



Issue#7 January 2026

IUBS BioNews

Editorial

The new year 2026 has started with good news on the significantly improved protection of nature and biodiversity in the marine environment. The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction ([BBNJ Agreement](#)) entered into force on the 17th January 2026. As biologists we urge for rapid implementation of the new jurisdiction and hope that many countries are going to ratify this agreement as soon as possible in order to advance the awareness for marine biodiversity and its protection. More than 80 countries have already integrated the agreement in their national jurisdiction. Biodiversity research and protection is a central topic for **IUBS**.

Along this line, **IUBS** is looking ahead in 2026 for two main events: the General Assembly 35 (**IUBS-GA35**) of **IUBS** (Bangalore, **9th to 13th June**) and the COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**) (Yerevan, Armenia, **19th to 30th October**). The preparation of the **IUBS-GA35** is rapidly progressing and we invite all Ordinary and Scientific Members, but also other advocates of a strong bioscience, to submit their suggestions and proposals, in particular for scientific fora during the [GA35](#), nominations of candidates for the Executive Committee 2026-2029 and proposals for new IUBS Scientific Programs. In parallel with the scientific sessions, we will organize a discussion forum dedicated to high-level science-policy organizations addressing biodiversity, desertification, agriculture and forestry, and climate change. The objective of this forum is to develop strategies to further strengthen and expand **IUBS's** successful engagement at the science-policy interface. To this end, IUBS aims to establish dedicated committees to enhance interaction between its members and major international policy bodies.

IUBS has already set up a committee working directly with the **CBD** Secretariat, which is responsible for contributing to the preparation of the Science Forum, Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (**SBSTTA**) meetings, and related scientific information documents. We now seek to extend this model to other organizations, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (**UNCCD**), which would rely on feedback and active involvement from **IUBS** members. If you are already engaged with any of these bodies, or have a strong interest in doing so, we encourage you to contact us. Your participation will be essential in facilitating effective dialogue and collaboration between **IUBS** and these international organizations.

In parallel, in this **IUBS-BioNews #7** you can read a report from the meeting of the **SBSTTA 27** to the **CBD** held in Panama last December, where **IUBS** organized a session on "Mobilizing the scientific community to support **KMGBF** implementation action" (**KMGBF**: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). **IUBS** will be engaged in the **COP17** of the **CBD** by organizing the 7th Science Policy Forum. If you wish to participate in the **COP17** as observer and part of the **IUBS** delegation, please contact us with your ideas on participation.



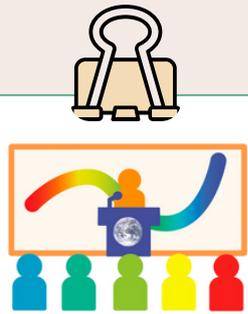
Updates

- Candidates for the next Executive Committee
- Call for the next triennial scientific programmes



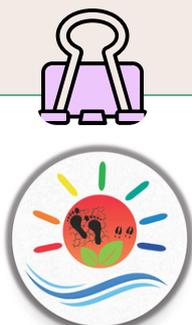
News

- **SBSTTA** report
- Preparation of the upcoming Science Forum
- **SCGES** report and upcoming webinar



Conferences

- Behaviour 2025
- **IDS 2027**
- One Health
- **ICPEP7**
- **ABCC25**

GA

- 9–13 June 2026, Bangalore
- Call for scientific session contributions



IUBS Members

- Member participation in UN-related committees



Governance

- Online Executive Committee meeting
- Proposed statute amendments

Updates



Call for Nominations

IUBS Members are invited to participate in the nomination process for the election of the **IUBS** Executive Committee for the 2026–2029 triennium. The election will take place during the 35th IUBS General Assembly, to be held in Bangalore, India, from 9–13 June 2026.

Only **IUBS** Ordinary and Scientific Members are eligible to nominate candidates. Nominations must be submitted using the [official nomination form](#) and sent by email to the IUBS Secretariat by 9 February 2026.

Next triennial scientific programmes

IUBS invites proposals for new triennial scientific programmes addressing international and interdisciplinary biological challenges. Programmes must involve collaboration among scientists from multiple countries and are expected to generate high scientific impact through coordinated activities.

Selected programmes will receive **IUBS** seed funding of approximately €7,500 in

the first year, subject to budget availability. Continued support throughout the triennium will be provided, subject to annual budget approval, and programmes are expected to leverage additional external funding. Proposals will be evaluated on scientific relevance, innovation, feasibility, interdisciplinarity, expected impact, and commitment to diversity, including gender balance, early-career researcher involvement, and participation of underrepresented groups. The [application](#) deadline is 31st March 2026. All proposals will be shared with **IUBS** members ahead of the General Assembly to enable feedback and engagement.



News

SBBSTA Meeting

The recent meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (**SBBSTA**), held in Panama, brought together experts and delegates to advance scientific input into the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. On this occasion, IUBS, together with **UFZ**, **UNU-IAS Tokyo & UNESCO**, organized a dedicated side event coordinated by Lily Rodriguez. The summary of the event is available [here](#).



Lily Rodriguez

from left to right:
Axel Paulsch, Yves Zinngrebe, Lily Rodriguez, Suneetha Subramanian, Tania Martinez, Sergio Lambertucci and Kofi Akamani



Upcoming Science Policy Forum for Biodiversity

The Science Forum was initiated in 2006 alongside **COP 8** of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Curitiba, Brazil, when **IUBS** and Brazilian partners laid the groundwork for integrating science into global biodiversity policy discussions. Since then, it has evolved into a dynamic platform of workshops, symposia, and panel discussions that foster dialogue between biodiversity science and international policymaking, with forum reports providing recommendations and information documents. The next **CBD COP, COP 17**, will take place in Yerevan, Armenia, from 18–30 October

2026, and **IUBS** has already begun working with the Consortium of Scientific Partners (**CSP**), the International Council for Science for Sustainability (**ICSS**), and host country representatives to define topics for the two-day Science Forum.



News

SCGES



The [fifth annual report](#) of the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (**SCGES**) was published in December 2025. Established in 2020 by nine international scientific organizations, including **IUBS**, SCGES promotes gender equality in science. The report includes updates from 23 partner organizations and six **SCGES** Working Groups, covering activities such as social media outreach, interviews with women scientists, webinars, and recommendations on best practices. It also summarizes data collected—this year in collaboration with **ISC** and the InterAcademy Partnership—

on women's involvement in member unions' activities under the project "Advancing Gender Equality in Scientific Organizations."

The 13th SCGES webinar on : ***"Women in scientific organizations: global evidence from science academies and unions"*** is organized jointly with the International Science Council and the InterAcademy Partnership. It is part of the [Global Women's Breakfast](#). The event will be held online on February 11th, 2026, 2-4 PM UTC (3-5 PM CET).



Please fill in the registration form [here](#)

Conferences and ECR grant

Each trimester, **IUBS** reviews applications for conference sponsorship as well as separate applications for Early-Career Researcher (**ECR**) support. Conferences aligned with IUBS scientific priorities and organized in IUBS member countries may be sponsored, and conference organizers may independently apply for grants to support the active participation of **ECRs**. The following events have been recently sponsored by **IUBS**.

27th International Diatom Symposium

DS27 was held in Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa, from 3–8 August 2025. The International Diatom Symposium promoted global, interdisciplinary research on marine, freshwater, modern, and fossil diatoms, emphasizing mentorship, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among scientists worldwide.



Behaviour 2025 or the XXXVIII International Ethological Congress



The conference, held in Kolkata, India, from 25–30 August 2025, offered a multidisciplinary forum on ethology and behavioural ecology, from natural history to AI. It promoted international collaboration, addressed emerging challenges, and strengthened Global South participation and early-career researcher training.

Annual Arab Asian Biotechnology Conference (AABC 2025): Desert Biotechnology and Sustaining Life in Arid Regions

Held in Alexandria, Egypt, from 5–6 November 2025, the conference gathered researchers, scientists, and industry leaders to explore innovative biotechnological solutions for arid and semi-arid environments, addressing challenges related to climate change, food insecurity, and complex health issues.

One Health Approach to Emerging Viral Threats

Held in Alexandria, Egypt, from 21–23 October 2025, the conference advanced understanding of viral diseases through a One Health approach. It addressed surveillance, diagnostics, genomics, AI, vaccines, pandemic preparedness, climate-driven emergence, and strengthened global education and response strategies.

7th International Conference on Plants & Environmental Pollution (ICPEP-7)

Held in Lucknow, India, from 30 November to 2 December 2025, the conference united scientists, policymakers, and practitioners to address pollution impacts on plants and ecosystems, share advances, explore solutions for biodiversity conservation and restoration, and strengthen science-policy dialogue and international collaboration.

General Assembly

Biodiversity Forever Despite the Anthropocene



IUBS welcomes you to the 35th General Assembly to be held in Bengaluru, India between **9-13 June 2026**. Delegates are invited to also present abstracts for posters or oral presentations at the Symposia and to encourage their students, post-docs or ECRs to do so.

Symposium Topics

- One Health
- Science for conservation policies in Africa
- Marine/mangrove conservation
- Technology to map and monitor biodiversity
- Precision agriculture
- Pastoralism
- Geology–Biology interface
- Chemical Ecology in the Anthropocene

In addition to the proposed symposia, suggestions from members for news topics are warmly welcomed. Members interested in organizing a symposium are invited to contact the organizing committee: Renee M. Borges ([Secretary General, IUBS](#)), LS Shashidhara ([Past-President, IUBS](#)), and Nathalie Fomproix ([Executive Director, IUBS](#)). ([Conference Flyer](#))

The highlight of the **IUBS-GA35**, besides the regular business events requiring voting and participation by **IUBS** members, will be the scientific sessions with our invited speakers through vibrant and open discussions!

Keynote speaker



Pavan Sukhdev

Founder and CEO

GIST Impact, Switzerland

Plenary speakers



Soumya Swaminathan

Former Chief Scientist, WHO



Vandana Prasad

Former Director Birbal Sahni Institute
of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, India



Teatulohi Matainaho

President Pacific Academy of
Sciences, Samoa

Also, special pedagogical sessions for college teachers and students will address different aspects of biodiversity conservation and climate change. Further, a four-day pre-GA proposal-writing workshop for Early Career Researchers (**ECRs**) on the theme: *How Palaeontological Proxies can inform us about Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity* is also planned at the same venue. Participation is limited to selected 25 **ECR** (For more details please visit iubs.org).

The registration information for **IUBS-GA35** is available [here](#). (free of charge for the voting representatives of IUBS Members).

Governance

Online EC meeting



The **IUBS** Executive Committee held an online meeting on 25 November 2025 to advance preparations for the 35th General Assembly. Key discussions focused on finalizing the GA timeline, reviewing the report of the Committee on Statutes, and approving members of the Nominations Committee. ahead of the GA in Bangalore.

The Executive Committee also addressed planning for scientific sessions and Members' Forums, reviewed the **GA** budget and current finances for 2025, and considered the questionnaire for scientific members. Updates on the **SBSTTA** report and the upcoming newsletter were also presented, ensuring all organizational, financial, and scientific components are well coordinated

IUBS Statutes

Building on the resolutions adopted during the General Assembly in Tokyo, which proposed additions to the **IUBS** missions in the statutes, and discussions at the Executive Committee meeting in Paris (May 2025), the Committee on Statutes (Karl-Josef, Renee, Gillian, and Nathalie) reviewed governance and membership matters.



While no changes to the membership structure will be proposed at the upcoming General Assembly, the Committee recommends initiating discussions with Members on potential alternative models for future consideration. A change in nomenclature for Executive Committee leadership—from Treasurer to Vice President on Strategic Planning and Finances—will be proposed to the 35th **GA**, along with clarified definitions of the roles of Vice Presidents and Executive Committee members. All amendments will be circulated to Members ahead of the **GA** in Bangalore for discussion and vote.

The following people have contributed to the newsletter:
Karl-Josef Dietz, Nathalie Fomproix and Vijay Kumar