

Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity

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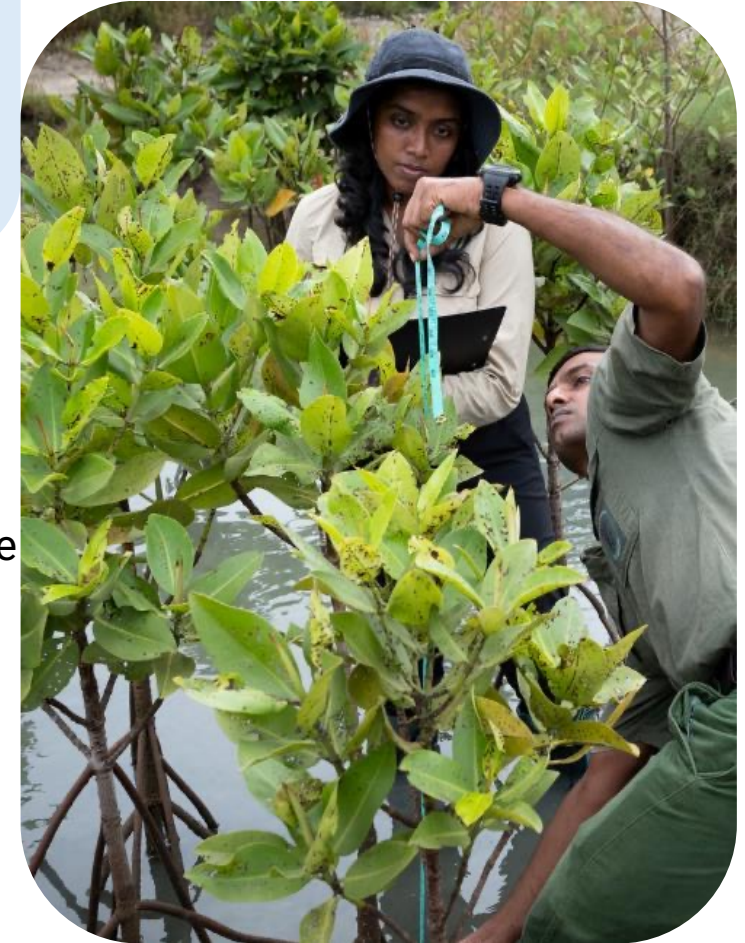
A. Background: Programme Direction

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, and land degradation and desertification are reduced.

Programme Outputs (key areas of work):

1. Decision-makers supported improving policies and planning frameworks for GBF implementation at the national and regional levels.
2. Support services provided to the UN system for catalysing action with partners for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
3. Technical support and guidance provided to enhance monitoring and reporting of national, regional and global progress in the delivery of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
4. 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.

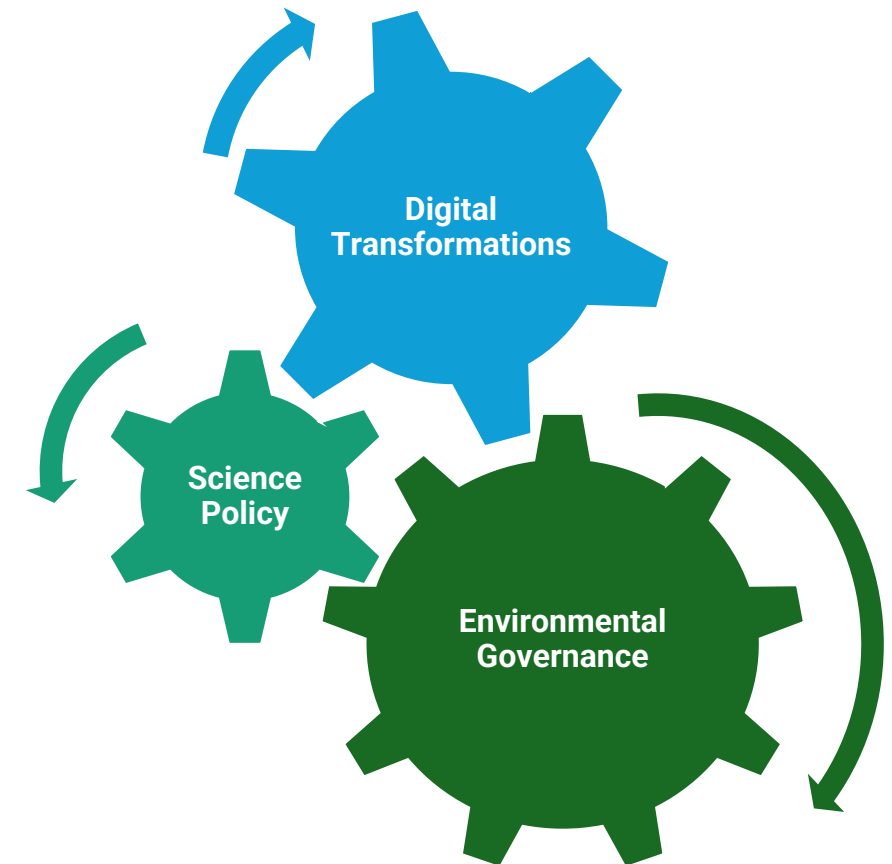


A. Background: Envisaged Impact and Strategic Coherence

Envisaged impact of programme:

Supporting countries to enhance governance, increase transparency and accountability to reduce biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification through partnerships to deliver impact at scale by working with partners at national, sub-national, regional and global levels, including across the UN system, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, RSCAPs and beyond.

Synergies with other programmes within MTS:



A. Background: Contribution to MTS and PoW



Contribution to MTS Outcomes (PoW 2025 Outcomes):

- **Outcome 2B.** Sustainable management of nature is adopted and implemented in development frameworks.
- **Outcome 2C.** Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced.

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



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Project Portfolio:

- **61 projects** under implementation (148.1 million USD budget)
- **12 projects** in the design pipeline (167.2 million USD proposed budget)

Source of funds:

- **91.7%** projects supported through GEF funds
- Others supported through the Planetary funds and others.

Geographical scope:

- Projects implemented across **141** countries.
 - **27** projects with global scope
 - **17** projects with regional scope
 - **17** single country initiatives

B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples

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Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports

GEF: \$ 36,435,000;

Scope: Global

Objective: Support countries in revising and updating their NBSAPs in order to align with KMGBF; support in preparing and submitting their 7th National Report on the implementation of CBD

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Strengthening capacities of Country Parties for UNCCD monitoring and reporting

GEF: \$ 2,000,000

Co-fin: \$ 545,000

Scope: Global

Objective: To enhance technical and institutional capacity for land degradation monitoring and reporting, land use planning, national-level coordination and cooperation

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Effective Implementation of ABS of the Nagoya Protocol; Nyambai Forest Park, Gambia

GEF: \$ 3,074,886;

Co-fin: \$ 12,898,357

Scope: National: Gambia

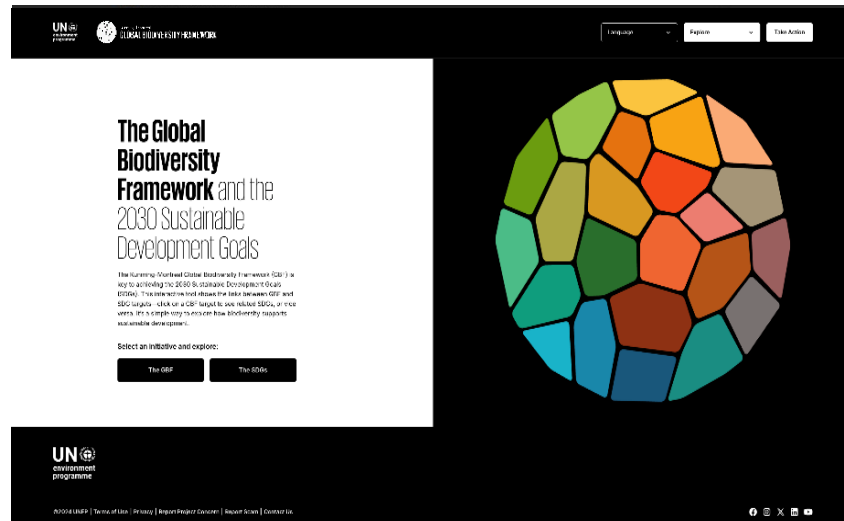
Objective: Technical support for developing ABS policy, legal, institutional frameworks; piloting and ABS-compliant management of protected areas

C. Results Achieved: Enhanced governance and coherence

Support to UN system - catalysing action for implementation of GBF

- Finalization of a monitoring and reporting framework to support data collection on the UN system's contributions to the GBF
- Facilitating increased collaboration to deliver GBF and biodiversity-related MEAs, as well as combating land degradation and desertification by the UN system
- Enhancing the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) to be aligned with the GBF for coordinated approaches

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Example

- Launched interactive tool demonstrating the links between GBF and SDG targets at CBD COP-16 [\[video introduction\]](#)
- The interactive tool shows the links between GBF and SDG targets. One can click on a GBF target to see related SDGs, and vice versa.

[Link to: Digital interactive tool](#)

C. Results Achieved: Enhanced governance and coherence



Decision-makers supported improving the policies and planning framework

- Technical support was provided for updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) to align with KMGBF and updating National Action Plans (NAPs) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets under UNCCD
- Environmental safeguards and benefit sharing legal frameworks, tools and mechanisms strengthened to address land degradation, drought and desertification.
- RSCAPs Parties' capacity enhanced for early action on the BBNJ ratification and implementation.

Examples

- Assisting over 100 countries to establish baselines and identify Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets as part of the national reporting process **(Global)**
- Assisting 70 member states and parties to CBD (including LDCs and SIDS) to update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans; **(Global)**
- NBSAP Accelerator Partnership supporting country-led initiative to accelerate ambitious NBSAPs through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach **(Global)**
- ABS task force and ABS technical committee established; National Operational Guidelines drafted; institutional capacity building underway **(National)**

C. Results Achieved: Enhanced transparency and accountability



Technical support and guidance on monitoring and reporting

- Capacity built of MEAs focal points.
- Technical assistance was provided to enhance national monitoring systems and to harmonize monitoring and reporting across biodiversity-related MEAs, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), and the Rio Conventions.

Examples

- Supporting alignment, planning and reporting across NBSAPs, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Action Plans (NAPs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) **(Global)**
- Built capacity of UNCCD Parties on addressing land degradation and desertification **(Global)**
- Under the Early Action Support project, 56 parties submitted national targets, and 5 submitted updated NBSAPs **(Global)**
- Gap assessment between the Regional Seas Indicators and the GBF indicators for the marine and coastal environment was conducted **(Global)**.

C. Results Achieved: Enhanced transparency and accountability



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Technical support to review and communicate progress

- Provided technical assistance to country parties and MEA Secretariats to communicate progress towards the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and other biodiversity-related commitments.
- UNEP supported Regional Seas in the design and implementation of their strategic action plans, policies and protocols on biodiversity-related MEAs, e.g., BBNJ.



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Examples

- Supporting 70 member states and parties to CBD in preparation of 7th National reports due in 2026 (**Global**);
- Assisting over 100 UNCCD Country Parties to prepare and submit National Reports due in 2026 (**Global**)

D. Lessons Learnt

LESSONS



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



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



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

ADAPTATIONS



Promote joint programming for co-creation and leveraging the UN-Common Approach and RSCAPs.



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



Strengthen regional governance frameworks by supporting member states, institutions and conventions to act as knowledge hubs; focus on transboundary ecosystem management and enhancing collaboration to address shared challenges.

E. Way Forward

A: Diversify sources of funding to bridge the resource gap towards governance and accountability in achieving the GBF and other biodiversity-related commitments.

B: Increase indigenous and local community participation in governance and accountability processes – e.g. in monitoring mechanisms for a more holistic understanding of biodiversity trends.

C: Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Platforms: Continue to support platforms that bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia to foster innovative partnerships and accountability in reducing biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification.

D. Harnessing digital solutions: Accelerate the adoption of digital technologies to enhance governance, transparency, and accountability; enabling real-time monitoring, efficient decision-making and reporting.

Thank you

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