

Lessons from three Megadiverse Countries: Exchanges Driving Better Biodiversity Protection

Global Project Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets



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Background

Biodiversity loss is a critical global challenge. It causes environmental degradation and reduces essential ecosystem services such as the provision of food, clean water and climate stability. This threatens livelihoods around the world, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

COP stands for **Conference of the Parties** and refers to the regular meetings of countries under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** to discuss and make decisions on global biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of ecosystems and equitable sharing of genetic resources.

The **NBSAP Accelerator Partnership** supports countries in rapidly updating and implementing their **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**. The global project “Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets” contributes to these goals, as part of the **NBSAP Accelerator Partnership**.

In response, the **Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**, adopted in 2022 at **COP15**, calls for living in harmony with nature and for the active participation of all actors, including governments, civil society, private sector, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, through a whole-of- government and whole-of-society approach.

Countries are encouraged to translate the framework into action using **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**. The global project “Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets” contributes to these goals, as part of the **NBSAP Accelerator Partnership**.

South-South exchange: the power of cooperation

Through this project, GIZ supports eight partner countries in strengthening their capacity to implement national biodiversity targets. Among these are Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) and Indonesia, which host three of the world’s largest tropical rainforests. Together, they make up 60% of the planet’s tropical forest ecosystems and play a key role in addressing biodiversity loss and climate change.

To promote cooperation among these three megadiverse countries, the project organised study trips to Brazil and Indonesia in 2025. Senior government officials, technical experts and civil society leaders from each of the three countries visited key biodiversity sites and exchanged practical experiences. Inspiring each other, they shared subnational implementation strategies and explored approaches to community-based species conservation. Among other topics, the delegations discussed governance, financing, monitoring, institutional collaboration and access and benefit-sharing. The trips fostered new partnerships and reinforced the value of mutual learning across countries facing similar challenges in advancing biodiversity conservation.

Access and benefit-sharing allows communities to receive the economic benefits of the usage of their natural resources.



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Lessons learned from trilateral South-South exchange

1. Strong biodiversity governance depends on clear and stable institutions that work well across sectors.

This requires integrating biodiversity into wider development and economic planning through close cooperation between ministries, strong links between science and civil society and policy, leadership support and shared biodiversity data to inform national decisions and reporting.

Example from Brazil

The Brazilian biodiversity coordination platform shows how inclusive decision-making can bring together government actors and diverse stakeholders to support effective biodiversity governance. Half of its 34 members come from government, while the other half are drawn from civil society, academia, environmental associations and organisations (including Indigenous Peoples). Together, they shape the policies and steer their implementation, through which Brazil fulfils its biodiversity commitments.

2. Subnational activities are essential for coherent and effective biodiversity policy.

Biodiversity conservation largely takes place at the local level, making subnational and local authorities central to effective implementation. While these local governments play a crucial role in meeting GBF targets, coordination with national authorities can be challenging. Supporting decentralisation through guidance from the national level creates opportunities for local ownership. Strengthening high-conservation-value areas, applying local access and benefit-sharing mechanisms, and using diverse financing approaches help sustain local conservation efforts.

Example from Indonesia

Province-level governments are requested by the central government to align their subnational biodiversity strategies and plans with national policies to ensure coherent and effective biodiversity management.



3. Engagement and participation across the whole of society is essential for effective biodiversity conservation.

Indigenous Peoples and local communities play a central role in protecting biodiversity and managing forests, making recognition of land rights key. Conservation outcomes are stronger when ecological goals are linked to social and economic benefits for local stakeholders.

Example from the DR Congo

Community-based conservation is promoted through participatory mapping and the formal designation of protected zones. In Luwe Itota Protected Forest and the Nkuba Conservation Area in eastern DR Congo, Indigenous Peoples and local communities manage the protected zones based on traditional knowledge, customary practices and locally recognized governance systems. They safeguard biodiversity and sustain human life in harmony with nature in these biodiverse forest landscapes. These areas are home to species such as the Critically Endangered Eastern Lowland Gorilla. With this inclusive human rights based-approach, management authority rests with communities, while national and international NGOs provide support. In other parts of the country, payments for ecosystem services encourage local communities to engage in sustainable land management, for example in agroforestry, reforestation and regeneration.



4. Effective financing solutions rely on strong cooperation across government institutions, the private sector and local communities.

Biodiversity-positive incentives, such as tax measures or dedicated funding schemes, can support conservation efforts. Linking conservation with economic valuation helps engage the private sector and ensures long-term financial sustainability.

Example from Indonesia

Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) is an innovative tool the government uses to track and optimise climate- and biodiversity-related expenditure. CBT is integrated into the national planning and budgeting system, and it monitors the financing of subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans to identify funding needs and gaps.



Learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DazSZUU7v5g>



From dialogue to delivery: trilateral biodiversity cooperation

The trilateral knowledge exchange among Brazil, Indonesia and the DR Congo generated concrete outcomes and built shared momentum through learning together. The key actors in biodiversity conservation recognised that they face similar challenges despite coming from countries with very different backgrounds. Through inspiring presentations, visits of biodiversity sites and animated discussions, they learned from each other and forged personal relationships.

This set the groundwork for future collaboration between the three countries and a shared pathway in areas such as financing and research. The collaboration started immediately: The DR Congo, for example, has begun applying insights from Brazil and Indonesia to the governance and data management of its new NBSAP. The countries agreed to establish coordination mechanisms through dedicated sessions on national platforms, in-depth virtual discussions on access and benefit-sharing and a stronger alignment across the UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD. They subsequently showcased collaborative initiatives at joint side events during COP30, including panels and workshops highlighting “Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities’ Role in Forest Conservation” and “Cross-National Collaboration for Tropical Forest Protection”.

These direct, peer-to-peer exchanges, conducted in physical proximity, have visibly generated momentum, enabling the three megadiverse countries to step forward on the international stage and lead collective efforts in biodiversity conservation. The partners now plan to develop a roadmap for trilateral collaboration to support the strengthening of institutions, cross-convention coordination and measurable progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This includes advancing innovative financing approaches as well as joint research and knowledge exchange.



“Our friends from Brazil, who welcomed us, are very advanced in assessing biodiversity... we have not yet reached the level that Brazil has achieved. Today, we learned how they do it. By collaborating with Brazil, together we can improve”

Benjamin Toirambe Bamoninga,
Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, DR Congo

“When we truly want to strengthen conservation, I believe cooperation becomes crucial. With that cooperation, we can complement each other. For example, we need to strengthen institutional management. We can work together to learn. We also need to increase capacity in aspects of technology use.”

Badiah Achmad Said,
Deputy Director for Species and Genetic Preservation,
Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia

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Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5
65760 Eschborn, Deutschland
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Project (Global):
Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets

Responsible: Lena Katzmarski

Author: Steffi Nötling, London, UK

Design: creative republic | Thomas Maxeiner Kommunikationsdesign
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

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