

Summary: Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group Meeting

This virtual members meeting was held April 23, 2025 from 8am-10am Mexico City; 4pm CEST, and was co-chaired by Mexico and Colombia.

Topics:

1. Review the members survey results and confirm the proposed 2026 activity plan
2. Thematic discussion: National implementation of mainstreaming targets and connections to the global report
3. Next steps and welcome new BMCG chairs for 2026

Agenda:

Time	Topic
0-05	Welcome and introductions Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico)
05-35	BMCG 2026 Survey Results and Proposed Work Plan <i>Moderator:</i> Hesiquio Benitez, Mexico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Survey results and proposal for BMCG work plan <i>Speakers:</i> Suzanne Ozment (TNC) • Discuss and confirm work plan for 2026
35-105	National implementation of mainstreaming targets <i>Moderator:</i> Hesiquio Benitez, Mexico <u>Presentation of national experiences</u> <i>Speakers:</i> Allan Dauchi (Zambia) confirmed Q&A and Discussion <u>Mainstreaming in the CBD global report</u> <i>Presentation and Discussion Moderator:</i> Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico) Q&A and Discussion
105-115	Next Steps <i>Lead:</i> Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico) and Tomas Antolinez (Colombia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD Notification Inviting Submission of Mainstreaming Resources to the CHM • SBI 7 side event • Welcome new BMCG chairs for 2026 • Next members meeting • Any other business
115-120	Wrap up and Close

Attachments

- [Slide deck and meeting materials](#)

Attendees

1. Adela Calvo Galiano, Spain
2. Adèle Fardoux, France
3. Allan Dauchi, Zambia
4. Andres Prieto, TNC
5. Diana Lopez Higareda, Mexico
6. Gloriana Salazar, TNC
7. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, Mexico
8. Katie Minderhoud, PBL, The Netherlands
9. Johanna Niemivuo-Lahti, Finland
10. Jules de Brabander, Belgium
11. Julie D'Havé, Belgium
12. Julie Sperling, Canada
13. Linda Krueger, TNC
14. Lisa Hunsinger, Germany
15. Louisa Singer, Germany
16. Luca Chinotti, WWF
17. Maria Andrea Orjuela, Mexico
18. Marta Hernández Arroyo, Spain
19. Mukondi Matshusa, South Africa
20. Seoka Lekota, South Africa
21. Simon Malete, South Africa
22. Stanley Tshitwamulomoni, South Africa
23. Suzanne Ozment, TNC
24. Takalani Murulana, South Africa
25. Tomas Enrique Victor Antolinez Cuadros, Colombia

Summary of the meeting and outcomes

The meeting was opened by Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, Mexico, who chaired the meeting.

2026 Survey Results and Proposed Work Plan

The survey results and proposed workplan were presented by Suzanne Ozment, TNC. Participants provided general support and raised the following comments and suggestions:

- **On the “finance, business and private sector engagement” topic for next meeting** participants highlighted:
 - o The importance of linkages in the recent IPBES Assessment on Business and Biodiversity.
 - o The need to better understand plans for COP17 Business Day.
 - o The need to create space for discussing harmful subsidies and progress on GBF Target 18.
 - o The importance of assessing what are the gaps and challenges, what are the available tools and additional tools needed and how we can adjust our language to business.

- o The importance of being explicit on roles and responsibility of governments and other actors.
- **On the “setting and reporting on mainstreaming targets” topic** it was highlighted the need to broaden it to include also the monitoring component as measuring progress on mainstreaming is key.
- **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and mainstreaming.** This is an area, notably around human-wildlife coexistence around protected and conserved areas, where there has been a lot of discussion, progress and lessons learned.
- **On thematic topics for the group’s exchanges, mining, infrastructure, and energy were highlighted.** South Africa mentioned updating its biodiversity guidelines for the mining sector as one experience that could be discussed further.
- **SBI-7 and COP17 activities:**
 - o Development of BMCG joint statements or communiqués for SBI-7 and COP17.
 - o The importance to look back on the outcomes on mainstreaming of COP13 and 14 was also highlighted.
- **Further development of the group:** it was suggested that the new Co-Chairs could invite Egypt to join the BMCG, given their role at COP14 and beyond on mainstreaming.
- On the possible analysis or joint communications the group could undertake, several ideas were voiced—a joint communique for COP 17, a compendium of examples from the mainstreaming group, a poster session at COP 17, and/or an analysis of progress on mainstreaming targets based on 7th NRs.

The revised programme of work in the annex below reflects those suggestions. Please let us know by May 15 if the suggestions from the call have not been adequately reflected or if you have further inputs.

National implementation of mainstreaming targets

Allan Dauchi, Chief Natural Resources Management Officer and Zambia’s CBD National Focal Point presented Zambia national experience in implementing mainstreaming which included:

- The development of the revised NBSAP, to be launched in May, was built on national consultations in all Provinces, followed by incorporation of stakeholders’ views and supported by desk studies on status and trends of biodiversity in Zambia.
- Mainstreaming the revised NBSAP into the upcoming 9th National Development Plan.
- The establishment of a National Technical Committee on Biodiversity and a National Steering Committee on Biodiversity, which includes other ministries such as Ministry of Finance and Planning, an important entry point for mainstreaming

Allan highlighted that while tracking mainstreaming progress in terms of stakeholder consultations was relatively easy, a key challenge has been setting targets with other ministries and sectoral representatives, due to competing

interests—the establishment of the National Technical Committee was important to overcoming this challenge, because the committee provided expert guidance on divisive or overlooked issues. Inviting other ministries into the target setting process has been a success factor for mainstreaming implementation in Zambia.

Mainstreaming in the CBD global report

Hesiquio Benítez, International Cooperation and Implementation Director General, CONABIO, Mexico presented how mainstreaming is captured in the upcoming global report and some of its preliminary findings on mainstreaming, based on the analysis of NBSAPs. Key preliminary findings includes:

- The fact that mainstreaming and cross-sectoral was identified as one of the most common challenges;
- 113 Parties submitted a national targets related to Target 14
- National targets related to Target 14 commonly focused on a specific aspect of the integration of biodiversity values into relevant processes rather than on integration across all national processes.
- Only 12% of Parties state that biodiversity has already been integrated into their national development plans;
- Very few Parties have integrated in biodiversity in their climate policies or poverty eradication frameworks
- Although MEAs were mentioned most NBSAPs did not include information or concrete actions for achieving synergistic implementation.

New Co-Chairs and next steps

The group thanked the two outgoing Co-Chairs of the BMCG, Colombia and Mexico, for all their work in the last couple of years.

The BMCG welcomed the two new Co-Chairs: Belgium and South Africa.

We are aiming to submit a proposal for a **SBI side event** to the CBD Secretariat on May 1. **Please let us know by May 7 if you are interested to co-sponsor and let us know if you are interested to co-create the side event programme.** [Here](#) is the current draft side event proposal.

The **next quarterly members meeting** will take place early July, to ensure the group can come together to exchange SBI documents and the global report. Co-Chairs will propose exact date and time, considering speakers availability.

Members are encouraged to **submit to CBD good practices, tools, mechanisms, guidance and relevant solutions** relating to supporting biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors (see [CBD Notification 2025-148](#))

In case you have any update or information that you would like to share, please feel free to share them by email or via Whatsapp with the group.

ANNEX: Proposed revised work plan (with track-changes)

In response to the survey results, and considering expected levels of capacity and resourcing, the coordinators propose 2026 activities to cover meetings and events, members

stewardship, and potentially, analysis or internal documents. Participation in 2026 is expected to remain light-touch, centered on voluntary attendance at virtual meetings and optional engagement around SBI-7 and COP 17.

Meetings and events

Activities in 2026 are sequenced to align with the CBD calendar, in particular SBI-7 and COP 17, providing space for informal exchange on implementation experiences relevant to draft decisions and agenda items.

- 2 in-person meetings and proposed official side events (SBI-7 and COP 17)
- At least 1 public webinar on a high-interest theme
- 4 quarterly members' meetings, focused on cross-cutting topics, discussion and exchange, and clear connection to the CBD agenda.
- *Potential* visibility within RM dialogue, shared talking points for members participating in other COP 17 side events
- *Pending further scoping*: Light synthesis/analysis activity (e.g. e-learning course, analysis of T14 trends, or resource repository to complement)

Tentative Calendar

Date	Topic	Format
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey results and 2026 work plan - Thematic presentations and debate: setting and reporting national mainstreaming targets - AOB 	Virtual members meeting
Early July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thematic presentations and debate: How mainstreaming supports resource mobilization (business and finance) - Review and discussion of SBI-7 materials related to mainstreaming 	Virtual members meeting
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SBI Side event: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Within and Across Sectors - Joint statement of communiqué 	SBI side event and/or informal gathering
September	Topic to be proposed at a later date	Virtual public webinar
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thematic presentations and debate: Topic to be determined with co-chairs - Debrief from SBI-7 and sharing of ideas for COP 17 	Virtual members meeting
October	COP 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Side event - Informal members gathering - Joint statement of communiqué - Joint communications, potentially using posters to showcase lesson 	Side events and gathering

	learned/good experiences from the group.	
December	Members meeting– COP 17 debrief and topics TBC	Virtual members meeting

Members stewardship

- Updated members roster
- Invitation to Egypt and other additional, potentially interested Parties to join
- Invitation to non-member Parties to join
- Website refresh / update

Analysis and internal documents

More scoping is required to define the light-touch synthesis or analytic contributions of the BMCG in 2026. Possible areas for exploration include:

- Review of how Target 14 is being addressed in NBSAPs, national targets, and national reports
- Systematic review of mainstreaming resources, tools, and guides, and draft e-learning course
- Systematic analysis of national case studies from the Mainstreaming Group members

Topics for next meetings

Topic	Interest (# respondents)	Ideas / offers to contribute
Finance (including harmful subsidies), business and private sector engagement	6	5
Setting, reporting and monitoring progress on mainstreaming targets	6	3
Approaches to nature-positive sectoral planning	5	2
Energy and mining	6	1
Spatial planning	5	0
Infrastructure	4	0
Manufacturing and processing	3	1
Trade	3	1
Exchanging views on draft CBD decisions	3	2
Exchanging views on KM-GBF goals	3	2
Communication	3	0

Agriculture	2	1
Fisheries	2	0
Education	2	1
Urban planning	2	1
Forestry	1	1
Invasive alien species	1	1
Tourism	1	0
Health	1	0