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# SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

## Introduction<sup>1</sup>

IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub. Since 1978, we have provided US\$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to 125 countries. IFAD is the only specialized global development organization exclusively focused on and dedicated to transforming agriculture, rural economies, and food systems to make them more inclusive, productive, resilient, and sustainable.

We target the millions of people who are most at risk of being left behind: poor, small-scale food producers, women, young people, and other vulnerable groups living in rural areas. We help them improve food security & nutrition, build resilience, expand their income and businesses, and empower them to take charge of their own development. 100% of our program need to ensure resilience to climate change, strong social inclusion and mainstream gender. 40% of our programs need to be gender transformative, 40% youth sensitive, 60% nutrition sensitive.

IFAD promotes agricultural growth that is environmentally sustainable and integrated into ecosystems. IFAD works with partners to build climate resilience by managing competing land-use systems while reducing poverty, enhancing biodiversity, increasing yields, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. IFAD has recently adopted its first biodiversity strategy and is committed that 40% of its investments focus on addressing climate change and aims that a third of this impact may delivered through nature-based solutions (NbS).

## How we do it?

**IFAD provides loans and grants** based on a country strategic programme agreed with governments after broad country-level consultations. As a UN agency, IFAD also seeks to coordinate with other UN through the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and various partnership at country and global level.

**IFAD also assembles different sources of finances** as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and an accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF). IFAD also has a specific fund to support smallholder farmers' climate adaptation, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (**ASAP**), as well as a dedicated private sector strategy to leverage private funding and foster public-private partnership.

**IFAD also engages in knowledge and partnership**, hosting several networks of interest to the implementation of the convention, including facility to work and finance directly farmers organizations (PAFO), Indigenous People (IPAF) and the International Land Coalition and several partnership with research & other UN

Based on all these financing and partnership streams, IFAD can aggregate public-private finance to support sustainable rural development and implementation of the GBF both at national but also very local level.

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<sup>1</sup> This information brief was prepared in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide information to CBD national focal points in revising/updating and implementing the NBSAPs. This brief supports UN Common Approach to Biodiversity, enunciated by the UN Secretary General.

## IFAD comparative advantage to contribute to GBF targets

Since Aichi, the GBF targets provide unprecedented emphasis on land-use, agriculture and animal production and forest contribution to biodiversity loss and their role in restoration and conservation. It also includes an increased emphasis on the custodians for biodiversity, as around 80 per cent of the planet's remaining biodiversity and 40% of protected areas are located in communal and Indigenous Peoples' lands. To be successful, GBF implementation need to adopt a "whole of society approach" and ensure that local communities are empowered and benefit from conserving and managing biodiversity and adopting more sustainable agricultural systems. Furthermore, specific attention is required so that increase protection and restoration does not undermine local communities access rights, food and income sources from such ecosystems.

Through its mandate to invest in sustainable rural development and food production, its strong environmental targets and recent adoption of its first biodiversity strategy, IFAD is uniquely positioned to support this holistic and people driven GBF delivery in the rural sector that can articulate nature, people and food needs:

- 100% of IFAD project include safeguards that mitigate biodiversity and pollution risks, based on updated safeguard framework
- 70% of IFAD projects have activities that contribute to biodiversity restoration or conservation, with recognized strengths in implementing holistic approaches to transform farm and food systems, combining farm, landscape, markets and agroecology, as encouraged in target 10.
- **IFAD investments in biodiversity strengthen a diverse set of incentives for people** to engage in biodiversity as they also contribute to climate, nutrition, and livelihoods (i.e. jobs, new income sources, bio-economy etc.). Among projects with biodiversity activities, 98% strengthen climate resilience, 60% strengthen nutrition diversity (against 31% of projects without biodiversity),
- **IFAD puts people and marginalized communities** at the heart of its investments through strong targeting, compulsory gender mainstreaming and beneficiary engagement, social safeguards including free and prior informed consent and by its investment in community institutions and empowerment, 30% of IFAD portfolio supports community-driven development. IFAD has also unique partnership with Farmers' Organization, Indigenous People (IPs), youth and women organizations, including through its unique IP and Farmers' forum and dedicated financing facility.
- **As both a UN agency and IFI, IFAD can help mobilize public-private partnership and finance for biodiversity** in rural areas. On top of its NbS financing ambition, IFAD has been highly recognized as an efficient assembler of public-private finance, mobilizing both green finance (e.g. ASAP, GEF, GCF and Adaptation Fund), private sector strategy, partnerships to green rural finance and value chains, etc. and engaging in policy and partnerships that are core to wider impact (e.g. Great Green Wall, One UN, Environmental Management Group, UN Decade on Restoration, Agroecology Coalition.).
- **As GEF implementing agency**, IFAD can provide direct support to countries to deliver GBF results via the newly established GBF Fund that in addition to country allocations, will include a dedicated window for IFI's allowing for the aggregation of additional financing through loans and blended finance.

## How we can support the GBF and governments

IFAD's offer to support countries with NBSAPs design processes and delivery to implementing the GBF can be summarized in the table below and can be provided through the following channels, subject to further discussion on capacity and resource implications:

- **Sharing evidence & data** from projects and their beneficiaries to inform the content of NBSAPs
- Supporting **whole of society approach** in developing and delivering NBSAPs by empowering or building links with IP, youth and local communities and involve local authorities
- Supporting the **"whole of government approach"**, facilitating alignment of NBSAPs with agriculture & rural finance and vice versa as most of our programs involve Ministry of agriculture / rural development and integrate policy engagement thematic;
- **Support implementation of NbSAPs by**
  - mobilizing loans together with biodiversity finance from GEF, forthcoming Global Biodiversity Fund and other sources for both government led investments but also community driven investments through IFAD dedicated CSO facilities and within other programs
  - Informing the operationalization of the NBSAPs from IFAD's experience in designing investments, tracking finance, geospatial M&E and impact assessment, safeguards

At the moment, IFAD can provide this support in the context of its programmed of loans and grant to countries, as an additional technical assistance component within larger investment projects, that can receive co-finance from global funds such as the GEF, GCF, AF and forthcoming GBFF.

GBF target	IFAD's offer
<p><b>Target 1, 2 3 &amp; 10:</b></p> <p>Promoting participatory integrated landscape management that supports conservation, restoration &amp; sustainable agriculture that respect people right and food security</p>	<p>IFAD uses <a href="#">GIS tools</a>, including a specific <a href="#">geospatial indicator</a> on biodiversity which supports spatial planning and monitoring, determines the interventions that have the most impact on biodiversity and quantifies nature's contribution to people.</p> <p>IFAD's <a href="#">Social and Environmental Safeguards</a> ensure that the definition of intervention and land use does not harm biodiversity nor people involved, requiring Free Prior and Informed Consent and Biodiversity Action Plans where required.</p> <p>IFAD adopts a community-driven approach to development, which also empowers communities, strengthens women's voice and decision-making, and enhanced social cohesion and values, enhancing participation in land-use and landscape management.</p>
<p><b>Target 1, 2, 5, 9, 19, 21, 22, 23:</b></p> <p>Including indigenous people and local community in decision-making through knowledge, FPIC and local governance mechanisms</p>	<p>IFAD has a unique mandate to smallholder farmers, supported through community-driven development and partnership with Indigenous People (IPs) organizations. It provides key insights into local actors on the ground, their role and challenges and the solutions they offer; and helps ensure equitable access to resources and benefit-sharing, contribution to decision-making, free-prior and informed consent, and overall fair delivery of the GBF.</p> <p>IFAD also dedicates a share of its investments to <a href="#">mainstreaming themes</a> on indigenous people, youth, gender, climate and nutrition. These incentivise a people-centred approach, delivering interventions that leverage the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate, and nutrition; and that recognises the specific vulnerabilities and role of youth, women, and indigenous people.</p>
<p><b>Target 10, 13, 14, 15, 16:</b></p> <p>Developing an enabling policy and regulatory framework to promote biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources</p>	<p>IFAD provides large loans and grants to Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development and works with the Ministry of Environment to acquire additional funds from global environmental funds (GEF, GCF etc). These dialogues are entry points to discuss potential reforms, policy constraints and/or provide recommendations to develop an enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, contributing to conservation and restoration.</p> <p>IFAD's projects feature a knowledge management system and institutional support components whereby the knowledge gained from the projects is restituted to government stakeholders to inform decision-making.</p>
<p><b>Target 14, 15, 19:</b></p> <p>Mobilising finance and encouraging private sector engagement</p>	<p>IFAD's unique status as a UN and IFI institution, and a Rome-based agency allows it to mobilise finance from multiple sources, to reduce reliance on governments' funding commitment, and to participate in both UN and MBDs decision-making frameworks on climate, biodiversity, and agriculture.</p> <p>In addition to public funds from member states and global environment funds, IFAD's <a href="#">private sector investment strategy</a> aims to (i) mobilize private funding and investments into rural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and small-scale agriculture; and (ii) expand markets, and increase income and job opportunities for IFAD's target groups, which can all be leveraged for biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use.</p>
<p><b>Target 12; 16:</b></p> <p>Adopting a One Health principle along the food system</p>	<p>IFAD has committed to improving the nutrition of 13,2 million people by 2025, including through agrobiodiversity, nutrition dense neglected and underutilised species (NUS), sustainable use of wild food.</p> <p>IFAD is also strengthening market incentives for biodiversity by promoting local markets for agrobiodiverse products, rolling out biodiversity standards in food systems value chains and creating income opportunities in the process. Practices like community seed banks and nurseries, school feeding or geomapping have supported the implementation of this agenda.</p> <p>IFAD also leads the GEF's Food Systems Integrated Program, with the goal to "transform our agrifood systems to supply more people with healthier and nutritious food, while conserving and restoring our ecosystems and natural resources"</p>

GBF target	IFAD's offer
<p><b>Target 8, 11, 19:</b></p> <p>Leveraging synergies with climate</p>	<p>IFAD committed that 30% of climate finance needs to be delivered through nature-based solutions by 2030 and adopted an associated finance tracking mechanism. With this, IFAD incentivises biodiversity conservation and restoration in its intervention, provides recommendations in public and private sector's discussions on biodiversity tracking mechanisms, and encourages synergies between biodiversity and climate mitigation interventions. By leveraging ecosystem benefits of nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, IFAD also increases the level of finance mobilisation for biodiversity</p>
<p><b>Targets 20, 21, 22:</b></p> <p>Developing and sharing knowledge, including traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<p>IFAD's knowledge management system and monitoring and evaluation framework provide information on the role and state of biodiversity in rural area; smallholders' dependencies to it; impact of biodiversity loss on production; food security and nutrition; best practices to sustainably manage natural resources and restore biodiversity; factors that provide negative incentives for biodiversity conservation, restoration and management, and those that are conducive to damages along the agricultural value chain. Information can inform institutional capacity-building activities and recommendations for policies and regulations.</p>
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## Contact details

### Global focal points

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