



Regions4
Biodiversity
Learning Platform

From Regional Action to Global Impact:

Positioning Subnational Leaders for the Biodiversity COP17 Global Review Process



Hosted by Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform

In partnership with:



From Regional Action to Global Impact: Positioning Subnational Leaders for the Biodiversity COP17 Global Review Process



The [Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform](#) hosted the session "From Regional Action to Global Impact: Positioning Subnational Leaders for COP17 Global Review Process" on September 18, 2025, reinforcing its role as a hub for strategic dialogue among subnational governments on critical biodiversity challenges as the world approaches the first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Introduction

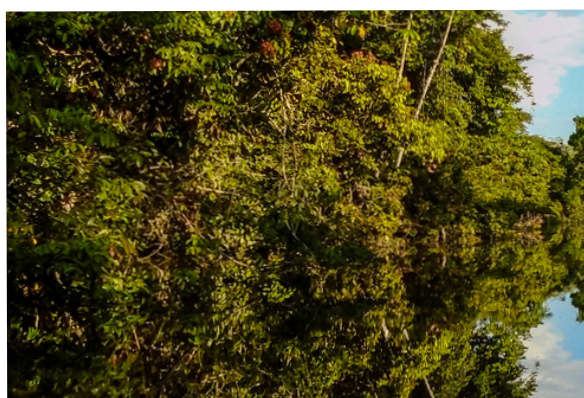
This session was made possible through the collaboration of the RegionsWithNature (RwN) initiative—led by ICLEI's Cities Biodiversity Center with Regions4 as a partner—together with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat. Regions4 members also played a central role. Particularly, Québec, which has supported the RwN platform, shared its biodiversity indicators framework, while Rio de Janeiro, California, Western Cape, and Scotland shared experiences implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and innovative approaches to biodiversity monitoring.

Framed by the upcoming Biodiversity COP17 in Yerevan in 2026 and its first global review of the GBF, the dialogue highlighted the vital role of subnational voices in biodiversity accountability. The review will measure progress against the GBF's 23 targets and shape priorities for the decade ahead—calling for stronger reporting while showcasing how subnational action drives global implementation.

The session brought together over 70 participants, including speakers from these regions and the attendance of representatives from at least 15 international organizations, including ICLEI, UN CBD, IUCN, WWF Brazil, Biosphera Consulting, and Real Instituto Elcano, reflecting strong global engagement with subnational biodiversity governance.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Driving subnational Leadership:** Regions are not just implementers, they pioneer solutions and accelerate action. Platforms like RegionsWithNature make these contributions visible within the Global Review Process.
- **Measuring What Matters:** While clear, quantitative targets like 30x30 are easier to track, qualitative aspects—such as partnerships, restoration outcomes, and community engagement—require thoughtful approaches and storytelling to capture real impact.
- **Collaboration and Bioregional Approaches:** Regional cooperation across shared ecosystems (e.g., Mediterranean climates, Atlantic Forest) strengthens adaptation, visibility, and accountability at subnational and global levels.
- **Integration Across Policy Areas:** Biodiversity action is most effective when linked to climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and water resilience, ensuring transversal relevance and stakeholder engagement.
- **Accountability Drives Recognition:** Reporting and storytelling empower stakeholders, build peer learning, and raise ambition, while transparent monitoring makes subnational progress visible and strengthens biodiversity governance globally.



MESSAGE FROM THE CBD SECRETARIAT



Bianca Brasil,
Senior Programme Management Officer - Secretariat
of the Convention on Biological Diversity



COP17 is not just another global meeting—it is an opportunity to ensure that the first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework captures the diversity of action happening on the ground. Platforms like RegionsWithNature provide structured pathways to make subnational leadership visible and counted, demonstrating accountability and directly shaping how the world measures progress and sets future priorities. ”



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

✓ The Biodiversity COP17 Imperative and Global Review Framework

As the world approaches COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia (2026), subnational participation in global biodiversity governance has gained unprecedented importance. COP17 will feature the first global review of collective progress under the KMGBF, providing a critical accountability mechanism inspired by the climate Global Stocktake. This review will assess contributions from countries, regions, cities, and other stakeholders, and it will primarily rely on national reports—including the seventh national reports due by February 28, 2026—while also welcoming voluntary contributions from actors other than national governments, including subnational authorities (through the template established under *CBD Decision 16/32 Annex II*),

✓ The Subnational Leadership Gap

Implementation gaps at the national level are evident, with three-quarters of countries yet to submit updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Regional and local governments can fill this gap by demonstrating tangible progress on KMGBF commitments more rapidly than national processes allow. *CBD Decision 15/12* emphasizes the vital role of subnational actors in implementing, monitoring, and reporting on KMGBF targets, supporting capacity-building, resource mobilization, and integration with national reporting systems.

✓ Formal Recognition and Strategic Opportunity

Building on *COP16 Decision CBD/COP/16/32*, subnational actors can now report commitments through the RegionsWithNature Action Platform, turning regional biodiversity action into official contributions (pending to be validated by their national counterparts). Reporting allows regions, states, and provinces to showcase leadership, accelerate implementation, and elevate their role in the global biodiversity agenda. As COP17 approaches, documenting subnational efforts strengthens accountability, demonstrates progress, and amplifies regional voices in shaping international biodiversity governance.

In some cases regions are delivering biodiversity results faster than national processes, managing ecosystems and engaging communities. COP17's global review and new CBD guidance provide visibility, turning regional actions into global influence.





“ In just over a year, the world will face its first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Too often, subnational contributions go underreported and underrecognized, but the door is now open. With platforms like RegionsWithNature, we can ensure that subnational results are counted, national leadership is visible, and collective action truly drives global impact. ”

Natalia Uribe, Regions4 Secretary General

“ This is the space where subnational action connects with international accountability, and where the choices we make together will resonate far beyond COP 17, as the clock ticks toward the 2030 biodiversity targets. ”

Ingrid Coetzee, Director Nature, Biodiversity and Health, ICLEI CBC



BIODIVERSITY REPORTING BY THE NUMBERS

Main Highlights

- 75% of countries have not submitted updated NBSAPs;
- 22 founding regions on RegionWithNature platform;
- 15,000+ downloads of case studies from Regions4's Case Study Database;
- February 28, 2026: Deadline for seventh national reports;
- 23 GBF targets for systematic progress tracking.



The window for regional influence on global biodiversity policy is now.
[Access our tools and resources here.](#)

PLATFORMS AND TOOLS

RegionsWithNature Action Platform



"RegionsWithNature provides regional governments with a free space to connect, share experiences, and report progress on biodiversity action. It is officially recognized by the CBD as the platform for subnational reporting."

Jade Sullivan, Professional Officer, Nature, Biodiversity and Health, ICLEI CBCI



RegionsWithNature is a partnership initiative launched with Regions4, IUCN, and ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center. Officially recognized in *CBD Decision 15/12* as the commitment and reporting platform for subnational governments contributing to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, it operates with free access for all subnational governments.



A growing global community of subnational leaders in biodiversity action with 23 members: Western Cape, Community of Madrid, Scotland, Catalonia, Québec, Yucatan, Campeche, São Paulo State, Pernambuco, Goa, Aichi, Lombardy, La Rioja, Rio de Janeiro State, Åland Islands, Basque Country, Guanajuato, Paraná, Jalisco, California, Gauteng, Azuay and Gangwon-do.



Profile building and Visibility

Regions create comprehensive profiles featuring leadership quotes, achievements, images, and links to social media channels, regional websites, and YouTube content. A dynamic activity feed displays regional updates, creating peer learning opportunities and visibility for active participants through an innovative leaderboard system that tracks engagement.



Commitment Tracking Aligned with Global Framework

The platform's central feature (the just launched Action Platform) aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's three-goal architecture. The "View My Commitments" interface provides structured categories mirroring GBF goals and SDG alignment, scaled to regional applicability through extensive consultations and pilot testing.



Voluntary Engagement and SMART Target Development

The platform operates on a voluntary engagement model with open-ended commitment options allowing regions to reflect local realities and contexts. Regions can set measurable baselines and develop SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) that align with both local priorities and global objectives. This flexibility recognizes that approaches to biodiversity challenges—such as reducing natural area conversion—will vary significantly between regions based on their unique ecological and governance contexts.



Direct CBD Connectivity

The platform connects directly with the CBD Open-Ended Platform, ensuring regional commitments automatically feed into official CBD systems without duplicate reporting requirements (pending validation by the national counterparts).



Transparency and Recognition Features

All profiles and commitments are publicly accessible, enabling stakeholders to review regional biodiversity actions and fostering public accountability. An innovative leaderboard functionality tracks and displays the most active regional participants, measuring engagement through profile completion, commitment documentation, and regular updates. This recognition system encourages sustained participation while highlighting leading regional biodiversity actors.



Platform Enhancement and Support

Following COP16, financial support from the Government of Québec enabled substantial improvements including streamlined navigation, strengthened CBD integration, and enhanced multi-language accessibility. ICLEI and partners provide ongoing technical assistance for platform navigation, commitment optimization, and global reporting integration.



[Explore other's regions profiles and commitments here](#)

Be Counted. Be Visible. Be a Leader.

Report you region's commitments on the [RegionsWithNature Action Platform](#) by November 30th



RegionsWithNature

Show your progress: [Submit your commitments here](#) 

PLATFORMS AND TOOLS

Case Study Database



"The Case Study Database was created to contribute to the global biodiversity agenda while making regional solutions replicable. It's a strategic opportunity to showcase GBF actions and prove that regions are leading implementation."

Gabriela Carrera, Biodiversity Programme Officer, Regions4



Regions4's Case Study Database is an open resource showcasing impactful solutions from regional governments worldwide (members of Regions4 and RegionsWithNature). It shares best practices through detailed documents and communication materials showcasing how regions turn biodiversity commitments into successful action. By highlighting replicable stories, it amplifies regional leadership and contributes to global biodiversity agendas, including the CBD and the KMGBF.



With 22 published case studies in English, French, and Spanish—and more on the way—the Case Study Database is already amplifying regional solutions. Downloaded over 15,000 times, these stories are inspiring stakeholders worldwide.



Capturing regional action and impact in the Subnational Governments' Report

To capture the breadth of subnational action and ensure regional solutions are visible in the global process, a Subnational Governments' Report will be prepared in parallel to the CBD global review. To contribute, apart from engaging in the RWN Action Platform, subnational governments are invited to share their work through two pathways:

1. **Existing Case Studies:** Already published studies that demonstrate alignment with GBF targets and showcase proven regional biodiversity solutions
2. **New Targeted Submissions:** Short-format submissions through this form, aligned with Annex II of *CBD Decision 16/32*, for the subnational governments report subnational for the global process.

Selected submissions will be featured in the 2026 Subnational Governments' Report, while all submissions will gain visibility through Regions4 communications campaigns on the way to COP17.



Strategic Opportunity for Regional Leadership

The Case Study Database represents a strategic opportunity for regions to showcase their strongest GBF-aligned actions and demonstrate that subnational governments are leading biodiversity implementation. Many regions possess tangible results and evidence-based solutions that can navigate CBD processes, providing concrete examples of successful biodiversity action at scale.

Timeline and Support: Regional governments have until the end of **November 2025** to complete submissions. Technical support is available throughout the submission process, with dedicated assistance for identifying suitable initiatives and optimizing submission quality.

Submissions should include: Objective (the challenge addressed) and intended outcomes; Scope (geographic and institutional boundaries); Actions (key measures and methodologies applied); Results (measurable impacts); Alignment (relevant GBF and NBSAP targets addressed).



Knowledge Transfer and Replication

The database serves as a comprehensive repository for peer learning, enabling regions to identify relevant solutions implemented in similar contexts. This knowledge transfer function accelerates biodiversity implementation by reducing duplication of effort and enabling adaptation of proven approaches across different regional contexts.

Case studies document both successes and challenges, offering practical guidance for regions seeking to replicate or adapt biodiversity and climate solutions.

[Want to see real examples?](#)
[Browse the Case Study Database](#)

Inspire others and lead the way

How to engage:

A user-friendly 15-question form enables regions to document biodiversity innovations and capture elements relevant to global policy.



Share your success: [Submit your form today.](#)

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Québec's Experience with indicator development and the *RegionsWithNature* Action Platform

Québec has become a global leader among subnational governments in using *RegionsWithNature*. Its engagement goes beyond participation: **Québec is a founding partner**, providing financial support, testing functionalities, and committed to updating its commitments on the platform.

“ This tool strengthens the role of regional governments, highlights leadership, and demonstrates commitments to biodiversity. Even when national commitments fluctuate, subnational governments can show sustained action toward nature conservation and biodiversity. We strongly encourage you to join *RegionsWithNature*, share your 2030 biodiversity commitments, baselines, and targets, and contribute to advancing regional leadership on biodiversity. ”

Caroline Daguet, Biodiversity Projects Coordinator, Québec's Ministry of Environment, Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife & Parks



What to learn more?
Explore Québec's methodology here.

Leadership in Practice: How is Québec turning global biodiversity goals into concrete regional action?



This leadership is rooted in the province's 2030 Nature Plan and 2024–2028 Action Plan, released in October 2024.

The plan mirrors the Global Biodiversity Framework with **three main goals and 14 targets**, ensuring that Québec's regional actions contribute directly to global objectives while remaining locally feasible.

The development of **more than 40 indicators**, is reaching its final stage, with a cap at three per target to **maintain feasibility**. Indicator selection relied on a rigorous methodology emphasizing:

- Alignment with Global Biodiversity Framework indicators
- Efficiency by using existing data and methodologies
- Integration with other Québec strategies (Sustainable Development, Agriculture, Green Economy)
- Trend analysis capacity to track change over the decade

💡 **Consultations with government experts, academics, Indigenous nations and organizations between 2023 and 2025 were key steps to design a framework that reflects both scientific rigor and traditional knowledge.**

Regional Realities: A conversation on measuring Progress on Biodiversity Action

A dialogue among four leading RegionsWithNature members—Rio de Janeiro, California, Western Cape, and Scotland—showcased the crucial role of subnational governments in shaping and reporting progress under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The session underscored how regions are not only implementing ambitious biodiversity strategies, but also grappling with the practical realities of aligning local actions with global goals in the lead-up to COP17.



“Beyond structuring innovative financing mechanisms, we are also establishing a monitoring framework for our State Biodiversity Strategy. By combining finance, implementation, and monitoring, we aim to ensure that our state strategy moves beyond planning and achieves effective delivery.”

Marie Ikemoto, Subsecretary for Climate Change and Biodiversity,
Rio de Janeiro State Government

“Equally important to developing strategies is tracking progress. Through the 30x30 initiative, we release an annual progress report tracking acres conserved, partner coordination, and conservation activities. Reporting is not just about sharing data, but learning from it to move further and faster toward our goals.”

Madeline Drake, Assistant Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat,
California Natural Resources Agency



“Our commitment as a province dates back several years, and we recognize our responsibility to demonstrate progress globally. CapeNature produces an annual State of Conservation report, which we use to inform indicators aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework.”

Marlene Laros, Biodiversity and Coastal Management, Western Cape Government

“Scotland’s Strategic Framework for Biodiversity emphasizes that accountability is a key condition for success. We are establishing statutory targets alongside a new framework for monitoring and evaluating progress. The CBD reporting format allows to highlight relevant biodiversity aspects, showcase successful projects, and learn from other nations involved in this global effort.”

Diarmuid Ó Néill, Director of Environment and Forestry, Scottish Government



Regional Realities: A conversation on measuring Progress on Biodiversity Action

Positioning for Global Biodiversity Reporting toward COP17

Regions are turning global biodiversity commitments into actionable strategies, while tackling challenges in reporting, monitoring, and financing. Innovative governance, evidence-based decisions, and peer learning are strengthening subnational contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Translating commitment into impact: Regional approaches.

Multilevel Governance and Strategy Integration: Rio de Janeiro, Marie Ikemoto, Undersecretary for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation.

Despite challenges in standardizing metrics across numerous projects, California emphasizes balanced reporting—showcasing successes, highlighting gaps, and leveraging lessons for continuous improvement.

Provincial Accountability and Aggregated Reporting: Western Cape, Marlene Laros, Director of Biodiversity and Coastal Management.

The Western Cape embeds accountability through its Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, reinforced by annual State of Conservation reports. The province has navigated challenges in aggregating municipal-level data and aligning with South Africa's national biodiversity strategy while demonstrating global leadership as a Mediterranean-climate region. By linking political commitment with technical monitoring, the Western Cape ensures that local initiatives contribute meaningfully to national and global biodiversity indicators, offering a model for regions managing complex reporting environments.

Rio de Janeiro is in the process of implementing a state-level Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan—the first of its kind in Brazil—while supporting municipalities to integrate local biodiversity actions with climate and rainforest initiatives. The approach emphasizes synergies across the Rio Conventions, aligning municipal climate action plans with ecosystem-based adaptation strategies. Near-zero deforestation and expanded protected areas demonstrate tangible outcomes, while a biodiversity finance plan under development with UNDP aims to secure sustainable funding for conservation, restoration, and community initiatives. By linking governance, finance, and implementation, Rio is establishing a replicable model for multilevel accountability in biodiversity action.

Transparent Reporting and Learning: California, Madeline Drake, Assistant Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, California Natural Resources Agency.

Guided by Chief Scientific Advisors and specialized centers of expertise, Scotland is establishing statutory nature restoration targets. Despite the complexity of reporting in the context of devolved responsibilities, Scotland has published its National Biodiversity Strategy, aligned with global objectives and is developing monitoring frameworks to track progress toward halting biodiversity decline by 2030 and restoring ecosystems by 2045. Funding for peatland, woodland, and broader biodiversity initiatives supports these goals, enabling credible, evidence-based contributions to global reporting.

California prioritizes both rigorous monitoring and public engagement. Annual reporting under the “30x30” initiative tracks conservation acreage, restoration activities, and partner coordination while combining data with case studies and narratives to communicate impact. This approach ensures transparency, fosters public trust, and promotes peer learning, translating subnational achievements into contributions to the global biodiversity framework.

Regional Realities: A conversation on measuring Progress on Biodiversity Action

Challenges and Solutions in Aligning with the GBF indicators

Aligning subnational biodiversity reporting with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework poses challenges of scale, consistency, and methodology. Regions are working to bridge national frameworks and local realities while ensuring accuracy, transparency, and learning value in their contributions.

Reporting in Practice: Overcoming the Gaps in Metrics, Scale, and Alignment.

Building Coherence Between Levels: Rio de Janeiro, Marie Ikemoto, Undersecretary for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation.

A central challenge in Rio de Janeiro lies in synchronizing state-level data with national monitoring systems that are still under development. With Brazil's federal indicators not yet fully defined, Rio is working with UNDP through its biodiversity finance plan to establish state-level monitoring frameworks that include indicators, tools, and regular progress tracking. By combining financing strategies with transparent monitoring, the state aims to ensure its contributions align with national structures while moving beyond planning toward measurable implementation.

Balancing Rigor and Practicality: California, Madeline Drake, Assistant Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, California Natural Resources Agency.

Reconciling diverse project-level data with the need for common metrics that can feed into broader reporting is a difficulty spotted by California. Data accuracy and comparability remain ongoing challenges, but the state stresses the importance of maintaining progress even without perfect datasets. By addressing 23 GBF targets, California highlights both areas of strong advancement and those requiring greater effort, while using case studies and transparent communication to capture nuance. This approach allows flexibility within standardized metrics, creating opportunities for mutual learning across jurisdictions.

Tackling Aggregation and Mandates, Western Cape, Marlene Laros, Director of Biodiversity and Coastal Management.

The Western Cape emphasized that alignment challenges extend across multiple multilateral frameworks, not just the GBF. Aggregating inconsistent metrics risks obscuring actual outcomes, particularly at the impact level. Resourcing limitations and fragmented mandates across ecosystems—such as water, marine, and protected areas—further complicate reporting. Despite these hurdles, the region benefits from strong scientific leadership at national institutions and recognizes the regional level as the vital connector for ensuring local data and global targets are meaningfully aligned.

Statutory Targets and Scientific Oversight: Scotland, Diarmuid Ó Néill, Director of Environment and Forestry.

For Scotland, the breadth and novelty of GBF reporting creates difficulties, especially where guidance on targets is unclear. In response, Scotland has advanced innovative assessment tools, such as leading the UK's first Red List of Ecosystems and conducting a genetic diversity assessment of wild species. These initiatives, developed in collaboration with UK and international partners, not only strengthen national reporting but also generate global public goods—such as a site-based genetic assessment tool—demonstrating how subnational innovation can inform and shape wider reporting frameworks.

SHARED EXPERIENCES

Biodiversity reporting represents both strategic opportunity and practical challenge in connecting regional action with global frameworks. The interactive discussion revealed how regional governments navigate these complexities while developing innovative approaches that create a collective knowledge base enhancing implementation effectiveness. These shared experiences illuminate practical pathways for translating ecological complexity into actionable governance frameworks.



Framing Biodiversity through Practical Lenses.

Making biodiversity tangible is essential for engagement and action. The challenge of embedding biodiversity into broader policy conversations requires strategic communication approaches that connect environmental protection to immediate human concerns.

For Western Cape, linking biodiversity with water security, climate resilience, and disaster risk reduction brings it into everyday decision-making:

"Protecting and restoring nature is about safeguarding the resources we depend on", Marlene Laros, Western Cape.



For Scotland, the [Case Study Database](#) serves as a powerful storytelling tool to keep biodiversity issues visible in policy discussions, demonstrating how connecting biodiversity with broader societal concerns strengthens both understanding and commitment.

Quantitative and Qualitative Metrics: Finding the Balance.

Regional experiences reveal the complexity of translating biodiversity progress into measurable indicators, particularly when balancing the appeal of clear targets with the nuanced reality of ecological and social outcomes. The 30x30 target exemplifies both the power and limitations of quantitative approaches to biodiversity measurement. California's analysis captures this tension:

"One of the reasons 30x30 is the banner for us is because it's a very clear target with a very clear reporting metric: acres conserved. Some targets are very easy to report on and get people behind. But then some of the ones that have a little more qualitative reporting can get a little lost, and they're still very important." Madeline Drake, California

The challenge extends beyond measurement to communication - how do regions effectively report partnership success, community engagement, or adaptive management processes that resist simple quantification? For Western Cape, there is a high complex implementation behind seemingly straightforward targets: **"In the haste to meet 30x30, we ensure that effective management is maintained and that protected areas are secured in perpetuity. These are potential pitfalls in measuring success."** Marlene Laros, Western Cape.

This cautionary note emphasizes that meaningful biodiversity protection requires sustained commitment beyond initial designation.

Bioregional Collaboration and Ecosystem-Based Approaches.

The discussion revealed how regions sharing similar ecological characteristics develop collaborative approaches that transcend political boundaries, creating knowledge networks that accelerate biodiversity implementation through shared learning and coordinated action.

SHARED EXPERIENCES

 The Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership (MCAP) exemplifies this bioregional approach, connecting Western Cape, Catalonia and California around shared challenges of water scarcity and fire management. These collaborations enable regions to adapt proven solutions across similar contexts while building collective advocacy for ecosystem-specific needs within global frameworks.

Brazil's Atlantic Forest Consortium represents another model of bioregional cooperation. It gathers with seven states coordinating protection efforts across shared ecosystems, having already achieved significant marks:

"We have reforested almost 92,000 hectares and have already matched half of this goal.", Marie Ikemoto, Rio de Janeiro.

 Likewise, the pre-climate COP Atlantic Rainforest Conference demonstrates how bioregional networks can create political momentum by showcasing collective impact that exceeds individual regional capacity.

These collaborative approaches suggest that effective biodiversity governance may increasingly operate through ecosystem-based networks that complement but transcend traditional political boundaries, enabling regions to address ecological challenges at appropriate scales while maintaining local implementation control.



Reporting Engagement and Visibility

Regional governments approach reporting with a strategic intent: an opportunity to amplify work that might otherwise remain embedded in national contexts.

Scotland's perspective illuminates this dynamic: **"One thing we see as a real benefit is the ability to highlight what Scotland is doing. Sometimes, within the broader context of the Four Nations of the UK, our work can get lost or diluted. From that perspective, the platform makes a real difference by amplifying the valuable work being done across Scotland."** Diarmuid Ó Néill, Scotland.

For participating regions, the *RegionsWithNature* Action Platform and the *Case Study Database* are valuable spaces to amplify contributions and connect biodiversity strategies with global frameworks. It offers visibility, structure, and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.



NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

The pathway to Biodiversity COP17 (2026) requires coordinated regional action across three critical phases, with specific deadlines and strategic priorities for maximizing contributions to the Global Review Process. Effective implementation requires balancing immediate documentation needs with long-term capacity building and strategic positioning within evolving global biodiversity governance frameworks.

✓ Immediate Actions (October-November 2025)

Reporting through the RwN Action Platform: Complete your region's profile on [RegionsWithNature](#) and report commitments through the Action Platform by November 30th for the chance to have your data included in the Global Review Process (depending on validation by Parties). The platform's leaderboard functionality creates peer accountability while establishing regional visibility ahead of COP17.

Case Study Submissions: Regional governments have until the end of November 2025 to submit biodiversity case studies through the [15-question form](#) for the chance to be included in the Subnational Governments Report. Priority should focus on initiatives demonstrating clear GBF target alignment and measurable outcomes.

✓ COP17 Preparation (December 2025-February 2026)

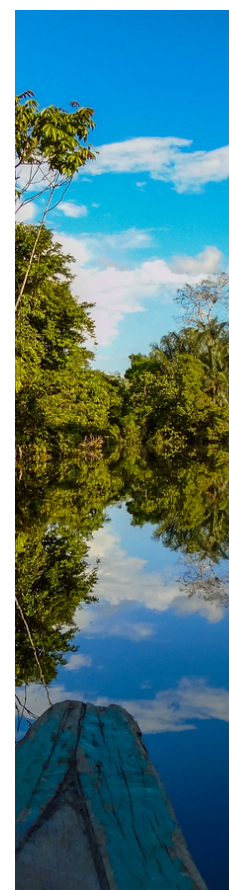
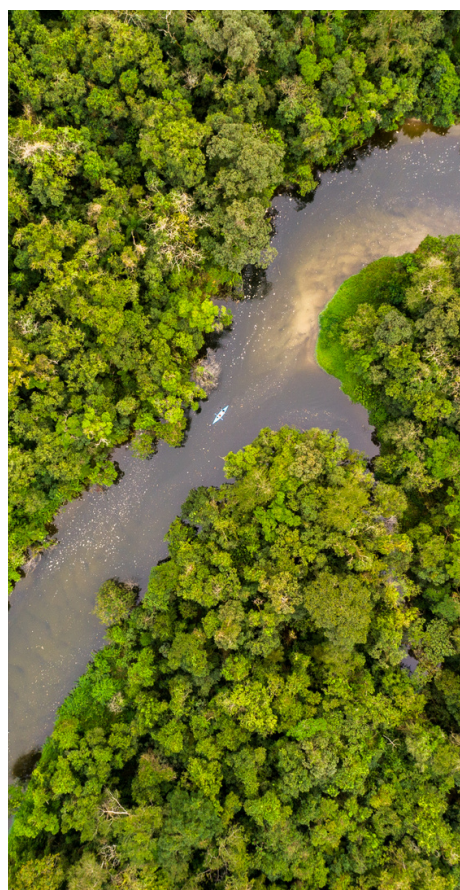
National Coordination: As countries finalize the seventh national reports by February 28, 2026, coordinate with national authorities to ensure subnational contributions receive appropriate integration under *CBD Decision 16/32* frameworks.

Progress Documentation: Maintain regular platform updates on commitment implementation and target progress. The activity feed creates peer learning opportunities while showcasing regional leadership to global audiences.

✓ Post-COP17 Implementation (2026 and Beyond)

Global Review Response Analysis: Follow COP17 outcomes for implications on subnational implementation approaches, funding priorities, and partnership opportunities. Use review findings to inform course corrections toward 2030 targets.

Sustained Platform Engagement: Continue active participation in platform development and provide implementation feedback. Maintain commitment reporting to strengthen the platform's credibility as the primary subnational biodiversity mechanism.



Additional Considerations

- **Technical Assistance:** Regions4 and ICLEI provide platform navigation and reporting support. Early engagement improves submission quality.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Explore biodiversity monitoring funding mechanisms. Strategic partnerships with research institutions and NGOs amplify implementation capacity.
- **Communication Strategies:** Connect biodiversity protection to immediate community concerns such as water security, disaster risk reduction, and economic resilience.

CONCLUSIONS

Biodiversity COP17's first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework marks a critical accountability moment for biodiversity implementation worldwide. With three-quarters of countries yet to submit updated NBSAPs, this session demonstrated that the pathway to COP17 demands systematic documentation of regional biodiversity efforts to capture real-world implementation and maintain political momentum.

Québec's indicator development, Rio de Janeiro's multilevel governance, California's 30x30 reporting, Western Cape's resource resilience approaches, and Scotland's genetic diversity assessments exemplify the innovative solutions that must inform the Global Review Process. Regional discussions reinforced a crucial insight: while governments face common challenges in aligning indicators with global frameworks and communicating biodiversity value, they are not alone in these efforts. *CBD COP Decisions 15/12 and 16/32*, combined with tools like the RegionsWithNature Action Platform and Regions4's Case Study Database, create direct pathways for regional influence on global biodiversity governance.

The Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform connects regional practitioners, shares implementation solutions, and builds peer networks that accelerate progress toward 2030 biodiversity targets. As the February 2026 global review deadline approaches, these regional innovations provide the foundation for demonstrating that biodiversity implementation works best through coordinated action across all governance levels.



Did you miss the session?
Explore the recording [here](#).

ABOUT THIS BRIEF FOR ACTION

This brief for action is part of a series aimed at informing Regions4 members on key results and recommendations based on Regions4 research and learning sessions.

The [Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform \(R4BLP\)](#) is a collaborative space where Regions4 members and guest experts share knowledge and best practices on biodiversity action. The platform generates technical knowledge that informs Regions4 global advocacy efforts. It facilitates cross-jurisdictional exchange, and fosters partnerships among its members.

The R4BLP is an operational partner of the [Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#).

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