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Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

**Capacity-building and development, technical and
scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism
and knowledge management**

Progress report on technical and scientific cooperation**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 25 of decision 15/8, the Conference of the Parties established a mechanism comprising a network of regional, and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to be coordinated by a global coordination entity. In paragraph 32, it requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to implement and support the process for selecting entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres; and to identify donors that could provide additional funding to the selected entity(ies) and organizations to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

2. In paragraph 28 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also decided in the interim to strengthen and scale up the Bio-Bridge Initiative for the coming biennium, subject to the availability of resources and urged Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to scale up financial, technical and human resources to further promote technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, at the global, national, regional, and subregional levels;.

3. In paragraph 32 (a) of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in collaboration with Parties, relevant partners, the regional and/or subregional support centres and the global coordination entity, other organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities.

4. Furthermore, in paragraphs 32(d), (e), (f) and (g) of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat:

(d) To maintain synergy and collaboration with biodiversity-related conventions, and relevant organizations, initiatives and networks, including the

* CBD/COP/16/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity and others that have technical and scientific expertise, technologies and information, and/or are involved in biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation activities;

(e) To maintain active communication with Parties and relevant stakeholders with a view to keeping them and the public informed of the achievements of the technical and scientific cooperation support activities; and

(f) To organize, in collaboration with relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities, biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos, round tables and other events to showcase technical and scientific cooperation initiatives, technologies and opportunities; and

(g) To compile relevant information related to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the field of biological diversity for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and to make it available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism,

5. The present document provides a progress report on the technical and scientific cooperation activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15), up to September 2024. Section II contains an update on the support provided by the Secretariat in the operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. Section III contains an update on the activities and achievements under the Bio-Bridge Initiative while section IV highlights other technical and scientific cooperation initiatives carried out by the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and partners. A brief description of the new projects supported by the Bio-Bridge Initiative is included in the annex.

II. Operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

6. Pursuant to decision 15/8, the Secretariat, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation (IAG), implemented the process for selecting entities and organizations to host regional and/or subregional technical and scientific support centres. The Secretariat circulated the report of the Informal Advisory Group on the assessment of entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres and its advice on the most suitable entities and organizations and the number of centres required¹ to all Parties and invited them to submit their views. Subsequently, the Secretariat submitted the report of the Informal Advisory Group together with a compilation of views submitted by Parties to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration.

7. During the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in May 2024, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the advice provided by the IAG, selected 18 entities and organizations to host subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres. A notification was issued on 21 June 2024² announcing the selected support centres.

8. The Secretariat, with support from the Bio-Bridge Initiative, has initiated various activities to support the operationalization of the selected subregional support centres. In particular, the Secretariat:

(a) Invited Parties, through their national focal points, to confirm the centre they wished to work with, following the announcement of the selected support centres.

(b) Carried out introductory online consultations and an initial brainstorming session with all the selected centres on the possible next steps.

¹ [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#)

² [Notification 2024-058](#)

(c) Initiated preparations for a first joint coordination meeting of all the 18 support centres, scheduled to take place on 20 October 2024 in Cali, Colombia. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the representatives of the centres to get acquainted, to better understand the roles and responsibilities of the centres, to share progress made so far in operationalizing the centres and to discuss next steps.

(d) Developed and circulated for comments and feedback a draft host agreement to be signed with the selected entities and organizations.

(e) Initiated efforts to identify and mobilize resources to enable the support centres to kickstart their activities. It secured funds from the European Union to hire a consultant to support the operationalization of the support centres, including through conducting appraisal missions and providing technical advice and capacity-building support to various subregional support centres. It also submitted a proposal to the Kunming Biodiversity Fund to, *inter alia*, enable the selected centres to organize kick-off planning and consultative meetings with Parties and partners in their respective subregions, set up the necessary institutional governance and management arrangements, conduct rapid needs assessments, and develop their first biennial business plan and programmes of work on the basis on identified needs and priorities, and

(f) Initiated discussions with various organizations and initiatives, including the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, about potential partnership opportunities with the support centres.

9. With regards to the global coordination entity, the Secretariat, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, prepared draft elements of modalities for its operationalization, which were considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting. Based on these, a draft decision has been prepared for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting and made available in the compilation of decisions under item 12.3

10. Pursuant to recommendation 4/5⁴ of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the Secretariat also prepared and submitted estimates of the resources required for hosting and operationalizing the global coordination entity, with scalable options for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.⁵

III. Update on progress with the Bio-Bridge Initiative

11. The Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI)⁶ has continued to make noteworthy progress since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as outlined below. Since its inception in 2016, BBI has directly and indirectly engaged with 149 country Parties through its different services and activities.

A. BBI demonstration projects

12. BBI's main support mechanism continued to be the seed funding facility, which provides small grants to catalyze the development of projects that promote technical and scientific cooperation approaches, particularly through South-South and triangular cooperation, to address issues and challenges relevant to the Convention and its Protocols. Two calls for proposals were processed since the last Conference of the Parties. These have led to direct support to 40 technical and scientific

³ [CBD/COP/16/Rev.1](#)

⁴ [CBD/SBI/4/5](#)

⁵ [CBD/COP/16/9](#)

⁶ The Bio-Bridge Initiative is a programme focused on catalyzing and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation among Parties by linking Parties that have technical and scientific needs with Parties and institutions that are in a position to respond to these needs through mutual partnerships and through incubation of new initiatives using small seed funding. It was launched in 2014 in the margins of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in the Republic of Korea.

cooperation projects and partnerships. In total, BBI has supported 79 demonstration projects since its inception.⁷

13. Of the 16 projects that received catalytic support as part of the fourth round of BBI projects, 11 were successfully completed and closed during the intersessional period. Five projects are still under implementation, after having been granted a no-cost extension. A brief description of all 16 projects under the fourth round is available in the annex below.

14. The fifth call for proposals was launched through the notification issued on 3 January 2024⁸ and a social media campaign.⁹ Following the call, the Secretariat received 90 proposals, 38 of which successfully passed stages 1 and 2 of the selection process. The Project Review Panel¹⁰ subsequently evaluated the 38 pre-selected proposals for their technical merit according to set criteria. A total of 24 projects were selected for funding and announced through the notification issued on 28 August 2024.¹¹ Each project will receive up to US\$ 20,000 to catalyze partnership-building activities to address technical and scientific cooperation needs

15. Similarly to the previous call, it was decided to set aside a small number of grants to support projects previously supported by BBI, which delivered impactful and innovative biodiversity solutions and presented exceptional prospects to be scaled up and/or replicated in other countries.

B. BBI tools and help desk services

16. Since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, BBI has continued to provide and maintain tools and services to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and support Parties in meeting identified technical and scientific needs. These include the BBI website,¹² which is routinely updated as new information becomes available. In particular, the projects page features brief descriptions of all projects previously and currently supported by BBI,¹³ as well as the terms of reference of those projects and their final reports as they become available.

17. During the intersessional period, several new opportunities (fellowship programmes, grants, scholarships, or training opportunities) were registered and publicized, bringing to 219 the total number of opportunities that have been registered on the web platform. The opportunities are automatically archived after their respective deadlines have passed.

C. 2024 Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo

18. During the past year, the Bio-Bridge Initiative supported the Secretariat in the organization of the 2024 Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo.¹⁴ The Expo aims to provide a platform to showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovative solutions relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and to highlight opportunities that could be offered by technology and innovation in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global

⁷ See the BBI website for brief descriptions of all projects supported by BBI. Details of the projects activated under the fifth call for proposals can be found here: <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/projects/selected>. Details of the project activated under the previous calls are available here: <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/projects/completed>.

⁸ [Notification 2024-001](#)

⁹ The call for proposals posts performed very well, with more than 50,900 impressions on Facebook, over 7,800 impressions on X (former Twitter) and over 7,400 impressions on LinkedIn.

¹⁰ The Project Review Panel is currently composed of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the chair of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, the co-chairs of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, a representative of the Government of the Republic of Korea, and a representative of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

¹¹ [Notification 2024-089](#)

¹² <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge>

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/projects/selected>

¹⁴ This is a follow-up to the first Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair which the Secretariat organized in the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018 to showcase technologies and innovative solutions that can be leveraged to solve biodiversity-related challenges. More information is available [here](#).

Biodiversity Framework. It also aims to facilitate interactions among relevant stakeholders and foster strategic partnerships for the development and/or deployment of new technologies and tools.

19. The Expo will run over the duration of the two weeks of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16), thanks to the five exhibition booths made available free of charge by the host government. Each booth will be allocated to a different exhibitor for three days at a time, for a total of 20 exhibitors.

20. A call for expressions of interest was launched through a notification issued on 5 July 2024,¹⁵ following which 112 applications were received. A thorough assessment of all applications was carried out and 20 exhibitors were selected and announced through notification issued on 14 September 2024.¹⁶ The full list of exhibitors, as well as additional information on the logistics pertaining to the event, is available on the webpage of COP 16.¹⁷

III. Other technical and scientific cooperation initiatives

21. Pursuant to decisions XII/2 B, XIII/23, 14/24 and 15/8 of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has, in collaboration with various partners, undertaken further activities to support and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention.

22. In addition to the Bio-Bridge Initiative described above, the Secretariat is promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation in the context of the Convention and its Protocols through various thematic programmes and capacity-building initiatives and partnerships. These include the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI),¹⁸ the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI),¹⁹ the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative (PBDI),²⁰ the Biosafety Capacity-Building Initiative,²¹ the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC),²² and the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species.²³ Updates on the progress made under these programmes and initiatives are provided on their respective web pages and in document CBD/SBI/4/INF/4.²⁴

23. Since the last conference of the Parties, the Secretariat also continued to facilitate the work of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP).²⁵ During in-person meeting of CSP organized on 12 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, a new member, the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography joined the Consortium. A meeting of all CSP members took place virtually on 11 June 2024. Several teleconferences were organized with the CSP co-chairs and partners during the biennium to plan activities of interest to members.

24. The CSP co-chairs have been involved in supporting several other relevant activities and initiatives, including serving on the Bio-Bridge Initiative Project Review Panel; representing the CSP in the Global Taxonomy Initiative Forum and serving as ex-officio members of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. Three member institutions of the CSP were selected to host subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres.

25. As part of its continued contribution to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, the CSP has co-organized the sixth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity, which will take place in

¹⁵ [Notification 2024-069](#)

¹⁶ [Notification 2024-094](#)

¹⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024/parallel-meetings/tech-innovation-expo>

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/restoration/feri>

¹⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/soi/>

²⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/peace>

²¹ https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art22.shtml

²² For further information, please refer to [CBD/16/INF/34](#)

²³ For further information, please refer to [CBD/16/INF/28](#)

²⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/a408/70ed/056f6b8e46c84e1d706418c1/sbi-04-inf-04-en.pdf>

²⁵ CSP is a network that includes 28 leading technical and scientific institutions located in different regions of the world. The Consortium's mandate is to leverage the expertise and experience of these institutions in order to implement education and training activities to support developing countries that are building scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity.

the margins of COP 16, from 26 to 27 October 2024 in Cali, Colombia.²⁶ The Forum is designed to provide a space for scientists, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss practical ways to support the implementation of the Convention. It is organized jointly with the ninth International Conference on Sustainability Science (ICSS 9), in close collaboration with the Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI) of the University of Tokyo, the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and several other partners on the organization of the event.²⁷

²⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024/parallel-meetings/science-forum>

²⁷ Other partners involved in the organization of the Forum sessions include the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, UN Environment, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UNEP-International Ecosystem Management Partnership, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the International Science Council, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Stockholm Resilience Centre, and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. Other contributors include the United Nations Development Programme, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the University of Bonn (Capacity Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts in West, Central & East Africa), the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, NatureServe, VertNet and the Young Ecosystem Services Specialists.

Annex

Bio-Bridge Initiative demonstration projects since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Parties	Project title	Project summary	Implementation period & status
Fifth round of projects			
Argentina in collaboration with Brazil	Restoration of <i>Alouatta Guariba</i> Populations: A Binational Management Program for the Conservation of the Brown Howler Monkey in the Atlantic Forest	This project is designed to help restore the population of the brown howler monkey (<i>Alouatta Guariba</i>) in the Argentine Atlantic Forest with the technical cooperation of Brazil. While the five primate species found in Argentina are threatened with extinction, the brown howler monkey is at extreme risk. Reintroduction of the species is considered as a priority and could be carried out in ten potential areas of the Misiones region. Since there is no brown howler monkey in captivity in Argentina, the individuals to be reintroduced must be imported from Brazil, the only other country where the species inhabits. The project will entail carrying out training of Argentine technicians and scientists on <i>ex situ</i> management and engagement with local community members on the importance of the conservation of the species.	Selected
Cameroon in collaboration with United States of America	Assessing the Impacts of Potential Pollutants and Bycatch on the Genetic Diversity of Shark and Ray Populations along the Cameroon Coastline: Towards Sustainable Conservation Strategies	This collaborative research project aims to investigate the effects of potential pollutants and bycatch on the genetic diversity of shark and ray populations along the Cameroon coastline, the two major threats affecting the species' population structures. The region faces challenges due to increasing anthropogenic activities leading to environmental degradation. In particular, pollution from various sources poses a significant risk to the health and genetic diversity of shark and ray populations. Additionally, bycatch incidents in fishing activities result in further exacerbating population decline and genetic vulnerabilities. The study will consist in conducting data collection in bycatch hotspots on the Cameroon coastline, to then carry out genetic analysis and tissue-specific targeted analysis of 153 primary pollutants. Working with local fishing communities, the data will be used to develop relevant evidence-based conservation strategies.	Selected
Colombia in collaboration with Dominican Republic	Strengthening Coral Reef Monitoring Capacity for Coral	The goal of this project is to build on the work developed during the BBI-funded project under Round 4, focusing on increasing real-time	Selected

	Conservation: A Collaborative Approach	reporting, fostering environmental stewardship, and supporting decision-making for coral reef conservation through the training of individual divers. Coral reefs face numerous challenges, including diseases and bleaching events. Due to limited resources, many reef areas are not adequately monitored, resulting in critical gaps in data collection and reporting. Citizen science serves as a valuable tool provide early warnings of events for environmental organizations to take action. Reef Check is a standardized protocol utilized for monitoring the health of coral reefs globally. The project aims to help expanding the number of certified Reef Check trainers in both Colombia and the Dominican Republic to broaden the impact areas of coral reef monitoring efforts.	
Costa Rica in collaboration with Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama	Baird's Tapir Survival Alliance: Scaling up Tapir Conservation Through Collaborative Evidence-based Strategies in Mesoamerica	This project is designed to foster technical and scientific cooperation among like-minded organizations in Mesoamerica working on the protection of Baird's tapirs through capacity building, research, direct conservation actions, and awareness campaigns. The Baird's tapir plays a key role in maintaining the integrity of neotropical forest ecosystems of Mesoamerica, which constitutes a biodiversity hotspot, but various human-caused factors have resulted in the endangered status of the species. This project will focus on compiling and organizing previously collected data, conducting and publishing a Green Status assessment for the Baird's tapir, and further developing the Baird's Tapir Survival Alliance's Theory of Change to inform future priorities for collaboration based on the results of the Green Status assessment.	Selected
Dominican Republic in collaboration with United States of America	Enhancing Caribbean Seabird Conservation through Regional Collaboration	This project is part of an ongoing effort to enhance the capacity of seabird conservationists throughout the Caribbean region using training, a collaborative survey, and technical assistance. There are only about 100 practitioners directly engaged in seabird conservation across the Caribbean. They are concerned with meta-populations of over 20 species that move across 30 political territories and seek out remote areas to breed, making their study difficult and expensive. The region is globally important to seabird populations, which play a vital role in sustaining the local ecology. Yet Caribbean seabirds are highly vulnerable to the threats of coastal development, invasive species, and climate change.	Selected

		The goal of the project is to help empower territories to generate and utilize data to inform their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including the designation of Key Biodiversity Areas.	
India in collaboration with Nepal	Developing Restoration Success Likelihood Index for Burnt Forested Landscapes	This project focuses on developing research on potential natural regeneration after a wildfire, with a view to improving the functional restoration of deciduous forests. Existing knowledge on fire occurrences and modern tools and techniques help determine the response to fire of different landscapes through indicators such as forest cover and canopy density. However, these focus mainly on plant communities, with the assumption that maintaining flora maintains fauna. The response of fauna to fire regimes is poorly known, which makes it difficult to predict the overall recovery of ecosystem processes. The team will prepare a Success Likelihood Index to infer success probability of passive recovery under various fire regimes and site characteristics and validate the Index through ground surveys so that it can be integrated in forest governance plans.	Selected
Indonesia in collaboration with the Kingdom of the Netherlands	<i>MangroveAI</i> : Integrating Community and Technology for Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management in Lombok	This project aims to integrate community efforts from the Indonesia Biru Foundation with advanced technological solutions developed by Dutch-based Reef Support to monitor and enhance the conservation and sustainable management of the Cemare Mangrove ecosystem in Lombok. Indonesia boasts extensive coastlines and marine territories, contributing to its status as home to the world's largest mangrove forest. These mangrove ecosystems play a crucial role in supporting various life forms, among other benefits. Unfortunately, illegal logging, coupled with insufficient public awareness and the broader challenge of waste management, have led to significant ecological harm, even resulting in the extinction of certain mangrove species. The partners will work together to implement advanced remote sensing and computer vision technologies to enable more accurate and efficient data collection, analysis, and environmental management, crucial for understanding ecosystem health, detecting changes, and guiding restoration efforts.	Selected
Iran (Islamic Republic of) in collaboration with Denmark	Modelling Suitable Habitats of an Endangered Species (<i>Tecomella Undulata</i>) Under Climate Change, with Emphasis on Increasing the Level of Awareness of Local	A joint initiative of Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman in Iran and the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, this project focuses on identifying environmental factors harming rohida (<i>Tecomella Undulata</i>) habitat and assessing the severity of these impacts. Rohida is a flowering tree that is restricted to endangered thin forest habitats in Oman, Iran and India. In addition to numerous	Selected

	Communities and Users and their Participation in Habitat Conservation in Kerman Province, Iran	ornamental, industrial and agroforestry applications, rohida is considered a valuable medicinal species due to active ingredients, which have proven effects in the treatment of major diseases. The project partners will model suitable habitats of rohida to predict effects of global change, investigate environmental constraints and determining potential cultivation in other suitable areas, educate local communities on sustainable exploitation and conservation, and mobilize local volunteer conservation groups to preserve vital habitat.	
Jordan in collaboration with Oman and United States of America	Using Bat Acoustics Recording Tools to Study the Bat Biodiversity in Jordan and Oman	The goal of this project is to build on the work developed during the BBI-funded project under Round 4, focusing on studying the biodiversity and bio distribution of bat species across Jordan and Oman using bat echolocation instruments. Bats use ultrasound waves to locate and prey. Each species has a distinctive frequency that differ from the ones produced by other species. Wildlife specialists use this feature to identify bat species without capturing, handling, or taking samples. By monitoring bat activity through acoustic readings, scientists can assess the health and integrity of ecosystems and detect changes that can indicate broader environmental shifts. The partners will receive training on how to use Echo Meter devices to collect and analyze acoustic readings. The data thus obtained will be made available to relevant stakeholders, including authorities, wildlife researchers, and ecologists.	Selected
Kenya in collaboration with Tanzania and United Kingdom	Strengthening Capacity of Local Communities to Conserve Threatened Species in the East Africa Coastal Forests Biodiversity Hotspot, Kenya and Tanzania	This project seeks to strengthen the capacity of local communities and other stakeholders in the coastal forests of Kenya and Tanzania to conserve threatened species. The coastal forests of Kenya and Tanzania belong to the Zanzibar-Inhambane ecosystem, which is ranked among the 35 biodiversity hotspots of the world. However, accelerated anthropogenic disturbances, including agriculture, logging, human settlement, and mining, experienced in these forests have resulted in conspicuous alterations of the ecosystems in the region. This project endeavors to document and monitor the status of threatened species through the establishment of Permanent Sampling Plots in cultural communities based on established protocols; strengthen locally-led community conservation through capacity building and benchmarking and demonstrations of alternative sources of income; and restore the degraded coastal habitat through tree planting to enhance connectivity and improve genetic diversity.	Selected

Kyrgyzstan in collaboration with Belarus	Development and Capacity Building of Coordination Resource Biosafety Centre	The purpose of this project is to establish, under the guidance of the Belarus National Academy of Sciences, a Coordination Resource Biosafety Centre whose purpose will be to provide technical guidance and assistance on biosafety matters, with a view to ensuring the safe use of modern biotechnological products in the country. The Kyrgyz Republic accessed the Cartagena Protocol in 2005. Since then, efforts have been made to draft laws related to its obligations under the Protocol, but limited institutional, technical and human resources have hindered their adoption. The creation of a dedicated Centre will allow to mobilize experts in different fields related to biosafety to support the development of sound decision-making processes and a regulatory enforcement mechanism, specifically pertaining to Living Modified Organism (LMO) identification, risk assessment and socio-economic assessment.	Selected
Lebanon in collaboration with Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Spain and Tunisia	Democratizing DNA Barcoding: Advancing Ecosystem Restoration and Biodiversity Monitoring	In partnership with International Barcode of Life, this project focuses on providing technical support on DNA barcoding and metabarcoding to three countries, in an effort to democratize access to these technologies. DNA barcoding and metabarcoding have revolutionized conservation efforts by enhancing species identification, understanding ecosystem dynamics, conserving endangered species, and facilitating ecological restoration. However, the widespread adoption of these technologies has been limited due to the technical expertise required and the need for extensive reference libraries tailored to different ecosystems. The project will offer an intensive training program on DNA barcoding, blending theoretical knowledge and practical field experience, to key stakeholders of Lebanon, Cote d'Ivoire and Tunisia and facilitate the establishment of a collaborative network of knowledge and practice spanning across borders.	Selected
Mexico in collaboration with Canada and United States of America	Catalyzing the Formalization and Participatory Management of Community-based Conservation Initiatives on the Pacific Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico	The objective of this project is to achieve the formalization of a set of community-based conservation areas in the Oaxaca region and the preparation of a framework for their participatory management by local actors. A social inclusive model for conservation, consisting of officially certified Voluntary Conservation Areas (VCA), has been implemented in Mexico since 2008. VCAs currently cover parts of the lands of 19 ethnic groups in the country but are lacking in other high-biodiversity regions such as Oaxaca.	Selected

		With the support of Canadian and American specialists, the project will generate integral technical diagnostics on nine indigenous and Afro-Mexican common properties with conservation potential, with a view to requesting their certification as VCAs. This will include a training strategy for community members and the establishment of a platform sharing information on the regional conservation context, opportunities and progress.	
North Macedonia in collaboration with Albania	NEXUS-BIO: North Macedonia and Albanian Biodiversity Exploration Using DNA Barcoding	This collaborative pilot initiative focuses on establishing a Biodiversity Genetic Database and implementing DNA barcoding technology for the identification of a select group of alien and endangered species in Lake Ohrid, with a view to testing the viability of these innovative, cross-border approaches and fostering a foundation for potential future expansion. Lake Ohrid, a UNESCO World Heritage site shared between North Macedonia and Albania, faces pressing biodiversity-related challenges that demand urgent interventions. Specific problems and gaps previously identified include a lack of comprehensive biodiversity data in the region, the threats posed by invasive alien species, and the status of endangered species and ecosystem vulnerability. These problems are compounded by limited institutional and technological capacities and the absence of strategic cross-border collaboration, which the project seeks to address.	Selected
State of Palestine in collaboration with Türkiye	Empowering Biodiversity Conservation: Plant Micropropagation for Endangered Iris Species in Palestine and Türkiye, with Technology Transfer Initiatives	This project will bring together two universities from Palestine and Türkiye to support the conservation of two endangered species of iris flowers (<i>Iris lortetii</i> and <i>Iris pseudo caucasia</i>). Türkiye hosts significant plant biodiversity and stands out for its natural ornamental plants. However, developing standardized varieties through breeding is a new initiative, and traded species are often harvested from the wild, leading to a gradual decline in populations. Palestine hosts the <i>Iris lortetii</i>, considered endangered, as it is impacted by overcollection from the wild in habitats threatened by climate change. This indicates a need to scale up <i>ex situ</i> conservation efforts to support <i>in situ</i> activities in both countries. To do so, the project partners will receive training on micropropagation. They will also promote public awareness, organize field visits to local communities, and establish iris collection sites on campus.	Selected
Papua New Guinea in collaboration Australia,	Tambu as a Cultural Force for Biodiversity Conservation	This project is designed to foster cooperation among Melanesian countries to advance insights into the status, structure, efficacy,	Selected

France, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu		strengths, and weaknesses of customary management protocols in tropical island systems, with a specific focus on tambu or tabu areas currently practiced across many islands in the Pacific region. Traditional conservation practices, known as tambu or tabu areas, are deeply rooted in the cultural heritage of Melanesian communities. These customary management practices usually incorporate seasonal bans on harvesting, temporary closed areas, and restrictions on harvests at certain times, places, species or by certain people. Despite their importance, there is limited literature guiding the integration of these systems with Western conservation models. A four-day symposium will be organized to allow Indigenous researchers and practitioners, including young and emerging leaders, to meet, share ideas and experiences, and form international collaborations.	
Peru in collaboration with United States of America	Safeguarding Amazonian Stingless Bees	This project aims to safeguard the biodiversity of the Amazon by creating the first species map of stingless bees, conducting comprehensive threat assessments, and implementing mitigation strategies. Amazonian stingless bees have been a cornerstone for ecological, social and cultural practices among Peruvian Amazonian communities for centuries. Though they play a pivotal role in pollination and regeneration of degraded ecosystems, their existence is under threat due to escalating environmental and human pressures. Collaborating with indigenous communities, the project will create a species map using GPS tracking and species identification, while correlating findings with environmental data to understand the impact of deforestation on bees. It will also generate the first national biocultural community protocol to guarantee the protection of indigenous traditional knowledge regarding stingless bees and empower local communities through capacity-building programs.	Selected
Seychelles in collaboration with Kenya and United States of America	Enhancing Marine Conservation through Technology in the Seychelles	This collaborative initiative aims to address critical conservation challenges in the Seychelles' ecosystems by leveraging advanced technology. The Seychelles, celebrated for its biodiversity and unique ecosystems, is confronted with many challenges that threaten its delicate ecological balance. These include habitat loss, the proliferation of invasive species, the impacts of climate change, illegal wildlife trade, and a deficit in comprehensive monitoring systems.	Selected

		The installation of a software ecosystem allowing real-time visualization of field reporting, asset tracking, and comprehensive management capabilities will enable the creation of an integrated protected area management platform and monitoring system in the country. This, in turn, will allow the implementation of data-driven conservation strategies, policies, and protocols, and improved knowledge-sharing and collaboration between local communities and government authorities to contribute towards conservation efforts.	
South Africa in collaboration with Iran	Participatory Action Research for the Peaceful Presence of Local Communities in the Last Habitat of the Asiatic Cheetah	This cross-border project seeks to establish a sustainable conservation approach for the Asiatic cheetah through the active engagement of local communities. The Asiatic cheetah subspecies is on the brink of extinction, with fewer than 30 individuals remaining in one region of Iran. Despite two decades of conservation efforts, most of the population has vanished from their historical ranges. Human-wildlife conflicts, including ranching, mining, and urban development, continue to pose significant threats to its habitats. Iran has had limited access to international experience in biodiversity conservation, which has hindered progress. With the support of experts from South Africa, this participatory action research initiative will assist local organizations to deepen the understanding of local communities on the importance of conservation and encouraging active participation in devising solutions, including through the generation of shared benefits for residents.	Selected
South Sudan in collaboration with Austria and Kenya	Protecting and Preserving Biodiversity Through Knowledge Exchange, Workshops, International Cooperation and Joint Research in South Sudan	The objective of the project is to build the capacity of young people, government officials, women groups, and indigenous people to understand the importance of conservation and biodiversity and engage in public action, joint research, and international technical cooperation on halting biodiversity loss. South Sudan is home to the world's second-largest land mammal migration and to one of the world's largest freshwater ecosystems, hosting many endangered mammalian species, migratory birds, and fish populations. However, the country has not taken advantage of economic opportunities that could arise from biodiversity, such as tourism. The South Sudanese Youth Biodiversity Network, a newly established national chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network is seeking the technical and knowledge assistance of the	Selected

		Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network and the Austrian Youth Biodiversity Network to conduct the training.	
Turkmenistan in collaboration with Georgia	Partnership for the Benefit of Water-Related Ecosystems	The present initiative is part of a program aimed to build the capacity of Turkmenistan to promote the rational use of nature resources and support the development of environmentally friendly business. While Turkmenistan hosts reserves and nature sanctuaries, the country does not have any national park, which would allow to reconcile the interests of environmentalists and of local communities by gaining benefits from nature via the development of eco-friendly business. Turkmenistan is poorly informed on the day-to-day operations of national parks, including activities and financial arrangements needed for them to be self-sustainable. Turkmenistan is partnering with Georgia to organize a study tour to Kolkheti National Park for specialists to acquaint themselves with international best practices in terms of the establishment and operations of national parks through tri-partite partnerships (state organizations, scientific communities and expert organizations).	Selected
Uganda in collaboration with Tanzania	Building Capacity and Piloting Collaborative Environmental Metabarcoding (eDNA) for Monitoring Threatened Fish Species, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Disease Vector Control in East Africa	The objective of this project is to build capacity on environmental metabarcoding (eDNA) and pilot a collaborative transboundary working group for the conservation, management, and research of aquatic ecosystems in East Africa. Owing to recent advances in sequencing and bioinformatics, the use of eDNA has developed into a cost-effective, rapid, and non-invasive method for collecting and analyzing biological samples from large portions of the environment without the necessity of isolating the target species. Uganda and Tanzania will partner up to set up a working group composed of researchers from both countries, who will then receive technical training on eDNA metabarcoding and collect data on threatened fish species, aquatic invasive species and diseases vectors. Members of the working group will share knowledge and experience with a view to developing long-term collaborative research projects.	Selected
United Arab Emirates in collaboration with India	The Corrosive Challenge: Ocean Acidification and its Impact on Marine Biodiversity	This project will focus on ocean acidification monitoring in the Gulf of Oman. Data on critical ocean chemistry parameters will be collected in real time to understand ocean acidification trends, identify vulnerable species, track impacts on fisheries and aquaculture, and develop adaptive strategies. India and the United Arab Emirates share the same concerns over the impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems and livelihoods of coastal communities in the Indian Ocean. In particular, the region	Selected

		is home to a high diversity of corals and oyster reefs, which are now in decline. Project partners will establish a readily accessible and standardized ocean acidification monitoring system, providing open-source data crucial for researchers, policymakers, and the public, with a view to guiding the development and implementation of effective ocean conservation and adaptation strategies.	
Vietnam in collaboration with the Republic of Korea	Assessment of Fish Diversity and Lineage Diversification Across Two Major Freshwater Systems (Mekong and Red River) in Vietnam	By leveraging cutting-edge molecular techniques and fostering scientific cooperation, this project aims to generate insights into the genetic diversity and evolutionary history of fishes in Vietnam, with a view to informing conservation strategies, facilitate sustainable management practices, and promote the responsible utilization of freshwater resources. Determining the distribution of species plays an important role in resource management and species conservation. Moreover, fish biodiversity is a reliable bioindicator of ecosystem status because of their sensitivity to environmental changes such as pollution, and climate change. Cooperation will entail the development and standardization of environmental DNA (eDNA)-based screening techniques as basis for assessing biodiversity through non-invasive sampling methods and the establishment of a DNA library of fishes from the Mekong and Red River basins to obtain a comprehensive understanding of fish diversity at the national level.	Selected
Fourth round of projects			
Belarus in collaboration with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Tajikistan	Enhancing Collaboration between the CEE and Central Asia's Centres of Excellence to Address the Key Drivers of Biodiversity Loss and Maintain Human, Crop and Livestock Health	The goal of this project was to create a network of Central and Eastern European (CEE) and Central Asian centres of excellence that cooperate to identify biodiversity loss drivers that ultimately affect human, animal, and plant health. Molecular genetic methods for species identification and detection of pathogens and living modified organisms (LMOs) are recognized approaches to identify key interrelated drivers of biodiversity loss. CEE and Central Asian countries face varying financial and human resources constraints and have different levels of capacity and experience in the area. Cooperation promotes the development of common methods and the harmonization of legal and technical regulations. It helps improve the capacity of the participating centres in biodiversity conservation, biosafety and biosecurity, through	Sep. 2023 – Apr. 2024 Completed

		technical assistance, training, mentorship, and networking opportunities, with a focus on women and youth.	
Brazil in collaboration with Argentina, Jamaica, Chile, Costa Rica, and Honduras	Expanding the Invasive Alien Species Database Network in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Common Platform for Invasive Alien Species Management Contributing to the Achievement of SDG/2030 Agenda Target 8 and Aichi Target 9	The goal of this project was to build on the work developed during the BBI-funded project under Round 3. The team led by Brazil and Argentina helped develop a regional common information platform offering data on invasive alien species, in order to facilitate analyses of common priority species and pathways and support joint management decisions. This project consisted in expanding the Latin America and Caribbean Invasive Alien Species Database Network to Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Jamaica. Activities focused on developing content on invasive alien species under the guidance of newly established national Scientific Committees, then on building the national databases based on the model previously developed by the project leads. The cell phone application for field data collection was also adapted to each national context.	Nov. 2022 – Sep. 2023 Completed
Burundi in collaboration with Belgium	Project for the Valorization of Research Results (PVRR) through the Production of Black Soldier Fly Larvae (<i>Hermetia illucens</i> , <i>Diptera</i> , <i>Stratyomyidae</i>) for Use in Fish and Poultry Farming	This project was designed to develop solutions to improve the sustainability of fish and poultry production in Burundi, while decreasing pressure on biodiversity and the environment. Associated with overfishing and deforestation, the production of conventional feed has a significant impact on the environment. This, coupled with the difficulties for small-scale fish and poultry farming to source it at a competitive cost, have led to a search for alternative solutions, notably the incorporation of protein-high insects into the diets of farmed fish and poultry. The cooperation project between Burundi and Belgium sought to initiate the trial of production and processing of black soldier fly (<i>Hermetia illucens</i>) larvae for fish and poultry feed, which will then be popularised among Burundian farmers.	Feb. 2023 – Feb. 2024 Completed
Colombia in collaboration with Ecuador	Enhancement of Coral Reef Restoration Efforts between Colombia's Corales de Paz and Ecuador's Conservación Marina Ecuador (CONMAR) - Corallium Project	The goal of this project was to foster long-term cooperation between Colombian and Ecuadorian institutions through the exchange of scientific knowledge and techniques for improving coral reef restoration processes in both countries. In Colombia, large-scale science-based and participatory coral reef restoration efforts have proven to be effective at increasing live coral cover, though these have focused on the Caribbean coast. In Ecuador, coral restoration strategies are just being tested for the first time. On the one hand, Ecuador was interested in learning techniques to scale up coral restoration efforts, while on the other hand, Colombia wanted to learn from Ecuador's knowledge and experience operating	Sep. 2022 – Sep. 2023 Completed

		in the Eastern Tropical Pacific with a view to further enhancing restoration in the Colombian Pacific.	
Ecuador in collaboration with Mexico	Potential By-products from the Harvesting of Introduced Plants at Galápagos Islands	In the past few decades, invasive animal and plant species have become a serious problem that affects the integrity of native ecosystems of the Galápagos Islands. This research project sought to evaluate the potential of introduced invasive plant species on Santa Cruz Island as generators of bio-compost and biofuel in order to develop a model for the sustainable use of their biomass. In doing so, the objective was to control the spread of invasive plant species in the Galápagos with a view to protecting local ecosystems, as well as to support the local economy by improving local agriculture through the provision of locally produced biofertilizers and by providing sustainable entrepreneurship alternatives to local communities, especially countryside women.	Apr. 2023 – Aug. 2024 Completed
Ecuador in collaboration with South Africa and United States of America	Priming Bananas with Biodiversity-Derived Technologies to Combat Fusarium Tropical Race 4	This project focuses on using local biodiversity develop new tools for managing <i>Fusarium wilt</i>, a fungal disease threatening the production and export industry of bananas. Up until now, fungicides have proven ineffective against the <i>Tropical race 4</i> strain, which has been detected in over 20 countries, including Colombia and Peru, both Ecuador's neighboring countries. Exploring the rhizosphere (area around a plant root inhabited by a unique population of microorganisms) has been shown to be a promising tool to design protective microbial consortia and promote plant health. The three-country research team will aim to engineer a plant-associated microbiota for bananas to manage <i>Fusarium wilt</i>, with the objective to test whether microbiota from healthy banana roots can colonize new banana roots and induce soil-borne disease suppression.	Mar. 2023 – Q3 2024 Under implementation
Ethiopia in collaboration with Ghana	Selection of Best Performing Sorghum and its Wild Relatives PGPR and Documenting Related Local Communities' Knowledge of Cropping System	This project seeks to improve sorghum productivity in Ethiopia and Ghana through the characterization and utilization of indigenous microbial genetic resources, coupled with the documentation of traditional and/or indigenous knowledge and practices. A dietary staple for millions of people in Africa and Asia, over 80% of global sorghum production is characterized by low yield levels. One of the methods used to enhance yield is the use of bio-fertilizers developed from beneficial microorganisms or plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR). Activities of this project will focus on characterizing and selecting best-performing PGPR strains associated with sorghum and its wild	Dec. 2023 – Q3 2024 Under implementation

		relatives. The team will also gather and share data on local communities' knowledge of sorghum cropping and/or farming systems applied for enhancing soil quality.	
Ghana in collaboration with the United Republic of Tanzania	Comparing Community-Level Management and Use of Rangelands in Africa's Savannas for Improved Grazing Efficiency and Biodiversity Conservation: The Cases of Ghana and Tanzania	The objective of this project was to promote learning among African institutions on community-level management and use of rangelands in semi-arid parts of Africa. In Ghana, crop farming and livestock rearing are increasingly becoming competing land use activities in the savannah areas. To avoid conflict with farmers, herders direct grazing traffic towards forest reserves, thereby threatening biodiversity. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the co-location of crop farming and livestock rearing has existed much longer. The project conducted research to gather and document best practices in the management of rangelands to ensure that their integrity and biodiversity are protected for sustainable productivity. The data will be used to develop and implement an alternative strategy for the management and use of rangelands, including criteria and indicators, in Ghana.	Feb. 2023 – Mar. 2024 Completed
India in collaboration with Ghana	Stewardship Development of Entrusted Networks and Strengthening Enforcement in South Asia and West Africa with Prime Focus of Safeguarding Pangolins	The goal of this project is to foster long-term cooperation between India and Ghana on curbing illegal wildlife trade through knowledge sharing among institutional partners providing technical and scientific advisory to law enforcement agencies. Illegal wildlife trade accounts for about \$23 billion per year and threatens some of the world's most iconic species. Southeast Asia provides a trade passage for wildlife parts and products from Africa to enter the grey market. The project will focus on the standardization of forensic protocols and the establishment of phylogeographic signatures to identify the origin of confiscated wildlife products, which will help unwind the trade routes and poaching hotspots. It will also seek to engage local communities through the establishment of conservation sub-committees within existing local administration networks.	Feb. 2024 – Q1 2025 Under implementation
Jordan in collaboration with Oman	Bat Biodiversity: Local Communities Engagement in Conservation of Ecosystems	This project sought to reduce the impact of human-induced pressures on bat biodiversity through the engagement of local communities in the process of identifying risks and challenges, finding solutions, and undertaking future biodiversity conservation planning. Bats are among the most overlooked species despite their ecological importance. In the Middle East and Gulf Region, various factors affect the biodiversity of bats, particularly the anthropogenic	Feb. – Oct. 2023 Completed

		stressor, including human-induced habitat destruction, political conflict, and tourism. The Jordanian and Omani teams first gathered data from local communities on their knowledge and involvement in bat ecology. Two expert meetings bringing together bat experts and researchers, governmental institutions, and NGOs were held to discuss the outputs of the survey, find solutions, and suggest recommendations and future plans.	
Namibia in collaboration with Zambia	Land Restoration and Knowledge Management in Ohangwena and Kunene Regions of Namibia: In Attainment of the LDN and NDC Targets	This collaborative project aims to address land degradation through the development of a more efficient approach for monitoring the issue. Guided by previously developed standard land degradation mapping methodology and analyses and with the help of remote sensing, the team will produce land degradation maps within selected landscapes in the Ohangwena and Kunene regions of Namibia. The assessment will then serve as basis to develop a land degradation monitoring system, including real-time monitoring tools providing accurate information on the status of the land in its current form. The implementation of such system will support the design and adoption of measures aimed at improving land use planning and restoring degraded land.	Nov. 2023 – Q1 2025 Under implementation
South Africa in collaboration with Mozambique	Regional Prosecutor Learning Exchanges as a Tool to Improve the Prosecution of Wildlife Crimes Across Southern Africa	The goal of this project is to foster long-term cooperation between South Africa and Mozambique to improve the capacity of prosecutors to prosecute wildlife crimes through strategic, cross-border learning exchanges and relationship building, with a view to eliminating the unsustainable, illegal use and trade of threatened wildlife. Prosecutors rarely specialize in wildlife crime and have often little time to educate themselves on the subject. Expertise barriers include lack of resources to facilitate international cooperation; lack of expertise in preparing prosecution dockets and liaising with investigating officers; lack of creative ways to use legal frameworks; and lack of counterparts in neighboring countries when dealing with cross-border matters. This project aims to strengthen long-term cooperative relationships between prosecutors from Mozambique and South Africa, and eventually prosecutors from neighbouring countries as well.	Aug. 2023 – Q3 2024 Under implementation
Sri Lanka in collaboration with Australia	Establishing a Data-driven Analytical Framework to Investigate the Nexus Between	Through this project, the two-country research team sought to study the relation between human health and the health of ecosystems and	May 2023 – Sep. 2024 Completed

	Biodiversity, Water Quality and Human Health in a Sub River Basin in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka	habitats, with a view to improving the status of both native biodiversity and local human communities. The team conducted socioeconomic and community health surveys to establish the interactions between local communities and selected tank cascades and other freshwater ecosystems in Sri Lanka's North Central Province, as well as surveys on the status of their biodiversity and water quality. With the data, the team developed an analytical framework to analyse the nexus between the status of ecosystems and habitats, human health, and effects of anthropogenic actions, to be applied in decision making.	
Uganda in collaboration with South Sudan and Kenya	Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation for Detection, Prevention and Management of Trans-Boundary Zoonotic Diseases at the Human-Wildlife-Livestock Interface Across Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan	This project aimed to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation between Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan on the detection, prevention, and management of transboundary zoonotic diseases. Key stakeholders from the three countries did so by establishing a regional Biodiversity and Health Technical and Scientific Collaboration Working Group to develop a transboundary disease prevention and control strategy and action plan focusing on disease spread, One Health Platform action plans, illegal or detrimental use of natural resources leading to increased risk of exposure to zoonotic diseases and other health and biodiversity priorities as they arise. The strategy led to the preparation of a regional programme expanded to East African Community (EAC) countries, including Burundi, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, and other neighboring countries in the Great Lakes region.	Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2024 Completed
United Republic of Tanzania in collaboration with Kenya	Elephant Monitoring and Human Elephant Coexistence in the Mbarang'andu Wildlife Management Area – Ruvuma Tanzania	This cooperation project aimed to address human-elephant conflict through the monitoring of elephant populations and their behavior, and the meaningful engagement of local communities in conservation. The establishment in 2003 of the Mbarang'andu Wildlife Management Area in the United Republic of Tanzania intended to protect wildlife habitats while diversifying the economy and generating tourism revenues. As alternative revenues have failed to materialize and crop raiding have raised exponentially, local communities have grown resentful of wildlife, thus less likely to support wildlife management and conservation. The activities of the project consisted in monitoring the elephant populations and quantifying the elephants' depredation and crop raiding behavior. The partners then applied lessons learned from Kenya to engage with local communities, in particular local youth, in finding solutions to mitigate human-elephant conflict.	Feb. 2023 – Aug. 2024 Completed

Zimbabwe in collaboration with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the National Herbarium as an Information Hub for Plant Genetic Resources in Zimbabwe	This project focused on improving access to information on Zimbabwe's plant biodiversity by different users globally, with a view to facilitating research and policy development. The National Herbarium and Botanic Garden of Zimbabwe has the third largest collection of herbarium specimens within the southern Africa region, and the largest repository of plant-related information within the country. This wealth of information, however, is mostly stored in physical record, along with a modest digital database running on an obsolete system. By partnering with the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, the Herbarium was able to transfer its extensive records to the Botanical Research and Herbarium Management System (BRAHMS) and improve the capacities of its staff to collect, store, manipulate and share plant-related information.	Mar. 2023 – Feb. 2024 Completed
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