

IUCN position paper on selected issues

**Convention on Biological Diversity
Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI6)
16-19 February 2026, Rome, Italy**

Key Messages

SBI-6 is a critical step in the delivery of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) taking place this year. IUCN encourages Parties to make swift, concrete and sensible recommendations to have a global review process that delivers tangible and actionable outcomes.

- ✓ IUCN urges increasing funding for biodiversity from all sources, including through strengthened capitalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, greater alignment between biodiversity and climate finance, as well as enhanced action to achieve Target 18, as essential measures to close the widening biodiversity financing gap and enable effective implementation of the KMGBF.
- ✓ Noting with concern the small proportion of target submissions that provide information on commitments by actors other than national governments, IUCN reiterates the importance of ensuring that the development of NBSAPs and target setting are based on inclusive and participatory processes.
- ✓ IUCN stresses that the timely submission of the national reports is essential to the development of the global report and the entire review process and urges Parties to submit their seventh national reports on time. In preparing their reports, IUCN encourages Parties to include information on:
 - efforts and steps taken to implement the Gender Plan of Action, including gender-disaggregated data.
 - needs regarding capacity and means of implementation, to inform the global review.
- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to continue to strengthen their efforts to implement the Gender Plan of Action, in particular, the indicative actions and deliverables with the 2026 timeframe.
- ✓ IUCN recommends the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, to consider the gap analysis included in the global report on collective progress to inform the development of practical options to address capacity gaps ahead of COP17.
- ✓ IUCN highlights that the Conference of the Parties of the Rio Conventions will convene later this year and invites Parties to seize the opportunity to strengthen collaboration between them, through aligned and mutually reinforcing decisions, joint work programmes or initiatives on areas of common interest.
- ✓ Noting that synergies are most practically operationalised at the national level, IUCN encourages Parties to continue to strengthen national cooperation and coordination among the national focal points, align national policy and planning instruments as well as reporting frameworks.

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Resource mobilization and financial mechanism (Agenda item 3)

The need to increase funding for biodiversity from all sources, and to redouble efforts to eliminate, phase out or reform of harmful subsidies is crucial.

While there has been an increase in biodiversity-related financial flows, the biodiversity financing gap, has also widened, from an estimated US\$711 billion annually in 2020 to US\$942 billion by 2024¹.

Further, the demand for support from the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) significantly exceeds the resources available to date. For its first tranche, the GBFF approved 40 projects from 127 submissions received requesting support totaling \$443.2 million. The second programming tranche opened triggered by the 18-month rule, with \$161.8 million available. The GBFF will need new contributions to continue programming².

In this context, **IUCN welcomes the resource mobilization strategy of the GBFF presented in the 5th GBFF Council meeting to ensure the predictability and timely flow of funds and urges donors to support further capitalisation of the GBFF** to ensure effective immediate support for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

IUCN also takes note of, and encourages Parties to consider the initial findings of the commissioned studies on the relationship between debt sustainability and the implementation of the Convention, the implementation of the guidance on safeguards in biodiversity finance mechanisms and on the relationship between biodiversity and climate finance, as presented in document CBD/SBI/6/2.

IUCN emphasizes the importance of respecting and implementing existing commitments on biodiversity finance and of applying robust safeguards, as reflected in decisions XII/3 and 14/15, to ensure positive outcomes for biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

On the relationship between biodiversity and climate finance, **IUCN stresses the importance of**

directing greater climate financing towards high-integrity nature-based solutions on account of their multiple proven co-benefits, especially in light of the call to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035, by the UNFCCC COP30.

IUCN calls for the strengthening of efforts to implement actions needed to achieve Target 18 and recalls that this Target calls for the identification of incentives that are harmful to biodiversity by 2025. A recent study by IUCN finds that by aligning agricultural support with biodiversity, countries would make major strides towards achieving Target 18 while also contributing to progressively closing the overall financing gap for biodiversity, supporting Target 19 and Goal D in the process³.

Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: update on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reporting (Agenda item 4)

IUCN welcomes the analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and national targets provided by the Secretariat, and commends the 71 Parties⁴ that have submitted their revised NBSAPs since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

- ✓ **IUCN encourages those Parties that are still to revise and finalize their NBSAPs to do so as soon as possible**, to allow for a more comprehensive global analysis and review of progress.
- ✓ IUCN notes with concern the small proportion of target submissions that provide information on commitments of actors other than national governments, which risks weakening ownership, accountability, and effective implementation. **IUCN reiterates the importance of ensuring that the development of NBSAPs and target setting is a participatory process.**
- ✓ IUCN is also concerned that **important elements of the targets such as issues related to ecological connectivity or integrity**

¹ Paulson Institute, 2025. Financing Nature: The Unabated Biodiversity Finance Crisis – Interim report.

<http://www.paulsoninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Financing-Nature-Interim-Update-2025.pdf>

² 5th GBFF Council meeting, December 19, 2025. Towards a resource mobilization strategy for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund 2025-2030. [GEF/GBFF.05/04/Rev.01](#)

³ Vergez, A., Siikamäki, J., Mittempergher, D., & Piaggio, M. (2025). Agricultural support, biodiversity, and trade: Examining connections to repurpose harmful incentives. IUCN. <https://doi.org/10.2305/RIHU4909>

⁴ As of 28 January 2026: <https://ort.cbd.int/dashboard#0.4/0/0>

or to areas of importance for biodiversity were either not addressed or addressed to a limited extent by many Parties. IUCN highlights that it has developed guidance on these particular issues and stands ready to support Parties in filling these gaps.

- ✓ Regarding Target 4, IUCN is pleased to note that more than two-thirds of Parties submitted national targets that fully address ensuring that urgent management actions are taken, and that the recovery and conservation of threatened species as well as management of human-wildlife conflict are relatively well covered.
- ✓ IUCN stresses that the timely submission of the national reports is crucial to the development of the global report and the entire review process and **urges Parties to submit their seventh National Reports by February 28, 2026**, in accordance with decisions 15/6 and 16/32.
- ✓ **IUCN encourages Parties to make use of the headline indicators and other globally available data**, in addition to any nationally specific data which is available.
- ✓ IUCN stands ready to provide information to support the global review based on its own global scientific assessments relevant to this task, and in response to any specific requests for data from the Parties, the Secretariat and the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the purposes of the global report and review (para 23 decision 16/31).
- ✓ In addition, **IUCN stands ready to support Parties** by providing guidance, capacity-building, and the application of its standards, indicators, and tools to help setting and tracking progress towards the KMGBF targets, through the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, its expert Commissions and Secretariat.

Gender Plan of Action (Agenda item 5)

IUCN notes with appreciation the synthesis of information related to the progress in the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) as well as the analysis of gender considerations in NBSAPs and national targets presented in CBD/SBI/6/5.

Building on its longstanding expertise, IUCN is supporting the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action 2023-2030 through a range of global and local initiatives including promoting human rights, women's access to land and natural resources, addressing gender-based violence in environmental sectors, strengthening Indigenous women's leadership in CBD processes, and enhancing women's access to knowledge, tools, and capacity-building opportunities⁵.

IUCN notes however that while the GPA does not have specific indicators to measure progress, 21 of the 30 indicative actions contained in the Plan have a proposed timeline of 2024 or 2026. The information currently available on the progress of implementation of the GPA would be significantly strengthened by drawing on more recent data from submitted NBSAPs, national reports and community-generated data and diverse knowledge systems. The latter are central to understanding lived experiences of implementation of the GPA and Target 23 and should be recognized as complementary and credible sources of evidence.

IUCN recommends that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation includes additional paragraphs in its recommendation that:

- ✓ **Encourages Parties that have not done so, to integrate the Gender Plan of Action into revised and updated NBSAPs.**
- ✓ Urges Parties to submit information on efforts and steps taken to implement the Gender Plan of Action in their national reporting, including gender-disaggregated data.
- ✓ Encourages Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to continue and **strengthen efforts to implement the Gender Plan of Action, in particular the indicative actions and deliverables with a 2026 timeframe.**

Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols (Agenda item 6)

IUCN underscores that developing and strengthening capacity is paramount for the effective implementation of the KMGBF.

⁵ [Additional information was submitted](#) to the Secretariat in response to notification 2025-103.

Addressing capacity gaps is urgent if implementation is to keep pace with the ambition of the framework.

However, IUCN notes with concern that, while many Parties have indicated in their submissions of national targets that they lack the capacity to implement those targets, only a third have provided detailed information on their needs related to capacity and other means of implementation. This is a challenge to effectively prioritize and target capacity-building support.

Regarding the options to address technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified by Parties, IUCN regrets that the Informal Advisory Group (IAG) was not able to identify options to address capacity gaps, as requested by the COP. However, the Secretariat has indicated that a more comprehensive gap analysis, drawing on information from 7th national reports, will be included in the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework. This could usefully inform the development of concrete options to address capacity gaps prior to COP17, as a tangible outcome of the global review process.

In this regard, **IUCN contests the necessity for the Secretariat to undertake an additional, standalone analysis of capacity needs and gaps, or to develop further guidance for the technical and scientific cooperation support centres** (TSC Centres) to design future capacity needs assessments.

In light of the above, IUCN recommends including the following in the SBI recommendation:

- ✓ **Encourages Parties to explicitly identify their capacity needs that are preventing implementation of the KMGBF**, and where possible, outline capacity development plans in the revision and updating of their NBSAPs and national targets.
- ✓ Urges Parties to include information on needs regarding capacity and means of implementation in their 7th national reports, to inform the global review.
- ✓ Requests the IAG in collaboration with the Executive Secretary to **consider the gap analysis included in the global report on**

collective progress to inform the development of practical options to address capacity gaps ahead of COP17.

And amend the recommended draft COP decision accordingly.

Four IUCN Regional Offices⁶ are hosting regional and subregional TSC centres, and will work with Parties in these regions in the assessment and analysis of capacity needs and gaps at the national and subregional levels. IUCN remains committed to collaborating with other regional and sub-regional centres, and the global coordination entity to leverage each other's skills and expertise while avoiding duplication.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (Agenda item 7)

IUCN welcomes efforts by the Parties, Secretariats and governing bodies of the Rio Conventions, the biodiversity-related Conventions (BRCs) and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to enhance cooperation and policy coherence to support the implementation of the Conventions.

In particular, IUCN welcomes the recently amended CITES Resolutions Conf. 16.4 - *Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions* and Resolution Conf. 18.3 - *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*, as well as Decision 1/CMA.7 *Global Mutirão: Uniting humanity in a global mobilization against climate change* under the UNFCCC.

Over the past two decades, options to enhance synergies and policy coherence across the BRCs, the Rio Conventions, and other MEAs both at the global and at the national level have been identified⁷. IUCN recalls, for example, decision XIII/24⁸, which contains options and a roadmap to 2020 for enhancing synergies among the BRCs. Many of these options are still relevant and can accommodate the Rio Conventions and other MEAs.

- ✓ **IUCN invites Parties to make use of the back-to-back COPs of the Rio Conventions later this year to agree on concrete actions to strengthen cross-Convention collaboration contributing to achieving the climate,**

⁶ IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Regional Office for West Asia, and the IUCN Asia Regional Office

⁷ In its submission of views on enhanced policy coherence across the Rio Conventions ([notification 2025-005](#)), IUCN

identified several COP decisions on this matter and highlighted a selection of options for enhancing policy coherence.

⁸ [CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24](#)

biodiversity, and land degradation targets. A commonly agreed decision taken by the COP of each Convention would signal an explicit commitment to linking the implementation of the Rio Conventions and could also significantly speed up national coordination processes.

- ✓ One such action could be establishing joint work programmes in areas of common interest and within the mandates of the conventions and/or other practical initiatives and activities.
- ✓ IUCN supports undertaking an analysis of overlaps in the frameworks on planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the three Rio Conventions and identify priority areas of intervention.
- ✓ **IUCN encourages Parties to integrate in the revision of their NBSAPs their various commitments under relevant MEAs** and other

international commitments to facilitate synergies and coherence in the implementation and monitoring.

IUCN highlights its Standards and associated knowledge, data, and tools—particularly the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Red List of Ecosystems, the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology, the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, and the Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas— all of which support coherent planning and monitoring of progress in the implementation of this and other biodiversity-related conventions as well as the SDGs.