Briefing on:
UNEP’s work on addressing subsidies harmful to biodiversity

29 January 2026

ALIGNING PUBLIC FINANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

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UNEP promotes a systemic transformation, calling for EHS reform as part of a broader shift in economy and finance systems to achieve sustainability, nature objectives and low-carbon development pathways.



Tracking and assessing national budget impact on sustainability



Improving efficiency of public finance while shifting behaviors towards more sustainable patterns



Unlocking private investment through fiscal policy change

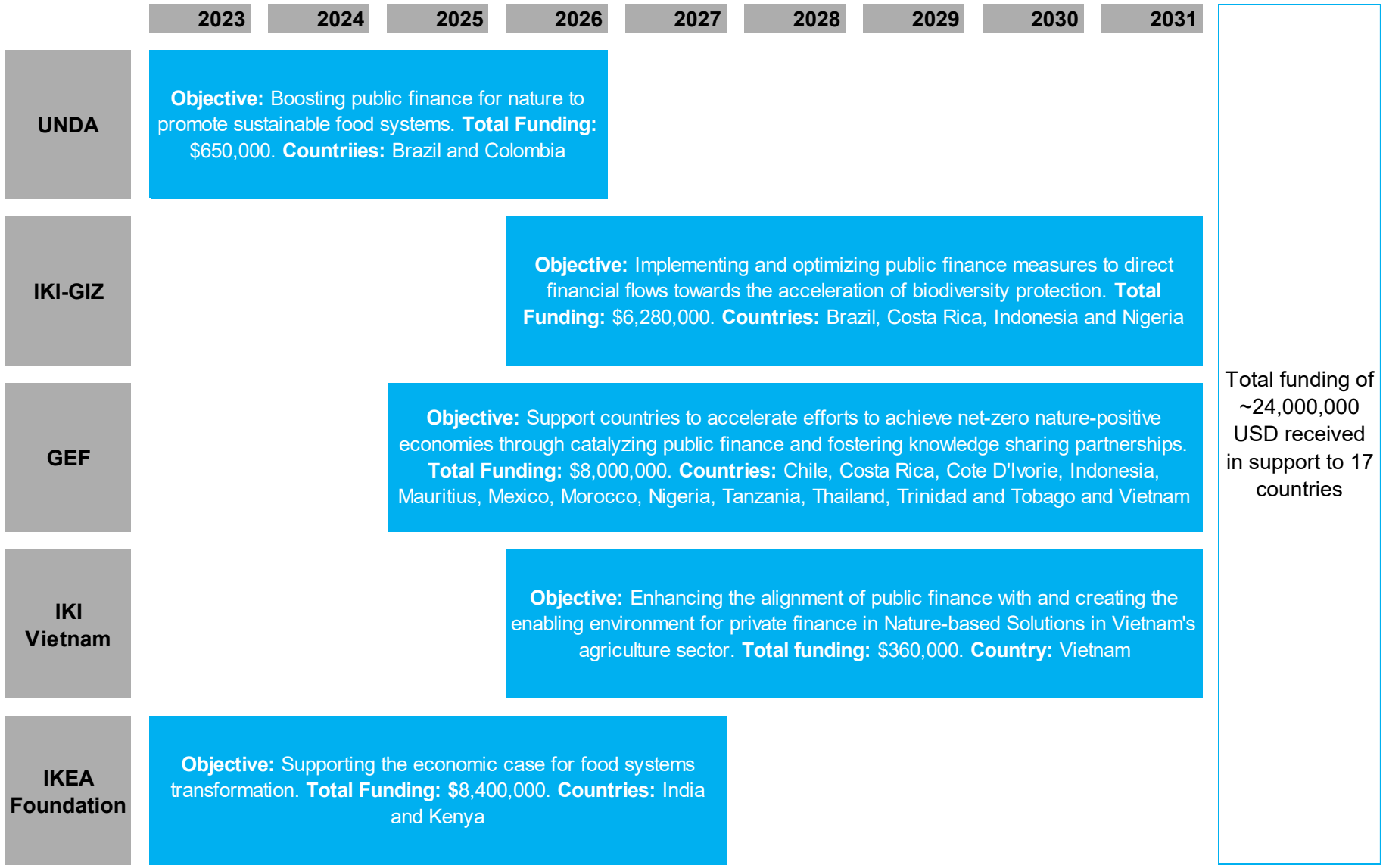
INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE

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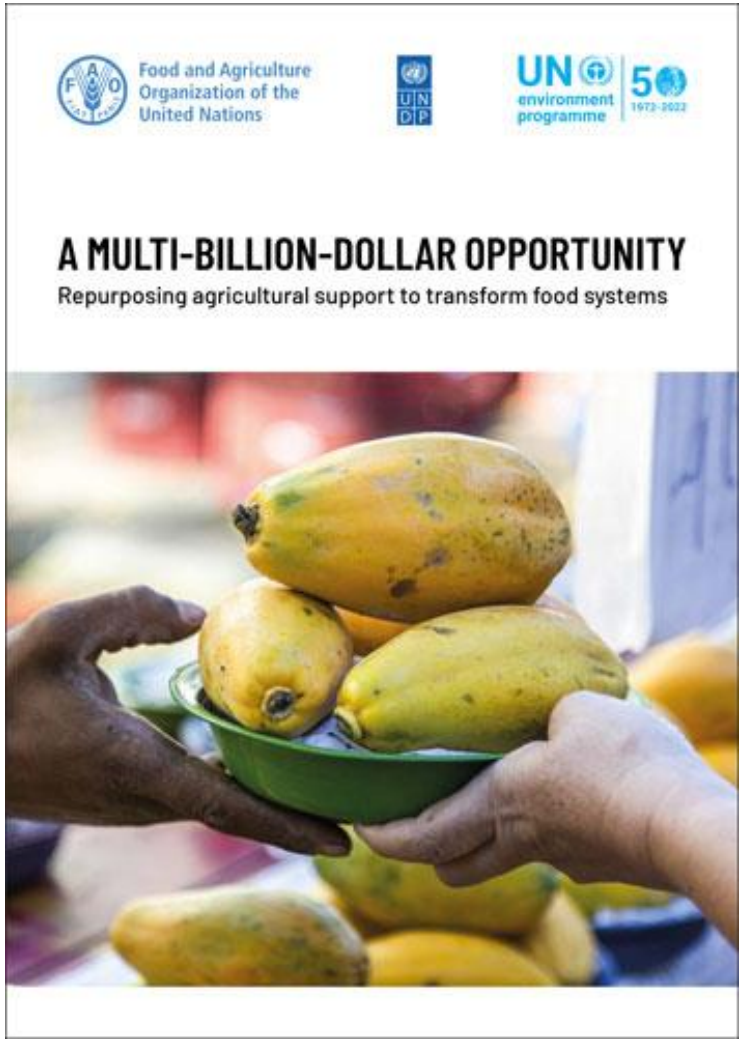
EHS Reform Efforts

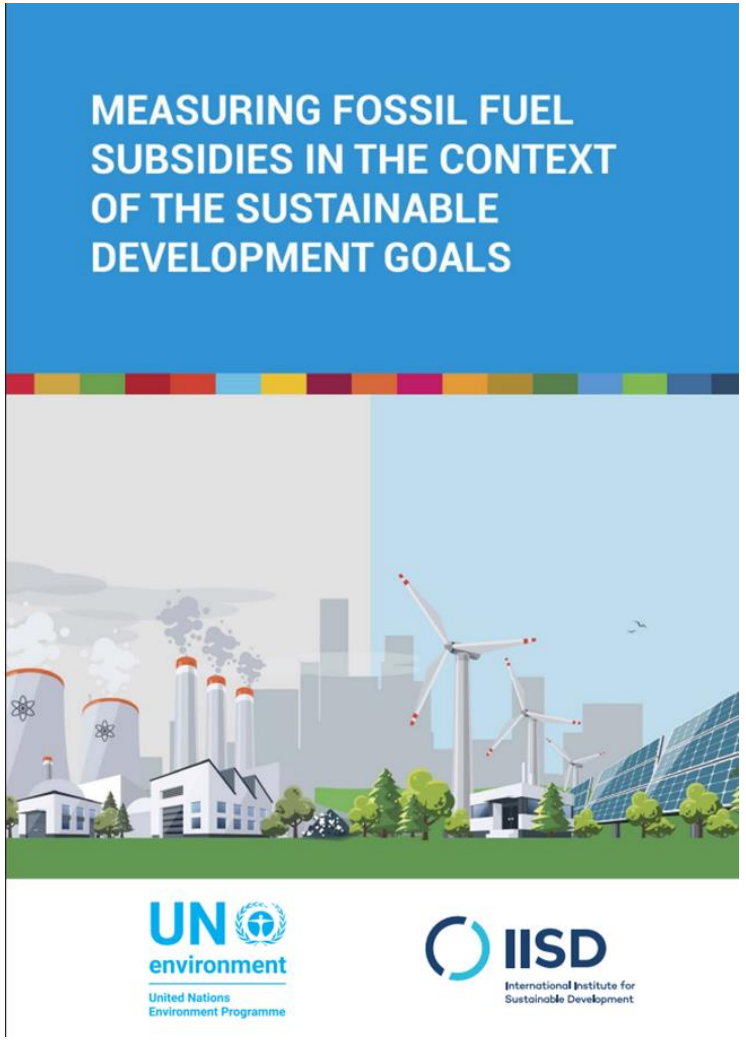
- Science-Based Information: Use of scientific data to inform policy decisions, publishing reports and collaborating with bodies like the OECD and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to **define, measure, and analyze** the extent and impact of EHS across various sectors.
- International Dialogue and Collaboration: Engagement in multilateral efforts for subsidies reform like workshops and high-level events with partners to foster dialogue among member states and other stakeholders on **repurposing** EHS.
- Technical Assistance to Governments: Assist governments in developing national strategies and policy reforms to repurpose EHS and transition to sustainable alternatives, integrating environmental sustainability into national development and investment planning.

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

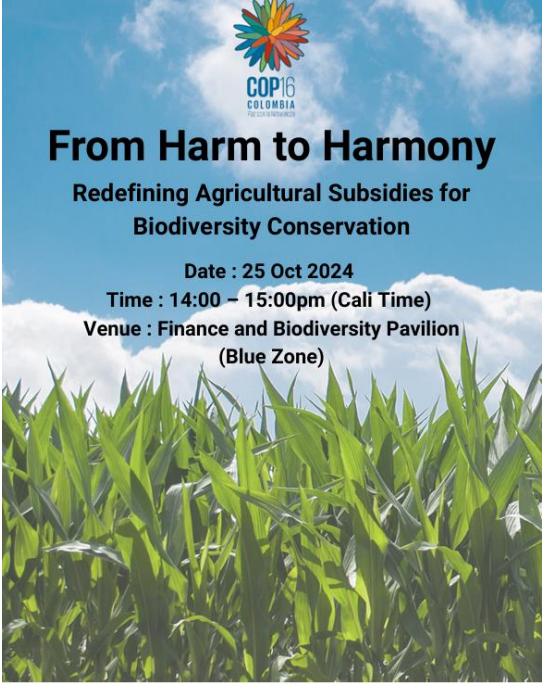


WORKING THROUGH GLOBAL RECOMMENDATIONS





- UNEP is **focused on implementation** of converging agreements in international conventions like GBF Target 18 or SDG 12C on reforming EHS.
- Recently concluded Global Campaign on Agri Subsidies in cooperation with PAGE, UNDP and GIZ, supported the momentum towards a global consensus on repurposing agricultural subsidies.



PAGE UN environment programme UNDP FAIRR A COLLER INITIATIVE GREEN FISCAL POLICY NETWORK

PAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION ON GREEN ECONOMY GREEN FISCAL POLICY NETWORK

REPURPOSING AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES

Our common imperative for fiscal resilience and a nature-positive economy



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Event Name	Partners	Outcome
CBD COP16 Panel: "From Harm to Harmony: Redesigning Agriculture Subsidies for Biodiversity Conservation"	Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, PAGE, UNDP, BIOFIN, FAIRR, JRT	Positioned subsidy reform as a strategic COP issue; reframed subsidy reform as budget reallocation for inclusive, resilient food systems.
WTO : "Aligning public finance for climate and nature goals"	WTO Cairns Group of 20 nations, WTO TESS	Integrated environmental subsidy reform into trade agenda; advanced dialogue on aligning trade policy with sustainable development.
PAGE DCO Global Dialogue Series: "Financing Sustainable Food Systems for SDG Acceleration"	PAGE, Oxford-UNEP, UNDP, BIOFIN, FAO, RCO Economists Network	Equipped UN/national economists with tools for fiscal reform; promoted sustainable budgeting and green fiscal instruments.
Just Rural Transition Subgroup Meeting: "Repurposing Public Support to Food Systems"	Just Rural Transition – Coalition of International Civil Society on Just Transition for agriculture policies	Supported dialogue and coordination on subsidy reform within non-UN organizations.

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF BUDGET ON BIODIVERSITY

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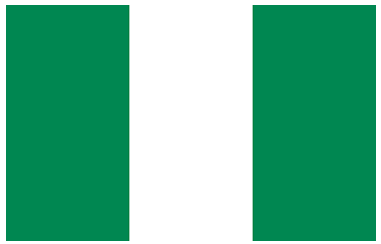
The **Sustainable Budgeting Approach** is a tool that identifies multidimensional impact of fiscal policies (e.g., on natural capital, climate, socio-economic and other goals for public welfare).

The tool aggregates nationally contexualized research on impact of subsidies so that MoFs visualise environmental harm/benefit of their budget policy from a macro vantage point.

'Fast-tracking Transformation through Sustainable Public Finance for Biodiversity

- **IKI**: Comprehensive transformation project for public finance to align with biodiversity

- **SBA** will be used to list budget policies and evaluate multidimensional impact across all government sectors leading to identification of EHS and opportunities for reform







RURAL CREDIT ALLOCATION AND ITS IMPACT ON NATURE

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Financing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Latin America and Asia







- Brazil: The project advised Resolution No. 5,193/2025, which establishes the mandatory social, environmental, and climate criteria for accessing subsidized rural credit from the Plano Safra. With 80 billion USD in total funding, this represents the largest public finance instrument in the country.
- Columbia: The project is expected to inform the policy frameworks governing the Fund for Agricultural Input Access, the Special Credit Lines, and the Credit for Sustainable Productive Transformation.
- India: Providing technical assistance in optimal design and MRV to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in India's Green Credit Programme which will support pro-nature interventions

GUIDING FINANCE AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION FOR CLIMATE AND NATURE

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net zero nature positive

gef

GEF NZNP Accelerator Integrated Programme

- Integrating solutions for both climate and nature challenges:
- Economic transformation by taking a whole of economy approach
- Fiscal policy guidance being developed for Ministries of Finance and its stakeholders to accelerate climate and nature action - will help officials identify EHS and provide guidance on the approach to repurpose public finance to eliminate harm.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

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- UNEP supports knowledge sharing and community of practice of policy makers through the Green Fiscal Policy Network (GFPN).

- UNEP also collaborates with global initiatives to mainstream its expertise, including:
  - Just Rural Transition (JRT)
  - Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA)
  - Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

- On repurposing subsidies UNEP maintains relationships with 68 strategic partners including OECD, WTO, FAO, World Bank, UNDP, and BIOFIN as part of the agricultural subsidies campaign and CPI, ODI, WCMC, NDC and NBSAP Partnerships through initiatives like the NZNP program

- UNEP works with members of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food such as the IKEA Foundation on food system transformation, including subsidy reform.

CLIMATE POLICY INITIATIVE · ODI Global · OECD · THE WORLD BANK · BIOFIN · UN environment programme WCMC · UN environment programme finance initiative · CAF BANCO DE DESARROLLO DE AMÉRICA LATINA · The Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action

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Thank You