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# SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

## Introduction<sup>1</sup>

The United Nations University (UNU- [www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu)) is the academic arm of the United Nations (UN), that serves as a think tank to the UN, its agencies, and policymakers to advance the goals of achieving sustainable development. It is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan and has 13 centers, each of which works on specific themes of strategic importance to the United Nations to inform policymaking.

The Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability of the UNU (UNU-IAS- [ias.unu.edu](http://ias.unu.edu)) focuses on environmental policy and human wellbeing specifically focusing on four thematic areas: governance for sustainable development, biodiversity & society, water & resource management, and innovation & education. It hosts multistakeholder partnerships such as the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI- [www.satoyama-initiative.org](http://www.satoyama-initiative.org)) and undertakes research, capacity building and training activities on various aspects of biodiversity policy design and implementation that connect policy goals with implementation contexts and priorities on the ground.

## What do we do?

The Biodiversity and Society program at UNU-IAS focuses on advancing an integrated, socio-ecological lens that speaks to mainstreaming biodiversity through **whole of society** and **whole of government approaches**. We work with partners (from indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, policymakers, international organizations, civil society) to explore how the three objectives of the CBD could be achieved in production landscapes/seascapes. This approach takes an inclusive approach of land/sea uses and their management regimes (including Protected Areas and other area-based conservation measures). Apart from our research outputs, we develop guidance materials to enable countries to implement such an approach that considers views and priorities of different stakeholders within a land/sea scape (see box).

We also offer Postgraduate courses on sustainability science that incorporates latest developments in environmental agreements, allowing students to pursue research on topical themes .

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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.

## An example of our support to GBF: Using landscape approaches to realize the objectives of GBF and its targets.

A “landscape” or “seascape” can be thought of as a mosaic of ecosystems and human settlements, characterized by diverse human-nature interactions. If managed in a multifunctional way, landscapes and seascapes can provide a variety of ecosystem services to ensure and enhance quality of life.

Landscape approaches (also applicable to seascapes) can broadly be thought of as the integration of developmental and conservation priorities at the scale of the landscape. A careful and inclusive approach is especially important when a diverse range of stakeholders is involved, a key feature of landscape approaches. Such an approach can enhance efforts to achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as given it focus on multifunctionality of land/sea- scapes to different users enables addressing the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and identify strategies that are acceptable to relevant actors who exploit the ecosystem/ resources.

A guidance document to support Parties and implementing agencies to undertake landscape approaches while updating and implementing NBSAPs in the context of the GBF is being finalized in collaboration with the SCBD. This directly facilitates addressing Targets 1,2, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 22.

Targets	Potential support from UNU
<p><b>1,2,3</b> (Together speak to spatial conservation, restoration activities that covers the spectrum of Protected Areas, areas under other effective conservation measures in an inclusive and participatory manner)</p> <p><b>22</b> (Ensure full and effective participation of all stakeholders in decision making)</p>	Orientation on the implementation of Landscape approaches that cover a spectrum of land/sea uses and management regimes and takes into account priorities of different user groups and actors in the land/sea scape
<p><b>5</b> (Sustainable use of wild species respecting IPLC practices)</p> <p><b>10</b> (Promote sustainable production practices)</p>	Orient and support the use of socio-ecological resilience toolkit that helps to assess, strategize and monitor various determinants of social and ecological wellbeing at a land/sea-scape level that includes
<p><b>20</b> (Capacity building and co-production of knowledge/technology)</p>	Support / convene platforms (workshops, consultations, and others) for knowledge and experience sharing Opportunities to publish experiences through various UNU knowledge products

## Supporting the GBF

**Guidance document on integrating landscape approaches in NBSAPs development and implementation-** providing support to orient Parties and relevant stakeholder agencies to undertake the approach.

**Provide specific inputs to assessing the resilience of Socio-ecological systems** – we have developed a SEPLS (Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes) Resilience Toolkit that has been deployed in different contexts over the last 8 years that support communities to assess, strategize and implement integrated approaches to manage biodiversity conservation, ecological integrity and their welfare. This also has been found useful to facilitate mainstreaming biodiversity into different sectors- such as health, climate adaptation, food and agriculture, disaster management.

UNU-IAS hosts the Satoyama Initiative and has been a key partner of the Government of Japan in supporting the implementation of the CBD since 2010. Several of our partners (national, sub-national governments and local communities) are using our framework and toolkits to inform their implementation work.

## Where we can help

Building on our experience, we can support in convening and organizing workshops to introduce and provide orientation on how to implement integrated approaches such as the Landscape Approaches, especially during the updating and implementation of NBSAPs for policymakers and implementation agencies. We are also happy to contribute specific modules on the topic in relevant meetings, consultations and learning exchanges that may be organized for Parties.

## Further contacts

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## Social media handles/webpages

UN University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability: <https://ias.unu.edu/en/>

- ▶ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNU.IAS/>
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International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative: [satoyama-initiative.org/](https://satoyama-initiative.org/)

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