

Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group

Activity and Engagement Report 2025

Summary

Launched at CBD COP 16 by Colombia and Mexico, the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group (BMCG) is an informal platform accelerating the integration of biodiversity across all sectors and levels of government. In 2025, the group has:

- Grown to engage 20 governments, with participation from across ministries of environment, agriculture, finance, and foreign affairs, and from several intergovernmental and nongovernment organizations.
- Adopted a functional governance model and secured basic capacity and resources from NGO partners WWF and TNC to help coordinate group activities.
- Delivered four quarterly meetings, engaging 60 participants with seven countries presenting national experiences on agriculture, finance, and infrastructure.
- Increased public visibility by launching a website and hosting a webinar with 580+ registrants from 34 countries (and 180 live participants).
- Contributed to securing a biodiversity mainstreaming outcome in CBD Decision 16/13, supported this decision's implementation
- Is receiving invitations from the CBD Secretariat to provide input into CBD processes in the run up to COP 17.

Participation Snapshot

The group now includes 19+ country and regional governments as formal partners and one observing government, with active participation from ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Finance, and Foreign Affairs. The group also includes several international organizations and NGOs.

- **Participating Countries:** Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Mauritania, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, Zambia.

Across the four members' meetings this year, 60 individuals participated, often in multiple meetings.

- **Regional breakdown of meeting participants:**
 - **Europe:** Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands (observer)
 - **Latin America:** Colombia, Mexico, Peru
 - **Africa:** Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia

- **North America:** Canada
- **Asia:** India
- **Organizational breakdown:**
 - **Ministry of Environment:** 12 participants
 - **Ministry of Agriculture:** 8 participants
 - **Ministry of Finance:** 1 participant
 - **Foreign Affairs:** 1 participant
 - **International Organizations:** 25 participants – CBD Secretariat, FAO, OECD, BIOFIN, ICLEI, IDB, NBSAP Accelerator Partnership
 - **NGOs:** 7 participants – The Nature Conservancy, WWF

The group also hosted its first public event in December 2025, entitled *Building Biodiversity into the Infrastructure Sector*, co-hosted by the BMCG, CBD, WWF, TNC, with funding support from Global Environmental Facility (GEF), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

- **Total Attendees:** 180 participants
- **Total Registrants:** 582
- **Participant Sectors:** Governments, Finance, Academia, Engineering, Conservation.
- **Government Representation:**
 - 110 government registrants
 - 34 countries represented
- **Geographic Distribution:**
 - Europe: 24%
 - North America: 23%
 - Asia: 20%
 - Latin America & Caribbean: 19%
 - Africa: 11%
 - Oceania: 2%

Internal products:

- **Modus operandi:** Inclusive, transparent, and collaborative platform with rotating chairs and a clear process for membership and agenda setting. Chatham House rules to foster open dialogue.
- Summarized meeting notes and shared resource repository.

Interface with the public and other actors:

- Launch of the [BMCG website](#) and publication of a group brochure
- The first public webinar hosted by the BMCG engaged 582 registrants
- The South African National Biodiversity Institute has proposed the possibility of developing a publicly available e-learning course on biodiversity mainstreaming, in collaboration with the BMCG.

Meeting Descriptions

January 2025: First meeting

- **Co-Chairs:** Mexico and Belgium
- **Key topics:** Finalizing the [modus operandi](#) and planning group activities

April 2025: Agriculture Mainstreaming Deep Dive

- **Co-Chairs:** Finland and Colombia
- **Presentations:** FAO, Finland/MTK, CBD Secretariat
- **Key topics:** National strategies for mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, implementation of COP 16 Decision on Mainstreaming, launch of BMCG website and brochure, planning for future meetings.
- **Participants:** 33 individuals

July 2025: Aligning Finance with Biodiversity Goals

- **Co-Chairs:** France and Mexico
- **Key topics:** Mainstreaming biodiversity in the financial sector (presentations from BIOFIN-Mexico, France, OECD, Tanzania), corporate transparency, subsidy reform, financial sector engagement, tools and resources for finance and biodiversity.
- **Participants:** 34 individuals

November 2025: Mainstreaming in Agriculture—Country Case Studies

- **Co-Chairs:** Belgium and Mexico
- **Presentations:** Mexico, South Africa, Belgium
- **Key topics:** Country case studies, science-policy interface, spatial planning, stewardship, depolarizing policy debates
- **Participants:** 25 individuals

December 2025: Infrastructure Webinar

- **Co-sponsors:** BMCG, CBD, WWF, TNC, with funding support from Global Environmental Facility (GEF), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).
- **Chair:** Mexico
- **Presentations:** Peru, Belgium, WWF-India, TNC
- **Key topics:** Mainstreaming biodiversity in infrastructure planning and delivery, to enhance resilience and cost-effectiveness, sharing lessons learned from national initiatives, fostering collaboration across sectors, and launch of the Community of Practice on Nature and

Infrastructure (COPNI) to accelerate knowledge exchange and support the implementation of global biodiversity goals. The session emphasized discussion on tools, challenges, and opportunities for integrating biodiversity in infrastructure, the importance of stakeholder engagement, practical case studies, and aligning infrastructure investments with sustainability and biodiversity targets.

- **Registered:** 580 individuals
- **Attended live:** 180 individuals