

Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

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A. Background: Programme Direction and Envisaged Impact

Programme Objective:
Improved health and resilience and sustainable management of terrestrial, marine and coastal, and freshwater ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature.

Programme Outcomes:

Outcome 1

Enhanced conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural and productive terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems.

Outcome 2

Mobilized finance and investment for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use, including for indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

Outcome 3

Implemented and upscaled Nature-based solutions for sustainable development.



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A. Background: Programme Direction and Envisaged Impact (cont.)

Programme Outputs (seven key areas of work):

Outcome 1

- Decision-makers supported to improve policies, legislation and planning for conservation, restoration and sustainable use.
- Enhanced technical and institutional capacity of policy makers and implementing entities including IPLCs.
- Implementation of conservation, restoration, and sustainable management actions.

Outcome 2

- Increased investment for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.
- Increased benefits and income to IPLCs from and for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.

Outcome 3

- Enhanced understanding amongst Member States on nature-based solutions.
- Implementation and upscaling of NbS interventions.



Synergies with other sub-programmes

Climate Action and Science-Policy

A. Background: Contribution to UNEP's MTS and PoW

Contribution to UNEP MTS 2022-25 Outcomes

Living in Harmony with Nature

- **Outcome 2B.** Sustainable management of nature is adopted and implemented in development frameworks.
- **Outcome 2C.** Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced.

Climate Stability

- **Outcome 1B.** Countries and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance and access to technologies to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement.



Contribution to POW Direct Outcomes

NATURE

2.2 Public- and private-sector financial flows contribute to improved ecosystems management.

2.3 Productive land- and seascapes and freshwater ecosystems are sustainably managed.

2.7. Natural assets are valued, monitored, and sustainably managed.

2.8 A sustainable ocean and coastal economy contributes to prosperity and pollution-free development.

2.11 Illegal and unsustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources decreased.

2.13 Commitments and actions to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems are enhanced.

2.14 Fair and equitable access and benefit-sharing frameworks are advanced.

2.16 Improved science and indigenous and local traditional knowledge contribute to sustainable Management of nature.

CLIMATE

1.7 Policymaking and decision-making for climate action are informed by the latest science-based analysis and data generation

B. Project Portfolio: Overview



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Project portfolio:

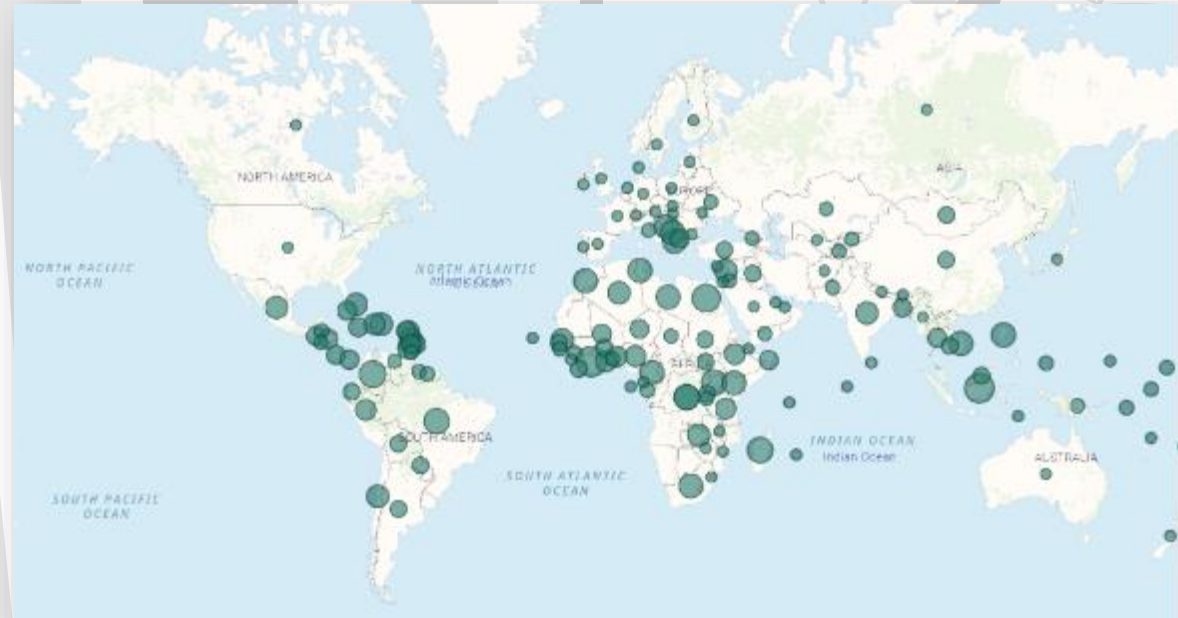
- The Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable use of Biodiversity Programme has 160 projects under implementation (US\$ 861.9 million budget) and 45 projects in the design pipeline (US\$ 312.2 million proposed budget).

Source of funds:

- 85% of the projects are supported through GEF funding.
- The rest are supported through GCF, bilateral cooperation [BMZ and International Climate Initiative (IKI), SIDA, etc.,] and others.

Geographic coverage:

- Projects are implemented across 155 countries.
- The current implementation portfolio comprises:
 - 20 projects with global scope
 - 40 projects with regional scope
 - 4 multi-country projects
 - 96 single country initiatives



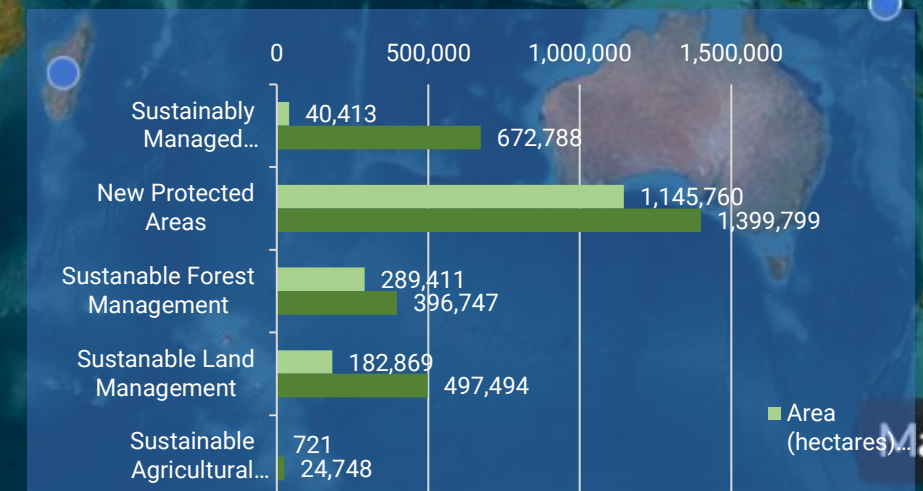
C. Results: Enhanced conservation, restoration, and sustainable use



Sustainable Management of Terrestrial Ecosystems

Sustainable management of 2,991,576 hectares of terrestrial ecosystems (1.3 million hectares increase from 2022) supported by December 2023:

- 672,788 ha sustainably managed under protected areas
- 1,399,799 ha of new protected areas created
- 396,747 ha under sustainable forest management
- 497,494 ha under sustainable land management
- 24,748 ha under sustainable agricultural practices



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 *Click [here](#) for details on countries, ecosystem types and hectares under improved management for each location.

C. Results: Enhanced conservation, restoration, and sustainable use, (cont.)

Examples

Expansion and strengthening of protected area network (China)

- 20,298 ha ecological corridor - Greater Shennongjia Area.
- Expansion of 47,933 ha under protected area.
- New 72,667 ha protected area for orchids.



**CONSERVATION
AND
PROTECTION**

New protected area delineation (Republic of Congo)

- Delineation of new Ntombo Protected Area of 93,000 ha.
- Delineation of Dimonika-Ntombo-Tchimpounga biological corridor of 226,334 ha.
- Validated at local level; institutional endorsement underway.

Sustainable use of land (Tanzania)

- 23,890 ha of degraded land recovered using Climate Smart Agriculture.
- 2,611 ha of forest land under afforestation and reforestation.
- 10,226 ha of grassland improved using sustainable grazing.

Restoring degraded landscapes (Saint Lucia)

- 468 ha of degraded landscapes restored.
- 75 ha riverbanks restored.
- Planning underway to rehabilitate newly identified degraded areas.



**RESTORATION AND
SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT**



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C. Results: Enhanced conservation, restoration, and sustainable use (cont.)

Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

746,022 hectares of marine and coastal ecosystems under sustainable management



CONSERVATION
AND
SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT

Protected area network (Palau)

- 39 Protected Area Network sites (29 Marine; 10 Coastal).
- 121,400 ha marine area protected (including estuary).
- 4,068 ha coastal land sustainably managed (including mangrove).

New Coastal / Marine Protected Areas (Montenegro)

- 3 new Protected Areas (Platamuni, Katič and Stari).
- 4,765 ha designated for sustainable management.

New Community Conservation Areas (Kenya)

- 116,867 ha Indigenous Community Conservation Areas established in Tana Delta.



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C. Results: Capacity building and Technical Support



Support to decision-makers to improve policies and planning

Promotion of integrated approaches to addressing environmental and social issues.

Examples

Global level

- Strengthening regional mountain governance and interregional cooperation between mountain peoples across Alpine, Carpathian, Andean and East African mountains.

Regional level

- New Great Green Wall Vision adopted (African Union).

Local level

- Subsidy system for ecological restoration of former mining sites in Baokang County (China; 2023).



C. Results: Capacity building and Technical Support

Examples



Enhancing technical and institutional capacity

Addressing information gaps for Peatlands conservation

- Global Peatlands Assessment (Nov 2022).
- Peatland Atlas (Sep 2023).
- Investing in Peatlands Report (Jan 2024).

Building capacity to control invasive species

- Marine Biosecurity Toolkit developed (2022).
- Pacific countries developed National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) (Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu; 2023).

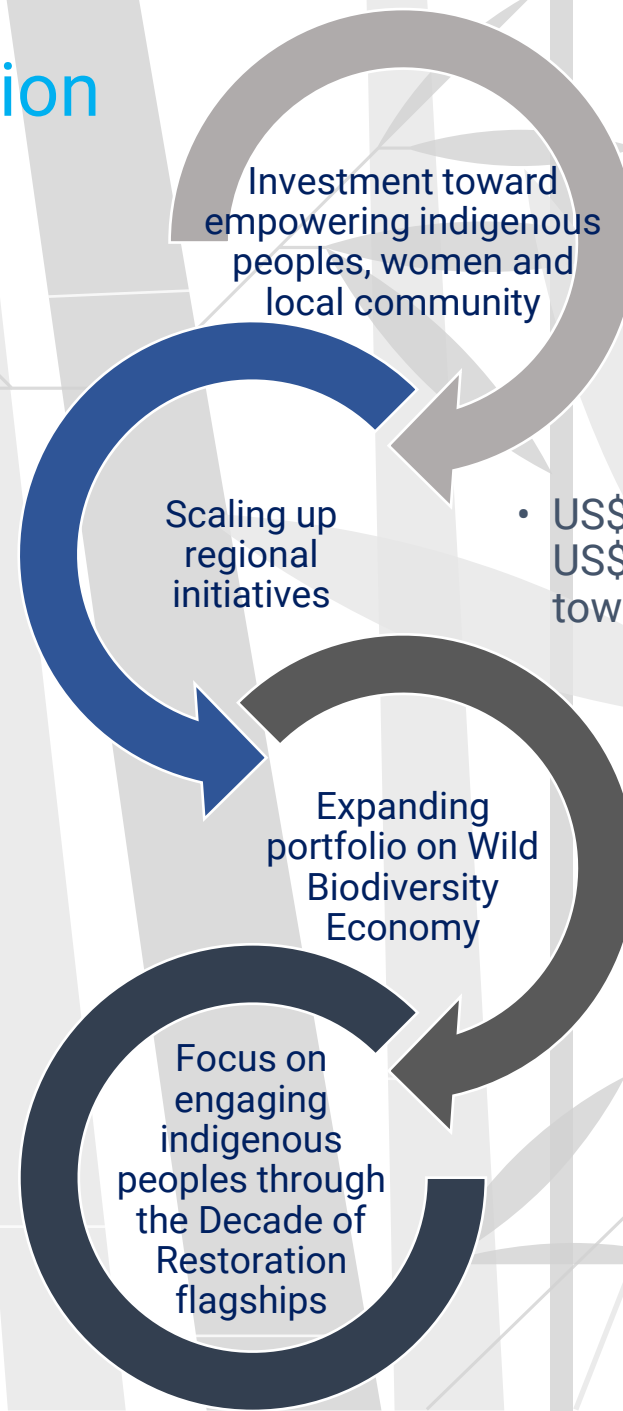


C. Results: Finance mobilization including for IPLCs



Mobilizing finance and investments

- Engagement with donors, private sector actors, and development banks to bridge funding gaps in conservation.



- Green enterprises and private sector engagement in Congo basin.
- US\$ 2.3 million GEF funding; US\$ 13.3 million co-financing.

- US\$ 86.9 million funding from GEF; US\$ 2,998 million Co-financing towards Great Green Wall Initiative.

- Regional scoping studies underway (Europe, LAC, North America, Asia).

Examples

C. Results: Nature-based Solutions

Enhancing common understanding of NbS

- Inter governmental consultations towards common understanding:
 - ✓ 1 global, 5 regional consultations.
 - ✓ Internationally agreed definition of nature-based solutions (NbS).

Upscaling implementation of NbS

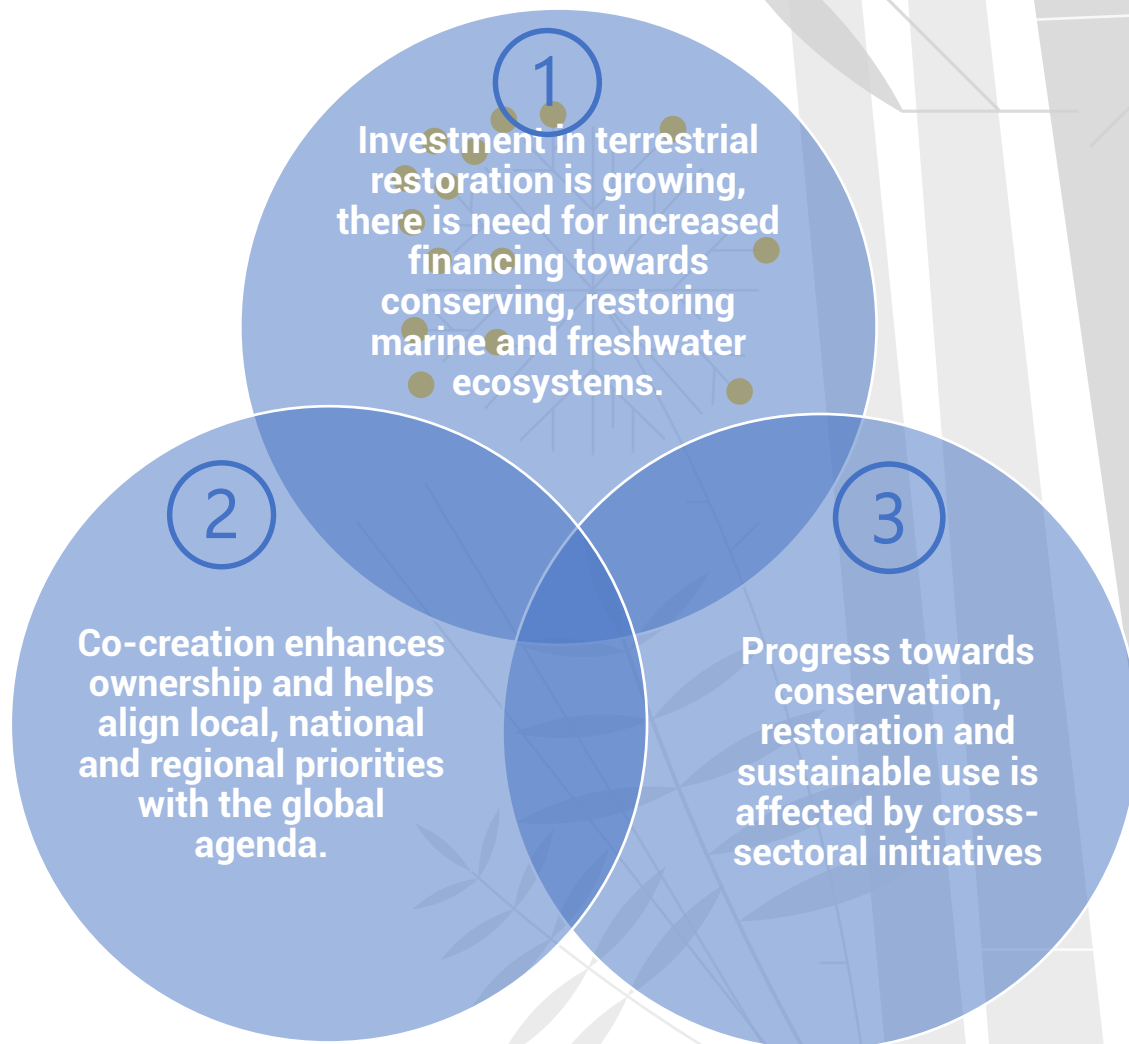
- Sharing technical knowledge and good practices:
 - ✓ 3 upcoming regional workshops (Asia-Pacific, Africa, LAC).
 - ✓ Promoting practical solutions for upscaling NbS.



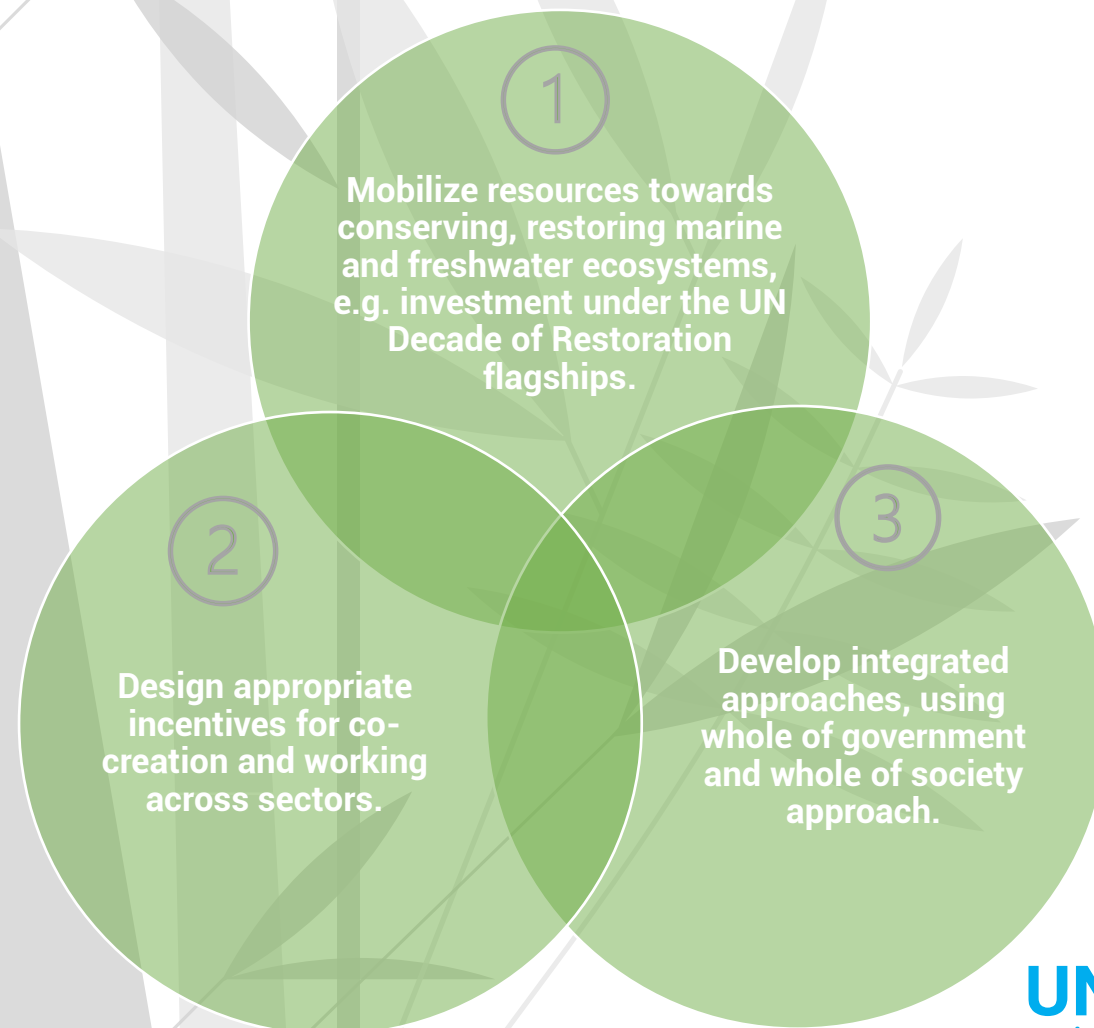
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D. Lessons Learnt

LESSONS



ADAPTATIONS



E. Way Forward

A: Diversify sources of funding to bridge the resource gap towards conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

C: Empower indigenous peoples and local communities as co-creators and leaders for landscape and seascape level initiatives.

B: In keeping with recommendations from Member States, expand portfolio addressing land degradation and desertification.

D: Focus on implementation using best practices in NbS for delivering co-benefits towards climate, nature, pollution pillars.



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