

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	11039
Project Name:	Technical Support for the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support project
Countr(ies):	Global
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Technical Support for the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support project

Country

Global

GEF ID

11039

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

UNEP

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

MSP

PIR Submission

9/16/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 2nd PIR

Objective

To provide technical support to GEF-eligible Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in their work to review and align components of their NBSAPs with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): national targets, policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks, and biodiversity finance

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

1,642,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,500,000.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

6/10/2022

Agency Approval

7/22/2022

Implementation Start 12/8/2022	First Disbursement 3/16/2023
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 6/8/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Project implementation on course with at least 98% of early action support materialized in 69 out of 69 eligible Member States and Parties to the Convention. This technical support specifically covers: 1. Support for updating of national biodiversity targets in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) for submission to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as per the relevant decision of 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention (CBD COP-15). 2. Support for assessing gaps in national monitoring systems for biodiversity, identifying and updating national monitoring action plans, in line with the updated targets; 3. Support for updating action plans for policy coherence/alignment and harmonization with other sectors, drawing on UN-system wide support of UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions; 4. Enhancing support for biodiversity financing through developing National Biodiversity Finance Action plans. In specific, the following activities were undertaken during the period under the review: At the invitation of, and in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and other partners, including CBD regional and subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres, supported two regional dialogues on NBSAPs and biodiversity monitoring and reporting, targeting Anglophone African countries (19-23 May 2025) and the Pacific Small Islands States (28 May-2 June 2025) respectively. The NBSAP dialogues are part of a series of regional and sub-regional dialogues being convened by the Secretariat to facilitate the sharing of experiences and mutual learning among countries related to the revision and updating of NBSAPs, including national targets, in alignment with the KMGBF, as well as biodiversity monitoring and reporting, as requested of Parties in decision 15/6. The dialogues have involved sessions on sharing of experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating NBSAPs, including national target revision or setting, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, the integration of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements into the NBSAP, development of a national monitoring plan and national reporting activities. The dialogues provided opportunities for dedicated discussions on capacity-building and needs for national biodiversity monitoring and reporting. The dialogues have further provided a useful opportunity for countries to share examples from the implementation of the GEF Early Action Support project, with other countries in their region. The outcomes of these dialogues serve as an input in the piloting of an open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation under the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), pursuant to decision 15/6. For example, for the Regional Workshop for Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC) member states on updating NBSAPs, regional BSAPs, National Monitoring Plans and Reporting, the workshop included a focus on synergies across sectors such as agriculture and food systems, and health, engaging national focal points for the CBD and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) from participating countries from the Southern and Eastern African Development Communities. The workshop took place in Cape Town, South Africa from 19-23 May

and was co-hosted by UNEP (Ecosystems Division in collaboration with UNEP’s Regional Office for Africa), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Commonwealth Secretariat, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the African Union Commission (AUC), with the support of the Government of South Africa and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). In the same period, UNEP co-hosted a joint workshop for Pacific countries on “Promoting policy coherence for environmental governance in the Climate and Nature Nexus and Enhancing monitoring and reporting of the implementation of NBSAPs and KMGBF” in Apia, Samoa. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (Ecosystems and Law Divisions in close collaboration with UNEP’s Regional Office of Asia Pacific), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and gathered approximately 80 participants from Pacific Island governments, regional organisations, development partners, civil society, and technical experts. The workshop aimed to enhance capacities in the Pacific for integrating climate change and biodiversity objectives into coherent policy frameworks and coordinated national and regional actions. Discussions focused on the science-policy interface, sharing national experiences, practical tools and guidelines for integrated planning, and strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms. Technical sessions, panel discussions, and group exercises explored approaches to align national strategies such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and to harmonise reporting obligations under multiple multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Held strategic engagement meetings with key partners undertaking work related to NBSAP implementation, including CBD regional and or sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres, and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, to foster collaboration in the delivery of technical support to countries, on the margins of the UNEP and SCBD co-led regional dialogues and workshops, as well as virtually. Finalized recruitment of a Knowledge Management Consultant to guide knowledge management approaches for both the EAS and the NBSAP Update and the 7th National Report projects. Provided one-on-one support to countries on an as-needed basis – (for more information on participation in project national inception and consultation meetings (online and in-person) see list in the associated GEF EAS progress report on Direct Country Support). Continued to provide technical support to EAS project countries jointly with UNDP; through the dissemination of technical resources, including guidance documents, a webinar series, and provision of one-to-one assistance. This support is aimed at assisting countries to: review their NBSAPs, update and align their national targets with the KMGBF assess monitoring systems and develop monitoring action plans assess and identify gaps in policy and institutional alignment with the KMGBF develop national biodiversity finance plans and develop regional and national capacities for financing the KMGBF During the reporting period, the following documents earlier produced by UNEP’s technical leads for Components 1 and Component 3 continued to be made available to countries: Technical guidance to support the alignment of national biodiversity targets with the KMGBF Checklist of key elements, thematic and cross-cutting issues that should be a part of the updated NBSAPs Guide on undertaking rapid assessments of existing NBSAPs, including undertaking gap analyses of NBSAPs with new targets Guidance document on how to ensure policy coherence in the updated NBSAPs, including a checklist of key policies related to elements of GBF and options for policy coherence Guidance document on how to ensure a whole-of-society approach in implementing the updated NBSAPs and the KMGBF, including a reference to DaRT as a tool promoting information sharing among national stakeholders. Jointly with UNDP, maintained an updated NBSAP Forum to ensure that parties had access to relevant information and knowledge necessary for them to deliver on the project. Continuation of guidance to countries on the use of the DaRT, its functionalities in general, as well as regarding the revision and updating of NBSAPs; through presentations during the various regional dialogues and workshops held within the reporting period, the national workshops, the GEF Early Action Support Webinar Series – Webinar #5: National Target Alignment:

Tools and Technical Support and a sub-regional training workshop on DaRT held in Cameroon, in partnership with COMIFAC (Central African Forest Commission), with representatives from nine countries. The DaRT team continued to work with MEAs, InforMEA and UNEP-WCMC to contribute to a draft mapping with other relevant MEAs. The Bern Process and the use of DaRT for a rapid assessment of existing NBSAPs and reviewing national targets is included in the interim guidance shared with all project participating countries: “Technical guidance to support the alignment of national biodiversity targets with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”. Strong collaboration related to DaRT within UNEP, with UNEP-WCMC and MEAs allowed for key technical developments supporting users, parties, and secretariats. DaRT’s latest technical enhancements primarily aim to support Parties bridging data gaps for national reports to MEAs and visualize linkages of MEA strategic plans with the Framework and SDGs. The DaRT website was revamped in April 2024, where national data for six global indicators adopted for the KMGBF are now directly imported and visualized in national working spaces for all Parties. To enable users to tag contents with taxonomic terms, interoperability with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) has also been established. DaRT users can now use the Compendia2 – an open online library developed with UNEP-WCMC launched in all UN languages to access guidance and global and regional biodiversity data. Further information on the development and roll-out of DaRT was made available for COP 16 as an information document.

Awareness and Capacity Building: Creating platforms for knowledge exchange and capacity building within the financial industry, online webinar and communications activities.

Technical Guidance Development: Development and dissemination of technical guidance and knowledge documents. These resources are providing financial institutions with a clearer understanding and actionable steps towards integrating nature considerations into their operational frameworks. These resources include: PRB Nature Guidance, which provides a practical framework for banks to act on nature loss and set nature targets aligning with the GBF objectives, co-developed with 35 UNEP (FI members banks and partners including UNEP-WCMC, the CBD Secretariat, Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD); knowledge products under the Biodiversity Credit Alliance; Building just partnerships in Biodiversity Credits; and Demand-side sources and motivations for biodiversity credits.

Direct Support to Countries: In collaboration with UNDP-BIOFIN, UNEP FI has extended support to countries in leveraging their private finance sectors for NBSAPs revision and understanding how private finance can actively contribute to KMGBF implementation. This has included: Establishing the Public-Private Community of Practice for Nature and Development Finance; Releasing the briefing note “Engaging Private Finance in the NBSAP Review and Implementation: Signposts for Policymakers”; and In-person Community of Practice roundtable as part of the UNEP FI Latin America Regional Roundtable held on 30 Jan 2024. In collaboration with UNEP FI, work related to financing continued, including preparatory support and inputs provided by UNEP’s Law Division for the delivery of the Finance and Biodiversity day at CBD COP 16. In the reporting period, 2 webinars were held. One on “Bridging Public and Private Efforts: Collaborative Models for Financing Nature” as part of the Public-Private Community of Practice on Nature and Development Finance series under the Revenues for Nature, and that seeks to bridge private finance strategies with government-led NBSAPs to mobilize funding for nature. The series focuses on key enablers to achieve Target 19 of the KMGBF, aligning public and private sector priorities to unlock new investment opportunities. The webinar series puts a spotlight on emerging models of public-private co-development for nature finance, showcasing how governments, financial institutions, and philanthropic and corporate actors are jointly designing and scaling investment mechanisms that deliver measurable benefits for biodiversity and people. The last webinar brought speakers drawn from a leading bank-PNB Palibas, Insurance Agency-Rio Uruguay Seguros and Conservation Organizations-AWF to share insights on innovative nature financing solutions. Under Component 2, lead technical partner UNEP-WCMC revised guidance on identifying needs for national data and monitoring systems based on inputs received. The revised guidance was approved and made available to EAS project

countries. Direct technical support has been provided to countries in response to country requests. Through a project extension with UNEP-WCMC, this guidance is being further revised to include updates from CBD COP16.2 and related developments on activities related to the KMGBF monitoring framework, as well as case studies sharing examples of national biodiversity monitoring action plans. Under Component 4, NFSU contracted UNEP FI to provide technical support on biodiversity finance-related activities to ensure parties have improved capacities for defining biodiversity finance gaps and biodiversity target setting for the finance sector, and for identifying opportunities for resource mobilization. In addition, the support included development of technical resources for alignment of private sector financing with KMGBF implementation needs, which were shared with UNEP FI members (currently including more than 500 banks, insurers, and investors and over 100 supporting institutions). As a result, since April 2023, significant progress has been made in mobilizing the global private finance sector towards addressing nature loss and aligning with GBF goals.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Whereas UNEP has made available simple reporting templates for countries to use to report progress on their actions, delay in receipt of progress reports from all participating countries continues to hinder timely reporting including preparation of the project implementation reports (PIRs) to the GEF. As a precaution, a survey was conducted in July, in addition to regular calls held with the country focal points, to establish country status. Further, in order to build the capacity of countries on the project's administrative requirements including the preparation of reports for both UNEP GEF-7 Early Action Support and UNEP GEF-8 NBSAPs Update & 7th National Reports Projects, a webinar series was delivered in June 2025. Alignment of country reporting templates to facilitate data acquisition to ease the preparation of PIR reports.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Held strategic engagement meetings and activity coordination with key partners undertaking work related to NBSAPs, including parties (through workshops, webinars and one on one bilateral meetings as well as support to the NBSAP Help Desk service virtually and at major CBD meetings), and government agencies of the 69 UNEP supported countries, non-governmental organizations, private sector, financial institutions, development partners, representatives of youth, women's groups and IPLC groups, research institutions, and academia, in addition to other global initiatives and institutions, to foster collaboration in the delivery of technical support to countries in their national processes. Notable among these institutions are: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CBD Regional and sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centers (including South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Regional Centre For Mapping Of Resources For Development (RCMRD), Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), Ecological Monitoring Centre (CSE), Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) among others), and UNDP BIOFIN, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Birdlife International, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United Nations (IFAD), The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The World Wide Fund for Nature-Kenya, and Conservation International, among others.

D. Gender Equality

Part of the technical support provided through this project has included development, dissemination and promotion of guidance on undertaking an inclusive approach to NBSAP alignment and implementation. As such, through collaboration with UNDP, guidance on gender mainstreaming and stakeholder inclusion was developed and rolled out to support participating countries. Also, best practices in applying whole-of-

government and whole-of-society approaches, including aspects such as gender responsive approaches and measures to engage indigenous peoples and local communities, were promoted through various capacity development, exchange and learning events organized in the framework of the project. Through country progress reporting, information on national actions to address gender gaps, or promote gender equality and women’s empowerment during execution of project activities was monitored and collected. UNEP’s Gender and Social Safeguards Unit in collaboration with the UNEP-WCMC gender specialist provided technical support to countries through presentations on gender equality considerations and gender action plan, stakeholder engagement as well as environmental and social safeguard standards and guiding principles, including human rights, during the project's regional inception and technical support workshops. Put forward proposed activities for consideration in the follow on GEF-8 NBSAP Update and 7th National Report project towards the integration of gender in consultation processes and in the update of NBSAPs. Also, provided technical support to the development of a successful project proposal under the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership to assist countries in the implementation of gender responsive NBSAPs. At the global project coordination level, ensured gender inclusivity in project-related activities including attainment of gender parity for UNEP's global project team. Responding to UNEP's corporate requirement for its personnel to incorporate gender goals in the 2025-2026 workplans, each of the project's team members identified priorities for advancing gender in their performance documents.

E. Knowledge Management

<p>Knowledge activities and products</p>	<p>During the reporting period, finalized engagement of a knowledge management expert to guide the knowledge management approach for both the EAS and the NBSAP Update and the 7th National Report projects, including to assist with the development or refinement of mechanisms for country access to guidance and knowledge materials. An inception meeting was held to go over the scope and define the workplan for the project's knowledge management.</p> <p>Jointly with UNDP, continuing to maintain an updated NBSAP Forum and YouTube channel to ensure that parties have access to relevant information and knowledge necessary for them to deliver on the project. The established NBSAP Forum Working Group continued to hold meetings to review effectiveness of the NBSAP Forum and consider alternatives to improve KM support available to countries</p>
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	<p>To support access to customized knowledge for National Targets setting, NBSAP update and National Reports development in a timely manner including global catalogue of tools, guidelines and best practices related to NBSAPs across the 23 GBF targets and documentation of emerging lessons and best practices captured by dedicated knowledge products, technical publications, videos, websites, articles, and podcast episodes, in collaboration with UNEP Technical leads and other partners, continued collation and dissemination of guidance and technical support to assist countries in the delivery of their National Targets, updated NBSAPs and 7th National Reports to the CBD.</p> <p>Under component 4 on biodiversity finance, established platforms for knowledge exchange and capacity building related to biodiversity finance, as well as online webinar and communications activities and the development and dissemination of technical guidance and knowledge documents. These resources are providing financial institutions with a clearer understanding and actionable steps towards integrating nature considerations into their operational frameworks. These resources include: PRB Nature Guidance, which provides a practical framework for banks to act on nature loss and set nature targets aligning with the GBF objectives, co-developed with 35 UNEP (FI members banks and partners including UNEP-WCMC, the CBD Secretariat, Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD); knowledge products under the Biodiversity Credit Alliance;</p> <p>Participated in the scoping workshop for the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity (GKSSB) organized by UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre</p> <p>During the reporting period, continued to provide virtual knowledge exchange opportunities, including interactive webinars to highlight country best practices.</p>
<p>Main learning during the period</p>	<p>Maintaining active working groups is necessary to ensure coordinated delivery of technical support and avoid duplication of efforts.</p> <p>Engaging competent and committed technical leads is important for delivery of quality technical support to project countries.</p> <p>Maintaining an updated log/matrix has been instrumental in tracking the needs of countries and responding to various information requests.</p>

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	

Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nairobi. Kenya	1.2921	36.8219	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Multiple project meetings and events held during CBD intersessional meetings and UNEP meetings. including UNEA-6

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Montreal. Canada	45.5019	73.5674	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

CBD COP15 - global inception workshop

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Istanbul. Turkey	41.0082	28.9784	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Regional Inception and Technical Support Workshop

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Lome. Togo	6.1296	1.2197	
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Location Description:

Activity Description:

Regional Inception and Technical Support Workshop

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nadi. Fiji	17.7806	177.4299	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Sub-regional NBSAP dialogue. EAS sub-regional inception meeting and Target 3 Workshop

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Naivasha. Kenya	0.7172	36.431	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Kenya's BIOFIN Consultation Meeting

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Abuja. Nigeria	9.0563	7.4985	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

EAS National Inception Workshop

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yaoundé. Cameroon	3.8617	11.5202	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Sub-regional training workshop on DaRT

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Rome. Italy	41.8967	12.4822	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Target 2 Workshop

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Conakry. Guinea	9.5091	13.7119	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

National inception workshop

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cambridge. UK	52.1951	0.1313	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Consultation and scoping meeting for the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title 11039-PIR-UNEP-2025-GBF Early Action Support
Document Category M and E Document	Title Notification-NBSAP-Dialogue-Africa-fr
Document Category M and E Document	Title Notification-NBSAP-Dialogue-Africa-EN (1)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Notification- Pacific Workshop and Dialogue 28

Document Category M and E Document	Title COP 16 NBSAP Helpdesk photo
Document Category M and E Document	Title Accelerating GBF Implementation draft UNEA-6 side event agenda 20
Document Category M and E Document	Title Notification-Pacific workshop and dialogue
Document Category M and E Document	Title Concept note_ Regional Dialogue on NBSAPs for SADC and EAC Countries-Cape Town_19 to 23 May
Document Category M and E Document	Title Engaging-private-finance-in-the-NBSAP-review-1
Document Category M and E Document	Title BIOFIN Workbook 2018
Document Category M and E Document	Title Summary Report_Balkan Nature Talks conference_rev1
Document Category M and E Document	Title CEE Regional Mtg Report_nbsap-om-2024-09-02-en
Document Category M and E Document	Title DaRT COMIFAC Workshop Report
Document Category M and E Document	Title Report- Sub-regional dialogue on NBSAPs for the Pacific countries (1)
Document Category M and E Document	Title GBF EAS Brochure
Document Category M and E Document	Title GBF Early Action Bookmark
Document Category M and E Document	Title EN_Technical Support Booklet_21 Feb 2024_print ready (2)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Interim Checklist of key elements thematic and cross cutting issues
Document Category M and E Document	Title Interim Checklist of key policies related to elements of GBF and options for policy coherence

Document Category M and E Document	Title Interim Guidance on Whole of Society Approach
Document Category M and E Document	Title NBSAP Forum Bookmark
Document Category M and E Document	Title PRB-Nature-Target-Setting-Guidance_2023
Document Category M and E Document	Title UNEP_Biodiversity Financing Options_November 2022