



CASCADE

# CBD COP16 REPORT

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## A. Overview of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-16)

- COP-16 decisions and draft decisions emphasise the interdependent role of academia as both knowledge/information providers and capacity building promoters through bringing a diversity of actors together. These two aspects appear key in the contribution of academic and research institutions to the implementation of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework:

***“To compile submissions from Parties, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, relevant academia and research institutions and other relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth for the inclusion of additional headline, component and complementary indicators that meet the criteria for inclusion in the monitoring framework in order to help to address the gaps in the monitoring framework”***

[COP/16/L.26](#)

***“To facilitate, with the support of the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, an informal technical dialogue among Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, academia, the private and financial sectors and other stakeholders and experts on the scientific, technical and technological aspects of the global report and other relevant inputs to the global review, including the sharing of best practices, challenges, gaps and solutions”***

[COP/16/L.33](#)

***“Also encourages Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, relevant organizations, initiatives, partners and relevant stakeholders, including from the private and financial sectors, academia, the scientific community and philanthropic organizations to mainstream biodiversity in all relevant processes”***

[COP/16/L.9](#)

***“Invites indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and academia, women, children and youth to contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Plan [on Biodiversity and Health]”*** [COP/16/L.10](#)

- **CASCADE** has an important role and specific position in its contribution to the implementation of the KMGBF. A similar European project [CO-OP4CBD](#) for instance has similar objectives to CASCADE but consider academia and research as guidance providers only. The broader role of knowledge exchange catalyst (bringing actors together) is not included which appears as one of the strengths of CASCADE.
- There is significant potential for CASCADE to develop relationships with several [regional and/or sub-regional technical and scientific cooperation support centres](#) to amplify our offering.
- CASCADE's impact could be amplified by working strategically with certain organisations/initiatives, which could also improve the likelihood of future funding. These include the [Nature Positive Universities](#), the [NBSAP accelerator](#) and [IUCN](#).

## B. Summary of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-16)

- A [comprehensive report](#) on the substance of Conference is available from the Earth Negotiations Bulletin. The L documents and outcome are available [here](#). Importantly, the meeting was suspended after an all-night session on 1-2 November as many delegations had left and the meeting no longer had a quorum. This meant that several decisions were not adopted yet, including resource mobilisation, planning, monitoring, reporting, and review; and the budget for the operation of the Convention's activities, including the Secretariat.

### C. CASCADE Side-events

- The **main CASCADE side-event** "[University networks to support implementation of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)" co-hosted by the CBD Secretariat, the United Kingdom, Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and ICRAF-CIFOR was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
  - SBI-04 side-event was centred on CASCADE's philosophy, objectives, and potential activities. This COP-16 side-event focused on CASCADE in practice: what we have done together, what we could do together and how could we collectively work on the implementation of the KMGBF according to Parties needs and expectations.
  - Mr Erie Tamale from the CBD Secretariat introduced the side-event by highlighting the importance of CASCADE to capacity-building and knowledge exchange to contribute to the implementation of the KMGBF. Mr Tamale emphasised the strong support of the Secretariat towards CASCADE and the need for a strong collaboration between the CBD Secretariat and CASCADE. After a presentation of Philip on CASCADE and its objectives, the next segment was dedicated to the presentation of CASCADE knowledge products.
  - Hani El Bizri presented the binary indicator proposal for the sustainable, safe, and legal use, harvesting and trade of wild species related to Target 5 of the KMGBF in which CASCADE was involved. Hannah then presented on behalf of Molly Brown, the rapid-evidence synthesis on behaviour-change.
  - The third part of the side-event was related on academic involvement in CBD processes to highlight that Academia are more than information providers but also catalysts of knowledge exchange. Élie presented some example statements from Parties identified during SBI-04 showing the expectations that Parties have of Academia and introduced a network analysis of African NBSAP actors as an example to showcase the central role of academics to contribute to the implementation of the KMGBF. This was followed by a presentation from Emily Stott from Nature Positive Universities and its links with CASCADE.
  - Following these presentations, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Government of Seychelles and ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) participated in a panel discussion on the role of academia in the CBD
- CASCADE was also involved in the Nature Positive Universities and the Target 5 binary indicator side-events

### D. Key discussions and insights for CASCADE

- **Meeting with Parties delegations.** Philip, Hannah and Élie strengthened relationships with delegations interested in the CASCADE initiative by participating in meetings with the UK (DEFRA and JNCC), Seychelles, Tunisia, Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia to discuss Parties needs and potential support from CASCADE.
- **Meeting with the NBSAP Accelerator entity representatives (United Nations).** Following a first meeting with the NBSAP Accelerator during SBI-04 in Nairobi, the CASCADE team had a follow-up meeting in Cali. The NBSAP Accelerator aims to accelerate the implementation of NBSAPs and will operate a matchmaking facility to link those who need input (of whatever kind), with those who have services to offer, and with funders/donors. The UNEP recently hired a person in charge of knowledge exchange that would be the key contact for CASCADE if there is collaboration. **NBSAP Accelerator colleagues would like see CASCADE as a part of this, and able to supply services in its matchmaking process.**
- **Engaging with regional/subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres**

The regional/subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres (TSC) aim to assist the implementation of the KMGBF by promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation between Parties belonging to the same region. Further details on the missions of TSCs can be found [here](#).

- The CASCADE team met the **IUCN Asia TSC** who sees potential collaboration between CASCADE and Asia regional support centre. IUCN Asia TSC drafted a note highlighting "the importance of academia in



strengthening CBD designated subregional TSC centres” following our meeting for transmission to the TSC Centres Coordination Team at CBD Secretariat for organising the interregional coordination meeting for Asia TSC Centres.

- Philip, Hannah and Élie also engaged with the **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**, which hosts the Himalayan University Consortium. The Head of Delegation participated to CASCADE side-event panel discussion. During a meeting with ICIMOD, discussion included opportunities to engage on mountain-biodiversity conservation issues and with Himalayan Universities Consortium, which is moving from an ICIMOD programme to a standalone Secretariat. ICIMOD is represented on the CBD Technical and Scientific Coordination-Informal Advisory Group. The Director of the Walker Institute, University of Reading is co-chair of the HUC Secretariat transition task force.
- Following important exchanges during SBSTTA-26 and SBI-04 in Nairobi, the CASCADE team met the **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)** to further discussions about potential collaboration. The executive director of the ACB expressed interest in engaging with CASCADE especially to create **potential connections between the consortium and an ASEAN University Consortium**. Philip participated in the ACB meetings (Science Forum and Scientific Advisory Committee) in Singapore to strengthen the relationship with the ACB which is a TSC. ACB participated actively in CASCADE side-events. The ASEAN Biodiversity Plan was launched at a side event at COP16, attended by Phil, Hannah and Élie.
- The African TSC side-event was the inception event of the five African TSC centres. African regional and subregional support centres have a clear and structured strategy of governance. Parties are distributed geographically amongst/between five centres collaborating within the African Union. They are long standing organisations showcasing long-term partnerships. Each Party will have a focal point for communication with its support centre. The 5 regional support centres are unified under **the African Union** to promote collaboration. **We now have contacts with all the 5 TSC centres.**
- **Meeting with IPBES.** Ms Simone Schiele from the **IPBES** asked CASCADE to circulate details of IPBES assessment and webinar and to ask colleagues to consider encouraging collaborators from across their networks to contribute, especially in under-represented areas (geographic and disciplinary).