biodiversity data management facility. It explains how it works and its methods, providing statistics and facts about the data already collected.
- **“Monitoring Implementation of the KM-GBF”** *presented by Matea Vukelic, UNEP-WCMC/CO-OP4CBD.* This presentation focuses on the challenges of monitoring implementation of the KM GBF. It details the challenges as well as the work currently underway on indicators and showcases tools that enable countries to make progress in this area.
- **“Biodiversity Information System for Europe as a Clearing House Mechanism”** *presented by Brian MacSharry, European Environment Agency.* This presentation introduces the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE), which is the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the European level. It describes how it works, its activities and future challenges in terms of interoperability with other information systems.
- **“The UN CBD Clearing House Mechanism and its Linkage with the Bio-Bridge Initiative”** *presented by Erie Tamale, SCBD.* This presentation introduces the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its history and the decisions that govern it. It also outlines its challenges, future developments and its link to other tools, including the Bio-Bridge Initiative, a capacity-building matchmaking tool.
- **“Data Reporting Tool for MEAs: DaRT”** *presented by Eric Wiedmer, UNEP.* This presentation introduces the Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT). This tool was designed to help Parties manage the information flows required for reporting under various multilateral environmental agreements. This tool interacts directly with the CHM of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with this process being explained in detail as part of this showcase.

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- **“Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation (IAG TSC)”** presented by Grégoire Dubois, JRC-EC and Han de Koeijer, RBINS. This presentation details the role of the UN CBD Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. It explains its role within the knowledge management ecosystem at the UN CBD level and outlines the key terms and major issues involved related to these matters.

As complementary resources were uploaded the Deliverable 4.1 of the CO-OP4CBD project *“Report Setting Out the Capacity Needs to Deliver Scientific and Technical Cooperation”*. The partners also shared a *“General review of the binary Indicators: questions and answers for the monitoring framework of GBF”* written by CO-OP4CBD.

### **1.5. Capacity-building workshop for Hungarian, Romanian and Polish experts and negotiators (Lead: HUN-REN CER, 15-16 January 2024, Budapest)**

#### **Context of the training**

Organized in the context of Task 4.3. Learning, training and familiarization, and linked with Task 2.2. preparation of technical outputs for CBD meetings, this workshop introduced the UN CBD's history, mechanisms, processes and challenges to enhance Central and Eastern European expertise and participation in UN CBD processes. The CO-OP4CBD project has a specific focus and targeted work for CEE countries, and this training was organized also in the framework of the upcoming Hungarian 2024 (Hungary was in charge during the 5<sup>th</sup> SBI meeting and COP16) and Polish EU Council Presidencies (first half of 2025).

The training was organized in collaboration with the Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Department of the Hungarian Ministry for Agriculture, in Budapest, and lasted two days. The first day focused on CBD mechanisms, processes and challenges from the negotiator's perspective, while the second one provided a researchers' perspective on these issues.

#### **Participants at the training**

The invitation for the event was shared with experts registered through the CO-OP4CBD call of experts from the target countries, and further communication about the event was conducted through the HUN-REN CER partner networks and the CO-OP4CBD website.

56 participants attended the training session organized in Budapest from the three countries. 50% of them were government administration representatives, including personnel from national park directorates (28 persons), 41% of them were representatives of academia, from research institutes and universities (23 persons), while 9% (5 persons) were from NGOs, private research and development organisations or freelance specialists.

Apart from three short introductory talks about the overall framework of the workshop and the CO-OP4CBD project, the event had six speakers from five countries. Three of these talks were designed to offer valuable insights, particularly for the government representatives attending the workshop, in preparation for the upcoming Hungarian and Polish EU Council Presidencies. On the second day, three scientists shared their inside experiences with the science–policy interface and explored the potential opportunities for academic members to leverage their involvement in intergovernmental bodies.

#### **Training feedback: key elements**

The participants provided quality feedback on the event. Half of them completed the questionnaire, highlighting the quality of the speakers, the relevance of the topics, and the overall organization. Most of them were new on CBD topics. They appreciated especially the description of CBD mechanisms and processes, the information about the KM-GBF, the

presentation linking IPBES and CBD processes, as well as the CBD presentation in the perspective of the Hungarian EU Presidency.

### **Training materials**

All the training materials (PowerPoint presentations) were made available online through the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#). Namely, the training materials produced and available online are, in order of their presentation:

- **An introductory PowerPoint presentation**, presented by Kinga Öllerer, HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research (Hungary), member of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation of the CBD, CO-OP4CBD. This presentation introduces the event and provides some information on the next CO-OP4CBD activities.
- **“CO-OP4CBD training sessions and CBD processes and mechanisms”**, presented by Pierre Spielowoy, Researcher in international environmental law and CO-OP4CBD project leader for the French National Museum of Natural History (MNHN). This presentation focuses on the CO-OP4CBD project and the training sessions that are provided in that context. It presents the methodology of the training sessions, and the training topics that are planned for the year.
- **“Improving the cooperation for convention on biological diversity”**, presented by Ditta Greguss, Biodiversity policy advisor, CBD Secondary NFP, Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Department, Ministry for Agriculture, Hungary. This presentation focuses on the upcoming EU Council Hungarian presidency, including the preparations for COP16 and on the dedicated Hungarian biodiversity strategy and activities in that context.

Presentations on CBD mechanisms, processes and challenges, providing a negotiators' perspective

- **“UN CBD Decision-Making process: From an internal to an external point of view and vice-versa”** presented by Didier Babin, Researcher, CIRAD / MAB-France, former CBD-SBSTTA NFP and CBD Secretariat programme officer. This presentation explains the stages in the development of international environmental regulations and the history of the CBD in this process. It outlines the various processes and institutional mechanisms of the CBD, giving concrete examples of the involvement and participation of scientists and national delegates.
- **“UN CBD Decision-Making Process from COP to COP”** presented by Hendrik Segers, Belgian CBD national focal point, and SBSTTA national focal point, member of the CO-OP4CBD RBINS team. This presentation details the processes and mechanisms of the CBD, highlighting the links between the various bodies and subsidiary bodies, as well as the overall work process. It also provides information on the language and structure of CBD documents.
- **“Preparation for the UN CBD COP from the Perspective of the EU Presidency”** presented by Eliška Rolfová, senior officer at the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. This presentation shares the experience gained by the Czech Republic during its Presidency of the Council of the EU in the context of the CBD, detailing the various steps and methodologies and offering some advice to facilitate the process.

Presentations on CBD mechanisms, processes and challenges, providing a researchers' perspective

- **“A Researcher's Inside Experiences from Global Fora: IPBES Assessments and UN CBD Negotiations and Technical Expert Groups”** presented by Zsolt Molnár, scientific advisor and member of the HUN-REN CER CO-OP4CBD team, IPBES GA coordinating

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*lead author, member of the CBD AHTEG on Article 8(j) and the AHTEG on KMGBF Indicators. This presentation shares the experience of a scientist who has long been involved in global forums such as the CBD and IPBES, detailing the different spaces in which a scientist can get involved (plenary, AHTEG, side events) and sharing his experience 'in the field'.*

- **“KM GBF from an ecologist’s point of view”**, presented by *Joachim Töpper, senior research scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Natural Research, CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation introduces the concepts of indicator, data, methodology and capacity, and reflects on the KMGBF monitoring process by presenting and analysing some specific indicators.
- **“Harnessing the Participation in Intergovernmental Bodies: High-Impact Papers, Diverse Networks, Fun”** by *András Báldi, scientific advisor and leader of the CO-OP4CBD HUN-REN CER team, former MEP of IPBES, chair of Biodiversa+ Advisory Board*. This presentation focuses on scientific participation in global intergovernmental processes. Drawing on various ‘field experiences’, it offers some reflections on the interface between science and policy at the multilateral level.

### **1.6. CO-OP4CBD regional training session on CBD processes for Central and Eastern European countries (Lead: MNHN, with the support of HUN-REN CER, 18-19 March 2024, Paris)**

#### **Context of the training**

The objective of this training was to give CBD National Focal Points and experts from Central and Eastern European Countries (CEE) a better understanding of CBD processes to enhance their participation to CBD meetings. It was held in the context of the preparation of the Hungarian presidency of the European council, and in connexion and continuation with the training organized in January of the same year in Budapest. The training was held during two days with different focus:

- A focus on the context, history and regional issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially explaining challenges for biodiversity in CEE countries and specificity regarding involvement into MEAs
- A focus on the rules of procedure and science-policy interface in the context of the CBD

The training was held in physical with hybrid sessions.

#### **Participants at the training**

The training gathered 38 attendees, including 5 partners of the CO-OP4CBD project. The communication on the training was made on social media and on the CO-OP4CBD website. The trainees were mainly working in governments (19/38) and academia & research institutions (16). A few were working in the private sector and one in an NGO. In terms of geographical coverage, trainees were coming from European countries, especially from Central and Eastern European countries. The most represented countries were Hungary, Poland, Romania and France. For this training, 6 external speakers were identified to deliver presentations. They were selected as representants working in Eastern and Central European countries, both from each side of research and institutions.

### **Training feedback: key elements**

Of all the trainees, 10 answered the survey questionnaire<sup>4</sup> corresponding to less than 1/3 of participants. When questioning trainees about the training organization, all the participants considered the length was adapted to the content. In terms of communication prior to the training, half of the respondents heard about the event through a friend or a colleague and others through social media and the CO-OP4CBD website. When focusing on the background material that would have been needed, the participants mentioned receiving the presentations and a detailed agenda by email beforehand, as well as having access to information on other participants (country, organization) for networking. Trainees were also asked about what they liked the most and the least regarding the training. As positive aspects, they mentioned among other things:

- Working on the coordination of the CEE region in the CBD process
- Receiving advice and practical tips from experts involved in CBD work
- The topics and presenters chosen
- The event atmosphere and localization

As suggestions for improvement, they mentioned, for instance, the need for more interaction with speakers and the need to practice through concrete exercises. Of the 10 respondents, 7 would recommend it to a colleague. They also indicated that:

- They would recommend it to colleagues who are directly involved in nature protection issues **(x2)**
- It was very useful, especially on Science-Policy interface
- It was a valuable training that allows to become familiar with the principles of CBD work, CBD language, meet colleagues from the region with whom we can cooperate in the future
- It covered interesting and wide range of topics related to the functioning and importance of CBD, including its subsidiary bodies
- The event gave a good overview of the basis of the CBD and how it works

### **Training materials**

All the training materials (PowerPoint presentations) were made available online through the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#). Namely, the training materials produced and available online are, in order of their presentation:

- **“The Road to Cali”** *presented by Aleksandar Rankovic, Sciences Po Paris*. This presentation outlines the institutional and political context in which the Convention on Biological Diversity operates. It then focuses on the development of successive global strategic frameworks and the challenges they raise, particularly in terms of applicability (also in relation to the delegates who are called upon to adopt them).
- **“Issues regarding the provision of the Convention”** *presented by Pierre Spielowoy, MNHN/CO-OP4CBD* This presentation outlines and details the provisions of the Convention (article by article). It attempts to set out the conceptual landscape in which the discussions between the Parties are rooted and identify the major issues that remain to be addressed.

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<sup>4</sup> Link towards the survey results : [CO-OP4CBD Feedback Form Paris Training Session on CBD - 18-19 March 2024\(1-11\).xlsx](#)

- **“Discussing how the scientific mechanisms of the UN CBD work”** *presented by Pierre Spielewoy, MNHN/CO-OP4CBD.* This presentation aims to outline how work is organized during a UN CBD meeting. It presents the institutional framework, the main actors and the rules of procedure applicable to both Parties and observers, with a focus on “scientific” processes and stakeholders. A dedicated section also presents the types of UN CBD documents and how Parties and observers can read and interact with them.
- **“CO-OP4CBD and its role in increasing the Science-Policy Interface”** *presented by Jorge L. Ventocilla, RBINS/CO-OP4CBD.* This presentation introduces the CO-OP4CBD project and its role in the science-policy interface of the UN CBD. It also defines what a science-policy interface can be and discusses its terms in the context of the UN CBD
- **“UN CBD challenges and opportunities for implementation in CEE countries”** *presented by Angela Lozan, Moldovan Ministry of Environment.* This presentation provides statistical data, reflections and possible courses of action regarding the participation of Central and Eastern European countries in the UN CBD process. It also highlights the importance of biodiversity in these countries and the importance of their voice in these multilateral arenas.
- **“Discussing specific encounters for Eastern European Scientists: involvement and access to MEAs”** *presented by Elena Buzan, University of Primorska and Ancuta Fedorca, National Institute for Research Development of Romania.* Based on several case studies (on measurements and the development of genetic diversity indicators), this presentation lists the gaps and capacity-building needs — particularly in the CEE countries — to ensure that the Convention on Biological Diversity is fully implemented.
- **“Objectives and Main international biodiversity events during the upcoming Hungarian EU Presidency”** *presented by Fanni Takacs and Benedek Baltay, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture* This presentation introduces the objectives and work schedule of the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union in its coordination work on biodiversity conventions.
- **“Insights regarding EU Coordination: the main challenges of COP16”** *presented by Hendrik Segers, RBINS.* This presentation delves into the upcoming deadlines for the UN CBD, reviewing the schedule of the next meetings, highlighting the preparatory work that lies ahead and the major issues that member states will need to focus on as they approach the discussions that will take place at COP16 Colombia.

These resources are completed by short resume to help users and future trainees to target the courses and content that could be useful to them.

### **1.7. Training session on SBSTTA-26 substantive agenda items (Lead: FRB, NINA and RBINS, 2 April 2024, online)**

#### **Context of the training**

In the context of Task 4.3. Learning, training and familiarization, and linked with Task 2.2. preparation of technical outputs for CBD meetings, the project provided training on the following topics related to the SBSTTA-26 agenda items: Monitoring framework of the KM-GBF, Synthetic biology, Marine and coastal biodiversity, and Health and biodiversity. Apart from external experts, NINA, RBINS and Syke provided presentations on some of the topics. The participants were updated on the context and current discussions on the topics, preparing the attendees for potential contribution to Task 2.2 of the project and for following the topics at SBSTTA 26.

### **Participants at the training**

A total of 131 participants attended the online training. Participants were invited via CO-OP4CBD website, social media channels, and project newsletters. The training was open to all interested participants.

For this training, seven external speakers were identified due to their knowledge and experience regarding items of the SBSTTA-26 agenda. They were identified based on their previous involvement with these topics in the CBD context, and their central roles as national focal points for the CBD, CHM, Cartagena Protocol, and Biosafety Clearing-House Mechanism. Most of the speakers were affiliated with research institutes, whilst one represented a ministry from Belgium, and another one was involved in a wildlife association.

### **Training feedback: key elements**

This training session raised interest from some participants who contacted speakers and CO-OP4CBD team to ask for presentation materials and to be informed about the next training sessions to be provided by the project.

### **Training materials**

All the training materials (PowerPoint presentations) are available online through the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#), namely:

- **“The KM GBF Monitoring Framework – Status & Key Messages”** by *Joachim Töpfer, NINA/CO-OP4CBD & Han de Koeijer, RBINS/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation focuses on the ongoing work on the monitoring framework of KM-GBF, and especially the main results of the dedicated AHTEG. Some indicators were presented, alongside some examples of ongoing work.
- **“Identifying Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas: A National Perspective”** by *Elina Virtanen, Syke*. This presentation showcases the methodology and tools used to identify ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. It builds on the Finnish experience, providing some concrete examples to illustrate the approach.
- **“Biodiversity and Health”** by *Richard Kock, the Royal Veterinary College London/Wildlife Disease Association*. The presentation shares basic information to understand the history and the context of biodiversity and health issues, presents the remaining knowledge gaps, and an overview of the next steps for the negotiation and implementation of the approach.
- **“SBSTTA 26 Biosafety AI’s: A Policy Perspective”** by *Jens Warrie, Belgium’s FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment*. The presentation gives an overview of the context and history of the topic under the CBD. It showcases some concrete examples, providing some technical advice for negotiators.
- **“Synthetic Biology”** by *Fanny Coppens, Sciensano*. The presentation provides an overview of the context and history of the topic within the CBD. It also presents concrete examples, offering technical advice for negotiators.
- **“Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity”**, by *Marie Baeckelandt, Belgian Office of the CBD NFP*. The presentation gives an overview of the context, history of the topic in the CBD. It showcases some concrete examples, giving some technical advice for negotiators.

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## **1.8. CO-OP4CBD regional training for Central and Eastern European Countries (Lead: MNHN, with the support of HUN-REN CER and RBINS, 25-26 April 2024, Budapest)**

### **Context of the training**

The training had for objective to give CBD National Focal Points and experts from Central and Eastern European countries, a complete overview of negotiation techniques, to strengthen their participation in CBD meetings. It focused on negotiation processes and techniques, underpinning the UN CBD. It supported technical experts with regards to getting a better understanding of the formal procedures behind document development as well as the challenges and stakeholders participating during this type of negotiation. This training resulted from a request by the Hungarian EU Presidency staff to improve their capacities in CBD negotiations, ahead of CBD COP16 and the Hungarian Presidency of the European Council. The training was delivered over the course of two days:

- The first day offered an introduction to CBD Negotiation, along with an overview of negotiation techniques, some exercises to prepare a national or regional position as well as simulation of negotiation in a plenary session
- The second day focused on the presentation of negotiated documents built by the trainees and a discussion with experienced negotiators.

### **Participants at the training**

The training aimed to reach biodiversity experts and CBD National Focal Points from Central and Eastern European countries. The training gathered 37 trainees including 7 CO-OP4CBD team members from MNHN, RBINS, HUN-REN CER and NINA. A large majority of participants came from governments (24) and the rest from academia and research institutions. Depending on the countries, the trainees were, for example, working for their Ministry of Environment or Ministry of Agriculture. Central and Eastern European countries were well represented, in line with the training objectives, with participants coming from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. All the presenters were partners from the project having already participated in negotiation processes.

### **Training feedback: key elements**

The Budapest training had the highest rate of feedback. Of the 30 participants 28 answered the survey questionnaire<sup>5</sup>. In general, the trainees were very satisfied with the training organization.

All the respondents considered that the training programme, combining theoretical reminders with practical exercises, was beneficial to their experience. According to the respondents, the more relevant sequences of the practical exercises were:

- Drafting the document, identifying mistakes
- Practicing regional coordination
- Exercising plenary session
- Experiencing a negotiation's simulation.

Respondents were highly satisfied with the accommodation (4,6/5), catering (4,7/5) and transport (4,8/5). The training was considered as intense, especially due to the specificity of the practical exercise on negotiating a position, mobilizing a lot of capacities. The

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<sup>5</sup> The survey was shared through printed documents and completed on-site by the trainees.

communication prior to the training was considered as very good, with some recommendations such as sending the assignment and supporting documents before the training to prepare for exercises.

Trainees made some suggestions for future trainings on topics such as:

- EU Coordination
- Budget negotiation
- How to build a verbal negotiation.

All the trainees indicated that they would take part in future similar sessions.

### **Training materials**

Most of the training was based on practical exercises. Therefore, the presentations available on the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#) are covering only the training sessions delivered on day one, under PDF and PowerPoint, including:

- **“The Convention on Biological Diversity: a brief overview and presentation of the coming meetings and agenda”** *presented by Jorge L. Ventocilla, RBINS/CO-OP4CBD.* This presentation provides an overview of the UN CBD workflow and some basic information to help stakeholders interact with it as effectively as possible (timeline, session preparation steps. etc.). It also presents the agendas for the main UN CBD meetings in 2024 (SBSTTA 26, SBI 4 and COP16 Colombia).
- **“The rule of procedures of UN CBD meetings”** *presented by Pierre Spielowoy, MNHN/CO-OP4CBD.* This presentation aims to outline how work is organised during a UN CBD meeting. It presents the institutional framework, the main actors and the rules of procedure applicable to both Parties and observers. A dedicated section also presents the types of UN CBD documents and how Parties and observers can read and interact with them.

Both presentations are coming with a resume explaining the content of the course.

### **1.9. ECCB Workshop: Promoting CBD activities in Central and Eastern Europe: challenges and the way forward (Lead: HUN-REN CER, 18 June 2024, Bologna)**

#### **Context of the training**

The workshop was organised as a 1.5-hour event within the 7<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Conservation Biology (ECCB) and its aim was to promote the visibility and effective implementation of the UN CBD by boosting participation of biological conservation experts in European countries with less activity and capacity. Specifically, the intention was to strengthen endeavours associated with the Convention and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across Central and Eastern Europe, thereby supporting broader biodiversity conservation and policy efforts.

#### **Participants at the training**

The workshop, organised as one of the parallel sessions of the congress, attracted over 20 participants from various countries. Given the format and structure, no prior registration was necessary, which means we do not have detailed information regarding the participants' expertise, institutional background, or country of origin. Advertising for the event took place through the official conference website and flyers distributed on site, and through the CO-OP4CBD website and social media (LinkedIn).

### **Training feedback: key elements**

At the end of the training a Mentimeter poll was shared, gathering responses from 24 participants. Their results indicated that researchers are keen to engage in policy activities to enhance the impact of their expertise. However, their participation is often hindered by lack of funding and time constraints, as most involvement is on a pro bono basis. Notably, 82% of respondents stated that the workshop inspired them to take part in future policy activities, including in CBD processes.

### **Training materials**

All the training materials (PPT presentations) are available online through the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#) namely:

- **“Engaging in the Processes under the UN CBD: The Role of Technical and Scientific Cooperation”** *delivered by Sebastian Dunnett, and prepared together with Claire Brown and Daniela Guaras, all from UNEP-WCMC.* The presentation focused on the functioning of TSC under the CBD and highlighted opportunities for engaging in the process.
- **“Leveraging Regional and Subregional Cooperation to Enhance UN CBD Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in Central and Eastern Europe”** *presented by Grégoire Dubois (KCBD).* It offered a short presentation of the EC-KCBD and its links with the upcoming Regional Support Centres of the CBD.
- **“Why There Are So Few CEE Researchers Involved in the UN CBD and How This Could Change”** *delivered by Kinga Öllerer (HUN-REN CER, Institute of Biology, Bucharest), and prepared together with Tímea Németh and András Báldi (HUN-REN CER).* It outlined possible pathways of engagement for researchers into CBD processes and focused on the participation of CEE into the science–policy interface.

### **1.10. CO-OP4CBD training session on Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the context of the CBD (Lead: MNHN, with the support of NINA, 11-12 June 2025, Trondheim)**

#### **Context of the training**

The training aimed at exploring UN CBD governance structures, including the newly established Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and the role of the new Sub-regional Centres for Technical and Scientific Cooperation. It contributes to the Task 4.3. Learning, training and familiarization of the CO-OP4CBD project. More precisely, the training focused on:

- What is and what could be the role of traditional ecological knowledge holders in CBD governance and processes
- CBD governance structures including the new SB8(j)
- The role of the European TSC Centres
- Delivery of practical guidance to strengthen the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities’ (IPLC) representatives, experts, civil society, and academia in CBD processes.

This training was held in Trondheim (Norway). The location was chosen to be relevant to the topics covered, considering the proximity of Sami people and their role as Indigenous knowledge holders in Europe.

The programme of the training consisted of two main parts:

- Introduction to the CBD processes and mechanisms and traditional knowledge mobilization
- CBD COP16 outputs and concrete implications for IPLC involvement in CBD process.

### **Participants at the training**

The audience included traditional knowledge holders, European CBD delegates, and experts seeking training on issues related to traditional knowledge, including newly appointed Article 8(j) NFPs. The communication was made through social media (LinkedIn), with targeted invitations to traditional knowledge holders and 8(j) NFPs, and the CO-OP4CBD website. The training gathered 44 participants, including 8 members of the CO-OP4CBD project. Participants represented a range of sectors including government institutions (16), academia and research organisations (16), and civil society groups and networks (8). Representatives from Indigenous organizations also participated, including members of the Forest Peoples Programme and the ICCA Consortium. The countries most represented were Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the Philippines. For the training, 8 external speakers were invited based on their involvement in Article 8(j) issues and their roles within traditional knowledge institutions and organizations.

### **Training feedback: key elements**

27 participants answered the feedback survey<sup>6</sup> with generally highly positive responses. The organization of the event was scored with 4.6/5, complemented with 4.4/5 for the length and format of the event. The participants largely commended the smooth organisation, along with the selection of speakers and holistic approach of the content. Some expressed a desire for greater involvement of traditional knowledge holders in the design of the event. Communication prior to the training was also evaluated as excellent, with score 4.6/5. As a recommendation for future improvement, participants suggested providing the reading materials even earlier in the preparation process.

In terms of content, 96% of the themes were rated as highly relevant, while 4% thought it was partially relevant. Participants particularly valued the inclusion of practical exercises, which they found useful in enhancing their engagement with CBD processes. The training was also perceived as beneficial for their longer-term professional activities, notably by:

- Expanding networking opportunities and professional contacts
- Deepening their understanding of key topics and concepts
- Strengthening strategies to engage TEK holders in COP discussions and within the broader CBD context.

All participants indicated their willingness to take part in future trainings organized by the CO-OP4CBD project. When asked about other topics of interest for upcoming workshops, participants highlighted:

- Traditional and ecological knowledge
- Article 8(j) and its subsidiary body
- Inclusion of Indigenous methods for the development of indicators.

### **Training materials**

A substantial set of documentation and resources were shared following the course. The organizers gathered resources from the speakers, along with additional scientific sources, to develop a reading list disseminated to all trainees. The following documents (all are in

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<sup>6</sup> Link towards the feedback survey results: [CO-OP4CBD Training session on Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the context of the CBD Trondheim, 11-12 June 2025 \(Responses\).xlsx](#)

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PowerPoint and PDF format, except the programme which is solely in PDF) are available as part of the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#):

- **“UN CBD: Humankind’s Promise for Sustainability and Biodiversity”** by *Bernd Siebenhüner, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg*. This presentation focuses on the history of the development and adoption of the CBD including an outline of the main concepts, and challenges concerning its evolution and implementation.
- **“The UN CBD and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: History, Context, Background of IPLCs involvement, Main issues of Discussion and main Definitions”**, by *Olivier Rukundo, UN CBD Secretariat*. This presentation covers the history, institutional and political context of Article 8(j) of the UN CBD. It also examines the evolution of the related institutional mechanism: the Article 8(j) Working Group and the SB8j, whose first session was scheduled for 2025. A detailed overview of the 8(j) Programme of Work, adopted at COP16, is also included.
- **“Catalysing Public Participation for Achieving the Global Biodiversity Plan”**, by *Claudia Ituarte-Lima from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute*. This presentation broadens the scope to the global context in which the UN CBD is rooted, a context that touches on both the need for environmental and societal change. The ecosystem approach interacts and converges with the human rights-based approach. In both cases, the broad participation of various societal groups, including Indigenous Peoples and communities, is instrumental.
- **“Technical and Scientific Cooperation in the context of the UN CBD”**, by *Jorge L. Ventocilla, RBINS/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation focuses on technical and scientific cooperation as a tool to ensure stakeholders’ involvement in UN CBD processes. It introduces the groups and mechanisms contributing to TSC in the UN CBD context (CHM, IAG TSC, TSC centres, etc.) and their role in the implementation of the KM-GBF. Finally, it also outlines UN CBD decisions on TSC involving IPLCs.
- **“Biodiversity benefits of traditional knowledge and the Customary Use of Land: a global assessment of UN CBD national reports”**, by *Kinga Öllerer, senior researcher and CO-OP4CBD partner from the HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research and the Institute of Biology Bucharest of the Romanian Academy, member of the CBD Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation*. This presentation summarizes a study examining how Parties to the UN CBD address the role of IPLCs and traditional knowledge in biodiversity conservation in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> national reports submitted to the Convention. Based on the study's findings, it raises points for discussion regarding the recognition of traditional knowledge and IPLCs in national reports. It also makes recommendations aimed at better integrating the perspectives of IPLCs and traditional knowledge holders in the preparation of the 7th National Reports.
- **“The European Commission’s Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity and its UN CBD Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation support Centre”**, by *Grégoire Dubois from the EC-JRC*. This presentation sheds light on the development of the UN CBD Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Centres, their organisation, functions and interactions with the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD). It also introduces the establishment of the 23 Knowledge Hubs on GBF targets, to be coordinated by the KCBD and partners.
- **“Innovation at the SPI: The EU Science Service for Biodiversity”**, by *Jiska van Dijk, NINA*. This presentation introduces the Science Service for Biodiversity (SSBD) platform, built by BioAgora Horizon Europe project. It highlights the SSBD's contribution to the dialogue between science and policy and its support for thematic Knowledge Exchange Networks.

- **“The role of Article 8(j) NFP and How to engage with them”**, by *Nadja Steinfort, EC*. This presentation introduces the role of National Focal Points for Article 8(j). It includes information on the Terms of Reference for National Focal Points in the UN CBD as well as Decisions focusing on Article 8(j) and related provisions.
- **“Area-based conservation futures under the Global Biodiversity Framework: indigenous conservation, resisting drivers of biodiversity loss”**, by *Bas Verschuuren and Jelle Behagel from the Wageningen University and Research*. This presentation introduces the work led by Wageningen University, to build capacity for conservation by engaging with IPLC in collaborative learning processes. It describes the impact of such knowledge development for biodiversity conservation, and particularly its contribution to SDG targets.
- **“Preparing the next UN CBD meetings: concrete process, advice from the field”**, by *Robin Goffaux, FRB/CO-OP4CBD*. This presentation describes the UN CBD workflow and offers concrete advice on preparation for the Convention meetings. It explains the structure, terms and objectives of UN CBD events' documents. It also proposes approaches to preparing and contributing to UN CBD processes, specifically addressing stakeholders' roles (delegation members, observers, experts).
- **“The rules of procedure of UN CBD meetings”**, by *Pierre Spielowoy, CO-OP4CBD partner, from the MNHN*. This presentation outlines the organisation of work during a UN CBD meeting. It presents the institutional framework, the main actors and the rules of procedure applicable to both Parties and observers. The types of UN CBD documents are also provided, along with how Parties and observers can read and interact with them.

As complementary resources are available:

- A reading list (9 pages - PDF) with resources and articles linked to the training programme sessions
- A review produced by the CO-OP4CBD project named “General review of the binary indicators: questions and answers for the monitoring framework of GBF”.

### **1.11. Training on SBSTTA-27 Agenda items (Lead: FRB, 1-5 September 2025, online)**

#### **Context of the training**

In the context of Task 4.3. Learning, training and familiarization, and linked with Task 2.2. preparation of technical outputs for CBD meetings—the project provides training on the topics of the different SBSTTA meetings ongoing in the project timeline. This training session was the project’s third one on this matter, dedicated to SBSTTA-27 agenda items which were explored by invited speakers; specifically, the history, context, current discussions and issues underpinning the topics in question.

The meeting, held online, was structured per SBSTTA items, with at least one international expert per item. For each item, a moderator from the project was also scheduled, ensuring the facilitation of the discussions. Instead of a single session with all the presentations, the project chose to organise individual sessions by theme, spread over a total of one week.

#### **Participants at the training**

The training gathered 123 participants across all sessions: 29 for the IPBES session, 34 for the RARM session, 40 for the PMRR session, 23 for the health session, 32 for the Climate Change session, 17 for the IAS session, and 39 for the Scientific and technical needs session.

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### **Training feedback: key elements**

The training session aimed at providing participants with the essential knowledge to understand, follow, and effectively contribute to upcoming SBSTTA agenda items which was very appreciated by the participants. The timing was ideal, just before the Vilm meeting, when CBD documents have just been released and EU orientation lines are not yet established. Given the need for SPI both at SBSTTA and COP, and the project's mission to strengthen the role of the EU in the CBD, its range of activities could also be extended to COP, as well as to SBI and SB8j.

In the case of this third training on SBSTTA items we choose not to cover all items consecutively in a single day. It allowed the project, the speakers and the participants a greater flexibility in involving speakers, dedicating around one hour per topic, and spreading the effort over multiple days. To ensure better follow-up and alignment with the project, access to the virtual meeting links should be conditioned upon registration, which would also encourage participants to block the session time in their agendas and provide relevant personal information consistent with COOP4CBD database requirements. Each session would benefit from having both a scientific or technical expert and a delegate actively engaged in the topic for the next CBD meeting, ensuring comprehensive and practical training. Content should focus on clearly explaining the CBD documents, particularly the recommendations, and short preparatory calls with speakers on each agenda item could further support coordination and enhance the quality of the sessions.

### **Training materials**

All the training materials (PPT and video recording of the presentation) were made available online through the [CO-OP4CBD training corner](#). Namely, the training materials produced and available online are:

- **“Matters related to the Work Programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)”** by *Coline Léandre from FRB and Arun Agrawal, Université Notre Dame*. This presentation details the milestones of IPBES until 2030 and discusses some ongoing collaborations with the IPCC. It also presents the main conclusions of the Nexus and Transformative Changes reports.
- **“Risk Assessment and Risk Management”** by *Valeria Giovannelli from the Italian Institute of Environmental Protection and Research, Werner Schenkel from the German Federal Office of consumer protection and food safety, and Jens Warrie from the Belgian federal public service on Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment*. This presentation linked with SBSTTA27 agenda item 7, reviews the background to the establishment of an expert group on risk assessment and the main conclusions of that group.
- **“Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review: Global Review of Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”** by *Juliette Landry, IDDRI, Marcel Kok and Roos Immerzeel from the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency*. This presentation linked with agenda item 3 details the stages of the global framework monitoring and evaluation process. It outlines both the political and scientific challenges involved. It also presents a national case study.
- Three presentations on **“Biodiversity and Health”** delivered by *Cristina Romanelli from World Health Organization, Kim Gruetzmacher from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and Susana Viegas, National School of Public Health*. This session introduced the various decisions regarding Health and Biodiversity taken in the UN-CBD context. It also introduces the One Health concept and its historical evolution through the CBD, especially its coverage in the SBSTTA context.

- **“Biodiversity and Climate Change”** by *Nathalie Pettorelli, Zoological Society of London, and Clarisse Siebert from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency*. It focused on interlink between UN Conventions as well as on the topic of Climate Change as covered under the CBD, more specifically at SBSTTA27.
- **“Invasive Alien Species”** by *Joana Vicente from the Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources and Roseli Pellens from the MNHN*. It gave key information to understand the dimensions of IAS topic and its coverage under Target 6 of the KM-GBF. It also focused on the draft recommendation produced by the SBSTTA27 for submission to the COP.
- **“Scientific and Technical Needs to Support the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”** by *Axel Paulsch, Institute for Biodiversity, and Han de Koeijer from RBINS/CO-OP4CBD*. **“Agenda Item 6c: Areas of potential further work”** by *Linn Appelgren from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and “Agenda item 6b: strategic review and update to the expended programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the KM-GBF”* by *Jules de Brabander from FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, and Christine Farcy from the Public Service of Wallonia*. The session was divided into three presentations, corresponding to the three agenda items to be covered under item 6. Each presenter introduced challenges, last decisions and further recommendations on the targeted items.

## 2 Other CO-OP4CBD training materials

Beyond training, the CO-OP4CBD partners worked on the development of complementary training materials to ensure the sustainability and the dissemination of the knowledge gathered during the project lifetime. Two tools are currently in development to ensure the sharing of knowledge on the CBD: a MOOC and a CBD Guide for Experts.

### 2.1 The CBD Guide for Experts

#### A toolbox for scientists and experts wishing to engage with the CBD

As part of its capacity-building activities and to answer the needs identified during the various trainings held during the project, the CO-OP4CBD partners (led by the MNHN) and the Biodiversa+ European Biodiversity Partnership, built on their training materials to develop a **“CBD Guide for Experts”**. The partners started the work on the guide in May 2025, with anticipated completion by January 2026.

Like many of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), the CBD aspires to be a science-driven policy process. In Article 25 of the Convention, an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body, known as the SBSTTA, was established, demonstrating the Parties’ commitment to incorporating timely advice related to the implementation of the Convention, including scientific input. In this context, whilst bearing in mind the increasing need for scientific expertise to respond to the biodiversity crisis. The CO-OP4CBD and Biodiversa+ team have developed this practical guide for scientists or more generally experts and practitioners (dealing with biodiversity data, information and/or knowledge, from all knowledge systems) wishing to become involved in CBD processes.

Drawing on the practical experience and comments of delegates and experts, this guide aims to provide practical advice and tools at different levels of engagement (e.g., from interpreting a CBD Decision to being part of a delegation at a COP). The final objective of this guide is to help various experts working with biodiversity knowledge, engage in CBD processes. The toolbox provided through this guide considers all CBD components: the Kunming–Montreal

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Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and the 2050 Vision of “living in harmony with nature”, but also other decisions contributing to the implementation of the Convention.

### **A training material that adapts to all levels of expertise**

The document was built to provide information for different types of stakeholders (scientists, future negotiators, thematic experts...), with regards to the stakeholders’ different levels of expertise (from beginner to expert).

It offers a general introduction to the CBD and its scientific and political processes. Moreover, it presents a toolbox with each tool corresponding to a way of getting involved in the CBD. If the users can choose their corresponding level to correctly identify the relevant section to master; then they can also use the tools independently. It should be noted that the prerequisites and context of these tools are already outlined to help the reader choose the most appropriate one. Hence, there are multiple ways (25+) to engage with the CBD: at international level, in a direct manner, alongside the Convention and its processes, or in an indirect manner, beyond formal engagement. The reader can also engage at a regional, national and even local level. For these types of engagement, this toolkit will provide resources to adapt to different contexts.

### **Calendar for the “Guide for Experts” publication**

This guide was developed through several steps:

- Identification of the themes of the tools along with the division in levels of expertise (May 2025)
- Review of the plan by the partners of the two projects (June 2025)
- Writing the content of the tools by the COOP4CBD/Biodiversa+ team (summer 2025)
- Review of the first written version of the guide by experts of the CBD by selected reviewers (August 2025)
- External Review of the outline and first graphic design of the guide by the targeted users (September – December 2025)
- Improvement of the content following different feedback (January to March 2026).

As part of the dissemination process, the partners chose to present a “preview” of this guide (introduction of the summary, presentation of two tools) during a side-event at SBSTTA-27. This phase will allow to get feedback from a larger public on the design and on the thematic targeted by the partners.

The partners plan to publish the guide by Summer 2026 at the latest.

## **2.2 Development of a CO-OP4CBD MOOC**

### **Ensuring the sustainability of CO-OP4CBD learning materials**

To complete its activities and reach its objectives in terms of capacity-building, the CO-OP4CBD consortium currently works on the development of a self-paced online course that would enable us to gather the training materials developed since 2023. The aim of this initiative is to ensure the re-use of the courses materials and to anticipate the end of the CO-OP4CBD project in November 2026.

This type of teaching tool (MOOC) has the advantage of allowing users to learn independently - by bringing together different types of content along with more interactive material; unlike content such as PowerPoints, videos, and guidelines that are already available on the project Training Corner.

In this context, CO-OP4CBD has identified a dedicated budget and a **dedicated team led by the French Museum of Natural History (MNHN)**, who will have to consider the need to develop a tool that will last beyond the end of the project. As part of this work, the team have organized:

- Training Materials Task Force (every two months), to structure the learning materials that were developed during the project (e.g., creation of the training corner, follow-up on the MOOC)
- MOOC working groups (one organized in October 2025; next one planned in December 2025 and then every two months in 2026), gathering partners wishing to contribute to the MOOC development
- Meetings with other partners that could also contribute to this work: RESPIN project team (as their consortium is also working on a MOOC), Learning for Nature UN platform team etc.

To guarantee its sustainability beyond the project life, it has been planned that the course will be hosted by several external platforms that have similar targets in terms of users. Some of these platforms are:

- UN platforms: Learning for Nature (confirmed interest to host the course)
- The Science Service for Biodiversity platform, BioAgora Horizon Europe project
- CBD/CHM Website (as per the grant agreement)

The MOOC might also be made available on CO-OP4CBD and its partners' websites, through a dedicated link.

### **Complementarity with CO-OP4CBD other resources**

The MOOC is designed to be as interactive as possible and differs from more static types of content. It will promote other types of content (questionnaires, videos), highlighting complementary resources (guidelines or PowerPoints shared from the project, for example). In addition to providing theoretical and practical content, the main aim of the course is to put participants in a real-life situation and give them the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in that context, practicing on dedicated exercises.

This course targets CBD national delegations (e.g., new delegations' members, CBD NFPs, etc.) or experts (prior to mobilization) that wish to engage in CBD processes. It has the main objective to answer the needs of potential learners interested in CO-OP4CBD related content and to pursue the work led in the project through material available continuously.

### **Calendar for the MOOC development**

The aim is to have the MOOC ready by the end of the project (November 2026) and to be able to promote it during upcoming CBD events (e.g., COP 17 in Armenia, for example). The next steps are:

- November 2025: selection of a service provider to support the technological and pedagogical development of the MOOC, working in partnership with the MNHN team.
- December 2025: meeting of the MOOC Working Group and definition of the next steps; update of the pedagogical scenario written by the partners.
- January to April 2026: development of the MOOC in partnership with the service provider (writing of the scripts, technological development...)
- April to June 2026: testing of the MOOC and review of the courses by a pool of stakeholders (CBD experts and negotiators)
- July / August 2026: integration of the MOOC on the Learning for Nature platform and release of the course.

These dates could evolve according to the schedule of other activities, but the MOOC will be released the latest in October 2026.

### 3 Annex to the report

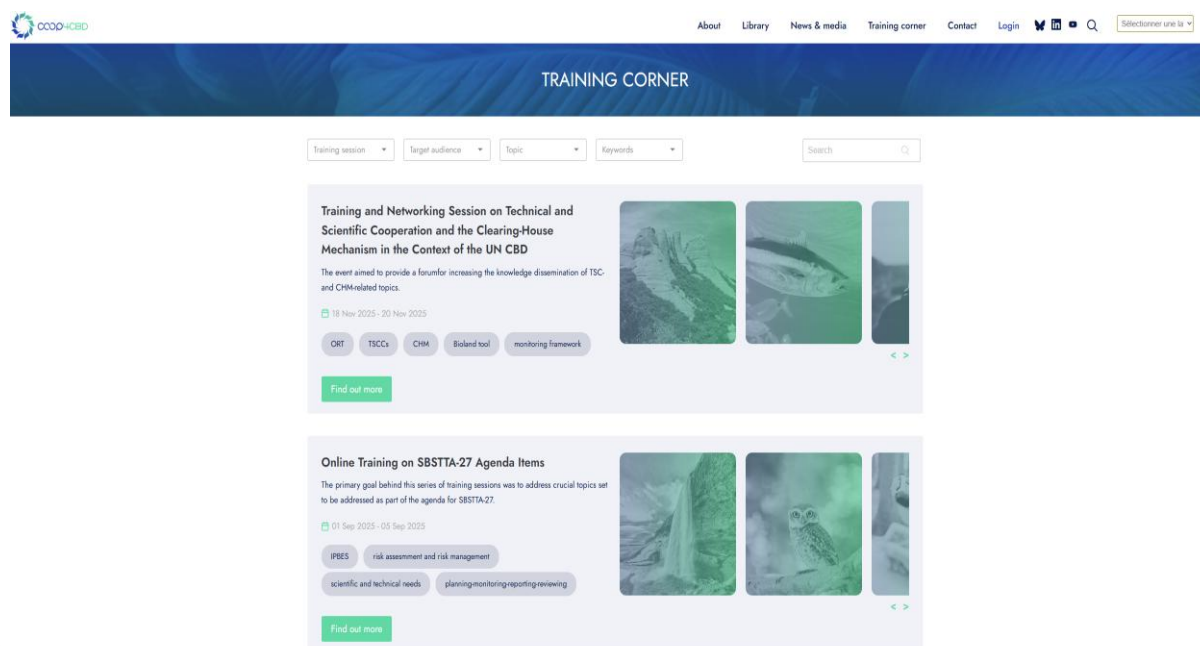
#### 3.1 CO-OP4CBD Online Training Corner

To disseminate and ensure the re-use of the training resources, CO-OP4CBD partners created an online Training Corner on the project website. It allows to discover the different training delivered by the partners.

The Training Corner is organized per training, with specific filters to identify the topic covered, target audience and keywords associated to each workshop. For each training, one specific page has been created featuring a short introduction offering information on the training context, partners involved and timeframe, as well as the PowerPoint presentations and PDF for each session. The programme is made available to guide the user into the different steps of the training delivered and to offer a structure in the learning process.

The final objective of the Training Corner is to allow the resources produced in the project to be used continuously, even after its end. It also answers the need to improve access to qualitative training material, according to the time and possibility of the users.

To illustrate this part, find below a screen capture of the Training Corner landing page:



Here is an example of a page dedicated to one specific CO-OP4CBD training:

## Online Training on SBSTTA-27 Agenda Items

IPBES risk assessment and risk management

scientific and technical needs

planning-monitoring-reporting-reviewing

01 Sep 2025 - 05 Sep 2025

### About

The primary goal behind this series of training sessions was to facilitate expert-led showcases and stakeholder discussions in the context of crucial topics set to be addressed as part of the agenda for SBSTTA-27.



### Organisers

French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity

### Course content

Matters related to the Work Programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) ✓

Risk Assessment and Risk Management ✓

Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review: Global Review of Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ✓



## 3.2 Preview of the CBD “Guide for Experts”

This part presents a Preview (not the final version) of the CBD Guide for Experts co-build by CO-OP4CBD and Biodiversa+ as part of its capacity-building activities. It includes the summary and a tool example:



<b>GENERAL INTRODUCTION: WHY THIS BOOKLET AND HOW TO USE IT?</b>	<b>1</b>
Acronyms	2
I. Introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Science-Policy Interface	4
1° The Convention of Biological Diversity	5
2° The specific role of the CBD in the context of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements	8
3° The science-policy interface in relation with CBD	9
III/ Toolkit: ways to scientifically support CBD	13
<b>1° Level 1: Beginners</b>	<b>14</b>
A. Discover CBD main activities	14
B. Understand CBD timeframe	15
C. Understand CBD Bodies	17
D. Know the main actors of the Convention and their reciprocal role	18
E. Understand the typology of CBD documents	20
F. Learn how to read CBD COP documents	22
G. Get to know CBD work areas	24
H. Get to know the CBD Programme of Work	25
I. Check CBD notifications	27
J. Discover the CBD national “Clearing-House Mechanism” (CHM)	29
K. Get to know the CBD network, i.e., bodies providing knowledge to the Convention	31
L. Make oneself known to the CBD National Focal Points (NFPs) of your country	32

<b>2° Level 2: Advanced</b>	34
A. Generate knowledge and/or data relevant to CBD	34
B. Liaise with researchers and initiatives involved in CBD	36
C. Provide knowledge inputs to CBD actors, upon request or voluntarily	37
D. Develop documents to inform CBD	38
E. Consider taking part in a CBD meeting (COP, SBSTTA, SBI, other...)	40
F. Attend a CBD meeting (COP, SBSTTA, SBI, other)	42
G. Organize side events at CBD (e.g., COP, SBSTTA)	44
H. Attend meetings addressing CBD issues (i.e., not part of the conventional processes)	45
<b>3° Level 3: Experts</b>	47
A. Become member of a CBD thematic working group	48
B. Get involved in bodies addressing CBD or biodiversity issues in the broader sense	50
C. Get involved in the development or update of a local BSAP (LBSAP) or any local process (if existing)	52
D. Develop research projects having SCBD or organizations closely linked to CBD as a partner	53
E. Once you are familiar with CBD functioning and processes, build capacities in your own communities	55
IV/ Useful contact details	58



One example of a tool structure:

### III/ Toolkit: ways to scientifically support CBD

#### 1° Level 1: Beginners

**Prerequisite of such an engagement:**  
None, low resources required

**Objective:** Get to know CBD and some of its relevant actors

#### A. Discover CBD main activities

Tool N°1.A		Discover CBD main activities
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Get familiar with the CBD history	
<b>Stakeholders involved</b>	None	
<b>Timeframe</b>	Before further involvement	

<b>Costs</b>	In-kind costs
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand how the CBD works (see in introduction).</li> <li>● Understand how the CBD adopts decisions.</li> <li>● Understand how the CBD defines its strategy.</li> <li>● Understanding the source of CBD knowledge.</li> </ul>

#### Description (context & content – step by step)

In 2022 at COP15 the CBD adopted a framework, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) that defines the CBD strategy, including a vision and goals for 2050 and targets to be met by the Parties by 2030.

Through its COPs, its subsidiary bodies (SBSTTA, SBI, SBA8)), and various expert groups (see Tool n°1.C), the CBD creates its governance space where biodiversity issues are negotiated, refined, and translated into propositions of actions. Indeed, at each COP, the Parties adopt decisions necessary to monitor the effective implementation of this framework and adapt the objectives.

The CBD draws on a wide range of sources to inform its decisions: national reports, scientific assessments (such as those from IPBES, other intergovernmental structures), recommendations from its subsidiary bodies, inputs from civil society experts (NGOs, IPLC etc.).


Once the decisions have been adopted and published, Parties and relevant organizations must ensure that they are properly implemented, knowing that meeting the targets is not mandatory for Parties.



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**Outcomes** ● Get familiar with the CBD framework and its strategic documents

**Resources**



The Preview was produced to get feedback from experts and stakeholders engaged into CBD processes, to improve its content.

## 4 Acknowledgements

The authors of this report would like to acknowledge the contributions of CO-OP4CBD team members and all invited speakers for their work on the training materials, and thank the participants for their valuable input during the events and for sharing their feedback on the various training sessions.

## 5 References

CO-OP4CBD Training Corner - <https://coop4cbd.eu/training-corner>