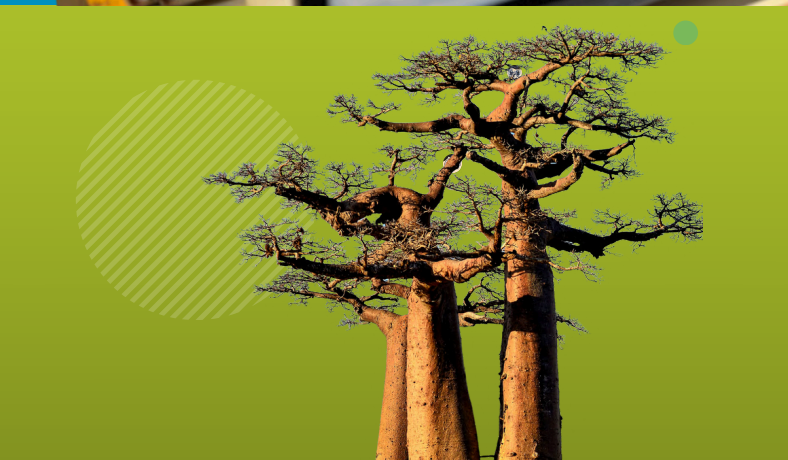


Youth Priorities

CBD COP16

Prepared by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network

version Oct 17



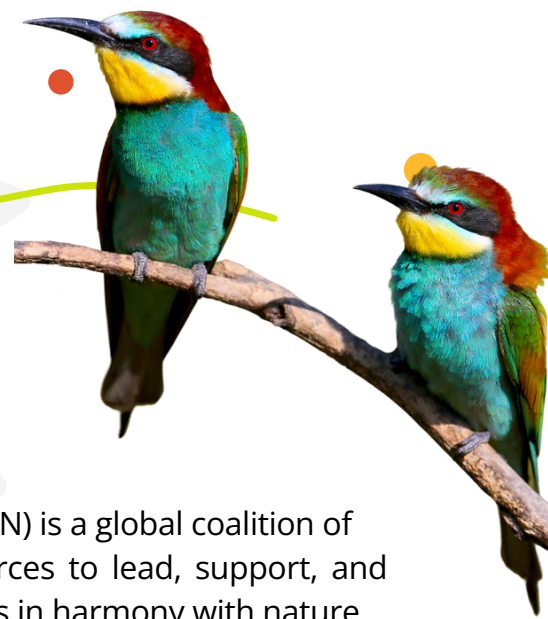
COP16
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Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network



About GLOBAL YOUTH BIODIVERSITY NETWORK



Founded in 2010, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is a global coalition of young people and youth organizations who have joined forces to lead, support, and accelerate a just and equitable transition to a society that lives in harmony with nature.

GYBN aims to raise awareness of the values of biodiversity among young people, empowering them to take action. The network's objective is to support youth activities for biodiversity at the national, regional, and global levels by providing an international structure for exchange and coordination, capacity-building training, and political representation on the international level.

As of May 2024, GYBN brings together over 705 youth organizations from 172 countries, representing a total of 1.25 million youth. GYBN also has 61 national and 7 regional and sub-regional chapters.

Since 2012, GYBN is the recognized coordination platform for youth participation in the negotiations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

- Website: gybn.org
- Twitter: @GYBN_CBD
- Instagram: @gybn_cbd
- Facebook: [fb.com/theygbyn](https://www.facebook.com/theygbyn)



**Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network**



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Introduction

A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE ON TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE FOR BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND ACTION

Since its founding, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) has been actively mobilizing young people around the world to collectively work toward a just and equitable world that lives in harmony with nature. GYBN's collective actions on capacity-building, consultation, participation in decision-making, campaigning, alliance building and grassroots action served as the foundation for the network's successful advocacy for youth priorities in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The KMGBF is enriched by transformative elements championed by youth including inclusive participation, human rights, education, and intergenerational equity.

Since the adoption of the KMGBF in 2022, GYBN has continued its work to turn these into reality, including by participating in a number of countries' processes to update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

A GYBN delegation will be present at 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) to bring substantive proposals to the negotiations that reflect the values and perspectives that young people see as important for transformative biodiversity policy and action.

This document presents key youth recommendations for the agenda of COP16. It has been developed based on the principles and priorities continuously gathered by GYBN from our youth community. We call on Parties to support strong outcomes at COP16 that take into serious account the needs, priorities and perspectives of youth.

These views do not necessarily represent final statements, positions, or interventions, and are subject to change in the context of ongoing negotiations.

They are presented here for the purpose of further consultation with the GYBN community, and for consideration by Parties prior to the meetings.



Introduction

THE PROCESS OF BUILDING YOUTH POSITIONS

To ensure the diverse voices of young people worldwide are truly represented, GYBN has organized a comprehensive series of activities from 2018 to 2024. These efforts have gathered valuable opinions and suggestions, amplifying the perspectives of youth from the local to the global level regarding biodiversity issues and ensuring their voices are heard in critical decision-making processes.

These activities include:

- 40 National and/or Regional Consultations with over 1800 participants;
- 12 Global Consultations with over 600 participants;
- 14 National and/or Regional Dialogues with over 700 participants;
- 14 Global Dialogues with over 870 participants;
- 32 Training sessions with over 2000 participants.

- Website: gybn.org
- Twitter: @GYBN_CBD
- Instagram: @gybn_cbd
- Facebook: [fb.com/theGYBN](https://www.facebook.com/theGYBN)



**Global Youth
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COP16

YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



Updating of **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** - NBSAPs

Youth Recommendations for NBSAPs (1/2)

- **Transformative change**
 - NBSAPs must aim to be transformative and move beyond the status quo, and must address the indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss.
 - NBSAPs must consider the diverse values of nature beyond instrumental, monetary and economic.
- **Youth as leaders, partners & decision-makers**
 - NBSAPs must recognize and support youth, not only as beneficiaries and target groups, but also as partners, collaborators, contributors, initiators, implementors, leaders and decision-makers
- **Target 22 as a cross-cutting, enabling target**
 - Among the cornerstones of the GBF is target 22, which emphasizes the need to ensure full and inclusive participation, access to justice and information, and full protection of environmental defenders. This target must receive sufficient attention in NBSAPs as a cross-cutting and enabling target, relevant for the implementation of the GBF as a whole.
- **Youth indicators & Disaggregated data**
 - Countries must integrate youth-related indicators in their NBSAPs and gather data disaggregated by age, gender, and for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to capture differentiated impacts and contributions.
- **Intergenerational equity**
 - NBSAPs must consider long-term effects and avoid long-term and potentially irreversible negative impacts that could compromise future generations' right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
 - NBSAPs must be guided by the Precautionary Principle in their implementation.
 - NBSAPs must ensure full & effective participation of children and youth in decision-making processes

COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



Updating of **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** - NBSAPs

Youth Recommendations for NBSAPs (2/2)

- **Human rights-based approach**
 - Biodiversity actions must avoid harm to human rights, must be implemented based on principles of human rights, and must achieve improved human rights outcomes.
- **Whole-of-government & whole-of-society approach**
 - NBSAPs must involve all the relevant ministries, departments and agencies across levels and must enhance cross-sectoral collaboration, including with on-ground actors
- **Contributions and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities**
 - Biodiversity policies and actions must give due respect, recognition, and consideration to the rights, territories, traditional knowledge, and initiatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- **Transformative education**
 - NBSAPs must recognize and give due attention to transformative education in formal, non-formal, and informal spaces as a key enabler for addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss
- **Regulation of businesses**
 - Ensure regulation and accountability of businesses and the financial sector for impacts on biodiversity and human rights
- **Avoid false solutions**
 - Market-based approaches that aggravate social inequalities, commodify nature or do not deliver biodiversity outcomes are false solutions and must be avoided.

COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



Item 9.

 **TEXT PROPOSALS**

Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

- Public databases currently hold sequence information for thousands of species without regulations that ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing from their use across various sectors, whether for monetary or non-monetary gains. This lack of regulation exacerbates existing inequalities between countries in the development, storage, use, and governance of genetic resources and their digital sequence information. Moreover, open access platforms that lack transparency and inclusivity further widen the gap, as genetic data from developing states is often utilized by developed states for research, development, and innovation.
- The public availability of traditional knowledge should only occur with the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and must include safeguards to protect this information.
- All users of digital sequence information, regardless of the nature of their work, derive monetary or non-monetary benefits from utilizing these sequences for research, innovation, and development. Limiting benefit-sharing obligations to only commercial use could hamper capacity-building, development, technology transfer, and knowledge-sharing.
- Allocating funds to community-based projects is crucial for ensuring fair and equitable development, particularly for communities that struggle to secure sufficient support from other financing sources. Relying on national governments to implement these funds, may be unrealistic or administratively challenging in some contexts where such mechanisms are not well-established.



COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS

 **TEXT PROPOSALS**

Item 10



Mechanisms for Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review

KM GBF Monitoring Framework

- It will be important to endorse the updates to the monitoring framework at COP16 for use by Parties. We also strongly push to **keep** all indicators and disaggregations related to human rights, equitable governance, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and gender that are already reflected in the text in the monitoring framework. **At the same time, it is crucial to acknowledge that there are gaps in the monitoring framework that need to be addressed.** There must be a way forward to work with key organizations and institutions to fill these gaps, as well as an open door to adopt additional indicators after COP16.
 - Some key gaps in the monitoring framework that should be addressed:
 - Outcome indicators for many aspects of Target 22, including indicators on youth participation and access to information and justice
 - Monitoring elements related to Section C, including:
 - A human rights-based approach
 - Diverse value systems
 - Intergenerational equity
 - Formal and non-formal education
 - Certain elements of targets including non-market based approaches to finance
- We strongly support the adoption of an indicator on land use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as one of the headline indicators for Target 22. We also believe that it will be essential to define a way forward to develop an additional headline Target 22 outcome indicator that sufficiently captures inclusive participation post-COP16.
- Parties are urged to use a human rights-based approach to data in monitoring, reporting and review processes, including data disaggregation by age, gender, and for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and respect for free, prior and informed consent. We encourage Parties to make use of the Guidance on applying section C to KMGBF monitoring developed by the AHTEG.
- We call for the operationalization and integration of the traditional knowledge indicators into the KMGBF monitoring framework.
- Parties should recognise and support (including financial support) the role of youth-led monitoring and community-based monitoring and information systems in monitoring KMGBF implementation, including through their contributions to national reporting.



Mechanisms for Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review


National Reports

- Youth are already making key contributions to implementation of the GBF. Youth actions are many, diverse, and guided by values that are in harmony with nature. These contributions become invisible without appropriate ways to count, recognize and report on them. Parties should establish or improve **mechanisms to officially receive youth and other contributions for consideration in their reporting process**, while taking into account differentiated responsibilities by Parties in implementation. In addition, **Parties should report on their actions to support youth participation & youth-led initiatives on biodiversity.**

Non-State Actor Reporting

- The mechanism for non-State actor reporting, in order to be useful, must provide a simple way for rightsholders to report their contributions, while ensuring that it ensures accountability and transparency for reporting done by the private sector. It must also not place unnecessary burden on actors who already have limited access to resources. In order to achieve this, there is a need for a **differentiated treatment for different types of non-state actors, such as by developing a new template fit for purpose for rightsholders.**
- Beyond this mechanism, there is a need to also recognize and consider other potential methods for non-state actor reporting such as by continued recognition of and support for the Local Biodiversity Outlooks, or by recognizing future youth-led reports on their initiatives contributing to the biodiversity targets.

Global Review of Progress on the KMGBF

- **There is a need to ensure full, effective, and inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth throughout the global review process**, ensure that major groups are represented in the relevant advisory bodies, and facilitate a process to receive youth contributions to this review.
 - All “Party-driven” and “Party-led” processes under the CBD must still ensure inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples and civil society as observers or experts, in line with practice of the Convention and with Target 22 of the KMGBF. Processes that exclude Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth should not be accepted.
- 



Item 11

Resource Mobilization and the Financial Mechanism

Resource Mobilization

- Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth, as stewards of the Earth, address biodiversity conservation and restoration, and justice in their diverse socio-ecological realities. Despite this recognition, the current resource mobilization strategy is still insufficient to guarantee plans and actions focused on equitable, inclusive, effective, and gender- and youth-responsive representation and participation in decision-making and direct access to financial resources.
- Ensure direct access to flexible and predictable funds for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth on the ground, without intermediaries, in order to support conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- “Innovative” financial mechanisms for biodiversity, in particular biodiversity offsets and credits, have not yet been sufficiently explored concerning their negative impacts on biodiversity and human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and, therefore should not be stimulated.
- Social and environmental safeguards and human rights-based approaches must be ensured following national legislation and international frameworks for all resource mobilization strategies. These evaluations must guarantee the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth.
- Increase focus on and implementation of non-market-based approaches.

Financial Mechanism

- Some goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) are being better addressed than others, both at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Funds and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF). There is a lack of support for Target 22, Target 23 and Section C.
- The fact that all Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources are allocated in a country-driven way means that accessibility and inclusion for rights-holders is still lacking.
- More attention needs to be paid to the ways in which grassroots organizations, including organizations led by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth, can have a meaningful participation in decision-making and direct access to financial resources.

COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



Item 13

Cooperation with international organizations and other conventions

- The process of cooperation and collaboration must also take place on the ground, including increasing interactions and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth.
- Human rights and biodiversity are inextricably linked and already reflected in Section C of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The cooperation between the CBD's Executive Secretary and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) can bring together the expertise on biodiversity and human rights, promoting coherence and complementarity in support of the implementation of the Framework.
- Ensuring policy coherence in cross-cutting issues, especially those related to the intersection of climate and biodiversity, is essential. However, currently, the draft recommendation and discussions only address synergies but lack references to the trade-offs.



TEXT PROPOSALS

Item 14

Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions

- We call on Parties to support the establishment of a new permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions and the position of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) on this agenda item as advised in the outcomes of the [TRUA World Summit on Traditional Knowledge](#).



TEXT PROPOSALS



Item 15

Communication, Education and Public Awareness



TEXT PROPOSALS

- The process to develop the global plan of action for education for biodiversity must be participatory, inclusive and bring in a broad range of actor and draw from the rich experiences of the education sector, diverse organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and girls, children and youth. Broad consultations should be facilitated in its development.
- The Global Youth Biodiversity Network is interested to be among the organizations actively involved in the development of the global plan of action for education for biodiversity.
- It's important to keep references to “transformative change” across the text. Paragraph 2 of the KMGBF states that: “The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework seeks to respond to the Global Assessment Report of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services issued by IPBES” including its key message that “Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably while other global societal goals are simultaneously met through urgent and concerted efforts fostering transformative change.” which is also quoted in the GBF itself. Weakening the language regarding transformative change is counter to the objectives of the Convention.
- Parties must work to address identified gaps including the insufficient involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and a broad set of stakeholders in the Convention’s CEPA work and the gap on the work on education. Access to information is a key cross-cutting consideration across this work.
- Access to information, transformative education, and a human rights-based approach, including respect for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) are key cross-cutting considerations across the work on communication, education and public awareness.



Item 16

Scientific and Technical Needs



TEXT PROPOSALS





Item 17.

 **TEXT PROPOSALS**

Mainstreaming of biodiversity

- There were many weaknesses in the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, both in terms of process and content, that exacerbate the drivers of biodiversity loss and human rights violations.
- A new roadmap for 2025-2030 should be implemented to ensure that no business is allowed to have damaging impacts on nature and people anywhere, and that the combined impacts of all business do not exceed the planetary boundaries, including through strong policies, incentives and regulations.
- A new roadmap for 2025-2030 should be implemented with a human rights-based approach and with the full and effective participation of rights-holders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth, and with mechanisms to avoid conflict of interests.



Item 18.

 **TEXT PROPOSALS**

Diverse values of biodiversity

- Recognizing and incorporating the diverse intrinsic, relational, and instrumental values of nature is essential for making fairer and more sustainable decision-making.
- Endorsing the core messages of the IPBES Values Assessment is fundamental to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Implementing the core messages of the IPBES Values Assessment requires capacity-building processes for countries, rightsholders, and other stakeholders to be guided on the different valuation methodologies, how they are used, and how they should be selected and adapted depending on the context and social-ecological realities.



Item 19.

 **TEXT PROPOSALS**

Sustainable wildlife management

- Youth should be considered as implementers and not just beneficiaries or capacity recipients, including in wildlife management actions and projects.
- “Innovative” financial mechanisms for biodiversity, in particular biodiversity offsets and credits, have not yet been sufficiently explored concerning their negative impacts on biodiversity and human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and, therefore should not be stimulated.

COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



Item 20.

Marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity

[TEXT PROPOSALS](#)

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity; Island biodiversity

- Youth are key partners in ensuring healthy and thriving marine and coastal biodiversity over the long-term.
- There must be inclusive engagement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth in the work on marine and coastal biodiversity, including in CBD submission processes, workshops, and in the capacity-building initiatives by the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.
- The Annex listing the gaps and areas in need of additional focus under the CBD re: marine & coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity should be adopted. In particular, we emphasize the gap in the CBD's work to:
 - implement the precautionary approach on geoengineering activities
 - integrate multiple values of biodiversity into planning and decision-making
 - improve engagement of a broader range of rightsholders and stakeholders
 - integrate gender-responsive policies
 - follow a human rights-based approach and ensure participation, access to justice and information, and protection of environmental defenders

EBSAs

- Ensure that Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth can participate in the EBSA workshops.
- Traditional knowledge must only be used with the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



TEXT PROPOSALS



Item 22.

Biodiversity and Health

- Considerations on children and youth are of paramount importance in matters on biodiversity and health. Not only are they at heightened risk of adverse health impacts from biodiversity loss, they are also not structurally integrated in decision-making bodies or processes on the environment and health that impact our lives, futures, and the realization of our right to health and right to a safe, clean and healthy environment. Furthermore, they are among those who bear the greatest mental health burdens from the planetary crisis. Children have differentiated implications with respect to health vulnerabilities and participation needs, and must be reflected appropriately in the plan.
- There are many ways to support and institutionalize children and youth participation in developing and implementing plans on biodiversity and health including:
 - include institutionalizing children and youth participation in developing and implementing plans on biodiversity and health,
 - integrating children's rights in such plans and policies,
 - recognizing and supporting youth-led initiatives at the intersections of biodiversity, health and well-being,
 - engaging youth experts,among others. We therefore call for the decision to reflect this in the text regarding youth participation, by broadening the scope beyond the designation of a national youth focal point on biodiversity and public health.
- Elements referring to the following should be kept in the decision and its annexes:
 - rightsholder and stakeholder contributions to implementation of the global plan (*decision para 5*)
 - means of implementation for the plan (*decision para 10b*)
 - intergenerational equity (*Annex II c*)
 - education, nature-based learning, culture and supporting identities (*Annex II u, Annex III*)
 - Health of Indigenous Peoples and local communities
 - (*Annex II n*)
 - human rights including the right to clean healthy and sustainable environment (*Annex II u; Annex IV 1c, 2b, 2c*)

COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



Item 24.



TEXT PROPOSALS

Synthetic biology

- In the last couple of years, more Parties and stakeholders have been increasing their interest in products of synthetic biology, which comprises applications, technologies, and results that go beyond traditional methods of genetic modification of species. These products have also raised concerns in some sectors where different products have been developed and released into different environments with a lack or reduced process of free, prior informed consent to traditional lands and local agricultural systems, as well as protected and urban areas.
- Diverse organizations have shown new applications that go beyond current policies and strategies regarding living modified organisms (LMOs) and other modified organisms and how we don't have frameworks for capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and knowledge-sharing.
- After the mAHTEG, new grounds and trends in research and industry have been described and recommended a further assessment by SBSTTA, with some of them covering artificial intelligence, self-spreading vaccines for wildlife, and engineered gene drives, where potential impacts might pose an effect and threat on biodiversity.



Item 25.



TEXT PROPOSALS

Climate change and biodiversity

- Nature-based solutions (NbS) and possible synergistic actions between biodiversity and climate are key to responding to both crises. But there is no space for low-integrity projects and actions that delays the progress of decarbonization or opens doors to the use of non-proven or low-integrity afforestation, biomass, biofuels, monocultures, geoengineering, and offset initiatives as false solutions or greenwashing.
- Nature-based solutions (NbS) and potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions must follow human rights-based approaches and apply social and environmental safeguards. We must ensure, under a precautionary approach, that no project that harms biodiversity integrity or denies human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, will be financed or executed. FPIC processes, full and effective participation of rightsholders in decision-making processes, are a must.

COP16 YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 27.



Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

- We recognize the efforts and ways that the CBD facilitates participation in its processes, and particularly appreciate the spaces for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth to bring forward collective positions on issues that impact us directly. These best practices must be maintained and continued.
- Despite these advances, young people continue to face many hurdles to meaningfully participate in this space.
- We urge Parties to continue to put significant attention to ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth, and persons with disabilities can inclusively and meaningfully participate in the CBD and in national processes, in line with Target 22 of the KMGBF.



TEXT PROPOSALS

Item 28.



Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

- Consultations and analysis of country experiences clearly revealed that there is a gap in tools and guidance on Equity, equality, and human rights-based approaches to the successful implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- There is no other or better entity than the Convention on Biological Diversity to work on the interlinkages of equity, human rights, and biodiversity.
- Equity, equality, and human rights-based approaches to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are key to achieve effective and just conservation.



TEXT PROPOSALS

COP16

YOUTH TEXT PROPOSALS



YOUTH TEXT PROPOSALS

for the COP16 Agenda

Please click the respective agenda item below for our latest text proposals on the documents

Item 9. Digital sequence information on genetic resources

Item 10a. Monitoring Framework

Item 10b. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

Item 11. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Item 13. Cooperation with international organizations and other conventions

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Item 28. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties



For inquiries please contact gybn.policy@gmail.com



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