

# UN Convention on Biological Diversity to meet in Montreal

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**In news**— Delegates from 196 countries, Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are meeting in Montreal, Canada from December 7-21 2022, aim to avoid past mistakes and improve on **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

## **The Aichi Targets-**

- Many of the 24 conservation targets under discussion at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) aim to avoid past mistakes and improve on the **world's last set of conservation goals – the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that expired in 2020.**
- The Aichi Targets, **adopted during the 2010 CBD summit in Nagoya, located in Japan's Aichi prefecture, included goals such as reducing deforestation by at least half during the coming decade** and curbing pollution so that it no longer harmed ecosystems.
- After parties adopted the Aichi Targets, they were expected to devise their own national biodiversity strategies that would mimic the goals laid out by Aichi. **Nearly all parties created these strategies, but most were never fully implemented.**

## **Status of the Aichi Targets-**

- The most notable Aichi objective – and one of the few to include a numerical goal, aimed to **protect or conserve 17% of all land and inland waters and 10% of the ocean by the end of the decade.**
- **While some progress was made toward that goal, the world ultimately fell short.**
- **Today about 15% of the world's land and 8% of ocean territories are under some form of protection, though the level of protection varies.**

- **About 10% of the targets saw no significant progress.** Six of the targets, including the land and ocean conservation target, were deemed “partially achieved”.
- **No single country met all 20 Aichi Targets within its own borders.**
- In the end, Aichi was deemed a failure by the United Nations and the CBD secretariat called on parties to come up with another guiding document to direct conservation efforts through 2030 and beyond.

### **Reasons for failing to meet Aichi Targets-**

- A lack of clearly defined metrics by which to gauge progress made the Aichi goals tough to implement.
- Monitoring and reporting success was also a big issue with Aichi.
- Countries largely failed to update others on the progress they were – or were not – making.
- No robust monitoring, planning, reporting and review framework.
- A lack of financing to help developing countries meet the Aichi goals was also an obstacle to their success.
- The Global Environment Facility, the primary source of financing for international biodiversity protection, has collected around \$5 billion from 29 countries for the funding period from 2022 to 2026.
- That is hardly enough to make up the \$711 billion funding gap per year estimated by a 2019 assessment by several conservation institutes.
- The Aichi Targets also failed to garner buy-in from governments beyond the environmental ministers who brokered the deal.