

Q&A document

GBF-EAS Webinar 8 – Guidance for the Early Action Support Project: Overview of available technical support and opportunities for feedback

EN Session 1

1. Comments around the timing of the EAS project considering how long it has taken for the GBF even to be negotiated that this doesn't leave as much time for this project.

Tanya: In terms of the next steps of job support, this project shouldn't be seen in isolation. It's an important process to begin and to have underway and to lead to the further steps which will be the revision of NBSAPs. While there is some time pressure for this, it's also coming from the commitments that were set for COP16 which are to have at least the national targets aligned with the GBF. So, if the NBSAP cannot be revised by then, there is an acceptance of that that may take more time but I think in that respect, there will be elements of this project that may need to continue beyond that time.

2. Do you have guidelines and tools in Russian?

Tanya: We do have some in Russian, and this latest product from BIOFIN will be available in Russian. The majority of the tools have been translated into French and Spanish or otherwise in English, but they are not all available in Russian. If you can get back to us with the specific guidelines you are looking for and we can see if not available, if there's any other option, we can find on that.

3. Comments about difficulties in developing indicators because they were not identified in the previous NBSAP.

Philip: If you don't have any indicators identified yet, you could use it as an opportunity to see what indicators you already do have around the subject biodiversity in your country. Most countries have information on protected areas, perhaps on their threatened species, coverage of forests or few ecosystems, often some basic data. Many countries may be looking to develop some new indicators, perhaps from new targets and subjects that they are including in their NBSAP. In the guidance materials we produce, we offer the offer some suggested steps for doing this, starting with looking at the monitoring framework, biodiversity framework and its headline indicators, which all countries are requested to use as they can, and then the components of complementary indicators to support that. Then, as suggested, looking target by target, how would you measure that? Are there existing indicators available? Would you want to develop new indicators? And the national monitoring system plan is a plan of how you would fill these gaps. So, it's partly what indicators you already have and you want to continue to use, but also identifying needs and how you will fill those needs. That has also been in component 4 on costing that work, so developing your capacity to have indicators that have an organized monitoring system. If you can cost that that can link into the financing plan.

Natasha: The political process adopted to finalize the indicators will provide final versions of the metadata for the headline indicators for the CBD SBSTTA26 meeting which is in May of this year, so not too long away at this point.

4. How do we get funds for indicators and monitoring?

Pierre: When we do a biodiversity finance plan with the BIOFIN methodology, we do the costing of activities. If a country is developing a monitoring and evaluation plan, a detailed one, with a BIOFIN methodology, it will be able also to cost the need to implement this monitoring and evaluation framework and, after that, design the finance solutions to mobilize the funding needed to implement monitoring and evaluation. BIOFIN doesn't have funding right now, but it's a process

for countries to integrate this monitoring and evaluation process in their NBSAP, and to make sure after we have funding available and resources available to implement this M&E framework. It's all part of the BIOFIN methodology to provide the cost and the solutions for that. We don't have one solution because we have 160 finance solutions available, and it's up to the country to prioritize and identify which is the best finance solution for the international context to mobilize resources for activities, which you can integrate this M&E framework as well.

EN Session 2

1. One question related to BIOFIN's work is around the responsibility for implementing activities to design the biodiversity finance plan at the national level. Can you talk a little bit about who will be responsible for implementing those activities?

Eva: It is going to be implemented by the UNDP and the UNDP CO, where they recruit a national team with national expertise to implement the BIOFIN methodologies (i.e., a project lead, an environmental policy expert, a program assistant, etc.). And all the national experts will also be supported by a national steering committee. That will include a high-level representation with the Minister of Finance and technical committee. And there will be also of course, opportunities for technical support and each country will have their regional technical advisor to advise on implementation and development of the BFP. This is something that is planned for every single country that will be part of the project.

2. Are there any experience with collaborating with IFIs, specifically the Inter-American Development Bank, and that in the sense of policies towards financial institutions, but also looking at monitoring systems? Any practical experience, country experience that could be shared, specifically for the Inter-American Development Bank?

Eva: We are engaging more with financial institutions like businesses; when we say financial institutions, they can also be regulators, as well as DFIs and IFIs. We're really working broadening our work, such as producing guidance for countries that are starting to engage in the National Readiness financial disclosure studies. We are not aware of any specific case study with the IDB. However, BIOFIN is looking to expand the relationships with the financial sector at all levels, including DFIs and IFIs. In some countries, this is developed with the implementation of a finance mainstreaming working group. Some countries decided to put together these groups as one of the examples bringing together the financial regulators and all the relevant financial actors, like the national development banks. We're bringing those regulators into the same table to speak about the opportunities to announce screen and biodiversity finance in the region and in partnerships. We are also coordinating with the IFI team of UNDP to kind of explore what could be the additional linkages. There's a lot of work to do on that topic.

3. How ambitious should a national monitoring system be?

Philip: It's for each country to decide. You could take the opportunity of the revision of your NBSAP for alignment with the GBF to be more ambitious than you may have been already. Because the new plan has a much greater emphasis on monitoring and reporting to be able to measure progress, and you may not yet have the capacity to produce indicators for your national targets. But if you could include in your monitoring action plan indicators that you would like to have, or at least the subject areas for which you would like to have indicators, and to develop them over the next two or three years, and include in that plan what it would cost to have those indicators there, and having a biodiversity finance plan, it would mean to have a monitoring system that you need. We suggested to look up target by target by global target and also by your national targets for each target, what indicators and capacity we need to have for them, and to bring that together as a costed monitoring plan. And if you don't have the resources now, but you identify a need for

them, and you can make a case for having more investment in the monitoring system, then that may permit to be a bit more ambitious than you have been in the past.

4. How do you secure funds for indicators and monitoring?

Philip: One of the things that we recommend is that each indicator has a champion within your country - some agency is responsible for leading the production of that indicator. There may be different ways of financing that within existing processes within government or academic bodies. In some cases, that indicators can be produced using local datasets that are available, and increasingly there'll be information available, including such as through the UN Biodiversity Lab, which could help reduce the costs as well as having indicators. You can also look at how indicators are funded by other sectors: in aquaculture, or fisheries, or tourism, and maybe you can use those. If you can make sure indicators are actually used, you can demonstrate that you have used this indicator result, perhaps not only in your national reports of CBD but in your national decision making, that they're meeting your real needs, then it's easier to make a justification for the investment in funding those indicators because you can show that they're useful.

SP Session

1. Is it mandatory to work on component 3 from now on?

Lea: Each country chooses the component it wants to work on. Component 1 is mandatory, but this is not the case for component 3.

Georgina: Component 1 is the main component of the project and a lot of the efforts are focused on this component, also because the alignment of national targets is also necessary for alignment and policy coherence activities. This does not mean that they cannot work in parallel, but it does depend a lot on the national context, where they are in terms of target alignment and whether the country wants to focus on policy coherence. At this stage of the project, if the country is interested in moving forward with component 3, then it would be necessary to move forward with both components in parallel, but it is not a mandatory component, so the country can choose to focus on component 1.

2. One of the issues that we did not understand very well as a country was the fact that we had to work effectively on all the components. Because in any case, in the process of working on component 1, we are finding things that are effectively related to the issue of national policies and regulations that must also be aligned with the new global framework. So I am grateful for these clarifications and these tools that you are presenting to us.

Georgina: Soon, countries will also have access to funds and technical support from the GEF 8 program to continue with the alignment of the strategy and to elaborate the seventh national report. Then they can move forward in parallel with component 1 and component 3. As it was also mentioned, component 3 feeds a lot from component 1, but it is important to remember what colleagues from BIOFIN say that more funds are coming to be able to continue with this alignment and coherence between policies. The country can choose to work on component 2, 3, or 4 according to national priorities. The only one that is really required is component 1.

3. What do you mean by the new NBSAP project?

Mariana: A third project was approved to support enabling activities in the update project. In order to start supporting the countries in preparing the ground for the updating of the biodiversity strategy, a new project has been approved where they have more resources to continue updating and aligning the biodiversity strategy. It is a project that seeks to continue strengthening the work that you are already doing for the update through your offices to continue aligning the strategy.

Georgina: It is specifically to continue, for example, the work under component 1, 2 and 3 of this EAs project and some countries will also be receiving funds specifically to continue with the biodiversity financing plans, but they are two different initiatives.

FR Session

1. Should the revised NBSAP of a country consider the termination date of the previous NBSAP or the inception of the updated NBSAP?

Marion: Both options are acceptable. There are many cases where countries had their NBSAPs ending in 2020 with the idea that there would be a new Framework in 2020 and that the new national strategies would reflect that. However, the Framework was adopted a little later, so countries are given the choice of determining the exact dates of their NBSAPs. However, the content of the revised NBSAP should reflect all the activities that have been carried out since the end of the last NBSAP. All these activities are important and should also be reflected in the next national report in 2026.

2. Does a country need to have exactly 23 national targets?

Marion: The CBD does not require that there be exactly 23 targets in NBSAPs. Rather, it emphasizes that each national target should encompass the themes outlined in the global targets. For example, if a country's national target integrates global targets 1 and 3, it meets the requirements. Even if a country opts for a different number of targets, it must ensure that all themes encompassed by the 23 global targets are addressed within its NBSAP.