



Information Note: Building Momentum for a Global Plan of Action on Education for Biodiversity

Information Note prepared by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), UNESCO, WWF, and Members of the IUCN Task Force on Nature-based Education
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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support the recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) on 29 May 2024 to have the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Union for Conservation of Nature **develop a global plan of action for education on biodiversity**, encompassing formal and informal education, including goals, activities, timelines, indicative resource requirements and possible partners, in order to support the transformative changes needed to implement the KM-GBF.
2. **Advocate for coherence in education for biodiversity, nature, climate, ocean and sustainable development education** for learners of all ages, emphasising that **integrated learning around these issues leads to improved learning outcomes**, improved physical and mental **health**, improved access to **green skills and jobs**, and to active **global citizenship** for conservation action.
3. **Develop National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that reinforce education as essential to successful biodiversity conservation and active global citizenship**, and that encourage and resource linkages between environment and education Ministries and agencies. This will recognize that effective **biodiversity education must lead to active citizen engagement**, and encourage approaches that boost active citizenship, including citizen science efforts.
4. Ensure biodiversity education strategies **encompass formal, non-formal, and informal** educational programs and settings, and are **diverse, inclusive**, prioritising equitable engagement of youth, women, girls, Indigenous communities, and people with disabilities.
5. **Direct resources to biodiversity education** programs in countries needing financial support to fully initiate education efforts.

BACKGROUND

Along with the activities of [Education Day \(October 23, 2024\) at the KM-GBF Pavilion](#), led by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the CBD Secretariat, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), **this Note aims to support negotiators in successful advocacy to align their Parties' own NBSAPs and the CBD programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, in particular **paragraph 7 (o) of section C, section K and Targets 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23**. This Note also aims to **inform negotiators on the importance of the development of a global plan of action for education on biodiversity**. [SBI Recommendation 4/8 on Communication, education and public awareness](#) invited “UNESCO [, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services] [and the IUCN] [to develop] [to



contribute to the development of] **a global plan of action for education on biodiversity**, encompassing formal and informal education], including goals, activities, timelines, indicative resource requirements and possible partners][, in order to support the transformative changes needed to implement the Framework]. It is recommended that this global plan of action build on and support other frameworks so as to reduce duplication of effort, enable synergies and support collaboration. These frameworks include, for example: [UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development](#), [UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment](#) (Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement), [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's Education Challenge 6.1](#), and more.

CO-DESIGNING A GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION ON EDUCATION FOR BIODIVERSITY

Once the COP decision on [Communication, education and public awareness](#) is adopted, UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and IUCN will convene stakeholders to develop a global plan of action for education on biodiversity. **The global plan of action would set a common vision for 2030 in which people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are engaged, skilled, empowered, resourced, and mobilised to contribute to the successful implementation of the KM-GBF to “halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.”** This will require a concerted and collaborative effort of governments, Indigenous communities, educational institutions (formal and non-formal), and communities, to ensure that learners are not only aware of the critical state of the planet and have the capacity, opportunities, skills, and motivation to take action to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss and advance the KM-GBF Targets.

The framework of the plan would include categories of *policy, people, place, and pedagogy*. **Policy**, compiling best practices for public policy that supports biodiversity education at the regional, national, subnational, and local levels. **People**, emphasising the importance of building a diverse and inclusive community of educators, learners, policymakers, and stakeholders who are committed to promoting and sustaining biodiversity. **Place**, recognising that the cultural, geographic, and physical environments where learning happens influence the effectiveness of biodiversity education, and advocating for the creation and enhancement of green learning spaces that provide immersive, nature-based experiences for learners. **Pedagogy**, emphasising the need to adapt educational strategies to meet the diverse needs of learners, to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing, and to foster a lifelong commitment to biodiversity conservation.

PARTNERS READY TO CO-DESIGN THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

To ensure an inclusive and co-developed process, IUCN has convened a Task Force consisting of individuals and organisations from around the world to advance climate, biodiversity, and nature education. This IUCN Task Force will support UNESCO, IUCN, and partners as a resource in the drafting of the global plan of action, as well as collaborate with Parties to support its implementation. The Task Force currently includes Members representing:

Alana Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, Ashoka, Asociación Ak' Tenamit, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Children and Nature Network, Canadian Wildlife Federation, IUCN CCC, IUCN CEC, IUCN CEESP, IUCN CEM, Center for Environment Education - India, Center for Global Education, Centre for Media Studies, Chemichemi Foundation, Children & Nature Network, CLEAR Environmental, Club of Rome, Conservation International, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Parks Canada, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, EARTHDAY.ORG, Eco Peace Asia, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Environmental Charter Schools, Esri, Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development, Exploring Womanhood Foundation, FamilyGroup, Foundation for Environmental Education, FUNDAECO, Government of Jordan, Green Schools National Network, Green Schoolyards America, Guardianes de la Naturaleza, GYBN, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, Bavarian Academy of Nature Conservation and Landscape Management, ICLEI, IGES, Instituut voor natuureducatie en duurzaamheid, International Association of Nature Pedagogy, IUCN, Learning Planet Institute, Learning through Landscapes, Learnsapes AUSTRALASIA, Lijiang Cloud Mountain Education, NAAEE, National Whistleblower Center, Natural Start Alliance and NAAEE, OpEPA, Play Learning Life, Salzburg Global Seminar, San Diego State University Research Foundation, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, IUCN SSC, Synchronicity Earth, UNESCO, IUCN WCEL, IUCN WCPA, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, Wildlife Jewels, World Environmental Education Congress Secretariat, World Vision, WWF.