



IUBS BioNews

(Issue#8, May 2026)

Editorial

This new issue of **IUBS** BioNews (#8) focuses on the upcoming 35th **IUBS** General Assembly (**GA35**), which will take place in Bangalore between **9–13th June**, 2026. Under the joint leadership of Renee Borges, **IUBS** Secretary General, and L. S. Shashidhara, former **IUBS** president, the international organizing committee has assembled an outstanding scientific program. The meeting will feature sessions on One Health, marine conservation, precision agriculture, chemical ecology in the Anthropocene, and many other topics of global relevance.

In this editorial, we also wish to highlight the important connection between **IUBS GA35** and the 17th Conference of the Parties (**COP17**) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). From **18–30th October**, 2026, several thousand delegates, policy advisors, scientists, and representatives of civil society and other stakeholder groups will gather in Yerevan for **COP17**, hosted by Armenia.

Together with scientific partners and the CBD Secretariat, IUBS is organizing the 7th Science Policy Forum, which will take place during **COP17** on **24–25th October**, 2026. All previous Science Policy Forums were initiated and organized by **IUBS** and its partners. The Forum is designed to bring scientific knowledge and evidence into the official negotiations and to strengthen the science–policy–society interface through dedicated dialogue and collaboration.

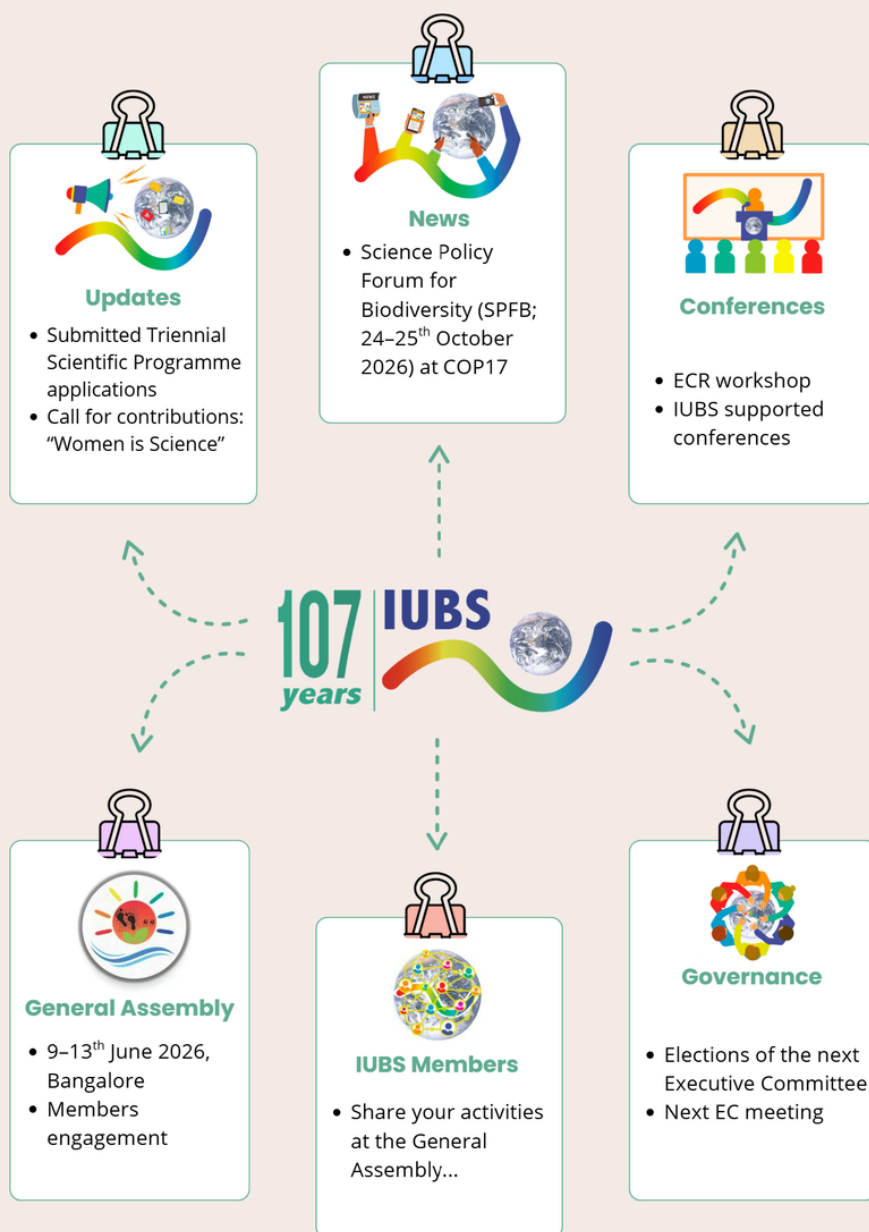
The current draft programme focuses on nexus approaches and transformative change. Discussions will build in part on the Nexus Assessment developed by the **IPBES** (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) and aim to advance understanding of the interconnections among biodiversity, water, food, health, and climate change. Such integrated knowledge is essential for planning the transformative changes needed to achieve global sustainability goals and to counter biodiversity loss and ecosystem decline.

We warmly invite colleagues planning to attend **COP17** in Yerevan to contact us if they are interested in contributing to the 7th Science Policy Forum on **24–25th October**.

During **IUBS GA35**, scientists and science advisors will begin preparing the 7th Science Policy Forum through input statements, panel discussions, and concluding reflections. This preparatory session is scheduled for **11th June** from 2:00–5:00 pm and will be facilitated by Kofi Akamani, Véronique Allain, Gillian Bowser, Lily Rodriguez, and Raman Sukumar, together with many additional contributors.

We look forward to this important event, which connects the **IUBS GA35**, the **CBD COP17** Science Policy Forum, and the urgent global challenges facing humanity and sustainable resource management.

We look forward to seeing you at the **GA35**...



Updates

Applications received for the next triennial scientific programmes

IUBS first invited its Members to submit proposals for scientific programmes for the 2026–2029 triennium. These bottom-up initiatives aim to address international and interdisciplinary biological questions through collaborative activities such as workshops, networking, and publication. Projects are supported by seed funding with the expectation they will further develop and leverage external partnerships.



IUBS is now inviting Members to provide feedback on the applications received, including new proposals as well as renewal projects from the previous triennium. Members are also welcome to express their interest in contributing to specific projects and potential collaboration, by contacting the **IUBS** secretariat. All comments, recommendations, and expressions of interest will be compiled and forwarded to the *ad hoc* Committee on Scientific Programmes, appointed at the General Assembly, which will review the proposals and formulate recommendations for consideration and vote by the **IUBS** membership.

Applications will be shared with **IUBS** member representatives prior to the General Assembly; in the meantime, summaries of the proposed projects are available [here](#).

Call for contributions: “Women in Science as Agents of Transformation”



IUBS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026
107 years IUBS
35th General Assembly of International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)
Dates: 9–13 June 2026 | Venue: J N Tata Auditorium, IISc, Bengaluru

IUBS GA35 ACTIVITIES
WOMEN IN SCIENCE AS AGENTS OF TRANSFORMATION
One scientific contribution that changed how science connects to society

We invite you to share one scientific contribution (idea, approach, result, method or innovation) that has influenced how science connects with society, policy, technology, environment, or communities.

FORMAT
One slide including: 1) Title of the contribution + country, 2) One key message (one sentence), 3) One concrete impact (one sentence), 4) 1-3 images or figures.

POSSIBLE THEMES
Nature-based solutions & climate resilience; Community-engaged science; Knowledge governance; Ethics in research; Open science; Technology for the common good

DEADLINE:
May 31, Send to: alegvcl@gmail.com

SELECTED CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE FEATURED IN A COLLABORATIVE VIDEO FOR GA35 ACTIVITIES

At the initiative of Alejandra Gonzalez (**IUBS** Committee for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities, Sociedad de Biología de Chile), women scientists are invited to contribute to a collaborative project entitled “[One scientific contribution that changed how science connects with society](#).” The project will be showcased during the 35th **IUBS** General Assembly and will result in a short video featuring selected contributions.

Submissions should be sent by **31st May** to alegvcl@gmail.com.

News

Upcoming Science Policy Forum for Biodiversity

The Science Forum was initiated in 2006 alongside **COP8** of the Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**) 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.





COP17
YEREVAN ARMENIA

**TAKING ACTION
FOR NATURE**

The 7th Science–Policy Forum for Biodiversity (**SPFB**) at **COP17** from **19–30th October** 2026 in Yerevan Armenia, coincides with the 20th anniversary of the **SPFB** and aligns with the **COP17** theme: *“Taking Action for Nature – a global shift from words to action, from awareness to responsibility.”*.

The 7th Science–Policy Forum for Biodiversity aims to:

- Strengthen the policy–science–society interface in support of effective global biodiversity framework **GBF** implementation;
- Advance science-based approaches that enable transformative action and “nexus” approaches to bend the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030;
- Highlight practical tools, data systems, and governance approaches that support decision-making at national and subnational levels;
- Facilitate dialogue among scientists, policymakers, practitioners, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders;
- Provide a dedicated space for dialogue on subregional technical and scientific cooperation for the implementation of the **GBF** through the **CBD** Technical and Scientific Support Centers (**TSSCs**).
- Take the pulse on how science and knowledge systems are contributing to fulfill or advance the **GBF** objectives and targets
- Generate key messages to inform **COP17** deliberations and ongoing **CBD** processes.

IUBS is currently actively working on the content of the **SPFB** with its partners. The **SPFB** will be held on **24–25th October** 2026.

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 sponsored by **IUBS**.

ECR workshop

The Early Career Researcher (**ECR**) Workshop entitled *“How Palaeontological Proxies can inform us about Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity”* will take place from **4–8th June** 2026 at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (**IISc**), in Bangalore, India. A total of 23 Early Career Researchers has been selected from Argentina, China, India, Japan, Mongolia, Namibia, Poland, Spain, and Tanzania.

The European Meeting for PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology

IUBS is pleased to co-sponsor the European Meeting for PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology (**EMPSEB**) 2026, and to support the participation of **ECRs**. The event will take place from **8–12th June** 2026 in [Oberwiesenthal](#), Germany.



17th International Conference on Reactive Oxygen and Nitrogen Species

IUBS is also pleased to support 18 **ECRs** to attend the 17th International Conference on Reactive Oxygen and Nitrogen Species in Plants, taking place on **9–11th September** 2026 in [Granada](#), Spain.

General Assembly

Biodiversity Forever Despite the Anthropocene

IUBS welcomes you to the [35th General Assembly](#) to be held at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, India between **9–13th June 2026**. Delegates are invited to also present abstracts for posters and to encourage their students, post-docs or **ECRs** to do so.

Scientific sessions

The General Assembly conference sessions will feature a diverse scientific programme, including plenary lectures, thematic symposia, and parallel sessions covering a wide range of disciplines within the biological sciences. The full programme, including detailed session descriptions, is available [here](#).



Members engagement

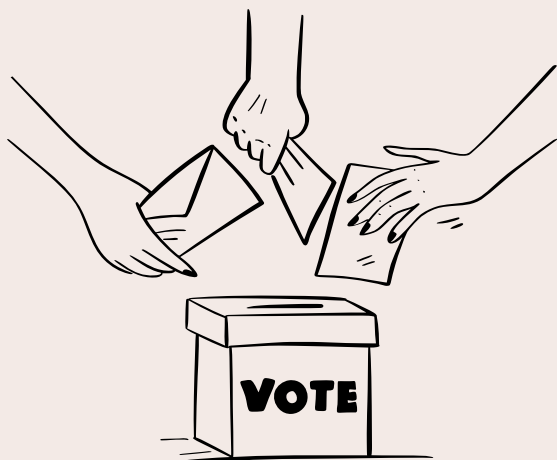
The round tables will be organized during the **GA35** focusing in particular on **IUBS** interactions with major international science-policy bodies, including **IPBES** (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), the **CBD** Secretariat (Convention on Biological Diversity), and **UNFCCC** (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Kofi Akamani, Véronique Allain, Gillian Bowser, and Lily Rodriguez have agreed to support the preparation and facilitation of these discussions, bringing their expertise and experience to guide the exchanges. Michael Seeger, Alejandra Gonzalez, Monica Mwale, and others will also participate in these sessions. Representatives of **IUBS** Members are also welcome to contribute.

Share Your Activities at the General Assembly

All **IUBS** members are warmly encouraged to present their activities during the **GA35**. Presentations are welcome in a **poster format** that will be featured in two dedicated poster sessions. Members are also invited to submit a document outlining this activity to the **IUBS** Secretariat so that it may be included in the official proceedings of the General Assembly and published on the webpage dedicated to each member. In addition, we would be pleased to receive a **presentation slide** from each member, which will be incorporated into a slideshow displayed during the General Assembly.

Governance

Upcoming EC elections



As per our statutes, a Nominations Committee composed of Karl-Josef Dietz (**IUBS** President), Claudia Rutte (Chair National Committee Switzerland), LS Shashidhara (**IUBS** Immediate Past-President), Hiroyuki Takeda (Past **IUBS** President), Marvalee Wake (Past **IUBS** President) has been appointed by the **IUBS** Executive Committee (**EC**) to prepare the slate for the elections to be held during the General Assembly in Bangalore from **9–13th June 2026**.

A call for nominations was circulated among our Ordinary and Scientific members, and the Nominations Committee actively worked to encourage a diverse and balanced pool of candidates. The full slate will be shared with members eligible to vote. Here we provide the list of candidates in alphabetical order: AKAMANI Kofi, BORGES Renee, HANAFY Moemen, HUGHES Alice C., KANG Le, KAWAKITA Atsushi, MAREE Sarita, MWALE Monica, NUNES SILVA Patricia, PERRIGO Allison, PRASAD Nagaraj Guru, SEEGER Michael, SMAGGHE Guy.

The election will take place during the **GA35** on the **12th June** at the Indian Institute of Science (**IISc**), Bengaluru.

Online EC meeting



The **IUBS** held an online **EC** meeting on **14th April** in preparation for the **GA35**.

An additional **EC** meeting will take place on **9th June**, immediately prior to the opening of the **GA35** in Bangalore.

Following the **EC** elections, the newly elected Executive Committee will convene on **13th June** in Bangalore.

In Memoriam...

We are deeply saddened by the passing of **Prof. Lorna Holtman**, a dedicated leader and valued member of the international biological sciences community. Prof. Holtman served as Chair of the South African Committee of **IUBS**, was a member of the **IUBS** Executive Committee from 2007 to 2012, and chaired the **IUBS** BioEd Committee. She also played a leading role as organizer of the **IUBS** General Assembly held in South Africa in 2009. Her commitment to science education, international collaboration, and the advancement of biological sciences will be remembered with great appreciation. We extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, and the South African scientific community.

online version available here

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

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a registered member of the International Union of Biological Sciences

For any questions, inquiries, or to unsubscribe, please contact: iubs1919@gmail.org
(Learn more at: www.iubs.org)