



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development into United Nations Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery

Mid-term Report

June 2026

Summary

This report reviews progress by the United Nations (UN) system in implementing the *Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development* in support of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). It highlights actions and initiatives undertaken at global, regional, and national levels across policy, programming, capacity-building, and partnerships.

Overall, the UN system is making significant progress in aligning strategies, policies, and programmes with biodiversity objectives and in integrating biodiversity considerations across a range of sectors. At the same time, important challenges remain. While policy-level commitments are well established, further efforts are needed to strengthen their translation into operational practice, including in areas such as programme implementation, resource mobilization, and facility-level action.

Biodiversity also remains underrepresented in UN country programming compared to other environmental priorities, with a relatively small proportion of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) incorporating actions related to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Strengthening integration at the national level will therefore be critical.

Regional coordination mechanisms, including Regional Collaborative Platforms and Issue-Based Coalitions, offer important opportunities to enhance knowledge-sharing, coordination, and joint action. Leveraging these platforms more systematically can help accelerate implementation and support context-specific approaches.

Looking ahead, enhancing coherence across initiatives, strengthening linkages between global commitments and country-level implementation, and scaling up coordinated action will be key to advancing the Common Approach. These priorities are also closely aligned with the objectives of the UN80 reform process, which emphasizes a more integrated, effective, and results-oriented UN system capable of delivering greater impact through strengthened coordination and collaboration across entities. In this context, the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) and its Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity will continue to play a central role in supporting system-wide coordination and implementation, helping to ensure that biodiversity is effectively integrated into the UN system's broader reform and sustainable development agenda.

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and its contribution to the KMGBF	2
3.	UN Common Approach Monitoring and Reporting Framework	4
4.	Progress towards the implementation of the UN Common Approach	5
4.1	Internal policy alignment and coherence	5
	Output 1: the United Nations system can prove its commitment to biodiversity and nature-based solutions through its corporate behaviour	5
	Output 2: the United Nations system needs to lead by example in its policy, programme planning and implementation	6
4.2	Align current resources and mobilize additional joint financing	12
	Output 3: United Nations entities can review their current programming and resources to ensure that operations integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions, prevent or account for negative impacts and do not exacerbate and accelerate biodiversity loss	12
	Output 4: collaborative efforts can support the creation and capitalization of new pooled funding mechanisms for joint programming needed to restore the relationship to biodiversity and ecosystem services at scale	14
4.3	Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action.....	16
	Output 5: working together, United Nations system data, knowledge and expertise can be leveraged at all levels to provide capacity-building in support of the implementation of Member States' obligations and commitments, post-pandemic recovery plans and the biodiversity-dependent elements of the Sustainable Development Goals	16
	Output 6: knowledge-sharing through the United Nations regional mechanisms, notably regional collaborative platforms, regional issue-based coalitions and regional peer support groups	22
	Output 7: greater engagement with and visibility of biodiversity in existing global coordination mechanisms	24
4.4	Coordinate outreach and communications efforts.....	25
	Output 8/Output 9: United Nations entities can contribute to and use coherent narratives during the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development/United Nations entities can coordinate efforts to capitalize on the political leadership, key outcomes and messages on the summit on biodiversity held in September 2020	25
5.	Key messages and recommendations for 2025 – 2030.....	27
	Annexes	29

1. Introduction

Biodiversity is fundamental to human rights and well-being, a healthy planet and economic prosperity for all. We depend on it for food, medicine, energy, clear air and water, climate regulation as well as for recreation and cultural inspiration, and it supports all systems of life on Earthⁱ.

Despite its fundamental role in sustaining all life and economies, biodiversity is declining faster than at any time during human history, representing one of the triple planetary crises, alongside climate change and pollution. These crises need urgent attention and action if humanity is to have a viable future on this planetⁱⁱ.

Biodiversity loss is not only an environmental concern; it is also a challenge to development, resilience and stability. Degraded ecosystems, declining species abundance, deforestation, land degradation, freshwater stress and marine ecosystem loss can undermine livelihoods, weaken food systems, intensify competition over natural resources and reduce the resilience of already vulnerable communities. In fragile and conflict-affected settings, these pressures can act as risk multipliers, exacerbating existing inequalities and tensions and making it more difficult to sustain peace, social cohesion and recovery.

In 2021, the **United Nations (UN)** system adopted the **“Common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery”**,ⁱⁱⁱ endorsed by the UN System Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) (hereinafter referred to as the Common Approach). Through the Common Approach, the UN system recognizes the urgency of acting and commits to mainstreaming biodiversity and nature-based solutions, and to catalysing collective action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems, and ultimately living in harmony with nature. By leveraging the convening power and expertise from across the UN system, the Common Approach aims to contribute and support the implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**^{iv} and the realization of the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and nature, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change, and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

This document, developed in the context of the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity (IMG on Biodiversity) of the **UN Environment Management Group (UN EMG)**^v, presents the progress achieved in creating coherent and collective actions on biodiversity and nature-based solutions in the UN system, serving as the Mid-term Report on the implementation of the Common Approach.

In doing so, it also highlights the importance of ensuring that biodiversity action is integrated into broader UN efforts on resilience, peacebuilding, displacement, food security and sustainable development, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

2. UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and its contribution to the KMGBF

The Common Approach is focused on creating opportunities for collective action and joint delivery of UN initiatives at the global, regional and country levels, while promoting alignment within the respective UN entities.

The Common Approach considers and is structured around:

- A **2050 Vision for Biodiversity**: *“By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”*.
- **Three Impact Areas** to achieve over the next decade and create long-term change: a) Human rights, peaceful societies, and planetary stability; b) A green and inclusive economic recover; c) Strengthened institutions, accountability and justice.

Each impact area considers five medium-term objectives, totalizing 15 medium-term objectives or expected accomplishments that contribute to the realization of the 2050 Vision (Figure 1).

- A set of **Outcomes** to be delivered through collaboration between the UN System, Member States, business, social partners, academia, and civil society around: 1) Global advocacy and normative frameworks (5 outcomes); 2) Regional collaboration (3 outcomes); 3) National implementation (4 outcomes); and
- A series of coherent **Outputs**, that consider collective biodiversity action in terms of:
 - A) Internal policy alignment and coherence (2 outputs)
 - B) Align current resources and mobilize additional joint financing (2 outputs)
 - C) Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action (3 outputs)
 - D) Coordinate outreach and communications efforts (2 outputs) (Figure 2)

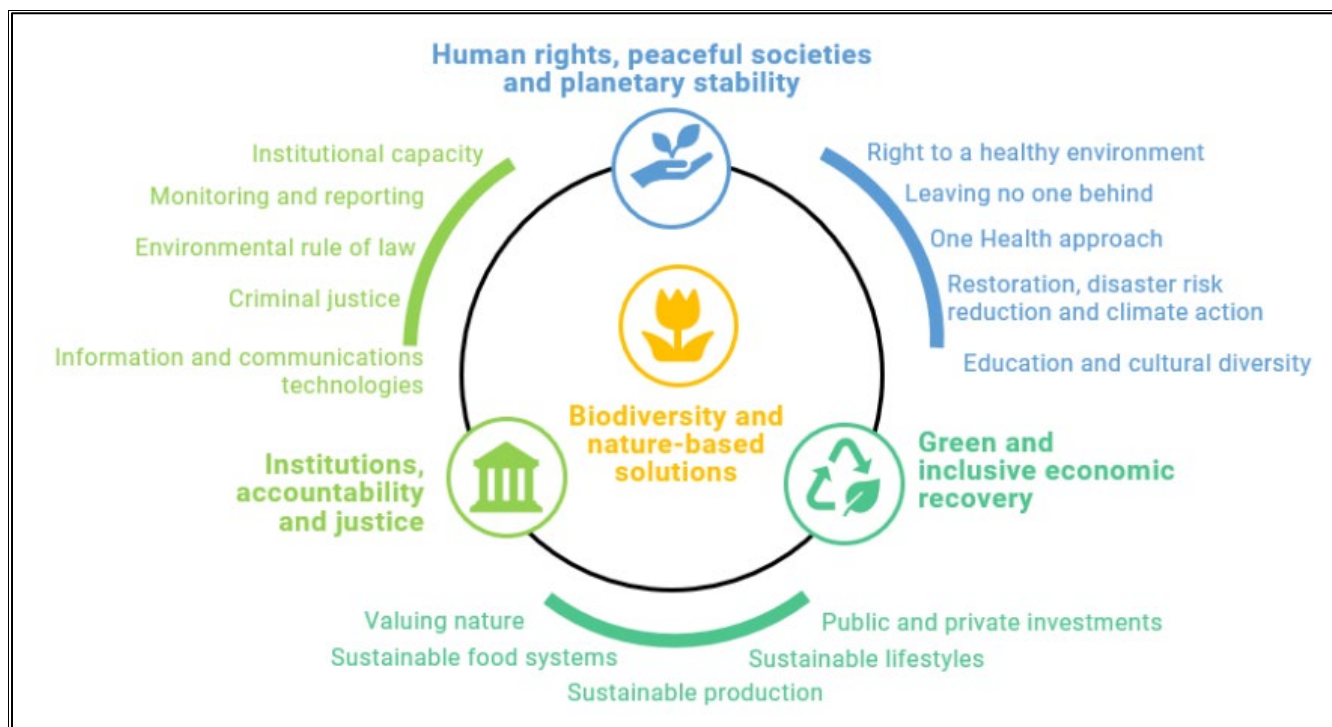


Figure 1. Impact areas and medium-term objectives of the Common Approach

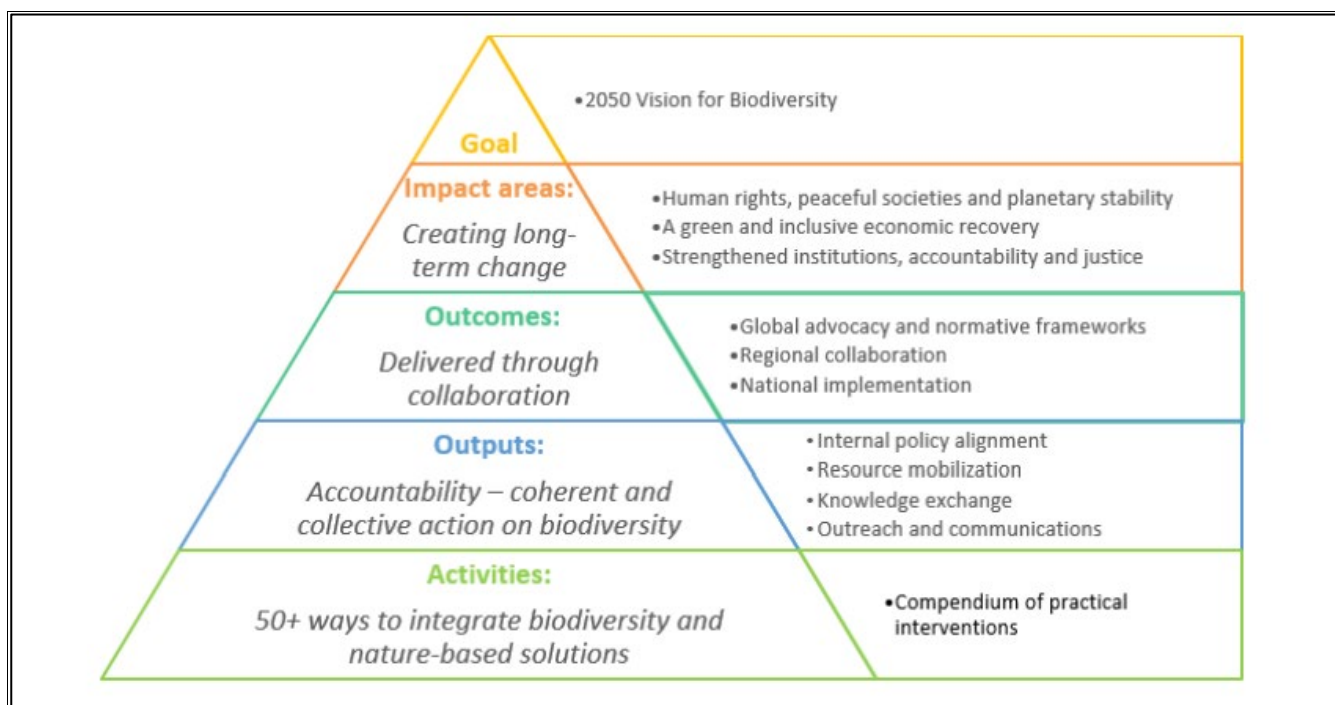


Figure 2. General structure of the Common Approach

3. UN Common Approach Monitoring and Reporting Framework and Methodology

The Common Approach Monitoring and Reporting Framework serves as a tool for monitoring the UN system's contribution to the implementation of the Common Approach outputs, considering biodiversity-specific and related programmes, projects, flagship initiatives, and other actions that reflect the UN's role and added value. The Framework guided the development of this document, which is structured around the outputs listed in the Common Approach (Annex 1).

The Monitoring and Reporting Framework was developed through a structured, iterative process led by the EMG. Initially, the Common Approach mandated the EMG to define a limited set of measurable targets and indicators based on existing reporting mechanisms, while also encouraging broader integration of biodiversity considerations across UN system reporting. An initial draft framework was presented to UN entities in November 2022. Building on this input, the EMG Secretariat conducted a comprehensive review of existing indicators and proposed data sources in 2023, incorporating contributions from EMG members, which ultimately informed the revised framework finalized in 2024.

The final Monitoring and Reporting Framework outlines four quantitative indicators that can be reported against using existing reporting mechanisms, and a qualitative component with the purpose of gathering information, best practices, and other elements that can inform Common Approach implementation.

This report is consequently built on quantitative data and qualitative information collated via two mechanisms:

- Existing Reporting: compiling progress against relevant **quantitative indicators** from existing reporting mechanisms, namely, the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the Greening the Blue Report.
- EMG Survey: produced by the EMG Secretariat, compiling **qualitative** information such as case studies and narratives, and information about biodiversity-related programmes, projects, flagship initiatives, tools, case studies, lessons learned, best practices, and other actions that reflect the UN-system contribution to the Common Approach outputs and the KMGBF. 16 entities responded to the survey (**Annex 3**) between October 2024 and February 2025.

Together this data provides relevant information on progress made towards the outputs of the Common Approach.

The information provided shall be considered as non-exhaustive and may complement existing guidance documents and materials, such as the *UN Common Approach to Biodiversity: 50+ ways to integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions – A UN system commitment to collective action for people and planet^{vi}*.

4. Progress towards the implementation of the UN Common Approach

This section summarizes the main findings and actions implemented by the UN system that are advancing the Common Approach outputs.

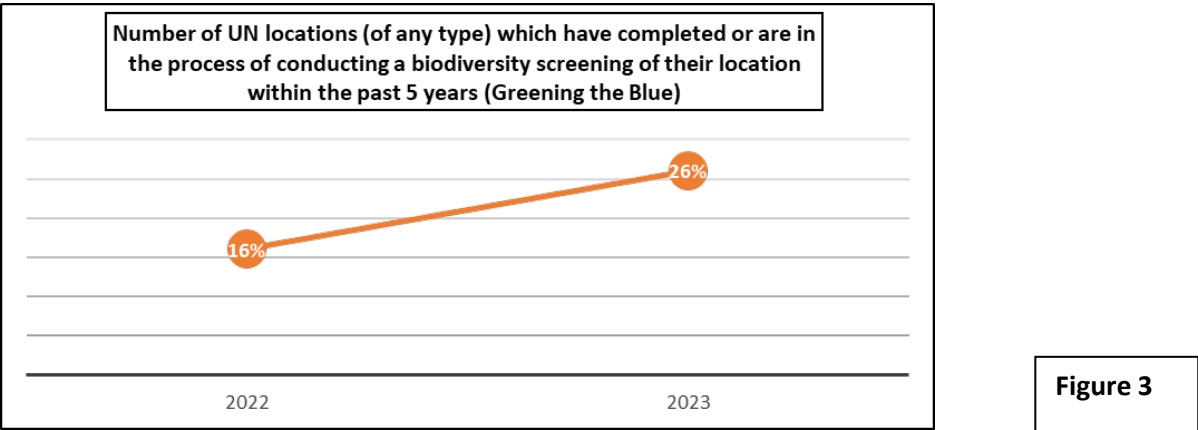
4.1 Internal policy alignment and coherence

Output 1: the United Nations system can prove its commitment to biodiversity and nature-based solutions through its corporate behaviour

Indicator 1: Number of UN locations (of any type) which have completed or are in the process of conducting a biodiversity screening of their location within the past 5 years

Progress under this indicator remains limited, pointing to a gap between institutional commitments and operational practice. While an increasing number of UN entities report assessing their corporate impacts on biodiversity and implementing measures to mitigate adverse effects, systematic screening of facilities is not yet widespread.

According to the [Greening the Blue Report^{vii}](#), only 26 per cent of UN entities had screened, or were in the process of screening, their facilities for local biodiversity impacts in 2023, based on reporting from 50 entities participating in the Environmental Governance Survey. This indicates that biodiversity considerations are still not consistently embedded in corporate decision-making related to infrastructure and operations.



Biodiversity screening of UN premises represents a critical entry point for demonstrating leadership and credibility, particularly in the context of the Common Approach and broader sustainability commitments. It enables entities to identify risks, apply safeguards, and implement mitigation and restoration measures, including nature-based solutions.

The relatively low uptake suggests the need to strengthen system-wide guidance, tools, and accountability mechanisms to support entities in integrating biodiversity considerations into facilities management, planning, and construction processes. Scaling up these practices will be essential for the UN system to lead by example and align its internal operations with its policy commitments on biodiversity.

Examples – Output 1, Indicator 1 – UN entities undertaking biodiversity screening

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- Integrates biodiversity as a safeguard requirement under its Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)¹.
- Requires all projects to be screened for biodiversity risks
- Applies dedicated standards (e.g. Biodiversity Conservation Standard) to assess and mitigate impacts

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Encourages country offices to integrate biodiversity into Environmental Action Plans
- Promotes systematic screening for biodiversity impacts prior to new construction
- Embeds biodiversity considerations within broader environmental sustainability efforts

Key insights

- While policy commitments are well established, biodiversity screening at the facility level remains an area with scope for further development across the UN system.

Output 2: the United Nations system needs to lead by example in its policy, programme planning and implementation

Indicator 2: Number of UN agencies that have adjusted their strategies, policies and programmes to align to the Common Approach on Biodiversity

The evidence collected indicates that biodiversity considerations are increasingly being integrated across the UN system, with 92 per cent of entities aligning their strategies, policies and programmes with the Common Approach in 2024, reflecting steady progress since 2021.

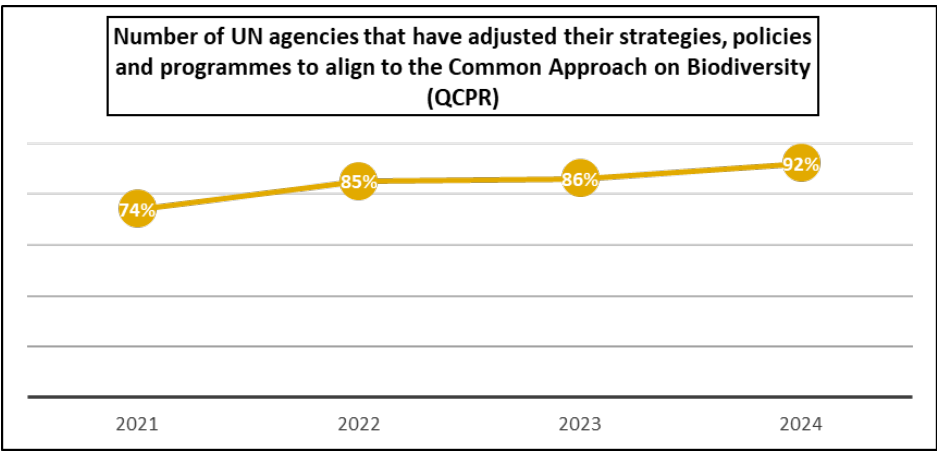


Figure 4

This integration, however, varies in depth and scope. While some entities, such as UNEP and UNDP, embed biodiversity as a core strategic priority, others incorporate it indirectly through sectoral mandates, including maritime transport (IMO), disaster risk reduction (UNDRR), forced displacement (UNHCR), migration (IOM), and

tourism (UNWTO). This demonstrates a clear trend toward **mainstreaming biodiversity across non-environmental sectors**, expanding its relevance beyond traditional environmental governance.

A notable area of progress is the growing recognition of **cross-cutting linkages**, including:

- biodiversity and human rights (OHCHR)
- biodiversity and displacement (UNHCR)
- biodiversity and urban systems (UN-Habitat)
- biodiversity and environmental crime (UNODC)
- biodiversity and gender equality (UN Women)

At the same time, integration is often **policy-level rather than operational**, with limited evidence of systematic implementation tools. The diversity of approaches reflects the comparative advantages of different entities, but also highlights the need for **greater coherence, shared metrics, and system-wide accountability mechanisms** to ensure that biodiversity integration translates into measurable outcomes.

Examples – Output 2, Indicator 2 – aligning UN entities’ strategies, policies and programmes to align to the Common Approach on Biodiversity

Entity	Instrument / Strategy	Entry point for biodiversity	Type of contribution	Link to KMGBF / Common Approach
Convention on Wetlands	The Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands 2025-2034 ^{viiiix}		Convention on Wetlands	The Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands 2025-2034
IAEA	Medium-Term Strategy ^x	Nuclear techniques for monitoring	Technical support	Indirect
IFAD	Environment & Climate Strategy ^{xi, xii}	Agriculture & ecosystems	Investment + financing	Strong alignment

IMO	Strategic Plan 2024–2029 ^{xiii}	Marine biodiversity protection	Regulatory / sectoral policy	Indirect
IOM	Strategic Plan ^{xiv} , safeguards ^{xv}	Migration–environment link	Operational safeguards	Indirect
Minamata Convention	COP Decisions MC-4/12, MC-5/17 ^{xvi} , ^{xvii}	Pollution–biodiversity nexus	Policy coherence, MEA alignment	Explicit linkage to KMGBF
OHCHR	HRC Resolution ^{xviii} and Report ^{xix}	Human rights–biodiversity nexus	Normative + analytical	Strong alignment
UNDP	Strategic Plan & policies ^{xx} , ^{xxi} , ^{xxii}	Whole-of-system integration	Programmatic + policy	Strong alignment
UNDRR	Strategic Framework + Work Programme ^{xxiii} , ^{xxiv}	Nature-based solutions, risk reduction	Integration into DRR	Explicit reference
UNEP	Medium-Term Strategy ^{xxv}	Triple planetary crisis	System-wide leadership	Core mandate
UN-Habitat	Strategic Plan + ESS ^{xxvi} , ^{xxvii} , ^{xxviii}	Urban biodiversity	Planning + safeguards	Indirect
UNIDO	Medium-term programme framework 2026–2029 ^{xxix} UNIDO’s Vision 2025 ^{xxx}	Biodiversity and industrial development, Bioeconomy	Programme integration	Strong alignment

UNHCR	Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability	Displacement-biodiversity link	Programmatic + policy	Indirect
UNICEF	Strategic Plan ^{xxxii}	Child rights + environment	Programme integration	Indirect
UNODC	Corporate Strategy ^{xxxiii}	Environmental crime	Enforcement / governance	Indirect
UN Women	Strategic Plan ^{xxxiii}	Gender–biodiversity nexus	Mainstreaming	Indirect
UNWTO	Programme of Work ^{xxxiv}	Sustainable tourism	Sectoral integration	Indirect
ICAO	ICAO Strategic Plan (2026-2050)	Aviation’s contributions to UN SDGs	Integration into sustainable aviation practices	Indirect

Key insights

- Biodiversity is increasingly addressed in sectors such as transport, migration, and disaster risk reduction, indicating a shift toward whole-of-system integration.
- However, the fact that biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and displacement often reinforce one another in fragile and conflict-affected settings still requires greater recognition. Programmes must therefore be designed to support both displaced people and host communities through approaches that reduce pressure on ecosystems, strengthen access to natural resources, and build social cohesion.
- Cross-cutting entry points for biodiversity action are emerging, including human rights, gender, and environmental crime.

Box 2. UN entity strategies and action plans that integrate biodiversity

In addition to incorporating biodiversity issues in strategic and overarching corporate strategies, policies and frameworks, UN entities have developed **biodiversity-specific** strategies, policies and action plans, consistent with their corresponding mandates. Examples of such strategies include:

- [IFAD's Strategy on Biodiversity 2022-2025](#), complementing the Fund's Strategy and Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2019 – 2025, and commitment to channelling 30% of its climate finance to support nature-based solutions in rural small-scale agriculture by 2030
- [IOM's Environmental Sustainability](#) Unit work programme, with biodiversity conservation as part of the objectives, as well as the incorporation of biodiversity considerations in Environmental Action Plans at IOM Offices
- [UNDRR's internal Strategy on Nature-based solutions \(NbS\) for Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\)](#) of 2022, promoting their acceleration for addressing disaster and climate risks, supported by an internal Action Plan including actions related to opportunities to enhance coherence and complementarity in implementing national DRR, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and natural resource management strategies at national level
- [UNDP's Nature Pledge, Climate Promise, Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems Strategy 2020 - 2030, Ocean Promise, Water Offer, Digital for Nature Strategy, Environmental Justice Strategy, Nature for Gender Equality, Nature for Local Action](#)
- [UNEP's](#) specific strategies under the Nature pillar of its Medium-Term Strategy 2022 – 2025
- [UN Habitat's](#) Assembly Resolution 2/4: [Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning](#) of 2022, the first UN resolution on biodiversity and cities that **considers collaboration** with different actors and partners engaged in biodiversity and resilient cities, such as the [CBD Secretariat](#), the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#), and other biodiversity-related convention and UN entities
- [UNICEF's Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2030](#), that outlines the Fund's organizational response to the planetary crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss as well as focus areas for action and partnerships
- [UNIDO's Vision 2050](#) document highlights the need to integrate biodiversity conservation into industrial development, and to advance market mechanisms that reflect the true value of ecosystem services
- [UN Women's Climate and environment strategy](#), that integrates biodiversity issues and promotes synergies between the Rio Conventions and other MEAs
- [UNWTO's](#) Biodiversity Action in Tourism initiative, aimed at addressing global biodiversity challenges and advancing nature-positive tourism by 2030
- [ICAO's Assembly Resolution A42-20, which includes a call for ICAO to advance collaboration and contributions to the UN SDGs, including those related to biodiversity loss. Globally harmonized sustainability](#)

The [UNIDO Climate Change Strategy](#) addresses biodiversity by explicitly treating the climate and biodiversity crises as interconnected. It emphasizes the industry-biodiversity nexus, ensuring industrial decarbonization efforts don't harm nature, and actively integrating biodiversity preservation into climate mitigation and adaptation programmes.

Box 3. Biodiversity mainstreaming in UN strategies and action plans

UN entities contribute to biodiversity action by addressing different drivers of biodiversity loss, such as pollution, invasive species, climate change impacts, land and sea use change, and the overexploitation of natural resources, through their respective mandates, strategies and areas of work. Together, these efforts illustrate the value of integrated and complementary approaches across the UN system to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

For example, [the International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#) addresses biodiversity-related challenges through strategies and action plans under its mandate to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping:

- [2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships](#)
- [IMO Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships](#)
- [Strategic Plan for the London Protocol and London Convention](#) addressing dumping of wastes at sea

UNHCR's Refugee Environmental Protection Fund also provides an example of biodiversity mainstreaming in displacement settings, by addressing drivers of ecosystem degradation linked to fuelwood dependence, land degradation and limited access to sustainable energy through integrated reforestation, agroforestry and clean cooking interventions.

Indicator 3: Percentage of Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) that contain actions to implement: i. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans ii. Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements Implementation Plans

Progress in integrating biodiversity into UNSDCFs remains limited, despite some positive trends.

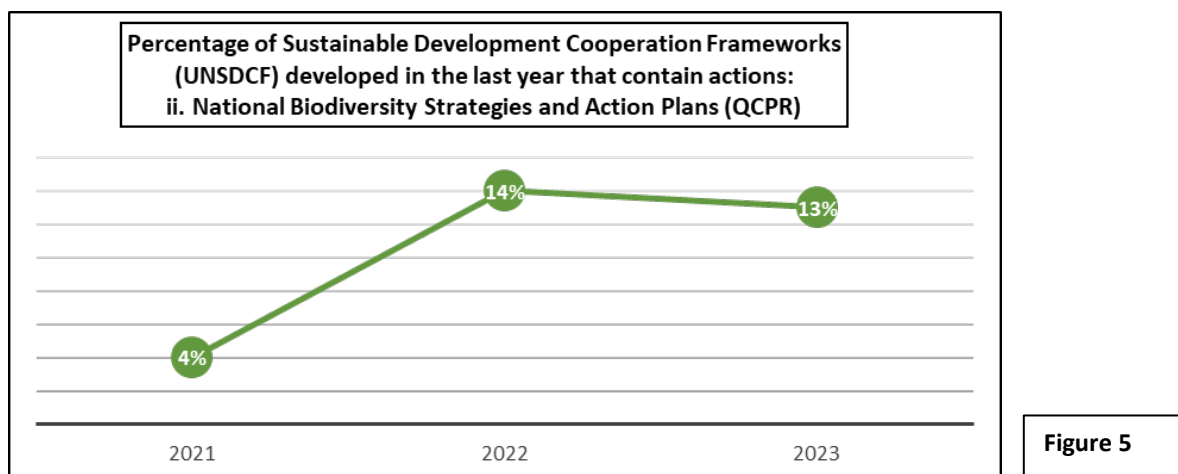
In 2023, 13 per cent of UNSDCFs included actions to implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), representing an increase of nine percentage points compared to the 2021 baseline (4 per cent). While this indicates growing recognition of biodiversity within UN country programming, overall uptake remains low.

This gap becomes more evident when compared to climate action: 47 per cent of UNSDCFs in 2023 included actions related to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The disparity highlights a continued imbalance in the integration of environmental priorities, with biodiversity lagging significantly behind climate change in country-level planning processes.

Similarly, only 13 per cent of UNSDCFs incorporated actions related to the implementation of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). This suggests that opportunities to promote integrated approaches across environmental frameworks—such as aligning biodiversity, climate, and pollution agendas—remain underutilized.

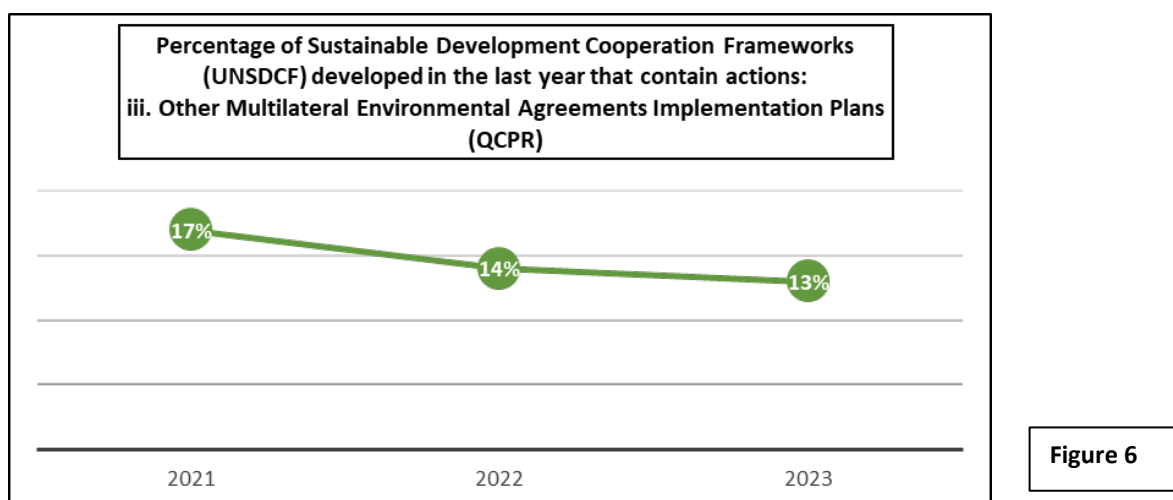
Overall, the findings point to a need for stronger mainstreaming of biodiversity across UN country programming, as well as enhanced efforts to promote coherence and synergies in the implementation of NBSAPs, MEAs, and other international environmental commitments.¹

¹ The following document indicating key entry points for cooperation and collaboration among MEAs, including a cross-mapping of MEA goals and targets with the KMGBF: [CBD/SBI/4/INF13: Key entry points for cooperation and collaboration among MEAs](#)



Key insight

- Despite recent progress, biodiversity remains underrepresented in UN country programming, with significantly lower integration compared to climate action.



4.2 Align current resources and mobilize additional joint financing

Output 3: United Nations entities can review their current programming and resources to ensure that operations integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions, prevent or account for negative impacts and do not exacerbate and accelerate biodiversity loss

Indicator 4: Percentage of Strategic Plans of UNDS entities that substantively address. i. The drivers of biodiversity loss

Progress in integrating biodiversity into the strategic planning of UN Development System (UNDS) entities shows a positive and sustained trend.

According to the 2025 Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), 74 per cent of UNDS Strategic Plans substantively addressed the drivers of biodiversity loss in 2024. This represents a significant increase of 28 percentage points compared to 2021, and a further 4 percentage point increase since 2023, indicating growing recognition of biodiversity loss as a systemic development challenge. Strengthening the link between high-level strategies and on-the-ground implementation will be critical to ensure that biodiversity considerations are effectively integrated across all areas of UN programming.

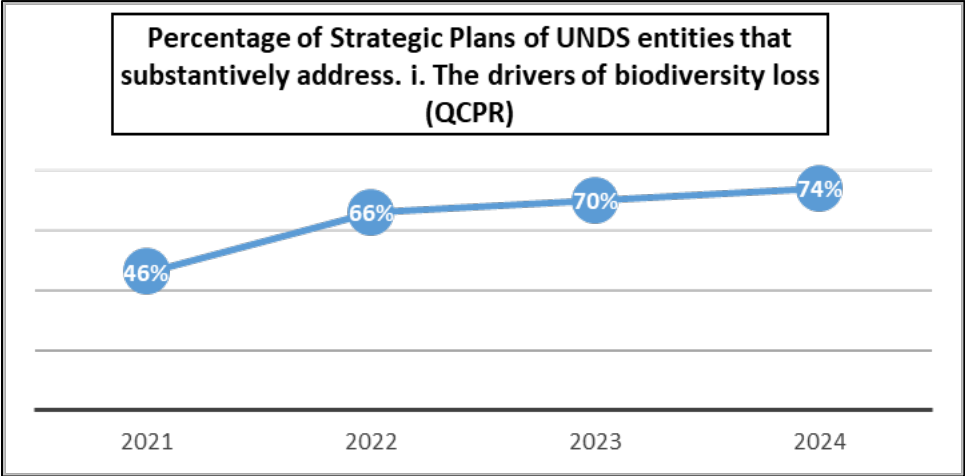


Figure 7

Beyond strategic-level commitments, UN entities are increasingly implementing programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing or mitigating negative impacts on biodiversity across different contexts and sectors. These efforts reflect a shift toward addressing both the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss, including environmental crime, unsustainable land use, and limited integration of biodiversity into local development planning.

Examples – Output 3, Indicator 4 – Addressing drivers of biodiversity loss

IMO, UNDP, GEF (GloFouling Partnerships Project – driver: invasive alien species)

- Addresses the transfer of invasive aquatic species introduced via biofouling¹.

UNCTAD (Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) – driver: pollution) ¹

- Reduces pollution from key sectors (plastics, textiles, agriculture, etc.)

UNDRR (Nature-based solutions – driver : climate change)

- Integrates ecosystem management into resilience planning

UNODC (CRIMFLO project – driver: land-use change linked to illegal activities) ¹.

- Strengthens criminal justice responses to illegal deforestation and timber trafficking in Brazil
- Provides technical assistance and promotes interagency and cross-border cooperation
- Enhances investigations, seizures, and prosecution in Pará and Amazonas

UNIDO planetGold and GEMINI projects – driver: mercury pollution

- **Supports systemic transformation by promoting the elimination and prevention of mercury use and releases into ecosystems through cleaner technologies, improved environmental practices, and strengthened regulatory frameworks.**

Key insight

- While a growing majority of UNDS entities address the drivers of biodiversity loss in their strategic plans, continued efforts to strengthen the link between high-level strategies and on-the-ground implementation will help ensure that biodiversity considerations are effectively integrated across all areas of UN programming.

Output 4: collaborative efforts can support the creation and capitalization of new pooled funding mechanisms for joint programming needed to restore the relationship to biodiversity and ecosystem services at scale

Collaborative efforts across the UN system are increasingly supporting the development and capitalization of pooled funding mechanisms and innovative financing approaches for biodiversity and ecosystem services. These efforts reflect a growing recognition that achieving biodiversity goals at scale requires coordinated resource mobilization, partnerships, and alignment with broader financial systems.

A range of initiatives demonstrates progress in leveraging partnerships and mobilizing resources for biodiversity action. UN entities are engaging with bilateral donors, international financial institutions, and the private sector to support long-term investments, while also contributing to the design of financing frameworks and tools that enable countries to plan and scale biodiversity-related expenditures.

Examples – Output 4 - collaborative financing and pooled funding initiatives

Programmatic and project-based funding (IAEA, UN-Habitat)

- IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme funds environmental projects across levels
- UN-Habitat mobilizes resources through joint proposals to GEF, IKI, and other funding mechanisms

Global financing and market-shaping initiatives (UNDP, UNEP FI, partners)

- *Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)*: promotes nature-related risk disclosure and nature-positive financial flows¹.
- *Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)*: supports over 130 countries in developing biodiversity finance plans¹.

Financing frameworks and national-level strategies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA)

- Support development of financing strategies for Marine Protected Areas (e.g. Cabo Verde)¹.
- Strengthen national systems for biodiversity financing and resource mobilization

Leveraging donor partnerships (UNODC)

- Projects such as *FishNET* and *CRIMFLO* mobilize funding from partners including Norad and the U.S. Department of State
- Support long-term biodiversity-related outcomes through enforcement and governance interventions

Joint programming and pooled funding (UN Women, FAO, IFAD, WFP)

- *Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE)*¹.
- Funded by multiple donors (e.g. Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Gates Foundation)
- Integrates biodiversity through agroecological practices and sustainable food systems

Innovative financing mechanisms (UNHCR)

- The Refugee Environmental Protection Fund mobilizes innovative finance and catalytic funding for integrated reforestation, agroforestry and clean cooking interventions in refugee-hosting areas. Initial projects are designed to reduce pressure on forest ecosystems, restore degraded landscapes and include specific biodiversity and ecosystem health indicators such as native species richness and abundance, native species composition, tree survival, canopy cover and habitat connectivity, alongside soil quality indicators.

While several initiatives show strong potential for replication and scaling, further efforts are needed to enhance accessibility of funding across the UN system. Strengthening linkages between programmatic interventions and financing strategies will be critical to ensure sustained and predictable support for biodiversity and nature-positive actions.

Key insight

- Building on a growing number of collaborative financing initiatives, further efforts to enhance scalability will be important to mobilize resources for biodiversity action.

4.3 Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action

Output 5: working together, United Nations system data, knowledge and expertise can be leveraged at all levels to provide capacity-building in support of the implementation of Member States' obligations and commitments, post-pandemic recovery plans and the biodiversity-dependent elements of the Sustainable Development Goals

UN entities play a central role in supporting Member States through capacity-building, knowledge generation, and technical assistance to advance the implementation of the KMGBF and related commitments.

Across the system, a wide range of tools, guidance documents, knowledge products, and learning platforms has been developed, alongside workshops, training programmes, and technical cooperation initiatives. These efforts demonstrate the breadth of expertise available within the UN system and its ability to support biodiversity action across multiple sectors and scales.

A key strength lies in the diversity of entry points through which biodiversity is addressed. UN entities are contributing to capacity-building through thematic areas such as human rights (OHCHR), disaster risk reduction (UNDRR), environmental governance and crime (UNODC), gender equality (UN Women), sustainable development and finance (UNDP), urban planning (UN-Habitat), climate adaptation and nature based solutions (UNITAR-UNCC: Learn), agriculture (IFAD), decent work (ILO), sustainable industrial development (UNIDO), and trade (UNCTAD), among others. This reflects a growing recognition of biodiversity as a cross-cutting issue requiring integrated approaches.

In addition, the system is increasingly leveraging partnerships and joint initiatives, such as global programmes, multi-agency platforms, and international partnerships, to scale up knowledge exchange, technical support, and implementation. These collaborative efforts enhance coherence and enable countries to access a broader range of expertise and resources.

However, the breadth of initiatives also highlights challenges related to fragmentation and accessibility. While numerous tools and knowledge products exist, their uptake, coordination, and alignment across entities are not always systematic. Strengthening knowledge-sharing mechanisms, improving visibility of existing tools, and enhancing coordination across entities will be important to maximize impact and avoid duplication.

Key insight

- The UN system offers a wide and diverse range of knowledge, tools, and capacity-building support for biodiversity action; however, further efforts to enhance coherence, accessibility, and coordinated delivery will be important to maximize their impact at country level. This usually requires engaging and supporting national education and training ecosystems so as to build for long term sustainability in capacity building efforts.

Examples – Output 5 - Guidance, tools, and knowledge products

Entity	Type of product	Focus area	Contribution
Convention on Wetlands	Assessment reports, guidance, policy briefs, briefing notes and technical reports, including STRP outputs ^{xxxv, xxxvi, xxxvii, xxxviii,}	Biodiversity	MEA coherence
IFAD	Agroecology, biodiversity indicators ^{xl, xli, xlii.}	Agriculture	Sustainable food systems
Minamata Convention	Reports on pollution & biodiversity ^{xliv, xlv, xlvii.}	Chemicals & waste	MEA coherence
ILO, UNEP and IUCN	Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions biennial report series	More and better jobs in the use of NbS and related activities	Integrates employment and labour rights
OHCHR	Guidance on HR & NBSAPs, HRBA tools ^{xlvi, xlix, li, liii, liv.}	Human rights & biodiversity	Integrates rights-based approaches

UNDP	Learning for Nature, Nature for Development ^{lv, lvi.}	Cross-sectoral	Capacity-building and learning
UNDRR	Policy briefs, NbS guidance ^{lvii, lviii, lix.}	DRR & ecosystems	Links biodiversity with resilience
UN-Habitat	Urban tools and toolkits ^{lx, lxi, lxii, lxiii.}	Cities & ecosystems	Spatial planning
UNODC	Crime reports, legislative guides ^{lxiv, lxv, lxvi.}	Environmental crime	Strengthens enforcement
UN Women	Rio Conventions working paper ^{lxvii.}	Gender & biodiversity	Promotes gender-responsive approaches
UNWTO	Tourism biodiversity reports, toolkits ^{lxviii.}	Tourism	Sectoral integration
UNIDO	Eco-Industrial Parks Toolbox ^{lxix.}	Industry	Integrates biodiversity in industrial planning

ICAO	ICAO Environmental reports; ICAO Climate Adaptation Synthesis; Eco-Airport toolkit; CORSIA Sustainability Criteria for CORSIA Eligible Fuels	Aviation environment, airport management	Technical guidance and tools for integrating biodiversity considerations
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Annex 4 provides a non-exhaustive list including additional examples of UN tools, knowledge products, guidance documents, publications that can support global biodiversity action and Member States.

Examples – Output 5 - Capacity-building platforms and learning initiatives

Entity	Initiative	Type	Reach
IAEA	Training & TECDOC series ^{lxx}	Technical capacity	Global
Minamata Secretariat, BRS, CBD	Online sessions supporting national implementation across the biodiversity, chemicals, and waste agendas ^{lxxi, lxxii} .	Technical exchange	Global
UNDP	Learning for Nature ^{lxxiii}	E-learning platform	Global
UNITAR	One UN Climate Learning Partnership, including new content on ecosystem based approaches	E-learning platform	Global
UNICEF	Youth & education materials ^{lxxiv, lxxv} .	Awareness & capacity	National

ICAO	Biennial Green Airports Seminar, and annual Aviation Climate Week.	Technical exchange	Global
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Box 4. Common Approach Webinar Series

As a complement to events, workshops and webinars organized by the different UN entities and EMG Members around biodiversity issues, the **IMG on Biodiversity** started a webinar series addressing different thematic areas within the framework of the Common Approach.

The overarching goals of the **Common Approach Webinar Series** are to promote awareness and implementation of the Common Approach, support the implementation of the KMGBF, highlight biodiversity-related activities within the UN system and the incorporation of biodiversity considerations into UN policies and programmes, share case studies and lessons learned, and facilitate information sharing between UN entities and other stakeholders.

The Webinar Series has covered the following topics:

- **Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agrifood Systems**, in collaboration with **IFAD** and **FAO**
- **Incorporating Human Rights-Based Approaches to Biodiversity Conservation**, in collaboration with **OHCHR** and **UNDP**
- **Integrating Biodiversity and Disaster Risk Reduction**, in collaboration with **UNDRR**
- **Urban Spatial Planning for Biodiversity Conservation and Preservation**, in collaboration with **UN-Habitat**

The Series is also advancing Common Approach Output 8 and Output 9 by facilitating coordinated advocacy and communication actions.

For additional information: <https://unemg.org/un-common-approach-to-biodiversity-webinar-series/>

Examples – Output 5- Country and sectoral implementation examples

Entities	Country / Initiative	Focus	Impact
IFAD, FAO	ABC-Map ^{lxvii}	Geospatial tool	Impact assessment
IOM	Iraq & Mozambique (EbA projects) ^{lxviii}	Nature-based solutions	Climate resilience

UNCTAD	BioTrade ^{lxxviii}	Trade & biodiversity	Sustainable markets
UNICEF + partners	Ecuador (Youth biodiversity action) ^{lxxix}	Youth engagement	Inputs to NBSAP
UNITAR, OHCHR	South Africa (Marine Protected Areas)	Indigenous Peoples and local communities	Implementation of GBF targets
UNDP, OHCHR, FAO	Bolivia (Mother Earth-Centered Actions for Biodiversity Conservation)	Indigenous Peoples	Biodiversity conservation
UNODC	Fisheries crime (FishNET) ^{lxxx}	Enforcement	Biodiversity protection
UNIDO	SwitchMed	Circular Economy	Costal ecosystem conservation

Examples – Output 5 - Programmes, partnerships, and global initiatives

Lead entities	Initiative	Focus	Value added
UNDP, UNEP, CBD	NBSAP Accelerator Partnership ^{lxxxi}	Policy implementation	Country support
UNDP, UNEP	GBF Early Action Support	KMGBF implementation	Financing + technical support
UNEP, FAO	UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration ^{lxxxii}	Ecosystem restoration	Global mobilization
UNEP + partners	Nature4Health ^{lxxxiii}	One Health	Prevents future risks

Output 6: knowledge-sharing through the United Nations regional mechanisms, notably regional collaborative platforms, regional issue-based coalitions and regional peer support groups

UN regional mechanisms, particularly Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs), Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs), and peer support groups, play an important role in facilitating knowledge-sharing, coordination, and joint action on biodiversity and nature-based solutions. These platforms provide a critical interface between global commitments and country-level implementation by supporting Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

Across regions, these mechanisms are increasingly being used to promote integrated approaches to biodiversity, often linking it with climate change, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development. By fostering inter-agency coordination and aligning support to Member States, regional platforms contribute to improved coherence in the implementation of global frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the KMGBF, and the Sendai Framework.

At the same time, the extent to which biodiversity is systematically integrated into regional coordination mechanisms varies across regions. While some IBCs explicitly incorporate biodiversity and nature-based solutions into their mandates and workplans, in other contexts these issues remain embedded within broader environmental or climate agendas. Strengthening the visibility and prioritization of biodiversity within regional platforms will be important to ensure more consistent and coordinated support across regions.

Examples – Output 6 – Regional knowledge-sharing mechanisms

Latin America and the Caribbean – IBC on Climate Change and Resilience (IBC-CCR)

- Led by UNDRR and UNEP under the Regional Collaboration Platform
- Promotes coordinated implementation of global frameworks (2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, KMGBF, Sendai Framework)
- Strengthens inter-agency coordination and accountability on climate, resilience, and DRR

Europe and Central Asia – IBC on Environment and Climate Change

- Co-chaired by UNEP, UNESCO, and UNECE
- Supports Member States and UNCTs on environmental and climate issues
- Includes biodiversity and nature-based solutions within its annual workplans

Mesoamerica – BiodiverCities initiative (UN-Habitat)

- Promotes regional knowledge-sharing on urban biodiversity
- Supports implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- Builds on partnerships such as the BiodiverCities network

Key insight

- Regional mechanisms provide a valuable platform for coordinated support and knowledge-sharing on biodiversity; further efforts to systematically integrate biodiversity across all regions will help enhance their effectiveness and impact.

Box 10. Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia

In 2024, two guidance documents on mainstreaming biodiversity were developed in support of UNCTs, UN Resident Coordinators (UN RCs), and overall biodiversity action in the region:

- [Key advocacy messages on biodiversity](#), presenting key advocacy messages that highlight the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into development planning, and assist UNCTs and UN RCs in promoting biodiversity mainstreaming during their engagements with governments and stakeholders across the region.
- [Guidance for integrating biodiversity into Common Country Analysis and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks](#), that presents practical guidance to assist UNCTs and UN RCs with integrating biodiversity considerations into UN Common Country Analysis (CCAs) and UNSDCFs, providing practical entry points, tools, and recommendations to mainstream biodiversity into national planning processes, as well as a non-exhaustive reference list of information materials that can be used at different stages of the UNSDCF process.

In addition, two regional webinars accompanied the development of the guidance documents, representing valuable knowledge-sharing and dialogue opportunities for the region on biodiversity-related matters:

- [Incorporating global agendas at the national level: best practices and lessons learned for integrating biodiversity into UNSDCFs in Europe and Central Asia](#)
- [Regional workshop on Guidance and Finance for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into CCAs and UNSDCFs](#)

For additional information: <https://uneuropecentralasia.org/en/ibc-environmental-coalition>

Output 7: greater engagement with and visibility of biodiversity in existing global coordination mechanisms

Global, regional, and national coordination mechanisms play a critical role in advancing biodiversity action by fostering interdisciplinary knowledge development, facilitating information exchange, and promoting cross-sectoral and cross-country solutions. These mechanisms bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, and the private sector, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

A growing number of partnerships and coordination platforms have emerged to strengthen coherence across biodiversity-related agendas. These include intergovernmental coordination mechanisms, inter-convention collaboration, inter-institutional partnerships, and multi-stakeholder initiatives. Together, they contribute to aligning efforts across global frameworks and enhancing synergies in implementation.

Notably, increased collaboration is evident across multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), where coordination mechanisms are helping to bridge traditionally siloed agendas, such as biodiversity, climate change, and chemicals and waste. At the same time, sector-specific partnerships, such as those in tourism and maritime transport, are contributing to mainstream biodiversity considerations into economic sectors with significant environmental impacts.

Strengthening linkages between partnerships, improving knowledge-sharing, and enhancing the visibility of biodiversity within broader global processes will be key to maximizing their collective impact.

Key insight

- The growing landscape of partnerships and coordination mechanisms is enhancing the visibility of biodiversity across sectors and agendas; continued efforts to strengthen coherence and strategic alignment will be important to maximize their collective impact.

Examples – Output 7 - global coordination mechanisms and partnerships

Inter-convention and intergovernmental coordination

- *Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions*: enhances coherence and cooperation across biodiversity-related MEAs
- *Informal liaison group (chemicals–biodiversity nexus)*: strengthens coordination between Minamata, CBD, and BRS Conventions

Multi-stakeholder and sectoral partnerships

- *Nature-Positive Tourism Partnership (NPTP)*: brings together public and private tourism actors to promote nature-positive practices aligned with the KMGBF. Develops guidance and advocacy (e.g. *Nature Positive Travel & Tourism in Action* report) and contributes to global policy dialogue
- *Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)*: From addressing the triple planetary crisis to reaping the benefits of digitalization, GACERE works across sectors to explore the value of circular economy and resource efficiency in the framework of a sustainable industrial development.

Global programmes and joint projects

- *GloFouling Partnerships (GEF–UNDP–IMO)*: tackles invasive aquatic species through global cooperation
- *GloLitter Partnerships (IMO, FAO)*: addresses marine plastic pollution across multiple regions

Knowledge exchange and dialogue platforms

- *Inclusive Conversations on HRBA (OHCHR and partners)*: builds capacity and shared understanding

4.4 Coordinate outreach and communications efforts

Output 8/Output 9: United Nations entities can contribute to and use coherent narratives during the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development/United Nations entities can coordinate efforts to capitalize on the political leadership, key outcomes and messages on the summit on biodiversity held in September 2020

UN entities play a critical role in shaping and promoting coherent narratives on biodiversity across global processes, international decades, and high-level events. These efforts contribute to raising awareness, fostering political momentum, and aligning stakeholders around shared priorities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Global events, particularly the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16), have provided important platforms for the UN system to coordinate messaging, showcase joint initiatives, and reinforce the role of the Common Approach in advancing the implementation of the KMGBF. Through coordinated engagement, UN entities have contributed to strengthening the visibility of biodiversity across sectors and policy domains.

These efforts also demonstrate the increasing emphasis on integrated narratives that connect biodiversity with climate change, pollution, human rights, gender equality, youth engagement, and sustainable economic development. By leveraging global platforms and international partnerships, the UN system is helping to position biodiversity as a cross-cutting priority within the broader sustainable development agenda.

Ensuring consistency of messaging across entities, strengthening coordination in global engagement, and aligning communication efforts with major international processes and decades will be important to maximize impact and sustain political momentum.

Key insight

- Global events and partnerships are strengthening the visibility of biodiversity and enabling more coherent narratives across the UN system; further efforts to align messaging and coordinate engagement will help sustain momentum and amplify impact.

Examples – Output 8/9 – UN system engagement at CBD COP16

- **High-level Roundtable (EMG/IMG on Biodiversity)**
 - Brought together senior UN leadership
 - Promoted joint messages on policy coherence, inclusion, human rights, and financing
- **High-level Breakfast (Government of Colombia, CBD, UNEP, EMG)**
 - Focused on synergies across MEAs and integrated implementation
- **EMG informal coordination meeting**
 - Strengthened internal coordination and forward planning
- **“Fostering Synergies to Deliver on the KMGBF” event**
 - Highlighted the Common Approach as a tool for implementation
 - Facilitated exchange on national and regional experiences
- **UN Hub (30+ events, 15+ organizations)**
 - Platform to enhance visibility of UN biodiversity action
- **Additional engagement by UN entities (e.g. UNWTO, UN-Habitat, OHCHR)**
 - Side events, publications, and participation in high-level segments

Youth engagement and advocacy (UNICEF)

- Mobilization of youth participation at CBD COP16
- National-level initiatives (e.g. Congo Basin Youth Summit)
- Contribution to biodiversity policy processes (e.g. NBSAPs)

Global communication and awareness (UN-Habitat)

- Promotion of biodiversity narratives through global campaigns (e.g. World Wetlands Day)

Trade, environment and biodiversity dialogue (UNCTAD)

- Trade Day at CBD COP16
- UN Ocean Forum on SDG14
- BioTrade Initiative awareness and outreach

Human rights and biodiversity (OHCHR)

- Environmental Justice and Human Rights Day at CBD COP16 (Colombia Pavilion)

Aviation and Biodiversity Protection

- Annual ICAO Aviation Climate Week
- Biennial Green Airports Seminar

Dedicated articles on Uniting Aviation e.g. Unlocking land restoration opportunities: Aviation's role in combating desertification and drought - Uniting Aviation

5. Key messages and reflections for 2025 – 2030

Achieving the full and effective implementation of the Common Approach will require sustained efforts to move from policy alignment to operational delivery, strengthen integration at regional and national levels, and enhance coherence across financing, knowledge, and coordination mechanisms. The following key messages highlight both progress made and priority areas for action across the UN system:

- **The UN system is making progress in aligning policies and programmes with biodiversity objectives.**
A growing number of entities have integrated biodiversity into their strategies and operations, reflecting its recognition as a cross-cutting priority across sectors such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, human rights, and sustainable development.
- **Bridging the gap between policy commitments and operational implementation remains a key priority.**
While policy alignment is well advanced, further efforts are needed to translate commitments into consistent practices, including programme delivery, and facility-level actions.

- **Biodiversity remains underrepresented in UN country programming.**
Compared to climate action, biodiversity is less systematically integrated into UNSDCFs, highlighting the need to strengthen alignment with NBSAPs.
- **Regional mechanisms offer significant potential to accelerate implementation.**
Regional Collaborative Platforms and Issue-Based Coalitions provide valuable spaces for coordination, knowledge-sharing, and joint action, and can play a stronger role in advancing biodiversity integration at regional and country levels.
- **Partnerships and financing initiatives are expanding but require greater coherence and scale.**
A range of joint programmes, pooled funding mechanisms, and global initiatives are supporting biodiversity action, yet improved coordination and accessibility are needed to mobilize resources at the scale required.
- **The UN system provides a strong knowledge base, but greater coordination and accessibility are needed.**
Numerous tools, guidance documents, and capacity-building initiatives are available; enhancing their visibility and uptake will be critical to maximizing impact.
- **Global coordination and partnerships are increasing the visibility of biodiversity.**
Engagement in global platforms and partnerships is helping to elevate biodiversity across sectors and agendas, though continued efforts are needed to strengthen alignment and sustained momentum.
- **Coherent narratives and coordinated messaging will be essential moving forward.**
Aligning communication across UN entities and leveraging global processes and international decades can further strengthen the visibility and impact of biodiversity action.

Annexes

Annex 1. Common Approach Outputs

A. Internal policy alignment and coherence

Output 1: *The United Nations system can prove its commitment to biodiversity and nature-based solutions through its corporate behaviour.*

Output 2: *The United Nations system needs to lead by example in its policy, programme planning and implementation.*

B. Alignment of current resources and mobilize joint financing

Output 3: *United Nations entities can review their current programming and resources to ensure that operations integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions, prevent or account for negative impacts and do not exacerbate and accelerate biodiversity loss.*

Output 4: *Collaborative efforts can support the creation and capitalization of new pooled funding mechanisms for joint programming needed to restore the relationship to biodiversity and ecosystem services at scale.*

C. Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action

Output 5: *Working together, United Nations system data, knowledge and expertise can be leveraged at all levels to provide capacity-building in support of the implementation of Member States' obligations and commitments, post-pandemic recovery plans and the biodiversity-dependent elements of the Sustainable Development Goals.*

Output 6: *Knowledge-sharing through the United Nations regional mechanisms, notably regional collaborative platforms, regional issue-based coalitions and regional peer support groups.*

Output 7: *Greater engagement with and visibility of biodiversity in existing global coordination mechanisms*

D. Coordinate outreach and communication efforts

Output 8: *United Nations entities can contribute to and use coherent narratives during the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.*

Output 9: *United Nations entities can coordinate efforts to capitalize on the political leadership, key outcomes and messages of the summit on biodiversity held in September 2020.*

Annex 2. UN Common Approach Monitoring and Reporting Framework. Finalized quantitative indicators and values

Tier (Outcome)		Output		Indicator		Data Type	Data Source	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Mid-Term Value	Mid-Term Year
A	Internal policy alignment and coherence	1	The United Nations system can prove its commitment to biodiversity and nature-based solutions through its corporate behaviour	1	Number of UN locations (of any type) which have completed <i>or are in the process of conducting</i> a biodiversity screening of their location within the past 5 years (%) ²	Quantitative	Greening the Blue Report	16%	2022	26%	2023
		2	The United Nations system needs to lead by example in its policy, programme planning and implementation	2	Number of UN agencies that have adjusted their strategies, policies and programs to align to the Common Approach on Biodiversity (%) ³	Quantitative	QCPR 2.3.9	74%	2021	92%	2024
				3	Percentage of Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) that contain actions to implement: ii. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans iii. Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements Implementation Plans (%) ⁵	Quantitative	QCPR 2.3.2	ii. 4% iii. 17%	2021	ii. 13% iii. 13%	2023
B	Align current resources and mobilize additional joint financing	3	United Nations entities can review their current programming and resources to ensure that operations integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions, prevent or account for negative impacts and do not exacerbate and accelerate biodiversity loss	4	Percentage of Strategic Plans of UNDS entities that substantively address: ii. The drivers of biodiversity loss (%) ⁵	Quantitative	QCPR 2.3.1	ii. 46%	2021	ii. 74%	2024

² Within the scope of the Greening the Blue Report

³ Within the scope of QCPR

Annex 3

EMG Survey: UN Common Approach to Biodiversity

Submission: [Online](#) or by email (emg@un.org)

Introduction

In May 2021, the United Nations (UN) System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the [UN Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development into United Nations Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery](#) (hereafter ‘Common Approach’), a UN-system commitment to mainstreaming biodiversity in policies, programmes and operations, and creating opportunities for collective action for nature.

The Common Approach foresees that the [UN Environment Management Group](#) (EMG) “identifies a limited number of measurable targets and related indicators on the basis of existing reporting mechanisms and compiles a mid-term and final report on the implementation of the Common Approach at the global level”¹.

The monitoring and reporting framework is structured to measure progress towards the expected [outputs of the Common Approach](#), and outlines the collection of quantitative data and qualitative information via two mechanisms:

Component I - Existing Reporting: Observing progress against relevant quantitative indicators in existing reporting mechanisms, mainly the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the Greening the Blue Report.

Component II - EMG Survey: Developed and collated by the EMG Secretariat, mainly focused on qualitative information.

The information will contribute to the development of the Mid-Term Report on the implementation of the Common Approach – to be published during the first quarter of 2025 -, the Final Report, and additional annual and biannual reporting.

Component II is the focus of this exercise. This EMG Survey presented here aims to collecting information on actions that reflect the UN’s commitment and contribution to the Common Approach outputs, as well as contributions made by UN entities that support the implementation of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), such as biodiversity-related programmes, projects, flagship initiatives, tools, case studies, lessons learned, best practices, and other actions that properly reflect such contribution.

For any questions, please contact the EMG Secretariat (emg@un.org)

The EMG Secretariat may contact you for further information based on your response.

Profile
1. Please provide the name of your entity:

2. Please select the level/region/country that you are reporting on in this survey⁴

☐ Global

☐ Regional

☐ Africa

☐ Asia and the Pacific

☐ Eastern Europe

☐ Latin America and the Caribbean

☐ Western Europe and other States

☐ National

[If national level, please include the name of the country here]

3. Please provide your full name.

4. Please provide your title/position.

5. Please provide your email.

Policies, strategies and frameworks that address and incorporate biodiversity

Please insert the links to any relevant documentation within your response

6. Has your entity **explicitly** incorporated biodiversity-related issues in strategic and overarching corporate strategies, policies and frameworks, in line with the entity's strengths and mandate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable

If 'Yes', please provide a brief description and add a link to any relevant documents. If such strategies are not public, please feel free to share them with the EMG Secretariat via e-mail. If applicable, this information will be treated as confidential.

⁴ [Regional groups of Member States](#) | [Department for General Assembly and Conference Management \(un.org\)](#)

7. Has your entity developed **specific** strategies and actions plans for the protection, sustainable use, promotion, etc. of biodiversity?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable

If 'Yes', please provide a brief description and add a link to any relevant documents.

Key programmes, projects, initiatives, and other biodiversity actions

8. Please provide up to three examples of programmes, projects, initiatives and other actions related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, that your entity is implementing, including joint initiatives with other UN entities

Please provide a brief description of the initiatives and add a link to each.

9. How are these programmes, projects, initiatives and other biodiversity actions contributing to **advance the [outputs of the Common Approach](#)**?

Please list any relevant outputs and add a brief description of how each programme, project or initiative is contributing to their achievement.

10. How are these programmes, projects, initiatives and other biodiversity actions **supporting Member States to achieve [GBF targets](#)**?

Please list any relevant GBF targets and add a brief description of how such programmes, projects and initiatives are contributing to their achievement, in addition to the target **beneficiaries** of such actions (i.e.: governments, smallholders, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, private sector organizations, resource partners, etc.)

Tools, knowledge products, guidance documents, publications and best practices

11. Please provide up to three examples of **tools**, knowledge products, guidance documents, publications and/or best practices that your entity has developed, and that can be shared with other entities and Member States to strengthen UN biodiversity action.

Please provide a brief description of such tools, best practices, etc. and add links to each.

Other

12. Please add any information or comments you deem relevant to the objectives of this survey, including other actions that your entity is developing in support of global biodiversity action, in consideration of its nature and mandate.

Thank you

Annex 4. Examples of UN tools, knowledge products, guidance documents, publications, and other materials that can support global biodiversity action and Member States

Title	Author
Technical Documents (TECDOC) series	IAEA
Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime	ICCWC
Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit	ICCWC
Biodiversity Core Indicator – Comprehensive Guidance	IFAD
Stock-take report on agroecology in IFAD operations: An integrated approach to sustainable food systems	IFAD
Strengthening agroforestry in rural investments: Lessons learned and best practices from IFAD operations	IFAD, FAO
Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London)	IMO
International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM)	IMO
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)	IMO
Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas	IMO
IOM key messages on human mobility and biological diversity	IOM
Planet on the move. Reimagining conservation at the intersection of migration, environmental change, and conflict	IUCN (Contributions and Foreword by IOM)
Mercury and biodiversity	Minamata Convention on Mercury
Mercury and biodiversity. Opportunities for generating co-benefits through coherent implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the KMGBF	Minamata Convention on Mercury
Mercury Pollution and Biodiversity: Contribution of the Minamata	Minamata Convention on Mercury
Monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds in and around artisanal and small-scale gold mining sites. Technical background document	Minamata Convention on Mercury
Needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with regard to the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining	Minamata Convention on Mercury

Roadmap for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Minamata Convention and the KMGBF	Minamata Convention on Mercury
The socio-economic impacts of mercury pollution on fisheries and livelihoods. Exploring how a natural capital approach may support the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	Minamata Convention on Mercury
Assessing Global Environmental Mercury Exposure in Biota and Potential Impacts on Biodiversity (Part 1)	Minamata Convention on Mercury (Co-edition)
Assessing Global Environmental Mercury Exposure in Biota and Potential Impacts on Biodiversity (Part 2)	Minamata Convention on Mercury (Co-edition)
Nature Positive Travel & Tourism in Action	Nature-Positive Partnership (NPTP)
Best practices and methods comparison portal	OA-ICC (IAEA)
Data access and management	OA-ICC (IAEA)
Advancing the right to a healthy environment in the Amazon rainforest (Advanced version)	OHCHR
Integrating Human Rights in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Research, analysis and recommendations for rights-based biodiversity action	OHCHR
Key Human Rights Considerations on the Impact of Seabed Mining	OHCHR
Global analytical study on the implementation of a human-rights based approach into the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	OHCHR
Guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	OHCHR (IMG on Human Rights and the Environment)
Applying a human rights-based approach in line with Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework	OHCHR, CBD Secretariat
Key Messages on Human Rights and Biodiversity	OHCHR, UNEP
Recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures	TNFD
BioTrade Principles and Criteria (P&C)	UNCTAD
BioTrade Self-Assessment Tool	UNCTAD
Trade and Biodiversity (TraBio) database	UNCTAD
Environmental risk and performance management	UN DOS on behalf of peacekeeping missions

Learning for Nature	UNDP
Nature for Development Series	UNDP
BIOFIN Catalogue of Finance Solutions	UNDP
The Nature of Subsidies: A step-by-step guide to repurpose subsidies harmful to biodiversity	UNDP
Targeted Scenario Analysis	UNDP
UN Biodiversity Lab	UNDP, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, SCBD
Environmental and ecosystem-related disaster losses (Working paper)	UNDRR
Nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management: Toolkit for integrated planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	UNDRR
Policy brief: Nature for Resilience	UNDRR
Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Recommendations and Guidance for Governments	UNDRR
Words into Action: Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction	UNDRR
Cities and Nature: Planning for the Future	UN-Habitat
City-Wide Public Space Assessment Toolkit	UN-Habitat
Expertise and Work on Urban Biodiversity	UN-Habitat
Hotspot Stoplight	UN-Habitat
Managing Urban-Rural Linkages for Biodiversity: an Integrated Territorial Approach	UN-Habitat, CBD Secretariat
Primer on Urban-Rural Linkages and Land	UN-Habitat, UNCCD Secretariat
Ancestral knowledge and climate change	UNICEF
Integrating Crimes that Affect the Environment in National Climate Action	UNODC
World Wildlife Crime Report 2024	UNODC
World Wildlife Seizures (World WISE) database	UNODC

Combating Crimes in the Fisheries Sector: A Guide to Good Legislative Practices	UNODC, FAO
Working paper: Advancing Gender-responsive Synergies Across the Rio Conventions	UN Women
Global Roadmap for Food Waste Reduction in the Tourism Sector	UNWTO
The Integration of Biodiversity in National Tourism Policies	UNWTO
Toolkit of Indicators for Projects (TIPs) TIPs Toolkit Resources	UNWTO, JICA

Source: non-exhaustive reference list based on EMG Survey results

ⁱ <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/introduction>

ⁱⁱ <https://unfccc.int/news/what-is-the-triple-planetary-crisis>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://unsceeb.org/un-common-approach-biodiversity>

^{iv} <https://www.cbd.int/gbf>

^v unemg.org

^{vi} [https://unsceeb.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Biodiversity Common Approach 50%2B ways to integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions.pdf](https://unsceeb.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Biodiversity%20Common%20Approach%2050%20ways%20to%20integrate%20biodiversity%20and%20nature-based%20solutions.pdf)

^{vii} <https://greeningtheblue.org>

^{viii} [Resolution XV.3 The Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands 2025-2034 | The Convention on Wetlands](#)

^{ix} [Resolution XV.4 Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions](#)

^x [Medium Term Strategy | IAEA](#)

^{xi} [IFAD Strategy and Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2019-2025](#)

^{xii} [IFAD13](#)

^{xiii} <https://www.imo.org/en/about/strategy/pages/default.aspx>

^{xiv} [IOM Strategic Plan 2024-2028 | International Organization for Migration](#)

^{xv} [Environmental sustainability | International Organization for Migration](#)

^{xvi} <https://minamataconvention.org/es/node/4408>

^{xvii} <https://minamataconvention.org/es/node/10856>

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