

Oslo Ministerial Dialogues on Nature

Convened in the margins of the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum on 25 June 2024



Theodor Kittelsen: «Langt langt borte saa han noget lyse og glitre», 1900. Foto © Nasjonalmuseet

The Oslo Ministerial Dialogues on Nature brought together a range of environment, climate and other ministers together with a number of senior officials for an informal discussion on scaling up action to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the “Biodiversity Plan”). The aim of the Dialogues was to address key strategic and political issues in the lead up to the 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia and beyond, fostering collaboration and exchange among countries, and generating additional political momentum for implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The three Dialogues focused on strengthening national action through the development and delivery of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), on scaling up the mobilization of financial resources, and on catalysing high ambition including through the Nature Champions Network and other initiatives.

The format of the Dialogues was informal, with interactive, closed-door discussion based on guiding questions circulated in advance together with the concept for the meeting and background notes. This setting, conducted in the spirit of the Chatham House Rule, allowed for open dialogue and a flexible and interactive exchange of views on the three key issues identified. This report provides a summary and overview of views expressed during the Dialogues, but does not necessarily indicate any consensus.

The Dialogues were introduced and facilitated by Minister Andreas Bjelland Eriksen of Norway and Minister Susana Muhamad of Colombia, working with Neville Ash, Director of UNEP-WCMC. Introductory remarks were made by David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and expert input was provided by the Co-chair of the CBD Advisory Group on Resource Mobilizations. Each of the three dialogues took place over a period of 90 minutes. The report was prepared by Jerry Harrison of UNEP-WCMC.

The welcoming remarks from Ministers Bjelland Eriksen and Muhamad, and from David Cooper, stressed the value of the dialogues as a 'stepping-stone' on the road to the UN Biodiversity Conference, and in particular CBD COP-16, in Colombia later this year. In this regard ministers and participating senior officials were urged to engage in a dialogue rather than read statements and share well-known positions. A list of the ministers and senior officials participating in the dialogues is provided in Annex 1.

Dialogue 1 – Delivering on national biodiversity strategies and action plans

The first dialogue considered progress in development and implementation of NBSAPs as the main policy instrument for delivery of the Biodiversity Plan. Ministers and participating senior officials were invited to reflect on the progress being made in their own country, challenges being encountered, and opportunities being seized to develop and deliver NBSAPs across the whole of government and society. To help orient discussion participants were provided in advance with a background note (see Annex 2) and the following guiding questions.

- What approach is your country taking to review and update your NBSAP as a whole-of-government and whole-of-society policy tool, including through engaging Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the private sector, and what are the main challenges you are facing?
- What experiences would you share on how adoption of the Biodiversity Plan is helping to leverage additional efforts and build ambition at the national level, including in relation to forest biodiversity and the interlinkages between addressing climate change and biodiversity loss?
- How might international initiatives such as the NBSAP Accelerator and National Monitoring Support Initiative best help Parties in meeting their commitments with respect to development and implementation of NBSAPs?

COP-16 in Cali, Colombia, will be the first meeting of the COP since adoption of the KM-GBF and associated decisions in Montreal in December 2022, and there is much to be discussed. It will therefore be important for negotiators to arrive in Cali recognizing that the Framework is being used to inform the agenda and drive action at the national level, as this in itself will build confidence and lead to further action.

Progress is being made by all Parties in revising and updating NBSAPs, and participants variously reported on the progress that was being made in their own countries, and in particular the ways in which they were involving other sectors and levels of government, and all stakeholders including Indigenous Peoples, so as to achieve the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach emphasised in the KM-GBF. By the time of the Dialogues, ten Parties had finalised their updated NBSAPs, and other Parties are actively working to finalize updates by COP-16.

It was recognised that achieving a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach necessitates good communication, both as a basis for ensuring awareness and understanding across government and society, and for helping to ensure engagement and therefore build ownership of the necessary actions. This includes building understanding of the importance of biodiversity across all sectors and all levels of government, which requires appropriate data and information.

The following challenges were identified during the discussion, which may be issues requiring further consideration in Cali in order to provide context to the progress being made and further support that might be needed, including through sharing of experience:

- Timely availability of sufficient resources is a critical issue for many Parties in developing and implementing their NBSAPs, as well as ensuring the necessary capacity.

- Aligning and developing policies across government so as to achieve a coherent whole-of-government approach requires time and effort to ensure meaningful engagement.
- There are challenges involved in working at multiple levels of government, in particular for devolved administrations, and this also has implications for the time needed.
- There are similarly challenges in working with across key sectors (for example food production and finance), and with key stakeholders working in those sectors, which also requires time and effort to achieve.
- Sometimes these challenges can be addressed with the support of independent national experts or organizations through provision of advice and facilitation of mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Use of indicators, developing and implementing the necessary monitoring programmes, and data sharing can all be challenges that need to be addressed.
- Building for the longer term, and building sustainability into the strategies and actions promoted in NBSAPs, can be challenging given the need to plan quickly and take action.

The following key issues referred to by participants may also indicate opportunities to share experience, as they relate to approaches that some Parties have taken to communicating and engaging across sectors:

- The process for developing and communicating the updated/revised NBSAPs is itself a good opportunity for recomunicating the value of biodiversity across sectors.
- Clear targets are important both as a means of focusing ambition and planning action to meet that ambition, and as a basis for assessment of progress.
- Ensuring accountability for implementation across NBSAPs is important both for engaging actors and for tracking implementation.
- The importance of addressing biodiversity loss in the context of climate change, recognizing that biodiversity is both a valuable tool for adaptation and mitigation, but also that biodiversity is itself impacted by climate change.
- In this context there is value in considering using nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches which meet multiple societal and environmental objectives.
- There is real value in paying careful attention to more integrated spatial planning, and gaining a better understanding of the potential multiple impacts of changes in use of land and seas.

COP-16 in Cali, Colombia, provides an opportunity to increase political support within and across governments. The KM-GBF provides a holistic framework for action by all. This encourages action to be taken in ways that involve and engage other stakeholders. In this context there was clear recognition of the value of partnerships at all levels, and of the importance of international cooperation.

Dialogue 2 – Scaling up action on resource mobilization

This dialogue further explored issues under discussion in the CBD on accelerating and scaling up action on resource mobilization. To help orient discussion participants were provided in advance with a background note (see Annex 3) and the following guiding questions, and also by introductory remarks from one of the co-chairs of the CBD Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization (summarised in Annex 4).

- What are the most promising opportunities for aligning all relevant public and private fiscal and financial flows in your country with the goals and targets of the Biodiversity Plan?
- What are your expectations for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the GEF in mobilising financial resources from all sources, and if a new fund doesn't mobilize the additional resources required, then what will?

- Whilst resources from all sources will be critical to support implementation of the Biodiversity Plan, the first milestones (2025 targets) of the Plan relate to public finances. What more should be pledged in advance of CBD COP-16 to show leadership and build trust?

Efficient and effective resource mobilization from all sources is essential for implementation of the KM-GBF and achievement of its ambitious goals and targets. Everyone needs to be doing more on resource mobilization, and this is embedded within the finance related targets which address *inter alia* both domestic resource allocation and the requirement for adequate resources to be made available through international development assistance. However, resource mobilization discussions tend to quickly become polarised, leading to lack of consensus, and there is a clear need to move beyond this in order to identify bridging approaches that enable all parties to move forwards in scaling up action on resource mobilization.

All Parties want to see the same outcome – sufficient resources from all sources to facilitate increase in ambition and implementation, and this is clearly set out in the targets of the KM-GBF. Insufficient resources is a significant barrier to implementation at local, national regional and global scales. It is therefore important to get beyond the ‘usual’ Party positions and create a more productive conversation.

Much needs to be done with respect to domestic funding, and the alignment of fiscal and financial flows, and there are several policy tools available to make progress, including in relation to both financial policies that are in themselves positive for biodiversity, and those that remove/reduce negative impacts on biodiversity. Key opportunities and issues identified relating to this topic included the following, where there is the potential to share experiences more widely as needed:

- Green budgeting within government budgets and operations, looking at each separate budget line in the context of climate and biodiversity implications.
- Ensuring that public procurement is carried out in ways that minimise impacts on the environment, and promote and encourage improvements in procurement practice more widely.
- Removing/redirecting direct support for activities harmful to biodiversity, and reviewing subsidies that negatively impact on biodiversity, and adjust accordingly.
- Working with and encouraging initiatives that support improved financial practices, including through initiatives such as BIOFIN, the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures and the International Sustainability Standards Board.
- Requiring companies to review and disclose their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and respond accordingly.
- Encouraging and working with the network of central banks considering the environment and assessing potential biodiversity impacts as part of their business models.
- Developing appropriate incentives for low-carbon agriculture, and opportunities for also bringing nature-positive approaches on board.
- Considering payment for environmental (or ecosystem) services schemes, supported as appropriate by legal frameworks.
- Reviewing standards for taking biodiversity and other environmental issues into account in infrastructure planning, and encouraging, and where necessary incentivising and enforcing ‘biodiversity net gain’.
- Incentivising the right sort of investments in biodiversity, and improving understanding of nature risk and how to avoid it.

Meanwhile there is urgent need to scale up available finance as soon as possible to meet the current resource mobilization targets, including securing further pledges and gaining a clearer picture of what is happening with the pledged resources. Making progress towards the 2025 targets of the KM-GBF is vital not only for ensuring

implementation but also for building trust in further negotiations in support of implementation. Discussion on the issue of scaling up available finance suggested the following opportunities and barriers to overcome:

- While it is clear that all issues and funding from all sources needs to be addressed, it is essential to deal with commitments on international development assistance in order to ensure trust and move on.
- It is also essential not only that sufficient resources are pledged, but also that any delays in delivering on promises and commitments made are avoided.
- Documenting the benefits of resourcing, and illustrating what further can be achieved with additional resources, can help to increase the focus of those providing funding.
- There needs to be increased engagement of those working in finance, including not only finance ministers and departments, but also financial institutions and those working in the corporate sector.
- Phasing out harmful subsidies will not only have direct beneficial effects, but may also increase the resources available for encouraging more nature positive approaches.
- More attention will need to be paid to critical issues such as taxation and sovereign debt, which are impacting national economies and the available resources for biodiversity.
- Additional resources are expected to also come from a fully operational multilateral mechanism for disbursing the benefits from DSI.

Further consideration should also be given to innovative approaches to resource mobilization, including investment funding, and using available funding to leverage additional resources. There is potential for increasing income from the private sector and especially those that have particular links with biodiversity, for example through dependencies or even branding.

There are clear opportunities for cooperation and synergy in use of resources, for example in addressing climate change and biodiversity together so that available resources are working towards multiple objectives. Using nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to address environmental issues (with the appropriate safeguards) can lead to more efficient and effective use of available funds.

Improved understanding of the multiple values of biodiversity will underpin changes in practice. For example, more effective communication of the multiple values of the services that biodiversity provides should provide the basis for encouraging reduced impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as for ecosystem restoration. It is therefore necessary to build the data and information on these values, so that more effective decisions can be made in the context of improving understanding the real values of biodiversity.

Dialogue 3 – Ambition, and the Nature Champions Network

This dialogue considered how best to maintain political momentum to help drive delivery of the Biodiversity Plan. To help orient discussion participants were provided in advance with a background note (see Annex 5) and the following guiding questions:

- What are the most promising opportunities to maintain and build momentum for implementation of the Biodiversity Plan, including through the Nature Champions Network and other coalitions, and what needs to be done to realize these opportunities?
- How can existing processes and initiatives be further supported to help Parties in delivering the Biodiversity Plan? How can progress on implementation be best communicated, and are there key gaps in the international support for parties that need to be filled?
- What key gaps/challenges for implementation of the Biodiversity Plan can be addressed at CBD COP-16, and how can “champions” such as those participating in the Nature Champions Network and other coalitions play a role in closing these gaps and resolving these challenges in the lead up to COP?

The Nature Champions Network aims to build and maintain momentum in implementing the KM-GBF, and to grow international awareness and understanding. It was launched by the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change in August 2023, and as of June 2024 involved 18 other ministerial-level champions covering a range of key topics, with the aim of enhancing progress and enabling a successful outcome at COP-16 in Cali, Colombia. Nature champions are expected to play a key role in furthering ambitious advancement in their topic areas globally, including through engagement with the full range of stakeholders, and for delivering on these ambitions domestically. Consideration needs to be given to how to build on this at COP-16.

Various initiatives have been established over the years which are encouraging and/or helping Governments to deliver on their commitments. These vary in nature and the ways in which they provide support, but all contribute in one way or another to implementation of the KM-GBF. Those specifically mentioned during the discussion included:

- The NBSAP Accelerator Initiative, which aims to provide better access to financial and technical support for participating countries, to raise the political profile of NBSAPs and accelerate action.
- The Japan Biodiversity Fund, which has been supporting Parties since COP-10 and is currently focused on supporting Parties in implementing the KM-GBF.
- The Bonn Challenge (addressed to both Governments and organizations), which aims to bring 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscape into restoration by 2030.
- The “Action Initiative” launched by China, which aims to create a platform for voluntary participation for all Parties and stakeholders, reflecting the political willingness, to comprehensively implement the Framework.

It will be essential at COP-16 to demonstrate real progress across the whole Framework, in order both to inform the negotiations and to increase confidence in the ability to deliver the Framework. This will help in raising ambition, and in building the momentum that is needed to succeed. Demonstrating progress requires as up-to-date information as possible. Such data and information is important as a basis for accountability, and it is therefore valuable to increase the availability and accessibility of data, and of data visualisations.

The UN Biodiversity Conference is also a focus for mobilizing all stakeholders as a key step in delivering the KM-GBF through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. This includes exploring opportunities for business and financial institutions to demonstrate what they are doing with respect to biodiversity and how they can help further, in particular considering how they might engage with government negotiators so that their needs, contributions and perspectives are recognized in the negotiations.

All three Rio conventions have COPs taking place in the last quarter of 2024, and this provides opportunity for coordination amongst the Rio convention COPs and their Parties to bring together messaging and build common approaches, recognising the common interests and opportunities. This is also relevant to common interests in delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Progress will need to be made across a wide range of issues at COP-16 in Cali, Colombia, and this can be facilitated by the active engagement of Ministers. Meetings such as the Oslo Ministerial Dialogues, and initiatives such as the Nature Champions Network help pave the way. Amongst the issues scheduled for discussion at COP-16, the following were identified as particularly key during the dialogue:

- Finalization of the multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review established through CBD COP decisions 15/5 and 15/6.
- Resource mobilization, and the effective operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund established in response to CBD COP decision 15/7.
- Operationalization of the Global Multilateral Mechanism on Benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources.

- Decision on institutional mechanisms under the Convention for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and enhancing the programme of work on implementation of Article 8j.
- Promoting coherence, and as appropriate integration, with respect to efforts to address biodiversity loss and climate change at all levels and in all sectors.

Although not explicitly on the COP agenda, there were also concerns expressed about Illegal trading of wildlife, illegal mining, illegal fishing, all of which needs action and support internationally. There are many problems relating to lack of compliance, and lack of appropriate levels of enforcement.

Annex 1: Participation in the dialogues

Ministers

Country	Name	Position
Brazil	Eloy Terena	Vice Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Colombia	Susana Muhamad	Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ève Bazaiba Masudi	Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development
Ecuador	Edgar Heredia	Vice Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition
Ethiopia	Girma Aente	Minister of Agriculture
Ghana	Akwasi Konadu	Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources
Indonesia	Siti Nurbaya Bakar	Minister for Environment and Forestry
Japan	Yutaka Matsuzawa	Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs
Norway	Andreas Bjelland Eriksen	Minister of Climate and Environment
Peru	Raquel Soto Torres	Vice Minister of Environment

Senior officials

Country	Name	Position
Brazil	Garo Batmanian	General Director of the Brazilian Forest Service
Canada	Catherine Stewart	Ambassador for Climate Change
France	Sylvie Lemmet	Ambassador for the Environment, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
Germany	Inka Gnittke	Deputy Director General, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	William Lockhart	Deputy Director, International Biodiversity and Wildlife, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
United States of America	Daniel Kandy	Director – Sustainable Landscapes, Department of State

Organization	Name	Position
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	David Cooper	Acting Executive Secretary
UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)	Neville Ash	Director

Annex 2: Background material for Dialogue 1 - *Delivering on NBSAPs*

The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF, or “the Biodiversity Plan”) was adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022. In adopting this ambitious Framework and its 23 action-oriented targets, Parties recognised the critical importance of biodiversity for human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people. They also recognised the many threats to biodiversity and drivers of change, and therefore the need to take urgent and substantial action. As the global targets in the GBF are intended for achievement by 2030, Parties need to act quickly to plan and implement necessary national actions to contribute to the global ambitions.

Focus on national action and NBSAPs: Action for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits happens mainly at national and local levels, and it is recognised in the [text of the Convention](#) that States have sovereign rights over their own biological resources. Each Party to the Convention therefore develops their own national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) to underpin implementation and set out what the Government and key stakeholders aim to achieve, and how they plan to go about it. NBSAPs are the main instrument through which Parties establish and communicate their national contribution towards the GBF and its goals and targets, and it is the sum of actions planned and delivered under NBSAPs that will aggregate to deliver on the 2030 targets.

Revising and updating NBSAPs: When the GBF was adopted, the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) also adopted a number of other decisions to support its implementation. The decision on [mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review](#) requests Parties to revise and update their NBSAPs to align with the GBF, and provides guidance for doing so, including that they should involve and facilitate the engagement of all government sectors at all levels of government, and all stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth across society. Robust and inclusive processes for revising and updating NBSAPs provide the foundation for action at the national level by all relevant stakeholders.

Status of NBSAP revision and update: The same decision asks Parties to submit their revised NBSAPs to the CBD Secretariat by COP-16 in October 2024, and to in advance communicate their national targets reflecting the GBF goals and targets using a standard template. As of the end of May 2024, 10 Parties have communicated revised or updated NBSAPs considering the global ambitions of the GBF. Since August 2023, the CBD Secretariat has been convening regional and subregional dialogues designed to provide opportunities for Parties to share experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating NBSAPs to align them with the GBF. In due course a review of revised and updated NBSAPs will provide an opportunity to assess the extent to which collective national ambition will be sufficient to achieve the global targets and based on this to identify what further action and support might be needed.

Key challenges in developing NBSAPs: Since the Convention came into force just over 30 years ago, 194 of the 196 Parties have developed at least one NBSAP, and most have developed several. There is therefore not only significant experience to build on, but also some understanding of the challenges that Parties have experienced, while recognising that circumstances vary from one Party to another. Such challenges have included the following:

- [Lag time between adoption of global targets and revision of NBSAPs in response](#), often the result of delays in access to necessary funding, but also caused by the time needed to ensure the necessary levels of engagement and ownership amongst stakeholders, and the varying policy cycles across Parties.
- [Ensuring that the necessary capacities and funds are available](#) not only for development of NBSAPs, but also for securing subsequent implementation – high ambition is needed across the scope of the GBF including for making rapid progress towards the global goals and targets including on means of implementation, but also in relation to enabling conditions.

- [Ensuring the necessary “buy in”](#), not only in terms of government engagement and adoption at high levels of government, but also in terms of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches which secure the engagement of all relevant players at both national and local levels.

Linking to the implementation of other biodiversity-related conventions: The governing bodies of a range of multilateral environmental agreements have recognised that it is mutually beneficial to cooperate in implementing the GBF. Building that cooperation at the national level where it is most meaningful would be greatly enhanced if NBSAPs include all relevant actions addressing national obligations to implement biodiversity-relevant conventions. This is explored further in the [report of the Bern III Conference](#) on cooperation among conventions for the implementation of the GBF, in which party representatives from across the Rio, biodiversity-related and chemical cluster of conventions participated actively.

Engagement of stakeholders: Implementation of the GBF requires a whole-of-society approach to be fully effective. This includes the appropriate engagement of stakeholders and rights holders in development and implementation of NBSAPs, and of women and girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It also includes engaging across different levels of sub-national government, recognising that action often happens at the local level. In this regard some larger federal countries have state level strategies and action plans that complement and feed into national strategies and plans.

Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors: Engagement with other sectors, including through a whole-of-government approach, is critical to ensure that biodiversity impacts and dependencies are appropriately recognised in sectoral strategies. This should include recognising the links between NBSAPs and other national planning tools such as Nationally Determined Contributions and adaptation plans under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and National Action Programmes under the United Nations Convention on Desertification. This also includes recognising the links to national delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tracking implementation: Effective monitoring of NBSAP implementation is vital to understanding progress and adapting policies and action. Monitoring of implementation and the impact that this is having at national and local levels is key to adaptive management, so that implementation can be adjusted as necessary to deliver the best results. Monitoring also informs reporting processes, including those as a requirement under the CBD. At the national level this can be significant in informing all relevant stakeholders of progress in implementation, further building ownership and engagement. At the global level this helps to build understanding of the extent to which the agreed targets are being achieved through collective action, and what needs to be done to encourage and support further action. However, there are challenges to be overcome in developing and implementing fit-for-purpose monitoring and indicator programmes and using the resulting information effectively, including the need to strengthen capacities and resources available for national monitoring across the scope of the GBF.

Initiatives supporting Parties: A wide range of initiatives are already under way which aim to support the review and/or update of NBSAPs and associated national monitoring systems following adoption of the GBF, and also to support their subsequent implementation. These include the following:

- [CBD resources online](#), where in addition to access to all relevant official decisions and related documents the CBD Secretariat has made available [guidance notes on the targets](#) with the intention of assisting Parties in considering actions that they might be taking and providing access to key resources.
- [GEF Early Action Support](#), jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP working with the CBD Secretariat, which aims to fast-track readiness and early action through financial and technical support focused on: alignment of NBSAPs with the GBF, national monitoring systems, policy and institutional coherence, and biodiversity finance.
- [NBSAP Accelerator Initiative](#), a country-led initiative aiming to act as a neutral broker, providing better access to financial and technical support, and offering customized in-country facilitation. By collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders, promoting knowledge exchange, and translating national priority needs into actionable plans, the initiative aims to raise the political profile of NBSAPs and accelerate action.

- [National Monitoring Support Initiative](#), which will be working with national and regional partners to help build national capacity, tools and systems for biodiversity monitoring, with the aim of enhancing effective monitoring and reporting of progress towards national targets and contributions to the goals and targets of the GBF. This relates to considerations on the establishment of a Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity.
- [NBSAP Forum](#) hosted by UNDP, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat, which is an online community of practice connecting a wide range of practitioners and other stakeholders through a web-based e-learning platform, an online forum to connect practitioners and technical experts on key issues, and a technical help desk working in English, French, and Spanish.

Annex 3: Background material for Dialogue 2 - *Scaling up action on resource mobilization*

The need for financial resources: Delivering on NBSAPs and achieving the global ambitions of the GBF will require additional financial resources from all sources, as emphasised in CBD [COP decision on resource mobilization](#). Recent overall financial flows into global biodiversity conservation have been estimated to be in the region of US\$ 130-140 billion. This indicates an approximate tripling in funding over the last decade, although these funds are dwarfed by spending on agricultural, forestry, and fisheries subsidies that degrade nature, which is at least two to four times greater (and does not include subsidies for fossil fuels driving impacts from climate change). As a result, the needs for biodiversity finance far outweigh how much is currently spent to sustain life on Earth, resulting in a global biodiversity funding gap of approximately US\$700 billion. The CBD Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization prepared reports on [estimation of resources needed](#), [review of the past resource mobilization strategy](#) and [contribution to a new strategic approach](#), which have helped inform discussion on this issue. Ongoing negotiations are informed by the CBD Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization, which held meetings in [September 2023](#) and [March 2024](#).

The importance of subsidy reform: Approximately half of this funding gap can be closed with no new investments required. Deploying existing funds and aligning policy and investment choices with the GBF would move financial flows away from being negative for nature towards positive outcomes for nature and people. Subsidy reform is the single biggest opportunity to close the funding gap, reflected in [target 18 of the GBF](#), including its urgent milestone for 2025: *“Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least US\$ 500 billion per year by 2030...”*.

The requirement for additional finances: In addition to urgently reducing negative financial flows, additional financial resources are required from all sources to the order of US\$200 billion per year¹, as reflected in [target 19 of the GBF](#): *“Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by 2030 mobilizing at least 200 billion United States dollars per year...”*. Along with the recognition of the need to mobilize domestic, private and other resources, target 19(a) includes an urgent milestone for 2025 for increasing total biodiversity-related international financial resources from developed countries to developing countries *“to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030”*. As one of the first GBF milestones, this target provides an important test of political will to deliver on the ambitions agreed at CBD COP-15, and whilst there has been some progress, additional public financing from developed countries will be required to achieve this ambition.

The current biodiversity finance landscape: At the request of CBD COP-15, the CBD Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization is exploring the current biodiversity finance landscape, with a view to identifying opportunities to strengthen, simplify and reform existing instruments. The [report submitted to CBD SBI-5 in May](#) recognises that the global landscape of biodiversity finance is characterized by a fragmented and diverse array of funding mechanisms varying significantly in purpose, scale, and size. While this diversity may create challenges in terms of accessibility and navigability of funds, it may also be beneficial as it allows for tailored approaches to address unique national contexts. The report recognises that biodiversity finance is increasingly being integrated into national and international policy levels, but also recognises that notable gaps exist, in particular when addressing macroeconomic issues such as illicit financial flows, tax regimes, and sovereign debt. Domestic public expenditure is currently the largest source of biodiversity financing globally, yet the proportion of public finance allocated to biodiversity is relatively small, indicating a potential for increased funding. The report also notes the potential for further integration of biodiversity considerations into national fiscal strategies and scaled use of innovative financing instruments whenever feasible and appropriate are important building blocks for sustainable biodiversity finance,

¹ US\$ 200 billion is less than US\$25 per capita globally, and less than 1/10 of global military expenditure.

as well as recognising the urgent need to identify, eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies harmful for biodiversity, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The GEF and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund: The Global Environment Facility is currently in its 8th replenishment cycle, and most recently allocated over US\$400m to biodiversity investments in three main objectives: 1) Improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems; 2) Effectively implement the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols; 3) Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity. Total GEF allocations for biodiversity to date total around US\$4 billion. The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) was established in 2023 under the GEF in response to decisions at CBD COP-15. It has to date received pledges of US\$234 million from 6 donors, and has committed over US\$ 110 million in project funds. Whilst an important contribution, considerable additional pledges to this fund are needed for it to be an important contribution to the 2025 US\$20 billion target. Discussions over recent years, including most recently at CBD SBI in Nairobi in May have not resulted in consensus on the best approach to mobilizing additional resources. Whilst many Parties consider that a new financial instrument is required, other Parties have emphasized that a new financial instrument doesn't necessarily result in new finances. In the context of these discussions, a key remaining question to address is therefore how new and additional financing might be mobilized in the absence of a new financial instrument.

The links between biodiversity and climate finance: The ongoing exercise to explore the biodiversity finance landscape recognises that integrating climate and biodiversity finance with a view to leveraging synergies and addressing overlapping drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss is an important ongoing task. The report on the biodiversity finance landscape notes that aligning finance across sectors, including a shift towards green infrastructure, ecosystem-based approaches and/or nature-based solutions, will create the potential for more impactful biodiversity policy efforts and a reduction in biodiversity loss as part of efforts to tackle and adapt to climate change.

The role of Multilateral Development Banks: Considerations need to be given to the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs) in provision of biodiversity finance. Ecosystem services and other non-marketed goods from which much of the developing world's poor draw directly their livelihood and employment make up between 50% and 90% of the total source of livelihoods among rural and forest-dwelling poor households. The risks to 'GDP of the poor' due to the loss and degradation of biodiversity is a growing obstacle in the way of development and poverty-reduction. In this context, the World Bank and the regional development banks, such as in Asia, Africa and the Americas, have an increasingly important role in channelling financial resources for biodiversity-related projects in member countries. MDBs possess great potential to contribute significantly to biodiversity finance as they have significant capital at their disposal and can raise additional funding through international markets. For example, in addition to rigorous implementation of biodiversity (and wider environmental) safeguards, additional mechanisms such as committing a share of MDB finance to support delivering on the GBF could be considered.

The important contribution of private finance: Resources from all sources, including private finance, will be critical to achieving the overall finance ambitions of the GBF. Existing flows of private finance for biodiversity are relatively small. For example, only 14% of capital for projects focused on nature-based solutions is provided by the private sector, with 86% coming from public or philanthropic sources (see for example the [UNEP report on the State of Finance for Nature 2021](#)), and in the UK private finance currently accounts for one sixth of the funding for nature. However, recent years have seen a rapidly growing engagement of the private sector on biodiversity, in response to a growing recognition of the risks and dependencies of business on nature. The financial materiality of biodiversity loss and degradation is becoming increasingly clear across sectors. The sources of private capital are also broadening and include foundations, impact investors, large asset owners, corporations, and retail investors. There are two main approaches by which private finance can be mobilized. Firstly, by monetizing cashflows from the provision of the benefits from nature ("financing green") and secondly by addressing biodiversity risks associated with investments ("greening finance") through directing financial flows from initiatives with negative impacts on biodiversity to those that reduce negative or deliver positive impacts for nature. In both cases, mobilizing significant private finance will

require governments and regulators to establish appropriate enabling conditions, including through de-risking financial investments in nature.

A report on "[Aligning Financial flows with the Global Biodiversity Framework: Translating Ambition into Implementation](#)" was launched earlier this year. Crafted in collaboration with leading financial institutions, this document outlines key actions that governments can take to align public and private financial flows with the GBF. The report recognizes that role of the private sector in addressing biodiversity loss, and recommends that this should be clearly articulated in NBSAPs and National Biodiversity Finance Plans. The four key areas in which they propose recommendations and actions are in: (1) requiring companies and financial institutions to assess, monitor, and disclose their nature-related risks, impacts, dependencies, and opportunities; (2) mandating Nature Transition Plans based on sectoral transformation pathways, and fostering collaborative commitments; (3) encouraging actions by central banks and supervisors; and (4) creating economic incentives for businesses and financial institutions to maximize the mobilization of private finance.

Benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources: Agreement at CBD COP15 to establish a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI), including a global fund also has potential to attract private finance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resulting from the use of DSI. Funding modalities and anticipated levels of financing remain uncertain, but will become clearer after [the second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group](#) in Montreal, 12-16 august 2024.

Political will to deliver on the Biodiversity Plan critical to a successful COP16: The 2025 deadline for achieving the first ambitions of the GBF (target 19a, as above) are fast approaching, and yet political discussions on resource mobilization made limited progress at the recent intersessional negotiations in Nairobi. Pledges of financial support in advance of CBD COP-16 in October, including to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund by developed countries and countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, would demonstrate political will to deliver on the global ambitions of the GBF and to build trust in the further negotiations on biodiversity finance.

Annex 4: Introductory remarks on resource mobilization

The dialogue on resource mobilization began with a number of observations drawing on the work of the CBD Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization and discussions during the subsidiary bodies recently held in Nairobi, with the aim of helping to orient and frame the discussions during the dialogue.

- Implementing the Convention and achieving the KM-GBF, requires considerable progress on resource mobilization. Everyone needs to be doing more - north and south, public and private, international and domestic - all need to urgently scale up on resource mobilization.
- When the KM-GBF was adopted, the biodiversity finance gap was quantified at USD\$700 billion per year, including US\$200 billion per year of additional financing. Target 19 commits to substantially and progressively increase financial resources made available for the implementation of NBSAPs, aiming to close this gap by 2030 at the latest.
- Target 19 recognises that closing the gap will necessitate tapping into every available source, including looking beyond public funds and involving, for example, the private sector and philanthropy, and exploring innovative ideas and thinking creatively about new sources and approaches to finance.
- Target 19 also clarifies that aim of mobilizing resources from all sources is not to dilute the differentiated responsibilities that the Convention attributes to developed country Parties through Article 20, but to increase overall the financial resources available.
- It is reasonable to expect that with proper incentives and safeguards funding from both the private sector and philanthropy can be increased, and perhaps substantially, but it cannot be reasonably expected that the resources mobilized would be as predictable as those mobilized by governments, or cover all needs.
- Every country is expected to provide, in accordance with their capabilities, financial support for the implementation of their own NBSAPs, and domestic public expenditure globally already accounts for the largest part of global biodiversity spending. However, the Convention also:
 - stipulates that developed countries shall provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to meet the incremental costs of implementing the Convention; and
 - recognises that the extent to which developing countries implement their commitments depends on access to the necessary financial resources and transfer of technology.
- Target 19 quantifies the ambition for biodiversity finance through development assistance as US\$20 billion a year by 2025 and US\$30 billion by 2030, equating to a doubling of development assistance between 2022 and 2025 (and equivalent to only 25% of annual expenditure in maintaining nuclear arsenals). Despite progress made, there is real concern that the 2025 target will not be reached, setting a challenging backdrop for COP-16.
- The polarized nature of the negotiations in the recent subsidiary body meetings implies a lack of trust, and this is making progress more difficult. Explicitly recognising the following may help in building that trust and fostering a more conducive negotiating environment:
 - there is a need to engage differently in negotiations, finding ways to move beyond shifting responsibilities that have typically been the feature of these conversations;
 - where there is a shortfall in the funding being made available through development assistance, this needs to be acknowledged as progress on the targets is essential to building trust;
 - references to mobilizing resources from all sources should relate to the increase in overall resource availability, and not imply replacing or diluting treaty-based obligations; and
 - understanding that benefit sharing and development assistance should not be conflated as they relate to different sources of financing and legal provisions of the Convention.

- The level of resources being made available through cooperation is limiting the ability of developing countries to implement the Convention. Whilst this is leading to considerable frustration, recognising the efforts already being made, and then highlighting what more could be achieved if developing countries had access to international cooperation at a level commensurate with the ambition of the KM-GBF is likely to be more constructive.
- COP15 called for establishment of the GBFF within the GEF in expectation that this would be the most rapid way to get funded projects under way, and a number of positive features have been welcomed. However, capitalization is not yet sufficient, and to date only half the pledged funds have been paid.
- Parties recognize the contribution of the GEF, but many developing countries have identified limitations including with respect to governance, scale, efficiency and overburdening. There remains considerable interest in the idea of having a fund devoted to biodiversity under the Convention, increasing the political visibility of biodiversity.
- However, other Parties are sceptical, and are concerned that a new fund would add to the current fragmentation of the biodiversity finance landscape, without increasing in real terms the amount of funding available. Many of these Parties seem relatively satisfied with the progress made in the GEF so far.
- There may be merit in allowing the GBFF more time before assessing its performance, but consideration does need to be given to establishing a process both to review its performance and to carry out a deeper review of the financial mechanism and future needs.
- Insufficient resources inevitably leads to suboptimal implementation, an outcome that nobody wants. This is particularly felt in developing countries, which are custodians of most of the world's biodiversity and therefore bear the higher burden in the implementation of the GBF.
- Given the scale of the resource mobilization challenge, there is no silver bullet that, alone, will provide the financial resources needed to implement our ambitions GBF. We need all hands on deck. We need to walk away from blame-shifting and finger-pointing and to revive the spirit of solidarity that inspired the adoption of the Convention.
- It is clear that at COP16 making headway on resource mobilization will be crucial for unlocking progress in various other tracks of biodiversity negotiations. Recognizing that all sources are needed, while developing an honest assessment of what each of them can and cannot do, and focusing on maximizing the potential of each, is likely to lead to the most successful outcome for all.

Annex 5: Background material for Dialogue 3 - *Ambition, and the Nature Champions Network*

Delivery of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF) and securing the pathway to achievement of the 2050 Vision of “living in harmony with nature” requires continued political momentum. This is essential at global, regional and national scales in order to ensure actions are commensurate with ambitions. Political momentum is also vital in order to secure appropriate levels of human and financial resources, to build and maintain the much-needed cooperative approaches in addressing biodiversity-related issues, and to engage with and build ownership across all relevant sectors and stakeholders. Various international initiatives have emerged to catalyse and maintain such momentum across parts or all of the scope of the GBF, including the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, the Campaign for Nature, Promote Pollinators, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, and the Nature Champions Network.

Nature Champions Network: In the margins of the GEF Assembly meeting in August 2023, Canadian Minister Steven Guilbeault convened a [Ministerial on Nature](#) to advance momentum on biodiversity and the implementation of the GBF. The meeting provided opportunity to share views on achieving ambitious biodiversity outcomes, and identified some of the critical issues. With the support of participating Ministers, Canada launched the Nature Champions Network with two overarching aims:

- [Maintain and build momentum](#), by acting as a convening network focused on amplifying and raising visibility on relevant initiatives aimed at supporting implementation of the GBF, discussing and identifying gaps in progress and using political momentum to encourage countries to address those gaps.
- [Grow international awareness and understanding](#) of the GBF and its importance, by leveraging all available opportunities to highlight the critical role of biodiversity in meeting global goals including for climate change and achieving the sustainable development goals.

Nature Champion themes: To achieve these aims champion co-leads are being identified from amongst participating Ministers to act as advocates for advancing action in the following areas: conservation and restoration; sustainable use and management of biodiversity; equitable benefits sharing of genetic resources; resource mobilization and biodiversity mainstreaming; integrating climate change, biodiversity and pollution; inclusive implementation and knowledge sharing (including Indigenous Peoples); building successful partnerships with stakeholders; and oceans. However, it is recognised that this list is not exhaustive, and Ministers may want to take up other themes where they feel they can have impact. Nature Champions are expected to take responsibility for fostering ambitious advancement of their thematic areas globally, including through engagement with the full range of stakeholders, and for delivering on these ambitions domestically.

Key challenges: Initiatives such as the Nature Champions Network may be able to help address a number of key challenges in implementation of the GBF by raising the profile of issues and enhancing political momentum for identifying gaps, challenges and opportunities, and for implementing solutions. As an example, challenges that could be addressed in this way might include the following:

- [Achieving demonstrable progress](#) at all appropriate levels in implementing the GBF, and ensuring that both the collective ambition and the actions taken, and impacts delivered, are sufficient to achieve the goals and targets that Parties have adopted.
- [Aligning resource flows](#) with implementation of the GBF, including resource mobilization from all sources through engagement of Governments, the private sector, financial sector and philanthropy, as well as addressing incentives that have unintended impacts on biodiversity.
- [Sharing of benefits from Digital Sequence Information](#) on genetic resources (DSI) through agreement on and operationalization of a well-functioning fit-for-purpose DSI benefit sharing mechanism recognizing both monetary and non-monetary benefits.

- [Meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities](#) in implementation of the whole GBF, recognising the important roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use.
- [Cross-sectoral action](#), recognising the interconnected nature of concerns and actions relating to biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, the links between biodiversity and health, and the relevance of biodiversity to delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Key opportunities: During 2024 there will be a number of opportunities for Ministers to come together to consider progress in implementation of the GBF and what can be done to address key areas of concern. These opportunities also provide the space for relating biodiversity to other concerns on the international agenda. Possible opportunities in addition to the Oslo Ministerial Dialogues on Nature include the following:

- [Summit of the Future](#) takes place at the UN in New York in September, with the aim of bringing world leaders together to reach consensus on building a better present and safeguarding the future, focusing on how to cooperate better to deliver on the existing aspirations and goals (such as the GBF).
- [Global Nature Positive Summit](#) in Australia in October, which aims *inter alia* to boost private sector investment to protect and repair the environment and provide what nations need to attract investment, including knowledge, tools, technical support and ‘how to’ guidance.
- [UN Biodiversity Conference](#) (CBD COP16) in October, where the primary focus will be on a wide range of issues directly relevant to implementation of the GBF including with respect to resource mobilization, Digital Sequence Information, and global analysis of the contribution of national targets to delivering the GBF.
- [COPs of all three Rio conventions](#) ([CBD](#), [UNFCCC](#), [UNCCD](#)) take place in the last quarter of 2024, providing possible opportunity for related meetings and messaging across all three Rio conventions to reinforce the need for integrated responses to biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation.

Other relevant initiatives: The Nature Champions Network is one of a range of initiatives and coalitions for advancing implementation of the CBD and GBF that involve Parties at a senior level enhancing and building on the work of various existing arrangements. Examples include:

- [High Ambition Coalition](#) for Nature and People currently includes 118 countries united by a shared ambition to implement the global goal of effectively conserving and managing at least 30% of the world’s land and ocean by 2030. The coalition is led by a Ministerial level international steering committee and is currently co-chaired by France and Costa Rica, with the United Kingdom as ocean champion.
- [NBSAP Accelerator Initiative](#), is a country-led initiative aiming to act as a neutral broker, providing better access to financial and technical support, and offering customized in-country facilitation. By collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders, promoting knowledge exchange, and translating national priority needs into actionable plans, the initiative aims to raise the political profile of NBSAPs and accelerate action.
- [Promote Pollinators](#) (the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators) was established by 14 countries following completion of the [IPBES Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production](#), and now includes 32 countries. The coalition was established both to share information and experience, and to foster policy measures and innovative action to protect pollinators.