



Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services across sectors and systems

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A. Background: Programme Direction and Envisaged Impact

Programme Objective:

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are mainstreamed in public and private sector planning and decision-making and in development frameworks to realize multiple benefits and to avoid negative impacts on nature.

Programme Outcomes:

Outcome 1

Ecosystem health is recognized and mainstreamed in One Health approaches at international, regional and national levels.

Outcome 2

Food systems are transformed to be more resilient, to enhance environmental sustainability, and to improve human well-being.

Outcome 3

Economic systems are transformed to incentivize the adoption of pro-nature outcomes.



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

Programme Outputs (nine key areas of work):

Outcome 1

1. The capacity of national and regional governmental bodies to integrate environmental considerations into the health agenda is strengthened.
2. International initiatives are supported to integrate environmental aspects into the One Health Approach.

Outcome 2

3. Governments at regional, national and local level, supported and implement science-based tools and methodologies for nature-positive and climate-resilient production and consumption of food.
4. Governments at regional national and local level provided with multidisciplinary policy guidance to strengthen accelerating factors for a food systems transformation.
5. Agribusinesses supported to shift towards environmental sustainability.
6. Farmer communities and associations supported to mainstream biodiversity for healthy and sustainable food systems.

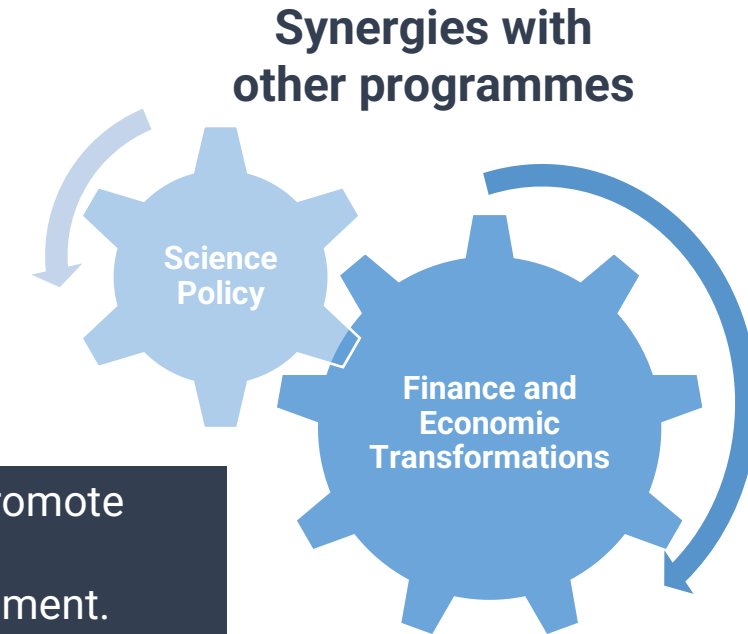
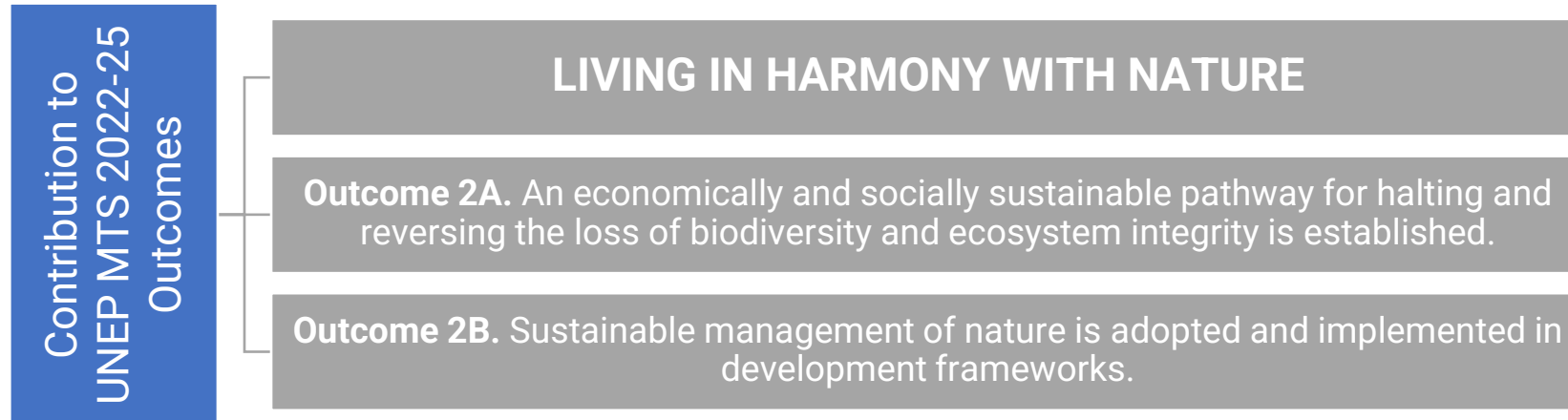
Outcome 3

7. Data, knowledge and policy support to public and private sector entities to make the economic case for pro-nature economic systems.
8. Countries supported to adopt policies that shift current regulations and incentives in the economy towards pro-nature alternatives.
9. Public and private sector supported to enhance finance and improve financial flows for pro-nature outcomes.



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



Contribution to POW Direct Outcomes

- 2.1 Collective action by United Nations system entities addresses biodiversity loss and promote conservation and restoration.
- 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.
- 2.5 Nature is integrated into national and international public health decision-making.
- 2.6 Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision-making.
- 2.7. Natural assets are valued, monitored, and sustainably managed.
- 2.11 Illegal and unsustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources decreased.
- 2.12 Food systems support biodiversity and environmental sustainability.
- 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.

B. Project Portfolio: Overview



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Geographic coverage:

- Initiatives implemented across 91 countries.
- Current implementation portfolio:
 - 4 initiatives with global scope
 - 6 initiatives with regional scope
 - 2 multi-country initiatives
 - 17 single country initiatives

Project portfolio:

- 29 projects under implementation (US\$ 220.4 million budget).
- 11 projects in design pipeline (US\$ 141.5 million proposed budget).

Source of funds:

- 59% of projects supported through GEF funding.
- Rest are supported through Environment Fund and bilateral cooperation [GIZ, International Climate Initiative (IKI), EU] and others.



C. Results: Mainstreaming ecosystem health

Capacity enhancement

- 6 countries assisted to conduct systemic scoping for designing Nature4Health Phase I projects.
- ▶ Nature4Health Phase I countries:
 - Africa Region: Ghana, Rwanda, Zambia
 - Asia-Pacific Region: Mongolia, Vietnam
 - LAC Region: Ecuador.
- Phase II will extend support to another 6 countries. Expressions of interest to be launched at CBD CoP16.



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International initiatives for One Health approach

- Providing the secretariat function for Nature4Health MPTF.
- UNEP chaired the One Health Quadripartite (2023-24).
- Supported CBD consultation on Biodiversity & Health Action Plan.
- Regional One Health Joint Plan of Action Workshops: Southeast Asia | West Asia | Europe.



C. Results: Food systems transformations

Policy guidance and technical support for climate-resilient food systems

- Supported policymaking and governance to mainstream environmental elements in national food systems pathways.
- Governments supported to adopt agricultural methodologies that increase resilience.
- UNEP co-chaired UN Food Systems Task Force (2022-2023) (Global).
- Facilitated national policy on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture integrating nature-based solutions (Brazil).
- Supported Framework for Climate Resilient Agriculture (India).

Examples



Support for healthy food systems and environmental sustainability

- Technical support to farmer communities/associations, agri-businesses for uptake of best practices.
- 572,117 farmers/farm workers applying sustainable agriculture practices; 245,994 ha land sustainably managed (India).
- 4,461 ha under SLM; farmers experience 52% increased income due to improved yields and structured markets (Kenya).

Examples



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C. Results: Transformation of economic systems

Data, knowledge support for pro-nature economic systems

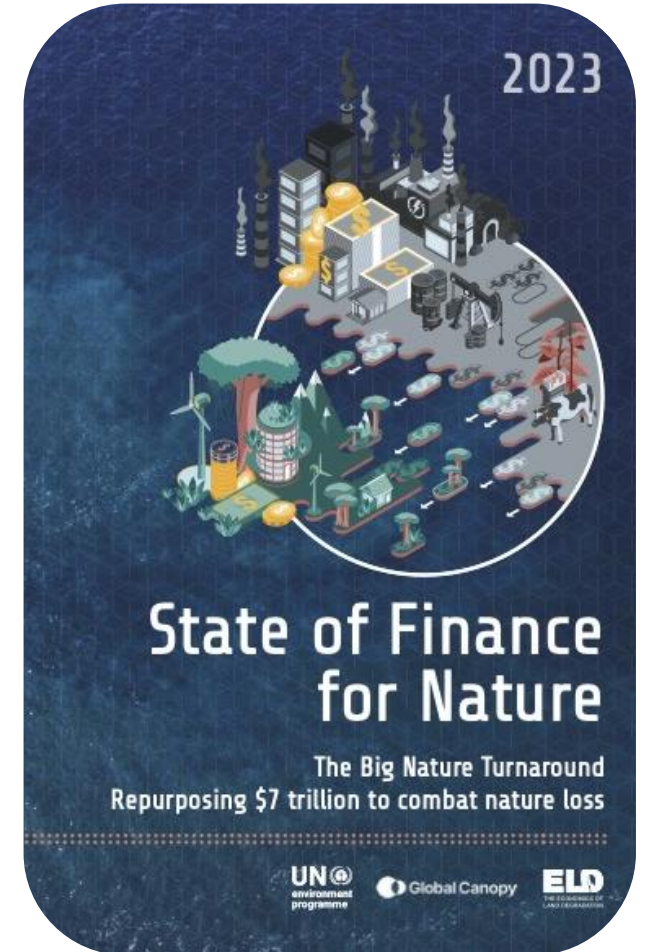
- Guidance to financial institutions on sustainable finance mainstreaming.
- Built capacity of Member States and public institutes on natural capital accounting, assessing economy-wide impacts along the agri-food value chain.
- 3rd State of Finance for Nature report (2023); high-level roadmap for aligning financial flows with GBF (Global).
- Target setting guidance on financial inclusion, green buildings, sectoral path to net-zero (Global).
- Costs and benefits measurements of expanding organic rice production using TEEB Framework (Thailand); Framework included in syllabus for agricultural universities (India).



Examples

Countries supported to adopt policies towards pro-nature alternatives

- Technical assistance provided to member states to plan for pro-nature policy scenarios compared to Business-as-Usual.
- Supported National bioeconomy strategy, National Action Plan on Bioeconomy (Brazil).



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C. Results: Transformation of economic systems

Improved financial flows for pro-nature outcomes

- Supported adoption and implementation of Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) and Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI).
- Built capacity and provided technical assistance to catalyse private sector initiatives on sustainable land use, regenerative agriculture.

Examples



- Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) Framework launched; 324 banking institutions adopted Principles for Responsible Banking; 132 banks joined Net Zero Banking Alliance (Global).
- Adoption of Better Cotton Initiatives (BCI) principles leading to enhanced ecosystem quality (Arvind Limited, India).
- Digital interventions along post-harvest supply chain resulting in >10% reduction in food waste (Go4Fresh, India).



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D. Lessons Learnt

LESSONS

Driving whole of society approach requires commonly understood languages. International inter-sectoral negotiations are challenging due to narrow interpretations of policy mandates across mechanisms.

ADAPTATIONS

Facilitate dialogues to agree upon common terminologies and approaches. Promote cross-sectoral practical exchanges and collaboration to pave way towards negotiations.

LESSONS

Environmental metrics are not well understood to inform economic decisions. Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), for example, need to be mainstreamed in economic decision making.

ADAPTATIONS

Enhance engagement with ministry of finance, national treasury and other relevant stakeholders at the project and policy design stage.

LESSONS

On global stage, climate change crisis has now gained traction as the key existential crisis putting global economic and social well-being at risk, while biodiversity loss remains subsumed as a lesser crisis.

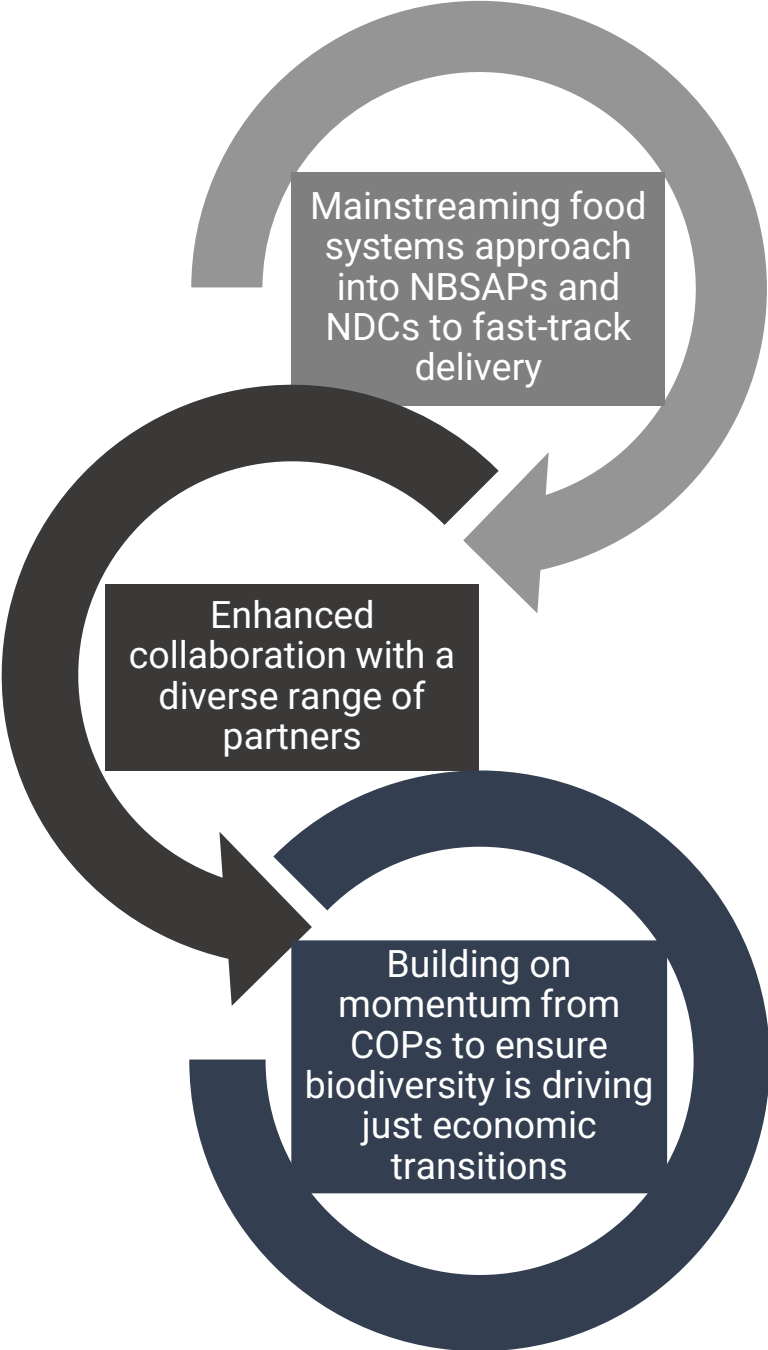
ADAPTATIONS

Focus on aligning Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Food Systems pathways towards pro-nature outcomes.

E. Way Forward



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Thank you



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