Global Biodiversity Framework Action Plan

How Biodiversa+ will support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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What is Biodiversa+

The European Biodiversity Partnership, Biodiversa+, supports excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society. Connecting science, policy and practice for transformative change, Biodiversa+ is part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 that aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. Co-funded by the European Commission, Biodiversa+ gathers partners from research funding, programming and environmental policy actors in European and associated countries to work on 5 main objectives:

1. Plan and support research and innovation on biodiversity through a shared strategy, annual joint calls for research projects and capacity building activities
2. Set up a network of harmonised schemes to improve monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services across Europe
3. Contribute to high-end knowledge for deploying Nature-based Solutions and valuation of biodiversity in the private sector
4. Ensure efficient science-based support for policy-making and implementation in Europe
5. Strengthen the relevance and impact of pan-European research on biodiversity in a global context.

More information at: https://www.biodiversa.eu/

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Executive Summary

The document describes how Biodiversa+, the European Biodiversity Partnership, will support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF was adopted in 2022 by 196 parties to the CBD and is considered a key global roadmap for halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieving the vision of 'living in harmony with nature' by 2050. It comprises four overarching goals and 23 specific, mostly quantitative targets (including the "30x30" conservation target, reducing pesticide risks, phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies, and mobilising $200 billion annually for biodiversity). Implementation occurs through national biodiversity strategies (NBSAPs), supported by a comprehensive monitoring and reporting system.

Biodiversa+ can play a key role in enabling evidence-based implementation of the GBF across Europe by networking and strengthening research, monitoring, innovation, policy advice, and international cooperation. This Action Plan focuses on three strategic areas of support:

1. Mainstreaming & capacity building
2. Knowledge development & exchange
3. Monitoring & reporting

In the area of mainstreaming and capacity building, Biodiversa+ advances the integration of biodiversity across sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and urban planning. It facilitates science-policy dialogues through policy forums, workshops, and stakeholder consultations, enabling policymakers to access actionable scientific insights. The partnership conducts capacity-building initiatives – including training courses, citizen science masterclasses, and summer schools – to strengthen skills in monitoring, data management, stakeholder engagement, and science communication. Successful approaches to nature-based solutions and corporate biodiversity are communicated and further developed.

In the area of knowledge development and exchange, Biodiversa+ annually funds large-scale transnational research calls (typically ≥ €40 million) addressing topics aligned with the GBF, including nature-based solutions (NbS), transformative change, and biodiversity monitoring. It encourages innovative monitoring technologies such as eDNA, AI-powered analysis, and remote sensing. The partnership develops open science platforms, fact sheets, policy briefs, and thematic Knowledge Hubs (e.g., on NbS for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and nature restoration) to ensure research results feed into policymaking processes, including those of CBD and IPBES. It also evaluates policy impacts and maps international research collaborations to identify gaps and opportunities for strengthening science-policy interfaces.

In the area of Monitoring & Reporting, Biodiversa+ develops harmonised European biodiversity monitoring programmes, supports establishment of national monitoring coordination centres and implements monitoring pilots in areas such as invasive species, soil, coastal fish stocks and habitat monitoring. The aim is to establish Europe-wide, interconnected, indicator-based monitoring that improves countries' GBF reporting. Projects funded by Biodiversa+ must report on their contribution to global strategies such as the GBF, reinforcing alignment between research and policy objectives.

Biodiversa+ cooperates strategically with key actors involved in GBF implementation, such as the CBD Secretariat, IPBES, the EU Joint Research Centre (and its Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity), BioAgora, CO-OP4CBD, the Alpine Convention, IUCN and youth networks such as GYBN. These partnerships strengthen European scientific support for political decision-making processes and promote knowledge transfer, capacity building and regional implementation.

Biodiversa+ can play a key role in the science-based implementation of the GBF in Europe through research, harmonised monitoring, knowledge transfer, capacity building and close cooperation with international and regional actors.

1. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): introduction and implementation

1.1. CBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted in 1992 in Nairobi and presented at the Earth Summit in Rio, is the overarching international convention on biodiversity. In concrete terms, the Convention is a 28-page document with a preamble and articles. The CBD is an almost universally ratified convention: it is gathering 196 Parties (mainly states but also the EU), except notably the United States of America. The CBD has three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. The CBD is an international, legally binding treaty. However, the sole commitment in this framework is to develop a "National Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plan" (NBSAP), as a Party to the CBD (art. 6 CBD). At the level of the European Union, for instance, the CBD requirement triggered the development of three EU biodiversity strategies since 2006. The CBD is a "framework convention", i.e., it is "a minimum agreement, a first step in a regulatory process that will take the form of additional protocols": developing its Strategic Plan for the next decade is one of the ways of operationalising the objectives of the convention. While this strategic plan is an important document, it should be noted that the CBD is also implemented through other COP decisions, such as action plans or strategies relating to areas such as health, plant conservation, or gender.

1.2. History, status

Considered as a historic landmark, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, referred to as the "KMGBF" or the "GBF", is the "Paris Agreement for nature". Not legally binding, it is the current ten-year Strategic Plan within the CBD, as were the Strategic plan 2011-2020 (known as the "Aichi targets") and the Strategic Plan 2002-2010. The Framework has been developed within CBD from 2019 to 2022, amidst the global pandemic, with the support of experts from different backgrounds. Scientists provided key inputs to the framework and influenced – to a certain extent – its structure and content. It was meant to learn lessons/draw conclusions from the failure of the previous Strategic Plan, the "Aichi targets", as none of its 17 targets were fully achieved and biodiversity loss did not halt in the 2010s. Being part of a broader package of various decisions, the new Strategic Plan was adopted in December 2022 by consensus by the 15th Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the CBD, i.e., 196 Parties[1]. COP15 Part 1 took place in Kunming, China (as the President of COP15), whereas COP15 Part 2 was held in Montreal, Canada; hence the full name of the Framework.

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[1] https://www.cbd.int/gbf

1.3.   Spirit, approaches

The GBF is considered an ambitious international agreement as it comprehensively addresses the biodiversity crisis. Developed right after the adoption of the IPBES First Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019), the Framework builds upon multiple scientific inputs. Though negotiated and adopted by Parties and within a state-centric UN-system, the GBF is embodied in a "whole-of-society" approach (academia and the civil society being included). In the same way, though ministries (mainly those responsible for environmental issues) and other governmental agencies were primary national policymakers involved in the negotiation process, the GBF is for all policy sectors, as captured in the "whole-of-government" approach. The human rights approach is also foundational to the GBF, for instance with rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) recognised by the text. Further, one of the core principles of the GBF is that its implementation is meant to be "based on scientific evidence" (Section C).

1.4.   Role of research

Knowledge – as a notion wider than research – was recognised in the previous Strategic Plan, with Aichi Target 19 requesting the improvement, sharing, transfer and application of knowledge and the science base. However, this target has been considered partially achieved, for instance because the application of biodiversity knowledge in decision making has been regarded as limited. Goal D of the GBF recognises "scientific cooperation" as one of the tools required to fully implement the Framework and requests to make it accessible to all Parties. The pivotal role of research, though not mentioned in the previous Aichi strategic goals and targets, has been explicitly recognised in two targets of the GBF (and implicitly under the "whole-of-society approach" already mentioned): Target 20 and Target 21. Target 20 is fostering strengthened scientific research and monitoring capacities, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation (incl. North-South and triangular) as means to effectively implement the GBF, particularly in developing countries. Biodiversa+ annual calls for research projects are in line with the approach by requiring a "transnational added value" (e.g., collaboration between EU and non-EU partner countries). Initiatives such as Biodiversa+ are also promoted as "joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity". Specific attention is paid to scientific issues in the GBF: action on both the One Health approach and the reduction of the risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals needs to be "based on science" (Section C and Target 7), showing the vast disputes around these two issues. Target 21 is focusing on the sharing of knowledge and the science-policy interface. It is requesting Parties – and more widely all relevant actors – to make the best data and knowledge accessible to biodiversity-related decision-makers to inform their actions and to strengthen monitoring and research. Biodiversa+ can also be considered aligned with the target's requirements, by making the bridge between science, policy and practice through a set of activities (e.g., Policy Briefs).

Target 20. Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.

Target 21. Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.

Further, indicators related to science and knowledge are also part of the GBF Monitoring Framework (see Implementation, COP/15/5 and COP/16/31). The achievement of Target 20 will be monitored using the following headline indicator: Number of countries that have taken significant action [...] to promote the development of and access to [...] scientific cooperation (COP/16/31). The achievement of Goal D and Target 20 will also be tracked with a couple of numerical indicators, largely focusing on marine sciences. However, these indicators are considered "complementary", i.e., it is optional for Parties to monitor and report them to the CBD. A binary indicator (response being "no" or "yes to a X extent") will also support the monitoring of Target 20: "Has your country established partnerships to foster [...] joint scientific research programmers for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capabilities, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation?" (COP/16/31).

1.5. Structure

The Global Biodiversity Framework is a 12-page document divided into eight different sections. Content-wise, the most important parts are section F: defining a vision, section G: defining goals, and section H: defining targets. The type and time scale of these three milestones are different. Though it would be updated in 2030, the Framework develops a long-term roadmap for biodiversity.
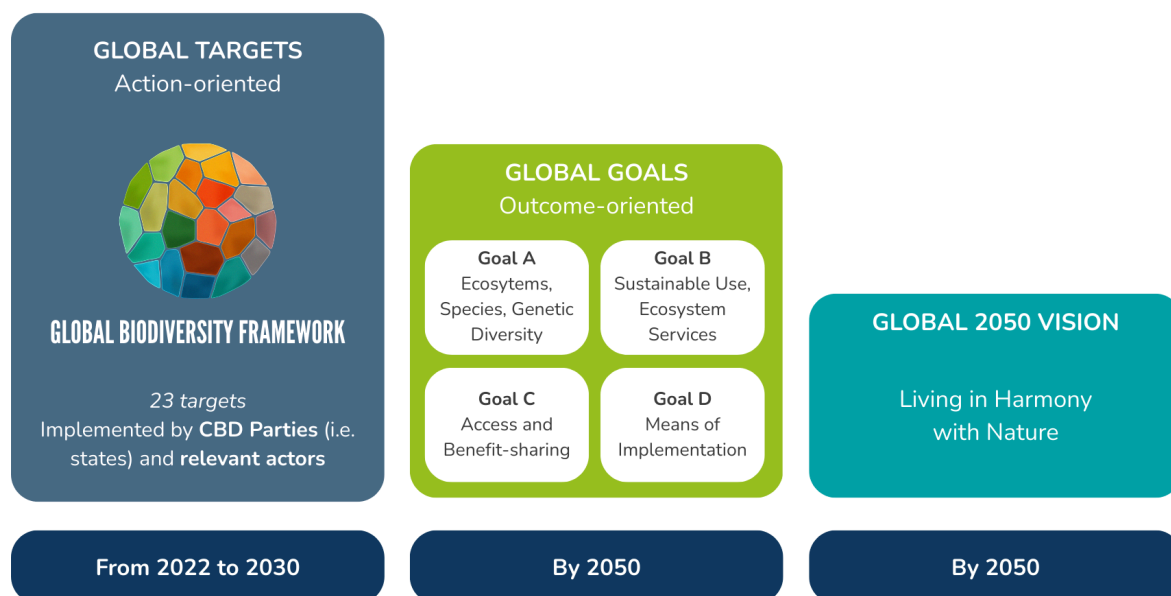

Figure 1: Intervention logic of the GBF

1.5.1. Vision

Both the Ge contributing to the aspirational CBD Vision towards 2050 "Living in harmony with nature" (comprehensive Vision in COP/15/4), the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.5.2. Goals

Goals are meant to be achieved over the long term, by 2050, i.e., beyond the GBF, and relate to the 2050 Vision. They are outcome-oriented and mostly non-numerical. The three Goals are aligned with the CBD objectives mentioned above (biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, benefit sharing), and emphasize the need to allocate sufficient means for their implementation.

Goals are also divided into three categories: "Reducing threats to biodiversity" (targets 1 to 8), "Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing" (targets 9 to 13) and "Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming" (targets 14 to 23). Goals are considered the end, whereas targets are the means.

1.5.3. Targets

Targets are meant to be achieved over the medium term, by 2030, acting as "milestones". They are meant to be achieved through governmental action (e.g., via regulation, enforcement), but also through non-state actors' leadership, in line with the above mentioned "whole-of-society approach". Unlike the previous "Aichi targets", the GBF targets are more precise and numerical. The target which attracted most attention is Target 3 on the conservation of at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas as well as 30% of coastal and marine areas which have to be effectively conserved and managed (known as "30x30"). Three other targets, among the 23, set a landmark for biodiversity in other policy sectors as well: Target 7 about halving the risk from pesticides, Target 18 about the reduction of harmful subsidies by $500 billion per year, as well as Target 19 about the mobilisation of $200 billion per year for biodiversity.

1.6.   Implementation (planning, reporting, review)

The GBF has been adopted as part of a "package" of five other COP15 decisions (i.e., monitoring framework 15/5; planning, monitoring, reporting and review 15/6; resource mobilisation 15/7, capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation 15/8, Digital Sequence Information (DSI) 15/9) to ensure its effective implementation. The GBF is intended to be an UN-wide framework (cf. sections B, C and D): it goes beyond CBD and aims to be implemented by all biodiversity-relevant conventions, such as the "biodiversity cluster"[2] or the two other Rio Conventions – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – and is intended to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation of the GBF is meant to take place without delay (as the GBF was adopted in 2022 instead of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic), and at the global level. The achievements of the Framework's goals and targets by 2050 and 2030 will be considered from a global, and not a national, perspective.

At the national level, the Parties to the CBD are translating the GBF into action through their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs, similar to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the UNFCCC), such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Almost all Parties (85% in 2020) have introduced NBSAPs in their domestic law, while only 3 out of 41 countries involved in Biodiversa+ haven't submitted their NBSAPs since 2011. The role of the NBSAPs was strengthened in the GBF compared to the former "Aichi targets", these are now considered "the main vehicle for implementation of the Framework" (Section J) and the first pillar of an "enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review" (COP/15/6). CBD COPs are now mandated to analyse the Parties' NBSAPs or their "National Targets". National targets are accepted as standalone submissions from Parties not in a position to submit their revised NBSAPs. The progress in achieving the NBSAPs are updated through "National Reports" sent by the Parties to the Secretariat of the CBD. Two national reports will be submitted by 2029. These National Reports will serve as a basis for the establishment of "Global analyses of information in NBSAPs" as well as "Global reviews of collective progress in the implementation of the GBF" (COP/15/6), – drawing on the UNFCCC Global stocktake – the first one being planned at CBD COP17 in 2026 and the second at COP19. Further, to foster mutual learning, trust and cooperation among Parties, voluntary peer reviews have been institutionalised in the GBF. The Kunming-Montreal biodiversity package planned regular updates and revisions of the NBSAPs. The first global analysis, carried out at CBD COP16 in 2025, assessed that Goal A of the GBF was well translated into the Parties' NBSAPs, whereas issues such as the rights-based approach, gender, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and biodiversity mainstreaming were not comprehensively addressed so far. Besides the planning, reporting and review processes, further mechanisms are designed to support Parties in the implementation of the GBF, such as the development of national biodiversity finance plans, resource mobilisation or capacity building.

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[2] Cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements: Besides the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and World Heritage Convention (WHC). Cf., e. g., UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (2012): Promotion synergies within the Cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements.
https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/Promoting_synergies_in_the_biodiversity_cluster.pdf
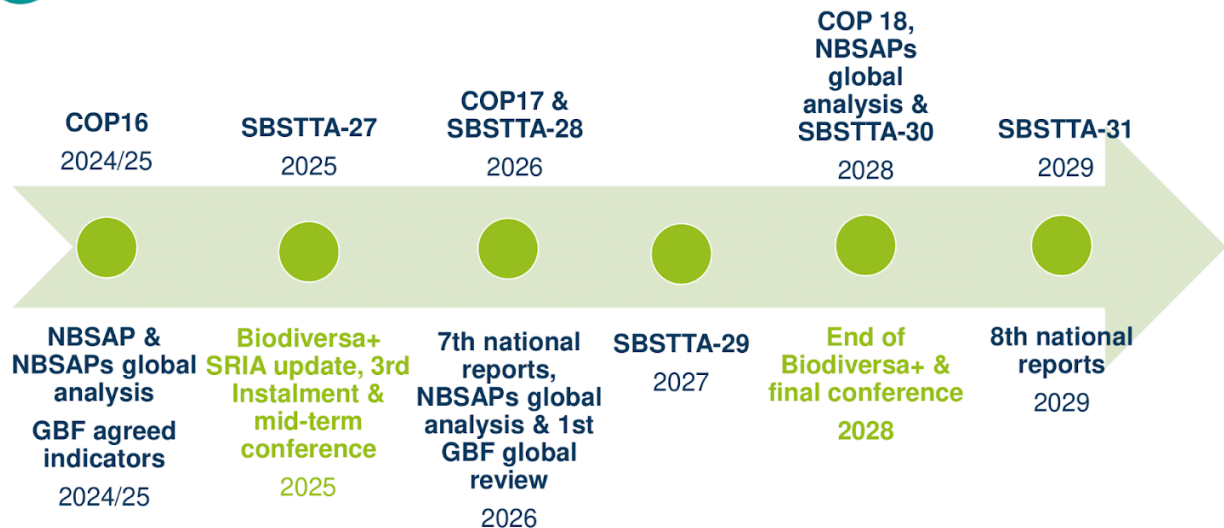
1.7. Monitoring Framework

One of the key strengths of the GBF is that it was developed alongside its Monitoring Framework. In contrast, the previous "Aichi targets" were adopted in 2010 without an accompanying monitoring and review process; the indicators to track their progress were only agreed upon five years later, at CBD COP13 in 2016. As mentioned, under the GBF, Parties will monitor progress toward the Goals and Targets by regularly reporting through their National Reports, using a set of indicators agreed upon at CBD COP15 (2022) and COP16 (2024).

Indicators can be numerical or non-numerical, binary or non-binary, as well as action-oriented ("means") or outcome-oriented ("ends"). As mentioned, not all indicators have the same status. Parties will necessarily report on so-called "headline" indicators (allowing for a comparison among them), whereas "component" and "complementary" indicators will be optional. This approach allows Parties to adapt to their national circumstances, as monitoring capabilities are very unequally distributed across countries.

A new element in the monitoring framework is an indicator for Target 22, focusing on land-use change and land tenure within the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities. This important indicator tracks the rights that individuals or groups have over land, territories, and natural resources, while highlighting the crucial role indigenous peoples and local communities play in conserving biodiversity and preserving traditional knowledge.

Finally, recognizing that the GBF must be implemented through a whole-of-society approach, Parties agreed on a framework for communicating and considering commitments made by actors other than national governments (so-called non-state actors).

Figure 2: CBD and Biodiversa+ timeline up to 2030

2. Biodiversa+ activities in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework

2.1. Vision of Biodiversa+ to support the Global Biodiversity Framework implementation

The European Union is committed to the full and swift implementation of the Framework, including to protect and restore biodiversity as agreed in the GBF. The European Commission has submitted the EU's targets[3] to implement the Framework, describing how the EU plans to achieve all goals and targets, and linking to relevant legislative and non-legislative policy instruments at EU level. Furthermore, the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) will host one of the sub-regional support centres for technical and scientific cooperation (the so-called TSCs[4]), and is setting up, together with other partners, a Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity (GKSSB[5]). All countries are required to update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or national targets, and their National Biodiversity Finance Plans. Cumulative impact of the national actions will be needed to reach the global goals and targets for 2030 and 2050.

Biodiversa+, the European Biodiversity Partnership, is committed to support the Framework's implementation by promoting the contribution of research and innovation (R&I). Based on its long-term strategic vision – laid down in its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) – Biodiversa+ aims to generate new knowledge and tools to tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss, and to set up a pan-European network of harmonized monitoring schemes able to measure and analyse biodiversity changes across Europe. With this, Biodiversa+ intends to support decision-making and international policies and initiatives, namely the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, as well as the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The Biodiversa+ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) defines three non-mutually exclusive 'Topical Themes' as well as two 'Cross-cutting Themes' suitable for the design and implementation of 'Flagship Programmes', joint calls, mobility schemes, networking, capacity building and other joint activities. Flagship programmes aim at implementing a holistic set of activities, which may relate to mapping and foresight, joint call(s) for support to research, reinforcement of the link between research and biodiversity monitoring/infrastructure, capacity building activities, stakeholder engagement and science society/policy interfacing. Activities to reinforce the excellence, visibility and impact of European R&I at the international level – a flagship programme may for instance support the implementation of the GBF; or include activities towards the promotion of international collaboration on pro-active engagement in IPBES activities.

The use of monitoring data in decision-making (by both public and private actors) will demonstrate their usefulness for reporting the GBF implementation, including an assessment of impacts of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, i.e. compliance and impact of targets set, etc.

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[3] Directorate-General for Environment (2024). EU submits targets to implement Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. EU Environment Newsletter, 2 August 2024, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-submits-targets-implement-global-biodiversity-framework-2024-08-02_en
[4] https://www.cbd.int/tsc/tscm/subregionalcentres
[5] https://gkssb.chm-cbd.net/

In addition, Biodiversa+ promotes research and innovation related to biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions to support state-of-the-art approaches to conserving, restoring and sustainably managing biodiversity (i.e. both the European natural heritage and natural capital it represents) and promoting innovation and the European leadership for the development and deployment of Nature-based Solutions.

2.2. Entry points for Biodiversa+ for supporting the GBF implementation

Biodiversa+ actively supports the implementation of the GBF through its strategic vision, its flagship programmes and a broad set of activities – ranging from supporting research and innovation, promoting transnational monitoring, enhancing scientific capacity, fostering knowledge exchange, to facilitating policy alignment across Europe. Based on the Biodiversa+ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), three areas with key entry points for supporting the GBF implementation were identified:

1. Mainstreaming and capacity building
2. Knowledge development and exchange
3. Monitoring and reporting

Each of these key areas can be specified by underlying entry points and a corresponding set of activities Biodiversa+ is implementing. In this section, the key areas and entry points will be described and some examples will be given. In section 3, the set of activities according to the key entry points will be presented.

2.2.1. Mainstreaming and Capacity Building

Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into various sectors and fostering capacity building are essential for achieving the GBF's ambitious targets. Biodiversa+ can support this by integrating biodiversity knowledge and expertise into sectors such as agriculture, urban development, and forestry, ensuring that conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity become a fundamental aspect of economic and planning processes. For this area, the following entry points were identified: Facilitating the Science-Policy Dialogue, Supporting Capacity Building, Fostering Multidisciplinary and Cross-sectoral Collaboration, Promoting Transnational Conservation and Restoration Efforts.

Facilitating the Science-Policy Dialogue

Facilitating the Science-Policy Dialogue is fundamental for translating scientific knowledge into effective policies. Biodiversa+ supports this by funding research projects that generate actionable knowledge, data and insights, which are then communicated to policymakers in accessible formats, e.g., policy briefs, fact sheets, social media, etc. The development of guidelines and best practices for integrating biodiversity into policy and planning processes helps mainstream the topic across sectors. The Partnership also organizes science-policy fora, workshops, and platforms where scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders exchange ideas, ensuring that policies are evidence-based and adaptive. By bridging the gap between science and policy, Biodiversa+ helps create a shared understanding of biodiversity challenges and solutions, aligning research priorities with policy needs.

Supporting Capacity Building

Supporting Capacity Building is another vital aspect. Biodiversa+ can develop training programs, workshops, and educational initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills of researchers, policymakers,

conservation practitioners, citizens, and local communities. This includes fostering expertise in biodiversity monitoring, data management, ecological restoration, citizen science, and sustainable practices. Strengthening capacities ensures that stakeholders are equipped to implement the GBF effectively, adapt to emerging challenges, and innovate in conservation strategies. Biodiversa+ can facilitate knowledge exchange between countries and regions, promoting the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned. Additionally, supporting indigenous and local communities through participatory training ensures that traditional knowledge is incorporated into conservation strategies, fostering more effective and culturally appropriate actions.

Fostering Multidisciplinary and Cross-sectoral Collaboration

Fostering Multidisciplinary and Cross-sectoral Collaboration is essential for holistic biodiversity conservation. Biodiversa+ promotes collaborative research that integrates ecological, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. By encouraging partnerships across sectors – such as agriculture, forestry, urban planning, and tourism – it helps develop comprehensive solutions that balance biodiversity conservation and restoration with economic growth and human development. Supporting local and regional initiatives allows for tailored approaches that respect local contexts and involve communities directly in conservation efforts. Biodiversa+ can fund projects that demonstrate successful models of integrated management and/or the local implementation of nature-based solutions, serving as examples for broader application.

Promoting Transnational Conservation and Restoration Efforts

Promoting Transnational Conservation and Restoration Efforts aligns with the global nature of biodiversity challenges. Biodiversa+ facilitates international collaborations, joint research projects, biodiversity monitoring schemes, and data sharing platforms that transcend national borders. This promotes the protection of migratory species, transboundary ecosystems, and shared natural resources. By supporting transnational initiatives, Biodiversa+ helps build a cohesive global network of science-based conservation and restoration efforts, ensuring that actions in one country complement those in neighbouring countries and/or regions. This approach enhances the effectiveness and resilience of biodiversity conservation and restoration on a larger scale.

2.2.2. Knowledge development and exchange

Effective implementation of the GBF relies heavily on robust knowledge systems and the exchange of information among stakeholders. For this key area, the following entry points were identified: Funding Biodiversity Research and Innovation, Generating Evidence on the Impact of Policies, Enhancing Knowledge Management and Exchange.

Funding Biodiversity Research and Innovation

One of the primary ways Biodiversa+ supports the GBF is by providing targeted funding for research projects that generate scientific knowledge and data on biodiversity status and threats, and develop innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation, restoration and nature-based solutions. This includes supporting cutting-edge technologies such as remote sensing, DNA barcoding, and ecological modelling, which can improve monitoring and assessment of biodiversity status. By supporting transnational research initiatives, Biodiversa+ encourages collaboration among scientists, policymakers, and practitioners across countries, fostering the development of practical solutions tailored to diverse ecological and socio-economic contexts. Funding innovative research not only

advances scientific understanding but also accelerates the deployment of new tools and methods that can be integrated into policy and management practices, thus directly contributing to the GBF's goals.

Generating Evidence on the Impact of Policies

Effective policy-making depends on solid evidence about what works and what doesn't. Biodiversa+ supports research that evaluates the effectiveness of existing policies and measures aimed at conserving and restoring biodiversity. By funding studies that analyse the outcomes of protected areas, sustainable land-use practices, nature-based solutions, or restoration initiatives, Biodiversa+ helps generate knowledge on policy impacts. This evidence-based approach enables policymakers to refine strategies, prioritize actions, and allocate resources more efficiently. Moreover, sharing these findings across borders can promote best practices and lessons learned, fostering a global learning community aligned with the GBF's emphasis on adaptive management and continuous improvement.

Enhancing Knowledge Management and Exchange

Knowledge sharing is crucial for scaling up successful conservation efforts and avoiding duplication. Biodiversa+ facilitates the development of databases, platforms, and networks that enable open exchange of data, research results, and practical experiences. By organizing workshops, online forums, and conferences, Biodiversa+ fosters the dialogue among diverse stakeholders and ensures that relevant information reaches scientists, policymakers, NGOs, businesses, indigenous communities, and the public. Improved knowledge management enhances transparency, builds capacity, and supports informed decision-making. It also helps bridge gaps between scientific research and policy implementation, ensuring that the latest evidence informs actions on the ground.

2.2.3. Biodiversity monitoring and reporting

Monitoring progress and transparent reporting are critical for assessing the effectiveness of conservation actions and ensuring accountability under the GBF. For this key area, the following entry points were identified: developing innovative monitoring tools and systems, developing standardized indicators and reporting frameworks, capacity building in monitoring techniques, and promoting transparency through data harmonization, data availability, and regular reporting.

Innovative monitoring tools and systems

Developing innovative monitoring tools and systems is essential for capturing complex biodiversity data effectively. Biodiversa+ funds research projects that create advanced technologies such as remote sensing tools, environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, automated camera traps, and AI-driven data analysis platforms. These innovations enable more accurate, timely, and cost-effective monitoring of ecosystems, species populations, and habitat changes. For example, AI algorithms can analyse vast amounts of satellite imagery to detect deforestation or habitat degradation, providing real-time insights that inform policy and conservation actions.

Standardized indicators and reporting frameworks

Developing standardized indicators and reporting frameworks is crucial for ensuring comparability and consistency of monitoring data across regions and countries. Biodiversa+ supports the development of scientifically robust, universally applicable indicators that measure biodiversity health, ecosystem services, and human impacts. By fostering collaboration among scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders, Biodiversa+ helps establish clear guidelines and protocols for data collection and reporting. Furthermore, Biodiversa+ facilitates the establishment of a transnational biodiversity

monitoring network that reports on progress toward targets like reducing species extinction risk or restoring degraded ecosystems. This standardization facilitates meaningful comparisons over time and across jurisdictions, making global assessments more reliable and actionable.

Capacity building in monitoring techniques

Capacity building in monitoring techniques is vital, especially for regions or organizations with limited expertise or resources. Biodiversa+ can fund training programs, workshops, and knowledge exchange initiatives to enhance skills of local scientists and conservation practitioners in field monitoring, data analysis, and the use of new technologies. Building local capacity ensures that biodiversity monitoring is sustained over the long term and that data collected is of high quality. This empowerment also encourages local stakeholders and citizen scientists to participate actively in conservation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Data harmonization, data availability, and regular reporting

Promoting transparency through data harmonization, data availability, and regular reporting is fundamental to building trust and accountability. Biodiversa+ can support initiatives that develop open-access biodiversity databases, standardized data formats, and interoperable platforms. These tools enable seamless data sharing among researchers, policymakers, authorities, and the public. Regular reporting cycles, supported by these harmonized data systems, ensure that progress towards biodiversity targets is transparently communicated e.g. in annual biodiversity status reports, allowing for timely adjustments in strategies and policies. Transparency also encourages international cooperation and aligns efforts across different sectors and levels of governance. This comprehensive approach to monitoring and reporting ensures that progress toward the GBF targets is measurable, transparent, and adaptable to emerging challenges.

In summary, Biodiversa+ can play a pivotal role in supporting the GBF implementation through different entry points focussing on mainstreaming and capacity building, knowledge development and exchange, as well as monitoring and reporting. By funding innovative research and ensuring effective exchange of the generated knowledge, by fostering standardized monitoring schemes and ensuring availability of reliable data, and by facilitating the science-policy dialogue, fostering cross-sector collaboration and strengthening scientific capacities, Biodiversa+ strengthens the scientific foundation necessary for achieving the global biodiversity targets, ensuring that policies are informed, adaptive, and grounded in the best available knowledge. This accelerates progress towards the ambitious goals of the GBF, contributing to the preservation and sustainable management of the planet's rich biological diversity.

3. Summary of the implementation plan for Biodiversa+ to support the Global Biodiversity Framework

3.1. Summary strategy

A visual representation of Biodiversa+ activities, including ongoing COFUND actions, mapped against the GBF goals (i.e., and their respective targets, see Targets) and the entry points identified by Biodiversa+. The activities shown are drawn from the second instalment and additional inputs from the work packages leaders.

Biodiversa+ entry points	Planned activities within Biodiversa+	GOALS OF THE GBF				IMPLEMENTATION & SUPPORT MECHANISMS				
		A- Protect & Restore	B- Prosper with Nature	C- Share Benefits Fairly	D- Invest & collaborate	Monitoring framework (15/5)	Mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (15/6)	Resource mobilization (15/7)	Capacity-building and dev. & technical and scientific cooperation (15/8)	Digital sequence information on genetic resources (15/9)
Mainstreaming and capacity building	Biodiversa roadmap on novel technologies and approaches (with capacity building events)			●					●	
	Promote the uptake of knowledge related to NBS and business and biodiversity		●	●						
	Science policy interface capacity building events (IPBES, CBD/MEAs and RESPIN)								●	
	Training session of the Citizen Science masterclass		●						●	
	Co-organisation of summer schools (in collaboration with Alternet)	●							●	
Knowledge development & exchange	Open science platform for Biodiversa+ results and filtered against GBF targets	●	●							
	Launching calls (average of 40 millions of euros for each call)				●			●		
	Mapping of collaborations between ERA and other regions on biodiversity and transformative change	●	●						●	
	Dialogue events addressing international commitments (e.g., 30x30 target, restoration)	●							●	
	Updated guidance document on data management and open data and workshop to enhance the use of global research infrastructures	●			●				●	
	Guidance for the private sector on FAIR data, data standards and data sharing			●		●				
	Factsheets on Biodiversa funded projects' outcomes contributing to the GBF					●			●	
	Knowlegde Hubs to develop communities of practice that support the implementation of relevant GBF targets		●						●	
	NBS foresight exercise on the link between NBS and Transformative Change		●						●	
	Business & Societal Transformation Foresight Workshop	●	●						●	
	Develop factsheets for CBD agenda items (i.e., COP, SBSTTA, SBI)								●	
	Development and diffusion of capacity building guides on policy relevance for research, stakeholder engagement, citizen science, data management		●						●	
	Mapping of capacity building resources from Biodiversa+ and ESB members feeding an online diffusion								●	
	Biodiversa+ Enlarged stakeholder board and Biome (of stakeholders) networks and ESB connections		●						●	
Monitoring & reporting	Policy Forum on biodiversity monitoring across scales in support of the GBF					●	●			
	Integration of the GBF in Biodiversa+ project reportings	●							●	●
	Developing National Coordination Centres (strategic phase III report)	●			●	●	●			
	Harmonising protocols	●			●	●	●			
	Biodiversity monitoring pilots - aim for harmonised transnational biodiversity monitoring (5 ongoing).	●			●	●	●			
	Improving national monitoring schemes with the use of EC top-up	●			●	●	●			

Figure 3: mapping activities of Biodiversa+ supporting the Global Biodiversity Framework

3.2. Details of activities and implementation

A brief overview of all the activities mentioned above is provided in the table below. These activities are drawn from the second instalment of Biodiversa+ (October 2023 to September 2025) and will be updated once the third instalment of Biodiversa+ (October 2025 to September 2028) is approved.

Biodiversa+ entry points	Title of the activity	Description of the activity	Delivery month	Link to relevant document (slides, Biodiversa+ website, report,...)	GBF targets
Mainstreaming and capacity building	Biodiversa+ roadmap on novel technologies and approaches (with capacity building events) - M36 and M34 WP2	The goal of this report was to understand the state of deployment of five novel technologies for biodiversity monitoring, and to assess their use across partners of Biodiversa+. In order to achieve these goals, in Spring 2024, Biodiversa+ surveyed its partners on the deployment of five technologies: bioacoustics, camera traps, eDNA/genomics, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV/drones), and sensor networks. The survey also evaluated the taxa and Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) targeted by these technologies.	September 2024	https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/10/08/developing-and-deploying-new-technologies-for-biodiversity-monitoring/	20 & 21 (and underlying topical targets)

Mainstreaming and capacity building	Promote the coordinated development and implementation of knowledge related to NBS and business and biodiversity	Biodiversa+ promotes the coordinated development and implementation of knowledge related to nature-based solutions (NBS) and linkages between business and biodiversity. "In 2025, building on the success stories identified in the previous year, this task will continue identifying and listing success stories on NBS knowledge implementation/development resulting from Biodiversa(+) funded projects (MS192, M48).			8, 11, 12, 15, 20 & 21
Mainstreaming and capacity building	Science policy interface capacity building events and learning materials (IPBES, CBD/MEAs)	Biodiversa+ and the IPBES secretariat are regularly co-organising capacity building webinars on IPBES, its assessments and topics relevant to the GBF implementation. For instance: in June 2024, a webinar during the review of the IPBES 2nd global assessment", as well as in March 2025, webinar for participants to understand how to get nominated to be an expert of this assessment and why. Also, Biodiversa+ co-organises Pan European Stakeholder Consultation with the ECA network. It aims at supporting the engagement of stakeholders in the IPBES processes at the European and Central Asian scale. In June 2023, the 7th edition focused on helping review the supporting documents of IPBES before its 10th plenary. The 8th edition in March 2025, was a joint meeting with RESPIN to bring opportunities for networking and exchange on key topics related to engagement with IPBES	June 2024, March 2025 Every year, continuously	https://www.biodiversa.eu/news/	20 & 21 (and underlying topical targets)

		and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Biodiversa+ is also organising – on a yearly basis – CBD/MEAs capacity-building events targeting researchers funded under the Partnership's calls (BiodivProtect/BiodivHealth in 2023, BiodivNBS and BiodivMon in 2025). Training sessions include: introduction to the CBD and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) relevant to each call and their respective topical issues, presentation of ongoing and future opportunities for scientific contributions as well as sharing of experiences with pioneering Biodiversa+ researchers engaged in such international policy processes. Events bring together experts as well as secretariats of relevant conventions. When held in a workshop format, events are an opportunity for Biodiversa+ funded projects to reflect on the international policy processes relevant to their future research results and to figure out how they could provide them timely scientific support. Biodiversa+ also produces learning materials (alongside its key collaborator CO-OP4CBD) to support researchers throughout the whole duration of funded projects, including a "CBD experts' guide" showcasing 25+ tools to navigate CBD in a stepwise approach (i.e., as "beginner", "advanced" or "expert").			

Mainstreaming and capacity building	Training session of the Citizen Science masterclass	Biodiversa+ is regularly organizing training sessions, e.g. the Citizen Science masterclass, which cover aspects like GBF implementation. Topics will be: Citizen science 101 citizen science toolkit, Technology and data: processing, harmonizing, data privacy and safety, communication and outreach: stakeholder engagement, long term sustainability: project management and funding. And eventually building capacities of funders. Sessions will be organised in a collaborative way.	End 2025	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kc8TTlUdxIk	20, 21 & 22
Mainstreaming and capacity building	Co-organisation of summer schools (in collaboration with Alternet)	Biodiversa+ is also co-organizing summer schools on SPI and transformative change for biodiversity (in collaboration with Alternet). It's building capacities of early career researchers and building a transdisciplinary network. Biodiversa+ also supports the alumni network.	September 2023, 2024, and 2025	https://www.biodiversa.eu/engagement/key-collaborations/key-collaboration-with-alternet/	20 & 21
Knowledge development & exchange	Communication activities with CBD stakeholders	Biodiversa+ is communicating about its activities relevant to the CBD with the Convention's multiple stakeholders, supporting either the negotiations or the implementation of its decisions (e.g., the KMGBF). Relevant activities include research results from funded projects or monitoring actions. Side events are organised at CDB COPs (15 and 16) and SBSTTAs (25 and 27), and factsheets are drafted to showcase how the Convention's processes can build upon scientific evidence produced as part of BiodivERsA and Biodiversa+.	Throughout the partnership	https://www.biodiversa.eu/news/	20 & 21 (and underlying topical targets)

Knowledge development & exchange	Open science platform for Biodiversa+ results	Based on the final reporting of projects (where they are asked to what extent their projects contributed to global policies and strategies), an open science platform will be created by Biodiversa+.	December 2025	https://www.biodiversa.eu/bioaccess/	21 & 22 (and underlying topical targets)
Knowledge development & exchange	Launching transdisciplinary calls addressing aspects of GBF implementation (average of 40 millions of euros for each call)	Biodiversa+ is launching annual transdisciplinary joint research calls which also address aspects of GBF implementation, such as Nature-based Solutions (2025). Each of these calls usually have an average budget of (at least) 40 million euros and offer funding possibilities for 30-35 projects.	Every year	2022 - 2023: call on transnational monitoring : https://www.biodiversa.eu/2022/10/07/2022-2023-joint-call/ 2023 - 2024: call on nature-based solutions : https://www.biodiversa.eu/2023/06/05/2023-2024-joint-call/ 2024 - 2025: call on transformative change https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/06/11/2024-2025-joint-call/	19?
Knowledge development & exchange	Mapping of collaborations between ERA and other regions on biodiversity and transformative change	Biodiversa+ is mapping collaborations between the European Research Area (ERA) and other regions. Through these, also GBF implementation aspects can be mapped. Last mapping finalised was on collaborations in biodiversity and transformative change research. The summary and mapping can be found in the link column.	November 2024	https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/11/18/mapping-collaborations-in-biodiversity-and-transformative-change-research/	20 & 21
Knowledge development & exchange	Dialogue events addressing international commitments (e.g., 30x30 target, restoration)	Biodiversa+ is regularly organizing dialogue events addressing international commitments (e.g., the GBF 30x30 target; implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation). For instance in 2024, Biodiversa+ brought together scientists and policymakers in Paris to address	2023, 2024 and 2025	2024 edition: https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/06/04/dialogue-event-bridging-science-policy-and-restoration/	21 (and underlying topical targets)

		critical challenges in biodiversity restoration. Key topics included developing benchmarking approaches to compare National Restoration Plans (NRPs) based on the GBF monitoring framework. Such approaches of benchmarking could help countries to improve their national plan in order to try to achieve the objectives of the GBF on the basis of better methods or measures proposed in other national plans identified through the benchmarking process.			
Knowledge development & exchange	Data management workshop	Updated guidance document on data management and open data is linked to GBF implementation	May 2024	X	20, 21 & 22
Knowledge development & exchange	Guidance for the private sector on FAIR data, data standards and data sharing	Biodiversa+ offers guidance for the private sector on FAIR data, data standards and data sharing	September 2025	https://www.biodiversa.eu/the-business-biodiversity-toolkit/	15, 20, 21 & 22
Knowledge development & exchange	Factsheets on Biodiversa funded projects' outcomes contributing to the GBF	Factsheets on the outcomes of Biodiversa+ funded projects inform on the projects' contribution to GBF implementation	September 2025	X	21 (and underlying topical targets)

Knowledge development & exchange	Knowledge Hubs to develop communities of practice that support the implementation of relevant GBF targets (so far: NBS and climate change, Nature Restoration Regulation	Biodiversa+ Knowledge Hubs serve to develop communities of practice that support the implementation of relevant GBF targets (so far: Biodiversa+ installed two Knowledge Hub on the potential of NbS for mitigating and adapting to Climate Change (through the BiodivClim Cofund Action), as well as on supporting evidence-based implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation (through the BiodivRestore Cofund Action).	BiodivClim ended in August 2025 BiodivRestore until September 2026	BiodivRestore KH: https://www.biodiversa.eu/engagement/biodivrestore-knowledge-hub/ BiodivClim KH: https://www.biodiversa.eu/engagement/biodivclim-knowledge-hub/	8, 11, 12, 20 & 21
Knowledge development & exchange	Foresight Workshop BiodivClim	A foresight workshop, to identify IPBES knowledge gaps filled by BiodiClim funded projects, as well as potential future R&I avenues.	June 2025	Internal report	8, 20 & 21
Knowledge development & exchange	Issue briefs on BiodivClim funded projects	3 Issue briefs building on the BiodivClim funded projects results showing how biodiversity can make Europe's soils, forests, and landscapes more resilient to climate change.	August 2025	https://www.biodiversa.eu/2025/10/30/biodivclim-issue-briefs/	8 & 21
Knowledge development & exchange	NBS foresight exercise on the link between NBS and Transformative Change	Biodiversa+ is co-conducting a foresight exercise on NBS, their role and related R&I needs in achieving 2050 vision of the CBD. The results will be shared in 2025.	February 2025	https://www.biodiversa.eu/2025/03/04/foresight-workshop-shaping-the-future-of-nature-based-solutions-and-transformative-change/	8, 11, 12, 20 & 21

Knowledge development & exchange	Capacity building guides	Development and diffusion of capacity building guides on policy relevance for research, stakeholder engagement, citizen science, data management, business and biodiversity guide.	Throughout the partnership	https://www.biodiversa.eu/library/#1	15, 20, 21 & 22
Knowledge development & exchange	Mapping of capacity building resources from Biodiversa+ and ESB members feeding an online diffusion	A web page will be developed listing capacity building resources from Biodiversa+ and Biodiversa+ network targeting researchers, audience, young professionals, youth, business, decision makers, NGO and general public.	September 2025	https://www.biodiversa.eu/guides-capacity-building/	20, 21 & 22
Knowledge development & exchange	Biodiversa+ Enlarged stakeholder board and Biome (of stakeholders) networks and ESB connections	To ensure an effective inclusive approach to decision making in Biodiversa+ and build connections between stakeholders.	Throughout the partnership	Advisory board: https://www.biodiversa.eu/about-us/governance/advisory-board/ Enlarged stakeholder board: https://www.biodiversa.eu/about-us/governance/enlarged-stakeholder-board/	22
Monitoring & reporting	Integration of GBF implementation in Biodiversa+ project reportings	The GBF implementation is integrated in Biodiversa+ project final reporting where projects are asked "To what extent has your project contributed to global policies and strategies, such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development	March 2025 and ongoing	X	21

		Goals or the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030?".			
Monitoring & reporting	Policy Forum on biodiversity monitoring across scales in support of the GBF	To effectively track progress, the Biodiversa+ Science-Policy Forum in Tallinn (16 April 2024) focused on defining the current state of biodiversity monitoring across different scales, from global to regional. It provided a platform for dialogue between knowledge holders/providers and policy communities on "how to strengthen and harmonise biodiversity monitoring across scales in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework".	April 2024	https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/04/24/science-policy-forum-monitoring/	21
Monitoring & reporting	Developing National Coordination Centres (strategic phase III report)	The Biodiversa+ strategy for providing recommendations towards harmonised biodiversity monitoring on transnational and national scales across Europe. How can national monitoring schemes be improved? This strategy includes key questions that aim to be addressed.	August 2025	Guide on harmonising biodiversity monitoring: https://www.biodiversa.eu/2023/11/13/guide-on-harmonising-biodiversity-monitoring/ Biodiversa+ strategic biodiversity monitoring governance document (Phase II: https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/07/01/strategic-biodiversity-monitoring-governance-phase-ii/	20 & 21
Monitoring & reporting	Harmonising protocols to monitor biodiversity	Harmonised, transnational biodiversity monitoring is essential for data comparability and usability. The report is going to identify common minimum requirements for Harmonised Biodiversity Protocols.	August 2025	X	20 & 21

Monitoring & reporting	Biodiversity monitoring pilots - aim for harmonised transnational biodiversity monitoring (5 ongoing)	Biodiversa+ pilots also increase data availability and address key biodiversity monitoring priorities of Biodiversa+ partners. Rather than being research initiatives, these pilots build on existing research and outputs from other mature efforts. Implemented by national organisations responsible for existing monitoring activities, they represent the first phase in establishing transnational networks of national biodiversity monitoring programmes. 6 pilots have been approved: governance (2023), soil (ongoing), IAS (ongoing), ABMS (ongoing), EURockFish (ongoing), Habitat (ongoing). You can find out more about these pilots in the column "links"	Ongoing	https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodiversity-monitoring/pilots/	20 & 21 (and underlying topical targets)
Monitoring & reporting	Improving national monitoring schemes	A concept of national biodiversity monitoring coordination centres will be presented in August 2025.	Ongoing	X	20 & 21

4. Strategic engagements in the implementation of the strategy

This part highlights current or possible future (key) collaborations to ensure the support of Biodiversa+ for the GBF. The list of collaborations foreseen is as follows (but not exhaustive):

4.1. Alpine Convention

The Alpine Convention (AC) is the legal basis for safeguarding the Alpine ecosystems, the regional cultural identities, heritage and traditions in the Alps. It outlines guiding principles for a sustainable life in the Alps, now and in the future. It is also a living instrument, which allows the signatories to deal jointly with pressing and cross-cutting issues.

It was signed in 1991 and entered into force in 1994. It is composed of a framework convention, eight thematic protocols and six ministerial declarations, and engages eight Alpine countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland) and the EU in the first binding international treaty ever agreed on an entire mountain region. Later, in 2012, negotiations began for a macroregional strategy for the Alpine region, which was officially launched in 2015, composed of all Alpine countries except Monaco, and forty-eight regions, called the EU strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP).

Both processes are based on cooperation. Especially on restoration and connectivity, the Alpine Convention and EUSALP cooperate closely, mainly through their thematic working bodies, the AC Alpine Biodiversity Board and EUSALP Action Group 7 on green infrastructure and 6 on environmental resources.

Inspired by the Carpathian Convention, in 2024, the Alpine Convention developed a framework to implement the GBF, identifying four main work areas: conservation, connectivity, restoration, monitoring. An Alpine biodiversity policy brief was developed to describe this framework, which is the basis of an Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan currently being developed.

Cooperation between Biodiversa+ and the Alpine processes span from Biodiversa+ contributing to Alpine thematic workshops and technical outputs, to the Alps' providing a macroregional point of view to Biodiversa+. Opportunities for concrete cooperation on nature restoration are being explored. What is most interesting in this cooperation is the chance to address the intermediate level between the continental (European) and the national levels. This reflects the fact that the macroregional scale is more than the sum of the countries that share that macroregion.

4.2. BioAgora

BioAgora is a collaborative European project funded by the Horizon Europe programme. It aims to connect research results on biodiversity to the needs of decision-making in a targeted dialogue between scientists, other knowledge holders and policy actors. Its main outcome will be the development of a fair and functional Science Service for Biodiversity, within the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD), that will orchestrate processes and initiatives at the Science-Policy Interface at the

European level. It provides capacity-building to empower the EU's multidisciplinary research community and diverse groups of other knowledge holders and users in bringing transformative change for biodiversity. More specifically, BioAgora supports Target 21 in ensuring that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision-makers (the core objective of the project), practitioners, and the public. In this way, effective and equitable governance can be guided towards a more integrated and participatory management of biodiversity. This will result in stronger communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management.

Collaboration with BioAgora and Biodiversa+ is planned through the Biodiversa+ work package on science policy. One Biodiversa+ co-chair is part of the BioAgora Consortium and also serves as the scientific co-coordinator for AB. In the past, Biodiversa+ identified projects for their knowledge exchange network, focusing on freshwater, marine environments, and landscapes. Some of these Biodiversa+ projects (BioBoost, Bridging Values, MOOBYF, ClimateINVASIVES) were invited to European Commission events or Marine Cluster events. In the future BioAgora aims to develop a communication strategy and network, collaborating with initiatives like CO-OP4CBD, RESPIN, and Biodiversa+ for effective implementation.

4.3.   CO-OP4CBD

CO-OP4CBD (for Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity) is an EU project funded from 2022 to 2026. As a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) project, CO-OP4CBD contributes to the Horizon Europe programme but, unlike Research and Innovation Action (RIA), excludes research activities. The project is implementing supporting activities, such as networking, peer-learning, awareness raising and dissemination. It is coordinated by the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB) and gathers 8 other partners, from 5 European member states (Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Hungary) and two associated countries (Norway, United Kingdom). CO-OP4CBD has a specific focus on the engagement of Central and Eastern European states – Eastern Europe being a specific group in CBD – and implements activities targeting CBD actors in this region.

CO-OP4CBD aims to enhance coordination and cooperation among the EU, its member states and associated countries on their activities to scientifically support the implementation and monitoring of the CBD and, in the end, make more effective use of existing European expertise and initiatives, including the knowledge produced by Biodiversa+. In order to do so, CO-OP4CBD aims to engage experts and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in the EU, and beyond.

Though CO-OP4CBD and Biodiversa+ have similar workstreams on the CBD implementation, they are complementary both in terms of governance and activities. CO-OP4CBD has a much stronger focus on CBD and involves different actors, such as research-performing organisations, CBD SBSTTA and CHM National Focal Points. Biodiversa+ is a long-standing project (20+ years), with a broader portfolio (e.g., research funding) as well as CBD National Focal Points in Southern Europe and policymakers (i.e., in charge of the CBD implementation) involved as partners.

Collaboration between CO-OP4CBD (especially its Work Packages 2 "Expertise" and 4 "Scientific cooperation") and Biodiversa+ is implemented mainly through Biodiversa+ Work Package 5 on Internationalisation and its specific workstream on the "Collaboration with CBD and other MEAs". Collaboration could be further strengthened between the Partnership and CO-OP4CBD WP1 "Landscape" and WP3 "Monitoring". Biodiversa+ takes part in CO-OP4CBD relevant internal meetings in order to create synergies and avoid overlaps, and both projects are collaborating by providing experts and developing joint events (e.g., CBD COP16 side events) and deliverables, such as a guide

on the engagement of academia in CBD. A status of Biodiversa+ "Key Collaborator" is foreseen to showcase the strengthened collaboration with CO-OP4CBD.

4.4.   Intergovernmental   Science-Policy   Platform   on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments and its membership has continued to grow as IPBES' impact has increased (currently 150 members).

Its work programme up to 2030 initially focuses on three topics:

- Understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

- Understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

- Measuring business impact and dependence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

To support this, IPBES has four main functions:

4. Assessing knowledge through assessments, namely the second global assessment due in 2028, which has a focus on supporting « *the assessment of progress towards the achievement of the global targets for 2030 and the global goals for 2050 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets* »[1]. By publishing assessment reports that inform decision making at various governance levels, IPBES also plays a key role in supporting the GBF.

5. Building capacity through enhanced learning and engagement, facilitated access to expertise and information and strengthened national and regional capacities.

6. Strengthening the knowledge foundations via knowledge generation catalysis activities, and enhanced recognition of and work with indigenous and local knowledge systems activities.

7. Supporting policy with advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies, and advanced work on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services.

Biodiversa+ closely collaborates with IPBES on these four functions. For instance:

- Biodiversa+ produced factsheets on its research results to feed into IPBES assessments.

- Biodiversa+ developed capacity building capacities at the science-policy interface.

- Biodiversa+ supported knowledge generation to close knowledge gaps identified by IPBES thanks to hosting the "Knowledge generation catalysis" Technical Support Unit (TSU) since 2019.

7.5.   International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organisation working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and education. IUCN's mission is to "influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable". Over the past decades, IUCN has widened its focus beyond conservation ecology and now incorporates issues related to sustainable development in its projects. IUCN does not itself aim to mobilise the public in support of nature conservation. It tries to influence the actions of governments, business and other stakeholders by providing information and advice and through building partnerships, e.g., through its resolutions as well as congresses. The organisation is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide. The Union is also recognised by policy-makers and practitioners for its Protected Areas Categories, and for its role as an advisory body on natural heritage under the World Heritage Convention. IUCN has a membership of over 1,400 governmental and non-governmental organisations. Some 16,000 scientists and experts participate in the work of IUCN commissions on a voluntary basis. It employs over 900 full-time staff in more than 50 countries.

7.6.   The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) / the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the European Commission's science and knowledge service which employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent scientific advice and support to European Union (EU) policy. As mandated in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Commission established in 2020 the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD) at JRC in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA). The objectives of KCBD are to support policymaking by

- Developing tools that support the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, including its global dimension;

- Identifying, filtering and structuring relevant information and making it accessible bringing together researchers, policy-makers, NGOs, industry and citizens;

- Answering policy requests by synthesising available evidence and communicating it in a transparent, tailored and concise manner;

- Hosting one of the European sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres to assist 44 European Parties in the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

7.7.   Secretariat of the CBD

The Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) is the administrative body of the Convention. Established by the Convention itself, it is governed by Article 24. The SCBD is based in Montréal, Canada, overseen by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and evaluated by the COP, i.e., the Convention's governing body, and funded according to its decisions. In 2023, the SCBD had 110 staff members,

including Executive Secretary Ms. Astrid Schomaker from Germany, who was appointed in 2024.In terms of background, the SCBD staff members were mostly natural scientists and from a wide range of regions, according to a 2009 study (Siebenhüner et al.). In terms of governance, the SCBD has a specific "Science, Society and Sustainable Futures" division, an "Implementation support" division as well as a "Capacity-building and knowledge management" unit (2021 organisational charter). Besides its own staff, the SCBD is also working with consultants.

One of the main roles of the SCBD is to prepare for (e.g., draft decisions and other documents) and service meetings of the COP as well as other subsidiary bodies and processes of the Convention. It is preparing reports, assisting Parties in the implementation and coordinating with relevant international bodies, such as through "liaison groups" (e.g., of biodiversity-related conventions). The SCBD is also collecting and disseminating information, for instance through knowledge syntheses called "Technical Series" or by communicating to the general public on biodiversity.

Collaborations between the SCBD and Biodiversa+ exist for more than a decade, especially when it comes to events such as the Partnership's annual Science-policy forums and CBD Capacity-building workshops, or the CBD COP's Science forums. Collaborations also exist between Biodiversa+ funded projects and the SCBD, with project actors advising the SCBD, drafting information documents etc.

7.8. Technical support centres (TSCs)

CBD Technical Support Centres (TSCs, full name "Sub-regional Technical and scientific cooperation support centres") are new structures meant to support Parties – at the regional and subregional levels – in the implementation of the CBD (including the GBF), and especially to promote and provide, upon request, capacity-building and development support and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation. Despite their name, these centres have a broader mandate, ranging from capacity-building and development to technology transfer. TSCs have been decided by a COP15 decision (COP/15/DEC/8, §25-26), better framed by a COP16 decision (COP/16/DEC/3) and are part of a wider mechanism for strengthening technical and scientific cooperation in support of the GBF (COP/15/DEC/8/Annex II). These centres are either regional and/or subregional. TSCs have been selected and established in 2024, and are coordinated at the global level by a specific entity (unknown at the time of this strategy). In Europe, two regional TSCs have been selected. A vast majority of Biodiversa+ partners will fall under the scope of the first European TSC, run by the European Commission (JRC via the KCBD), in partnership with IUCN Med and RBINS. Non-European Biodiversa+ partners will be supported by two African TSCs, run by RCMRD and OSS. As TSCs are new structures, collaborations do not exist with Biodiversa+ and will be developed. This collaboration will build upon existing ties between Biodiversa+ and JRC via the KCBD.

Serving as (sub-)regional one-stop shops, TSCs have been invited by the CBD COPs 15 and 16 to develop awareness-raising, capacity-building and development activities that support the implementation of the Convention's decisions (e.g., GBF), for instance by providing access to knowledge, expertise, tools and guidance, fostering the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt (hence contributing to a regional harmonisation) or publishing relevant information. In the end, TSCs will enable Parties to effectively utilise science, technology and innovation in support of the Convention. TSCs' work will be informed by the SCBD, requested to communicate priorities established by the CBD Parties regarding the Centres' mandate (see above), and this on a variety of CBD agenda items. Such a mapping of opportunities and priorities for collaboration will also be carried by Parties (on a voluntary basis) as well as the centres themselves, and this by bringing together various actors. Besides this

networked approach, TSCs will also contribute to individual and organisational capacity-building. Each TSC will accordingly develop biennial work plans.

7.9.   Youth representation Global Youth Biodiversity Network

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is a global coalition of young people and youth organizations that are acting together to lead, support, and accelerate action towards living in harmony with nature. GYBN has been recognized as the international coordination platform for youth participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 2012.

As of May 2024, GYBN brings together over 705 youth organizations from 172 countries, representing a total of 1.25 million youth. GYBN also has 61 national and 7 regional and sub-regional chapters.

One of the regional chapters is GYBN Europe, which is part of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board of Biodiversa+ and a long-term member of this platform, advocating for inclusion and engagement of youth in the Biodiversa funded (research) projects.

As the international coordination platform for youth participation in the CBD, over the years GYBN has coordinated youth attending CBD meetings, including by providing scholarships and other funding for the attendance. The coordination of youth includes for example capacity-building on the ground and previous to CBD events, thematic workshops and coordination with other caucuses as for example the recently founded research and academia. Ensuring youth participation in the CBD process has been essential in enabling the integration of youth priorities into the CBD, the KMGBF and their engagement in the implementation process of the framework.

Thanks to GYBN's track record in capacity-building and the prioritization of education, Decision 16/10 at COP16 in 2024 (Item 15, Communication, Education & Public Awareness) at COP16 in 2024, GYBN is included in the list of organizations that will collaborate to develop a global plan of action on education for biodiversity, encompassing formal and informal education, in order to support transformative actions needed to implement the Framework. This is particularly relevant to the Knowledge development & Exchange work of Biodiversa+.