

Nature Now

TNC ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

2024 REVIEW

FEBRUARY 2025



The Global Biodiversity Framework in 2024: Progress and Challenges

In 2024, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) released its first *Nature Now* Report, a snapshot at how the world and TNC was progressing in implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) one year after its historic adoption. Our conclusion was that progress was being made, but not nearly fast enough.

Accordingly, throughout 2024, TNC, working with other NGOs, country and IPLC partners, and scientists and conservationists from around the world, doubled-down on its drive to support global implementation of the GBF, supporting countries on their paths toward submitting their National Biodiversity Strategic Actions Plans (NBSAPs) with ambitious national biodiversity targets, encouraging mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, championing innovative financial solutions in helping countries finance conservation work.



COP16 in Cali revealed implementation is still behind schedule.

The 16th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP16) held in Colombia in October served as a milestone for global biodiversity efforts in 2024. Key agreements achieved in Cali to further the implementation of the GBF, support enhanced integration of the voices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and traditional knowledge into global biodiversity strategies, as well as integrating biodiversity across all sectors of the global economy were welcome signs of progress.

COP16 was also intended to be the deadline to propel countries to submit their updated NBSAPs and robust national targets. A majority of countries have yet to submit these crucial commitments: By the end of COP16, 119 countries (of 196 parties to the Convention, or 61%) had submitted 2,716 National Targets aligned with the Kunming-Montreal GBF to the official CBD Online Reporting Tool. However, only 44 countries submitted full NBSAPs by the deadline. Many countries cited challenges in funding and the complexity of the process for their delay. That was a uninspired implementation pace, but we are encouraged by countries' apparent interest in producing robust NBSAPs, even if on a delayed schedule. TNC has recommitted itself to expand partner support for NBSAPs in countries as well.

Mainstreaming has gained Champions, but is still under-represented.

The success of the GBF will depend largely on whether biodiversity conservation can break through the silo of “fortress conservation” thinking, and truly integrate biodiversity across the economy. While the GBF contains important text on the “whole of society approach” and importance of mainstreaming, an analysis of submitted targets and NBSAPs shows that in general, mainstreaming does not receive adequate attention in national biodiversity planning. COP16 took some steps to rectify this, with the adoption of a good decision on mainstreaming and the launch of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group of Nations. Nonetheless, going forward countries must strengthen their focus on the integration of biodiversity considerations into policies and sectoral planning.

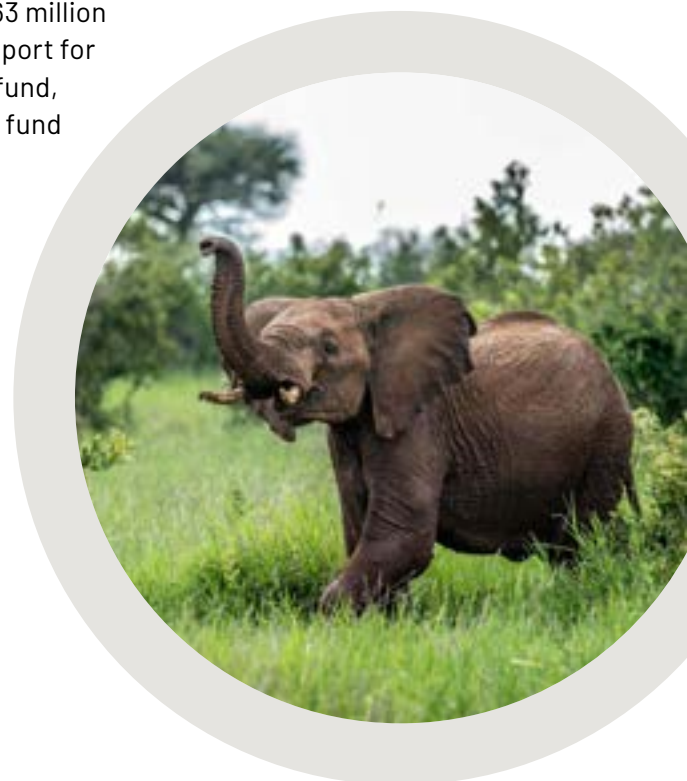
The finance gap is narrowing—but not fast enough. Mobilizing money to where it is needed most is key.

Resource mobilization continues to be a core challenge to making more rapid progress on GBF. Few countries have developed biodiversity finance plans for updated NBSAPs. And Cali left unfinished the crucial decisions on Resource Mobilization Strategy and the Financial Instrument. The UN reports that around 60% of low-income nations—many of whom are the most vulnerable to climate change—are at risk of or already in debt distress, limiting their ability to protect their biodiversity and overcome climate threats. Countries need to finalize how to finance conservation efforts, particularly in developing countries that house much of the world’s biodiversity but have limited resources when the COP resumes in Rome.

There are some bright spots:

- According to a [review of the latest global data](#) conducted by TNC and Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs for the United Kingdom (Defra), there have been positive signs that efforts to mobilize increased finance for nature from all sources and close the USD\$700 billion annual biodiversity finance gap is progressing. Trends show growing recognition of the need to integrate biodiversity considerations into public and private finance strategies.
- At UNCBD COP16 in Cali, eight governments pledged USD\$163 million to the Global Biodiversity Fund (GBFF) helping to provide support for developing countries. Additionally, Parties adopted the Cali fund, for Digital Sequence Information of Genetic Resources. This fund aims to support the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, providing much-needed financial resources to biodiversity projects worldwide.
- Proven financial models such as Nature Bonds, and programs, such as Projects Finance for Permanence (PFPs), are increasingly offering proof points as successful solutions to enhance financing for conservation. To accelerate this momentum, TNC and leading global NGOs announced the [formation of a coalition](#) to help develop first-ever practice standards for sovereign debt conversions to scale climate and nature outcomes.

For this momentum to continue, countries must adopt and implement a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.



TNC's Contribution to GBF Implementation in 2024

In 2024, TNC continued to engage with partner governments to see where our science, conservation action and policy support can contribute to implementation at the national level. TNC staff were engaged in NBSAP or GBF implementation processes at some level in 33 countries in all regions.

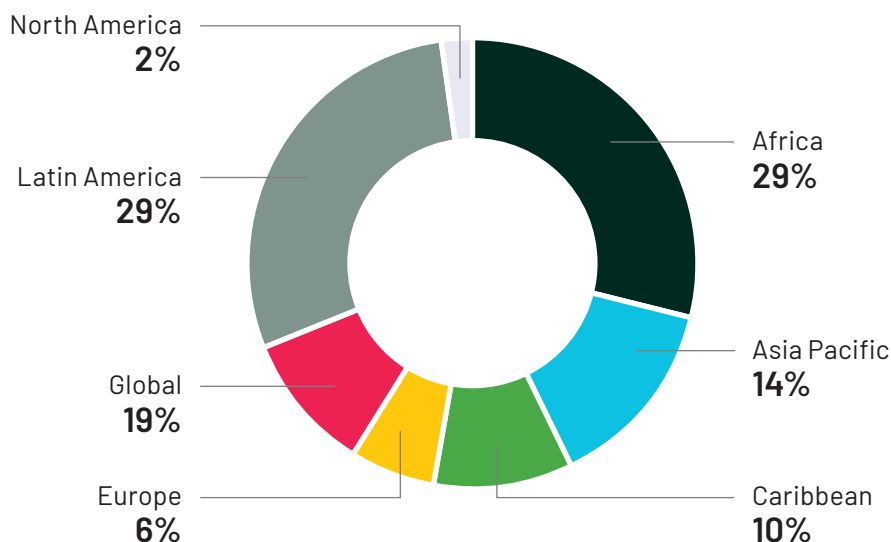
TNC'S Contributions to GBF Implementation by the Numbers

WHERE WE ARE WORKING

TNC has been working throughout the globe to implement the GBF, support NBSAP development, and provide technical assistance. TNC has taken a holistic approach to GBF implementation across Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific. In Europe and North America, TNC has worked primarily, but not exclusively, on Resource Mobilization efforts (GBF Targets 18 and 19).



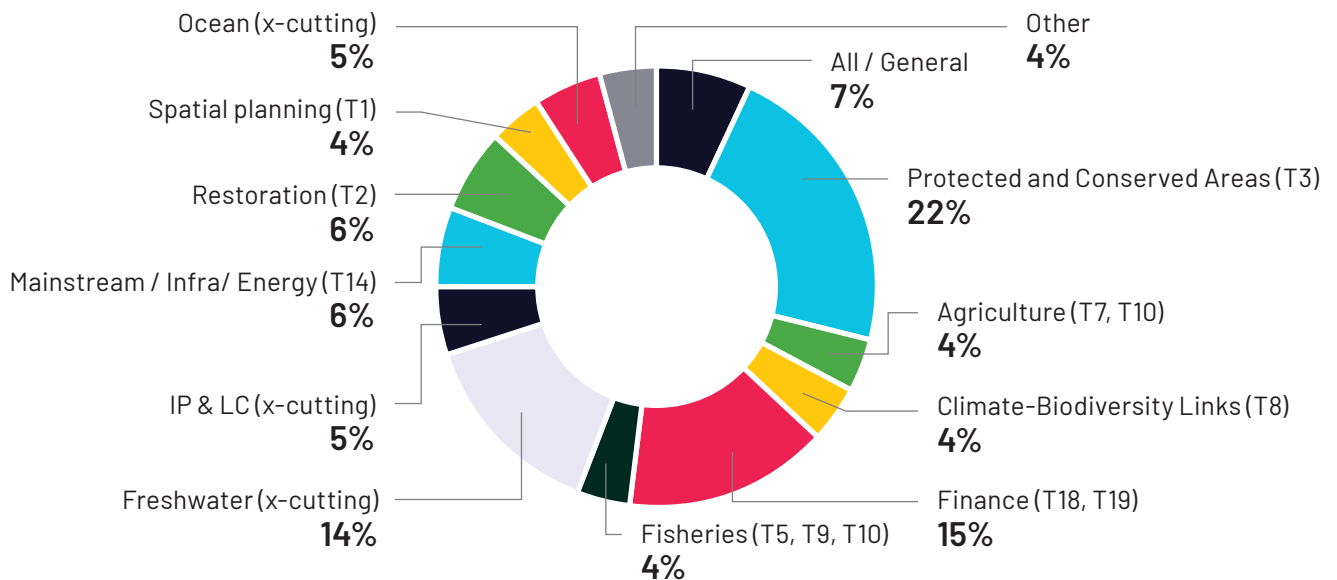
Geographic Distribution of TNC's GBF Contributions



WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

TNC assists countries in developing and achieving their national targets and NBSAPs across a range of thematic support areas. Core Capacity Support actions involve multi-thematic and comprehensive support for national strategies or actions toward implementation. Many thematic areas such as Freshwater or Equity and Justice are cross-cutting and our contributions span multiple GBF targets.

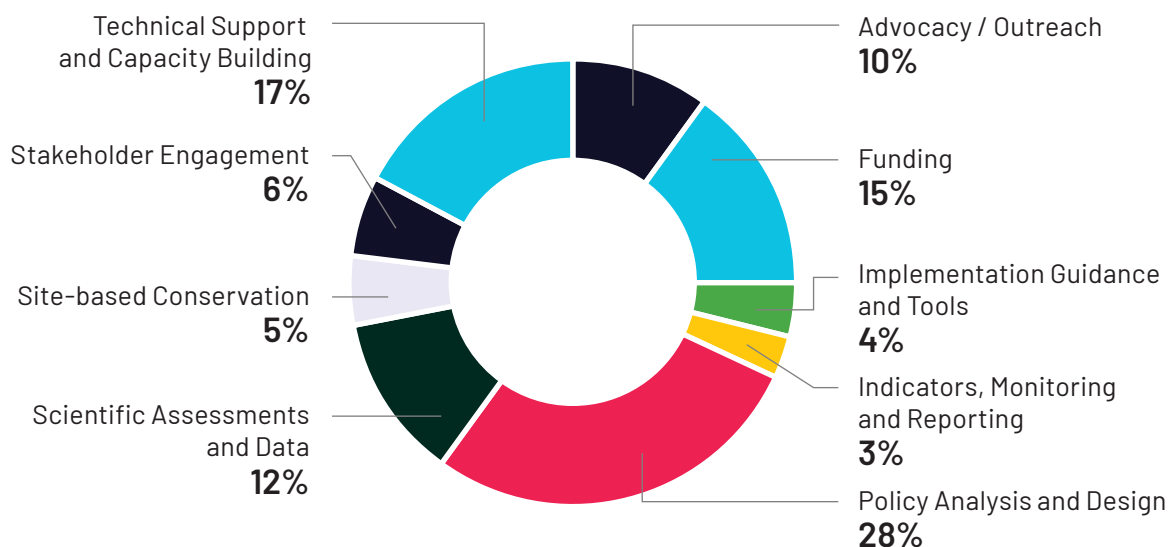
Thematic Distribution of TNC's GBF Contributions



HOW WE ARE WORKING

Across the geographies and thematic support, TNC has contributed specific activities to support GBF implementation. Ranging from policy design and funding support to site-based conservation and technical support, TNC has and will continue to work across the project timeline to align our expertise to help countries meet their capacity needs and find success.

Types of Activities Among TNC GBF Work



This report highlights how TNC is supporting the advancement of country NBSAPs and work toward specific GBF targets. It also outlines key actions for the global community to accelerate progress in 2025.

PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS (TARGET 3)

More than half of the countries in which TNC operates are engaged in delivering one or more elements of Target 3 of the GBF (30x30). Efforts range from conducting spatial analysis and area prioritization, mobilizing financial resources through Nature Bonds and Project Finance for Permanence, conducting policy reviews, and securing fair and equitable participation of IPs & LCs in all phases of T3 implementation. A major area of this work is to define and develop an implementation process for sites outside of established protected areas, known as other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). TNC has been working on these efforts in various national contexts including Brazil, China, Angola, Kenya, South Africa, and others.

CASE STUDIES



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Socio-economic study on conservancies in Kenya

Kenya has 245 conservancies, now covering 10.6 million hectares or 18.3% of the country. Over 65% of Kenya's wildlife live in community or private lands. Conservancies, therefore, offer an opportunity for the country to meet several targets of the GBF. TNC and partners have developed a situational analysis, alongside an economic assessment of the effective operation of these sites in order to guide prioritization of investments into Kenya's conservancies and support their recognition as protected or conserved areas..



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OECMs in China

As the host country of CBD COP15, China assumed a key role in the implementation of the GBF. OECMs in China are still in early stages but existing government policies and civil-led conservation efforts offer promising potential lands to be recognized as OECMs across China's landscapes. TNC partnered with IUCN and others to develop the report, *'A stocktaking report on other effective area-based conservation measures in China's an interpretation of OECMS in China,'* to highlight existing area-based conservation projects across China that could potentially be recognized as OECMs, and be integrated into its national network of protected and conserved areas.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (TARGETS 18, 19)

Advocating for scaling of proven mechanisms for Resource Mobilization and incentives has been a major focus for TNC. Together with partners at every level of government, international financial institutions, community, and business, TNC advocates for the need to align investments across economies to restore and protect nature and ensure its sustainable use. Our work with countries to refinance debt is providing significant funding for the expansion and effective management of protected areas around the world.

2024 saw the close of TNC's first Project Finance for Permanence as part of the Enduring Earth partnership. Eternal Mongolia will provide ~ USD\$198 million in new investments over 15 years, enabling Mongolia to achieve both its Target 3 ambitions and improved community-based resource management.

CASE STUDIES



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The Bahamas Debt Conversion Project for Marine Conservation

Recently TNC announced a new Nature Bond agreement with The Bahamas that is expected to generate an estimated USD\$124 million (plus an estimated USD\$8 million of endowment proceeds) for nature & climate over next 15 years. Supported by TNC, IADB, Builders Vision, AXA XL, and Standard Chartered, this project aims to enhance ocean conservation and manage the country's 71 marine protected areas (6.8 million hectares). These areas, including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and mangrove forests, provide storm protection, food, livelihoods, and tourism benefits. Conservation outcomes include climate-smart MPA management plans, a National Mangrove Management plan, and a participatory Marine Spatial Plan, benefiting The Bahamas' species, ecosystems, and people.



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Ecuador Debt Conversion

In 2024 Ecuador announced its first debt conversion to support terrestrial and freshwater conservation in the Amazon. Supported by TNC's Nature Bonds program, the agreement is expected to unlock approximately USD\$460 million in funding over the next 17 years to advance the Amazon Biocorridor Program, an initiative co-designed with Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities that represents Ecuador's commitment to using comprehensive management strategies to conserve the Amazon region.

INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION

Indigenous and community-led conservation are key cross-cutting elements for TNC's engagement on Target 3 and across the GBF in our country partnerships. We support indigenous and local communities to engage in the NBSAP consultative process, to ensure their voices are heard, their rights are respected, and advocate for increased inclusion in the decision-making processes. We are working with indigenous and local partners in Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Zambia and elsewhere to ensure NBSAPs are constructed on the basis of strong stakeholder engagement.

CASE STUDY



© JON McCORMACK

Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence in Canada

Indigenous-led conservation is the key pillar of the [Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence \(PFP\)](#). Led by [17 First Nations](#) in collaboration with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, and supported by Enduring Earth, this project establishes long-term, flexible funding mechanisms for the establishment and stewardship of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), securing CA\$335 million for conservation and economic development, and community prosperity. The Great Bear Sea PFP elevates Indigenous land-use rights, creating a co-governed model for conservation that will protect a globally significant marine ecosystem and benefit coastal communities.

LINKING CLIMATE ACTION WITH CONSERVATION (TARGETS 8, 11)

TNC is supporting countries to integrate national climate and biodiversity action. We promote policy coherence and institutional coordination across NBSAPs, National Adaptation Plans, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement. Our science and policy experts advise countries on national strategies to scale up natural climate solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation, and net-zero, nature-positive sectoral transitions, helping to efficiently tackle climate and biodiversity crises together.

CASE STUDY



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Enabling Science and Data to scale Natural Climate Solutions: Naturebase

TNC and partners have developed an interactive database of peer-reviewed science to identify opportunities for nature-based projects with the highest carbon mitigation impact and biggest potential for improved ecosystem benefits and livelihoods. [Naturebase](#) informs users the emissions reduction potentials, and is complemented with information on ecosystem and human benefits, enabling policies and case studies to support effective decision-making and high-integrity climate action. TNC is using the Naturebase platform to shape NBSAP targets to scale up natural climate solutions, in alignment with GBF Target 8.

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO ECONOMIC SECTORS (TARGETS 14, 15, 18)

TNC is focused on ensuring that productive and industrial sectors like agriculture, energy, and finance play a central role in nature's recovery. We partner with governments to set policies, plans, and standards to guide sectoral shifts towards biodiversity-friendly economic models. Ensuring that the necessary build-out of renewable energy minimizes land-, water- and sea-use change and other impacts on biodiversity is a major focus of TNC's research and technical support. In 2024, TNC advocated for a strong decision on mainstreaming which was adopted at COP16, and we spearheaded a coalition of 58 organizations that called on governments to reform policies and plans to facilitate a just transition for nature, climate, and people.

CASE STUDIES



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Governments Join to Integrate Biodiversity Across Sectors

TNC's government partners in Mexico and Colombia established the new Mainstreaming Champions Group at COP16, with 18 other Parties joining as members. This group aims to promote the integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into all levels of decision making, and accelerate the adoption of effective, transformational policies and sector-based actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. TNC and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) supported the group's establishment and are initially supporting its coordination

TNC supports nature-sensitive renewable energy expansion in India

Smart siting is essential to minimizing biodiversity impacts of renewable energy expansion. In India, TNC is working with the government and other stakeholders to apply the [SiteRight](#) tool, which informs solar and wind location selection and helps avoid conversion of natural areas important for biodiversity. The tool is in use across 9 Indian states and will soon be available nationally.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (TARGET 10)

Food production is a major driver of climate change and the destruction of nature, accounting for nearly one-third of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, 90% of land-use change and 70% of water use globally. At the same time, there is also increased acknowledgment that global food systems are fragile and in stress. A focus on building regenerative food systems can transition food production on land and at sea from extractive and degrading to restorative of the lands, waters and oceans that supply our food. TNC works with governments, corporations, and NGO partners to facilitate system-wide structural change that can address climate action, restore nature loss, and address our fragile food system.'

CASE STUDIES



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Sustainable Ranching in Colombia

Though Colombia is rapidly losing its natural landscapes due to an advancing agricultural frontier, we believe that increasing food production is possible without habitat loss. The Nature Conservancy shares its science and builds transformational partnerships across sectors to make sustainable ranching and farming practices the norm in Colombia. Using TNC's Healthy Agricultural Systems (HAS) approach—which focuses on increasing production without affecting the soil, water and existing biodiversity of a region—Colombian farmers are restoring habitat while increasing production, profits and climate resilience. Colombian ranchers have already transformed 105,000 acres to environmentally-friendly practices and protected 37,000 acres through conservation agreements with landowners. ([More Food, Less Habitat Loss](#))



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Electronic Fisheries Monitoring in the Pacific

The waters of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean produce 60 percent of the world's tuna—a haul of nearly 3 million metric tons worth almost USD\$7 billion each year. But overfishing and illegal fishing activities threaten to disrupt the global seafood supply and crush Pacific Island economies that rely heavily on tuna revenues. TNC is driving innovation to make a difference across this vital and expansive region. By focusing on improving oversight of fishing activities, restructuring supply chains and integrating fisheries and marine spatial planning, we envision building healthy and sustainable tuna fisheries, reducing bycatch of vulnerable species, decreasing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and improving socio-economic returns for Pacific Island nations. ([Transforming Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific](#))

SPATIAL PLANNING (TARGET 1)

TNC’s expertise on spatial planning helps partners integrate the best available data into their analyses and targets and improves the quality and detail of the resulting NBSAPs. Spatial data is core to Target 1 of the GBF, but is required to support conservation planning and priority setting across a range of other targets. TNC is developing enhanced tools (see case study) and works with country partners to develop spatially-explicit conservation plans and interventions.

CASE STUDY



© IAN SHIVE

Democratizing spatial planning for the future of conservation

Marxan, a world leading conservation planning tool, can help fundamentally change how decision-makers use technology for conservation. Together with key partners, TNC works to ensure that anyone, anywhere, can collaborate and implement actionable spatial plans to support biodiversity conservation, economic growth and climate adaptation and mitigation for the next decade of conservation planning. As the world aims to secure formal protection for 30% of Earth’s lands, freshwater and ocean by 2030, tools like Marxan can ensure that conservation science is embedded alongside human values in every conservation decision. As the analytic engine behind major planning projects, such as the Great Barrier Reef’s Rezoning Plan and Mongolia’s National Protected Area portfolio, Marxan has been used by over 180 countries and leads the world in providing robust, flexible and systematic decision-support to governments, academics and planners globally.

Calls to Action for 2025 and Beyond

Political landscapes have changed significantly since the GBF was agreed in Montreal—the crisis in our actual landscapes has not. The urgency of action is real. Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is more critical than ever to address the rapid loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems, mitigate climate change, and promote sustainable development. The successful conclusion of COP16.2—finalizing remaining decisions on Resource Mobilization and Implementation—is vital for maintaining momentum in global biodiversity conservation efforts and ensuring that the ambitious targets set by the GBF can be achieved. It will also demonstrate the international community’s commitment to addressing the biodiversity crisis and safeguarding the planet’s ecosystems for future generations. At COP16.2 in Rome and beyond, countries must continue to accelerate action throughout 2025.

We call on all countries that have not already done so to submit their NBSAPs and national targets as soon as possible. These must be followed by National Biodiversity Finance Plans—which are essential to refine cost estimates of implementing the GBF and to understand the funding gaps that must be closed. Two GBF sub-targets related to this have a 2025 deadline: Identification of environmentally harmful subsidies (Target 18) and increasing biodiversity-related financial flows to at least \$20 billion per year (Target 19a).

Beyond the CBD, we urge countries to swiftly ratify the High Seas treaty and to build nature into their NDCs under the Paris Agreement. Protecting marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, nearly half of Earth's surface, is key to 2030 goals. Ratifying the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty in 2025 will enable marine protected areas, curb overfishing, and combat climate impacts. It promotes global cooperation, aiding developing nations in conservation efforts. Swift action is vital for ocean health and biodiversity. And 2025 is also the time when countries are required to update Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in advance of UNFCCC COP30. Integrating climate and biodiversity strategies, can lead to more effective and holistic approaches for both.



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TNC commits to continued work with governments and other stakeholders around the world to support the update of national action plans and targets by providing crucial baseline data, supporting stakeholder engagement, conducting research and assessing needs and gaps. Addressing the challenges that countries face in implementing the GBF requires a multifaceted approach, including increased financial and technical support, capacity building, enhanced international cooperation, and fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement. TNC will continue to collaborate with countries and international partners to advance these strategies.

The coming year will be the time to move beyond planning to the doing. We hope 2025 will also be the year we will begin to see positive impacts from our collective efforts on the ground—expanded and improved protected and conserved areas, restoration of degraded areas, recovering populations of wild species, reductions in threats and drivers of biodiversity loss, and enhancement of nature's ability to contribute to human well-being at multiple levels.



THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

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