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Building Synergies Between Biodiversity and Climate

Insights from countries on NBSAP and NDC planning and implementation

Implemented by
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FAKT Consult for Management, Training and Technologies

IISD International Institute for Sustainable Development

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List of Abbreviations

ADAPTUR	ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in the tourism sector
BTR	biennial transparency report
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIME	Comité Interministériel de l'Environnement (Madagascar)
CONABIO	National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad)
COP	Conference of the Parties
DaRT	Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRR	disaster risk reduction
EbA	ecosystem-based adaptation
EU	European Union
GBF	Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IBPES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IP&LCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MEAs	multilateral environmental agreements

MEDD	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (DRC)
MINAM	Ministry of the Environment (Peru)
NAP	national adaptation plan
NBSAP	national biodiversity strategies and action plans
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NbS	nature-based solutions
NSDRR	National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (Lao PDR)
PMRR	Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review (CBD)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SINA	National Environmental System (Colombia)
SINAC	National System of Conservation Areas (Costa Rica)
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

1. Introduction

The 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2022 Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) are interconnected and complementary. Their primary goals – addressing climate change and protecting biodiversity – are closely linked, requiring an ambitious and coordinated response. The effectiveness of each agreement relies on the successful implementation of the other (Streck, 2023). Scientific research, numerous decisions, declarations, and calls for increased collaboration have acknowledged this connection. Over 11 specific decisions on biodiversity and climate change – including the most recent Decision 16/22 from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP) 16, 2024 in Cali – call for a better integration of biodiversity and climate protection at the policy, planning, and implementation levels. This recognition lays the groundwork for countries to create effective linkages to achieve commitments under both global frameworks.

National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) under the GBF and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are the key instruments for planning, implementation, and reporting at the national level. Countries were required to update their NBSAPs or at least revise their national targets to align with the GBF established under the CBD before the 16th COP in October 2024 (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit [GIZ], International Institute for Sustainable Development [IISD], & World Wide Fund for Nature [WWF], 2024). However, as of November 2024, only 44 countries have submitted GBF-aligned NBSAPs, with additional NBSAPs to follow in 2025. In parallel, countries have begun updating their NDCs, which are supposed to be submitted by the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30) in 2025 in Brazil.

Countries' efforts to renew their respective commitments under the relevant conventions represent an important and timely opportunity to foster synergies to effectively address the challenges linked to climate change and biodiversity loss and connect ongoing processes. However, capitalising on the interconnectedness of climate and biodiversity and translating synergies identified on paper into concrete actions is difficult.

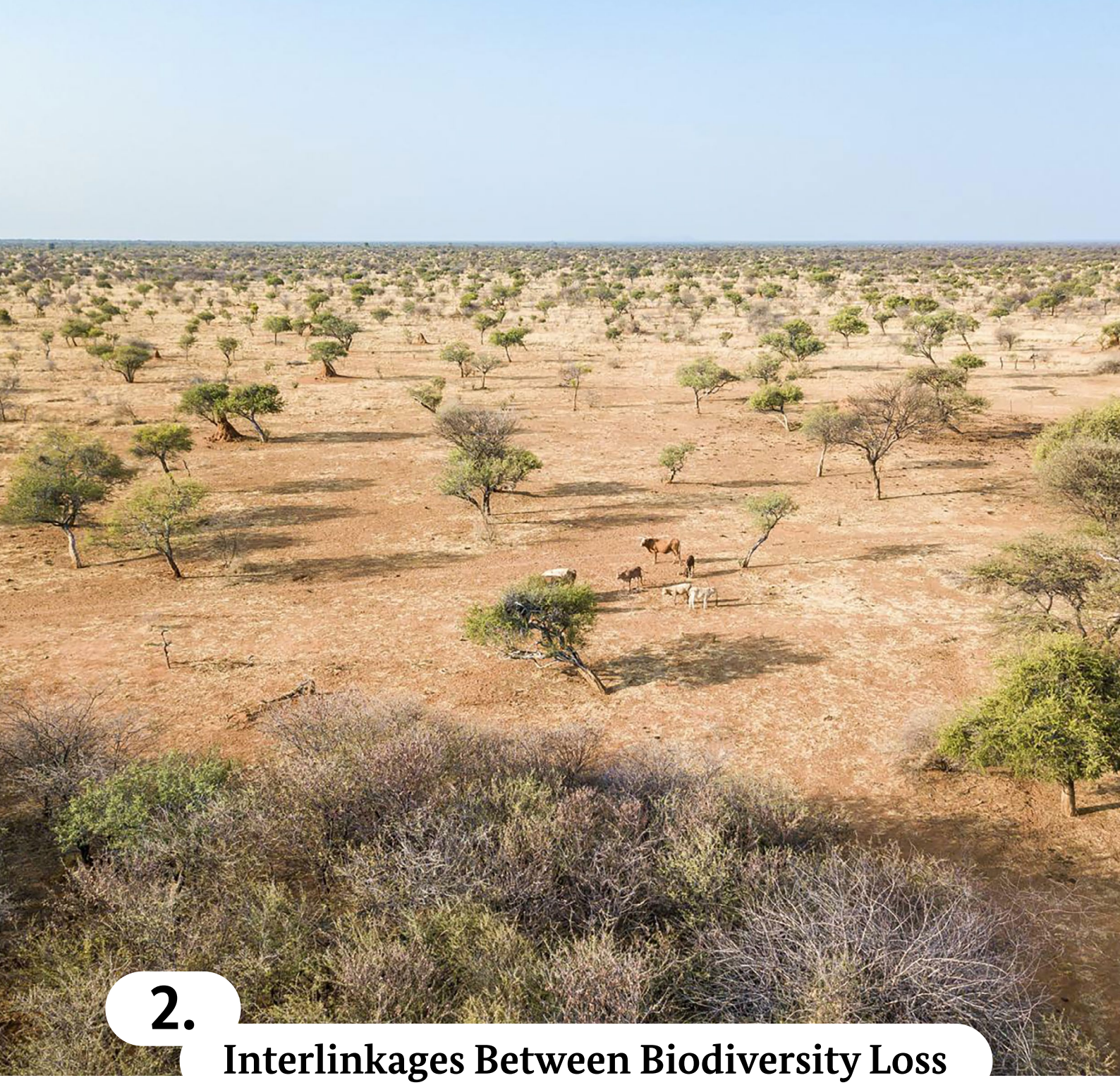
This global study emphasises the rationale for synergistic planning and implementation, along with strategic approaches supplemented by good practice examples from countries on how to realise complementary linkages. **It highlights the findings of 10 explorative national case studies from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the DRC, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Madagascar, Mexico, and Peru, showcasing country-specific approaches and practices to create tangible solutions for joint NDC and NBSAP implementation**. The study aims to present concrete opportunities and lessons learned from the formulation and implementation processes of the latest NDCs and NBSAPs and highlight approaches and good practices from which other countries can learn.

The study aims to inform global and national stakeholders, including national focal points, NBSAP and NDC policy-makers and planners, civil society organisations, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LCs), in countries working to align their climate and biodiversity policies and actions to seek more effective outcomes and multiple and co-benefits.

The study was commissioned by GIZ GmbH. It is a joint effort of two projects, the Global Project "Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets (GBF Implementation)" and the German contribution to the European Union (EU) flagship programme for Green Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean, Euroclima.

What does creating synergies mean?

Creating synergies involves the intentional coordination of planning and implementation of national climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies at the national level to achieve enhanced results greater than if each policy instrument were implemented by itself. Creating synergies creates multiple co-benefits, seeks more effective outcomes, and ensures efforts in one area do not undermine progress in another (GIZ, IISD, & WWF, 2024).



2. Interlinkages Between Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change

To achieve climate goals, it is imperative to also reach biodiversity goals, because healthy and resilient ecosystems are essential for achieving carbon neutrality globally and for adapting to climate change in many sectors (Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI), 2021). These linkages are showcased in recent major global assessments, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPCC, 2022; Pörtner et al., 2021):

Climate change is a driving factor of biodiversity loss. Heatwaves, droughts, floods, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and changes in rainfall patterns are climate effects that negatively impact biodiversity. Changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme events are having adverse impacts on species and ecosystems (e.g., reducing species range), causing ecosystem loss and degradation (e.g., of coral reefs, forests, and coastal ecosystems). These impacts on ecosystems have consequences for the provision of ecosystem services such as water purification, pollination, and carbon sequestration. For example, carbon stocks in forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems are carbon stocks; however, changes in temperatures and precipitation can turn ecosystems from carbon sinks to carbon sources (IPCC, 2022).

Loss of biodiversity increases human vulnerability to climate change. The impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems have consequences on ecosystem services that people rely on, including food production, energy production, and drinking water. This can compromise livelihoods, food security, energy production as well as many other sectors (e.g., health, tourism), and increase poverty, which disproportionally impacts poor communities and Indigenous Peoples, particularly in the Global South (CBD, 2019).

Certain climate change measures can negatively impact biodiversity. Actions and policies that aim to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects can have negative impacts on biodiversity. For example, the use of biomass as renewable energy, large-scale utilisation of carbon dioxide removal through bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, or large-scale tree plantations with non-native species can have negative impacts on food, water, and biodiversity.

Biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions (NbS) can contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation; however, runaway climate change will reduce ecosystems' potential to serve as NbS. Terrestrial and marine ecosystems play a critical role in regulating climate, providing carbon sinks, soil health, and natural buffers to hazards, such as floods. NbS can address climate change, and contribute to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (CBD Secretariat, 2019). Examples include watershed and forest protection and coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration to help countries mitigate disaster risks and adapt to the impacts of changing climate. However, as outlined above, ecosystems themselves are vulnerable to climatic changes and impacts that will lead to irreversible ecosystem shifts or collapse.

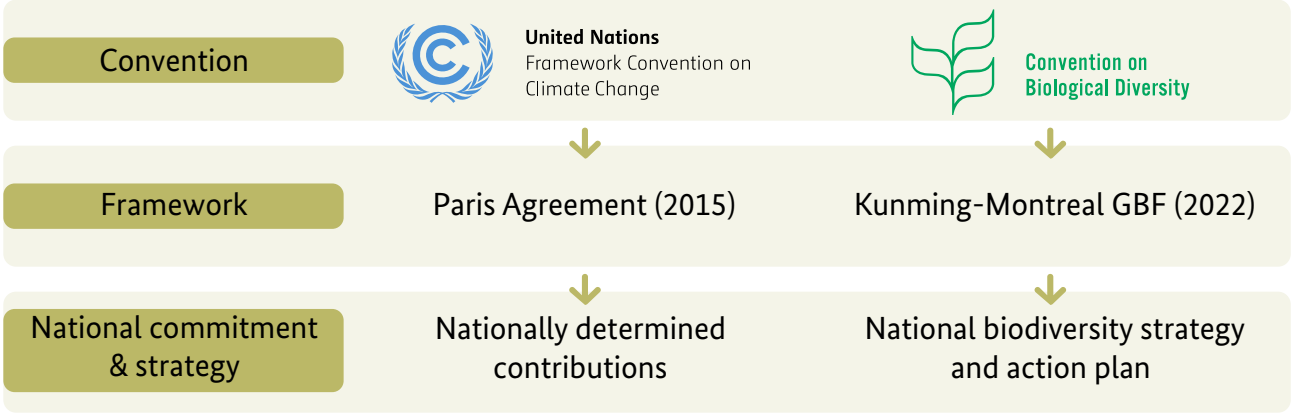
Restoring biodiversity will not be possible without resolving the climate crisis, and vice versa. The described interlinkages highlight the importance of strengthening synergies between national policy processes and actions to address biodiversity loss and climate change. Ensuring coherence between the two processes avoids conflicting priorities and provides the biggest potential to promote synergies (WWF, 2023).

3. Biodiversity and Climate Change in the International Policy Context

To confront and address the challenges of biodiversity degradation and climate change, countries adopted the CBD and the UNFCCC at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which entered into force in 1993 and 1994, respectively. The objectives of the UNFCCC are to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations to a level that halts negative human interventions to the climate system and enables ecosystems to adapt naturally (UNFCCC, 1992). On the other hand, the CBD's mandate includes the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources (CBD, 2011).

Over the last three decades, significant progress has been made by countries to achieve the goals and the objectives of these two multilateral conventions, and different domestic policy processes were created to facilitate the implementation of national climate change and biodiversity policies (see Figure 1).

Figure 1
Multilateral conventions and their frameworks and national implementation instruments



Source: WWF, 2023

Under the UNFCCC, countries adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 with the aim of limiting global warming to less than 2°C above pre-industrial level and increasing resilience and adaptive capacity (UNFCCC, 2015). Parties to the Paris Agreement communicate an NDC every 5 years, starting in 2020, to outline their climate actions and commitments. The NDCs allow countries to communicate their targets and action plans to cut emissions; they also facilitate transparency and collective stock-taking of progress through quantifiable information on baselines, timeframes for implementation, planning processes, and other methodological information (UNFCCC, 2018). They may also include information on adaptation. Each successive NDC should be more ambitious and progressive than the last, representing the country's highest possible ambition.

Under the CBD, countries adopted the GBF in 2022 which sets an ambitious pathway for biodiversity actions, with four goals for 2050 and 23 action-oriented targets for 2030 (CBD, 2022a). Parties to the CBD are required to submit an NBSAP in order to provide information on national-level commitments and actions on the protection and management of biodiversity. It forms a crucial part of countries' obligations under the CBD and represents their commitment to protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. At the national level, an NBSAP is the main tool for guiding actions to implement the GBF, as countries are mandated to review and update their NBSAP to align with the latest goals and targets (the GBF) of the CBD.

Recent policy developments under both the UNFCCC and the CBD processes have reinforced the need to enable and amplify synergies between climate change and biodiversity actions (Tsioumani, 2024). First, the outcome of the first global stocktake[1] under the Paris Agreement emphasised the need for conserving, protecting, and restoring nature and ecosystems, as well as aligning post-2025 climate action with the GBF (UNFCCC, 2024a). The COP 28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People also called for "fostering strong synergies, integration, and alignment in the coherent, synergistic, and holistic planning and implementation of national climate, biodiversity, and land restoration plans and strategies" (GIZ et al., 2024). Secondly, the GBF features a number of targets directly relevant to climate change, including "Target 8 on minimizing the impact of climate change on biodiversity and building resilience and Target 11 on nature's contribution to people" (Tsioumani, 2024, p. 9). Other GBF targets also contribute directly or indirectly to climate action. For instance, Target 2 on restoration, Target 3 on ecosystem conservation, and Target 12 on biodiversity in urban areas all contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.

Furthermore, in 2024, the Bern III[2] Conference on Cooperation Among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions for the Implementation of the GBF identified opportunities to foster and coordinate an inclusive and collaborative approach towards GBF implementation and facilitating synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements (United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], 2024a). Later that year, countries adopted United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 6/4 in 2024 which called on countries to "further promote synergies, cooperation, or collaboration for the national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements," which include the Paris Agreement and the GBF (UNEA, 2024).

1 The global stocktake is a review mechanism under the Paris Agreement that, every 5 years starting in 2023, takes stock of countries' collective progress towards achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement (Qi, 2022).

2 The „Bern Process" is "a party-led, informal process, organised by UNEP, that aims to foster dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration between biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to the effective and synergistic development" (UNEP, 2025)

4. Pursuing Synergies Between NBSAPs and NDCs – Why it Matters

Despite the increasing recognition of interlinkages and guidance to support fostering synergies, countries have thus far seldom coordinated their NDCs and NBSAPs. This can create potential risks for the realisation of national goals on both sides, result in counterproductive policies, deter or even impede an integrated approach to implementation by local and subnational governments, and send contradictory and misaligned messages to non-state actors. It can also hamper bilateral and multilateral partners' ability to conduct coherent implementation at the project level.

In 2025, countries are expected to submit their new or updated NDCs to the UNFCCC that demonstrate progress beyond their current NDCs. At the same time, parties to the CBD were expected to submit their revised or updated NBSAPs by the end of 2024 to align with the GBF. This alignment of NDC and NBSAP revisions and updates presents a strategic opportunity for countries to explore and strengthen synergies between their domestic climate and biodiversity actions.

Pursuing synergies between NDCs and NBSAPs ensures that actions under both plans are coherent and mutually supportive, and their planning, monitoring, implementation, and reporting are not undertaken in siloes. As climate change, ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss are inherently interlinked, the solutions to these challenges require strategic coordination between actors and sectors for realising a shared vision and harmonised implementation (Bakhtary et al., 2023). Pursuing synergies between climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies may also build coherence, minimise risks, improve efficiency, and avoid duplication of work (GIZ et al., 2024; Terton et al., 2022; UNEP, 2024b):

A shared narrative and goal help build a single vision for sustainable development. Building intentional synergies across planning and implementation processes could contribute to the emergence of a national vision of confronting the climate and biodiversity crises and achieving climate-resilient development. NDCs and NBSAPs also share a set of common principles and approaches – such as gender responsiveness, social inclusiveness, human-rights based approaches, and the integration of traditional and Indigenous Knowledge – in the design and implementation of these instruments. Both are also iterative in nature, which further opens up opportunities for increased integration as the NDC may be updated based on priorities identified in the NBSAP and vice versa.

Creating synergies allows different commitments and strategies to reinforce each other and minimise risk. For instance, NDCs may be revised or updated – especially priorities, goals, and targets related to or dependent on ecosystems – by cross-referencing the biodiversity priorities, goals, and targets identified in the NBSAP and vice versa. Creating synergies could also help countries avoid planning and implementing their climate and biodiversity actions in siloes, resulting in fragmented efforts and possible trade-offs. Trade-offs may happen when "prioritizing one action results in a diminishing or counterproductive outcome in another" (GIZ et al., 2024). Avoiding trade-offs often requires breaking down siloes and ensuring the selected climate actions will not impact biodiversity and local communities, and the selected biodiversity actions take into account current and future climate impacts and trajectories, so they are climate smart" and will be sustainable in our changing climate and maximise their mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

Coordinating efforts between climate and biodiversity actions leads to more efficient allocation and use of resources and avoid duplication of work. Countries often have limited resources, both human and financial, to undertake climate and biodiversity actions. Meanwhile, it is often the responsibility of the same ministry or government agency to plan and enact climate change and biodiversity policies. Coordinating and synergising across the different departments and teams responsible for climate change and biodiversity, respectively, help identify overlapping objectives; similar processes and junctures (for instance, community consultation or gender analysis); common methodologies and indicators for monitoring, evaluation, and learning; and new or additional avenues for joint financing. Identifying these commonalities and synergising between teams and processes may improve efficiency, help identify and prioritise synergistic actions, and facilitate knowledge-sharing. It may also help decision-makers identify and address potential costs associated with action, inaction, and risks in the early stages of policy-making.

Linkages to other national strategies and plans addressing multilateral environmental agreements[3]

This global study focuses primarily on the linkages between climate change and biodiversity loss and the need for coordinated policy responses that ensure synergies between related policies at the international and national level are realised. However, it must be acknowledged that the CBD and UNFCCC and subsequent national strategies under these conventions operate within a space of many other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and additional national policies and plans. For instance, many countries engage in additional national policies, strategies, and plans that also fall under the UNFCCC. For example, **national adaptation plan (NAP)** processes and long-term **low-emission development strategies** represent detailed implementation plans that put the commitments outlined in a country's NDC into practice.

Internationally, the other most relevant MEA is the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**. The UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD emerged from a common process, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or Rio Conference, held in 1992, and share a common set of principles and approaches. The UNCCD is a "multilateral commitment to mitigate the impact of land degradation, and protect our land so we can provide food, water, shelter and economic opportunity to all people" (UNCCD, n.d.).
As part of the UNCCD, many countries have developed **national action plans to combat land degradation and drought, including land degradation neutrality targets**. These are focused on good land stewardship, optimising land management decisions to balance land degradation with its restoration. Efforts to achieve no net loss of healthy and productive land contribute directly to achieving climate change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity targets (Rackelmann et al., 2024).

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** represent another high-level agenda, both nationally and internationally. Many countries have initiated processes to implement the SDGs and prepare appropriate national frameworks. There are clear linkages between the SDGs and environmental goals and objectives of MEAs (SDG 13, SDG 15, SDG 16) (United Nations Environment Management Group, 2019). The goals and objectives of countries' NDCs and NBSAP can actively contribute toward meeting national SDGs. Some countries have linked their NDC targets with national planning indicators, which are informed by SDG indicators (GIZ, 2018).

The **Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction** presents another MEA relevant to the UNFCCC and CBD mandates. It is a global agreement for DRR, which recognises the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem management for reducing disaster and climate risks, emphasising the need for integrated approaches and NbS (United Nations General Assembly, 2023). Many countries are drawing direct linkages between their national DRR and NAPs (NAP Global Network & InsuResilience Global Partnership, 2021). Finally, the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** which aims to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands and their resources. Its goals are closely aligned with building climate resilience and conserving and restoring biodiversity. There are active linkages to the Ramsar Convention in most of the reviewed countries' NBSAPs (such as Brazil, Costa Rica, the DRC, Madagascar, and Mexico) (Mbuyi Kalombo & Ndoko Magangu, 2024; O'Monasterio Quintana, 2024; Ovalle, 2024; Paniagua, 2024; Pires, 2024; Ramarojoana, 2024).

3 A generic term for treaties, conventions, protocols, and other binding instruments related to the environment. Usually applied to instruments of a geographic scope wider than that of a bilateral agreement (i.e., between two states) (UNEP, 2007).

5. Synergies Between NBSAPs and NDCs – Country case studies

As countries try to navigate the complex interplay and the far-reaching consequences of the twin crises – climate change and biodiversity loss – adopting an integrated approach to confronting these challenges has never been more crucial.

To better understand possible approaches for joint planning and implementation of NDCs and NBSAPs, this global study synthesises the findings from 10 national studies[4] undertaken for **Brazil**, **Colombia**, **Costa Rica**, the **Dominican Republic**, the **DRC**, **Indonesia**, **Lao PDR**, **Madagascar**, **Mexico**, and **Peru**. Specifically, it looks at approaches and opportunities to foster synergies through five entry points:

- integrated planning and institutional coordination structures
- participatory processes within governance systems
- sectoral implementation
- leveraging public and private finance
- building and using existing reporting mechanism to foster synergies

4 The national studies included a review of national policy documents and institutional arrangements and resulted in country-specific recommendations. They were undertaken by in-country experts. At the time of completing the global study, the national studies remain unpublished.

The global study and national studies are based on a two-fold approach. In a first step, a review of secondary and grey literature was conducted exploring broader guidance, thematic papers, and evidence to pursue more synergistic responses that address the co-existing challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. In a second step, in-country experts conducted national studies across 10 countries, which included the review of national policy documents and strategies. These studies involved key informant interviews with representatives from various sectors engaged in the implementation of the NBSAP and NDC, particularly those working at the intersections of biodiversity and climate agendas, including project managers of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private sector actors, civil society, academia, and government officials. In a final step, the results of the national studies were brought together and the international and national consultants identified common trends and differences between the countries. This global study aims to provide lessons learned and subsequent practical steps from which other countries can learn.

A review of the most current NBSAPs and NDCs of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the DRC, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, and Peru shows that the degree of alignment and synergies between the two processes varies depending on where the country stands in the updating, planning, and implementation of their NDC and NBSAP. Table 1 provides an overview of the status in each country.

Table 1
Status and timeline of current NBSAPs and NDCs by country

Country	Timeline of NBSAP in effect	Planned NBSAP update	Timeline NDC in effect	Planned NDC update
Brazil	2016-2020	2025	2023-2025 and 2030	November 2024 Submitted (2nd NDC)
Colombia	2024-2030	Update submitted	2020-2030	Early 2025
Costa Rica	2016-2025	2025	2021-2030	2025
Dominican Republic	2011-2020	2025	2021-2030	2025
DR Congo	2016-2020	2025	2020-2030	2025
Indonesia	2025-2045	Update submitted in national language in 2024	2020-2030	2025
Lao PDR	2016-2025	2025	2020-2030	2025
Madagascar	2015-2025	2025	2022-2030	January 2024 Submitted (2nd NDC)
Mexico	2023-2030	Update submitted	2022-2030	2025
Peru	National Strategy 2024-2050 Action Plan 2024-2030	Update submitted	2020-2030	2025

Source: Authors

The analysis of the most current available NBSAP and NDC documents and processes in the studied countries highlights an increased focus on integrated actions, such as NbS, and ongoing intentions to address both the climate and biodiversity crises coherently. It must be noted that the majority of the NBSAPs in effect were developed several years ago but are now in the process of being updated (see Table 1), while the most current NDCs are relatively recent and contain more information and awareness of the need for integrated actions and the links between climate and biodiversity. This reflects the increasing acknowledgement of the interconnectedness between climate change and biodiversity loss across multilateral bodies and agencies, as well as calls for more synergistic actions that address both crises to provide co-benefits.

For example, **DRC's** latest NDC (2021) and subsequent roadmap emphasise NbS as a tool for mitigation and makes direct mention of previous commitments under the CBD convention, contributing to climate and conservation ambitions (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development [MEDD], 2021). However, the DRC's most current NBSAP (2016) does not include any cross-references to the NDC but does reference the impacts of climate change on the country's biodiversity. In addition, the DRC updated its national targets to map them to the GBF targets. Similarly, in **Mexico**, the NDC update (2022) emphasised NbS, community-based adaptation, ecosystem-based adaptations (EbAs), and disaster risk reduction (DRR) (Gobierno de México, 2022a). **Mexico submitted its NBSAP** in 2023. It aimed to ensure the conservation of 30% of Mexico's territory by 2030 aligned with the targets of the GBF (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity [CONABIO], 2023). However, neither Mexico's NDC nor NBSAP reference each other (O'Monasterio Quintana, 2024). **Lao PDR's** revised NDC (2021) identifies NbS within its agriculture, water, and urban development sector to both reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through forest conservation and enhancing climate resilience across these key sectors (Government of Lao PDR, 2021). The country's latest **NBSAP** (2016) does not cross-reference the NDC but lays out the impact climate change is having on the country's ecosystems, including clear actions to adapt ecosystems to climate change (Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, 2016). **Brazil's** most recently (November 2024) submitted NDC put nature at the centre along with people and economy, emphasising that economic prosperity and resilience can only be achieved while protecting biodiversity and mainstreaming it across sectors. The NDC further calls out specific conservation-related strategies that will guide implementation of those actions (Brazilian Government, 2024). **Brazil's NBSAP** (2016) covering the period 2016–2020 does not cross-reference the NDC but emphasises the links between climate and biodiversity and the need to integrate environmental agendas. Further, the Brazilian government approved a set of 23 new biodiversity conservation goals for Brazil for the period 2025 to 2030 in line with the GBF (Ministry of Environment, 2017). One of the primary goals is to mitigate biodiversity loss through initiatives centred on territorial planning and participatory management, taking into account climate change and land use (Kunisawa, 2025). Similarly, neither the **Dominican Republic's NBSAP** (2011) nor NDC (2020) cross-reference each other, but both the NDC and NBSAP highlight the interlinkages between biodiversity loss and climate change as well as integrated actions that would deliver co-benefits (Gobierno de la República Dominicana, 2020; Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, 2011).

In **Peru's policy documents**, synergies between climate and biodiversity lie in the reduction of emissions from land use and through management of aquatic resources. The country's NDC refers to the role of biodiversity in minimising negative impacts from changing weather patterns and reducing vulnerability (Gobierno del Perú, 2020). **Peru's latest NBSAP** was released in October 2024 (Ministry of the

Environment [MINAM], 2024). It was prepared through a participatory process and promotes coherence, complementarity, and cooperation between national policies. **Colombia's NDC** underscores its enormous biodiversity and highlights the role of protected areas in addressing adaptation and mitigation measures. It identifies NbS actions for specific sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, and coastal areas (Government of Colombia, 2020). **Colombia's updated NBSAP** (2024) includes several references to the links between climate and biodiversity, referring to the goal of cross-sectoral integration and coherence for territorial management of biodiversity and climate action. It also outlines strong alignment in the governance framework and institutional approach (Government of Colombia, 2024).

Costa Rica's NDC presents a strong focus on NbS and good example of targeted alignment, in particular in the goals of NBSAPs and NDCs (Gobierno de Costa Rica, 2020). Measurable NbS related to energy, forests, agriculture, and coastal wetlands are presented. The country identified existing targets from its 2016 **NBSAP** and aligned them strategically with targets outlined in its latest NDC, particularly regarding timelines (Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía et al., 2016).

Indonesia's updated NBSAP was submitted in late 2024. The plan reflects Indonesia's commitment to balancing biodiversity conservation with sustainable development over the next two decades. It puts large emphasis on building ecosystem resilience, including against climate change, and optimising the sustainable use of biodiversity (Republic of Indonesia, 2024). Indonesia submitted its enhanced NDC in which it aims to align with the country's Long-Term Low Carbon and Climate Resilience Strategy 2050 (Republic of Indonesia, 2022). However, no cross-reference exists between the NBSAP and NDC.

6. Enhancing Synergies at the National Level – Approaches and good practices from 10 countries

The remainder of the report looks across the 10 countries included in the study exploring good practices and approaches to foster synergies, coordination, and alignment between national-level biodiversity and climate policy-making.

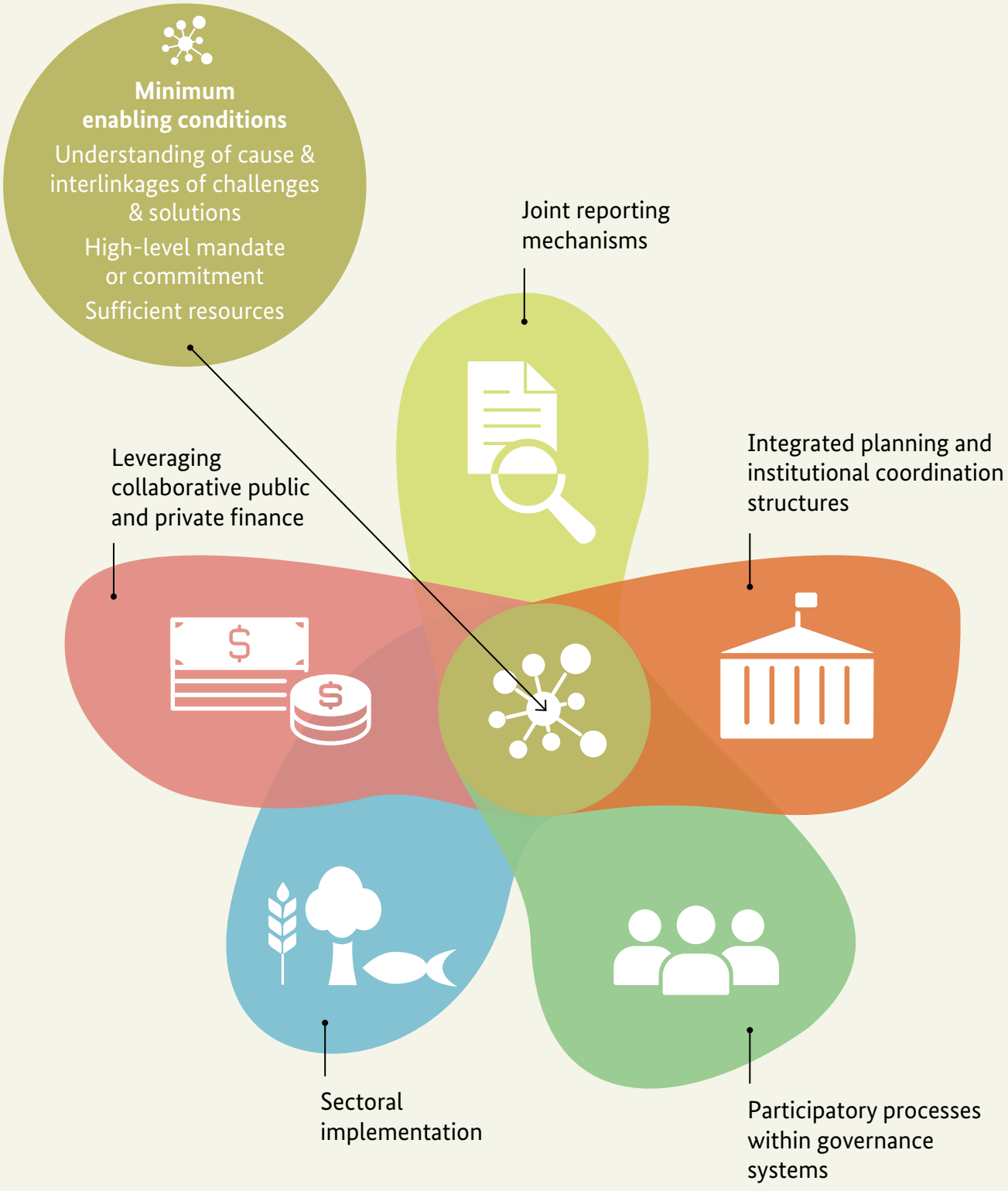
Figure 2 outlines the identified entry points observed to foster synergies. They include

1. **integrated planning and institutional coordination structures,**
2. **participatory processes to engage IP&LC,**
3. **promoting synergies through sectoral implementation,**
4. **public and private finance for joint actions and**
5. **building and using existing monitoring and reporting mechanism to foster synergies**.

While these approaches provide important opportunities to enhance synergies, they are unlikely to happen without a minimum set of enabling conditions:

- a high-level mandate, statement or commitment from political leaders that emphasizes the need for integrated and synergistic policy-making
- a common understanding of the cause and interlinkages of diverse challenges and subsequent solutions (integrated approaches) to it
- sufficient resources to facilitate and foster synergies among national policies and commitments

Figure 2
Entry points and minimum set of enabling conditions to foster synergies between climate and biodiversity actions at the national level



6.1 Building Synergies Through Integrated Planning and Institutional Coordination Structures

Integrated planning processes and coordination structures are key for anchoring NBSAP and NDC priorities within governmental strategies and plans while supporting their implementation. This includes institutional arrangements, cross-sectoral dialogues, and strengthening of the coordination between different planning teams to accelerate synergistic national, subnational, and sectoral implementation of NBSAPs and NDCs (UNFCCC, 2023c; WWF, 2023). In many countries, the climate and biodiversity portfolio is assigned to one ministry, primarily the ministry of environment, which can provide impetus and opportunity for better coordination. In this case, the ministry of environment has a strategic role to play in mapping out the processes, objectives, and goals. It steers the implementation process with line ministries specialising in water, agriculture, infrastructure, and other sectors, as well as with regional and local governments and the private sector (and other non-state actors). Establishing institutional connections among these various stakeholders is essential to ensuring seamless coordination throughout all phases, from planning to reporting (Dazé et al., 2019). For example, in Madagascar, the government established an interministerial coordination mechanism that aims to integrate environmental aspects across different sectors (see Box 1).

Governments have dedicated significant time and effort to enhancing coordination across sectors and levels, utilising various available mechanisms. Nevertheless, achieving effective policy coordination continues to be a persistent challenge (Dazé et al., 2019). Challenges for coherent planning processes often arise because different departments are responsible for the NBSAP and NDC within the same ministry, and the extent of coordination is often limited. The ministry that strategically leads the work on both agendas can have an extended structure with multiple departments that are decentralised or deconcentrated but still have formal attachment to the ministry. This can lead to siloed decision-making processes, fragmented implementation, and duplication of governance structures and procedures as well as competition of rules and for resources (van Asselt, 2007). Additional key challenges or limitations that hinder countries in strengthening synergies can be insufficient legal frameworks, institutions without a clear mandate, insufficient resources or government mandates for NBSAP or NDC implementation, or a lack of clarity on how national quantitative goals are supported by concrete processes.

Many countries have adopted interdisciplinary or interministerial approaches to facilitate cross-coordination among ministries or departments, but these efforts are often applied in isolation when addressing biodiversity and climate issues. Strengthening coordination and planning typically necessitates a national or ministry-wide mandate to promote integration alongside meaningful dialogue and engagement with relevant departments. Tailoring these efforts to specific contexts – whether through top-down mandates or informal coordination mechanisms – is crucial to ensuring that institutional arrangements and mechanisms effectively foster synergies. Colombia, for example, has set up a National Environmental System (SINA) that aims to coordinate and integrate key areas (climate change, forests, biodiversity, hydric resources, territorial planning, and sectoral environmental management) vertically and horizontally (see Box 2).

Box 1

Enhancing synergies through interministerial coordination in Madagascar

The Government of Madagascar has created the Interministerial Committee for the Environment (CIME) to help integrate environmental and climatic dimensions into various sectoral policies, strategies, plans, and programs, particularly in budgetary terms. The committee is made of leading representatives of each ministry and is placed under the authority of the Prime Minister. The CIME has several responsibilities, including ensuring a coordinated approach and involvement of all sectors in creating a common vision of sustainable development and environmental management. In this context, the CIME assists decision-makers in setting the orientation of Madagascar's environmental and climate policies and supporting their implementation. Further, the committee provides mediation on strategic choices and possible conflicts between activities of various sectors and trade-offs for the environment and climate (Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable, 2024).

Box 2

Establishing synergies across governance processes in Colombia

Colombia has demonstrated a robust commitment to biodiversity conservation and climate action by aligning with international frameworks such as the CBD and the UNFCCC by establishing SINA, which serves as the institutional and governance framework for all environmental issues. SINA, led by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, brings together five research institutions, four of which are primarily focused on biodiversity at the national level. These include the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, the Amazon Research Institute, the Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, and the Pacific Research Institute. Additionally, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies integrates meteorological and hydrological research with land-use and economic studies, making it crucial for climate change monitoring. It is recognised as the scientific authority on climate change, while the Humboldt Institute is identified as the national biodiversity institution. Key actors in the governance of biodiversity and climate change include the regional autonomous corporations, which manage environmental resources in different geographic areas and ecosystems, holding the legal authority to enforce environmental laws, issue permits for local projects, and protect local areas when necessary. Additionally, six environmental management areas for cities were established in 2024 to address urban environmental challenges, particularly in highly populated cities. Other vital agencies within SINA include the National Parks Unit, responsible for managing the country's protected areas, and the National Environmental Licensing Authority, which has changed its scope and structure over time without altering its mission. The wide variety of actors involved in SINA is representative of the diversity of Colombia's ecoregions; however, this complex governance framework remains challenging. The primary issue is fragmentation in addressing interconnected issues like desertification, climate change, biodiversity, and forests, as well as limited institutional management capacity, given the numerous institutions within SINA (Gutiérrez, 2024).

Furthermore, biodiversity and climate change are cross-cutting issues and touch upon different sectors and levels of the economy. Mainstreaming climate change and biodiversity considerations across national targets, strategies, policies, and programmes and their implementation often depends on sectoral ministries and subnational governments. When engaging with a range of sectoral and subnational actors, it is important to take an integrated approach to climate and biodiversity by developing a shared vision, systematic coordination among relevant actors, and harmonised implementation strategies for the different policy processes. Efforts to foster synergies are most likely to be effective if there is a shared goal among the relevant actors: this facilitates sharing of information and joint stakeholder engagement. National governments should design a common working framework that enables a participatory process and coordinates closely with other sectors and lower levels of authority to identify common priorities, align actions, and – ideally – mobilise and pool financial resources. Peru, for instance, has set up structures and strategies to work together with sub-national (at the department level) environmental governance bodies to implement both climate and biodiversity strategies (see Box 3).

This is especially important because approaches like NbS that jointly address climate change and biodiversity loss often involve ecosystems that transcend jurisdictional boundaries, and sub-national cooperation could help maximise results for people and ecosystems (Morchain et al., 2022).

Box 3

Involvement of local governments in Peru

Peru provides a good example of a governance structure that seeks to ensure the involvement of the subnational level for integrated planning and implementation of its NBSAP and NDC. The National Commission on Biological Diversity monitors and evaluates NBSAP implementation and designs adaptive measures as necessary together with departmental environmental commissions and other national as well as departmental environmental management bodies. MINAM's important instruments include departmental and local development plans that provide a strong opportunity for synergies. The departmental governments of the Peruvian Amazon, with the support of NGOs, have developed departmental low-emission rural development strategies. These strategies focus on analysing the context of each department to propose measures to promote low-emission rural development, focusing on the agriculture sector, forests, and other land uses to reduce the annual loss of forest cover and to increase the area of forests in protected natural areas (and other forest landscapes under sustainable use and conservation protocols). To date, six departmental strategies have been approved by the corresponding departmental governments that show interest in working on climate change and biodiversity issues in their territories (Montalvo & Díaz, 2024).

Lessons learned and practical steps to enhance synergies through integrated planning and institutional coordination structures

- Foster exchange and dialogues between actors responsible of NBSAP and NDC implementation processes, and other sectoral ministries, ideally through a formal coordination mechanism.

- Enhance awareness of climate change and biodiversity as interconnected and synergistic goals across sectoral and subnational actors, rather than separate issues, to advance a unified societal vision.

- Consider connecting different national platforms for coordination on biodiversity and climate change to gather relevant actors to build a joint understanding of the interconnectedness between the NBSAP and NDC.

- Actively map out biodiversity and climate related processes, including identification of common objectives, targets, timelines, trade-offs, stakeholders, and resources to increase synergies. Identify opportunities for linking goals and targets as well as underscore activities that deliver common objectives across the NDC and NBSAP.

- Ensure active engagement of respective climate and biodiversity ministerial counterparts (specifically national focal points for climate and biodiversity) in the updating of the NDC and NBSAP.

6.2. Inclusive and Participatory Processes for Biodiversity and National Climate Strategies

Achieving the objectives and goals of the NDC and NBSAP requires close collaboration and an effective representative process that includes state and non-state actors. A governance system that prioritises multi-level, multistakeholder engagement has, by this very fact, built a foundation to make climate and biodiversity efforts more impactful, just, and representative. Indeed, multi-level governance is now seen as a prerequisite for effective climate and biodiversity governance (GIZ, 2017, 2018; Terton, 2021).

The NBSAP and NDC planning processes are both guided by a set of principles (e.g., the use of multistakeholder and inclusive approaches) that are generally aimed at ensuring that the processes are effective and inclusive and that implementation will yield results that are both equitable and sustainable. This means that their elaboration should include not only national governments (e.g., sectoral focal points and other responsible ministries' officials to whom the implementation is delegated at the national level) but also a multitude of stakeholders (e.g., scientists, private sector stakeholders, and the full range of sectors concerned with the use and conservation of biodiversity) (CBD, 2011).

The involvement of both, state and non-state stakeholders, is especially important as far as the identification, analysis, and selection of strategy options are concerned. Furthermore, the involvement and support of high-level decision-makers in the planning process is vital, while donor involvement and the use of expatriate consultants should be balanced to ensure the national "ownership" of the plans (Hagen, n.d.).

Failure to engage a diverse range of stakeholders and examine alternative views can result in a lack of progress, ownership and implementation of nationally identified priorities. The country studies show that participatory engagement processes and their inclusiveness vary between biodiversity and climate-related policy processes set up for NBSAPs and NDC planning and implementation. Overall, the quality of each process and the diversity of actors involved vary between countries and is not static: instead, it depends on past and current priorities of national governments. Countries examined as part of this this study illustrate various mechanisms of involving state, non-state actors, and IP&LCs in climate and biodiversity conservation.

There are two elements to consider in assessing the inclusiveness of the national planning processes in the different country studies.

Box 4

Collaborative processes for NBSAP and NDC updates in Indonesia

In Indonesia, the NBSAP update process was facilitated by the Ministry of National Planning and Development. To ensure a collaborative process for revising the NBSAP that captures the views and experiences of key actors, the Government of Indonesia formed an interministerial steering committee led by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as the CBD National Focal Point and a technical committee headed by the Ministry of National Planning and Development. This committee included relevant ministries (Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, National Agency on Research and Innovation, etc.) and NGOs. To enrich the process, additional input from academia, the private sector, media, youth, and local community representatives was sought regularly. The ongoing NDC update also employs a strong whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach facilitated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as the national focal point (NFP). The NFP has received and facilitated discussions for NGOs and communities so that the process of preparing the second NDC is more participatory, inclusive, and meaningful (Hakim, 2024).

Type of actors included: Governmental actors can come from different sectors and different levels (high-level decision making or technical implementation); non-governmental actors can come from civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, trade unions, the private sector, or academia.

Format of the participation: Institutionalised (platforms formally granting a voice) or ad hoc, i.e., consultations. The format also includes speaking or voting rights for the participants.

In many of the countries examined, biodiversity-related planning processes have a longer history of inclusive governance based on established cooperation and platforms and the elevated role of IP&LCs within those processes compared to climate-related planning processes. This became evident from examining the recent updating processes of the NBSAPs and NDCs across studied countries, especially in relation to the design of participatory elements, such as consultations or stakeholder workshops. In some instances, national climate-related planning processes included different actors but focused on higher-level government representation and/or relied more significantly on ad hoc consultations. In Indonesia, the national government sought to apply a whole-of-government approach in their NBSAP and NDC update process (see Box 4). In parallel, civil society platforms were established and consulted to capture and integrate views of non-governmental actors. It was also observed that **national boundary institutions** can play a key role in facilitating collaboration between scientists and decision-makers to strengthen climate- and/or biodiversity-related engagement processes as well as (potentially) the synergies between them. They can coordinate implementation, connect stakeholders, channel finances, provide technical support, act as guardians to track the progress on NBSAP and NDC agendas as well as their compatibility, and report to the responsible ministry. These boundary institutions are most often governmental organisations, as in, for example, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Mexico (see Box 5). In Brazil, organisations like Rede Clima, the International Institute for Sustainability, the Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development, and the Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services play pivotal roles in promoting dialogue among stakeholders in the country (Pires, 2024). In Costa Rica, the National Biodiversity Strategy Platform and its Technical Follow-up Committee is the best model for monitoring environmental policies in the country, due to its governance framework (a troika between the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the National System of Conservation Areas [SINAC] and the National Commission for Biodiversity Management), and the intense and constant follow-ups that take place (every 6 months). The success of this model lies in its complete institutionalisation: the three institutions have designated directors in charge of the Monitoring Committee, and therefore, in their institutional work (Paniagua, 2024).

In its Target 22, the GBF highlights the contributions and rights of IP&LCs (Section C), calling

Box 5

Boundary institutions in biodiversity conservation in Mexico

CONABIO stands out for having promoted research, compiled information on biodiversity (in Mexico and elsewhere), and connected academia, government, and society to guide decision making for more than 30 years. The platform has also employed participatory methodologies for the development of numerous products, including public policy instruments. As an interministerial commission, CONABIO coordinated the elaboration of the NBSAP and also maintains direct relations with key staff of the administrative units in charge of the development of climate change policy instruments, although synergies could still be strengthened (O'Monasterio Quintana, 2024).

for their equitable and meaningful participation in decision making related to biodiversity and respect of their rights over lands, territories and resources (CBD, 2022b). This is in line with the long process of the CBD recognising the role that IP&LCs play in biodiversity conservation. The Glasgow Climate Pact, agreed at COP 26, adopts a human-rights based approach and recognises the role that Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and civil society, including youth, play in addressing and responding to climate change and, at the same time, the role of ecosystems in strengthening their resilience. The Glasgow Climate Pact puts forth the need for collaboration between non-party stakeholders, including IP&LCs (as well as other non-state actors and local and regional governments). Furthermore, it urges parties to actively involve IP&LCs in designing and implementing climate action and relevant workplans (UNFCCC, 2021).

Across the countries analysed, **civil society and IP&LC participation** has been organised either as ad hoc consultation processes during the elaboration of NBSAPs and NDCs or through designated platforms providing space for participation of different social groups to inform decision making and planning processes (see Box 6). In Costa Rica, dozens of civil society actors participated in the Participatory Future Scenario Building workshops constituting the first phase of NDC consultation. These workshops brought together stakeholders from across different sectors (energy, industry, waste, agriculture, forests and other land use, mobility and transport, and infrastructure). Colombia's NBSAP (2024) was created with extensive contributions from IP&LCs. It prioritises the rights of IP&LCs in conservation efforts by actively involving them in decision-making processes related to land management and biodiversity protection within their territories. As part of the biodiversity action plan, the government included specific indicators related to IP&LC (Government of Colombia, 2024). This represented a significant step toward integrated territorial management, with the aim of fostering biodiversity conservation and community impact while advancing biodiversity goals; and it can be used to inform climate-related planning processes.

Collaboration between various levels of government and civil society actors can present a unique set of challenges. Organisations repre-

Box 6

Inclusiveness of governance processes in Peru

Peru's Indigenous Peoples Platform for Climate Change (Plataforma de Pueblos Indígenas para enfrentar el Cambio Climático) has been championed as a key space for coordination and dialogue within Peru's environmental governance and as an important instrument for its national adaptation planning (Gobierno de Perú, n.d.; Morchain & Terton, 2022). This platform aims to "manage, articulate, exchange, systematise, disseminate and monitor [Indigenous People's] proposals for adaptation and mitigation measures for indigenous or native peoples, as well as their traditional and ancestral knowledge, practices and knowledge on climate change that contribute to the comprehensive management of climate change" (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2020). The Platform is comprised of representatives from the seven national organisations representing Peru's Indigenous Peoples and the Ministry of Culture, as well as the Ministry of the Environment acting as its technical secretariat. The platform was created in 2020 as part of Peru's commitment to build an inclusive Indigenous climate agenda outlined in its Prior Consultation Process for the Implementation of the Framework Law on Climate Change (UNFCCC et al., 2022). Through this platform and its Framework Law on Climate Change, Peru is seeking to ensure the valorisation of Indigenous Knowledge and knowledge systems in establishing synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation, as well as promoting and respecting human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples (Montalvo & Díaz, 2024).

senting local governments and IP&LCs often lack the financial resources and political influence needed to significantly impact national governance processes. It is essential for national and multilateral actors to recognise the limitations in the mandates and capabilities of institutions advocating for local-level representation within climate and biodiversity contexts. Allocating funds to local entities is, therefore, crucial to enhancing their capacity and facilitating inclusive and effective multi-level governance. This includes prioritising funding for initiatives that align climate and biodiversity goals while achieving multiple objectives (Morchain et al., 2022).

Meaningful stakeholder participation and engagement processes are complex and require time and resources to coordinate different and diverse interests. They rely on effective processes to identify common ground to achieve joint decisions. Many governments already have established mechanisms for the incorporation of non-state actors into the decision-making process. Given the synergistic nature of climate change and biodiversity loss, government should identify existing coordination structures to engage IP&LCs and other non-state actors rather than setting up new mechanisms, bodies, or platforms. This will foster information sharing, avoid duplication of work, and provide opportunities for identification of synergistic actions. However, such platforms, committees, bodies, or mechanisms must provide everyone with an equal voice and space for full participation.

In addition, environmental laws, status, land rights, and policies frequently do not account for the unique realities of traditional communities, creating barriers to accessing decision making and implementation. This can include failure to recognise customary rights or understand power dynamics within the community. Actors involved in these engagement processes must build a trusting and enabling work environment. This includes recognising knowledge and culture, welcoming a broader vision of change, and promoting the principle of subsidiarity (Soanes et al., 2021) in national prioritisation exercises – whether they pertain to climate change or biodiversity or not.

Lessons learned and practical steps to enhance inclusive and participatory processes for national biodiversity and climate strategies

- Adopt a multi-level coordination approach to engage all levels of government in the planning and implementation of the global climate and biodiversity agendas. Subnational and local actors play essential roles because concrete, decisive local actions are key for the successful implementation of national and global agendas.
- Identify and strengthen boundary institutions with a clear mission and understanding of roles that can bring actors together and work on climate and biodiversity in an integrated manner.
- Identify existing stakeholder engagement platforms that could lend themselves to participatory engagement processes on climate change and biodiversity.
- Promote collective responsibility and incentives for planning and implementation to ensure that subnational and local levels are aware of their share of responsibility and have a legitimate voice in the process.
- Consider integrating indicators and targets related to IP&LCs into NDC and NBSAP updates.
- Build a trusting, culturally appropriate, and enabling work environment to facilitate dialogues with IP&LCs and increase mutual understanding for joint climate and biodiversity planning processes.
- Devolve power and funding to local-level governments and communities and prioritise activities that meet multiple objectives.

6.3 Promoting Synergies Through Sectoral Implementatios

Building synergies across different sectors refers to the potential actions taken to address climate change while simultaneously benefiting biodiversity conservation, and vice versa, leveraging ecosystems and their ability to mitigate climate impacts and support diverse life forms. These actions are especially relevant to natural resource dependent sectors such as water, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Translating national climate change and biodiversity strategies and commitments into sector-specific targets is crucial to enable other ministries to develop tailored strategies that address the unique challenges and opportunities facing each sector. Doing so can ultimately lead to more effective and comprehensive climate and biodiversity action. Below highlights some promising sectoral approaches to work with NbS or EbA (see figure 3) which can deliver co-benefits to address climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Promoting synergies through Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)

NbS and EbA approaches have the potential to generate multiple mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and sustainable development benefits and, therefore, to enhance synergies between these different goals. They feature in both NBSAPs and NDCs and play an important role in sectors like agriculture and forestry and fisheries, but also other sectors like energy and tourism. Nevertheless, there are also risks associated with NbS, particularly if local contexts and conditions are not well reflected, risky technologies are introduced, or land-use competition is increased (WWF, 2023).

Figure 3
Overview of examples of sector-specific synergistic actions and measures

Forestry	Agriculture	Water	Fisheries	Tourism
Indigenous land management Supporting Indigenous communities' traditional practices that maintain biodiversity and carbon storage **Reforestation and afforestation** Planting appropriate and climate-resilient species of trees on degraded lands to increase carbon sinks and provide wildlife habitat	**Agroforestry** Planting trees on farms to provide shade, windbreaks, and carbon sequestration while creating habitat for wildlife **Silvopastoral systems** Involves practices such as crop rotation, mixed cropping, water harvesting, incorporation of multi-purpose shrubs and trees, haymaking, and selective cutting to respond to the increasing vulnerability of agricultural production to more frequent extreme climate events and improve water retention, soil health and create microclimates	**Wetland restoration** Wetland restoration and management to alleviate flooding or rapid snowmelt, whilst improving habitats and better enabling species to migrate **River widening** River widening can rehabilitate, regulated watercourses and reduce the extent of streambed erosion and the risk of flooding as well as provide increased value for recreation and habitat	**Marine Protected Areas** Establishing protected areas in critical fish habitats to maintain biodiversity and support ecosystem resilience **Mangrove restoration** Restoring mangroves provides protection from floods and salt intrusion while providing breeding grounds and habitat for fisheries	**Visitor management systems** Implementing controlled access to sensitive areas, designated trails, and timed entry systems to prevent overtourism in favour of maintaining ecosystem health and time for recovery **Conservation-based activities** Promoting tourism activities that support local conservation efforts, like wildlife watching, birdwatching, and tree planting. This promotes biodiversity protection, and opportunities to raise awareness of climate change.

Source: GIZ, 2022; UNEP, 2024c.

This chapter provides an overview of how to enhance synergies within sectoral policies and plans to address biodiversity loss and the effects of climate change, as well as related challenges.

Forestry

Most of the examined countries underline forestry as a key sector to conserve biodiversity and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, particularly Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the DRC, Mexico, and Madagascar (in the case of Madagascar, wetlands are also highlighted as important, as well as marine and coastal ecosystems given its insularity). There are various ways in which forests can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through carbon storage, a structural defence against wind and soil erosion, through water regulation, and through the provision of timber and non-timber forest products. The ability of a forest to provide mitigation and adaptation benefits is strongly linked to its ecological integrity, which determines its support functions and ecological processes. Due to their carbon storage potential, the protection and restoration of forests, as well as afforestation, are also widely used and cost-effective actions for climate change mitigation. Indeed, across the countries analysed, the most prominent synergistic strategies applied by the forestry sector were developed under the framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD): the DRC (Mbuyi Kalombo & Ndoko Magangu, 2024), Madagascar (Ramarojoana, 2024), Brazil (Pires, 2024), Colombia (Gutiérrez, 2024), the Dominican Republic (Ovalle, 2024), Mexico (O'Monasterio Quintana, 2024), and Costa Rica (Paniagua, 2024) all have designated REDD+ strategies in place (see Box 7). Additionally, sector strategies can directly influence various plans developed by local governments, such as Territorial Forest Environmental Plans in Costa Rica (Gobierno de Costa Rica, 2020).

The forestry sector also faces challenges regarding biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. There are risks of land dispossession and displacement often associated with large-scale afforestation. Further, such measures can cause threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services (e.g., through displacement of natural or near-natural ecosystems, introduction of invasive species, or pollution of soil and water), especially in the case of monocultural plantations. Furthermore, monocultures are highly vulnerable to hazards, fires, and pest outbreaks, and therefore do not contribute to long-term climate resilience and DRR. Applying standards that comprehensively take into consideration the scale and nature of forestry projects (using monoculture or mixed plantation, native vs. invasive species), as well as certification processes, can mitigate and reduce the potential negative impacts arising, for example, from bioenergy production (Campbell et al., 2009; Pörtner et al., 2021).

Box 7

Forestry sector in the DRC

The forestry sector plays a prominent role in the DRC, which has developed various frameworks to support the protection and sustainable use of forestry resources. The support to community forestry is one approach for conserving biodiversity and combating the loss of forest cover in rural areas. It can serve as an entry point to facilitating the synergistic implementation of the NBSAP and the NDCs. Community forestry includes planning with IP&LCs, women, youth, etc. The National Strategy for Community Forestry highlights opportunities for private sector involvement in activities like conservation and the valuation of forest carbon stocks for standards or related markets. It also supports converting commercial logging site licences into licences for biodiversity protection, expanding engagement possibilities.

The DRC has also developed a REDD+ strategy and investment plan for the period 2021–2030 (MEDD, 2012, 2015). By implementing the REDD+ strategy, the DRC aims to preserve a forest cover of 63.5% until 2030. To track implementation, a National Forest Monitoring System web portal was launched along with the National REDD+ Register (currently under construction) as a monitoring tool that centralises all information on the implementation of REDD+ interventions. As part of the REDD+ program, The DRC also drafted its first safeguards information summary, which provides information on social indicators, biodiversity protection, and climate change (Mbuyi Kalombo & Ndoko Magangu, 2024).

Payments for environmental services, a new tool in the DRC for sustainable forest management, offer an opportunity to finance biodiversity and thus provide an entry point for the private sector to invest in biodiversity conservation through, among other things, the conversion of certain timber harvesting titles into conservation concessions. This can reduce the risk of biodiversity loss, in view of the growing importance of the carbon market in the DRC (Mbuyi Kalombo & Ndoko Magangu, 2024).

Agriculture

The agricultural sector is highly vulnerable to climate change due to climate impacts on water availability and land degradation as well as its susceptibility to droughts and floods. Given the economic importance of the agricultural sector for livelihoods and its high climate vulnerability, it is one of the most commonly identified priority sectors in countries' adaptation component of the NDC (UNFCCC, 2023b). At the same time, food production is responsible for a quarter of anthropogenic GHG emissions and is a primary driver of biodiversity loss, impacting habitats, species, and ecosystems through land conversion, pollution, and unsustainable practices (IPCC, 2019). These issues are apparent in Madagascar (see Box 8), the DRC, and the Dominican Republic. For example, agricultural and livestock expansion has been one of the main causes of biodiversity loss in the Dominican Republic. The expansion of the agricultural frontier has led to the deforestation of approximately 55% of its forests, while other human activities, such as timber extraction and the production of firewood and charcoal, have contributed to the further degradation of ecosystems in the country (Ovalle, 2024). Firewood and charcoal production (energy poverty) and slash-and-burn agriculture practices were also mentioned in the context of the DRC as contributing factors threatening biodiversity. One of the most significant challenges in this sector is land-use competition, where land is

used for either for food production or climate change mitigation (MEDD, 2012). The risks of land dispossession and displacement are underscored by the Land Gap report, which highlights that climate change commitments threaten to take up large areas of land (Climate Resource, 2023; UNEP, 2023).

The agricultural sector's high vulnerability to biodiversity loss and climate change is underlined by the fact that all countries examined have strategies, programmes, and plans to address both crises. In Mexico, for example, the development of the Strategic Plan for Climate Change in the Agri-Food Sector, the National Soil Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture, and the National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators contributed to biodiversity mainstreaming in the agricultural, fisheries, and forestry sectors (Gobierno de México, 2021, 2022b, 2022c). In Brazil, the agricultural sector is being mobilised through policies and subsidies to prepare for climate impacts, particularly in regions affected by extreme weather events. In addition, the country has developed a Low-Carbon Agriculture Plan (Governo do Brasil, n.d.). In Colombia, programs and policies like sustainable cattle ranching and regenerative agriculture have embraced biodiversity monitoring and a sustainable landscape approach. This approach focuses on the strategic implementation of sustainable practices in vulnerable ecosystems and protected areas, balancing biodiversity conservation with sustainable economic opportunities (Gutiérrez, 2024).

Box 8

Integrating biodiversity into all sectors of agriculture in Madagascar

At national level, the "Integrating Biodiversity Into All sectors of Agriculture" project, run by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, has produced a roadmap for integrating biodiversity into agricultural policies.

Encompassing 16 priority areas, the roadmap's priorities revolve around empowering stakeholders, aligning key policy documents and strategies, and substantially increasing biodiversity-friendly practices. The focus is on the adoption of agroecology and climate-smart agriculture practices, as well as on the implementation of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture by farmers' organisations and the private sector (Ramarojoana, 2024).

Water

Almost every national climate change or biodiversity strategy of the countries analysed includes references and priority actions related to the water sector. In NDCs, this often concerns adaptation measures to reduce climate-induced risks, such as droughts and floods, and related knock-on effects such as water scarcity, groundwater depletion, poor water quality, soil erosion, and reduced agricultural productivity. The water sector is often aware of the strong interlinkages between adaptation, mitigation, and biodiversity (GIZ, 2022). Water management involves protecting hydrologically important areas, including critical ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams, which are highly vulnerable to climate change. However, the water sector is subject to various conflicting priorities – such as environmental protection, urban planning, energy provision, and subsistence-based livelihoods. Particularly, water-related infrastructure or electricity generation can present significant challenges. For example, in Mexico, the National Water Commission is responsible for water infrastructure. However, it does not recognise the importance of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, or land rights and traditional customs of IP&LCs for the water cycle. Nor does it recognise the negative repercussions of water resource overexploitation on IP&LCs, biodiversity, climate change (O'Monasterio, 2025).

Strengthening awareness of the importance of a biodiverse environment and its connection to resilient ecosystems is essential to overcoming the competing challenges in the water sector. Community-based water management in Madagascar is a promising approach for sustainably managing and protecting water resources, as the example of the community associations (Vondron'Olona Ifotiny) charged with the management of their local natural resources illustrates (Ramarojoana, 2024).
In addition, NbS can play a key role for the water sector. For example, wastewater treatment can benefit significantly from NbS and holds substantial importance within public investments and development policies, as is highlighted for Colombia (Gutiérrez, 2024).
It should also be noted that Costa Rica's National Programme for the Management of Water Resources and Hydrographic Basins is linked to the strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of water resources (2021–2026) (Paniagua, 2024). In Brazil, the National Plan for River Basin Revitalisation can be considered vital for ensuring water availability for reservoirs, which is crucial for energy sector security in the country. Leveraging these policies can help catalyse progress toward development, climate, and biodiversity goals (Pires, 2024).

Fisheries

The fisheries sector is especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and ocean acidification, and is therefore another priority sector for adaptation in NDCs, particularly in coastal countries (UNFCCC, 2023a). The fisheries sector provides promising examples of countries seeking to promote biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Costa Rica, Madagascar, and Mexico have designated blue carbon/blue economy strategies. In Costa Rica, the marine conservation sector, in contrast to the productive fishing sector, benefits from clear governmental policies on biodiversity protection and restoration, the most important of which is the National Blue Carbon Strategy. It includes NbS to help conserve blue carbon ecosystems and generate a model to ensure ocean health and directly benefit communities (Gobierno de Costa Rica, 2023).

Marine spatial planning is another important process for strengthening ocean governance and providing an entry point for building synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The process aims to fill the existing knowledge gap on the uses of marine space and the interactions among its uses by analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that have been specified through a political process (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, n.d.). Of the countries analysed, Madagascar has an Integrated Ocean Governance Policy, and maritime spatial planning is in progress (République de Madagascar, 2023). Mexico has also developed four marine ecological planning programs (in the Gulf of California, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, the North and South Central Pacific) (O'Monasterio Quintana, 2024). These efforts support the establishment of marine protected areas, strengthening habitat and reef resilience while advancing climate adaptation. Additionally, they optimise space allocation to promote sustainable economic growth by identifying high-potential zones for industries such as aquaculture, fisheries, and tourism.

Tourism

The tourism sector faces considerable challenges due to climate change, which affects destinations, activities, and infrastructure, potentially leading to declining tourist numbers and economic downturns, particularly in regions dependent on tourism. Conversely, tourism itself can harm ecosystems, contributing to deforestation, coastal erosion, waste accumulation, and high energy consumption. The expansion of market-driven and mass tourism can also undermine cultural heritage and religious sites, provoking resistance from IP&LCs. In contrast, ecotourism and nature-based tourism provide a sustainable economic alternative that supports ecosystem services while promoting biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and adaptation (Pörtner et al., 2021). Additionally, improving access to clean energy, raising awareness of climate and biodiversity issues, and actively involving local communities can enhance the sustainability of tourism. However, achieving these goals requires the implementation of robust standards, principles, and enforcement measures.

Box 9

Supporting sustainable tourism in Mexico

The ADAPTUR project (Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in the tourism sector) implemented an approach with natural solutions for adaptation to climate change in the tourism sector. For its implementation, a strategic alliance was formed with key actors from the public, private, social, and academic sectors, at national and subnational levels. Today, ADAPTUR is a methodology that seeks to reduce the risks of tourism, protecting the country's natural capital and ecosystem services, through the implementation of EbA measures. This approach is applicable in any tourist destination in the world. One of its virtues has been to clearly and directly state the benefits to the private sector for investing into climate change adaptation projects. This type of framework provides an enabling environment for biodiversity and climate-friendly tourism-related development. However, adequate local community involvement and iterative collective reflexive processes and adjustments to it will be key, considering sociocultural issues and sustainable livelihoods (ADAPTUR, n.d.).

Policies and programmes to enhance sustainable tourism and create positive effects for biodiversity and climate change and have been identified as a priority for Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. In Costa Rica, the tourism sector is considered in the Decarbonisation Plan and includes measures related to the transition to zero-emission transport or the scaling-up of sectoral electrification programmes (Dirección de Cambio Climático, 2019). Costa Rica has several programmes linked to biodiversity (Sustainable Tourism Programme and Ecological Blue Flag Programme) and the Certification Programme for Sustainable Tourism (Instituto Costarricense de Turismo, n.d.-a, n.d.-b). Implementation examples from Mexico (see Box 9) and Dominican Republic highlight the progress in pioneering sustainable tourism but also some challenges that come with setting up policy incentives to deliver benefits for climate and biodiversity (Ovalle, 2024).

The national country studies illustrate approaches and good practices that can be used to actively address biodiversity loss and climate change synergistically across different sectors. Sectoral strategies across the national studies integrate NbS, EbA, and watershed management, as well as various community-based approaches, local planning, and management for regional adaptation and conservation. Further, governmental subsidies, certification, licensing, and insurance were identified as important instruments that can be used to advance both biodiversity and climate goals in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism sectors.

If the overarching goals and objectives of these sectoral strategies are deliberately connected to national climate and biodiversity commitments – supported by sufficient budget for the implementation of sectoral plans – they have the potential to substantially contribute to sustainable management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and biodiversity conservation.

Lessons learned and practical steps to promote synergies through sectoral implementation

- Consider targeted coordination and inclusions of sectoral leads to define sector-specific climate and biodiversity priorities (for NDCs and NBSAPs) based on national commitments and goals.
- Support synergies through the promotion of NbS, EbA, and related ecosystem-based approaches across sector strategies to deliver multiple benefits for climate and biodiversity.
- Support sector-specific stocktaking of ongoing biodiversity and climate focused initiatives to understand how they contribute to national priorities and ensuring their compatibility.
- Promote collective responsibility and incentives for planning and implementation of climate and biodiversity strategies; this will ensure that sector-related leads are aware of their share of responsibility and have a legitimate voice in the process.
- Consider governmental subsidies, certification, licensing, and insurance to advance both biodiversity and climate goals in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism sectors.

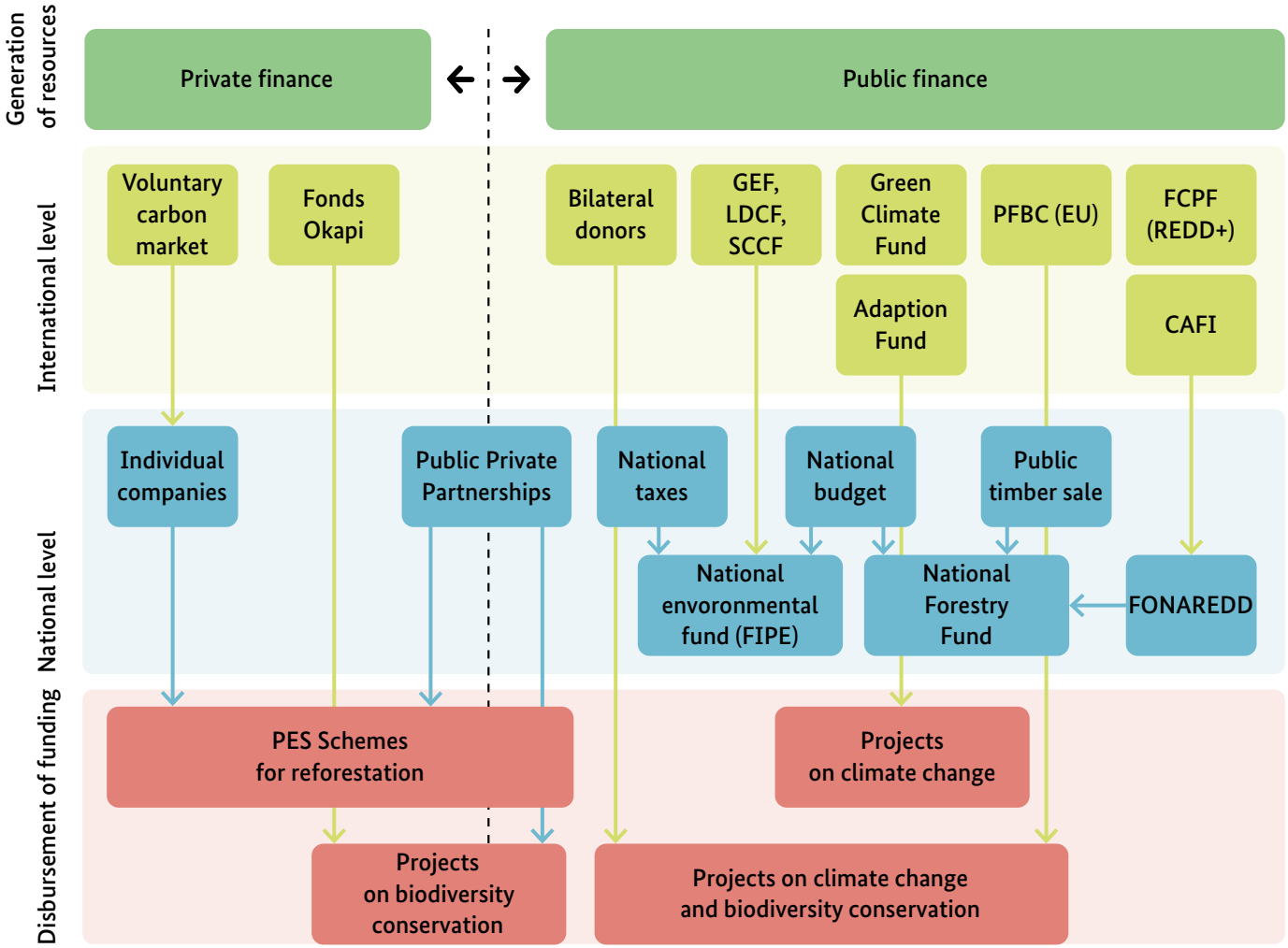
6.4 Leveraging Public and Private Finance for Joint Biodiversity and Climate Actions

Financing plays a critical role in implementing synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate change efforts across sectors. Strategic investments can be promoted by aligning national climate and biodiversity goals, incorporating them into budgetary processes for consistency, harmonising donor funding, and engaging the private sector. This approach ensures efficient resource use, delivers mutual benefits, and minimises redundancy (Terton, 2022).

At the national level, many countries are already using their domestic financial systems as well as their budgeting and taxation policies to mobilise finance to deliver positive biodiversity and climate outcomes simultaneously. The country cases studied here illustrate that sources of funding and types of financial mechanisms vary between the different countries. Several countries rely mostly on international public funding with limited national budgetary resources (e.g., Madagascar and the DRC). Other countries have developed different instruments for funding biodiversity conservation from both national and international sources and are introducing funding instruments coming from the private sector, especially in Costa Rica, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the sources of finance in two selected country examples (Costa Rica and the DRC).

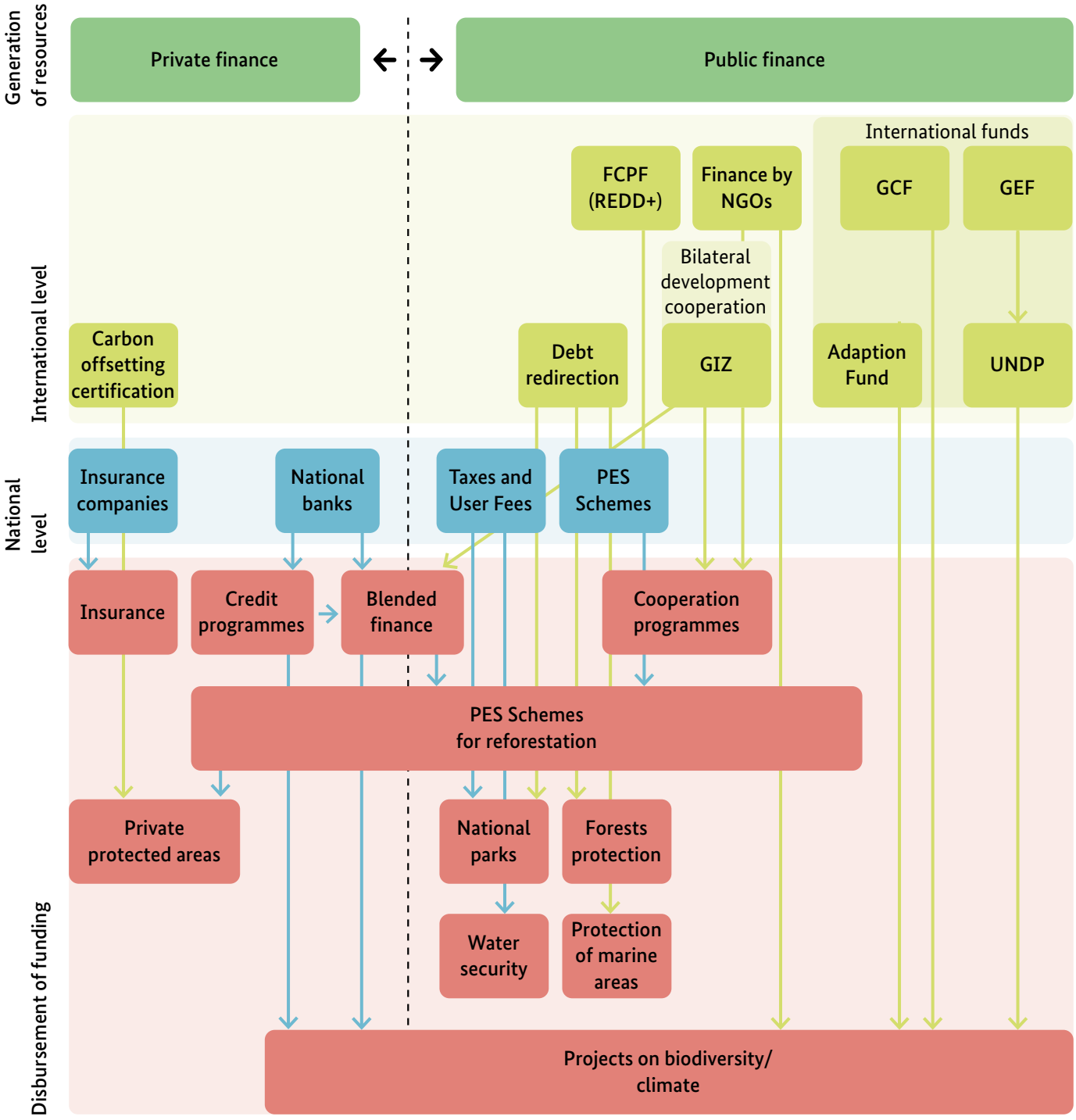
The rest of this section explores different sources of funding (e.g., domestic, international, and private) as well as different financial instruments that fall under these sources, supplemented with country examples.

Figure 4
Financial instruments (example DR Congo)



Source: Adapted from Mbuyi Kalombo & Ndoko Magangu, 2024.

Figure 5
Financial instruments (example Costa Rica)



Source: Adapted from Paniagua, 2024.

Domestic Public Finance Options to Enhance Synergies

Budgetary programmes and national funds can finance projects with synergistic, cross-sectoral, or sector-specific benefits. Governments can advance this by harmonising funding, identifying co-financing opportunities, or creating mechanisms for dual-purpose initiatives. This approach promotes coherent planning and efficient resource use. Practically, it involves prioritising and combining financing for biodiversity and climate solutions, allocating climate funds to NbS, and ensuring climate initiatives also support biodiversity for true integration.

Some of the studied countries have established dedicated national climate funds, biodiversity funds, or similar mechanisms (see Boxes 10 and 11), financed through dedicated budget lines or levies and fees (such as a carbon tax, see Box 12). While some mechanisms may still operate in silos, others highlight targeted country efforts to increase, promote, and finance joint activities and complementary initiatives. However, with limited national budgets, it is becoming increasingly important for countries to generate resources from new and additional sources. Common approaches across the country studies are user or entrance fees requiring users of biological resources and ecosystems to pay fees for the ecosystem services provided, such as protected areas applying user charges (e.g., Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, and the DRC). Carbon or pollution taxes or prices to regulate activities that are harmful to the climate and ecosystems have been established in Indonesia and Colombia (Gutiérrez, 2024; Hakim, 2024). In Costa Rica, payments for ecosystem services (Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal, n.d.) schemes are funded by the tax on fossil fuels and the water charge, as well as other initiatives, such as Certificates of Conservation of Biodiversity, carbon credits, and strategic alliances with the public and private sector (UNFCCC, 2023d) (see Box 13). Examples of the above include:

- REDD+ Investment Plan and National Agricultural Investment Plan in the DRC (MEDD, 2013, 2015).
- The National Budget System and the National System for Multiannual Programming and Investment Management (Peru), including budgetary programmes dedicated to biodiversity and disaster emergency response.
- Costa Rica's National Development Fund, the Development Finance Fund, and the Development Credit Fund, as well as the Sustainable Biodiversity Fund (Paniagua, 2024).
- Payments for ecosystem services in the Dominican Republic and Colombia that aim to finance conservation measures and initiatives (Ovalle, 2024).
- Colombia's carbon tax to finance the expansion of protected areas.

When national funding mechanisms are structured to maximise synergies, they can generate multiple co-benefits for biodiversity, climate, and the communities that rely on them.

Box 10

Dedicated budget programmes in Peru

In Peru, biodiversity measures can be funded through two dedicated budget programmes: (1) the budgetary programme conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems for the provision of ecosystem services and (2) the budgetary programme conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources in protected natural areas (MINAM, 2017). The Ministry of Environment aimed to enhance these programmes by actively aligning them with mitigation-focused priorities outlined in the NDC, primarily related to forest conservation mechanisms in IP&LC communities. The same exercise was carried out within the Budgetary Programme Vulnerability Reduction and Disaster Emergency Response, which included some of the country's adaptation priorities and measures (Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, 2019).

Box 11

Designated national climate change fund in Brazil

Brazil has a diverse system of national climate change plans, some of which are funded by government budgetary sources, although innovative funding schemes play an increasingly important role. The National Climate Change Fund, or Climate Fund, plays a crucial role in supporting projects, studies, and financing initiatives aimed at mitigating climate change. It is the federal government's primary tool, and one of the largest globally, in the fight against climate change and in promoting adaptation investments. In Brazil's new NDC (2024), the Climate Fund is reinforced, and it was reformulated in 2023 to expand new lines of financing, including biodiversity protection. The Climate Fund has varying rates, e.g., 1% in the case of native forests and water resources and up to 8% per year for solar and wind power generation. It also provides non-reimbursable funds. Most of the Fund was generated by the issuance of green bonds in 2023 and 2024 (Banco nacional do desenvolmento, n.d.).

Box 12

Carbon tax in Colombia

In Colombia, the carbon tax was established as a strategic measure linked to the country's energy transition and to support the expansion of protected areas. Its implementation incentivises private entities to adopt conservation schemes in the voluntary carbon market and directs the revenue generated toward preserving the most underrepresented and critical areas for the country's ecological integrity. It also supports the achievement of the Kunming–Montreal targets (for more information about Colombia's carbon market, see Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, n.d.).

Box 13

Costa Rica's National Forestry Financing Fund to enhance IP&LC climate and biodiversity actions

Costa Rica's National Forestry Financing Fund, the Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal, presents an example of a multi-level approach for the implementation of actions that deliver both biodiversity and climate action and engage local-level and Indigenous communities. The program integrates four key environmental services – carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection, water regulation, and landscape beauty – into a cohesive framework. It provides direct cash transfers to private landowners through 5- or 10-year contracts, supporting activities such as forest protection, reforestation, sustainable forest management, and agroforestry. Indigenous territories have special conditions to enter the program, and it promotes the participation of these communities in the protection of forests. A total of roughly 100,000 Indigenous People benefit from the incentives received through the program (UNFCCC, 2023d).

Another very promising approach to promoting and tracking synergies in national spending is climate change and biodiversity tagging for national budgets. This was introduced by Indonesia and Mexico (see Box 14 and 15).

Box 14

Budget tagging in Indonesia

The Indonesian climate change budget tagging project was initiated in 2016 by the Ministry of Finance. It is a process to identify the volume of the budget used to finance specific outputs intended for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. Its purpose is to determine the portion of public funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in the State Budget or Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Negara. The tagging mechanism in budget documents also aims to improve the quality of government planning and budgeting. The mechanism is carried out at the output level to allow the government to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of input versus output of government activities (United Nations Development Programme Indonesia, 2023). On this basis, biodiversity tagging was established in 2024 alongside the launch of the updated Indonesia Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Box 15

Budget tagging in Mexico

Mexico's Federal Budget contains a cross-cutting annex that serves as a transparency tool to identify budget expenditures aligned with the SDGs, as well as policy priorities, such as climate change and biodiversity actions, including those identified in its updated NBSAP (Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, 2024). Although a general trend toward synergies in the budgetary procedures exists, it is necessary to make them and their importance clearly visible to different stakeholders, including the Finance Ministry and members of Congress. Furthermore, the operationalisation of these synergies must be monitored and boosted to be adequate and effective (O'Monasterio Quintana, 2024).

Nevertheless, all countries face the challenge of economic subsidies favouring expansion of activities that are harmful to biodiversity and climate, requiring reforms, including taxation. In Mexico, the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (n.d.) focused on the identification of harmful subsidies granted by the Mexican government and their potential for transformation in favour of biodiversity. Subsidy reform represents an important tool for national governments to redirect funds toward biodiversity and climate protection and eliminate incentives for actions that harm both biodiversity and climate.
For comparison, potentially harmful subsidies outweigh government finance flows for conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of biodiversity by a factor of 10 (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2019). Several countries have acted in this regard. In 2016, Indonesia introduced major reforms that saw the elimination of subsidies for gasoline (except for distribution costs outside of the country's central islands). The reforms freed up significant public financial resources for alternative investments and increased budgets for ministries linked to special programs to boost economic growth and reduce poverty (Inchauste & Victor, 2017).

International Public Finance Sources to Enhance Synergies

Boosting cooperation and strengthening financing for synergistic approaches at the international level will be decisive for more integrated climate–biodiversity governance at the national and local levels. A coordinated funding approach across the conventions' financial mechanisms at the national level can play a key role in advancing the delivery of positive outcomes for both agendas (see Box 16).

Different conventions have established financial mechanisms to allocate funding for their objectives, with potential for greater coordination. Under the UNFCCC, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and Global Environment Facility (GEF) (via the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund) are key financing channels for developing countries. The GEF also supports the Rio Conventions, including the CBD (Picourt & Lecerf 2021, cited in Terton, 2022). Notably, there have been efforts to enhance collaboration between the CBD and GCF, focusing on aligning work areas like NAPs and NBSAPs and improving coordination between their focal points (GCF, 2017).

Box 16

Coordinating climate and biodiversity activities of international partners in Madagascar

To jointly meet the climate and ecological challenges the country faces, the Government of Madagascar, in collaboration with the EU, set up a "House of Green Diplomacy" centre in late 2024. The centre aims to establish and coordinate bilateral agreements, initiatives, and partner activities on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving and sharing water resources, or protecting biodiversity. It is also designed to organise multi-sectoral consultations, enabling the development of coordinated and unified positions in major international negotiations related to MEAs (Bleen Media, 2024; L'Express de Madagascar, 2024). This is an important opportunity for the Government of Madagascar to ensure international funding aligns with its national priorities and different initiatives align with one another and lead to synergistic outcomes (Ramarojoana, 2024).

Support for building up REDD+ schemes is provided by several institutions, including the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the UN-REDD Programme. The UN-REDD Programme plays an especially important role in countries with significant forest resources such as Brazil, Costa Rica, the DRC, Madagascar, and Mexico. However, funds are increasingly supporting developing countries to move toward demonstration programmes and emission reductions with finance offered on a payment-for-performance basis (Watson et al., 2022). Similar, the GBF Fund and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund are financial mechanisms focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management. The GBF aims to help countries achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework goals and targets with a strategic focus on strengthening national-level biodiversity management, planning, policy, governance, and finance approaches.

Debt-for-climate or debt-for-nature swaps are another form of financing mechanism particularly relevant for biodiversity and climate protection. They provide debt relief in return for a government commitment to, for example, decarbonisation of the economy, investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, or in the protection of biodiverse forests or reefs (IMF, 2022). In 2023, the United States and the government of Peru signed an agreement that seeks to strengthen the management of existing protected areas and establish sustainable businesses that value Amazonian non-timber resources for the benefit of communities in corridors of the southern, central, and northern Amazon (McCoy, 2023). Costa Rica also agreed to a debt-for-nature swap with the United States to generate funds for the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable use of tropical forests outside protected wilderness areas in Costa Rica (Asociación Costa Rica por Siempre, n.d.-a, n.d.-b). Colombia has also been working with swaps for over 20 years, enabling effective local implementation of conservation actions that have also contributed to building resilience in vulnerable communities around key ecosystems, such as endemic forests and coastal areas (Marcos, 2024; U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2004).

Box 17

Supporting direct access for IP&LCs in Mexico

Mexico promotes direct access to international funding, especially for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities. Such access offers the opportunity to allocate resources from international sources for climate change, DRR, as well as programmes, projects, and actions related to the fulfilment of various SDGs through the implementation of NbS that address multiple social and environmental challenges jointly. Examples of funded projects include

- Conecta: Connecting watershed health with sustainable livestock and agroforestry production (funded by the GBF Fund – part of the GEF) aiming to improve integrated landscape management and promote climate-smart production practices in selected watersheds (Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, n.d.-a).
- Brother Rivers: River restoration for climate change adaptation, which aims to increase the adaptive capacity of people and ecosystems in watersheds vulnerable to climate change through such restoration funded by two regional funds as executing entities: Fondo Golfo de México, A.C. and FONNOR, A.C. (Fondo Noreste) (Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, n.d.-b).

Private Sector Finance Sources to Enhance Synergies

The national country studies highlighted fiscal government actions that can create an enabling environment to mobilise private finance for biodiversity and climate projects. These include incentives to reduce risks and expand projects, along with standards and regulations to attract private funding (see Box 18). While biodiversity finance is still primarily driven by public funding and remains niche, interest in private financing, such as biodiversity offsets, is increasing, with a growing diversity of funders and financiers.

Green or Sustainable Taxonomy

A green taxonomy framework defines what can be considered environmentally sustainable investments. Green taxonomies can help mobilise capital to economic activities consistent with climate and biodiversity objectives. They have the potential to become the leading source of information for investors aiming to make a meaningful impact with their financial decisions. The process of transitioning toward using a green taxonomy is underway in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru. In Mexico, the integration of biodiversity indicators into Mexico's Sustainable Taxonomy is planned (Ramos et al., 2024). Similarly, in the Dominican Republic, a green taxonomy is being developed to promote the financing of economic activities that integrate national environmental and climate objectives (Nivar Arias et al., 2024).

Green Bonds

Issuing green bonds can raise capital for projects that have positive environmental impacts, but such bonds play a varying role in the different countries. Green bonds are part of government strategies in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica to promote climate finance and advance environmental and sustainability commitments (Ovalle, 2024; Paniagua, 2024). Lao PDR explored leveraged green bonds to finance renewable energy projects, such as solar and hydropower (Counramany et al., 2024). Colombia launched its new biodiversity bond at COP 16 (Green Finance LAC, 2024).

Blended Public Funds

Blended finance, which pools public and private sources of capital for large-scale investments, can also help mobilise private investments in climate and biodiversity initiatives by de-risking them. It allows public finance to cover riskier investments (with higher returns), while private financing covers less-risky elements of an investment.

Box 18

Greening Colombia's finance system

Colombia has introduced a Green Taxonomy that provides a classification of green economic activities and assets, aiming to help investors understand whether a project delivers green benefits and is aligned with Colombia's NDC. The taxonomy helps expand green-labeled products in the country's capital markets and banking sector. Additionally, it establishes a framework for measuring green finance flows, fostering transparency and sustainable investment. The development of the taxonomy was supported by a large group of stakeholders, including Colombia's financial supervisor, the Financial Superintendence of Colombia, various ministries, Colombia's National Planning Authority, and the Green Bond Initiative (Regelink & Stewart, 2023). Colombia's private sector has developed a work plan to train and align itself with the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures as part of its contribution to the NBSAP. This case study underlines the financial sector's central role in greening the economy and delivering national commitments on climate and nature (Gutiérrez, 2024).

Carbon Credits

International private finance can be generated through voluntary markets like REDD+ schemes. In Peru, there are more than 30 projects in various stages of development under the REDD+, some of which have sold carbon credits on the voluntary market. Here, international standards such as VERRA and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Standards are important for transparency. The Peruvian government supports these initiatives through partnerships with NGOs. Carbon credit sales sustain forest-related activities and help combat deforestation, but require strong guidelines to address issues like leakages, double counting, and reversals. The introduction of the Core Carbon Principles aims to elevate standards for carbon credits derived from NbS by aligning climate mitigation goals with biodiversity conservation objectives (Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market, n.d.). However, COP16 raised concerns about ecosystem complexities and the negative impact of carbon markets on IP&LCs (Heinrich Böll Foundation, 2024).

Public–Private Partnerships

Investments can also be mobilised through public–private partnerships with the private sector. The experience from the DRC highlights how government legislation can set active incentives for private sector investments in biodiversity conservation (Mbuyi Kalombo & Ndoko Magangu, 2024) (see Box 19). In addition to strengthening national regulations, certification systems and standards can provide corporate buyers, consumers, and investors with additional information on the positive biodiversity impact of companies. Such systems include the Forest Stewardship Council and Marine Stewardship Council (World Bank, 2020). In addition to this, there are also individual initiatives by private sector actors. In Costa Rica, many agricultural and livestock companies decided to conserve parts of the forest on their farms in coordination with the authorities. For example, Fresh del Monte dedicated 42% of the area of its farms to conservation and reforestation zones, of which 823 hectares are categorised as a private wildlife refuge.

Box 19

Public–private partnerships for biodiversity conservation in the DRC

In the DRC, the National Strategy on Community Forestry allows the private sector to invest in biodiversity conservation in community forestry and protected areas (MEDD, 2018), such as the Virunga National Park. Private sector players can thereby engage in conservation activities in community forests or protected areas, as well as in the valuation of forest carbon stocks. This demonstrates the country's desire to encourage the private sector to invest in biodiversity actions. For instance, the Gold Standard-certified EcoMakala project aims to tackle deforestation in and around Virunga National Park through the training of small-scale tree planters and green energy transition for local residents to curb illegal deforestation (CO2logic, 2021). The private sector investment allows the implementation of concrete conservation and climate actions while benefiting the local communities and providing carbon credits to the private sector (Mbuyi Kalombo & Ndoko Magangu, 2024).

Agricultural rural credits aligned with sustainability objectives play an important role in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Peru (see Box 20), offering lower interest rates (subsidised credits) to activities with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural activities. Rural credits are being used in Costa Rica to provide financial support to ecotourism development (Paniagua, 2024) and, in Colombia, to fund EbA and energy transition projects (Gutiérrez, 2024). These credits are very important, particularly for helping support local businesses and strengthen livelihoods in combination with incentives for more sustainable production, thus protecting biodiversity and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Box 20

Climate and biodiversity indicators for loans in Peru

The Peruvian Federation of Municipal Savings and Credit Banks regulates the operation of the 11 municipal savings and credit banks. As part of the innovative work led by the Federation, climate and biodiversity criteria and indicators have been included in the municipal savings and credit banks, to guide the loan portfolio and provide facilities for small producers to access resources at competitive interest rates. This way, the system promotes sustainable microfinance and seeks to generate a positive multiplier effect of its actions that contribute to the management of climate change and biodiversity through two initiatives: Biocredit (Biocrédito) and Agro-protection (Agroprotector) (Peruvian Federation of Municipal Savings and Credit Banks, n.d.).

Lessons learned and practical steps to leverage public and private financing sources and mechanisms for joint biodiversity and climate actions

- Map out synergies between existing government policies to help reduce financing needs. Identifying overlaps between measures included under NDCs, low-emission development strategies, NAPs, and NBSAPs early on will prevent unnecessary duplication across national administrations.

- Develop cost estimates and budget needs for national climate and biodiversity strategies and priorities to communicate financing needs to other government actors, the private sector, and international donors.

- Assess existing capacity to design and implement fiscal instruments (e.g. removal of harmful subsidies to influence market behaviour) in a way to help inform decisions regarding their potential usefulness in financing joint biodiversity and climate priorities. In some situations, significant capacity building may be required to enable the introduction of identified fiscal instruments.

- Establish strong relationships between environmental and finance ministries to increase their understanding of the need to address the climate and biodiversity crisis and its associated costs.

- Align the design and objectives of national funds with national climate change and biodiversity strategies and identify priorities to pursue actions that meet multiple outcomes and avoid measures undermining progress in one another.

- Encourage multilateral and bilateral providers of international public funding to coordinate efforts to help maximise synergies to address intertwined crises and avoid duplication of efforts.

- Consider budget tagging or an expenditure-tracking system to monitor efforts, allocation, and distribution of financing related to climate and biodiversity actions to ultimately understand their effectiveness.

- Identify and estimate the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises on different private sector actors, along with their existing efforts and interest in sustainable investment options. This may promote private sector engagement and the need for investment.

6.5 Building and Using Existing Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms to Foster Synergies Between Biodiversity and Climate

As countries have an obligation to report under the international conventions, the monitoring and reporting systems at the national level are strongly influenced by the international rules and regulations set out by the CBD and UNFCCC. These systems have largely evolved independently from one another, in line with reporting requirements, procedures, and schedules of the respective convention.

At CBD COP 15 in 2022, parties adopted the Monitoring Framework of the GBF via CBD Decision 15/5, as well as the Decision on Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review (PMRR; CBD Decision 15/6) (CBD, 2022b), committing themselves to monitoring and reporting on a set of headline indicators, among others. At COP 16 in 2024, methodological updates to the headline indicators were completed and adopted via CBD Decision 16/31 (CBD, 2025). As a whole, the use of headline indicators will allow countries to understand their national progress toward reaching the goals and targets of the GBF. The use of common metrics will also enable the synthesis of progress at the global level. Because some of the headline indicators originate from other UN monitoring systems, e.g., the SDG indicator set, the use of those indicators inherently fosters synergies in monitoring and reporting under different UN frameworks. Further, in order to strengthen national monitoring and reporting while mainstreaming biodiversity into other relevant national systems, the Monitoring Framework decisions encourage countries to establish cross-linkages between NBSAP monitoring and other frameworks and standards, such as the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting statistical standard. The sharing of ongoing work on monitoring conducted under MEAs and relevant initiatives is also explicitly welcomed. The Monitoring Framework decisions also encourage supporting community-based monitoring and information systems and emphasise the need for capacity building (CBD, 2022a, 2022b, 2025). In terms of reporting, CBD decisions 15/6 and 16/32 contain the requirements, templates, and timelines for national reports to the CBD, as well as establish procedures for reviewing progress toward reaching GBF goals and targets leading up to 2030. They also contain guidance for revising and updating NBSAPs, encouraging synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions, cooperation between national focal points, and mainstreaming of NBSAPs (or elements thereof) into broader strategies and plans (CBD, 2022).

As for the UNFCCC, as part of the Paris Agreement (2015), countries adopted the Enhanced Transparency Framework, which guides them on reporting their GHG emissions, progress toward their NDCs, climate change impacts, and adaptation. Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, all countries are requested to submit biennial transparency reports (BTRs) that supersede biennial reports for developed countries and biennial update reports for developing countries, with flexibilities for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States (UNFCCC, n.d.). The information necessary to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding includes the following seven elements: quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year), timeframes and/or periods for implementation, scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches, how a country considers its NDC as fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances, and how the NDC contribute towards achieving the objective of the Convention (UNFCCC Secretariat & Regional Collaboration Centre Dubai, 2020). However, the upcoming revision of information for clarity, transparency and understanding guidance in 2026 and 2027 could better integrate biodiver-

sity considerations (WWF, 2023). With respect to climate change adaptation, at COP 28, countries established the 2023 United Arab Emirates (UAE) Framework for Global Climate Resilience to direct and assess progress in achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation. Currently, further efforts under the 2-year UAE–Belém work programme are underway to develop global adaptation indicators to help track the implementation of adaptation efforts.

The upcoming timelines for reporting offer some entry points for creating stronger alignment of biodiversity and climate change reporting. The revisions and submissions of NBSAPs are set for 2024 (and beyond) and for 2025 for NDCs, which offers an opportunity not only for aligning relevant targets, but also associated indicators, as well as provisions for synergistic monitoring and reporting. In 2026, parties to the CBD and the UNFCCC are due to submit their 7th National Reports and 2nd BTRs respectively, providing an opportunity for countries to better integrate biodiversity-related information into their BTRs. During the same year, the CBD's Global Review of the progress on the GBF targets will also be produced, while the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement will initiate its second iteration. There is an opportunity for the CBD's Global Review information and recommendations to function as an input into the second global stocktake's technical assessment stage.

To date, the existing national reporting mechanisms vary in their respective effectiveness, and only a few joint systems and methodologies exist. Most countries have developed, or are developing, separate tools that can facilitate CBD and UNFCCC reporting (i.e., BTRs) and national communications to UNFCCC and CBD National Reports, respectively, but they rarely inform each other. As shown in the national studies, several countries are in the process of strengthening their climate change reporting systems. Examples include Peru and the Dominican Republic, which are developing comprehensive systems for climate change reporting. These systems track the development of GHG emissions and financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, systems to monitor biodiversity actions do not benefit from a similar structured approach and appear to be less developed in most countries.

In addition, the general alignment between NDC and NBSAP targets and corresponding indicators should ease efforts to align monitoring and reporting. Examples for a synergistic approach in Colombia, Mexico and Costa Rica show that such alignment is still in its early stages but is actively being pursued by countries (see Boxes 21, 22, and 23) (O'Monasterio Quintana, 2024; Ramarojoana, 2024).

Box 21

Fostering synergies in environmental reporting through the Bern Process in Mexico

The Government of Mexico recently carried out its first national workshop on synergies between MEAs for implementing the KM–GBF resulting from the Bern process. At the workshop, delegates representing national focal points involved in the relevant MEAs collectively reflected on the possibilities of monitoring synergies. They sketched out the characteristics and governance of an umbrella reporting mechanism to the different conventions. This should include a joint secretariat to organise the reporting by the relevant MEA focal points in due time and form as well as a common platform that could accommodate an overview of all commitments and potential commonalities in terms of the information required by each convention (Government of Mexico, 2024).

Box 22

Aligning NDC and NBSAP targets in Colombia

In Colombia, the Ministry of Environment has made progress in mapping out how the 2020 NDC targets align with the existing NBSAP goals to foster better coordination between biodiversity and climate change policies. Colombia's updated NBSAP (2024) and biodiversity actions are explicitly linked to its NDC and climate change agenda. The Ministry of Environment expects this climate–biodiversity integration will "transcend sectoral, institutional, regulatory and financial boundaries ... [and] allow the country to move forward in a more coordinated manner in meeting climate and biodiversity targets" (Government of Colombia, 2024, p. 28). Specifically, Colombia's updated NBSAP and its NDC 3.0 align with and reinforce each other in terms of containing deforestation and enhancing multifunctional restoration. Some of the biodiversity targets aligned between the NBSAP and the NDC include targets 1 (land and sea-use planning), 2 (ecosystem restoration), 3 (protect and conserve land and sea), 7 (reduce pollution), 8 (minimise the impact of climate change), 10 (sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry), 14 (mainstreaming biodiversity), 15 (sustainable production and supply chains), 18 (eliminate harmful incentives), 19 (resource mobilisation), and 23 (gender-responsive approach). The inclusion of climate action in the updated NBSAP framework signals an important step toward integrated territorial management and sectoral goals that promote biodiversity conservation alongside climate action efforts. It also outlines the challenge of achieving effective intersectoral coordination, leveraging existing climate change platforms to oversee the intersection of biodiversity and climate change since the submission of the NBSAP (Gutiérrez, 2024).

Box 23

Mapping and aligning national climate and biodiversity targets in Costa Rica

Costa Rica's biodiversity and climate change agendas have a high degree of alignment. This is well reflected in the country's NDC and NBSAP targets. Costa Rica's climate change mitigation efforts are highly dependent on the country's forests' mitigation potential and the agriculture, forests, and other land use sector which are supposed to serve to reduce emissions from polluting sectors, such as transport. Similarly, the country is also using EbA measures to promote climate resilience. Hence, NbS and the protection of ecosystems play a central role in the country's strategy to address climate change and biodiversity loss. The country identified existing targets from its 2016 NBSAP and aligned them strategically with targets outlined in its latest NDC, particularly regarding timelines.

Targets included in NBSAP	Targets included in NDC
Target 9. By 2020, 1,000,000 hectares of forest cover will have been recovered.	Contribution 8.4. By 2030, the country will increase and maintain its forest cover to 60%, while this type of cover does not compete with the agricultural sector.
	Adaptation Guideline 7.10. By 2030, 1,000,000 hectares of forest cover-landscapes will have been intervened to prevent land degradation and enhance biodiversity.
Target 12. By 2020 the area of wetlands under Ramsar category has been increased to 589,742 ha.	Contribution 9.5. The country will protect and conserve 100% of the coastal wetlands included and reported in the National Wetland Inventory (in the period 2016-2018) by 2025 and increase the area of recorded estuarine wetlands by at least 10% by 2030, in order to protect and conserve these ecosystems.
Target 14. By 2020, mangroves will recover two points above the coverage determined for this ecosystem (725 ha).	
Target 6. By 2025 at least 6 biological corridors will manage climate refuges.	Adaptation Guideline 7.9. By 2026, at least 6 biological corridors will manage climate refuges, defined by SINAC.

Source: Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía et. al., 2016, 2020, as cited in Paniagua, 2024.

Despite the limited alignment of NBSAP and NDC monitoring strategies, the country analyses reveal national monitoring tools that offer entry points for synergies between biodiversity and climate change reporting (see Box 24). In general, tools on forestry and agriculture (land-related) data provide significant synergies across conventions due to the carbon sequestration potential of forests and land and their significance for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. The DRC and Lao PDR have information systems on safeguards in relation to REDD+ that also track social indicators and are relevant for both biodiversity and climate change (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 2021; ONU-REDD, 2016). In addition, the Dominican Republic developed an international cooperation project with UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, focusing on a strengthened transparency framework exclusively for capacity building in the food security and tourism sector (UNEP, 2023).

Box 24

Joint reporting system in Madagascar

Madagascar introduced a national Environmental Management Information System that identifies and maps various indicators, documents, and events related to the three Rio Conventions in one place in an attempt to provide the necessary information to facilitate appropriate, synergistic, and efficient reporting in relation to climate change, biodiversity, and desertification. The Environmental Management Information System was developed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and seeks to strengthen environmental governance in the country by facilitating the management of statistical data and environmental documents in one place (Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable de Madagascar, 2025). This type of tool allows for cross-referencing of information, analyses, updates, and tracking of domestic implementation of international commitments. Most importantly, it has the potential to facilitate coherent and complementary reporting, on synergistic actions relevant for both the NDC and NBSAP (Ramarojoana, 2024).

A clearer alignment in NDC and NBSAP goals is an important first step to achieving comprehensive and synergistic climate and biodiversity outcomes, even if formulated at different times or within different teams. To strengthen and build intentional synergies between reporting mechanisms for climate and biodiversity, monitoring frameworks and/or indicators for the NDC and NBSAP should be cross-referenced and harmonised, where applicable. This includes that relevant indicators across the two policy instruments are informed by, or based on, the GBF and its Monitoring Framework and guidance set out for reporting on mitigation and adaptation in the BTRs. This information will also facilitate reporting to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement and the global review of the GBF.

Further, identifying existing national or regional data platforms, sources, and databases that can be expanded to cover both biodiversity and climate information will be fundamental to harmonising monitoring systems and an important step to minimise duplication of work and ensure the efficient use of resources. To support this, it will be key to have mechanisms in place to allow different conventions' national focal points responsible for reporting and stocktaking to coordinate and support one another when compiling information for the BTR, national reports, and relevant submissions to the global stocktake and global review (see Box 25).

Box 25
Data Reporting Tool for MEAS – DaRT

The UNEP Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) for MEAs helps countries collect and organise knowledge, information, and documents relevant for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions and other MEAs. It also helps countries store information and data over the long term and allows sharing of knowledge among national experts and different stakeholders. The DaRT tool helps actors to map out the interrelated global and regional goals and targets – including targets contained in the GBF, the SDGs, the UNCCD, Ramsar Convention, CITES, and the Convention on Migratory Species – with the country's NBSAP. This way, national information contained in the NBSAP is easily retrievable for reporting to multiple conventions and MEAs. The DaRT facilitates synergistic and efficient collection, structuring, sharing, and auditing of information for monitoring and reporting biodiversity-related targets and progress. It helps countries systematically build up institutional knowledge required for reporting to multiple MEAs, increase communications and collaboration across teams and ministries, and facilitate creating linkages between the implementation and the monitoring, evaluation, and learning of national biodiversity actions (UNEP, 2020).

To better integrate biodiversity and climate change monitoring and reporting, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) developed a set of indicators of change in biodiversity and ecosystem services that combines environmental and socio-economic data in relation to human well-being; biodiversity and ecosystem functions, goods and services; governance and indirect drivers; as well as natural and anthropogenic drivers (IPBES, n.d.). Some indicators, especially those related to the fisheries, agriculture, and forestry sectors, can contribute to reporting on NDCs and NBSAPs.

Lessons learned and practical steps on building and using existing reporting mechanisms to foster synergies between biodiversity and climate

- Support the development of a joint reporting platform at the national level.
- Encourage mutual learning at the national level between biodiversity monitoring and climate monitoring and reporting.
- In the updating process of the NDC and NBSAP, take into consideration other processes' monitoring frameworks to identify shared information or data sources that could be used when developing respective monitoring frameworks.
- Consider cross-referencing monitoring frameworks and/or indicators for the NDC and NBSAP, where applicable.
- Identify existing mechanisms to allow different teams responsible for monitoring, reporting, and stocktaking to coordinate and support one another when compiling information for the BTR or National Reports.
- Align national indicators to facilitate monitoring and reporting to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement and the GBF's global review and use relevant guidance provided by the conventions.
- Encourage mutual learning at the national level between biodiversity monitoring and reporting from climate monitoring and reporting.

7. Conclusion

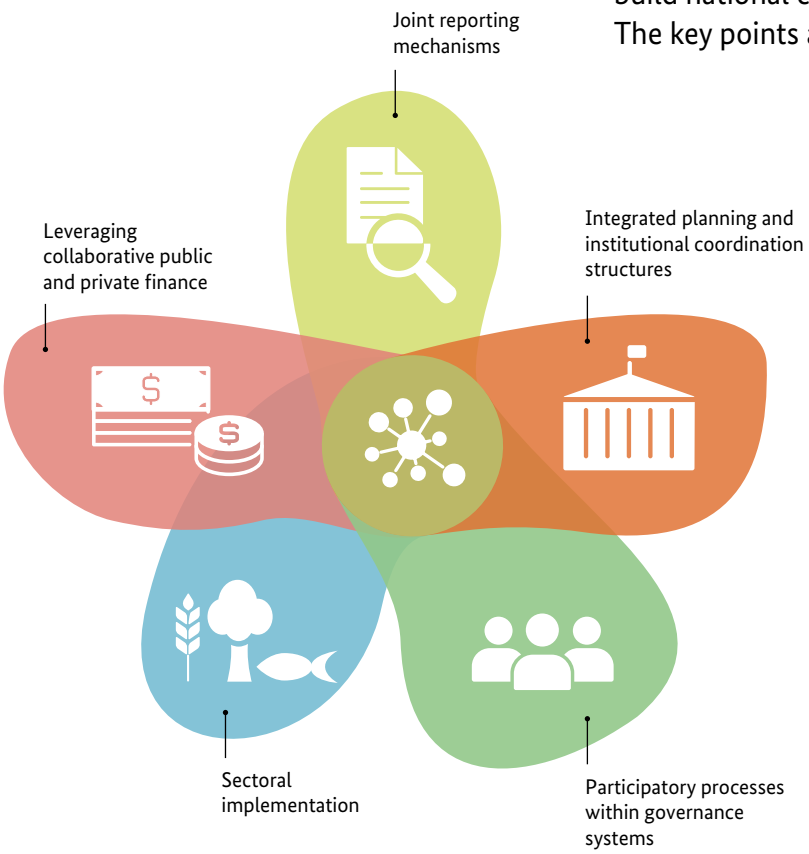
The ongoing debate around fostering synergies between national climate and biodiversity strategies underscores the need to create a shared understanding of the opportunities and benefits, as well as practical ways to strengthen these synergies, using the current window of opportunity in the best way possible.

In 2025, countries are expected to submit their new or updated NDCs to the UNFCCC and update their NBSAPs to align them with the new international biodiversity targets. Exploring and fostering strong alignment between national climate and biodiversity plans present a strategic opportunity for countries to ensure that actions under both plans are coherent and mutually supportive, and their planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting are not undertaken in siloes.

To contribute toward building a common understanding of entry points and good practices that can facilitate synergistic planning and implementation of NDCs and NBSAPs, this global study explored efforts already underway in several countries to foster and use the potential benefits synergies can provide.
It highlights examples and approaches from **Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the DRC, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, and Peru** emphasising the following:

- Integrated **governance systems** are key to enhancing coordination and coherent decision making.
- **Participatory processes** are critical to ensuring inclusivity and improving dialogue and learning between the different actors involved. Involving non-governmental actors, such as IP&LCs, civil society, youth, academia, and the private sector is important to anchor the policies in the realities and fully include multiple perspectives.
- **Sectoral implementation** is the key to bringing synergies alive in different sectors and at different levels.
- Adequate and diverse **financing** is necessary to fund the implementation of activities and projects that can deliver multiple outcomes.
- Exploring **joint monitoring** can facilitate the synergistic and efficient collection, structuring, and sharing of information for reporting of climate- and biodiversity-related targets and progress.

Within each of these entry points, several lessons learned, practical steps, and good practices emerged from which other countries can learn to build national capacity for synergistic approaches. The key points are summarised following page.



Enhance synergies through integrated planning and institutional coordination structures

- Actively involve both climate and biodiversity representatives in updates to NDC and NBSAP.
- Establish formal mechanisms for dialogue and coordination across sector ministries, agencies, and government bodies.
- Promote awareness of the interconnected national goals of climate change and biodiversity.
- Map out shared objectives, timelines, and resources to identify synergies.
- Actively involve both climate and biodiversity representatives in updates to NDC and NBSAP.

Enhance inclusive and participatory processes for national biodiversity and climate strategies

- Engage all government levels and emphasise local actions for successful global agenda implementation and promote collective accountability and ensure sub-national actors have a voice.
- Foster culturally appropriate dialogues with IP&LCs for mutual understanding.
- Strengthen boundary organisations with clear roles to facilitate integrated climate and biodiversity efforts.
- Utilise existing platforms for stakeholder engagement and participatory processes.
- Empower local governments and communities with funding and prioritise multi-objective activities.

Promote synergies through sectoral implementation

- Engage sectoral leads to define specific sectoral climate and biodiversity priorities aligned with national goals and commitments (e.g., NDC and NBSAP).
- Promote synergies through approaches like NbS and EbA to achieve synergistic outcomes across sector strategies.
- Encourage collective responsibility by incentivising sector leads to actively participate in planning and implementation of climate and biodiversity strategies.
- Leverage governmental tools like subsidies, certifications, licences, and insurance to advance shared goals in sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism.

Leverage public and private financing sources and mechanisms for joint biodiversity and climate actions

- Reduce financing needs by mapping synergies across existing government policies and avoiding duplication in national strategies (e.g., NDCs, NBSAPs).
- Estimate costs and budgets for climate and biodiversity priorities to effectively communicate needs to government, the private sector, and donors.
- Assess existing capacity to properly design and implement fiscal instruments (e.g. removal of harmful subsidies to influence market behaviour)
- Engage finance ministries to build understanding of climate and biodiversity challenges and associated costs.
- Align national funds with climate and biodiversity strategies to achieve multiple outcomes while preventing measures from undermining each other.
- Coordinate international funding efforts to maximise synergies and avoid overlaps in addressing the interconnected climate and biodiversity crises.
- Implement budget-tagging or tracking systems to monitor financing allocation, distribution, and effectiveness of climate and biodiversity designated spending.

Building and using existing reporting mechanisms to foster synergies between biodiversity and climate

- In updating strategies like the NDC and NBSAP, consider shared data sources and existing monitoring processes.
- Align national indicators with international reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement and GBF, following relevant guidance.
- Promote mutual learning between biodiversity and climate monitoring/reporting at the national level and cross-reference monitoring frameworks and indicators where feasible.

This global study and subsequent lessons learned from the national studies are relevant to a range of actors and offer some considerations:

CBD and UNFCCC National Focal Points
The global study highlights that there are multiple starting points to enhance synergies and coherence between climate and biodiversity ambitions, foster mutual learning, and move toward an integrated approach at the national level. To build on this, national focal points could advocate for and focus on enhanced coordination with relevant colleagues (biodiversity, climate change teams) to build closer synergies, particularly during the NBSAP and NDC update processes. During these processes, teams could build deliberate links between the two strategies and advance the implementation of NbS as a strategic priority. This will help access funding lines and capacities already dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in addition to those earmarked for biodiversity conservation. National focal points could also coordinate on the submission of inputs into both the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement and the global review under the GBF, in order to ensure that information provided for the reviews of collective progress under each international policy instrument is coherent.

Bilateral and Multilateral Partners
Bilateral and multilateral funders could prioritise initiatives that help countries align climate and biodiversity policies to achieve multiple goals. At a minimum, internationally funded climate projects must uphold environmental and social integrity without compromising biodiversity. This includes supporting and actively involving IP&LCs in designing and implementing climate (and biodiversity) actions and relevant workplans. Climate finance for NbS can make a significant contribution toward achieving biodiversity goals, though it will not cover all biodiversity finance needs. Several bilateral and multilateral partners are already aiming to maximise co-benefits by mainstreaming and integrating climate and biodiversity finance by committing a specified share of their climate finance to nature. By doing so, they acknowledge that NbS can advance mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity objectives essential to achieving the goals and targets of the Paris Agreement and GBF.

CBD and UNFCCC Conventions
As calls for enhanced synergies between the biodiversity and climate agendas increase, the establishment of a joint work programme between the Rio Conventions has recently been proposed as a mechanism to further coordinate policy development and implementation (CBD, 2024). A joint work programme could provide a structured approach to coordinated policy development and implementation of both the GBF and the Paris Agreement and foster synergies while addressing trade-offs (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2024). Most importantly, a joint work programme can be tasked with the collection and sharing of good practices, tools, success stories, and lessons learned to increase the international community's understanding of co-benefits of synergies, cooperation, or collaboration. It could also create linkages between the global stocktake and the global review processes to enhance coherence across the assessment and recommendations provided under the different MEAs.

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