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	Implementing Agency
11039	UNEP

Executing Entity
UNEP

Trust Fund	Project Type
GET	MSP

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year , PIR Number
9/8/2026	FY 2026 , 3rd 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	Development Objective
Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Overall risk
Low Risk

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
1,642,500.00	1,500,000.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval	Agency Approval
6/10/2022	7/22/2022

Implementation Start 12/8/2022	First Disbursement 3/16/2023
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 2/28/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

Project implementation is on track, with at least 98% of early action support made available in 69 out of 69 eligible Member States and Parties to the Convention. This technical support specifically covers: Support for updating 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); Support for assessing gaps in national monitoring systems for biodiversity, identifying and updating national monitoring action plans, in line with the updated targets; 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; Enhancing support for biodiversity financing through developing National Biodiversity Finance Action plans. In particular, 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 three regional dialogues on NBSAPs and biodiversity monitoring and reporting, targeting Francophone African countries (September 2025), Central Asian and Central and Eastern European countries (November 2025) and Western Asia region held in December 2025 respectively. Other preceding regional dialogues supported through the project include Anglophone African countries and Pacific Island countries, held in May and 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.In the same period, the project supported the organization of the Asia-Pacific Workshop on “Accelerating the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through an Integrated and Synergistic Approach,” held between 7–10 October 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. This workshop helped further enhance peer to peer learning and knowledge exchange among countries, gathering information on country progress in NBSAPs review, as well as identify emerging trends, gaps, and policy integration practices across.Supported the Bogis-Bossey workshop held between 27-28 August, 2025 and organized by UNEP in

collaboration with SCBD and co-funded by the Government of Switzerland, with the aim of strengthening integration of MEAs implementation in the KM-GBF implementation, thereby responding to COP-16 decision CBD/COP/16/35 on cooperation and action recommendations under Bern III Conference, including the use of synergies tools and integrated approaches for NBSAPs alignments and reporting. Held strategic engagement meetings with key partners undertaking work related to NBSAP implementation, including UNDP, CBD's 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. Engaged the services of the experts to support the project's work in respect to knowledge management and learning, monitoring, gender mainstreaming and policy coherence and integration. These experts have been instrumental in support country efforts in delivering components 1, 2 and 3 of the project. Further, the project enabled the provision of one-on-one support to countries on an as-needed basis. 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; and 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.

Further, the project engaged a consultant to evaluate data on revised NBSAPs and national targets to assess how well they integrate and align with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and broader policy coherence considerations. The aim of this exercise was also to receive feedback on the use and usefulness of the guidance materials and tools developed under the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project to facilitate considerations for update of the technical resources including; the checklist of key elements, thematic and cross cutting issues,Checklist of key policies related to elements of GBF and options for policy coherence Guide on undertaking rapid assessment of existing NBSAPs with a view to identify gaps and prepare for updating the NBSAPs Guidance document on how to ensure whole of society approach in implementing the new NBSAPs and GBF Improvements to DaRT. based on functionality assessment level of MEA synergies and sectoral coherence in eligible countries was assessed using two complementary methods.

First, 36 GBF-aligned National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) were analyzed using both direct and indirect keyword searches to evaluate the coverage and depth of references to MEAs and policy sectors. Second, a survey was distributed to CBD National Focal Points, yielding 61 responses, to assess the status of NBSAP development and national coordination, as well as perceived challenges, best practices, and levels of cooperation.

Both methods focused on five MEA clusters (biodiversity, climate, land, chemicals and waste, and marine and coastal), comprising 18 global MEAs and 14 Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs), as well as 12 policy sectors (health, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, water resources, energy, industry, mining, urban

development, education, waste management, and tourism). In respect to NBSAP analysis on policy sectors, the evaluation shows: Overall, countries reference an average of 11.2 of 12 policy sectors (93%).

Regionally, African shows the highest sectoral coherence (11.7; 98%), followed by Asia-Pacific and LAC (both 10.9; 91%). Education is referenced across all GBF aligned NBSAPs assessed, in line with GBF Target 21, which emphasizes access to information, awareness and inclusive participation. Tourism is also referenced in all revised NBSAPs, despite not being explicitly identified as a priority sector in the GBF. Broad sectoral coverage in resource-intensive biotic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with GBF Target 10 on their sustainable management. Abiotic and enabling sectors, such as mining, urban planning, and waste management, exhibit weaker levels of integration within NBSAPs.

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 affect timely reporting, including preparation of the project implementation reports (PIRs) to the GEF. To ensure receipt of up-to-date information on country status, a survey was sent out to country project leads in July 2025, in addition to regular calls held with the country focal points. Furthermore, in order to build the capacity of countries to meet 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 on reporting was carried out with countries in different time zones.. It is important to note that country reporting templates have not been fully aligned to information requirements for PIR reporting. Amendments of the country reporting templates could help to facilitate the provision of information necessary for PIR reporting.

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 bilaterial 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 Centres (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 made available 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. At the global project coordination level, gender inclusivity ensured project-related activities including attainment of gender parity for UNEP's global project team. In response to UNEP's corporate requirement for staff members 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

During the reporting period, onboarded a knowledge management and learning 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 knowledge management and learning priorities.

Jointly with UNDP, continuing to maintain an updated NBSAP Forum's 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. A draft options paper was prepared during the period under review for consideration by the governance team on the future of the NBSAP Forum.

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;

During the reporting period, continued to provide virtual knowledge exchange opportunities, including documentation of outstanding country practices and interactive webinars to highlight country practices across the four areas of the project.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	

Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	in-kind co-finance contribution was realised during the period under review.
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
Lome. Togo	6.1296	1.2197	

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:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Chisinau, Moldova	47.024512	28.8322	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vienna, Austria	48.208354	16.3725	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cali, Colombia	3.4517	-76.5324	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
M'Bour, Senegal	14.4117	-16.9657	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cape Town, South Africa	-33.9289	18.4173	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Apia, Samoa	-13.8345	-171.7630	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yerevan, Armenia	40.177612	44.512585	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Manama, Bahrain	26.223504	50.582244	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bangkok, Thailand	13.7563	100.5018	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland	46.3525	6.1655	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	11039_PIR_UNEP_2026

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	20250923 Concept Note
Document Category	Title
M and E Document	nbsap-om-2025-02-02-en
Document Category	Title
M and E Document	Notification - CEE Regional Dialogue - Yerrevan, Armenia
Document Category	Title
M and E Document	PROGRA_1
Document Category	Title
M and E Document	CONCEP_1
Document Category	Title
M and E Document	NBSAP-_3
Document Category	Title
M and E Document	Agenda_francophone africa 2025_v0