

**Balkan Nature Talks Conference**

Vienna, Austria

10 October, 2024

# Harnessing Kunming- Montreal GBF Mechanisms to Protect Mountain Biodiversity

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**UN**   
**environment  
programme**

# Mountains as Critical Ecosystems

Home to 1.1 billion people

Providing approx. ½ of humanity with water for drinking, irrigation, energy production and more...

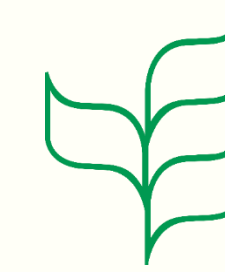
Host over 50% of the world's biodiversity hotspots

## SDG Target 15.4:

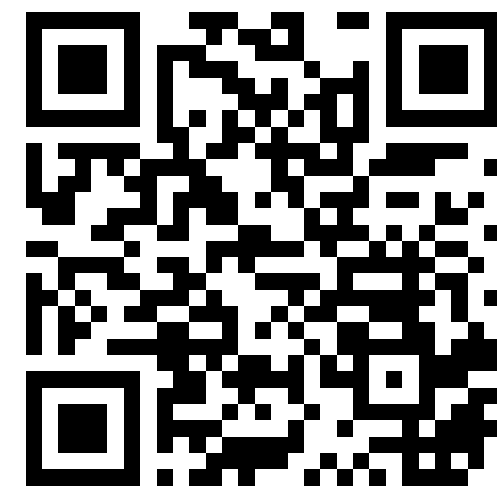
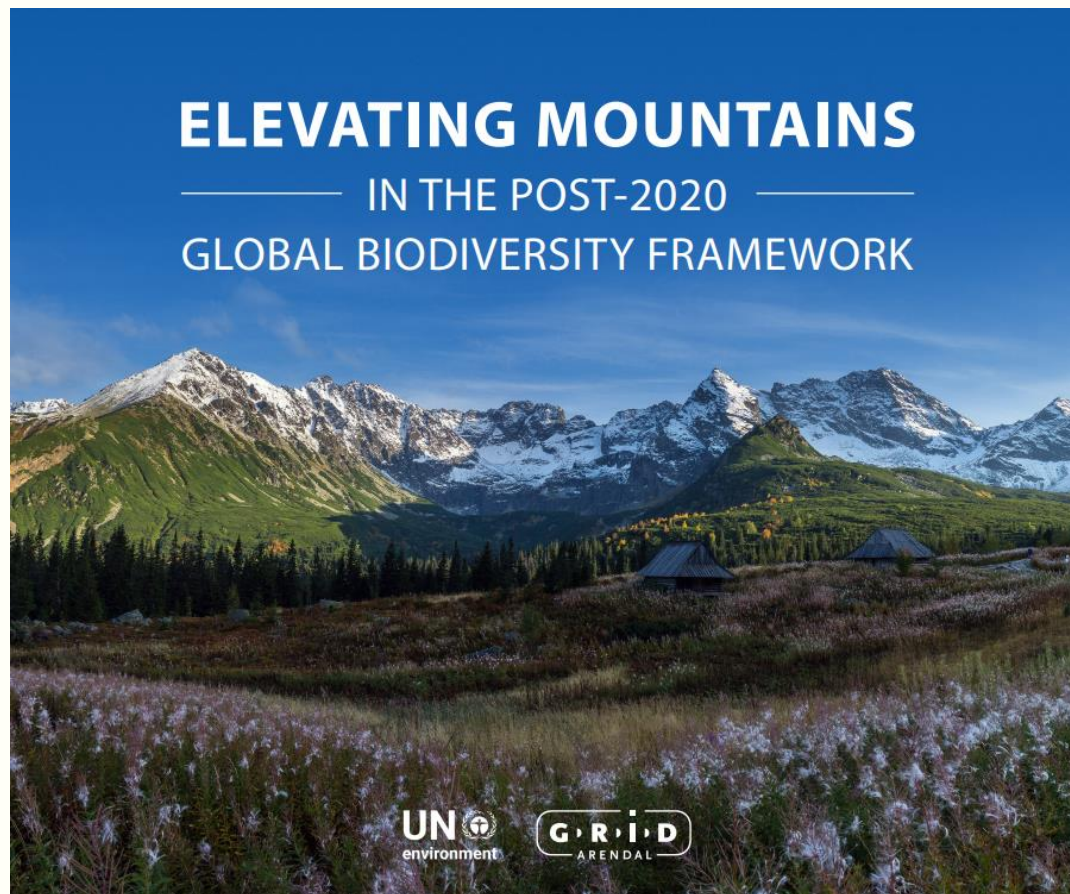
"By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development."



# Advocating for Mountain Biodiversity in Global Processes



Convention on Biological Diversity



## Indicators for Elevating Mountains in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Effective indicators of mountain biodiversity and ecosystems status and trends are crucial for supporting the goals and targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Given the uniqueness of biodiversity in mountains, and the relevance of the ecosystem services they deliver for the well-being of people worldwide, the need to elevate mountains in the GBF was addressed by previous policy briefs presented at the first<sup>1</sup> and second<sup>2</sup> meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG). This document complements earlier

contributions and supports decision-makers in ongoing Post-2020 GBF discussions by:

- identifying indicators in [CBD/SBSTTA/24/3Add.1](#)<sup>1</sup> considered important for safeguarding mountain biodiversity and ecosystem integrity
- providing the rationale for the adoption of such indicators at multiple levels
- suggesting indicators for further consideration and development.

Adopting indicators that promote mountain biodiversity conservation will contribute to realizing

the CBD's vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature" by 2050 and strengthen the coherence among international frameworks and science- and evidence-based policy-making.

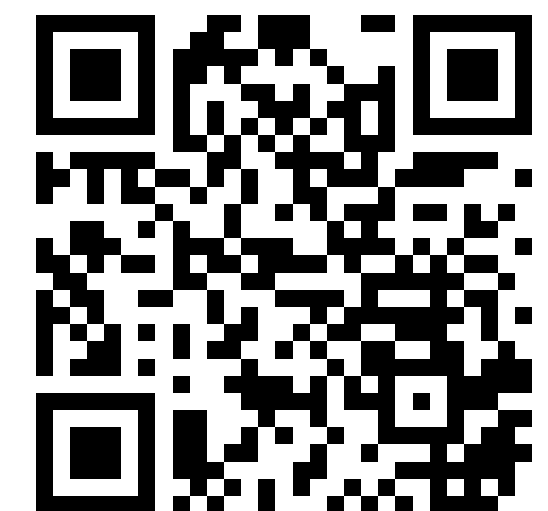
Indicators suggested in CBD/SBSTTA/24/3Add.1 fall into three groups: headline, component, and complementary. A minimum set of high-level headline indicators tracks national, regional, and global progress on GBF goals and targets. Component indicators measure progress toward the goals' and targets' components more specifically.

### Linking policy brief recommendations with CBD/SBSTTA/24/3Add.1 indicators

Code	Indicators	Policy brief recommendations								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Headline	A.0.1	Extent of selected natural ecosystems*	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
	A.0.4	Species Habitat Index	✓	✓		✓	✓			
	2.0.1	Protected areas coverage of important biodiversity areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	2.0.2	Species Protection Index	✓	✓		✓	✓			
	10.0.2	Ecosystems providing reduced coastal erosion, flood protection and other services	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Component	A.1.1.	Extent of natural ecosystem (A.0.1) by type	✓	✓	✓			✓		
	2.1.1	Protected area coverage by type**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	2.1.2	Protected area coverage of important biodiversity areas by type**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	19.1.4	Growth in Species Occurrence Records Accessible Through GBIF		✓						

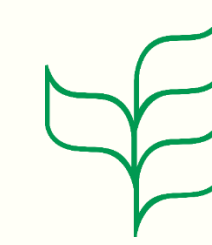
\* forest, savannahs and grasslands, wetlands, mangroves, saltmarshes, coral reef, seagrass, macroalgae and intertidal habitats  
 \*\* marine, freshwater, mountain and terrestrial

- Acknowledge the importance of mountain biodiversity & ecosystem services (SDG 15.4) **1**
- Collect sound data for science & policy **2**
- Acknowledge ecosystem-specific risks & needs in mountains **3**
- Reduce pressures & facilitate biodiversity conservation **4**
- Support protected area coverage & effective area-based conservation measures for important sites for mountain biodiversity **5**
- Address the effects of global change & support the adoption of ecosystem-based approaches to conservation **6**
- Recognize mountains as reservoirs of genetic resources & local breeds of comestible species & wild relatives **7**
- Strengthen regional networks & coordination mechanisms **8**



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

# Advocating for Mountain Biodiversity in Global Processes



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



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## Ensuring Mountain Biodiversity

High-level side event Celebrating International Year of Mountains - ensuring mountain biodiversity protection within the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implementation

**ROOM 512E. LEVEL 5  
PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE MONTRÉAL**

[email contacts](#)

2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE  
COP-15 / CM-IMP 1.0 / NM-MOP 4  
MONTREAL - MONTRÉAL

**MOUNTAINS 2022**  
International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development



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©Charlotte Daniels/ UNEP

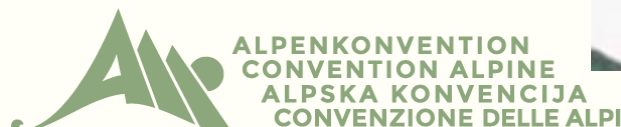
## Mountain Biodiversity Like-Minded Working Meeting

SBSTTA 25  
Nairobi, Kenya  
15–19 October 2023

**VANISHING TREASURES**  
PROTECTING ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN SPECIES

**17 OCTOBER 2023 | 13:15-14:45 EAT**  
\*Food and beverages provided

**ROOM CR-1, GROUND FLOOR**  
United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON)



# CBD COP16 Side Event on Global Mountain Governance and Interregional Cooperation



**Global mountain governance: importance for building synergies between Biodiversity conservation and Climate Change adaptation**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**18:00 – 19:20**

**Sumapaz – JUSCANZ meeting room**

**Plaza One**

# GBF Mechanisms of Implementation for Mountains

## Programmes of Work (PoWs)

Seven thematic PoWs:

- Agricultural Biodiversity
- Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity
- Forest Biodiversity
- Inland Waters Biodiversity
- Island Biodiversity
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- **Mountain Biodiversity**

Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity initially adopted at CBD COP7



# GBF Mechanisms of Implementation for Mountains

## Mountain Biodiversity Programme of Work – one means of implementation

### Three interlinked elements:

**Direct actions** for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

**Means of implementation** for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

**Supporting actions** for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing



# GBF Mechanisms of Implementation for Mountains

➤ Decision CBD/COP/15/4:

9. Requests the Executive Secretary to **conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work** of the Convention in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to facilitate its implementation, and, on the basis of this analysis, to **prepare draft updates of these programmes of work** for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate, at meetings during the period between the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and to report on this work to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

➤ Rapid Gap Analysis (CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1)

**MB PoW Rapid Gap Analysis:**

Overall gaps for Targets: 12, 17, 19, 23  
Gaps also for Targets: 5, 7, 9, 16

➤ SBSTTA 26 Recommendation (CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/2):

Recalling paragraph 9 of decision 15/4, to **conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention** in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation, and **on the basis of this analysis, to prepare draft updates of those programmes of work...**



# VANISHING TREASURES

PROTECTING ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN SPECIES

Flagship programme focused on understanding climate change impacts on iconic mountain species, habitats, prey species, and mountain communities in three regions:

- Central Asia – Tajikistan & Kyrgystan
  - Hindu-Kush Himalayas – Bhutan
  - Virungas – Uganda & Rwanda
- **Expansion to Andes – Columbia & Ecuador**



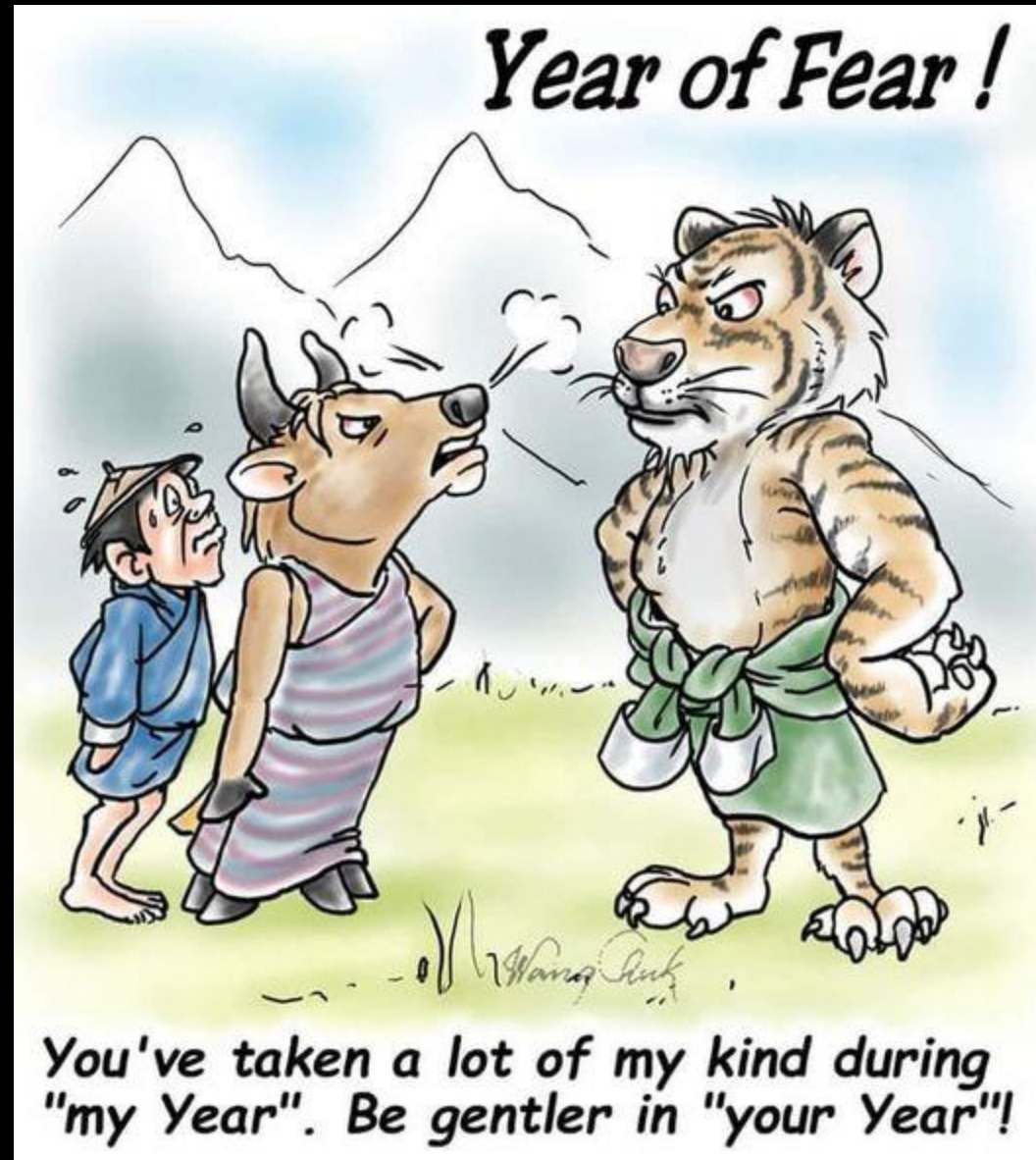
# Aims of the Vanishing Treasures programme

- Creating new knowledge on climate change impacts on iconic mountain species, habitats, prey species
- Understanding risks of climate change to local communities living in close proximity to these species and their habitats
- Understanding how species' and human communities' responses to climate change interact and possibly lead to **human-wildlife conflicts**

GBF Target 4 - Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

GBF Target 8 - Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

# Human Wildlife Conflict in the Himalayas



©Kuensel Online



©DoFPS



©DoFPS

**KUENSEL**  
THAT THE PEOPLE SHALL BE INFORMED

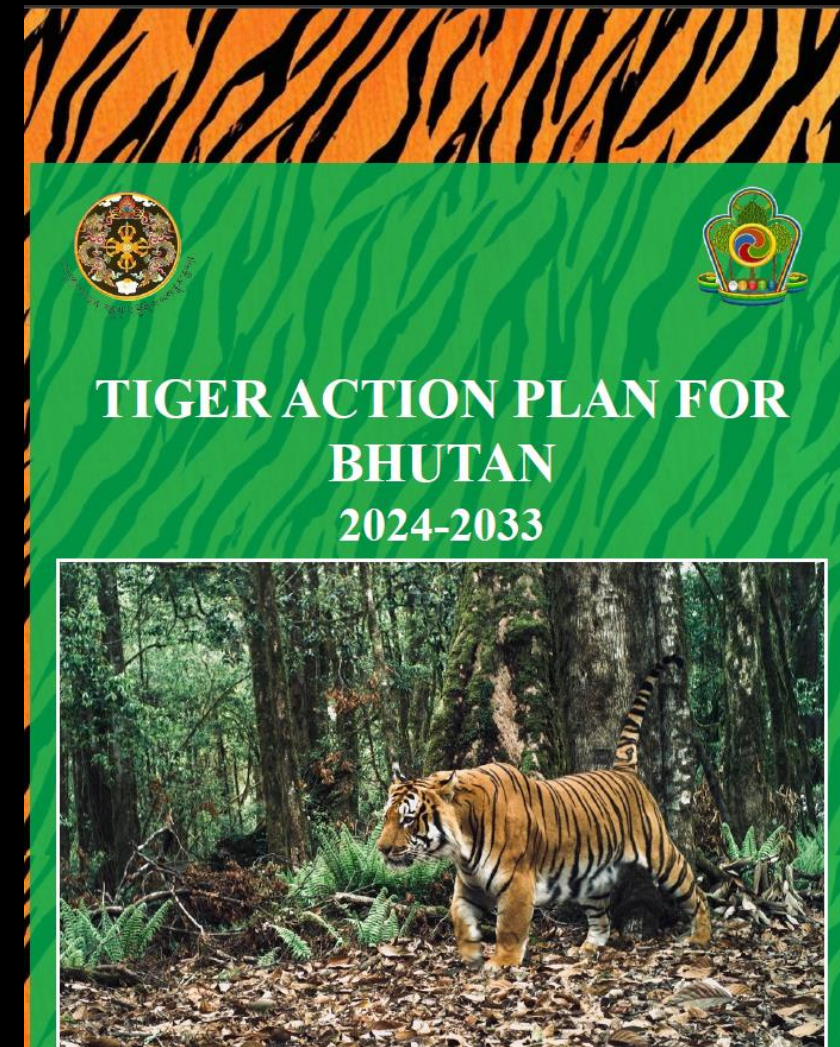
☰ SUBSCRIBE NOW 🔍

**251 cattle lost to wildlife within two years, none compensated**

June 19th, 2020 | 📊 Post Views: 1,275

Wangmo Choki

# Human Wildlife Conflict Management - Bhutan



**VANISHING TREASURES**  
PROTECTING ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN SPECIES



THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

# Building Resilience in Mountain Communities - Central Asia



Credit: Maarten Hofman/UNEP

©Maarten Hofman/UNEP

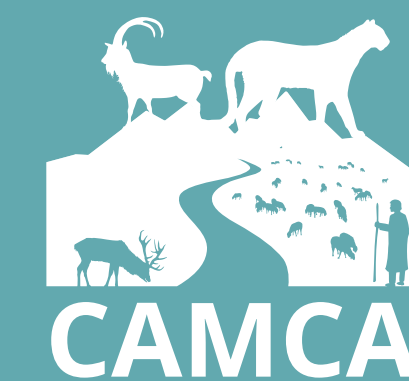
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**VANISHING TREASURES**  
PROTECTING ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN SPECIES



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# Central Asian Mammals and Climate Adaptation

Enhancing the conservation of flagship migratory mammal species of Central Asia through climate-informed management and decision making

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[Maarten.Hofman@un.org](mailto:Maarten.Hofman@un.org)

[www.camcaproject.com](http://www.camcaproject.com)

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**IKI**



INTERNATIONAL  
CLIMATE  
INITIATIVE

based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag

# In Summary

- ❖ Elevating mountain ecosystems in national and regional frameworks and strategies can help protect key services they provide
- ❖ The CBD's Mountain Biodiversity Programme of Work can act as a catalyst to help mountain countries implement the GBF
- ❖ Working closely with mountain countries to safeguard key species and strengthen communities' resilience can contribute to successful implementation of the GBF



# Thank you!

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[www.vanishingtreasures.org](http://www.vanishingtreasures.org)