



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



## Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project: Component 1. Rapid review of NBSAPs for alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Biodiversity underpins life on earth, from human health and well-being to food and water security to economies and livelihoods. Yet biodiversity is threatened at unprecedented levels due to increasing pollution, resource exploitation, land use change, invasive species, and climate change, among other factors. Building on the ambition set forth in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) seeks to halt and reverse biodiversity loss for the benefit of the planet and people. Countries' national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the policy instruments for national implementation of the CBD. To accelerate action to achieve the Vision for Biodiversity of living in harmony with nature by 2050, NBSAPs must be rapidly aligned with the new goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project is an effort funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to fast track readiness and early actions to implement the GBF. GEF-eligible Parties are receiving a financial and technical support package that focuses on four components: NBSAP alignment, monitoring systems, policy and institutional coherence, and biodiversity finance. Component 1 focuses on a rapid review of countries' existing NBSAPs to align national biodiversity targets with the Kunming-Montreal GBF and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

There are two anticipated outcomes for Component 1:

1. *National biodiversity targets are rapidly aligned with the GBF:* Coherence is determined between existing national biodiversity goals and targets and those in the GBF. Parties are supported to use a whole-of-government approach to identify the level of alignment of national goals and targets with those of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, and determine which adjustments may be needed where appropriate.
2. *Operational plans are developed to revise or develop national targets and update the NBSAP to be aligned with the GBF:* Targets are refined to become measurable, costed, and spatially-explicit. Best practices in gender mainstreaming, stakeholder engagement, involvement of Indigenous peoples and local communities, and whole-of-government approaches are considered. Subject to national planning cycles and national circumstances, minor NBSAP revisions are made as needed and processes are put in place to update the plan and receive national approval during the GEF 8 Funding Cycle.

## Component 1: Capacity Development Opportunities

Several capacity development opportunities are available to support Parties to take early action to rapidly achieve national biodiversity target alignment. They are designed to improve understanding of how to align national biodiversity targets with the GBF. These offerings aim to build capacity across individuals and institutions and complement the [Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and Development](#)<sup>1</sup> agreed upon at COP15. A brief description of each opportunity is presented below.

### 2. NBSAP alignment with the GBF guidance materials

The NBSAP alignment with the GBF guidance provides step-by-step information on how to assess national alignment with the GBF and initiate NBSAP revisions and national action. These resources guide countries to evaluate areas of alignment between existing national biodiversity targets and the GBF, develop or revise national targets, and create an operational plan to align NBSAPs with the GBF. Steps to identify coherence with relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals and other multilateral environment agreements are also provided. Detailed descriptions are included for each step in the analysis to help develop national capacity. Case examples, templates, and resources will also be provided.

### 3. NBSAP target similarity tool

In development at UNDP, the tool provides an analysis of the degree of similarity between the new global goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the existing national biodiversity targets. This methodology enables the identification of similar text among global and national targets, supporting the comparison and potential for enhanced alignment between global and national biodiversity targets. For each country, the result of this analysis is a report that estimates the level of similarity between national biodiversity targets and the Global Biodiversity Framework goals and targets, identifies gaps and opportunities, and considers pathways for countries to enhance alignment with the global goals and targets.

### 4. NBSAP target alignment online learning series

An online learning series in English, French, and Spanish is being made available to develop national capacity to rapidly align national biodiversity targets to the GBF. Countries can participate in several opportunities:

- *Webinar series:* Virtual interactive series of live, synchronous video conferences facilitated by subject experts, which are recorded and linked to the [project's page on NBSAP Forum](#).<sup>2</sup>
- *Micro-courses:* Virtual self-directed micro-courses that are short in length, with each module requiring an average of 30 min. to one hour of engagement, with courses comprising two to four modules.
- *NBSAP Forum:* Virtual collaborative community of practice that supports collaboration, resource sharing, peer exchanges, learning ecosystems, and networking among Parties.
- *Events:* Virtual, in-person, or hybrid events where Parties can develop and exchange knowledge through participatory activities.
- *One-on-one technical support:* Virtual, tailored one-on-one technical support, is available upon request

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/gef-early-action-support-project/>



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## Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project: Component 2. Assessment and development of plans for strengthening national monitoring systems

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) puts great emphasis on enhanced transparency in implementation. As part of the adoption of the GBF at CBD COP15, Parties developed a [monitoring framework](#)<sup>3</sup> that sets out a suite of indicators to measure progress towards global goals and targets. A set of headline, component, and complementary indicators are at the core of the monitoring framework, for Parties to consider when revising and updating NBSAPs, and for use in preparing national reports to the CBD. Such an approach will require all Parties to have effective capacity, tools, and systems for national biodiversity monitoring. It will also promote standardization of monitoring approaches to enable national contributions to the GBF to be aggregated and so understand global progress.

Relevant and timely data and indicators are the foundation for developing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), determining the effectiveness of those actions, and tracking progress at the national and global levels. This will require strengthened national capacities and systems for monitoring. Component 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project supports improved national monitoring, reporting systems and transparency frameworks.

There are two anticipated outcomes for Component 2:

1. *Gaps in monitoring systems are assessed and identified:* Gaps in existing national data and knowledge systems, and institutional monitoring systems and frameworks, are assessed for monitoring.
2. *Monitoring action plans are developed:* A plan for enhancing monitoring systems is developed to respond to the updated national targets and the GBF. An initial costing of monitoring systems, and sequencing of investment support to fill the monitoring gaps, may also be determined.

As a result of the activities to deliver the outputs for Component 2, Parties will have improved understanding of how to enhance and improve national monitoring and reporting systems, and transparency frameworks.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf>

## Component 2: Capacity Development Opportunities

Several capacity development opportunities are available to support Parties to take early action on monitoring systems and transparency frameworks. They are designed to improve national understanding of how to assess data and monitoring system needs, and to develop monitoring action plans. These offerings aim to build capacity across individuals and institutions and complement the [Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and Development](#).<sup>4</sup> The involvement of a ‘whole-of-government approach is encouraged, including National Statistical Offices. The project recognizes that many Parties have noted varying capacity gaps in the implementation of the GBF implementation in relation to national planning, monitoring, and reporting.

### 1. Technical support to develop national monitoring system action plans

Guidance materials will support assessments of national indicator needs for measuring progress to national targets, and then the development of monitoring system action plans to provide these indicators. This includes the identification of capacity gaps, building on the guidance developed on GBF target alignment. The materials include:

- definition of key elements of national monitoring action plans, potentially building on the CBD’s Seventh National Report template;
- use and translation of headline indicators and national measures in monitoring action plans;
- development and use of indicators at national scales;
- use of spatial data as part of monitoring and indicators;
- links to relevant datasets, tools and resources that can be used to support national monitoring;
- using the System for Environmental Economic Accounting for GBF and policy scenarios-specific guidance on GBF indicators, including an e-learning module and webinars;
- producing an initial costing of monitoring systems, and the sequencing of support to meet capacity needs.

Webinars on the use of the guidance materials to assess and plan national monitoring systems are being made available in English, French, and Spanish, and recordings are uploaded to the project’s YouTube channel and linked to the [project’s page on NBSAP Forum](#).<sup>5</sup> Guidance materials will be enhanced with case studies. The resources build on existing resources and expertise including those available via the [Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](#)<sup>6</sup> and other relevant networks and initiatives..

### 2. Tools and resources

The resources provided through Component 2 of the project will include a range of relevant tools, networks and initiatives. This includes online tools and resources, such as the [DaRT](#),<sup>7</sup> resources prepared by the [Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](#),<sup>8</sup> and the [UN Biodiversity Lab](#) (UNBL).<sup>9</sup> For example, UNBL is a spatial data platform that provides access to global spatial data and analytics for insight and impact to support national stakeholders to deliver on the GBF and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The use of spatial data can be transformative in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss, and development challenges -- enabling countries to make data-driven decisions and more accurately monitor progress towards their goals. Many countries request support to access high-quality spatial data and to meaningfully incorporate it into national planning, implementation, and monitoring. The

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/gef-early-action-support-project/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bipindicators.net/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://dart.informea.org/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bipindicators.net/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/en/>

UNBL is created to meet this need. Countries can upload national data into private workspaces for analysis alongside global data for insight, priority-setting, and implementation. Several data collections and national dossiers are also available on protected areas, restoration, GBF targets and indicators, forest integrity and more. Through this platform, virtual, tailored one-one-one technical support is available upon request to consider how to use spatial data to develop monitoring framework assessments and action plans.

#### **4. Monitoring technical support and online learning series**

An online learning series in English, French, and Spanish is being made available to take early action on monitoring systems and transparency frameworks. Countries can participate in several opportunities:

- *Webinar series:* Virtual interactive series of live, synchronous video conferences facilitated by subject experts, which are also recorded and linked to the [project's page on NBSAP Forum](#).<sup>10</sup>
- *Micro-courses:* Virtual self-directed micro-courses that are short in length, with each module requiring an average of 30 min. to one hour of engagement, with courses comprising two to four modules.
- *NBSAP Forum:* Virtual collaborative community of practice that supports collaboration, resource sharing, peer exchanges, learning ecosystems, and networking among Parties.
- *Events:* Virtual, in-person, or hybrid events where Parties can develop and exchange knowledge through participatory activities are also periodically available.
- *One-on-one technical support:* Virtual, tailored one-one-one technical support, is available upon request.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/gef-early-action-support-project/>



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## Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project: Component 3. Policy and institutional alignment and review for coherence with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project is an effort funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to fast track readiness and early actions to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). GEF-eligible Parties are receiving a financial and technical support package that focuses on four components: NBSAP alignment, monitoring systems, policy and institutional coherence, and biodiversity finance. Project Component 3 focuses on identifying actions for policy alignment across nature-related sectors. National policy and institutional frameworks will be reviewed for coherence with the GBF.

There are two anticipated outcomes for Component 3:

1. *Policy and institutional alignment exercises trigger greater policy coherence:* A policy and institutional review is conducted to help countries assess the alignment between the GBF and national policy and institutional frameworks. This review considers synergies and trade-offs across economic, social, and environmental policy and institutions; incentives and harmful subsidies; and other environmental agreements.
2. *Policy alignment and action plans are developed and shared across sectoral agencies:* A prioritized action plan for policy coherence is developed using a whole-of-government approach, and opportunities for enhanced biodiversity mainstreaming are identified. Developing a plan to promote a nature-positive approach to sectors is encouraged. Countries may also develop spatialized mapping of nature-related policy targets.

### Component 3: Capacity Development Opportunities

Several capacity development opportunities are available to support Parties to take early action to achieve national policy and institutional alignment and coherence with the GBF. Each is designed to accelerate policy alignment and coherence on nature-related sectors. These offerings aim to build capacity across individuals and institutions and complement the [Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and Development](#).<sup>11</sup> A brief description of each opportunity is presented below.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.pdf>

## 1. Policy coherence assessment guidance

This guidance supports countries to conduct a systems analysis to assess strengths and weaknesses of national policies and institutions for the implementation of the GBF. The analysis evaluates the alignment of existing national policies, identifies gaps, and examines the functionality of existing institutional frameworks for the successful implementation of the GBF at national level. Through this assessment, countries can: a) understand synergies and discover pathways for maximizing benefits across economic, social, and environmental policy areas; b) identify trade-offs and reconcile domestic policy objectives with other multilateral environmental agreements; and c) address perverse incentives and harmful subsidies for GBF's objectives achievement. In addition, the guidance supports countries to develop GBF-aligned action plans for policy coherence to develop pathways that foster synergies and plans to promote a nature-positive approach to sectors. Information will also be provided on how to use geospatial analyses to support the policy coherence action plan. Additionally, case studies will showcase use cases in policy and institutional alignment and review for coherence with the GBF.

## 2. Action plans for policy coherence tools

This package of tools can help countries to develop a GBF-aligned action plan for policy coherence and enhanced biodiversity mainstreaming across nature-related sectors:

- [Data Reporting Tool for MEAs \(DaRT\)](#):<sup>12</sup> provides private and secure national workspaces for Parties to effectively use synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions.
- [UN Biodiversity Lab \(UNBL\)](#):<sup>13</sup> a spatial data platform that provides access to global spatial data and analytics for insight and impact to support national stakeholders to deliver on the GBF and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- [Essential Life Support Area maps \(ELSA\)](#):<sup>14</sup> an integrated spatial planning approach developed by UNDP that enables countries to create 'Maps of Hope' for better decision-making around nature, climate, and sustainable development.
- [Policy coherence tool](#): in development at UNDP, this tool will assess coherence between national policies and the GBF goals and targets and other MEAs. Using Natural Language Processing, the tool can identify gaps in coherence and opportunities for enhanced coherence across national policies with the GBF. Reports can also provide summary recommendations for strengthening coherence.

## 3. Policy and institutional alignment technical support and online learning series

An online learning series in English, French, and Spanish is also being made available to develop national capacity to assess which inter-institutional processes and policies are in alignment with, and effectively designed to deliver on, the GBF and other environmental agreements. Countries can participate in several opportunities:

- *Webinar series*: Virtual interactive series of live, synchronous video conferences facilitated by subject experts, which are recorded and linked on the [project's page on NBSAP Forum](#).<sup>15</sup>
- *Massive open online courses*: Virtual facilitated courses in an online course room, taught by subject matter experts that release new content weekly over 3 to 6 weeks. Each week requires an average of two to five hours of engagement.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://dart.informea.org/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/en/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/en/maps-of-hope/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/gef-early-action-support-project/>

- *Micro-courses*: Virtual self-directed micro-courses that are short in length, with each module requiring an average of 30 min. to one hour of engagement, with courses comprising two to four modules.
- *NBSAP Forum*: Virtual collaborative community of practice that supports collaboration, resource sharing, peer exchanges, learning ecosystems, and networking among Parties.
- *Events*: Virtual, in-person, or hybrid events where Parties can develop and exchange knowledge through participatory activities are also periodically available.
- *One-on-one technical support*: Virtual, tailored one-one-one technical support, is available upon request





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## Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project: Component 4. Biodiversity finance activities

Biodiversity is central to our health, society, and to our economies, from local fisheries to global finance, and yet is today on the brink of collapse. The businesses that we finance, invest in, and ensure depend on nature and biodiversity. The world's ocean, forests, and lands provide much of the raw materials, goods, and services which underpin the global economy. The ambitious targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) aim to create a system where businesses, the finance sector, and governments align financial flows to achieve a nature-positive future. Countries can develop a national biodiversity finance plan to guide how these varying financial pathways can close the funding gap. This helps to create systemic change that addresses the drivers of biodiversity loss, improves effectiveness, and increases the resources available for achieving the GBF. This action can be taken in tandem with a revision of a country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAPs).

The Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project is an effort funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to fast track readiness and early actions to implement the CBD and the GBF in this decade. GEF-eligible Parties are receiving a financial and technical support package that focuses on four components to support early action on the GBF: NBSAP alignment, monitoring systems, policy and institutional coherence, and biodiversity finance. Project Component 4 focuses on defining biodiversity finance gaps and identifying opportunities for resource mobilization. Each country will undertake a step-by-step process to develop a biodiversity finance plan based on national capacity and experience.

There are three anticipated outcomes for Component 4:

1. **Assessments on national biodiversity finance:** A biodiversity expenditure review is conducted, which assesses spending related to biodiversity across all sectors (e.g., energy, transport, infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, extractive industries). Costing projections of new and updated GBF activities are generated, and national financing gaps are calculated. Based on these assessments,
2. **Subsidy repurposing plans are developed:** Biodiversity-harmful subsidies are reviewed. Existing finance mechanisms are also analyzed, including why they are not working, and key constraints and obstacles.
3. **Domestic resource mobilization plans are developed:** based on national assessments and costing estimations

### Component 4: Capacity Development Opportunities

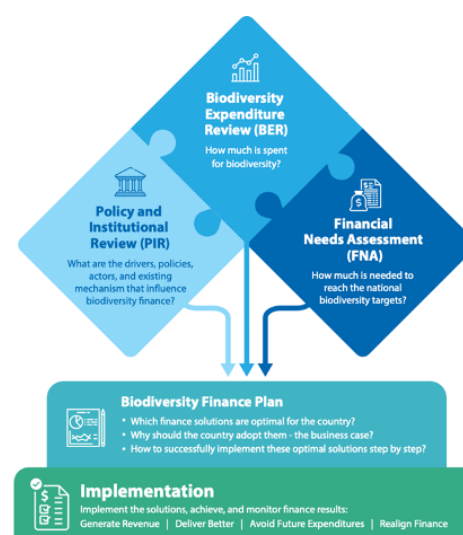
Several capacity development opportunities are available to support Parties to take early action on biodiversity finance. They are designed to improve understanding of how to define biodiversity finance gaps and identify opportunities for resource mobilization. These offerings aim to build capacity across individuals and institutions and complement the CBD’s [Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and Development](#). A brief description of each opportunity is presented below.

## 1. The UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)

This methodology supports countries to understand the national biodiversity finance ecosystem in order to develop context-driven finance plans. A corresponding UNDP global programme called the *Biodiversity Finance Initiative* has worked with 41 CBD Parties to develop, pilot, and continuously improve the methodology. BIOFIN’s Finance Plans include sound baseline measurements, an understanding of the existing national landscape of financing mechanisms, and include the drivers of biodiversity loss and gain. They aim at improving existing finance mechanisms as well as implementing innovative ones. Finance solutions implementation will in turn generate new revenues and will realign and improve the efficiency of existing finance flow for nature conservation. BIOFIN has undertaken a global mapping of all potential financing solutions a country could pursue, resulting in the [BIOFIN Catalog of Biodiversity Finance Solutions](#).<sup>16</sup> It includes over 150 possible financing mechanisms observed around the world. This represents a menu of options for all countries to explore to design their Finance Plans.

### Step-by-step approach:

The design of Biodiversity Finance Plans is based on a step-by-step approach, with each step providing the necessary recommendations and information to develop evidence-based and context-driven Finance Plans. These steps include: 1) carrying a policy and institutional review on the biodiversity finance-related legislation, policies, and institutional framework; 2) measuring existing biodiversity expenditure levels; 3) analyzing the harmful subsidies to biodiversity and identifying entry points to repurpose them; 4) assessing biodiversity finance needs; and finally 5) developing a Biodiversity Finance Plan (see figure). Stakeholder engagement is needed throughout the entire process and consultation workshops should be organized at each step to ensure ownership from the stakeholders and future institutionalization of the Finance Plan.



### 4.0 Biodiversity Finance Policy and Institutional Review (PIR):

The PIR explores how finance and economics can be used to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss. It is used to further clarify relevant stakeholders and their specific mandates, institutional arrangements, and capacity related to the NBSAP and biodiversity finance. This first step includes identifying the existing national vision and key trends for biodiversity and sustainable development financing, as well as mapping sectoral interactions with biodiversity and ecosystem services. The process enables countries to analyze current policies and institutions. Existing finance mechanisms associated with biodiversity and ecosystem services are also mapped to evaluate their impact and effectiveness, and to understand key entry points and opportunities for effecting change. Policy recommendations, entry points to improve existing finance mechanisms, and possible reforms of harmful subsidies are incorporated in the PIR. *Estimated cost: USD 55,000 - 65,000*

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.biofin.org/finance-solutions>

**4.1 Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER):** The BER helps countries to establish a firm baseline of historic and current biodiversity expenditure levels and future projections in comparison to the underlying institutional and policy vision and framework. The expenditure review is conducted with the public, private, and civil society institutions identified during the PIR. For each relevant biodiversity finance actor, budget, allocation, and expenditure data are collected for the past 5-7 years. For each budget or expenditure, the percentage that can be attributed to biodiversity and the target area of the expenditure is determined. The analysis also explores the relationship of biodiversity expenditures to overall government budgets, stated policy objectives, gross domestic product and jobs, and NBSAP strategies and biodiversity related categories, among other topics. Historic trends are analyzed and projections can be made about future financing under a business-as-usual scenario. The final report provides specific recommendations on: 1) key sources of financing, 2) possible re-alignment of expenditures; 3) allocation or absorption issues; 4) and other insights generated from the review. *Estimated Cost: US\$55,000-65,000*

**4.2 Financial Needs Assessment (FNA):** The FNA is a detailed realistic costing of key biodiversity policies and plans, and generally focuses on the NBSAP. It involves an estimation of the financial needs and a prioritization of actions for biodiversity management across all sectors of government and NGOs, and can include private sector investments. To develop a projected financing gap, existing financing for specific actions are compared to estimated needs. The methodology includes reviewing and refining the actions defined in the NBSAP and other major policies that require costing. For each of these costable actions, specific budget elements are calculated based on existing government budget categories and units. Recommendations include the prioritization of biodiversity finance needs and the identification of gaps. *Estimated cost: US\$55,000-65,000*

**4.3 Assessing harmful subsidies to biodiversity:** The CBD global target to examine biodiversity harmful subsidies remains among the most underachieved. Increasing evidence demonstrates that well-intended subsidies and government support often have unintended negative, but costly effects on the environment and biodiversity, which in turn negatively affects societies and economies at the local and national level. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates around US\$ 540 billion in support to agricultural production in 54 countries is considered potentially harmful to the environment, resulting in habitat destruction by converting primary forest area, land degradation, and nutrient pollution. A mapping and screening of subsidies and incentives can help countries to determine where they have a negative impact on biodiversity. Once the subsidies are mapped, a plan to repurpose or green some of the identified harmful subsidies is designed. BIOFIN has developed guidelines for countries to develop such a screening and identify entry points to repurpose subsidies. *Estimated cost: US\$45,000-55,000*

**4.4 Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP):** The BFP is a national strategy and plan for financing biodiversity and addresses all possible dimensions of finance, including resource mobilization, improving impact delivery, avoiding future expenditures, and re-aligning expenditures towards biodiversity goals. Using the recommendations from the PIR, the BER, the FNA, and the harmful subsidies assessment, the national experts will review a wide range of possible finance solutions, and screen them using specific predetermined criteria. For a selected number of the most promising financing mechanisms, a more detailed feasibility study is carried out. The BFP is the culmination of the process and is institutionalized within the government to ensure its implementation. For this reason, stakeholders need to be engaged through the entire process using consultation workshops. *Estimated cost: US\$55,000-65,000*

### Recommended BIOFIN pathways

For countries that are new to biodiversity finance work, every step is relevant to the next one. Countries should therefore follow the step-by-step approach that is presented above. This project is focused on catalyzing early action. Therefore it is expected that countries that are new to this biodiversity finance methodology will only be able to

complete one to two steps in the BIOFIN process during the project lifecycle. It is recommended that the assessment on harmful subsidies as well as existing finance mechanisms is conducted as this assessment will be relevant to complete the Policy and Institutional Review under the Umbrella Program for National Biodiversity Finance Plans.

*For countries that have completed the BIOFIN methodology:* Current or past BIOFIN countries can take early action to update any of the steps of the BIOFIN methodology that need alignment with the GBF. Analysis developed under other parts of the GBF-EAS Project should inform these updates. These countries could also consider other key steps to advance work on implementing their BFP, such as conducting feasibility analyses of finance mechanisms, and/or early implementation of specific finance solutions.

An online learning series in English, French, and Spanish are being made available to develop biodiversity finance capacity. Countries can participate in several opportunities:

- *Webinar series:* Virtual interactive series of live, synchronous video conferences facilitated by subject experts, which are also recorded and linked to the [project's page on NBSAP Forum](#).<sup>17</sup>
- *Massive open online courses (MOOC):* Virtual moderated learning series on BER, FNA, and BFP that include open-source content that is released weekly within a time-bound period. They feature mandatory and optional learning components, with an average independent and asynchronous weekly learning commitment between 2-5 hours per week, for 3-6 weeks on average. These courses include access to leading subject experts and the opportunity to learn with and alongside peers, promoting networking and peer-to-peer exchange.
- *NBSAP Forum:* Virtual collaborative community of practice that supports collaboration, resource sharing, peer exchanges, learning ecosystems, and networking among Parties.
- *Events:* Virtual, in-person, or hybrid events where Parties can develop and exchange knowledge through participatory activities are also available.
- *One-on-one technical support:* Virtual, tailored one-one-one technical support, is available upon request.

## 2. UNEP Finance Initiative

The UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) works with members and partners to embed sustainable decision-making into mainstream finance. It provides technical research and guidance; works with the financial community on cutting-edge innovations and frameworks; and develops industry-wide tools linking science, policy, economics, and finance.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/gef-early-action-support-project/>

The initiative helps bring nature to the heart of financial decision-making; and helps banks, insurers, and investors identify and address their impact on the natural world.

This initiative is making several capacity development opportunities available:

### Nature Risk & Financial Disclosure

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) supports market transparency, delivering a risk management and disclosure framework for organizations to report and act on nature-related risks. An online risk tool - ENCORE - will also support countries to explore natural capital opportunities, risks, and exposures. The tool helps to visualize how a portfolio depends and impacts on nature, and how environmental change can create risks for the businesses financed. It includes a biodiversity module focused on mining and agriculture sectors.

### Biodiversity target setting

The Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) Biodiversity Community is designed to take learners from theory to practice in a few short months. Learn more by logging into the [PRB Members Area](#).<sup>18</sup> Guidance is also available on how to set and achieve robust biodiversity targets across lending, investment, and underwriting activities. A webinar series will also discuss the challenges and opportunities for finance and nature.

For more information on the PRB Community, please scan the following code:



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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.unepfi.org/banking/bankingprinciples/>.



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## Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project: Capacity development offering

Time is running out for the global community to create the transformative change needed to address our planetary crisis. The implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is of vital importance to our response. To catalyze transformative action in this decade, governments from national to subnational to local levels, need specific capacities, tools, and resources. The Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (EAS) project is an effort funded by the Global Environment Facility to fast track readiness and early actions to implement the CBD in this decade. Eligible Parties are receiving a financial and technical support package that focuses on four components: NBSAP alignment, national monitoring systems, policy and institutional coherence, and biodiversity finance. This brief explains the capacity development offerings available to CBD Parties through this project,<sup>19</sup> which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are jointly implementing in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat.

### Capacity development levels

This project aims to develop capacity at three interconnected levels:

- Individual level – Supporting ministry staff who need capacity to effectively implement the GBF at the national level to develop desired technical awareness, knowledge, skills expertise, and experiences
- Organizational level – Supporting institutional level capacity to operate effectively and achieve their GBF-related commitments, with a focus on internal structures, processes and procedures, leadership, and management systems
- Enabling environment level – Supporting the broad system and conditions needed for organizations and individuals to function in pursuit of their goals, such as policies, laws, agreements, conventions, protocol, social norms, political will, and resource availability

### The NBSAP Forum

The project's capacity development opportunities are organized around [the NBSAP Forum](http://nbsapforum.net).<sup>20</sup> This online community of practice aims to support countries in implementing the CBD and its policy and reporting mechanisms. CBD Parties can use the Forum to find the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs and National

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<sup>19</sup>Elements of the program are aligned with the CBD's [Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and Development](#) and related consultations with governments and organizations. They are also reflective of the World Conservation Monitoring Center's 2021 report *Biodiversity-related capacity building: Informing the preparation of a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020*.

<sup>20</sup> <http://nbsapforum.net>

Reports. There is also a [dedicated page](#)<sup>21</sup> on the forum for the GBF-EAS project where Parties can find materials and trainings to support project outcomes. Members speak 122 unique languages and access the Forum from 196 countries. This platform is powered by [Learning for Nature](#),<sup>22</sup> which also hosts the project's online learning and training content. It includes several functions:

- An online forum to connect policymakers and practitioners around the GBF targets
- A web-based e-learning platform that provides free opportunities to develop stakeholder's professional capacity in multiple languages
- A resource library with timely information regarding the CBD and its targets
- A technical help desk in English, French, and Spanish, that is staffed by UNDP, UNEP, and SCBD, and their partners.

### Capacity development offerings

- **Peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange:** Virtual collaborative communities of practice that support collaboration, learning, exchanges, and networking among Parties.
- **Self-paced online courses:** Virtual self-directed technical courses organized into a series of learning modules with no defined start and stop dates. Courses generally comprise 3 to 6 modules, and have an average estimated time commitment of 2 to 5 hours per module.
- **Massive open online courses:** Virtual facilitated courses in an online course room, taught by subject matter experts that release new content weekly over 3 to 6 weeks. Each week requires an average of two to five hours of engagement.
- **Webinar Series:** Virtual interactive series of live, synchronous video conferences facilitated by subject experts, which are also recorded and linked on the [project's page on NBSAP Forum](#).<sup>23</sup>
- **Guidance and toolkits:** Resources such as tools, templates, checklists, explainers, and ready-made analyses.
- **Workshops and trainings:** Virtual, in-person, or hybrid events where Parties can develop and exchange knowledge through participatory activities.
- **Targeted Technical Support:** 1-on-1, on-demand technical support provided by subject matter experts in multiple languages

### Learning for Nature

[Learning for Nature](#), launched in 2018, is the host of the virtual capacity development content for this project. This premiere UNDP e-learning platform connects over 70,000 biodiversity policymakers, change-makers, and on-the-ground subject matter experts to promote best practices in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The platform offers free, open-source training content in response to the global need for equal access to information. As of today, Learning for Nature hosts learners from 194 countries, over 150 e-learning opportunities, and content available in English, French, Spanish, and Russian. The website is moderated daily, with high-quality content systematically curated and supports a wide range of partners on the delivery of courses (the full list is available [here](#)<sup>24</sup>), notably with the CBD Secretariat. You can learn more about Learning for Nature [here](#).<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/gef-early-action-support-project/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/gef-early-action-support-project/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/about-us/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bwxcZWdmXnbszQ2xUUDVM-RbklvVJEay/view>

