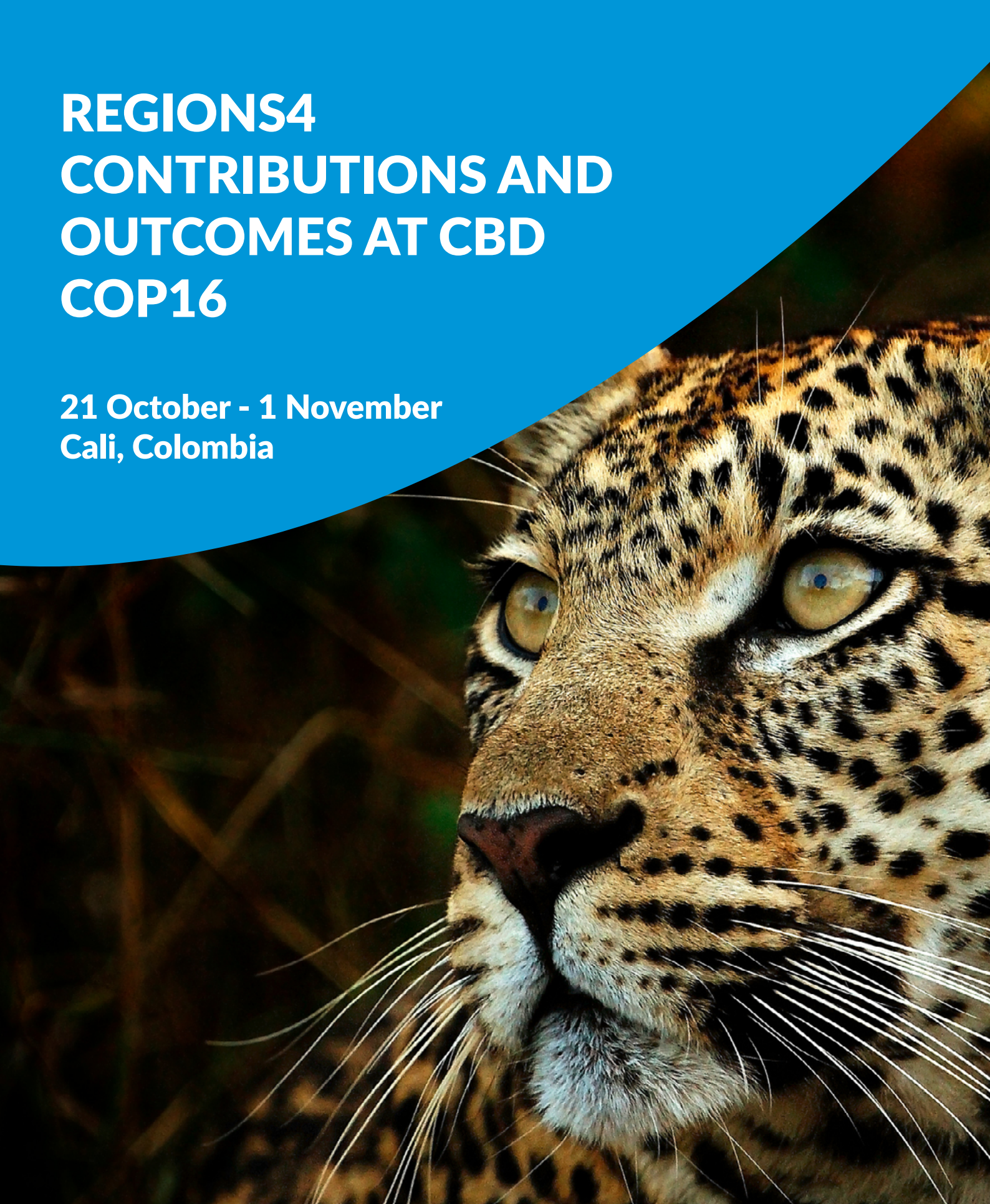


# REGIONS4 CONTRIBUTIONS AND OUTCOMES AT CBD COP16

21 October - 1 November  
Cali, Colombia





## MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE CBD COP16

The 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) in Cali, Colombia, brought together 23,000 participants from 196 countries, including subnational governments, civil society, and indigenous peoples. As the first meeting since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), COP16 represented a crucial moment to accelerate global action for nature and people.

As co-host of two key events -the 8th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities, and a Local and Subnational Leaders Closed High-level Meeting- Regions4 supported regional governments in reinforcing their role in building partnerships, exchanging knowledge, and developing Subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SBSAPs) for the effective implementation of the GBF on the ground.

Two significant achievements emerged of the negotiations: an enhanced role for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in biodiversity conservation, and the establishment of the “Cali Fund” – a voluntary mechanism for sharing benefits from digital genetic information. While only 44 countries submitted revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), subnational leaders like Quebec, Scotland, and Rio de Janeiro demonstrated leadership by presenting their new or updated subnational biodiversity strategies.

The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), established at COP15, received new pledges during Finance Day, including contributions from New Zealand, France, Austria, and notably, Quebec, as the first subnational government to ever contribute to the Fund, bringing the total to \$396m. This progress, though significant, remains far from the Framework’s target of mobilizing \$200 billion annually by 2030.

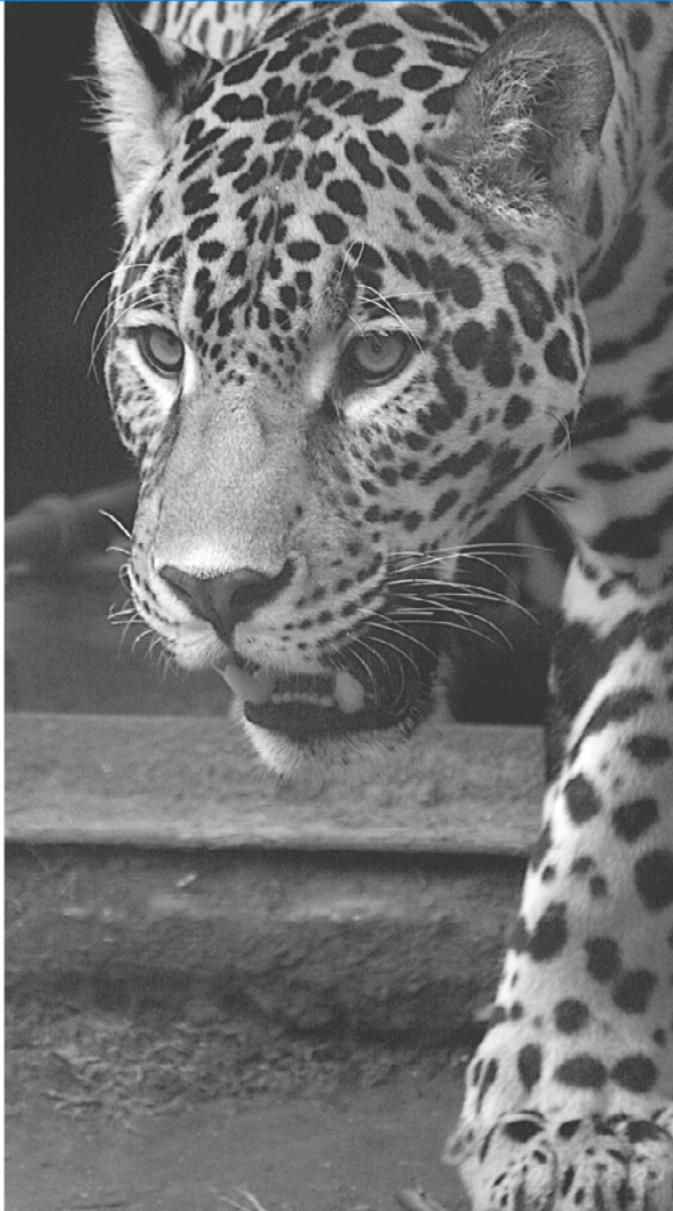
The closing day of COP16 ended when quorum was lost after hours of intense negotiations, leaving several critical decisions unresolved. Two key issues remained pending: first, countries failed to adopt the complete monitoring framework with indicators for the GBF targets – a crucial tool for ensuring accountability and measuring progress on national commitments. Second, negotiations stalled on the structure of dedicated funding for the GBF, particularly regarding the establishment of a new biodiversity-specific fund. These unresolved matters, vital for the Framework’s effective implementation, will be taken up again at the 2025 intersessional meetings.



### For a deeper analysis visit:

- Carbon Brief’s “COP16: Key outcomes agreed at the UN biodiversity conference in Cali, Colombia” at: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop16-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-biodiversity-conference-in-cali-colombia/>
- IISD’s Earth Negotiations Bulletin’s daily reports of CBD COP16: <https://enb.iisd.org/un-biodiversity-conference-cbd-cop16-daily-report-21oct2024>
- CBD’s official statement: Biodiversity COP16: important agreements reached towards making “peace with nature” at: <https://www.cbd.int/article/agreement-reached-cop-16>

# Biodiversity COP16 HIGHLIGHTS



## 12 MEMBERS ON-SITE

Regions4 delegation of +50 and  
14 accreditations facilitated

## +10 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM REGIONS4 AND ITS MEMBERS

- 3 Subnational Biodiversity Strategies (Québec, Rio de Janeiro and Scotland)
- Regions4 and Nature4Climate signed an MOU to protect the Ecuadorian Amazon
- Québec announced the first ever subnational contribution to the GBF Fund and to RegionsWithNature (RwN)
- RwN welcomed all 27 Brazilian States
- Rio de Janeiro celebrated a new partnership with TNC to implement the 30x30 target
- Paraná launched a Policy on Biodiversity Credits
- AC SNG welcomed California, Santa Fe and Cordoba in the lead up to COP16
- 6 New signatories to the LSNG Coalition to End Plastic Pollution

## +30 BILATERAL MEETINGS

With members, partners, donors, and potential members

## +18 EVENTS LED OR SUPPORTED BY REGIONS4

- Regions4 Day at the Hub with 5 side-events dedicated to our constituency
- 8th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities with more than 1200 delegates across 81 countries
- AC SNG in-person executive meeting with 14 members present

## 47 POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

20 #RegionsVoice stories published and 15 #RegionsVoice videos published

Co-hosted a press conference at COP16 blue zone  
15,500 people reached online through social media campaign

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AT COP16

### 8th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities: Taking Action for Biodiversity

The 8th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities, held as an official parallel event in the Plenary Room of the COP16 Blue Zone, showcased the critical role that regional and local leaders play in advancing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets. Subnational representatives underscored the need for direct action, partnerships, and strengthened financing to meet urgent biodiversity goals.

Over 1,200 delegates from 81 countries gathered to share best practices and forge partnerships. Under the themes of Partnering, Progress, and Peace, regional and local leaders exchanged insights on crucial topics such as resource mobilization, biodiversity conservation, and multilevel governance.

The Summit, co-hosted by Regions4, ICLEI and the Convention on Biological Diversity, featured interventions from several regional government representatives. These included John Swinney, Prime Minister of Scotland and President of Regions4; Luis Francisco Ruiz, Governor of Caquetá; Wade Crowfoot, California's Natural Resources Secretary; Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor of Kisumu County; Andre Granda, Prefect of Pastaza; Jordi Sargatal, Secretary of Ecological Transition of Catalonia; and from Quebec, Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change, Northern and Arctic Affairs, along with Jacob Malus, Director of Climate Change Policy. Representing Regions4 was its Executive Director, Jordan Harris.

### Launch of Subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SBSAPs)

**Rio de Janeiro:** At the 16th Biodiversity COP, the State of Rio de Janeiro launched the foundational document for its State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP). This milestone highlights Rio de Janeiro's commitment to advancing the GBF. As one of the first Brazilian states to showcase substantial progress in implementing the Framework, Rio's SBSAP will contribute to the state's biodiversity policy through a 2030 vision, a 2050 mission, and strategic objectives. Coordinated by the State Environment Secretariat and the State Environmental Institute, with technical and financial support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and input from various sectors, the document provides a biodiversity overview, public policy framework, and preliminary strategy. The SBSAP developed through workshops and set to undergo further public consultation, aims to inspire other states to implement the GBF in their territories<sup>1</sup>.

**Quebec:** Quebec launched its ambitious Nature Plan 2030, backed by a record-breaking investment of \$922 million CAD. This plan aligns with the GBF, targeting the conservation of 30% of Quebec's territory by 2030. The investment focuses on three key areas: Conserving Nature (\$466.9M), which includes expanding protected areas, restoring ecosystems, and safeguarding species at risk; Improving Access to Nature (\$360M), to enhance equitable recreational access for all residents; and Mobilizing for Nature (\$95.7M), which encourages collective responsibility for conservation across the province. The development of the Nature Plan 2030 was informed by extensive consultations over the past 18 months, engaging 1,100 stakeholders from diverse sectors, including significant contributions from Indigenous groups.

**Scotland:** At the 8th Summit, Scotland's First Minister John Swinney delivered a video message introducing Scotland's Strategic Framework for Biodiversity. In his address, he emphasized Scotland's strong commitment to biodiversity conservation, outlining how the framework aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's key targets: halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieving comprehensive ecosystem restoration by 2045. This commitment builds on previous consultation process made in 2023, presents an ambitious 25-year vision with actionable steps outlined in its five-year delivery plan. Central to this effort, NatureScot, in partnership with the Scottish Government, employs an ecosystem approach, recognizing the intrinsic link between biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and public health<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For more information, visit <https://rjatcop16.inea.rj.gov.br/>

<sup>2</sup> For more information visit <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/scottish-biodiversity-strategy>





### RegionsWithNature's announcements

- All 27 Brazilian states officially joined the RegionsWithNature, marking a major expansion of the platform.
- Québec announced their financial support to further develop the RegionsWithNature Action Platform, and encouraged other member regions to follow suit.

### 6 new signatories of the Local and Subnational Governments Coalition to end plastic pollution

#### Quebec's commitment to the GBF Fund

The Government of Québec made a historic contribution as the first subnational government to pledge financial support to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF). This pledge underscores Québec's commitment to the successful implementation of the GBF, emphasizing the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ensure that no one is left behind. The government highlighted that the fight to protect biodiversity requires broad collaboration and inclusivity, with this first substantial financial commitment setting an example for other stakeholders. They also expressed hope that this contribution will inspire further action, particularly from stakeholders in the most vulnerable countries, to collectively reach the goal of living in harmony with nature.



Additionally, the Government of Quebec sponsored Plaza Quebec at COP16, a dynamic space dedicated to facilitating sessions and discussions for all Major Groups, including subnational and local authorities, throughout the two-week event.

#### Other announcements and partnerships:

- Rio de Janeiro State Government launched:
  - A Biodiversity Portal for conservation.
  - The “Promoting Climate Change Governance through NBS” program, supported by the Inter-American Development Bank and Global Affairs Canada, benefiting Guanabara Bay and regions in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico.
  - A partnership with The Nature Conservancy to establish new state-protected areas.



- MoU between Regions4 and Nature4Climate
- The Government of the State of Paraná launched of the State Biodiversity Credit Policy in the State of Paraná
- California announced the state's commitment to ecosystem preservation and shared that the State has enacted laws to preserve 30% of its lands and waters (30×30), integrate wildlife connectivity into infrastructure, and allocate \$1.2 billion to achieve these goals.

Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis





## REGIONS4 SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN AT COP16



The social media campaign for COP16 aimed to amplify Regions4's leading and supporting events and key achievements, raising awareness of Regions4 members and key partners collective actions on the ground. Through strategic messaging and tailored outreach, Regions4 maximized its impact and visibility across Twitter and LinkedIn.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Top Engaged Post:** The campaign's most engaged post featured a video message from Regions4 President, Mr. John Swiney of Scotland, who announced Scotland's updated Biodiversity Strategy and Delivery Plan. This post also highlighted Scotland's active participation in Regions4 case studies underlining Scotland's commitment to biodiversity.
- **#RegionsVoice Stories:** #RegionsVoice LinkedIn stories earned high engagement, effectively amplifying recognition of our members initiatives in sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and climate action.
- **Regional Announcements:** Updates from member regions, such as Québec and Rio de Janeiro, received high engagement and amplified Regions4's message on a local and global scale.
- **Live Event Coverage:** Real-time updates from Regions4 events, particularly Regions4 Day at the Subnational and Local Authorities Hub, created high engagement across our channels. Live posts featuring photos and highlights from speakers and participants drew significant interaction, bringing a sense of inclusion to the online audience.
- **Press Conference:** Co-hosted a press conference at COP16 official venue about the 8th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities

This coordinated social media effort reinforced Regions4's commitment to biodiversity and regional action, effectively leveraging online platforms to support the broader goals of COP16.

## REGIONS4 EVENTS AT COP16

### Regions4 Day at the Local & Subnational Leaders Hub

- Organizers: Regions4, CDP, State of Goiás, Government of Catalonia, CONGOPE
- 24 October, 9:00 – 18:00

The Regions4 Day at Plaza Quebec's Subnational and Local Authorities Hub gathered Regions4 members and key partners, including CDP, the State of Goiás, the Government of Catalonia, and CONGOPE. The day featured a series of insightful sessions that showcased innovative approaches to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and climate action led by subnational governments across diverse regions.

#### FINANCING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

This session, organized by CDP Latin America, GCoM Americas, and the GCoM-Gap Fund Partnership, emphasized the crucial role of identifying co-benefits, managing investment risks, and fostering leadership and stakeholder engagement to drive nature-based urban solutions (NbS) for climate and biodiversity. Keynote speakers like Gregor Robertson, GCoM Global Ambassador, along with CDP and GCoM Americas representatives, highlighted the urgency of expanding local financing, coordinating climate and biodiversity agendas, and leveraging initiatives such as the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) to strengthen urban climate action. Experts from the World Bank, UNEP, and ICLEI SAMS discussed the need for national-subnational-local coordination to maximize NbS benefits and pilot investments to assess risks and impacts. The session also included practical case studies from Carlos Mario Gutiérrez Arrubla, Mayor of La Estrella, and Juan Cristóbal Lloret Valdivieso, Prefect of Azuay, who underscored the leadership and commitment of the authorities to promote the NbS, as well as the challenges regarding the regulatory restrictions that both governments have for the implementation of the NbS and the limitations to access national and international financing.

#### BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE: SUBNATIONAL ACTION FOR SPECIES PROTECTION IN LATIN AMERICA

Hosted by the Government of Goiás, this session facilitated strategic dialogue on ecosystem restoration and species protection initiatives. Participants shared experiences and best practices, focusing on how subnational cooperation can strengthen existing territorial conservation efforts.

State Secretary of Environment Andréa Vulcanis presented 'Juntos pelo Araguaia,' Goiás's innovative water and land restoration project in the Cerrado biome. This initiative emphasizes community involvement and builds trust through non-punitive partnerships.

From the State of Pernambuco, Executive Secretary of Environment Walber de Santana showcased 'Plantar Juntos,' a reforestation program in the Caatinga biome. This initiative promotes ecological restoration through agroecological methods and empowers local communities, particularly women who serve as seed guardians and nursery managers.

The LIFE Institute and the Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education (SPVS) contributed their experiences with sustainable tourism and agroforestry in the Grande Reserva da Mata Atlântica. SPVS emphasized that conservation should drive regional development rather than be an end in itself, stressing the importance of community-led approaches.

The session concluded with the State of Goiás officially joining Regions4 as a member.



**FOSTERING PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR QUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS IN THE ERA OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

The event, organized by the Government of Catalonia and moderated by Jordan Harris, Executive Director of Regions4, addressed critical challenges and opportunities for managing tourism while preserving biodiversity and local heritage. Panelists included Anna Estella, Deputy Director General of Environmental Education, Nature, and Society in Catalonia; Pierre-Luc Brin, Biologist at the Division of Protected Areas, government of Quebec; Mary Sorage, President of the National Council of the Mata Atlántica Biosphere Reserve; Paul J. Dale, Advisor at the Secretary of the Environment, Infrastructure and Logistics, Sao Paulo; Fabrizio Piccarolo, Director of Lombardia per l'Ambiente Foundation; and Nasly Fernanda Vidales Gonzalez, Undersecretary of Projects of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Government of Valle del Cauca.

The discussion focused on public-private partnerships (PPP) for sustainable tourism, the role of technology in enhancing conservation efforts, and strategies for engaging local communities in tourism management. Key topics included successful PPP models, community engagement, regulatory frameworks, managing overtourism, and metrics to measure impact on both conservation and local economies. Panelists shared insights into innovative projects like CAMINAT, and the importance of balancing environmental sustainability with economic needs in tourism, while also fostering meaningful, responsible visitor experiences.

**LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND CONSERVATION: PROVINCIAL STRATEGIES IN ECUADOR**

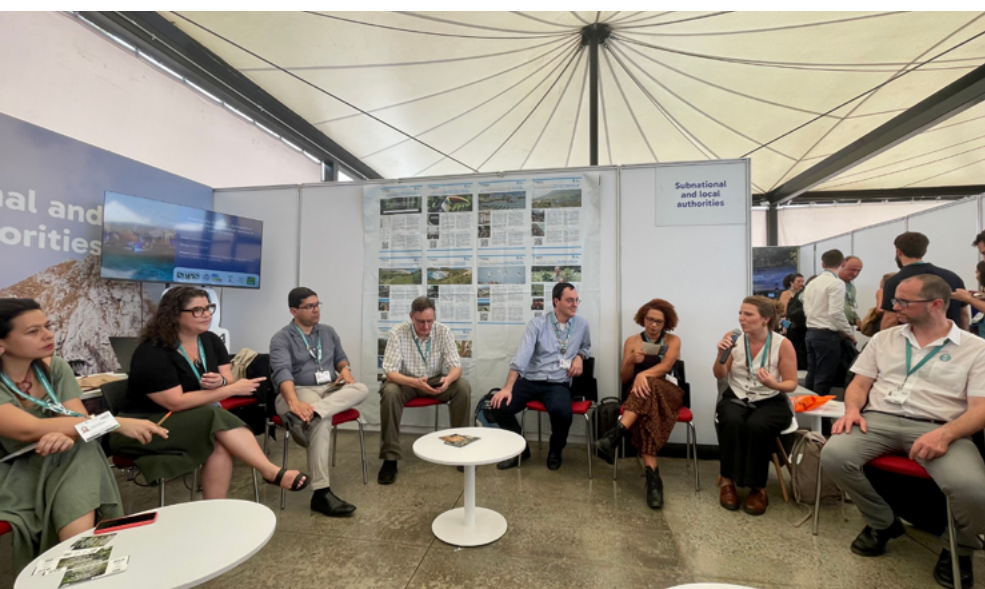
CONGOPE's session highlighted the essential role of subnational governance in conservation efforts across Ecuador. The event was moderated by María Auxiliadora Jácome Cornejo, Director of Environmental Management for the Provincial Government of Guayas, and panelists included Juan Cristobal Lloret, Prefect of Azuay; Bertha Carpio, Director of Environmental Management at the Provincial Government of Santa Elena; and Nasly Fernanda Vidales Gonzalez, Undersecretary of Projects of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Government of Valle del Cauca.

The discussion explored the challenges and potential of subnational governments, despite financial, technical, and technological gaps, in driving local public policy to protect biodiversity. Key examples included Santa Elena's revenue-sharing collaboration with land-owning communities and Azuay's water management initiatives, which optimize agricultural water use. These efforts underline the importance of community involvement in creating sustainable and resilient conservation models.

**SIGNATURE OF MoU BETWEEN REGIONS4 AND NATURE4CLIMATE**

Regions4 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nature4Climate to create a collaboration framework aimed at promoting and monitoring reforestation and restoration efforts at the subnational government level, contributing to the goals of the GBF. This collaboration also seeks to empower local and traditional communities and engage subnational government officials in nature-based solutions for climate action.

***Regions4 Day provided a platform for subnational leaders to share practical solutions and establish partnerships, demonstrating that regional action is integral to achieving global biodiversity and climate targets.***





### Side-event: “Capacity Building Tools and Policy Recommendations for Cross-Cutting Action on the Implementation of the KMGBF in the LAC Region”

- Organizers: ECLAC, Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework - EU Support; GYBN; CO, BR, MX; NBSAP Accelerator Partnership; UNEP-ROLAC
- October 25th, 10:10h

In collaboration with the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support project, ECLAC launched a digital toolkit focusing on key targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This toolkit supports policy design for national and subnational governments, especially on Targets 1, 6, 10, 14, and 18. At the event, Jordan Harris, Executive Director of Regions4, highlighted the synergy between the Regions4 Case Study Database and the new toolkit, which includes three case studies from the States of Yucatán, Rio de Janeiro and Paraná. These cases showcase practical applications of GBF targets, providing valuable insights for CBD members and other actors, advancing multi-level implementation of the framework.



### Official side-event: “Strengthening Biodiversity Restoration: Initiatives and Perspectives”

- Organizers: Paraná
- October 25th, 10:10h

The event centered on advancing environmental restoration efforts in the states of Paraná and Acre, highlighting successful projects that have positively transformed these states' ecosystems and setting an example for global regions. Key initiatives highlighted include Paraná's “Paraná More Green” (Paraná Mais Verde) project, bioeconomic development through the Sustainable Regional Vocations Project, and the Future Water Reserve for watershed restoration. Acre also shared its innovative approach of implementing payments for environmental services to incentivize ecosystem restoration, positioning both states as examples in developing sustainable development and biodiversity conservation and restoration actions. Speakers included Everton Luiz da Costa Souza, José Eduardo Bekin, Julio Gonchorosky, Lisiane Maldaner Astarita de Limas, Rafael Andrequetto, and Renata Gomez.







## Meeting: Closed-door event for Mayors and Governors

- Organizers: ICLEI, Regions4 and CBD
- October 25th, 18:00h

The closed-door event for Mayors and Governors fostered a high-level dialogue on the leadership role of local and subnational governments in implementing the KM GBF. Observers from across the Regions4 network also attended as well as potential new members.

## 8th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities “Taking Action for Biodiversity”

- Organizers: ICLEI, CBD, Regions4 and partners. Supported by the CAF and others
- 26 October, 9:00 – 20:00

This full-day event convened the crucial role of subnational and local governments in achieving the GBF and its targets. With the participation of over 1,200 delegates from 81 countries, discussions focused on partnership and resource access, urging collaborative actions to address climate change and biodiversity loss. Regions4 President and Scottish Prime Minister John Swinney emphasized the collective strength of subnational voices, unveiling Scotland’s new Biodiversity Strategy & Delivery Plan, which aims to halt nature loss by 2030 and restore ecosystems by 2045. The Summit also counted with the intervention of André Granda, Prefect of Pastaza, as representative of CONGOPE, who highlighted their regional conservation model, committing to preserving 90% of the region’s native forests. Jordi Sargatal, Secretary of Ecological Transition of the Government of Catalonia, mentioned the importance of Catalonia’s Restoration Law and the critical connection between science and nature, and advocated for a stronger engagement of children and youth with the natural world. Key announcements included Quebec’s launch of its Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Nature Plan 2030, backed by a record CAD 922 million budget to achieve the 30x30 target and protect local ecosystems. Regions4’s RegionsWithNature initiative also grew considerably: through ABEMA, the Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities, all 27 States of Brazil have joined the initiative.

Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director, closed the summit, underscoring the “whole-of-society and whole-of-government” spirit that characterized the event, and Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of UN Biodiversity, offered closing remarks, reaffirming UN support for the role of subnational and local governments in advancing global biodiversity goals.





## Side- event: “Collaborative Pathways: Harnessing Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society Approaches for the Global Biodiversity Framework Implementation”

- Organizer: Regions4
- 27 October, 9:00 – 10:30

The event, with support from CDP, the Post2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support project, the COOP'R project, and with the partnership of the European Committee of the Regions, brought together diverse voices from subnational and local leaders. including representatives from Campeche, Paraná, Quebec, São Paulo, Wales, Women4Biodiversity, and GYBN, to explore practical ways to collaborate between different governance levels and stakeholders to implement the GBF. Quebec highlighted its advocacy for a “whole-of-government” approach and shared steps taken post-COP15 to integrate biodiversity considerations. Campeche showcased its progress in intergovernmental cooperation, while São Paulo emphasized the “Biodiversity Emergencies” concept. Wales discussed its Future Generations Plan, and Paraná detailed its partnerships with indigenous communities, the “Floresta Metropolitana Estadual,” and initiatives like the Selo Paraná and Biodiversity Credits to engage the private sector. GYBN Peru stressed the critical role of youth in biodiversity policies, recommending regional governments partner with GYBN groups for greater inclusivity. The event concluded with insights from the Kosice Self-Governing Region on their commitment to environmentally respectful infrastructure.



## Executive In-Person Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (AC SNG)

- Organizer: AC SNG coordinators (Regions4 and Quebec)
- 27 October, 15:00-16:00



The meeting of the AC SNG gathered representatives from member regions, including Aichi, California, Campeche, Catalonia, Cordoba, Goiás, Paraná, Quebec, Rio de Janeiro State, Santa Fe, São Paulo, and Wales, alongside partners such as the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and CREAM. The main topics addressed were key updates on the Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations, strategies to mobilize leadership for biodiversity action in 2025, and preparations for UNFCCC COP30. Key points included showcasing subnational implementation of biodiversity goals, enhancing the RegionsWithNature platform, and strengthening the climate-biodiversity linkage at COP30 with events and collaborations in Brazil.

### High-level Networking reception: “Celebrating Partnerships: Strengthening alliances for the progress & sustainability of Ecuadorian provinces”

- Organized by: CONGOPE, Regions4 and Catalonia
- 27 October, 19:30 – 22:30

At the high-level networking reception, more than 60 leaders from CONGOPE, Regions4, Catalonia, and other international partners came together to forge stronger alliances for biodiversity conservation in the Andes region, including Ecuador and Colombia. A key outcome was the signing of the Local and Subnational Coalition to End Plastic Pollution by Ecuadorian and Colombian representatives, marking a significant commitment to reducing plastic waste and advancing environmental sustainability.



### Official side-event “Subnational Efforts that Contribute to the GBF”

- Organized by: GoLS
- 28 October, 10:10 – 11:30

The Group of Leading Subnational Governments (GoLS) comprises nine regional governments committed to biodiversity conservation: Aichi Prefecture (Japan), ANAAE (Mexico), Campeche (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Gangwon Province (South Korea), Jiangsu Province (China), Ontario (Canada), Quebec (Canada), and São Paulo (Brazil). This side event highlighted their collective actions and valuable experiences in advancing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

At COP16, GoLS launched a booklet showcasing their members’ initiatives and actions. The publication demonstrates how each regional government collaborates with various stakeholders to implement the GBF, featuring successful programs in protected area management, invasive species control, and other crucial conservation efforts. The side-event echoed the lessons learned from the regions Aichi, Campeche, Catalonia and Quebec among others.

### ABEMA’s Biodiversity Day: Resource Mobilization and Partnerships at Local and Subnational Scales

- Organized by: ABEMA
- 28 October, 16:00-18:00

The panel counted with the interventions of CDP, the Governor’s Climate and Forest Task Force (GCF), and FAPESP, as well as Regions4 Executive Director, Jordan Harris. Regions4 highlighted the crucial role of subnational governments in financing resilience, with a focus on biodiversity protection and climate action. Despite facing financial challenges, such as limited access to international funds and insufficient alignment with funder requirements, Regions4 members have pioneered innovative solutions. The panel also addressed emerging trends, including preventive funding in climate finance and growing private sector interest in supporting resilience initiatives. Regions4 emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange, aligning subnational efforts with global frameworks like the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and SDGs, and providing technical support to enhance project viability. The session underscored the need for public-private partnerships to scale resilience efforts and foster transformative change.



### Side-event: “Incorporating Biodiversity into Climate Change Adaptation through Nature-based Solutions”

- Organizer: Rio de Janeiro State Government
- 29 October, 10:00 – 12:00

Moderated by Regions4 Biodiversity Programme manager, Renata Gomez, the event highlighted innovative approaches to integrating biodiversity into climate adaptation strategies through nature-based solutions (NbS). The Boticário Foundation presented its Nature-based Solutions Accelerator, WHILE Oxford University shared its work on mapping opportunities for NbS in the UK and Brazil. Climate Chance announced its upcoming Adaptation Summit in Marseille, and its new biodiversity and connectivity efforts in Africa, including an international coalition on biodiversity corridors. Rio de Janeiro emphasized the critical role of subnational governments in building local resilience, noting that Brazil’s 6,000 municipalities require enhanced capacity and stronger national-local connections for effective adaptation.



### Side-event: “From Inspiring Ideas to Transformative Actions: How Civil Society is Bringing About Transformative Change to Support the Implementation of KMGBF”

- Organizer: Post2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support project and partners, including Regions4
- 29 October, 11:45 - 12:45

During this session, the Post-2020 project team and its partners shared key takeaways from six years of intense and transformative collaboration. Regions4 started collaborating with the Post-2020 project at the beginning of 2023, and at the session we were able to share our main takeaways, our lessons learned and more importantly, the impact the project created in Regions4 work, including how important the Post-2020 project was for truly embodying the whole-of-society approach.



### Side-event: “Incentive Mechanisms for Biodiversity – Contributions to Global Goals”

- Organizer: Rio de Janeiro State Government
- 29 October, 10:00 – 12:00

This meeting showcased Paraná as the first subnational government to establish biodiversity credits as a public policy. The meeting shared Paraná’s experience in partnership with the LIFE Institute and explored opportunities for collaboration with other Regions4 members to replicate similar initiatives in different regions. The session emphasized the potential of biodiversity credit mechanisms to contribute to global



### Side-event: “Incentive Mechanisms for Biodiversity – Contributions to Global Goals”

- Organizer: Government of the State of Paraná and Life Institute
- 29 October, 16:00-17:00

This meeting showcased Paraná as the first subnational government to establish biodiversity credits as a public policy. The meeting shared Paraná’s experience in partnership with the LIFE Institute and explored opportunities for collaboration with other Regions4 members to replicate similar initiatives in different regions. The session emphasized the potential of biodiversity credit mechanisms to contribute to global goals, particularly in enhancing local and regional biodiversity protection while aligning with international sustainability frameworks.



### Side event & High-level Networking reception: “Celebrating Strategic Alliances: Enhancing the Global Biodiversity Framework’s early implementation through multilevel governance”

- Organizer: Regions4 in partnership with Mexico’s SEMARNAT and CONABIO, and the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework
- 29 October, 17:30 – 20:00

The side event and high-level networking reception highlighted the critical role of multilevel governance in advancing global biodiversity goals. The event brought together national and subnational government leaders, international organizations, and experts to discuss the benefits and challenges of a whole-of-government approach to biodiversity. The event featured impactful contributions from speakers including Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change, Northern and Arctic Affairs, Government of Québec, who shared insights on Canada’s approach to integrating climate and biodiversity policies. Marie Ikemoto, Undersecretary for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation from the Secretariat for Environment and Sustainability of the State of Rio de Janeiro, highlighted Brazil’s state-level actions and challenges in aligning local biodiversity goals with national frameworks. Andrea Cruz Angón, Director of Cooperation on Biodiversity at CONABIO, discussed Mexico’s toolkit development for subnational leaders, while Jocelyn Duran, Secretary of Environment, Biodiversity, and Climate Change from Campeche, Mexico, shared her state’s experiences in advancing biodiversity governance. Oscar Manuel Ramírez Flores from GIZ Mexico provided expertise on international cooperation, and Marcia Tambutti, Biodiversity Specialist at ECLAC, emphasized the importance of regional collaboration. High-level reflections were offered by Neil Pratt from the CBD Secretariat; who reinforced their support of subnational leaders; Rita de Cássia Mesquita, National Secretary for Biodiversity, Forests, and Animal Rights from Brazil’s Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and Jeremie Pellet, CEO of Expertise France.



## Side-event: “Non-state Actors Advancing NbS for Biodiversity and Resilience Action”

- Organizers: Race to Resilience and partners, supported by Regions4
- 30 October, 12:00 – 13:15

The event highlighted the essential role of non-state actors in advancing nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation and biodiversity protection. With speakers from Regions4, The Nature Conservancy, Global Mangrove Alliance, and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, discussions focused on demonstrating effective NbS strategies that enhance resilience for both communities and ecosystems. Gabriela Carrera of Regions4 shared insights on the Case Study Database, and financial experts, like Torsten Thiele from ORAA, discussed innovative mechanisms to redirect funds towards nature-positive investments, emphasizing equitable support for vulnerable communities. The session underscored the critical need for multi-stakeholder collaboration and innovative finance to strengthen climate resilience and biodiversity outcomes globally.



## High Level Segment of COP16

- 30 October

The High-Level Segment at COP16 gathered ministers, international organization leaders, and civil society representatives to discuss ongoing actions and initiatives aimed at driving forward the implementation of the GBF. This segment provided an essential platform for leaders to align on critical negotiation topics, such as equitable benefit-sharing from digital genetic resource data and strategies for mobilizing resources. Representing the Local and Subnational Major Group, Jean Lemire conveyed a decisive message from the 245 subnational leaders present: “the time for talk has passed, and now is the moment to partner and amplify action to restore harmony with nature”.

Photos by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzarakis





## BILATERAL MEETINGS: STRENGTHENING LINKS WITH REGIONS AND PARTNERS

Throughout COP16, Regions4 engaged in over 24 bilateral meetings to strengthen ties with members and establish new partnerships across various regions and organizations. The discussions emphasized opportunities to align regional priorities with global frameworks while exploring innovative approaches to nature-based solutions, resilience building, and sustainable finance for conservation efforts. These interactions facilitated the exchange of insights and strategies, tackling challenges unique to each region and underscoring the critical role of subnational governments in advancing biodiversity and climate action.









## THE PATH FORWARD: REGIONS4 PRIORITIES AFTER COP16

Following COP16, Regions4 will pursue three main priorities:

### 1. Strengthen Biodiversity-Climate Linkages

- As coordinators of the CBD Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments (AC SNG), Regions4 and the Government of Quebec will explore opportunities at UNFCCC COP30 in Pará, Brazil (2025)
- Lead a strategic consultation process in early 2025 to shape the Committee's future direction
- Enhance the Committee's role in CBD intersessional meetings leading up to CBD COP17 (2026)

### 2. Develop New Partnerships

- Follow up with potential partners and new members identified at COP16
- Explore new funding opportunities
- Advance collaboration initiatives discussed during the conference

### 3. Maintain CBD Engagement

Continue active participation in CBD meetings, mainly the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to follow-up on COP16's pending agenda items.

Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis





## RESOURCES

- [Regions4 at COP16 dedicated website](#)
- [Regions4 COP16 Photo Album](#)
- [RegionsVoice Stories](#)
- [UN Web TV - COP16 Coverage](#)
- [Transformative multilevel action: Subnational solutions for climate & biodiversity policy brief](#)
- [ICLEI CBC Media Release - 8th Summit for Subnational Governments](#)
- [Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity](#)
- [RegionsWithNature Platform](#)
- [Regions4 Case Study Database](#)
- [Agreements Reached at COP16 by the CBD](#)
- [Regions4 Twitter](#)
- [Regions4 LinkedIn](#)
- [Regions4 Youtube](#)

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## ABOUT REGIONS4

Regions4 (formerly known as nrg4SD) is a global network that exclusively represents regional governments (states, regions, and provinces) in UN processes, European Union initiatives, and global discussions on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Regions4 was established in 2002 at the World Summit in Johannesburg and currently represents over 40 members from 20 countries across 4 continents. Through advocacy, cooperation, and capacity building, Regions4 empowers regional governments to accelerate global action.

For more information, visit: [www.regions4.org](http://www.regions4.org)  
#Regions4Biodiversity #RegionsVoice

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