

ROAD MAP FOR ENHANCING CO-BENEFITS

from implementation of the Minamata
Convention and the Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework



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**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**

Road map for enhancing co-benefits

from implementation of the Minamata
Convention and the Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework

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This publication contains a roadmap for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by 2030. The roadmap was presented to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2025 (**UNEP/MC/COP.6/20**). COP-6, in decision 6-18, welcomed the road map and encouraged Parties and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to carry out the actions suggested in it.

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Road map for enhancing co-benefits

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-6) welcomed this Road map for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by 2030 in decision MC-6/18. The annex to the document includes an overview of decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting that are of direct relevance to the Minamata Convention.

Parties and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged, as appropriate, to carry out the actions suggested in the Road map, on a voluntary basis, consistent with national priorities, circumstances and capacities, and under the leadership of national Governments.

The three key pillars of the Road map for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and advancing overall coherence across the mercury and biodiversity agendas are described below. While the focus of this document is on the links between the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Framework, the pillars would also support coherence and synergies in the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity more generally.

The three pillars are: (i) contribution to the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (ii) inclusion of mercury reduction actions and targets in NBSAPs and national biodiversity targets; and (iii) creation of an enabling environment for enhanced co-benefits, including resource mobilization, capacity-building and cooperation.

1. Contribution to the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The purpose of this pillar of the Road map is to cooperate and continue sharing and exchanging information to fill in the gap under target 7 of the Framework to cover highly hazardous chemicals and mercury.

The following are possible actions for this pillar of the Road map:

- (a) Minamata Convention national focal points to establish contact with the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (including the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) to exchange information on mercury monitoring and target 7 of the Framework;
- (b) Minamata Convention national focal points and experts to engage, as appropriate, in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on Framework indicators, making use of the knowledge and information from mercury-related research and development work and mercury monitoring;
- (c) The Secretariat to share information on relevant monitoring initiatives under the Minamata Convention with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as indicated in decision 16/31 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the monitoring framework for the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- (d) The Secretariat to contribute to the further development and monitoring of Framework indicators, as well as indicators for the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, with information from the effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention, including the scientific report of the Open-ended Scientific Group.

2. Inclusion of mercury reduction actions and targets in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity targets

This pillar of the Road map is to promote Parties' integration of mercury reduction targets into the revision or updating of their NBSAPs for alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and beyond.¹

The following are possible national-level actions that could be taken by Parties and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate; they are interrelated and could be carried out sequentially or iteratively:

- (a) Establish contact with the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (including the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) and the operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to agree on next steps;
- (b) Carry out consultations with experts and Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders, including women and youth, on various aspects of the implementation of the Minamata Convention to identify priorities for action and means of implementation at the national level;
- (c) Take stock of and summarize the current situation, at the national and subnational levels, as appropriate, concerning the identified priorities, utilizing Minamata Initial Assessments, existing national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and other documents to identify sources of mercury and planned activities for mercury reduction;
- (d) Create a national planning process for the synergistic implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to identify reduction priorities for mercury use, emissions and releases and decontamination and restoration, as appropriate,² and mainstream them into the NBSAP process, and propose complementary indicators related to those priorities.

3. Creation of an enabling environment for enhanced co-benefits

The third pillar of the Road map involves creating an enabling environment for enhanced co-benefits from the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Actions under this pillar relate to resource mobilization, research, capacity-building and cooperation, and could be undertaken by Parties and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. Possible actions under this pillar include the following:

- (a) Pursue synergies between the GEF chemicals and waste and biodiversity focal areas through projects funded through the eighth and ninth replenishments of the GEF trust fund, as well as integration of mercury action into projects developed through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, in line with decision MC-5/11, paragraphs 3 and 4 (a), and MC-5/17, paragraph 4, as well as paragraph 8 of decision 16/33 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) Collaborate with the three Rio conventions on target 7 of the Framework, reduction of pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity, in consultation with Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other

¹ See Annex for information on the timeline for the 2030 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

² Document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/27, on integrating action to reduce mercury pollution from artisanal and small-scale gold mining into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, identifies mercury-related activities and targets for possible use in countries.

relevant stakeholders in response to the invitation to the governing bodies of the Minamata Convention, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant conventions and organizations, including the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, contained in paragraph 19 of decision 16/35 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations;

- (c) Promote environmental and socioeconomic research and assessments – for example, through collaboration with the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant – concerning the impact of mercury on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services and on the livelihoods, culture and health of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities;
- (d) Provide input to a global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in accordance with decision 16/32 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to be conducted at the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (e) Build capacity to monitor mercury levels in the environment and in vulnerable populations;
- (f) Improve the quality of existing public health and environmental monitoring programmes in relation to mercury and the extent to which mercury concerns are incorporated in such programmes, and promote appropriate prevention and care services for Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by exposure to mercury from artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
- (g) Enhance information-sharing and promote understanding of the linkages between mercury and waste and human health impacts, thereby contributing to the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health;
- (h) Continue organizing webinars and other events to inform Parties to the Minamata Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity of relevant outcomes of meetings of the conferences of the Parties and related developments;
- (i) Incorporate mercury into the relevant biodiversity-related outreach, communication and awareness-raising activities, and biodiversity into mercury-related outreach, communication and awareness-raising activities;
- (j) Disseminate information on actions that can generate co-benefits for the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

4. Indicators for measuring progress in implementing the Road map

The following are indicators through which progress in implementing the Road map could be measured; importantly, they are based on existing mechanisms that could be used to support mercury reduction and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- (a) Minamata Convention effectiveness evaluation indicator 1, levels and trends of mercury and mercury compounds in the environment and in humans due to anthropogenic emissions and releases, and 29, mercury levels in vulnerable human populations;
- (b) Number of revised or updated NBSAPs that contain actions related to reduction in mercury use, emissions and releases or decontamination or restoration of contaminated sites, linked to specific targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

- (c) Number of countries that have considered mercury in their national biodiversity target submissions;
- (d) Number of new artisanal and small-scale gold mining national action plans, as well as Article 7 reviews conducted with the participation of Indigenous Peoples;
- (e) Number of countries that have proposed complementary indicators related to mercury.

Annex : Timeline for the 2030 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

NBSAPs are national strategies, plans or programmes developed by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Each Party to the Convention, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, is expected have an NBSAP. They are the main tool for implementing the Convention at the national level.

In decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested Parties to revise and update their NBSAPs in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, following the guidance provided in annex I to the decision, to align them with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets, including those related to means of implementation, and to submit them through the clearing-house mechanism by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It also requested Parties not in a position to submit their revised NBSAPs by that time to communicate national targets reflecting, as applicable, all the goals and targets of the Framework, including those related to all means of implementation, in accordance with the reporting template provided in annex I to the decision, as a standalone submission, by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in advance of the full submission of the NBSAP.

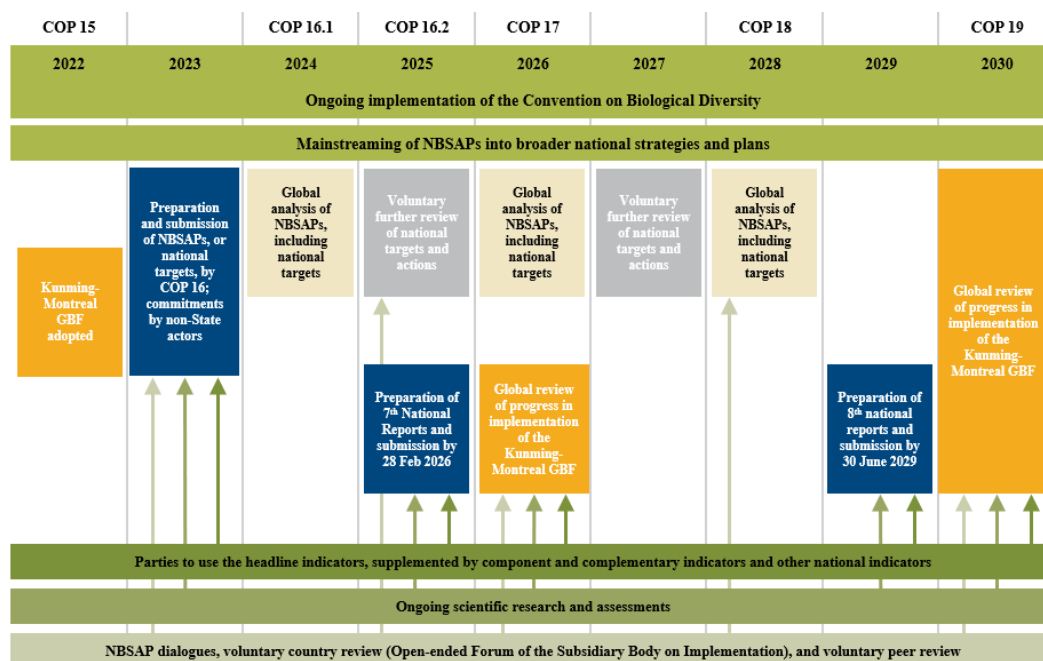
By the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 44 Parties had submitted their NBSAPs and 119 Parties has communicated national targets. As of 25 July 2025, 55 Parties had submitted 57 NBSAPs and 137 Parties had communicated 3,231 national targets.¹

In decision 15/6, Parties were also requested to submit national reports in 2026 and 2029 and to use the headline indicators adopted in decision 15/5, supplemented by optional component and complementary indicators and other national indicators. At its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, through decision 16/32, endorsed the national reporting template for the seventh and eighth national reports as contained in annex I to that decision.

Figure 1 presents the timeline for monitoring, reporting on and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework up to 2030, when the final global review of progress in implementation of the Framework will be undertaken. **Figure 2** shows the timeline of meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Minamata Convention, highlighting decisions on cooperative processes and other opportunities for cooperation.

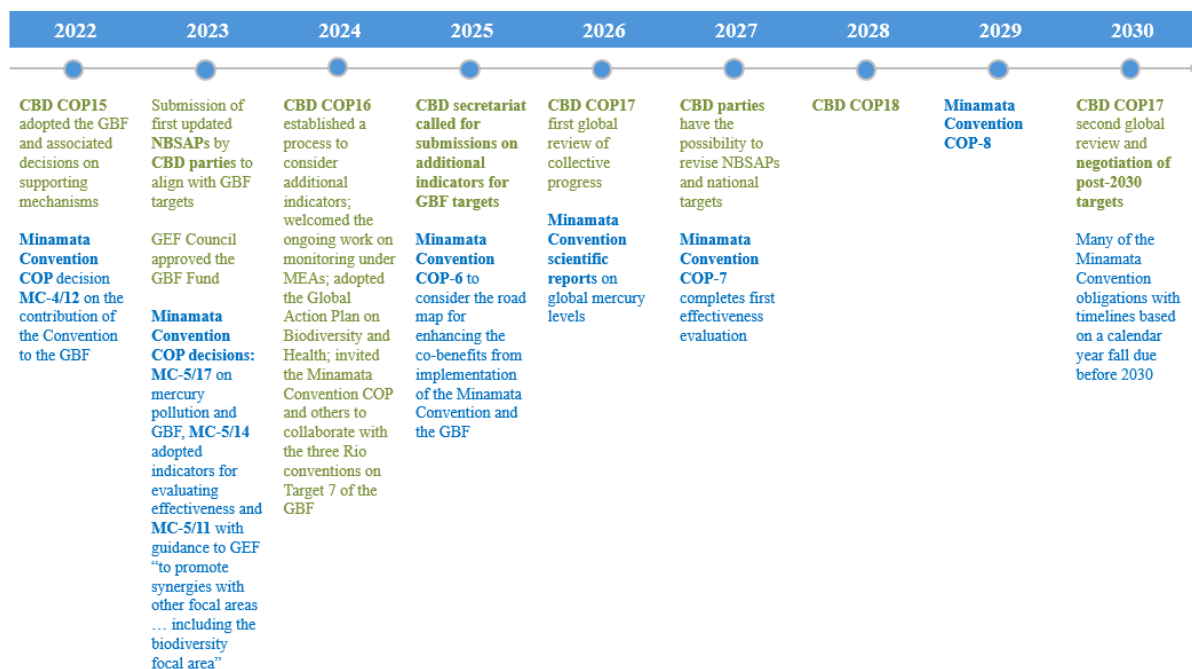
¹ The submitted NBSAPs and national targets are available at <https://ort.cbd.int/>.

Figure 1: Timeline for monitoring, reporting on and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



Abbreviations: COP 15 – fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP 16.1 – part I of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP 16.2 – part II of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP 17 – seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP 18 – eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP 19 – nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; GBF – Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Figure 2: Timeline of meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Minamata Convention on Mercury and opportunities for cooperation



Abbreviations: COP – Conference of the Parties; CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity; COP-6 – sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP-7 – seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP-8 – eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP15 – fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP16 – sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP17 – seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; COP18 – eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; GBF – Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

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