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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

THE BIODIVERSITY FINANCE INITIATIVE

An overview and key progress summary

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith an information document entitled "The Biodiversity Finance Initiative - An overview and key progress summary". The document was submitted by the United Nations Development Programme, for the information of participants in the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

2. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was provided to the Secretariat.

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BIOFIN – The Biodiversity Finance Initiative

Building Transformative Policy and Financing Frameworks to Increase Investment in Biodiversity Management

An Overview and Key Progress Summary

submitted to the

5th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (16 -20 June 2014, Montreal, Canada)

Background

Available evidence and decisions adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) indicate a significant gap remains in finance for biodiversity management, for countries to drastically scale up their efforts and achieve the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets defined in the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. A preliminary assessment recently conducted under the auspices of the High-level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the CBD Strategic Plan estimated the annual global investment required a range of between US$ 130 and 440 billion. The Global Canopy Programme (*Little Biodiversity Finance Book*, 2012) estimated that total global funding for biodiversity and ecosystem services was USD 51.8 billion per year in 2010, with 59% of this spent in developed countries. While useful as broad metrics, these and similar global estimates are based on extrapolations sensitive to underlying assumptions. To define biodiversity finance needs and gaps with greater precision, and to determine related challenges and opportunities for resource mobilisation, detailed national-level (bottom-up) assessments are required. In this context, UNDP in October 2012 launched the **Biodiversity Finance Initiative – BIOFIN**, as a new global partnership seeking to address the biodiversity finance challenge in a comprehensive manner – building a sound business case for increased investment in the management of ecosystems and biodiversity.

BIOFIN is managed by the UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity Programme, in partnership with the European Union and the Governments of Germany and Switzerland, who support the initiative with a total of US$ 15 million (as of June 2014). The Global Environment Facility is a further partner financing parallel in-country projects in support of the revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and on the development of financing mechanisms for terrestrial and marine protected areas and Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes.

Scope of work

Guided by a steering committee representing the partners, BIOFIN works along two main axes:

1. Globally-led development of a new methodological assessment framework

An entirely new methodological assessment framework is being developed and piloted for undertaking national-level analyses of the finance-relevant enabling context; for determining the current / baseline investment in biodiversity; for quantifying the full cost of meeting national biodiversity conservation targets and the resulting finance gap; and for assessing the suitability of financial mechanisms and developing national resource mobilisation strategies that are fully appropriated by national governments and other key in-country stakeholders. The methodological framework applied in the project will be refined through regional and global learning and become available to all interested CBD Parties. It is centred on the BIOFIN Workbook, which sets out a series of national assessments for the first 3 components described below.

2. Adaptation and implementation of this new methodological framework at national level

To help countries increase the importance attributed to biodiversity and in consequence bridge the financing gap, the work at national level will be led by Ministries of Finance, Economics or Planning and Environment. It is articulated through the following components:

   a. *Analyse the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sectoral and development policy, planning and budgeting*

Participating countries will analyse the current policy and institutional frameworks affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services both positively and negatively, and quantify related investments through comprehensive reviews of past and current (baseline) public and private expenditures. Analyses of impact, effectiveness, alignment and coherence will provide key opportunities for mainstreaming and introducing policy shifts that enhance the cost-effectiveness of biodiversity management, such as the removal of biodiversity-harmful incentives.

   b. *Assess future financing flows, needs and gaps for managing and conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services*

Participating countries will project anticipated future investments in biodiversity, and determine the financing needed to meet agreed national priorities reflecting the CBD Aichi Targets, building on and interacting with the NBSAP process, and taking into account cost-effectiveness and the effects of an improved enabling environment. The difference between the projected future investment and the required investment will enable the quantification of the

finance gap.

c. Develop comprehensive national Resource Mobilisation Strategies to meet the biodiversity finance gap

Following an assessment of the full range of potential financing mechanisms (traditional and innovative, public and private, national and international), each participating country will develop a strategy to address the finance gap, combining suitable and nationally-adapted mechanisms. The strategy will analyse opportunities, risks and barriers related to the implementation of these mechanisms and provide solutions and recommendations, including on the enabling environment and safeguards.

d. Initiate implementation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy at national level

Countries will begin implementing recommendations pertaining to a priority subset of the identified financing mechanisms – regarding aspects such as institutional requirements, laws and regulations, taxes and fees, identification of legal thresholds, removal of perverse incentives, further feasibility studies and implementation plans, certification processes, public-private-partnerships, voluntary agreements, etc.

The following 19 core countries presently participate in BIOFIN: Asia & Pacific**:** Fiji, India (tbc), Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. Africa**:** Botswana, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. Latin America & the Caribbean**:** Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.

Key global activities and emerging results in core pilot countries

From its inception, BIOFIN has worked to develop a new methodological assessment toolkit, to be used by countries to initiate an evidence-based process that includes developing a detailed costing of the new generation of NBSAPs and designing a comprehensive resource mobilisation plan. This tool has emerged as the BIOFIN Workbook, developed throughout 2013. The BIOFIN Workbook was subjected to a peer review process at the end of that year, involving a wide range of international experts from multiple backgrounds, as well as from the pilot countries already involved in BIOFIN at the time. The BIOFIN Workbook was refined based on feedback collected, and shared with countries by February 2014. Its structure follows the components described above. A set of spreadsheets is currently being developed to facilitate data entry and automated calculations by national BIOFIN teams.

In the second half of 2013, a series of regional workshops was organised for core BIOFIN countries, providing a first opportunity for different national level stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of the BIOFIN methodology and activities. Participants also provided their inputs into to the refinement of the BIOFIN workbook and discussed possible timelines for national level activities. Around the same time, several informative webinars were organised for participating countries to clarify the purpose and scope of the Initiative.

In February 2014, the first BIOFIN Global Workshop was organised in Bratislava, Slovakia. Over 100 participants from 19 countries participating in BIOFIN discussed progress and shared lessons learned under BIOFIN and related initiatives. Key issues on the agenda included an in-depth review of the BIOFIN methodology, and stocktaking of in-country progress of the BIOFIN and NBSAP processes. The main areas indicated for further refinement of the BIOFIN methodology included the expenditure review and the costing of NBSAPs. A dedicated senior costing expert will provide participating countries with technical support for the development of national level costing models, based on a global model. During working group discussions country teams brainstormed on optimal means to politically position the recommendations from the resource mobilisation strategies, highlighting the need for targeted advocacy campaigns, being able to present the business case for biodiversity and engaging in major national policy development processes.

At the national level, core countries are at various stages of progress, ranging from initial discussions on conceptualising BIOFIN and defining the scope of work at the national level, to countries fully engaged in data collection for the first assessments, having completed their inception workshops. The majority of the countries involved have started data collection and initial consultations for the assessments. This process strongly builds on existing work. Several countries have previously undertaken significant work to generate data required to complete the BIOFIN assessments through other activities. Many have completed, or are at the final stage of submitting their updated NBSAPs. The government of Colombia, for example, has already formally submitted its updated NBSAP to the CBD and can derive relevant elements from this feeding into BIOFIN. In Kazakhstan, the NBSAP is also close to completion, which has helped to advance the data collection process for the assessment on biodiversity policy and practice drivers and the institutional/policy framework, and in Uganda the updated NBSAP captures many of the core biodiversity finance issues that need to be studied.

Several other countries have made progress under the BIOFIN assessments through specific data collection and organising targeted workshops. The Philippines organised its first consultation workshop for the policy and institutional review with high level stakeholder involvement, hosted by the President's Office. For the expenditure review, much groundwork has been carried out in countries with prior activities on environmental expenditure reviews. India has completed a national biodiversity expenditure review, capturing all biodiversity related budgetary allocations of government at different levels. In Indonesia, where BIOFIN is being implemented under an umbrella programme for environmental finance hoisted by the Ministry of Finance, initial datasets on biodiversity and climate change expenditures have been put together. Several countries are expected to complete their assessments within 2014, to then start their work on the resource mobilisation strategies.

Besides the work under the assessments and resource mobilisation plan, countries are also working with government to provide policy inputs, such as in Peru where the BIOFIN team provides technical support for the development of a guideline on budgeting for biodiversity for sub-national governments, and Malaysia, where BIOFIN has engaged with the process to create the new national development plan.

Outreach to further countries

The approaches and tools developed by BIOFIN are additionally being promoted through the NBSAP Forum[1] and through global and regional events and workshops on resource mobilisation, as well as through ongoing UNDP-GEF projects assisting countries in the development of their new-generation NBSAPs. BIOFIN is also sharing experiences with a similar project in Namibia implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) that is looking at adopting the BIOFIN approach and tools; representatives of the project joined the BIOFIN global workshop to share experiences.

From February to May 2014, the CBD Secretariat together with UNEP and UNDP/BIOFIN convened a series of four regional workshops on resource mobilisation. Over 150 government-nominated resource mobilisation experts participated, representing governments and the scientific community. The objectives of these workshops was to enhance the capacity of the participants to apply methodologies and tools for identifying, assessing and reporting on biodiversity finance, and to enhance their understanding of the importance of effective resource mobilisation. Through these workshops, participants from over 85 countries developed a basic understanding of the BIOFIN approach and tools, including the key steps needed to develop a robust baseline on biodiversity finance and a detailed resource mobilisation plan. The workshop reports are available on the CBD website.

[1] www.nbsapforum.net

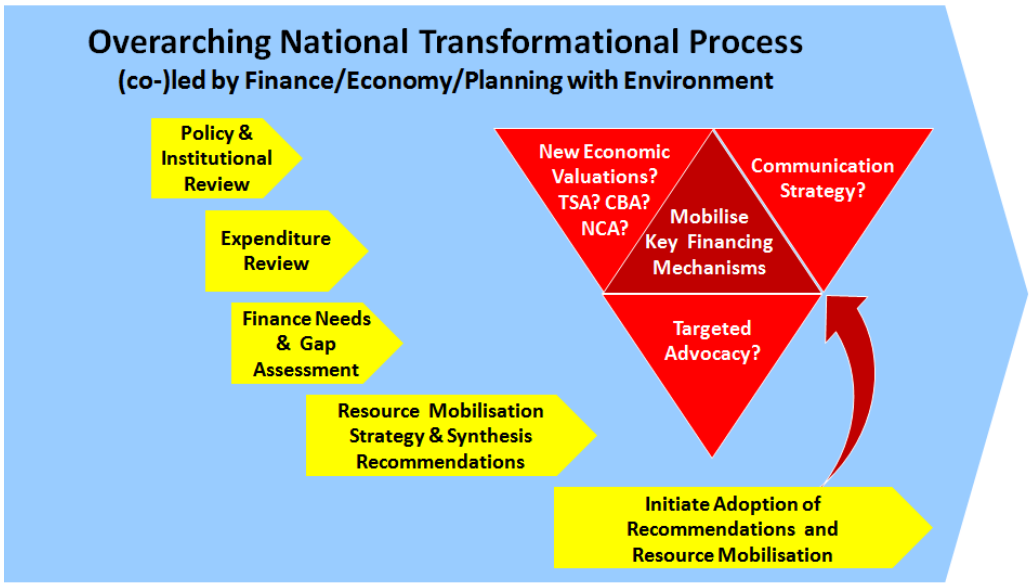
Further Information: BIOFIN website and contact details

Further information about BIOFIN and biodiversity finance can be found on the BIOFIN website (www.biodiversityfinance.net) in English, Spanish and French. The website has the dual purpose of (1) informing project stakeholders and a general audience about developments of the initiative, and (2) providing a wide range of biodiversity finance resources for countries involved in BIOFIN and others working on biodiversity finance. It contains general information on the rationale, approach and activities of the Initiative. The materials and tools developed by BIOFIN will be posted online. The site also shows the latest news and events from BIOFIN at the global and national level and links to important related initiatives.

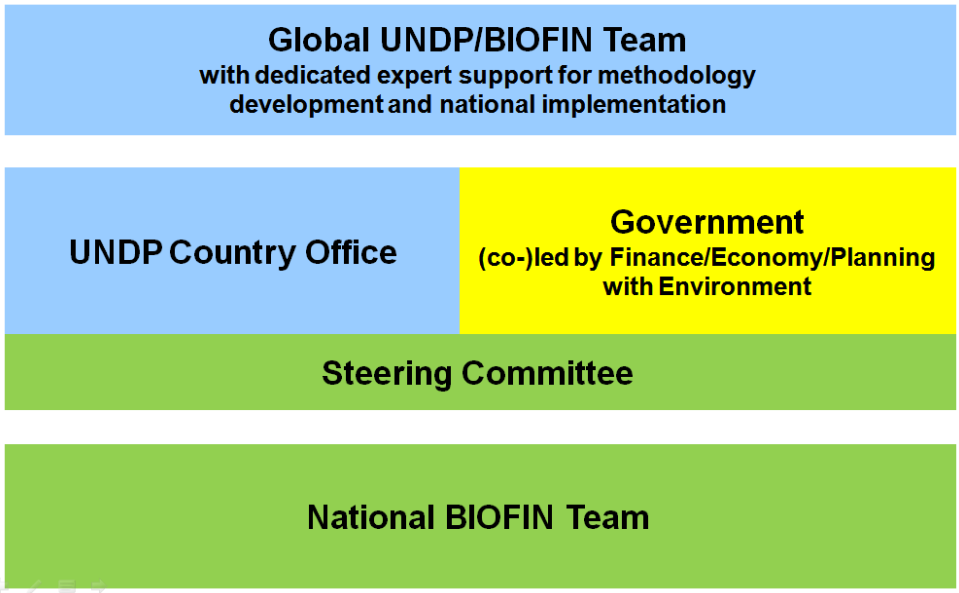
The BIOFIN global team can be contacted on biofin@undp.org.

Annexes

Annex 1: BIOFIN steps at the national level:



Annex 2: BIOFIN global and national team standard setup:



Building Transformative Policy and Financing Frameworks to Increase Investment in Biodiversity Management (BIOFIN)

Annex 3:

Quick guide to the assessment workbook - V8

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INTRODUCTION

The world faces unprecedented and irreversible losses of biodiversity (MEA, 2005). Species extinction rates are approaching 1,000 times the evolutionary background rate (CBD, 2010a), and these rates may climb to over 10,000 times the background rate if present trends in species loss and climate change continue (May et al., 2002). As many as 70 percent of the world's known species are at risk of extinction by 2100 (Rosser and Mainka, 2002). These trends have profound implications for human welfare, particularly for the world's poorest communities, who depend disproportionately upon biodiversity and ecosystem services for the basic necessities of life (UNEP, 2010). In recognition of these losses, and the immeasurable value of biodiversity and ecosystems in sustaining human life, 193 of the world's governments agreed in 2010 to an ambitious set of 20 targets for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefits sharing, as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (CBD, 2010).[2] These targets, known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets[3] cover a broad range of biodiversity-related issues that fall into five strategic goals: a) addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across governments and society; b) reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use; c) improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; d) enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and e) enhancing implementation.

Target 17 calls for each country to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. One of the most important shortcomings of the first round of NBSAPs was that they did not clearly identify the costs required to implement the strategies and actions, and they nearly all lacked a robust resource mobilization plan (Prip et al., 2010).Target 20 calls for countries to assess the financial resource needs and to mobilize financial resources for effectively implementing the CBD Strategic Plan at a national level. In addition, Decision X/3 of the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD requests Parties to report on funding needs, gaps, and priorities related to national implementation of the resource mobilization strategy, and to prepare national financial plans for biodiversity. The BIOFIN Workbook provides tools and resources to help countries achieve Target 20 and associated COP decisions.

The approach to resource mobilization described in this Quick Guide follows the BIOFIN workbook and includes 3 parts. Part I is a review of biodiversity-related policies, institutions and expenditures. This information provides the basis for understanding a) the underlying policies and practices that drive biodiversity and ecosystem change; b) the key institutions involved, their role in biodiversity finance and planning, financing, and their capacities; and c) the baseline of existing biodiversity-related expenditures, with both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity, and the effectiveness of those expenditures.

Part II is an estimation of the full costs of implementing each of the biodiversity strategies within the revised NBSAP. These strategies are grouped into 5 main categories: a) biodiversity mainstreaming strategies (Aichi Targets 1 – 10); b) protection strategies (Aichi Targets 11-13); c) restoration strategies (Aichi Targets 14 and 15); d) access and benefits sharing strategies (Aichi Target 16); and e) enabling strategies (Aichi Targets 17 – 20). Part II also includes an assessment of finance gap, based on a comparison of the 'business as usual' finance scenarios versus the total estimated costs of implementing new biodiversity strategies.

Part III includes the identification and prioritization of potential finance actors and mechanisms, and the development of specific resource mobilization strategies and actions to fill the finance gap.

The basic steps in the NBSAP development process, shown below, correspond closely with the steps in assessing financial needs and mobilizing financial resources. The purpose of the BIOFIN Workbook is to provide step-by-step guidance in undertaking those steps that are directly related to assessing financial needs and mobilizing financial resources required to implement the NBSAP.

Steps in developing an NBSAP	Steps in developing a resource mobilization plan
1. **Get organized** – organize logistics and take stock of past NBSAPs	1. **Get organized** – organize the logistics of the team that will work on resource mobilization
2. **Engage and communicate with stakeholders** – identify relevant stakeholders and develop a communication and outreach plan	2. **Engage and communicate with stakeholders** – identify relevant finance stakeholders and engage them in discussions about the resource mobilization process
3. **Gather key information** – including status and trends of biodiversity; linkages between society and biodiversity; legal, institutional and policy environment; biodiversity finance; status of public awareness; and knowledge gaps	3. **Gather key information** -- based on information on status and trends in biodiversity; gather information about the policy and practice drivers of change (Workbook 1A); the key actors and institutions (Workbook 1B); and the biodiversity-related expenditures (Workbook 1C)
4. **Develop strategies and actions** – establish a national vision; set national targets; identify specific strategies and actions	4. **Develop costs for strategies and actions** – Based on the strategies identified by the NBSAP team, the resource mobilization team then develops a comprehensive view of total costs (Workbooks 2A and 2B)
5. **Develop implementation and resource mobilization plans** – identify specific actors, timelines and costs for each action; develop resource mobilization plan; ensure strategies are incorporated into national frameworks; finalize indicators and implement clearinghouse mechanism	5. **Develop resource mobilization plans** – based on the NBSAP implementation plan, and the results of Workbooks I and II, develop robust, realistic resource mobilization plan (Workbooks 3a and 3b)
6. **Implement the NBSAP** – Engage stakeholders; implement key strategies and actions; and mobilize financial resources	6. **Implement the resource mobilization plan** – implement the resource mobilization plan; mobilize financial resources
7. **Monitor and report** – Develop national reports; communicate the results of the NBSAP	7. **Monitor and report** – review the effectiveness of resource mobilization strategies and adapt the

[2] The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 applies not only to the Convention on Biological Diversity, but also to other United Nations conventions (see Appendix B for more details).
[3] See Appendix A for the full set of Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and Box 4 for a summary version.

implementation; and review and adapt priorities based on implementation results	approach accordingly

The goal of this Quick Guide is to assist countries in transforming national biodiversity finance, and thereby enabling them to implement their NBSAP and achieve the Aichi Targets. NBSAPs are more than a set of plans; they are a pathway to national and global sustainable development, and they are our best hope for fully integrating biodiversity into sectoral development and poverty alleviation efforts, and for transforming the unsustainable trajectory of development. NBSAPs are the national articulation of the future vision that each country desires, and this Quick Guide describes an approach to help countries achieve this vision.

AICHI TARGETS

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- **Target 1**: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- **Target 2**: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- **Target 3**: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
- **Target 4**: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- **Target 5**: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- **Target 6**: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- **Target 7**: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- **Target 8:** By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- **Target 9:**:By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- **Target 10**: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- **Target 11**: By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider land- and seascapes.
- **Target 12**: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- **Target 13**: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- **Target 14**: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- **Target 15**: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating desertification.
- **Target 16**: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- **Target 17**: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- **Target 18**: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

- **Target 19**: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies related to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss are improved, widely shared, transferred and applied.
- **Target 20**; By 2020, the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

PART I: Reviewing biodiversity policies, institutions and expenditures

Workbook 1A: Policy and Practice Drivers of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Change

Workbook 1A identifies the specific practices that result in both positive and negative trends in biodiversity and ecosystems, identifies the broader forces, policies and policy factors that drive these practices, and examines the broader overall policy environment within which these practices and policies exist. In completing Workbook 1A, planners should begin by keeping in mind the most important status and trends in biodiversity and ecosystems and associated human wellbeing. Based on these, they can then articulate the specific practices and policies that contribute to both positive and negative biodiversity trends, and identify the key factors within the broader policy environment that either promote or inhibit sustainable policies and practices related to biodiversity. As a result, planners will be well equipped to identify the specific actors and institutions responsible for these practices and policies as part of Workbook 1B.

BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Biodiversity mainstreaming is defined as "*the integration of biodiversity components and goals into key sectoral plans and policies, using specific mainstreaming instruments*." This section needs to provide answers to the following questions on policies and practices related to biodiversity mainstreaming:

- **Which economic and development sectors** are the most important in driving both negative and positive biodiversity trends?
- What are the **most important practices and policies** within each sector that are driving these trends?
- What are the **market forces and policy factors** that contribute to these sectoral practices?

This is a checklist of key sectors to consider when assessing mainstreaming policies and practices:

Integrating biodiversity…		**…into sectoral plans and policies…**		**…through a variety of approaches**	
Biodiversity goal	Components of biodiversity	Natural resource sectoral plans	Development plans, cross-sectoral plans	Policy and planning	Economic approaches and education
○ Minimize or mitigate threats ○ Restore, improve or maintain ecological integrity ○ Improve protection status ○ Ensure ecological resilience and adaptation	○ Genetic diversity ○ Species and species habitats ○ Populations ○ Ecological processes, functions Landscapes ○ Ecosystems	• Agriculture • Forestry • Fisheries • Freshwater management • Grazing, grassland management • Wildlife management	• Transportation • Poverty alleviation • Tourism and recreation • Energy • Climate adaptation • Manufacturing • Infrastructure • Mining and minerals	• Policy and legal reform • Protected areas, corridors, buffer zones • Management practices and policies • Strategic environmental assessments (SEA/EIA) • Spatial planning and land use planning	• Public-private partnerships • Market-based certification • Voluntary best practices • Economic valuation • Payment for ecosystem services • Technical support • Biodiversity offsets

BIODIVERSITY RESTORATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES

In this section, planners identify the extent to which existing restoration practices and policies affect trends in biodiversity and ecosystem change. Restoration is the process of intentionally returning a damaged species or ecological system to a stable, healthy, and sustainable state, either through active or passive management techniques.

Key questions for policies and practices related to restoration

- ○ Which restoration practices on government, private and community-owned lands and waters are the most important in driving negative and positive trends in biodiversity?
- ○ What are the most important social, economic and policy factors that contribute to these restoration practices?

Checklist of best practices and policies for restoration

Restoration of natural disturbances efforts:	***Control of harmful invasive species efforts:***
• Mimic the frequency and intensity of natural disturbances, such as fires, floods • Reestablishment nutrient cycling • Maintain or reinstate cultural practices that contribute to ecological integrity	• Are consistent with national invasive alien species plans • Aim at removing invasive species that threaten ecological integrity • Identify native species as competitors with invasive species

	• Focus on avoiding the introduction of invasive species
Species reintroductions efforts: • Focus on restoring components of food webs that foster resilience • Use native species in re-introduction programs • Are consistent with species recovery plans • Aim at sufficient genetic diversity to maintain viable populations	***Recreation of native communities or habitats efforts:*** • Allow areas to recover naturally where degradation is minor • Stabilize soil surfaces, stream banks and shorelines through re-initiation of natural processes • Favor a mix of species and genotypes that will facilitate establishment of other native species • Use native genetic material
Management of over-abundant populations • Aim at identifying and rectifying the cause of over-abundant populations • Duplicate the role of natural processes	***Hydrology restoration efforts:*** • Maintain or restore natural hydrologic flow regimes • Restore features, such as woody debris, gravel bars, pools Remove structures such as dams and artificial channels
Water and soil quality • Restoration efforts use in-situ techniques (e.g., phytoremediation) where practical • Restoration efforts restore quality of surface waters, groundwater and soil	***Efforts to improve the abiotic environment*** • Restoration efforts remove constructed features (e.g., roads, buildings) • Restoration efforts amend soil with local, natural organic material
Landscapes and seascapes efforts • Foster ecosystem connectivity and reduce fragmentation • Ensure redundancy at all trophic levels	

Source: Wong, M. 2009

BIODIVERSITY ACCESS AND BENEFITS SHARING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Access and benefits sharing refers to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. In this section, planners identify the extent to which existing access and benefits sharing (ABS) practices and policies affect trends in biodiversity and ecosystem change.

Key questions for policies and practices related to access and benefits sharing that need to be answered through the assessments:

- Which ABS practices are most important in driving negative and positive biodiversity trends and/or in driving inequitable sharing of benefits?
- What are the most important contributing factors to these ABS practices?

Checklist of best practices and policies for access and benefits sharing

Prior Informed Consent ○ Obtain and comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding prior informed consent ○ Identify the national competent authority and determine ownership of genetic resources ○ Establish consultation processes with key stakeholders ○ Ensure that genetic resources are only used as outlined in the prior informed consent agreement ○ For *ex situ* collections, obtain prior informed consent from the competent national authority	***Mutually Agreed Terms*** ○ Comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding benefit-sharing in the country ○ Ensure mutually agreed terms are established in a written agreement ○ Include any conditions, procedures, types, timing and mechanisms to be shared ○ Include the source of material, country of origin and provider of genetic resources, along with associated traditional knowledge
Benefit sharing ○ Consider possible monetary and non-monetary benefits ○ Determine benefit-sharing mechanisms jointly ○ Provide appropriate benefits to research and conservation groups ○ Identify opportunities in the collection location for participation in value-added processes ○ Seek the original provides for re-supplying material ○ Establish appropriate monitoring, tracking and reporting mechanisms in the legal arrangements	***Traditional knowledge*** ○ Establish a process to promote participation of indigenous and local communities ○ Identify all holders of traditional knowledge, local competent authorities and other key groups ○ Consider benefit-sharing mechanisms for knowledge stakeholders not participating in access negotiations ○ Suspend collection if traditional knowledge holders decide that the research is not acceptable ○ Demonstrate respect for traditional knowledge
Conservation and sustainable use • Assess the current conservation status of the species and populations to be sampled or collected, according to the IUCN Red List • Assess current habitat status and any critical environmental concerns, using a combination of scientific methods and local/traditional knowledge • Assess genetic diversity of species of interest for domestication and cultivation • Monitor the status of the resources to ensure harvest does not exceed sustainable yield levels	

Source: IISD, 2012

BROADER ENABLING FACTORS AND ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT

The table below shows some of the many factors that planners might consider when understanding how broader enabling factors that influence policies and practices, which in turn influence biodiversity. Planners may also want to consider broader policy environment factors, such as political will, leadership, lobbying by interest groups, public media, inter-sectoral coordination, public participation and inter-agency alignment, among other factors.

	Contributing factors for biodiversity mainstreaming	**Contributing factors for protection**	**Contributing factors for restoration**	**Contributing factors for access and benefits sharing**
Laws and policies	• Laws related to each sector • Enforcement and prosecution of illegal practices	• Protected areas laws • Enforcement of illegal activities • Laws related to illegal trade of species	• Laws related to restoration • Enforcement of restoration requirements	• Laws related to access and benefits sharing • Enforcement of ABS agreements
Subsidies and incentives	• Incentives for sectoral practices • Perverse subsidies that drive unsustainable practices	• Incentives for the creation of new private protected areas, corridors • Fees, taxes, fines and other instruments	• Incentives for restoration • Restoration fees, taxes, fines	• Incentives for activities related to access and benefits sharing

Policy and planning	• Quality and use of existing land use plans • Sectoral policies and plans that promote sustainable sectoral practices	• Degree of existing protection • System- and site-level protection policies • Status of key protected area assessments	• Existing restoration plans, identification of degraded areas • Extent to which key ecosystem services and climate resilience sites are identified	• National policies and plans related to ABS • Degree of prior informed consent • Existence of mutually agreed terms
Socio-economic conditions	• Poverty • Awareness of the value of biodiversity to key sectors	• Awareness of the value of protection • Dependence on protected areas for livelihoods, subsistence	• Poverty, inequity and other conditions that drive degradation • Awareness the value of restoration to key sectors	• Awareness of key sectors of the importance of ABS • Degree of recognition of traditional knowledge
Market forces	• Independent certification of • Market competition • International trade • Market prices, stability and volatility	• Market demand for products within protected areas • Market demand for protected area ecosystem services	• Market demand for ecosystem services provided through restoration • Degree of existing degradation	• Market demand for products falling under ABS agreements

Workbook 1B: Institutional review

The purpose of a biodiversity institutional review is to clearly identify the specific institutions involved in policies, practices, expenditures and strategies related to biodiversity mainstreaming, protection, restoration and access and benefit sharing. By identifying these key institutions and by analyzing the alignment with sustainable development and biodiversity goals, planners can pinpoint key areas for fiscal reform and resource mobilization.

Key questions for an institutional review include:

- **Roles in biodiversity planning and finance:**
  - What specific role does the institution play in biodiversity-related finance?
  - In what ways does the institution influence biodiversity finance decisions?
  - How stable is this role?
  - How clear are roles and responsibilities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefits sharing between different government departments and within and between ministries?
- **Biodiversity impacts and dependencies**:
  - To what extent does the institution have a negative and positive impact on biodiversity?
  - How dependent is this sector on healthy and functioning biodiversity and ecosystem services?
- **Alignment with national biodiversity-related objectives:**
  - Does institutional collaboration and coordination on biodiversity need to be strengthened? If so, how?
  - Are the organizational structures compatible with biodiversity policies and strategies, as well as their legal mandates?
  - How consistent are the institution's policies with national biodiversity policies? Are there areas of conflict?
- **Overall institutional capacity:**
  - What is the capacity of local government to fulfil any service delivery role related to biodiversity?

Source: Bird et al., 2012

Checklist of key institutions to consider

Public actors:
- Central government & ministries
- District/local government
- Governmental institutions
- Public research institutions and academia

Private sector/business actors:
- Business
- Industry
- Private research institutions and academia
- Private sector foundations

Private actors:
- Private foundations
- Private communities
- Private associations

International organisations:
- Multilateral institutions
- Bilateral donors
- International NGOs

Workbook 1C: Public and private biodiversity expenditure review

A biodiversity expenditure review is an analysis of the key biodiversity-related expenditures, including expenditures with both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity, by public and private financial actors, agencies, investors and institutions. A biodiversity expenditure review is the basis for setting a financial baseline, as well as for developing a 'business as usual' finance projection for the future.

Key questions for a biodiversity expenditure review include:

- What is the total government budget for the past 4-8 years?
- What is the total government expenditure for the past 4-8 years?
- What is the total amount of foreign loans and grants for the past 4-8 years?
- What has the gross domestic product been for the past 4-8 years?
- What are the key biodiversity finance actors, agents, institutions and investors?
- What are the specific divisions, departments or companies within each finance actor?
- What are the cost codes or cost centers that can be used to determine total biodiversity expenditure?
- What is the total annual budget for the past 4 years for each finance actor?
- What is the total biodiversity-related budget for the past 4 years for each finance actor?
- What is the total actual expenditure for the past 4 years for each finance actor?

- What is the total actual biodiversity expenditure for the past 4 years for each finance actor?
- What is the effectiveness of biodiversity-related expenditures for each finance actor over the past 4-8 years?
- What have been the most significant expenditures with negative impacts on biodiversity in the past 4-8 years for each actor?
- What is the source of funding for each finance actor, and the breakdown of biodiversity expenditures into each major NBSAP strategy?

Examples of expenditures with a negative impact on biodiversity include:

- Subsidies for polluting industries and activities, such as fossil fuels, pesticides
- Production practices that are not resource efficient
- Incentives to convert natural ecosystems to agriculture, development
- Expenditures directly connected to the destruction of biodiversity, e.g. logging, over-harvesting of species, conversion of natural ecosystems
- Subsidies for manufacturing industries that pollute waterways
- Subsidies for housing that results in conversion of sensitive habitats
- Investment in roads that result in isolation and fragmentation

Relevancy and effectiveness

Two key issues are expenditure relevancy (the degree to which expenditures are relevant to biodiversity outcomes, whether intended or unintended, and whether having a positive or negative impact on biodiversity) and expenditure effectiveness (the degree to which the expenditure achieves the specific intended results).

Guidance on determining relevance of expenditures:

High relevance	Expenditures for activities where the primary intended outcome or objective aims at biodiversity conservation, sustainable use or equitable benefits sharing
Medium relevance	Expenditures for activities where either the secondary intended outcome or objective is biodiversity conservation, sustainable use or equitable benefits sharing; or there is a mixed range of activities, some of which include primary or secondary intended outcomes for biodiversity objectives
Low relevance	Expenditures for activities where indirect biodiversity benefits may arise, but not as a direct or indirect objective of the expenditure or activity
Very low relevance	Expenditures that have only very indirect or theoretical linkages to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use or equitable benefits sharing

Guidance on determining effectiveness of expenditures

High	The expenditure fully met the intended objectives, with little or not waste (e.g., funds were spent to create a new protected area, which was successfully established)
Medium	The expenditure partially or mostly met the intended objectives, with some acceptable levels of waste and inefficiency (e.g., funds were spent to eliminate invasive alien species, with partial success)
Low	The expenditure mostly did not meet the intended objective; and/or there were moderate to high levels of waste and inefficiency (e.g., funds were spent to plant trees, with high levels of mortality)
Very low	The expenditure did not meet, or only marginally met, the intended objectives; and/or there were excessive amounts of waste (e.g., funds were spent on training with high staff turnover)

PART II: Defining the costs of implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

Workbook 2A: Biodiversity Strategies, Actions and their Costs

Workbook 2A helps to provide a summary of all of the costs involved in implementing the biodiversity strategies within the NBSAP. It includes 5 sections, each covering the one-time and recurring costs of different categories of strategies within the NBSAPs, including:

1. ***Costs of biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable use strategies***: A summary of the one-time and recurring costs for 2015-2016; 2017-2018; and 2019-2020 for biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable use strategies, including strategies related to the integration of biodiversity into sectoral, development and poverty alleviation and into sustainable use, production and consumption of biodiversity resources
2. ***Costs of protection strategies***: A summary of the one-time costs and recurring costs for 2015-2016; 2017-2018; and 2019-2020 for protection strategies, including *in situ* and *ex situ* strategies.
3. ***Costs of restoration strategies***: A summary of the one-time costs and recurring costs for 2015-2016; 2017-2018; and 2019-2020 for restoration strategies, including the maintenance of essential ecosystem services, strengthening climate resilience, and promoting adaptation and mitigation.
4. ***Costs of access and benefits sharing strategies***: A summary of the one-time costs and recurring costs for 2015-2016; 2017-2018; and 2019-2020 for access and benefits-sharing strategies, including strategies related to securing prior informed consent, mutually agreed terms, benefits sharing

arrangements, traditional knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of key ABS species, and legal enforcement of agreements, among others.

5. ***Costs of implementation strategies:*** A summary of the one-time costs and recurring costs for 2015-2016; 2017-2018; and 2019-2020, for implementation strategies, including strategies related to public outreach and communication, and strategies related to knowledge, research, data and data management, among others.

The vast majority of strategies will have several sub-strategies, each of which will have numerous actions. This table is intended to be used for each action within each strategy or sub-strategy.

CALCULATING THE COST OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS									
Strategy:					**Intended result of strategy:**				
Action 1:					**Intended result of action:**				
Information on estimated costs for this action			Human resources	Equipment, materials	Fees and services	Travel	Other costs	Total	Data and assumptions
One-time costs/investment Year:	Description of cost element								
	Unit of cost element								
	Estimated units required	High							
		Total estimated range of cost	High						
		Low	Medium						
	Estimated cost per unit	High	Low						
		Information on estimated costs for this action	Human resources	Equipment, materials	Fees and services	Travel	Other costs	**Total**	Data and assumptions
		Description of cost element							
		Unit of cost element							
		Estimated units required	High/ Medium / Low						
On-going operations and management: 2015-2016 (to be repeated for other periods)			Estimated cost per unit	High					
				Medium					
			Low						
		Total estimated range of cost	High						
			Medium						
			Low						
		Information on estimated costs for this action	Human resources	Equipment, materials	Fees and services	Travel	Other costs	**Total**	Data and assumptions
		Description of cost element							
		Unit of cost element							
		Estimated units	High						
			required						
				Medium					
				Low					

Workbook 2A is intended to be used as a reporting worksheet, not as a data management system for calculating costs. This approach, as well as Supplementary Worksheet 26 on "Calculating the Costs of Specific Actions," are based on a model of cost accounting. Cost accounting is a process of collecting, analyzing, summarizing and evaluating alternative courses of financial investment in order to allow managers and policy makers to make informed decisions about the most cost-effective course of action. The particular approach used in the BIOFIN Methodology is called "Activity-Based Cost Accounting." This type of cost accounting, which was developed in the manufacturing sector in the 1970s and 1980s, is a methodology that allows planners to identify key activities required to achieve a certain objective, assign the direct and indirect costs of undertaking each activity, and develop budgets.

This approach to budgeting and accounting contrasts with the budgeting process used by many governments. While actual budgeting approaches very between governments, many use a simple "line-item budgeting" approach, where a budget is determined largely as the result of a political negotiations, or is a percentage of previous annual budgets, with minimal linkages to the explicit goals or objectives to be accomplished.

Most governments use a more sophisticated approach than activity-based cost accounting, involving algorithms and models to factor in the costs of alternative courses of action (including the costs and benefits of inaction), the intended results of the expenditures, and the estimated return and cost effectiveness of the investment, among other elements. The simple activity-based cost accounting model presented in the BIOFIN Methodology is simply a tool to gauge the actual investments required to complete the Strategies and Actions within the NBSAP. Governments participating in the BIOFIN Initiative can choose to use their own systems to calculate costs and benefits, and simply report on the overall cost of implementing the NBSAP when they complete the BIOFIN national report. If governments do not have complex modeling systems to determine the tradeoffs between costs and benefits, they can still use the costs identified through Workbook 2A and Supplementary Workbook 26, to compare different investment scenarios and to effectively make the case for investments in biodiversity to key decision makers within their countries. The Targeted Scenario Analysis can be particularly helpful in that step.

Workbook 2B: Overall costs, projected expenditures and finance gaps

Once the costs for all strategies and actions have been identified, the next step is to summarize all of these costs. These costs can then be compared with the past financial baseline, as well as the projected future.

Sample of high, medium and low costs for a specific strategy and actions

Create connectivity corridor	Cost elements	High	Med	Low
Land acquisition	Staff, materials, travel, land acquisition	250K	175K	125K
Inventory and site analysis	Staff, materials, travel	125K	100K	75K
Community training program	Staff, materials, travel	450K	350K	250K

Sample spreadsheet showing elements that should be captured at this stage:

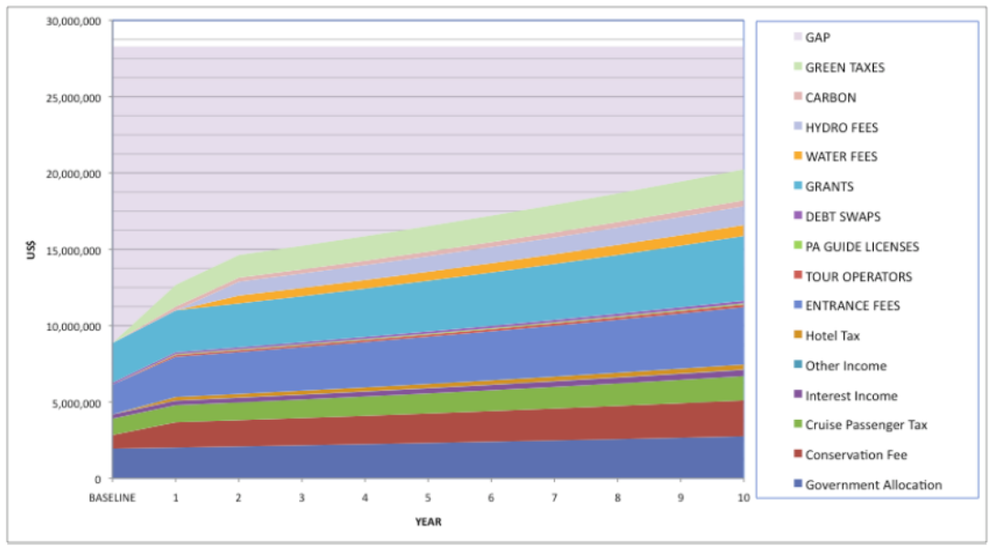
COST OF IMPLEMENTING NEW NBSAP STRATEGIES – RECURRING COSTS									
	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Total
TOTAL RECURRING COSTS OF ALL STRATEGIES									
COST OF IMPLEMENTING NEW NBSAP STRATEGIES – ONE-TIME COSTS									
	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Total
ONE-TIME COSTS OF STRATEGIES									
PROJECTED "BUSINESS AS USUAL" FINANCE SCENARIO FOR BIODIVERSITY									
	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Total
PROTECTED "BUSINESS AS USUAL" SCENARIO									
SECTION 4: FINANCIAL GAP BY STRATEGY									
	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Total
TOTAL FINANCIAL GAP FOR ALL COSTS									

Some useful definitions include:

1. ***One-time costs:*** Expenditures which will only occur once, such as acquisition of land when establishing a protected areas, or the construction of infrastructure such as a building or road.
2. ***Recurring costs:*** expenditures which occur regularly (typically annually, although not always). Examples include operational costs (staff, travel, fees) and maintenance (equipment replacement, software, repair)
3. ***Business as usual finance scenario:*** The projected level of public and private expenditure based on estimates of past funding, and based on any additional information, such as political commitments to increase funding.

Example: Developing strategies to fill finance gaps:

Belize recently concluded a project that assessed the existing 'business as usual' scenario for protected areas. The total annual protected area system revenue for 2010 was $10,670,812 (see below). But the total financing need for the protected area system ranged from $18.5 to $28.3 million. The study showed a variety of potential finance mechanisms for closing this financial gap.



Source: Drumm, Echeverría and Almendarez, 2012.

PART III: Mobilizing resources

Workbook 3A: Potential finance actors, mechanisms, revenue and feasibility

The third component of the resource mobilization approach starts with identifying biodiversity finance actors, (any individual, group or entity that could potentially provide funding for biodiversity objectives through a financial mechanism); and finance mechanisms (any instrument or tool that enables potential revenue to be captured). The institutional and expenditure reviews should provide much input.

Key questions for identifying biodiversity finance actors and mechanisms include:

- Who are the potential finance actors, agents, investors and/or institutions?

- What are the potential biodiversity finance mechanisms?
- What is the total estimated revenue potential from each finance mechanism?
- Which NBSAP strategy or strategies would this finance mechanism target?
- What is the feasibility of the finance mechanism?
- What are the changes that would be required to implement the finance mechanism?
- What is the total estimated new revenue for each NBSAP strategy?

Feasibility screening criteria

Financial considerations 1. How much money will be needed each year? 2. How much annual revenue is likely to be generated? 3. Will the revenues be worth the set up cost? 4. Could the revenues vary depending on global and national economic and political conditions? 5. How will a variable revenue flow affect the conservation programs targeted by the mechanism? 6. What other sources of funds might be available, either on a long-term or a one-time basis?	***Legal considerations*** 1. Can the proposed financing mechanisms be established under the country's current legal system? 2. Will new legislation be required in order to establish the proposed financing mechanism? 3. How difficult and time-consuming will it be to pass such legislation? 4. Could the new financing mechanism be established under current legislation, by simply issuing an administrative or executive order?
Administrative 1. How difficult will it be to administer, enforce, collect, or implement the financing mechanism? 2. Are there enough trained people to administer it? 3. Are there too many opportunities for corruption? 4. Can safeguards be devised to avoid problems? 5. How difficult will it be to collect, verify, and maintain the data upon which a financing mechanism is based?	***Political*** 1. Is there government support for the new mechanism? 2. Will the government spend the new revenues for the purposes intended? 3. Can application of the mechanism be monitored and ensured by 'watchdog' organizations or by courts?
Social 1. What will be the social impacts of implementing a particular system? 2. Who will pay, and what is their capacity to pay? 3. Will the new financing mechanism be perceived as equitable and legitimate?	***Environmental*** 1. What will be the environmental impact of implementing the new financing mechanism? (E.g., will the will the desire to increase revenues from tourism compromise conservation objectives?

Source: Spergel and Moye 2004

The following is a checklist of commonly used finance mechanisms:

FINANCIAL MECHANISMS	DESCRIPTION
Positive tax incentives	Develop tax credits and tax deductions for behaviors, products and services that cause positive changes in ecosystem management
Negative tax incentives	Develop taxes on behaviors, products and services that cause positive changes in ecosystem management
Dedicated funds	Develop funds to pay for sustainable management of ecosystems
Reduction of subsidies	Reduce or remove harmful subsidies, such as on fertilizers, and increase subsidies that have beneficial impacts on ecosystems
Caps and limits on trade	Set limits on certain ecosystem goods and services, such as water use
Procurement policies	Design procurement policies for public and private entities to promote the purchase of goods and services that promote sustainable ecosystem management
Payments for ecosystem services	Develop schemes that allow a group of beneficiaries to pay for the costs of maintaining ecosystem services (e.g., water payments for ecosystem services that allow downstream users to pay for forest protection upstream)
Independent certification	Promote market-based certification systems for sustainably produced goods and services using agreed upon standards and verifiable chain-of-custody
Biodiversity offsets and wetlands banking	Biodiversity offsets promote a framework for reducing biodiversity loss by allowing companies from different sectors (e.g., mining) to protect equivalent areas of land and biodiversity using agreed upon standards
Fines and levies	Establish punitive fees and fines that discourage environmentally harmful behavior, such as bottom trawling practices
Conservation easements	Establish long-term agreements between landowners and third-party organizations, such as land trusts, to foster conservation on private lands
Voluntary and mandatory fees	Develop voluntary fees (such as a hotel or tourism fee) that allows individuals to contribute to sustainable management, and develop mandatory fees (such as airport departure fees) that can be directed toward sustainable management

Workbook 3b: Integrated and operational resource mobilization plan

The final stage of the resource mobilization process is to develop a resource mobilization plan, consisting of a concrete set of actions to mobilize the financial resources required to implement the full suite of strategies within the NBSAP, and therefore to achieve the Aichi Targets.

Key questions when developing a resource mobilization plan include:

- Which existing resource allocations have already been identified through the expenditure review?
- What are the primary finance mechanisms that will constitute the main resource mobilization plan?
- What are the key actions and steps for implementing each mechanism?
- Who are the lead agencies, institutions and individuals responsible for taking each action?
- What are the key budget considerations involved in taking each action?
- What is the timeframe by which each action will be completed?
- What are the monitoring and evaluation indicators that will help determine success in implementing the strategies and actions?

After screening and prioritizing the different finance mechanisms and actors, planners can create a realistic, practical strategy for implementing the resource mobilization plan, based on the template from the BIOFIN workbook.

Finance actors	Finance mechanisms	Key steps in implementing financial mechanism	Lead agency, staff, individuals	Key budget considerations in implementing financial strategy or mechanism	Timeframe	Monitoring indicators
• Finance actor 1	• Finance mechanism 1	• Step 1 • Step 2 • Step 3	• Agency 1 • Agency 2 • Agency 3			
	• Finance mechanism 2	• Step 1 • Step 2 • Step 3	• Agency 1 • Agency 2 • Agency 3			
• Finance actor 2	• Finance mechanism 1	• Step 1 • Step 2 • Step 3	• Agency 1 • Agency 2 • Agency 3			
	• Finance mechanism 2	• Step 1 • Step 2 • Step 3	• Agency 1 • Agency 2 • Agency 3			

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