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UNEP-RIS Dialogue on

Connecting Nature and Climate: Dialogue on CBD COP17 and UNFCCC COP31

30 September 2026 | India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

By Invitation only



DATE
Wednesday,
30 September 2026

TIME
2:30 PM - 5:00 PM
(Registration from 2:00 PM)

VENUE
Juniper Hall,
India Habitat Centre

Background and Context

The year 2026 presents an important opportunity for India to strengthen its leadership in global environmental governance. The forthcoming meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP31) will shape the next phase of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the Paris Agreement, and the emerging global agenda on adaptation, resilience and sustainable development.

These negotiations come in the wake of the United Nations' 80th anniversary in 2025 and the broader UN80 process, which has renewed attention to the effectiveness of multilateral institutions and their ability to respond to interconnected global challenges. In this context, CBD COP17 and UNFCCC COP31 provide an opportunity to demonstrate how multilateral cooperation can deliver integrated solutions to today's interconnected environmental and development challenges.

Although biodiversity loss and climate change are increasingly recognised as twin crises, policy responses continue to be developed and implemented largely in parallel. Conservation strategies often overlook climate resilience, while climate investments frequently fail to maximise biodiversity and ecosystem benefits. This fragmentation reduces efficiency, increases costs and misses opportunities to generate multiple environmental, economic and social benefits.

India is uniquely positioned to champion a more integrated approach. As one of the world's megadiverse countries and among the fastest-growing major economies, India has demonstrated leadership through

initiatives such as Mission LiFE, the Green Credit Programme, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the National Adaptation Plan process, and the International Solar Alliance. These initiatives illustrate India's commitment to pursuing development pathways that integrate ecological sustainability, climate resilience and inclusive growth.

The dialogue ahead of CBD COP17 and UNFCCC COP31 would provide an important platform to consolidate India's policy positions, identify areas of convergence across the Rio Conventions, and explore innovative financing approaches that enhance implementation while strengthening India's leadership in international negotiations.

Key Discussion Areas

- Emerging priorities under CBD COP17 and UNFCCC COP31 and their relevance for India.
- Areas of convergence across biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation, and land restoration.
- Opportunities to strengthen coherence between implementation of India's NBSAP and NDCs.
- Financing approaches that can support integrated biodiversity, climate, and development outcomes.
- India's experiences and initiatives that can inform international discussions and negotiations.

Expected Outcomes

The dialogue will deliver:

- A shared understanding of emerging negotiation priorities under CBD COP17 and UNFCCC COP31.
 - Recommendations on integrating conservation, climate action and financing within national implementation frameworks.
 - A summary of key messages to support India's engagement in international negotiations.
 - Enhanced collaboration among government agencies, research institutions, UN agencies, financial institutions and civil society.
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