



## *TAKING THE PULSE*

# **What does a whole-of-society approach of the Global Biodiversity Framework mean in practice?**

First Edition

October 2024 – NBSAP Accelerator Partnership

Keywords: academia, biodiversity conservation, civil society, CBD Parties, gender, human-rights based approach, implementation, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, NBSAPs participation, private sector, social inclusion, women, youth,

## Highlights

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership supports CBD Parties and relevant stakeholders in moving from NBSAP revision to implementation. This document is designed to take the pulse on challenges and opportunities as countries apply a whole-of-society approach to their NBSAPs in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). It provides clear, actionable insights for policymakers and partners. While not a comprehensive overview, it serves as a collection of perspectives intended for discussion, review, and further development.

The following are key highlights to consider:

- **A whole-of-society approach is essential** for enhancing and effectively implementing NBSAPs to meet the targets of the KM-GBF. However, ensuring an inclusive approach can be complex. Some countries are legally required to consult diverse stakeholder groups, while others do not have such obligations. And then a different point - Some countries involve all stakeholders but only superficially while others prioritise those that make positive contributions or to address possible negative impacts.
- **Regular and consistent engagement with societal stakeholders improves long-term commitment to NBSAP implementation.** Regular engagement and communication with all relevant parts of society - civil society, youth, women, Indigenous peoples, local communities, academia and private sector - during the NBSAP revision process increases ownership and fosters long-term commitment to NBSAP implementation, monitoring and reporting. In turn, this helps state actors understand real needs, local realities and the possible impacts of biodiversity policies and actions.
- **Clarity of roles, responsibilities and contributions is crucial.** State actors must manage expectations and be clear about the different roles and responsibilities of societal actors, and how they might be involved. This clarity should include differentiating between basic information sharing and deeper opportunities for engagement.
- **Capacity-building for state and societal actors is needed** for effective whole-of-society participation. CBD parties should consider technical capacity-building for state and societal stakeholders (especially new stakeholders) on the KM-GBF and NBSAPs as well as training on participatory processes, intercultural methods, and rights-based approaches.
- **A deeper understanding of what a whole-of-society approach looks like in practice** Section C of the KM-GBF calls for a whole-of-society, whole-of government, and human rights-based approach that considers the contributions and rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities and gender dynamics in NBSAP implementation. Yet these abstract concepts need to be operationalized at the national level.

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## I. Introduction

The fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in October 2024 will present an important moment for nature and accelerating action. Parties will move from agreements on the KM-GBF adopted at COP15 to its implementation via revised and aligned National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, aims to accelerate ambitious country-led biodiversity actions and fast-track the implementation of NBSAPs by bridging national biodiversity needs with financial, technical and knowledge resources. The initiative recognizes a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach as one of its ten guiding principles for advancing NBSAPs.

This document has been written to support national action and SBI5 and COP16 negotiations concerning capacity-building, planning, monitoring, reporting, and article 8j. It supports ongoing conceptual discussions on how to implement a whole-of-society approach by analyzing challenges and best practices and offering suggestions to support countries and relevant stakeholders in moving from target setting to implementation. The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership aims to gather more insights and perspectives over time to support this conversation amongst CBD parties and relevant stakeholders and offer a platform for exchange and learning among practitioners and policy makers.

Information and data for this report was taken from CBD Regional NBSAP dialogues held in 2023 and 2024<sup>1</sup>, the Rapid Capacity Needs Assessment (RCNA)<sup>2</sup> of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, and experiences from the GIZ global project<sup>3</sup> “Strengthening national implementation of global biodiversity targets.” Analysis focuses on involvement of rights-holders, such as Indigenous Peoples, youth, women and other relevant civil society groups. Additionally, stakeholders from both business and academia have been recognized as key players, but there is a need to enhance and refine their role and involvement.

“Taking the pulse” is a series of knowledge products that take the pulse of experiences on NBSAP implementation. It provides a space for CBD parties and relevant stakeholders to reflect on challenges and opportunities. A future edition is planned to take the pulse on challenges and insights for CBD Parties in taking a whole-of-government approach.

### **Box 1: What does a whole-of society approach mean?**

In **Section C** on considerations for implementation, the KM-GBF calls for a whole-of-society approach, stating that it is “a framework for all (...), the whole of society” and that its success “relies on actions and cooperation by all levels of government and by all actors of society”.<sup>4</sup> It urges governments to foster “the full and effective contributions of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, the private and financial sector, and stakeholders from all other sectors.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, [Summary of key findings from regional and subregional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans](#), September 2024; references to specific regional dialogues in section V. References

<sup>2</sup> NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, [Challenges and opportunities for countries in achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework Results of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership’s Rapid Capacity Needs Assessment \(RCNA\)](#), May 2024

<sup>3</sup> [GIZ Global Project Promoting national implementation of international biodiversity targets](#)

<sup>4</sup> KM-GBF Section C para 7c

<sup>5</sup> KM-GBF para 4

Additionally, KM-GBF specifically emphasizes “the contribution and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities,” and a “human rights-based approach,” which includes the human rights principle of participation. A specific target, **Target 23**, calls for gender equality and “recognizing the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership” of women and girls. **Target 22** stresses the importance of “full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making,” with a specific reference to women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The **CBD Gender Plan of Action 2023-2030**, also adopted at COP15, includes specific actions related to NBSAPs.<sup>6</sup> It calls for capacity-building for gender-responsive NBSAP implementation, gender-responsive stakeholder engagement, gender-responsive monitoring (especially addressing data gaps, sex disaggregation, and gender-specific indicators), and inclusion of best practices and lessons learnt on gender-responsive implementation in national reports. A specific emphasis is placed on the intersection of women and girls from Indigenous Peoples and local communities and the recognition of traditional knowledge.

## 2. Challenges

### 2.1 Lack of time, resources and stakeholder mapping

Countries must map, engage and involve a diverse range and large number of stakeholder groups across local, regional, and national levels. CBD parties identified the lack of time and resources as a major challenge to submitting revised NBSAP targets aligned with the KM-GBF by COP16. Limited time availability and resources both reduce the possibility and scope of inclusive civil society participation. For example, logistical complexities such as finding the time for subnational and local consultations, time spent for travel, and enduring costly and rare means of transportation are difficult to manage within the tight timeframe for the revision process.

In addition, the KM-GBF addresses a wider range of issues compared to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, requiring countries to involve new stakeholders from different sectors. When new stakeholders get involved, engagement mechanisms must be established, or existing ones need to be adapted to accommodate. In addition, reports noted that some countries are concerned about consultation fatigue, while others countries feel there is a need for more consultations.

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<sup>6</sup> NBSAPs are addressed in the Gender Plan of Action objective 2.3 as part of Expected Outcome 2 “Biodiversity policy, planning and programming decisions address equally the perspectives, interests, needs and human rights of all people, in particular of all women and girls”. Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD/COP/DEC/15/11\* [15/11. Gender Plan of Action](#), 2022

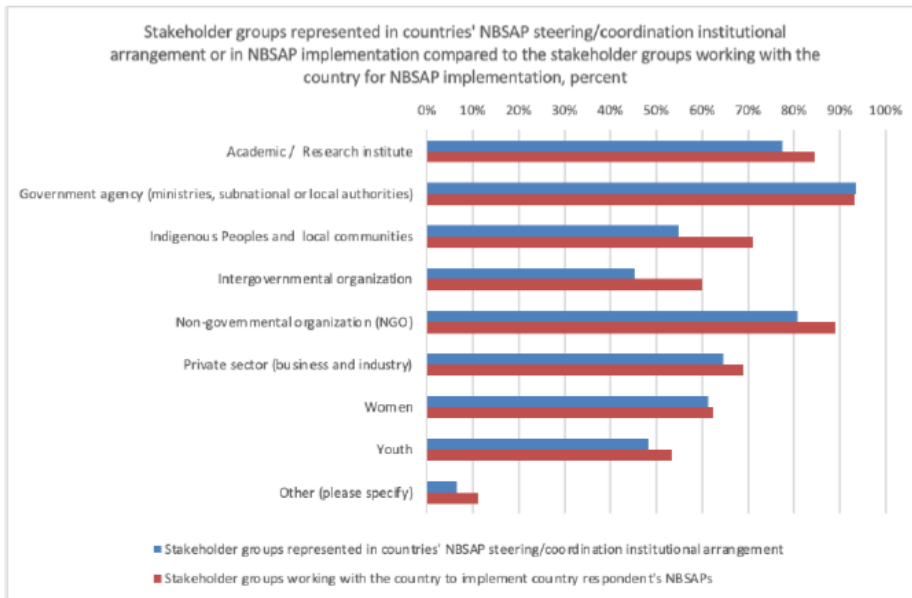


Figure 1: In its Rapid Capacity Needs Assessment (RCNA) of 45 countries, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership found Indigenous Peoples and local communities to be the national stakeholders with the biggest gap of involvement between NBSAP steering/coordination and contribution to NBSAP implementation.

## 2.2 Diverging viewpoints and interests

Diverging, and sometimes competing, views and interests concerning biodiversity conservation and policies can complicate the stakeholder process, especially in a short time frame. For example, Indigenous cosmovision considers biodiversity to be a part of Mother Earth, and it is not seen as separate from human beings. Alternatively, actors from the private sector may perceive biodiversity conservation as a threat, as it could affect their business model. Bringing these perspectives together requires time and openness of all stakeholders to listen, engage, and understand each other and build trust. Collaborative and multistakeholder consultation processes require deliberate discussions to accommodate and harmonize differing opinions before engaging in NBSAP revision. Reaching consensus is time-consuming and often results in a need to compromise, for example, on the level of ambition.

## 2.3 Lack of meaningful participation and continuous engagement

Ensuring the active participation of different stakeholders in NBSAP revision entails inclusive consultations at all levels and proactive management of these consultation processes, as well as interdisciplinary approaches. To design more impactful policies and initiatives, countries need to involve civil society, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as the private sector to understand the real needs, local realities and possible impacts of policies for these groups. Some countries use online platforms to increase the opportunity for the general public to comment on government proposals, yet there is a lack of transparency how these inputs are taken into account. Since many countries have not submitted their NBSAPs it remains to be seen to what extent the inputs of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, women groups, youth organizations, Indigenous communities, and local communities, have been incorporated in NBSAPs.

Likewise, countries need to make a careful distinction between informing and consulting. Various stakeholders, especially civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and academia, felt that many government policies and actions are communicated to them, but they are not involved in the development of these policies and have limited opportunity to influence. In addition, continuing engagement beyond initial consultations for NBSAP revision is vital. Yet, national capacity is not always sufficient for undertaking stakeholder engagement on the scale and intervals needed. Limited

technical capacity and human resources of state actors at the subnational level, can make it difficult to ensure participation and effective follow-up in implementation and monitoring.

In general, there is a need for policymakers to communicate regularly and strategically with relevant societal stakeholders and to involve them in implementing, reporting and monitoring according to their different roles and contributions to biodiversity policies and actions. Regular communication and involvement contribute to increasing ownership and buy-in of civil society actors.

#### **2.4 Lack of capacity and awareness**

Stakeholder groups face varying challenges in representation in the NBSAP process. In some countries there are well organized civil society organizations at the national level involved in policy advocacy on NBSAP revision, but regional or local civil society organizations relevant for NBSAP implementation are not represented and their inputs are not reflected.

Stakeholders with no professional representation face additional challenges, for example, youth or community representatives with difficult working conditions or limited transportation. Additional challenges identified were limited information sharing between different civil society organizations (between different stakeholder groups, between organizations representing the same stakeholders at national and local level) and different levels of organizational capacities.

Increased capacity building is needed to address varied knowledge gaps across governmental and societal stakeholders. Civil society organizations, including women's groups, youth organizations, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, do not always have sufficient capacity and information to participate meaningfully in consultation processes. It is important to raise awareness on how they could be affected, especially those who have a crucial role to play but have not been involved in the biodiversity sector so far. This implies tailored capacity-building measures to translate the relevance of the KM-GBF to national and local realities as well as to generate understanding of the relevance of the NBSAP as a strategic instrument.

In many countries civil society organizations and NGOs do not have sufficient funds to participate in physical meetings and plan and position themselves towards biodiversity policies and actions. Civil society organizations, especially at the local level, struggle to mobilize resources, seek partnerships, and diversify funding to support local NBSAP implementation initiatives. Lack of access to direct funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities is a challenge under major discussion within climate and biodiversity policies and existing international financing schemes. Also research and investigation centers differ widely in their technical capacity, time availability, funding and independence, making it challenging to involve academics in NBSAP revisions, despite their valuable potential to contribute to evidence-based policymaking.

Apart from societal stakeholders, CBD focal points and government stakeholders from different ministries may need capacity-building for topics such as participatory approaches, inclusive consultation processes, rights to participation and information, rights of women, rights of Indigenous Peoples and systematic integration of gender into NBSAPs. Some countries reported limited experience engaging youth, businesses and other groups. Also, within some countries, technical capacity and functionality of regional (autonomous) environmental authorities and sectorial stakeholder platforms with the same mandate differ significantly between different provinces, adding another challenge for government actors in establishing one effective procedure for stakeholder engagement and follow-up while still allowing for regional differences to ensure effectiveness.

Awareness raising and communication strategies on the relevance of biodiversity, the KM-GBF and NBSAP at national and local levels, are necessary to strategically reach different stakeholders, especially those not deeply involved in the biodiversity sector. Countries stated the importance of linking biodiversity with agriculture, food security, poverty reduction and climate change to address key drivers of biodiversity loss and create public awareness, including of the private sector, on the value of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Countries reported a struggle in finding language relevant

to their various sectors and communities, including rural populations and multiethnic contexts. An inclusive approach is needed to communicate the relevance of biodiversity in line with local, traditional and Indigenous world views, which do not see nature as a commodity.

## **2.5 Shrinking civic spaces**

Shrinking and restricted civic spaces and conflictive relationships with state institutions make it challenging in many countries for civil society, especially for land and environmental defenders<sup>7</sup> and Indigenous Peoples,<sup>8</sup> to engage in good faith in the NBSAP revision process. According to CIVICUS data from 2023,<sup>9</sup> almost a third of the world's population lives in countries with closed civic space, and only two per cent of the world's population enjoys the freedom to associate, demonstrate, and express dissent without significant constraints.

## **2.6 Rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and lack of intercultural approaches**

Indigenous Peoples and local communities play a crucial role as stewards of biodiversity, but too often they have not been effectively considered in national biodiversity policies and planning. Challenges involve different degrees of established self-representative structures of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (which make it more difficult to identify who to engage), varying levels of legal recognition of different stakeholder groups and their rights (differing between Indigenous Peoples and other local communities), and subsequent existing (or not existing) national regulations concerning their participation and existence of formal representative structures, which significantly influence the capacity to participate and influence decision-making. For example, in Colombia, the achievements of Indigenous Peoples in gaining legal recognition, rights, and representative governance structures has helped to facilitate and guide participatory processes for other ethnic groups and local communities, such as Black, Afro-Colombian, raizal and palenque communities.

### **Box 2: Contributions from Indigenous Peoples during NBSAP consultations**

Some of the challenges identified by Indigenous Peoples during consultations, which have direct implications for NBSAP implementation include:

- A) A lack of formal rights and/or respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), insufficient protection and security for Indigenous territories, land(use) conflicts, and inadequate recognition of the contributions of Indigenous communities to conservation.
- B) A disconnect between state and Indigenous governance systems (for example, overlaps in Indigenous territories and government-managed conservation areas).
- C) A lack of consideration for traditional knowledge and a disconnect between Indigenous knowledge/information systems and state-managed data/information systems

## **2.7 Low buy-in from the private sector**

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership's Rapid Capacity Needs Assessment found a notable gap in private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation. The report highlighted the need to engage private sector resource mobilization expertise, and innovation to address biodiversity challenges. During NBSAP revision consultations, private sector entities stressed concerns about mitigating commercial risks, remaining competitive despite policy changes, understanding the value of biodiversity,<sup>10</sup> gaps in technical knowledge (on how to integrate biodiversity conservation into operations), and managing uncertainty around the benefits of investing in biodiversity conservation. Private sector leaders reported that insecure long-term land tenure reduces incentives to restore lands for commercial use. Likewise,

<sup>7</sup> At least 196 land and environmental defenders were killed around the world in 2023 – an average of one murder every other day: Global Witness, [2023-2024 Annual Report - Missing Voices: the Violent Erasure of Land and Environmental Defenders Worldwide](#), September 2024

<sup>8</sup> Almost a third of those killed (31%) were Indigenous people's rights defenders. Frontline defenders, [Global Analysis 2023/24](#), June 2024

<sup>9</sup> CIVICUS Monitor, [People Power Under Attack 2023](#), December 2023; [In Numbers - Civicus Monitor](#)

<sup>10</sup> TEEB Web. "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Approach." Available online [here](#).

high investment costs to evaluate the impact of a business on biodiversity presents a barrier to action. Business leaders expressed concerns about the difficulties of enforcing biodiversity-friendly measures at the local level, including security risks for personnel responsible for certifying, evaluating and enforcing ecological measures and impact assessments. Other challenges identified include a hesitancy of the private sector to cooperate with local communities on biodiversity conservation, unreliable suppliers and insufficient economies of scale when working with biodiversity-friendly small-scale producers, and untransparent and incomprehensible national policy frameworks related to biodiversity concerning the private sector as an investment risk.

Without a clear understanding of how biodiversity conservation can lead to economic gains, businesses will continue to overlook the value of engagement and may not recognize biodiversity loss as a material risk to their operations. As biodiversity is highly context-specific, what works in one region or ecosystem may not be effective elsewhere. This issue complicates standardization and replication and often leads the private sector to prefer investing in climate measures rather than biodiversity measures for corporate sustainability.

Further, given the heterogeneity of the private sector, which includes entities with harmful practices and powerful advocacy (like extraction and large-scale agriculture industries), there is a need to critically reflect on the role and accountability of the private sector beyond target 3 (private sector financing of conservation). Many private sector entities have a direct role in other KM-GBF targets, such as target 15 on reducing the negative impacts of business on biodiversity and target 7 on reducing pollution, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals.

### **III. Insights and opportunities**

#### **3.1 Promoting section C of the KM-GBF**

Section C of the KM-GBF is an internationally agreed-upon commitment between CBD parties to a whole-of-society approach, making it an important lever for national policy processes. The ambitious language of the section calls for gender equality, the rights and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and a human rights-based approach. These elements are also reflected in specific targets including Target 22 on participation, Target 23 on gender, and Target 3 on the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories. This section can be used as evidence by state actors to promote a whole-of-society approach and supports the claims for participation of civil society sectors, including Indigenous Peoples, women and youth.

#### **3.2 Creating inclusive institutional arrangements for NBSAP steering/coordination**

An inclusive organizational strategy with a clear participatory role for civil society, including Indigenous Peoples, marginalized groups and private sector entities constitutes a solid basis for whole-of-society NBSAP revision and implementation. Close coordination with civil society is essential to fostering a whole-of-society approach. In some countries, close coordination between civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and government bodies exists. Organized civil society networks represent a strong partner, and their participation in national policy processes is institutionalized, recognized, and highly valued.

#### **Box 3: Concrete Examples - Inclusive NBSAP Steering platforms in Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo**

In Brazil the National Commission on Biodiversity (Comissão Nacional da Biodiversidade or CONABIO by its acronym in Portuguese) is the formal entity promoting all aspects of biodiversity, especially on matters related to the CBD. All relevant governmental sectors are represented in CONABIO, as well as diverse regions and segments of society, with equal representation between government and civil society.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a civil society network exists to support participation in the NBSAP task force, Civil Society Organizations and the Indigenous Peoples for Biodiversity (*Cadre de concertation des organisations de la société civile et peuples autochtones pour la biodiversité* or COSPAB by its acronym in French). The network represents various sectors of society, including women's groups and Indigenous Peoples Organizations, with an Indigenous Organisation serving as Secretariat of the National Alliance for Support and Promotion of Areas and Territories of Indigenous and Community Heritage (*Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de Promotion des Aires et territoires du Patrimoine Autochone et Communautaire* or ANAPAC).

### 3.4 Promoting meaningful consultations and continuous engagement

Determining the most appropriate and effective means of engagement is essential, in particular with stakeholders representing sectors and communities that have an impact on biodiversity and whose livelihoods rely on biodiversity. An efficient approach suggested in the regional dialogue on NBSAPs in Moldova was to update stakeholder maps from the previous strategic plan to confirm relevant past stakeholders and identify gaps where new stakeholders are needed. In the regional dialogue on NBSAPs in the Caribbean, leaders recommended conducting stakeholder analysis per target. Other promising approaches include using prior and concise tailor-made capacity-building training sessions for civil society organizations to ensure meaningful participation in consultations, conducting regional consultations for specific target groups to help address specific concerns and needs, and developing specific support materials for specific national contexts and target groups (for example, youth, gender,<sup>11</sup> Indigenous Peoples, human rights-based engagement<sup>12</sup> and target 3 on Indigenous Peoples and local communities)<sup>13</sup>.

Successful national toolkits for civil society communications from related sectors, such as the climate sector, can serve as an inspiration. For example, communication products in Indigenous languages and braille enable outreach. In Brazil, specific visual and written materials were prepared for Indigenous Peoples' consultations. In a Gulf states nation, engagement of non-state actors was gamified (made to be like a game with rules, points, and winners) to ultimately identify and incentivize contributions to aligning biodiversity actions with the KM-GBF.

Consultation engagement can be amplified via direct virtual meetings between stakeholders and government, larger online sectoral meetings with civic participation (for example, in Brazil sectoral organizations like the National Council on Industry held online meetings to deliberate on the KM-GBF), and online surveys. For example, in the Pacific small islands state of Vanuatu online surveys were used as a means to reach remote communities.

Strong engagement of relevant stakeholders from all parts of society in NBSAP revision is a precursor to engagement in implementation, monitoring, and reporting and can support overall long-term sustainability. Given regular staff changes within government ministries, collaboration with civil society organizations can effectively contribute to the overall sustainability of NBSAP implementation. CSOs, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities offer technical expertise, practical place-based insights for implementation and long-term ownership since these interest groups are often the most affected by biodiversity policies and may be highly motivated to uphold them. Success in this area would mark a major difference from the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

<sup>11</sup> Women4Biodiversity, [Advancing Women's Rights & Gender Equality in the Implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, training module](#), 2024,

<sup>12</sup> Forest Peoples Programme, [Towards COP16, Info Note#1 Convention on Biological Diversity](#), June 2024  
Forest Peoples Programme, [Towards COP16, Info Note#2 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), June 2024; Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GBYN), [CBD in a Nutshell: A Guidebook to the CBD Process](#), 2019 ; Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI), [Training Manual: Integrating Indigenous Peoples' rights and perspectives in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (soon online),

<sup>13</sup> Forest Peoples Programme, [Towards COP16, Info Note#3 Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#), June 2024

**Box 4: Concrete Example - Malaysia Business engagement in NBSAPs**

The government of Malaysia promotes collaboration with the private sector through the Malaysian Platform for Business and Biodiversity initiative, endorsed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources in 2020. Activities include a baseline analysis, stakeholder analysis, a business advisory group, workshop consultations and the drafting of a strategic business roadmap with specific goals for the private sector to be integrated into the NBSAP.

**3.5 Focus on intercultural methodologies and rights-based consultation**

To promote adequate participation of Indigenous Peoples, a strong focus on the methodologies of regional or national consultations in close coordination with representatives from Indigenous Peoples Organizations, and involving these organizations from an early stage, was a promising practice in some Latin American countries.

**Box 5: Concrete Examples – Indigenous Peoples Organizations involved in designing NBSAP consultations in Peru and Brazil**

In Peru, Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) participating in NBSAP revisions were helped to prepare by dedicated advisors. In addition, regional and national workshops were held for IPO representatives to discuss and define their positions. These workshops followed intercultural methodologies agreed upon with IPOs. This consultation process enabled a dialogue about the need to co-create biodiversity policies with relevant actors directly involved in conservation. Indigenous representatives were able to contribute their cultural conceptions of biodiversity and stressed the need for tangible measures related to judicial security over their territories to be able to contribute to biodiversity conservation.

In Brazil, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, and representatives from IPO networks supported a methodology of nationwide consultations with Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Brazilian communities, and other traditional communities from all five biomes of the country. Biome-based working groups were led by Indigenous facilitators from the specific regions, who were trained beforehand on the KM-GBF and NBSAP. These facilitators brought profound knowledge on the dynamics of their specific territories. They favored participant involvement and supported the appropriation of KM-GBF/NBSAP content, adaption of adequate language, and co-construction of concrete suggestions for Brazilian NBSAP targets. Communication teams from Brazilian social movements reported on the consultations and contributed to disseminating information to communities. As a way to continue involvement, delegates were selected to participate in an overarching intersectoral consultation, ensuring further direct representation throughout the revision process.

**3.6 Stronger links between Human Rights and biodiversity sector**

Conservationist policies affecting human rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights and repeated allegations against states,<sup>14</sup> non-state actors and development partners will result in the launch of Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders planned for December 2024, developed in a multistakeholder process led by UNEP. Recognizing the need to link human rights and biodiversity within the UN system, a Human Rights Council Resolution on Biodiversity at its 57<sup>th</sup> Session in October 2024<sup>15</sup> might establish a stronger Council mandate supporting capacity-building for human rights in the biodiversity sector. It will call for a global analytical study on the implementation of a human-rights based approach to the KM-GBF.

<sup>14</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, [Policy Brief No. 1 Human rights-based approaches to conserving biodiversity: equitable, effective and imperative](#), 2021

<sup>15</sup> Soon online [OHCHR | 57th regular session of the Human Rights Council: Resolutions, decisions and President's statements](#)

### **3.7 Developing subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs)**

Subnational BSAPs can more effectively address specific local realities and needs. Indonesia and Brazil plan to develop subnational BSAPs, allowing them to take more tangible and targeted policy actions addressing specific local realities and needs. These subnational policymaking spaces constitute an opportunity to involve civil society organizations and Indigenous Peoples and local communities more directly and to find a balance between KM-GBF targets on reducing threats to conservation (target 1-8) and meeting people's needs (targets 9-13).

### **3.8 Making use of existing structures**

By using existing coordination structures with different sectors of society, countries can save time when setting up whole-of-society consultations. These structures include functioning existing touchpoints of trustful, recognized and legitimate coordination between government and private sector, government and Indigenous Peoples, and government and civil society as a whole. For example, some countries may utilize established regional dialogue platforms related to the national development plan. Making use of existing structures requires trusting and delegating leadership to sectorial platforms for specific KM-GBF targets.

### **3.9 Involving stakeholders in the operationalization of KM-GBF targets parallel to revising NBSAPs**

Involving stakeholders in operationalizing prioritized KM-GBF targets parallel to NBSAP revisions can accelerate NBSAP implementation. The boxes below highlight two approaches from two different regions.

#### **Box 6: Concrete Examples – Democratic Republic of Congo involving civil society and Indigenous Peoples in policy making**

The Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) developed an FPIC guide for protected areas, in collaboration with NGOs and Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs). Three Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) were established without national regulations or frameworks for ICCAs in place. These ICCAs became pilot experiences on the effectiveness of community-based conservation and helped policy makers to gather insights on how to formulate adequate legal frameworks and regulations to support them. In a similar way, the first local community forest concession (*concessions forestière de communauté locale* or CFCL) was established years ago, before a legal framework was developed. Finally, the Ministry of Environment, together with conservation NGOs, the IUCN, IPOs and development partners, initiated the development of a 30x30 strategy. Although this initiative was done in parallel with the NBSAP revision (and not directly connected to it) it directly contributes to target 3 of the M-GBF.

#### **Box 7: Concrete Examples – Peru Traditional management practices as contributions to agricultural and biological diversity**

In Peru, closer involvement of the agricultural sector has been identified as a priority for NBSAP implementation. For example, Indigenous Campesino communities support and manage agrobiodiversity zones through their agricultural traditions, which conserve agricultural and biological diversity. The National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA) within the Ministry of Agriculture is currently recognizing these zones as other “effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs). The initiative promotes collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment, supports the development and implementation of biodiversity management plans, and that recognizes Indigenous campesino management practices as contributions not only to agricultural but also biological diversity.

### **3.11 Valuing traditional knowledge and including citizen and community generated data**

Indigenous Peoples and local communities often possess their own information and monitoring systems. Collaborating with these community systems can support national monitoring systems. For example, he

Indigenous Navigator,<sup>16</sup> an Indigenous-led response to lack of data and knowledge on the implementation status of nationally and internationally recognized rights, is currently developing a biodiversity module to generate data and involve Indigenous communities in monitoring their contributions to NBSAPs and the KM-GBF in general. Data collected from engaged communities can serve as a proxy in the KM-GBF Monitoring Framework.

Including Indigenous and traditional ecological knowledge in environmental education programs and official curricula is an opportunity to further biodiversity conservation. Educational programs can incorporate teachings on the history of Indigenous and local communities as guardians of nature, the critical role of Indigenous and local communities in stewarding the lands they live on, traditional biodiversity use and management, and traditional practices that have proven effective over time. Valuing the cultural perceptions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities concerning biodiversity within wide-reaching educational programming could support the adoption of harmonious worldviews on nature that are key to solving our current crisis.

**Box 8: Concrete Examples – Approaches to recognizing Indigenous knowledge and monitoring systems**

Currently, research centres, such as Instituto Humboldt, have launched discussions on including Indigenous and traditional knowledge and allowing Indigenous narratives to influence the way scientific content is transmitted. Research centres are also beginning to prioritise Participatory research and dissemination processes that actively involve Indigenous Peoples and local communities. For example, the Amazonian Scientific Research Institute (Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas or SINCHI) and Instituto del Pacífico have launched these processes. Likewise, existing autonomous monitoring systems, like the Indigenous Geographic Information System (SIG-I) of Colombia's National Commission of Indigenous Territories (CNTI) also prioritize Indigenous monitoring for national priorities.

### 3.11 Financing opportunities

There are growing and good examples of enterprises considering the environment in their business models. It is also worth mentioning that banks are reconsidering their investment criteria. For example, the Ministry of Finance and the Financial Superintendence of Colombia developed the biodiversity module of Green Taxonomy, which directs private investments to projects with best practices in conservation. Another example is the great bet led by the National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI) of the National Biodiversity Strategy.

## IV. Suggestions for future work

The following recommendations support NBSAP implementation in the spirit of moving from targets to action.

### 4.1 NBSAP revision

- Clarify the **roles and responsibilities** of relevant stakeholders from across all sectors of society (civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, private sector, academia) to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach with clearly articulated opportunities for societal participation, including co-design, and clarity on potential benefits and expected outcomes.
- Invest in **stakeholder mapping** to identify (new) relevant stakeholders, define how to engage with different groups, and invest sufficient time in securing effective engagement.
- Distinguish between opportunities for **stakeholder engagement and opportunities for information sharing** to define adequate approaches and manage expectations.

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<sup>16</sup> Indigenous Navigator, [Explore and use our community-based monitoring tools | Indigenous Navigator](#)

- Use **tailored approaches** to engage different groups, such as regional and sectorial workshops, address smaller and local organizations, especially groups that have **little capacity** to engage but are impacted in a large way by biodiversity loss or policies
- Analyze to what extent inputs from rights-holders, such as women, youth, Indigenous Peoples consulted during the NBSAP revision have been included in the NBSAP.
- Ensure KM-GBF Section C (whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, human rights-based approach,<sup>17</sup> rights and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and gender), and the Gender Plan of Action is reflected explicitly throughout the NBSAP, and across targets, indicators and the budget.
- Include targets and commitments of relevant non-state actors in NBSAPs.

#### 4.2 Planning, monitoring, reporting of NBSAPs

- Ensure that representatives from all parts of society can engage and participate **early and throughout** the revision of NBSAPs and invest in **continuous engagement and constructive regular communication** to increase buy-in, ownership, commitment and sustained engagement in NBSAP implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- engage new stakeholders with specific contributions to biodiversity and promote their active involvement as implementing partners (for example, a women's organization directly managing a biodiversity project and not just as a participant in the project).
- Involve civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities at the subnational level in implementation and monitoring. Ensure regional and state actors enable and promote linkages to relevant stakeholder groups.
- Analyze and mitigate unintended human rights risks during NBSAP implementation (in line with Section C and specific targets, e.g. target 3 concerning rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities). Be aware of the impact of NBSAP measures on the livelihoods and rights of different stakeholders. Involve Indigenous and local community members who might be affected by NBSAP implementation. Include adequate consultation, including free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) and respect land rights.
- Promote the inclusion of community-generated data and traditional knowledge in monitoring and reporting, respecting knowledge owners and using methodologies and systems developed by and with stakeholders (for example, the Indigenous Navigator's biodiversity module). Address implicit hierarchies of knowledge to value both scientific data and long-standing expertise of local communities and Indigenous Peoples who have ensured biodiversity conservation for generations
- Develop joint strategies with relevant sectoral ministries to engage with private sector parties that may be threatened by or in conflict with biodiversity conservation.

#### 4.3 Resource mobilization and financial mechanisms

- Explore incentives and business models for private sector involvement in NBSAP implementation, including constructing country- and region-specific economic arguments for biodiversity conservation.
- ensure that state actors fulfil their obligations to protect the rights of populations affected by biodiversity policies by ensuring robust national safeguards and mandating private conservation organizations and funders to respect core human rights principles.

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<sup>17</sup> Human Rights and Biodiversity Working Group: [From Agreements to Actions - A guide to applying a human rights-based approach to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), First Edition, May 2024; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans \(NBSAPs\)](#), 2022; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Integrating human rights in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, Research, analysis and recommendations for rights-based biodiversity action](#), October 2022; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Human Rights and Biodiversity: Key Messages](#), July 2021

- Allocate resources to enable key stakeholders from relevant parts of society to contribute to NBSAP implementation. Promote access to direct funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities,<sup>18</sup> including the aspiration of the KM-GBF Fund to dedicate 20% of programming to Indigenous Peoples and local communities by 2030.

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

- Prioritize capacity-building activities to ensure all stakeholders (especially new stakeholders) are well-informed and able to participate effectively in decision-making.
- Build the capacity of relevant state actors to implement participatory, rights-based approaches<sup>19</sup> and methodologies.
- Promote evidence-based policy making by strengthening cooperation with academia and ensure synergies with national IPBES platforms (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). Explore the role of involving academia in capacity-building activities. Promote research on the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the national or local context to make policymakers and other stakeholders aware of the need to address biodiversity issues.
- Include traditional and Indigenous knowledge holders in technical and scientific collaborations at national and regional level.

#### **4.5 Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions**

- Capitalize on synergies between the Rio Conventions at the policy level (for example, joint Gender Plan of Actions) and in stakeholder consultations for monitoring and reporting to reduce duplicative efforts and lessen the workload for civil society.
- Strengthen linkages and learnings for a rights-based engagement of relevant stakeholders by collaborating with national, regional and international human rights institutions

#### **4.6 Communication, education and public awareness**

- Develop constructive communication strategies for engagement with different stakeholders to raise awareness and increase ownership.
- Target sectors of society that are skeptical and opposed to biodiversity action yet have a major detrimental impact on biodiversity.
- Ensure different conceptions of biodiversity are considered and environmental awareness programs use an intercultural approach.

#### **4.7 Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors**

- Use existing national sectorial platforms with functional participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities or private sector for NBSAP implementation, monitoring and reporting.

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<sup>18</sup> Charapa Consult, [Directing Funds to Rights Principles, standards and modalities for supporting indigenous peoples' tenure rights and forest guardianship](#), November 2022; International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), [Principles and Guidelines for Direct Access Funding for Indigenous Peoples' Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation, and Fighting Desertification for a Sustainable Planet](#), November 2022

<sup>19</sup> Human Rights and Biodiversity Working Group: [From Agreements to Actions - A guide to applying a human rights-based approach to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), First Edition, May 2024; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans \(NBSAPs\)](#), 2022

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## VI. Acknowledgements

This research was conducted by Maren Kraushaar with the support and guidance of colleagues from the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership's Global Coordination Unit, including Katherine Madden and Alexandra Said. We extend our gratitude for editing support from Meredith Beaton and for the expert advice received from colleagues at GIZ and SCBD, including Jillian Campbell and Harald Lossack.

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through its International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) also provide support through the GIZ Global Program. The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is operated by a Global Coordination Unit with staff from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Environment Programme.