

Business and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Exploring the potential contributions of business to the delivery of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



Key Messages

- The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated decisions set out an ambitious pathway to transform our relationship with nature by 2030. Business has a key role to play as part of the whole-of-society approach to its implementation.
- Central to implementation of the framework will be the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. These will be used by Parties to set national targets and policies in response to the global framework. Depending on the approach adopted by Parties, there may be opportunities for business to engage in the development and implementation of these targets and policies.
- There are global, local and temporal dimensions to how business risks and opportunities will manifest in response to implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- In considering their contribution, businesses can be guided by the following areas for action:
 - Consider the 23 targets holistically
 - Complement and enhance national efforts
 - Align approaches with the cross-cutting considerations
 - Establish credibility and transparency
 - Urgent action is required to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030

Introduction

In December 2022, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the landmark Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and an associated package of decisions. These set out an ambitious plan to transform society's relationship with nature and ensure that the vision of 'living in harmony with nature' is fulfilled by 2050. These decisions recognize the need for urgent and transformative

action across the whole-of-society to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to ensure successful implementation of the GBF.

Businesses have a key role in supporting successful delivery of the GBF and associated decisions. This technical brief explores the key areas where business contributions can enhance implementation.

The Kunming-Montreal package of decisions

The Kunming-Montreal package of decisions (box 1) was adopted during the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15). These set the priorities and roadmap for the implementation of the Convention¹ and its Protocols over 2022-2030.

Central to this is the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which sets out "an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in our societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2050²". In pursuit of this, the GBF establishes four long-term goals aligned with the 2050 vision, and 23 action targets in support of the 2030 mission "to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet³". The 2030 targets look to:

- Reduce threats to biodiversity
- Meet people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing
- Deliver tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

The GBF goals and targets are global. The main instruments for implementation are the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) that are to be revised or updated to include nationally determined targets and policies in response to the global framework. The agreed mechanisms for planning, monitoring,

reporting and review⁴ request Parties to revise NBSAPs ahead of the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-16). A global analysis of NBSAPs will be undertaken at COP-16 (scheduled for October 2024) and each subsequent COP to assess collective contribution towards the GBF targets. A global review of collective progress in implementation of the GBF will also be carried out at COP-17 and COP-19.

The monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵ will provide a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the GBF at the global scale through a series of headline, component, and complementary indicators. Further progress to finalize the monitoring framework is currently under way and will be reviewed at COP-16.

The decisions recognize the importance of urgently increasing finances from all sources (including public and private financing) to close the biodiversity finance gap. Mechanisms for resource mobilization are also covered in target 19 of the GBF. The decisions also stress the importance of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer.

Implementation of these decisions calls for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, enabled by action and cooperation by all actors of society.

Box 1: Kunming-Montreal package of decisions

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ([Decision 15/4](#))

Sets out the vision, mission, goals, and targets to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, together with a list of “considerations”.

Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ([Decision 15/5](#))

Contains groups of indicators (headline, component and complementary) for monitoring the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review ([Decision 15/6](#))

Outlines an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It includes national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national reports and global analysis and reviews.

Capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation ([Decision 15/8](#))

Provides a long-term strategic framework for supporting Parties in the development and implementation of NBSAPs and sets out an approach for facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties.

Resource mobilization ([Decision 15/7](#))

Sets out a strategy for scaling and aligning resources for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including establishment of a new fund.

Digital sequence information on genetic resources ([Decision 15/9](#))

Agrees to develop a solution for the sharing of benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations ([Decision 15/13](#))

Encourages governments and non-state actors (including businesses) to enhance synergies when it comes to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, Rio conventions, and other multilateral agreements.

Gender Plan of Action ([Decision 15/11](#))

Invites Parties and others involved in implementation (including the private sector) to take full account of the Gender Plan of Action in their actions, and to increase the gender responsiveness of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, provision of financial resources, and other means of implementation to support the full and effective participation of women and girls.

Implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

From global adoption to national implementation

The principal mechanism by which governments work to achieve delivery of the GBF is through implementation of their NBSAPs. These are nationally developed and owned plans developed through processes appropriate to national circumstances.

The structure, content and timescale of a NBSAP is for each Party to decide, although all will include national targets. In some cases, NBSAPs may have 23 national targets setting out the national contribution to each of the 23 global targets in the GBF. However, this is not necessarily the case, and often, existing or past NBSAP targets may be maintained or modified, and some new targets agreed, following national policy structures and priorities. For example, some countries may prioritize actions for safeguarding and reducing threats to their remaining biodiversity. Other countries may focus more on restoration of biodiversity, as well as securing financial and capacity-building support. The goals and targets of the GBF address not only reducing threats to biodiversity but have an equal emphasis on meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing of biodiversity and on means of implementation.

The GBF is intended to be implemented as a framework for decisions and actions by not only national governments as Parties to the Convention, but also by non-state actors, including businesses. Subject to national processes, there may well be opportunities for the business sector to engage in the development and implementation of NBSAPs and subsequent implementation of relevant targets and actions.

The Kunming-Montreal package of decisions has a strong emphasis on monitoring and review of progress towards the GBF at both global and national levels. The new monitoring framework is intended to further promote the use of indicators in the periodic national reports prepared by Parties. As part of the NBSAP revision process, it is anticipated that Parties will consider the ways in which indicators are developed and used at the national level. The development of progress indicators and monitoring capacity for national targets, could include the contribution of the business sector.

Risks and opportunities for business

As Parties update NBSAPs to take on board the GBF, and strengthen their implementation, businesses will be exposed to various risks and opportunities over the coming decade. Risks can be broadly categorized into:

Risks	
Transition – <i>societal efforts to halt and reverse nature loss and embed nature into decision making, policies and regulations.</i>	Reputational losses and stranded assets from failure to transition in step with societal or national efforts.
	New policies and regulations impose limitations on businesses leading to additional costs, permitting delays and reputational risk.
Physical – <i>positive or negative impacts on that state of nature</i>	Increased or declining costs and risks to continuity of the business due to declines or improvements in biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Systemic – <i>changes that cascade across entire ecosystems, sectors and markets</i>	Sector or market-wide shifts in response to the GBF.
	Destabilization of entire ecosystems that business operations or supply chains depend upon

Opportunities can be broadly categorized into:

Opportunities	
Business performance - <i>access to new markets, finances and products.</i> <i>Increasing societal license to operate</i>	Increased social license to operate and access to financing by demonstrating a strong track record in biodiversity management that goes beyond compliance and is aligned with best practice.
	Companies that demonstrate strong environmental performance and embed nature into decision-making have longer-term viability and the ability to access new markets.
Sustainability performance - <i>improving the state of nature in support of global targets.</i>	Building resiliency of operations and value chains through restoring and protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services. Contributing towards national efforts to implement the GBF.
	Considering contribution towards systemic shifts to halt and reverse nature loss.

There are global, local, and temporal dimensions to how these risks and opportunities will manifest. Multinational companies will need to remain cognizant of NBSAPs, national capabilities, priorities, and targets in each of the countries where they have operations and value chains. They will then have to structure their responses accordingly. In addition to considering their global or corporate level commitments, businesses also have an opportunity to set targets and align management plans/responses to complement and enhance NBSAPs and national implementation efforts.

In responding to these risks and opportunities, businesses can start to build resilience in the face of future shocks and a changing regulatory landscape. They can also demonstrate leadership by transitioning their business models and practices so that they contribute towards wider societal efforts to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030.

Business contributions towards the GBF

A framework for action

As part of the “whole-of-society” approach envisaged under the GBF, businesses have a key role to play in contributing to its success through reducing pressures on biodiversity and contributing to positive outcomes for nature. They can also support implementation by financing, building capacity and scaling tools for implementation.

In structuring their actions and contributions towards the GBF, businesses can be guided by the following areas for action:

1. **Consider the GBF targets holistically** – ensure that the business does not act to the detriment of achieving any of the targets, while identifying a sub-set of targets where the business can make a significant contribution to its achievement.
2. **Complement and enhance national efforts** – align efforts at a site or value chain level with targets and priorities outlined in NBSAPs.
3. **Be guided by the cross-cutting considerations** – act in accordance with the underlying priorities of the framework and ensure balanced implementation across a range of global and national targets.
4. **Establish credibility and transparency** – base plans, decisions, and commitments on science, align commitments with actions and investments and externally disclose on progress at regular intervals.
5. **Urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030** – define short-, medium- and longer-term ambitions that

transform business models and are commensurate with their responsibility to act on nature (addressing current, future and historical impacts).

Overall, there is a need for credible business leadership and transformation that ensures actions are in alignment with the GBF mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss

Considering relevant GBF and NBSAP targets

Businesses can be guided by the entire GBF and the NBSAPs from relevant countries. Given the breadth of the framework, all 23 action targets have relevance to business (either directly or indirectly). For example:

- **Targets 1 – 8** focus on reducing threats to biodiversity by addressing land and sea use change (target 1), species extinction risk (target 4), invasive alien species (target 6), pollution (target 7) and climate change (target 8). This set of targets also looks to increase the amount of land and sea areas that are under protection (target 3) or restoration (target 2) and ensuring sustainable use of wild species (target 5). Each of these targets could influence where and how businesses operate and could lead to new requirements as part of planning, permitting, site of operations and sourcing of products.
- **Targets 9 – 13** look to meet people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing. This includes the ways in which wild species (target 9) and productive land and sea areas, such as agriculture, forestry, or fisheries zones are managed (target 10). The targets also recognize the importance of nature's contributions to people (target 11), the need to increase benefits of blue and green spaces in urban areas (target 12) and to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from utilization of genetic resources (target 13). These targets recognize the linkages between

biodiversity and people and the need to ensure that nature's contribution to people are maintained through production practices and urban planning. Businesses will need to remain cognizant of these and emerging stakeholder pressures to change to sustainable practices across their value chains.

- **Targets 14 – 23** identify various tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming. This includes mainstreaming biodiversity into government policies and Environmental Impact Assessments (target 14), business disclosures (target 15), consumption choices (target 16) and financial flows (targets 18 and 19). In addition, these targets cover capacity for biosafety (target 17), technical and scientific cooperation (target 20), and data-driven decision-making (target 21). Finally, the important role of gender and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making is recognized (targets 22 and 23). These targets will underpin successful delivery across all goals and targets. They are intended to lead to more systemic shifts in markets, financial flows and decision-making.

Revised and updated NBSAPs are due by COP16 and will be made available on the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity [here](#)⁶.

In structuring their contribution towards NBSAPs and the GBF, businesses should consider all targets holistically to ensure that they are engaging across the framework. Businesses can be guided by the location and prioritization approaches outlined in business target setting and disclosure frameworks to identify impacts and dependencies that are most material across their operations and value chains¹. Utilizing this information allows the business to ensure that they are not acting to the detriment of the GBF goals and targets and are identifying the targets

¹ For example, utilising Step 1⁷ and 2⁸ of the Science-based Targets Network or the LEAP

approach from the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures⁹

where they have potential to make a more significant positive contribution.

Relevance of the cross-cutting considerations

Section C of the GBF outlines 18 considerations for the implementation of the framework. The entire framework is “to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated” in a manner that is consistent with these considerations.

In defining their approaches to the GBF, national governments will be guided by these considerations. They can also provide a useful framework for businesses to ensure they are approaching the GBF in a balanced and effective way that recognizes synergies with other international agreements and the linkages between biodiversity and people (including vulnerable groups like women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and young people).

In using these, businesses can begin to realize opportunities and structure commitments and actions around:

- The climate-nature-society nexus: integrated approaches that contribute towards biodiversity, climate, social and economic objectives
- Grounding decisions and approaches in best available science and traditional knowledge
- Collaborative approaches across sectors, value chains, and landscapes

The following tables map the 18 considerations from Section C of the GBF and their relevance to business. They suggest a series of guiding questions that a business can use to sense check areas of alignment and potential gaps. This information can support businesses to prioritize efforts and make improvements to embed the value of nature in their decision-making. For the purposes of this Technical Brief, the considerations have been grouped into three core themes: biodiversity and people, synergies with international agreements and strategy and engagement approaches.

Biodiversity and people		
Consideration title	Relevance for business	Guiding questions
Contribution and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities	Businesses, through their operations and value chains, intersect with biodiversity and people with the potential for negative or positive outcomes. Businesses need to consider their engagement with key stakeholders and consider specific groups of people within their biodiversity approaches to ensure they are developing effective strategies and solutions while maintaining their license to operate.	<p>1) Does the business recognize the relationships between people and biodiversity in its commitments, approaches, and organizational structure? Does the business consider inter-generational equity in setting and implementing its medium- and long-term ambitions?</p> <p>2) Does the business integrate gender equality and human rights? Does it consider rights to development, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities?</p> <p>3) How does the business ensure full and effective participation of different stakeholder groups (diverse groups of women and men)? How does it consider different value systems in decision-making and biodiversity management approaches?</p> <p>4) What safeguards are in place to ensure business actions and activities do not adversely impact Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and girls?</p> <p>5) How does the company identify efforts to safeguard nature's contribution to people, including those associated with its impacts and dependencies and within the wider landscape?</p> <p>6) What measures does the company put in place to safeguard against negative health impacts as a result of its activities at the intersection between biodiversity and people?</p> <p>7) To what extent does the business integrate nature approaches and considerations into its social and educational outreach programmes (including formal and informal education)?</p> <p>8) Does the business implement the indicative actions from the Gender Plan of Action (1.4.1, 1.4.2) to promote women's empowerment?</p>
Different value systems		
Right to development		
Human rights-based approach		
Gender		
Inter-generational equity		
Formal and informal education		
Biodiversity and health		

Synergies with international agreements		
Consideration title	Relevance for business	Guiding questions
Fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and their balanced implementation	The balance between biodiversity, climate, social and economic objectives is something that will continue to shape action globally. With businesses as key drivers of biodiversity decline, climate change and economic growth, approaching implementation across international agreements and multilateral environmental agreements (e.g., GBF, Paris Agreement, SDGs) in a balanced manner is important.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How does the business consider its contribution to multiple international agreements to ensure balance between biodiversity, climate, social and economic goals? 2) Does the business take an integrated approach across the sustainability agenda? 3) How does the business align its lobbying and advocacy efforts to ensure positive action on biodiversity, climate and social equity? 4) How does the business work with governments to create strong standards and policies that enable business action on biodiversity, climate and social equity?
Consistency with international agreements or instruments		
Principles of the Rio Declaration		
Cooperation and synergies		

Strategy and engagement approaches		
Consideration title	Relevance for business	Guiding questions
Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach	To ensure successful delivery on biodiversity objectives, nature considerations need to be integrated throughout business strategies, processes and decision-making. While individual action is important, collective action is also critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss through multi-stakeholder groups across sectors, value chains and landscapes. In considering their contributions, businesses should be cognizant of national priorities (including those outlined in NBSAPs), the need for integrated approaches to biodiversity, science and innovation, and the need to mobilize effective financial resources to ensure long-term outcomes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How is business rethinking its strategy in response to the GBF? Is the responsibility for nature embedded across the business to ensure that leadership and all business functions integrate nature considerations into decision making? 2) Does the application of the business strategy consider national priorities, targets and circumstances when assessing materiality and potential actions? How is the business looking to contribute towards and engage in NBSAPs and national biodiversity targets? 3) Does the business participate in multi-stakeholder, sectoral, value chain and/or landscape initiatives that address biodiversity loss? 4) Does the business set transparent, time-bound, specific, science-based targets that enable the company to operate within the Earth's limits? Does the business base decisions on scientific evidence, including traditional knowledge? 5) Does the business implement, participate in or promote integrated strategies for management of land, water and living resources that recognize conservation and sustainable use? 6) How is the business leveraging finance in support of biodiversity outcomes, including through blended finance, impact funds and innovative schemes (payments for ecosystem services, offsets, credits and green bonds)?
National circumstances, priorities, and capabilities		
Collective effort towards the targets		
Science and innovation		
Ecosystem approach		
Access to financial resources		

Conclusions

Businesses have a critical role to play in supporting the successful delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the associated package of decisions. In structuring their corporate commitments and strategies, businesses can be guided by the goals, targets and cross-cutting considerations identified in the GBF. Businesses should be further guided by the NBSAPs and national targets in their countries of operation and value chains. In doing so businesses can explore opportunities for reducing pressures on

biodiversity, contributing to positive outcomes for nature and supporting implementation efforts.

Successful delivery of the GBF requires system-wide transformation that embeds the value of nature in institutions, sectors and economies. To support successful delivery, there is a need for credible business leadership and transformation that cuts across sectors and value chains and that aligns with the GBF mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

References

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² CBD (2022). *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*. 19 December. CBD/COP/DEC/15/4. Available from: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ CBD (2022). *Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review*. 19 December. CBD/COP/DEC/15/6. Available from: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf>

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⁶ The Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CHM): <https://chm.cbd.int/search/reporting-map?filter=all>

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⁹ Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (2023). *Guidance on the identification and assessment of nature-related issues: The TNFD LEAP Approach*. Available at: https://tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Guidance_on_the_identification_and_assessment_of_nature-related-issues_The_TNFD_LEAP_approach_v1.pdf?v=1695138163

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