



Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity

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A. Background: Programme Direction and Envisaged Impact

Programme Objective:

Accelerated delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and other biodiversity-related commitments based on improved governance and enhanced transparency and accountability to deliver on national and international commitments for biodiversity.

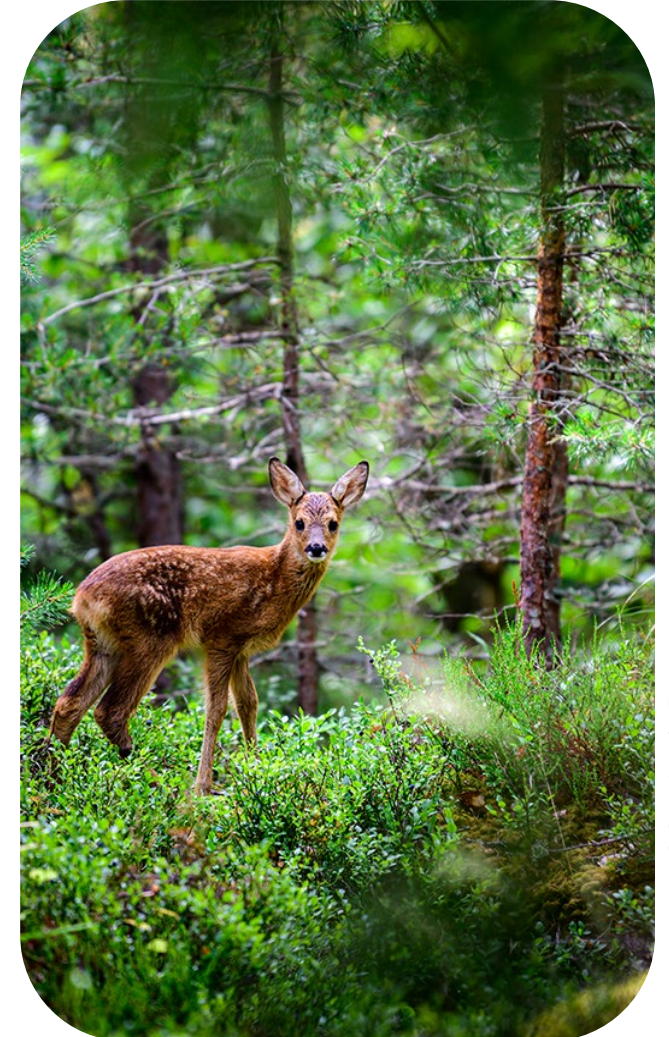
Programme Outcomes:

Outcome 1

Enhanced governance and coherence to deliver GBF and other biodiversity-related objectives, goals, and targets at national, regional, and global levels

Outcome 2

Improved transparency and strengthened accountability in the implementation of GBF, other biodiversity-related commitments and associated monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms.



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

Programme Outputs (Four key areas of work):

Outcome 1

- Decision-makers supported to improve policies and planning frameworks for GBF implementation at national and regional levels.
- Support services provided to UN system for catalysing action with partners for implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Outcome 2

- Technical support and guidance provided to enhance monitoring and reporting of national, regional and global progress in delivery of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Technical support and analysis provided to review and communicate progress towards the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework and other biodiversity-related commitments.

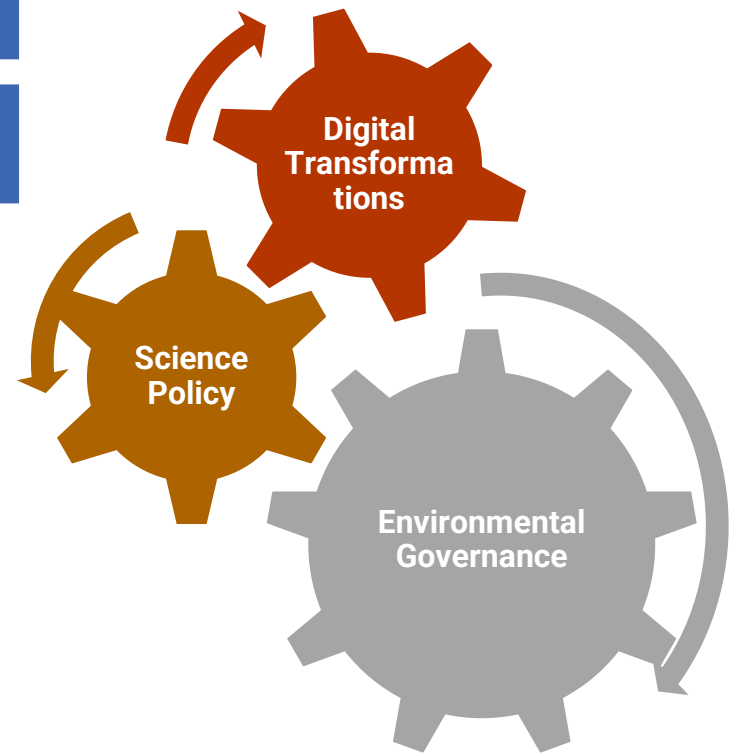


THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

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



Synergies with other sub-programmes:



Contribution to POW Direct Outcomes

- 2.1. Collective action by United Nations system entities addresses biodiversity loss and promotes conservation and restoration.
- 2.4. Oceans are governed sustainably and holistically at the regional and global levels.
- 2.6. Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision-making.
- 2.9. Institutional capacity to adopt and act on national and international commitments is enhanced, and accountability frameworks are strengthened.
- 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



Geographic coverage:

- Initiatives implemented across 141 countries.
- Current implementation portfolio:
 - 26 initiatives with global scope
 - 16 initiatives with regional scope
 - 17 single country initiatives

Project portfolio:

- 59 projects under implementation (98.7 million USD budget)
- 10 projects in the design pipeline (152.2 million USD proposed budget)

Source of funds:

- 91.5% of projects supported through GEF funding
- Rest are supported through Environment Fund and others.



C. Results: Enhanced governance and coherence

Decision-makers supported to improve policies and planning

- Provided technical support for updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, enhancing policy and regulatory frameworks to support GBF delivery.
- Provided guidance on strengthening environmental safeguards and benefit-sharing frameworks and tools.

Examples



- Assisted 69 countries (including LDCs and SIDS) to revise their **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**, UNCCD reporting and develop the Clearing House Mechanism (**Global**).
- Restoration of 1,301 ha degraded forest landscape through state programs informed by **Global Forest Watch tools (Azerbaijan)**.
- Roadmap and action plan approved Access to Benefit Sharing (ABS) strategy validated, and ordinance approved for Nagoya **Protocol** operationalization (**Niger**).
- Biosafety management system fully operationalized along with supportive tools for decision-making (**Malaysia**);
- Biotechnology Policy, Biosafety Proclamation and subsidiary directives adopted for the implementation of the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Ethiopia)**.



C. Results: Enhanced governance and coherence

Support to UN system - catalysing action for implementation of GBF

- Towards UN common approach to mainstream biodiversity and nature-based solutions:
 - Refined monitoring framework in consultations with Environment Management Group (EMG) members.
 - Quantitative and qualitative components.
 - Quantitative: reporting against four indicators using existing reporting mechanisms - the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the Greening the Blue Report.
 - Qualitative: Survey.
 - Mid-Term Report to be published in 2025.
- Facilitating increased collaboration to deliver GBF, UNCCD and biodiversity-related MEAs by the UN system in partnership with governments, business and civil society

Example

Indonesia

- ▶ SDGs
- ▶ KMGBF
- ▶ Paris agreement

» Common Country Analysis (CCA) for next UNSDCF (2026–30).
» High Impact Initiative: Nature Driving Economic Transformation.
» Indonesian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IBSAP).

» Blue Economy Agenda Roadmap (2025–2029).
» National & Regional Spatial Plan.
» Strategic National Pathway For Food Systems Transformation.

National Long-term (2025–45) and Medium-term (2025–29) Development Plans.

C. Results: Improved transparency and strengthened accountability

Technical support and guidance on monitoring and reporting

- Built capacity of MEA focal points.
 - Provided technical assistance to strengthen national monitoring systems and to harmonize monitoring and reporting across biodiversity-related MEAs and the Rio Conventions.
 - Digital transformations.
- Technical support for 16 national working spaces in Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) capturing, managing and using information on biodiversity-related MEAs, including the 3 Rio Conventions **(Global)**.
 - Built capacity of UNCCD Parties on land degradation and desertification through regional workshops and online tutorials **(Global)**.
 - Supported 70 member states and parties to CBD to update and align National Biodiversity Targets, Strategies, implementation and monitoring plans **(Global)**.
 - Built operational capacity for Nagoya Protocol implementation; currently supporting the creation of a national database on biodiversity, genetic resources and traditional knowledge **(Timor-Leste)**.



Examples



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C. Results: Improved transparency and strengthened accountability

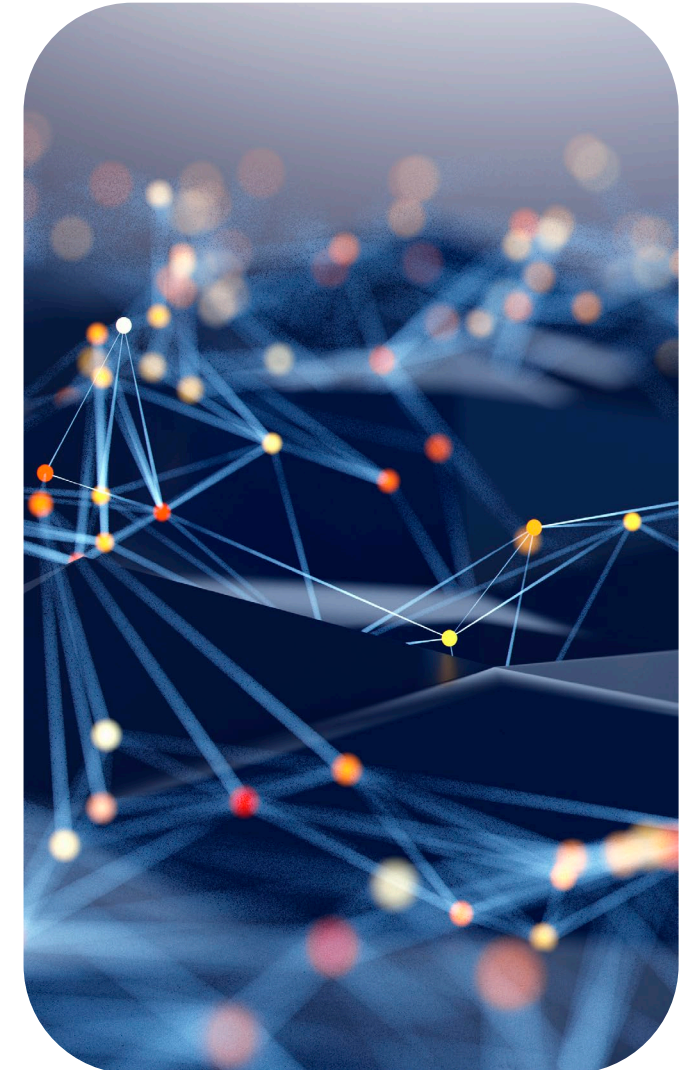
Technical support to review and communicate progress

- Provided technical assistance to countries and MEA Secretariats to communicate progress towards the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), UNCCD and other biodiversity-related commitments.

Examples



- Assisted 70 member states and parties to CBD in preparing 7th National Reports (Global)
- Providing technical support to a100 Country Parties to prepare and submit their next National Reports to the UNCCD due in 2026 (**Global**).
- 45 case studies of good practices of collaboration among MEAs for the implementation of the KMGBF showcased at the Bern III Conference (**Global**).



D. Lessons Learnt

LESSON

Cocreation: enhances ownership and helps align local, national and regional priorities with the global biodiversity agendas, including combating desertification and land degradation.

ADAPTA
TIONS

Design appropriate incentives for co-creation leveraging the UN-Common Approach.

LESSON

Cross-Sectoral Collaboration is Critical: Coordination between environmental ministries and other sectors at national and regional levels is crucial in driving policy alignment towards biodiversity goals.

ADAPTATIONS

Develop integrated approaches, using whole of government and whole of society approach.

LESSON

Regional coordination: Countries in certain regions demonstrated varying levels of progress depending on the presence of strong regional bodies and cooperative frameworks.

ADAPTATIONS

Strengthen regional governance frameworks by supporting existing institutions and conventions, to act as knowledge hubs. Regional cooperation should also focus on transboundary ecosystem management, enhancing the ability of nations to work collaboratively on shared biodiversity challenges.

E. Way Forward

A: Diversify sources of funding to bridge the resource gap towards governance and accountability in achieving the GBF, UNCCD and other related MEAs targets and commitments.

B: Increase indigenous and local community participation in governance and accountability processes - their inclusion in monitoring mechanisms contributes to a more holistic understanding of biodiversity trends and needs to be upscaled.

C: Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Platforms: Continue to support platforms that bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia to collaborate on biodiversity issues to ensure greater inclusivity, encourage innovative partnerships, and foster accountability in delivering biodiversity outcomes.

D. Harnessing digital transformation: Accelerate the adoption of digital technologies such as remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and cloud-based platforms to enhance governance, transparency, and accountability; facilitating real-time monitoring, and streamlining efficient decision-making and reporting processes.

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