



Nordic Council
of Ministers

LOCAL ACTIONS FOR THE NEW GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



How do we develop co-existence with nature
through the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves?

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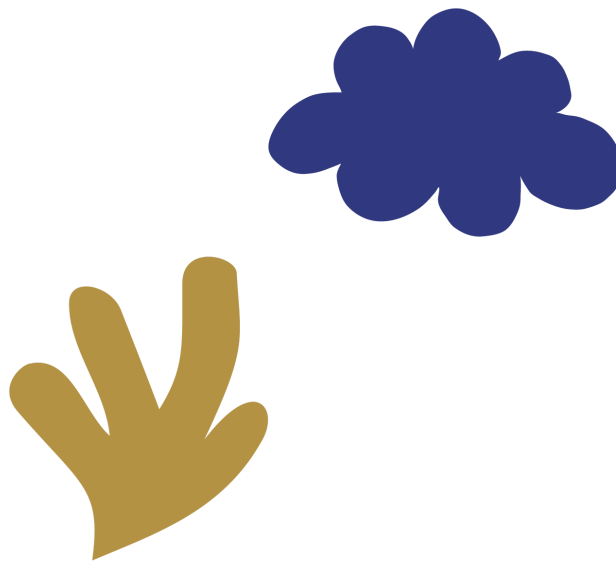
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LEARN TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

The global situation is challenging the way we live, produce, and interact with nature. The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere program (MAB) offers a holistic and well documented tool to deal with the global challenges such as climate change and the biodiversity crisis through local actions.

If we are to meet the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) we need a diverse approach. To reach these goals, a range of instruments, tools, actions, and traditional protection measures are necessary and needed.

Amongst 23 targets the GBF aims to protect at least 30 percent of the planet's land and water by 2030. Yet, even if we are successful in protecting 30 percent of the surface of the earth, the problem concerning the last 70 percent remains and that is a central part of the 2050 vision of the GBF, to live in harmony with nature. Additional changes outside the protected areas also are needed and crucial, and that the UNESCO MAB framework offers a strong approach from which we learn to live in harmony with nature.



THRIVING OF ALL SPECIES

The interaction between nature and humanity is a critical focus in today's world. As we have distanced ourselves from nature, it's crucial to understand that in the Earth's ecosystem, one cannot take without also giving back. Creating a better balance is imperative, necessitating a holistic approach to living, dwelling, and cultivating for the thriving of all species.

Establishing a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is one way to initiate local collaboration to strengthen the interactions with environments that sustain both nature and people. Biosphere Reserves are designed to deal with one of the most important questions the world faces today: How can we reconcile the conservation of biodiversity, the quest for economic and social development and the maintenance of associated cultural values?

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The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme has laid the scientific foundation for a new harmony between humans and their environment – one that reconciles conservation and development and teaches us how to live with the living world in the living world, rather than at its expense.

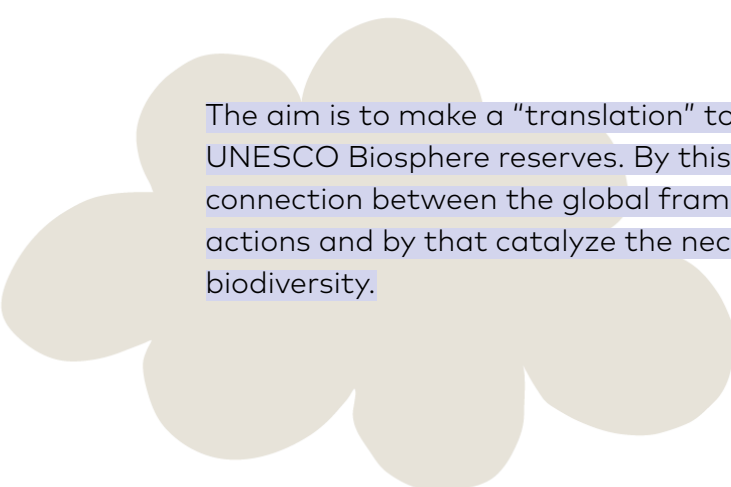
Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

www.unesco.org/en/mab/about

GLOBAL GOALS NEED LOCAL ACTION

Solutions to global challenges often start locally, amongst people. The global agreements offer a framework expressing the ambitions that can be agreed on by member states of the UN system. The framework does pinpoint the responsibilities of the states, what are the goals and the actions at government level that needs to be taken.

However, experiences tell us, that in order to be successful, a certain translation of the global frameworks need to be undertaken to link the global goals with local actions and solutions in communities, in civil society, in municipalities, in business, in education etc.



The aim is to make a "translation" to a local level through the UNESCO Biosphere reserves. By this we aim to facilitate the connection between the global framework and the local actions and by that catalyze the necessary actions for biodiversity.

FROM GLOBAL FRAMEWORK TO LOCAL ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) was initiated in 1971 as a program and tool to create model areas where the interaction between mankind and the nature could be studied. From initially being a top-down program, the development in the program in recent years has given room for strong bottom-up initiatives. Thus, the program offers an excellent frame to emphasize and catalyze local solutions to the global challenges.

The core function of the MAB program and its biosphere reserves is to fulfil the three basic, equal and complementary functions:

- Conservation – conservation of natural and bio-cultural diversity
- Development – support for sustainable economic and social development and cultural diversity
- Logistic support - support and promotion of model projects, training, and education for sustainable development at the local level, while taking into account national and global scales.

The need of stakeholders should be addressed while fulfilling all three functions.

Given its holistic approach and local anchoring the MAB program and the biosphere reserves holds the potential to be strong hubs for sustainable development, addressing the global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.



APPROACHES TO THE TRANSLATION

Focus here will be on biodiversity and how the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) translate into local actions. The translation will have two approaches:

1. What are the key messages from the GBF to the UNESCO biosphere reserves and how can the GBF contribute to improve the quality of the MAB program?
2. What are the main and potential contributions from the UNESCO Biosphere reserves to the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and specifically to its goals and targets?

The point in having the two approaches is that it takes a combination of both top-down and bottom-up instruments to address global challenges in a successful manner. We both need global agreements, and we need local actions. As said many times; Think globally, act locally. Doing so, this document is relevant for those who are looking for contributions to the implementation of the GBF, and for those who are looking for inspiration on how to improve the local actions for the global challenges.

Many questions arise when talking about the GBF and the role of the UNESCO MAB program. For instance, how does the biosphere reserves contribute to the target on 30 percent protected areas in 2030? The short answer is that since the biosphere reserves are based on existing protected areas, they don't bring about more protected areas, rather make them more effective by involving the local society in the nature preservation. However, the work with biodiversity and the GBF cannot be reduced to be a simple question on a certain level of protection. Overall, it is the long-term vision to live in harmony with nature, as expressed in the GBF:

The vision of the Global Biodiversity Framework is a world that lives in harmony with nature where *"by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."*



Hence, the contribution is indirect to the 30 by 30 target. It brings about local acknowledgement, acceptance, and ownership to the protection, and by that it paves the way for a more qualified and successful management for existing protected areas as well as for potential new protected areas. Furthermore, it is being discussed if the buffer zones of the biosphere reserves can be included as Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in which case the contribution from the biosphere reserves can be more direct.

However, the core of the contribution from the UNESCO biosphere reserves lies in the contribution to pursuing a development, as formulated by the secretary general of the UNESCO Mrs. Audrey Azoulé: *"We must develop a new form of environmental ethics where humans learn to preserve biodiversity by living with it, rather than isolating it." And by that meeting the 2050 goal to live in harmony with nature!"*

WHAT DOES THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AIM AT?

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was agreed upon in December 2022 at the CBD COP15 replaces the existing Aichi targets from 2010. It sets out a new framework for the actions needed to be taken to safeguard biodiversity.

The GBF contains 4 global goals ("Kunming-Montreal Global Goals for 2050") and 23 targets ("Kunming-Montreal 2030 Global Targets") (<https://www.cbd.int/gbf/goals>). The most prominent and easily understood target is Target 3" referred to as the "[30 by 30](#)" target. The GBF succeeds the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) (including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets).

The four goals are:

Protect and Restore

The integrity, resilience, and connectivity of ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050, and that human-induced extinction of threatened species is halted, and that by 2050, extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold, and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; and that the genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

Prosper with Nature

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development, for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.



Share Benefits Fairly

The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of [genetic resources](#), and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments

Invest and Collaborate

Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

The 23 targets are organized under three headlines: 1. Reducing threats to biodiversity, 2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing, 3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming. (A full presentation of the targets can be found as an appendix to this document.)

TRANSLATING THE GBF TO THE UNESCO MAB PROGRAMME AND BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Given the core functions of the MAB Programme and biosphere reserves (Conservation, Development and Logistic support) as presented earlier in this document, there seems to be a direct and clear link to the 23 targets of the GBF that aim to reduce threats to biodiversity; meeting people's need through sustainable use and benefit sharing; and tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.

To do a translation of the GBF into the context of biosphere reserves is not necessary a simple thing to do and it can be done in many ways. We have chosen to do the translation of the GBF through two approaches.

Firstly, we want to explore what kind of messages that supports the MAB Programme and the biosphere reserves can be extracted from the GBF es and what messages from the GBF can guide the Programme in the development of activities and improve the quality of the work within the Programme and the reserves.

Secondly, we want to focus on how the work with the Programme and in the reserves can contribute to a successful implementation of the GBF.



Strategic Objectives

MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015-2025 derive directly from the three functions of biosphere reserves identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, identified in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. These Strategic Objectives are to:

1. Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources
2. Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere
3. Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development (ESD) and capacity building

Source: A New Roadmap for the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves. MAB Strategy (2015-2025), Lima Action Plan (2016-2025), Lima Declaration

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE GBF TO THE UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES

What are the key messages from the Global Biodiversity Framework to the UNESCO biosphere reserves and how can the GBF contribute to improve the quality of the MAB programme?

The Global Biodiversity Framework conveys several essential messages to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program, aligning with its goals and strategies:

1. **Urgency of Biodiversity Conservation:** The framework emphasizes the critical need to conserve biodiversity globally. It underscores the urgency of actions required to halt biodiversity loss and promote ecosystem restoration, a message that resonates with the core function of biosphere reserves.

Targets: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

2. **Holistic Approach to Conservation:** Kunming-Montreal Framework stresses the importance of holistic approaches to biodiversity conservation, integrating conservation efforts with sustainable development. Biosphere reserves, with their emphasis on balancing conservation and human activities, are well-positioned to exemplify this integrated approach.

Targets: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 16

3. **Community Engagement and Participation:** The framework highlights the significance of engaging local communities and indigenous people in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Biosphere reserves, known for their community-based approach, can further promote active community participation and empowerment in conservation efforts.

Targets: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 22 & 23

4. **Science, Research, and Knowledge Sharing:** Emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making, the framework encourages research, innovation, and knowledge sharing. Biosphere reserves serve as living laboratories, fostering scientific research, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices among stakeholders.

Targets: 20 & 21

5. **Policy Support and Implementation:** The Kunming-Montreal Framework urges policy coherence and effective implementation at national and international levels. Biosphere reserves can advocate for policy alignment, offering practical models for policymakers and supporting the translation of global biodiversity goals into actionable local initiatives.

Targets: 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20

6. **Collaboration and Networking:** The framework promotes collaboration, partnerships, and networking among various stakeholders. Biosphere reserves, with their networks of reserves across the world, can strengthen collaborations, exchange experiences, and enhance cooperation towards achieving shared biodiversity conservation goals.

Targets: All

In summary, the Global Biodiversity Framework emphasizes the importance of urgent and holistic actions for biodiversity conservation, aligning closely with the principles and strategies of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program. It reinforces the need for community engagement, science-based approaches, policy support, and collaborative efforts, all of which are integral to the MAB's mission of fostering sustainable relationships between people and their environments.

THE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES TO A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GBF

What are the main and potential contributions from the UNESCO biosphere reserves to the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and specifically to its goals and targets?

UNESCO biosphere reserves play a significant role in contributing to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Here are five main potential contributions:

1. **Conservation of Biodiversity:** Biosphere reserves are designated areas that conserve ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. They serve as living laboratories for testing and implementing strategies to conserve and restore biodiversity, aligning with the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Framework.

Targets: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

2. **Sustainable Use of Resources:** Biosphere reserves demonstrate sustainable practices in land use, agriculture, forestry, and other human activities. They showcase how humans can live in harmony with nature while ensuring the sustainable use of resources, aligning with the framework's objectives for sustainable development.

Targets: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13

3. **Research and Education:** These reserves serve as platforms or hubs for research and education, fostering a better understanding of ecosystems and sustainable practices. They provide opportunities for studying the impacts of human activities on biodiversity and disseminating knowledge to local communities and visitors.

Targets: 13, 14, 15, 16, 20 & 21

4. **Community Engagement and Participation:** Biosphere reserves involve local communities in decision-making processes, encouraging their active participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. This grassroots involvement is vital for the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Targets: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 22 & 23

5. **Policy support and implementation on a local level**
Aligning local policies with national and global goals is not necessarily easy. Perspectives and rationale may defer significantly since it is in the local communities that the consequences of climate changes and loss of biodiversity becomes tangible and hence, pose a threat to culture, use of natural resources etc. By its involvement of the local communities, by creating ownership and engagement, the UNESCO biosphere reserves assist in creating local acceptance of necessary changes and responses to the implementation of the targets of the GBF.
6. **International Cooperation and Networking:** Biosphere reserves often collaborate across borders, sharing experiences and best practices in biodiversity conservation. This international cooperation contributes to global efforts to protect and restore biodiversity, a key aim of the Kunming-Montreal Framework.

Targets: All

By fulfilling these roles and objectives, UNESCO biosphere reserves can effectively support and enhance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, working towards a more sustainable future for biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide.

APPENDIX: THE 23 TARGETS OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The 23 targets are organized under three headlines:

1. Reducing threats to biodiversity
2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing
3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

1. Reducing threats to biodiversity

TARGET 1

Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

TARGET 2

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

TARGET 3

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories,

where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

TARGET 4

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

TARGET 5

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

TARGET 6

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

TARGET 7

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

TARGET 8

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing

TARGET 9

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic, and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

TARGET 10

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

TARGET 11

Restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

TARGET 12

Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native

biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

TARGET 13

Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

TARGET 14

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

TARGET 15

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

- a. Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;
- b. Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;
- c. Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

TARGET 16

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

TARGET 17

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

TARGET 18

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

TARGET 19

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by:

- a. Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030.
- b. Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances.

- c. Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments.
- d. Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards.
- e. Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises.
- f. Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity.
- g. Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

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.

TARGET 22

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

TARGET 23

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful, and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

ABOUT MAB LAB

This publication presents findings from the Nordic Council of Ministers - Nordic Working Group for Biological Diversity funded project *MAB LAB: Man, and the Biosphere - Local Actions for the new global framework for Biodiversity*. The project is based on a fundamental ambition to foster and support local solutions to global challenges by increasing the number of UNESCO biosphere reserves in the Nordic region.

This aim of the project has been to "translate" the new global biodiversity framework (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) into a local context to create ownership, anchoring and action in local communities. The focus is on increasing interaction and readiness to work with the biodiversity targets at local, national, and Nordic level. The global biodiversity framework adopted at COP15 in 2022 aims to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 and offers a new global framework for biodiversity. With this framework approved, work starts on the implementation and thus the realization of the framework's objectives.

The overall objective of the MAB-LAB project is to contribute to catalyzing the readiness of the Nordic countries for the work of implementing the new global biodiversity framework. The main findings of the project are presented in two publications:

1. A translation of the global biodiversity framework (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) into a local context having the Nordic biosphere reserves as case.
2. A guide to prepare for and overcome barriers to the establishment of new biosphere reserves.

This publication is the translation of the global biodiversity framework into the context of UNESCO Biosphere reserves.

Partners and execution

The MAB LAB project has been developed through a Nordic collaboration involving the following actors:

Denmark: Møn Biosfæreområde (Katrine Dietrich)

Sweden: Vattenriket, Kristianstad (Carina Wettemark) Johanna MacTaggert, National coordinator for the Swedish MAB-program.

Norway: Nordhordland Biosfære (Kari E. Natland), The Norwegian Biosphere Committee (Eva Hauge Fontaine).

Finland: North Karelia Biosphere reserve (Vilma Lehtovaara), Skärgårdshavets biosfärområde (Katja Bonnevier)

Island: Snaefellsness Regional Park (Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir)

The work was led by Katrine Dietrich (Møn Biosphere, DK) and the report was prepared with help from Mads Randbøll Wolff, Sustainability 2030, Nikolaj Sveistrup, URBAN AGENDA and Kari E. Natland (Nordhordland Biosphere, NO).

About this publication

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Nordic co-operation

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

Nordic co-operation has firm traditions in politics, economics and culture and plays an important role in European and international forums. The Nordic community strives for a strong Nordic Region in a strong Europe.

Nordic co-operation promotes regional interests and values in a global world. The values shared by the Nordic countries help make the region one of the most innovative and competitive in the world.

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