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Second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization

Analysis of capacity-building and development support available for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization agreed to the methodology for the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol in [decision NP-5/5](#) and on the basis of the elements in the annex to the decision. Element (c) provides for an assessment of support available for implementation, including Article 22. Information on capacity-building projects and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House) are among the sources of information identified.
2. The present note by the Executive Secretary provides an analysis of existing capacity-building and development initiatives supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, with a view to informing the assessment and review of the Protocol's effectiveness.
3. Based on information available to the Secretariat as of 9 March 2026, the analysis in section II of the present document examines the cumulative evolution of capacity-building support since the adoption of the Protocol in 2010, and what this indicates about the current status of implementation. In particular, the review considers the type, status, duration, funding levels, as well as the geographic and thematic coverage of known capacity-building initiatives.
4. The analysis which follows in section III focuses on the capacity-building tools and resources developed since the entry into force of the Protocol. It examines the availability, accessibility, and functional utility of capacity-building tools and resources. In particular, the review considers the diversity of resource formats, thematic alignment with priority areas, and the role of the ABS Clearing-House as a primary mechanism for global knowledge exchange.
5. The Secretariat gathered information on capacity-building initiatives completed or initiated after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010 from different sources, as follows:

* [CBD/SBI/7/1](#).

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

(a) Information made available by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations regarding their capacity-building and development initiatives through the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;¹

(b) Project documents, identification forms (PIFs) or other information available in the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Project Database² and the GEF Small Grants Programme Project Database;³

(c) Information provided by organizations implementing and/or executing capacity-building initiatives; and

(d) Information provided by Parties in their first national reports.

6. The resulting list of capacity-building initiatives is constrained by the availability of information identified by the Secretariat or shared by Parties, organizations and other stakeholders, and may therefore not reflect all initiatives implemented since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol.

II. Overview of capacity-building and development initiatives providing direct support to countries for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (2010–2026)

7. The assessment of capacity-building and development initiatives supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol considers the cumulative⁴ coverage of such support since the adoption of the Protocol in 2010. By examining the body of initiatives implemented over this period and accessible to the Secretariat through the sources consulted, the analysis illustrates how capacity-building support has been deployed across regions, thematic areas and levels of implementation, and what this reveals about the current state of implementation support available to Parties.

8. For some initiatives, key information, such as start and end dates, implementation status, budget and implementation period in months was missing or not readily available. Initiatives for which such key data were unavailable were excluded from the relevant analysis.

A. Progress and status in the implementation of capacity-building initiatives

9. As of 9 March 2026, the cumulative number of capacity-building and development initiatives documented by the Secretariat since the adoption of the Protocol in 2010 stand at 134 (see annex I)⁵. This represents an increase of 44 initiatives since February 2018, the reference point used for measuring progress in the first assessment and review of the Protocol, corresponding to an average increase of approximately five to six new initiatives per year. This points to a consistent, though relatively modest, expansion of capacity-building support over the period.

10. In terms of current implementation status,⁶ as at 9 March 2026, information was available for 129 (96 per cent) of the 134 capacity-building and development initiatives. Of these 72 per cent were completed, representing a substantial increase compared with 14 per cent initiatives reported as completed in February 2018. A further 18 per cent of initiatives were ongoing, and 7 per cent had been

¹ The ABS Clearing-House can be accessed at: <https://absch.cbd.int/>

² The GEF Project Database can be accessed at: <http://www.thegef.org/projects>.

³ The GEF Small Grants Programme Project Database can be accessed at: <https://sgp.undp.org/>.

⁴ In this analysis, "cumulative" refers to the aggregation of all capacity-building and development initiatives recorded by the Secretariat since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010.

⁵ The overview of capacity-building initiatives in annex I complements the last stock-taking exercise (CBD/NP/MOP/4/INF/1) prepared for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, held in November 2022 and thus contains only new initiatives and initiatives that were not captured in previous reports.

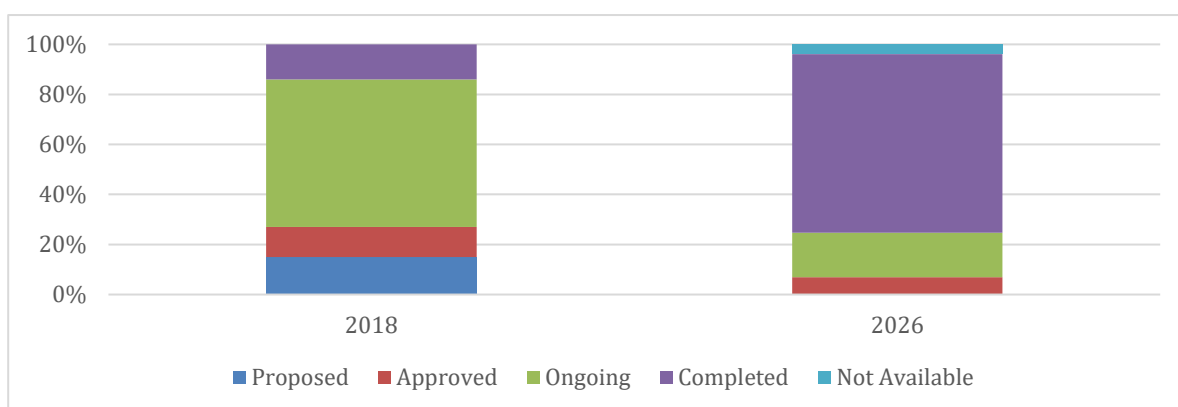
⁶ Donors use different terminology to reflect the status of projects. For the purposes of this analysis, the status of projects has been classified as follows: approved, ongoing and completed. "Approved" refers to projects whose concepts or documents have, in principle been accepted by the donor(s) and are being developed into full project documents. "Ongoing" refers to projects that are under implementation and "completed" refers to projects that are finalized.

approved, compared with 59 per cent ongoing initiatives and 27 per cent approved in 2018 (see figure 1).

11. Overall, this reflects a marked shift from a portfolio largely characterized by ongoing implementation in 2018 to one composed predominantly of completed initiatives by 2026.

Figure I

Implementation status of capacity-building initiatives

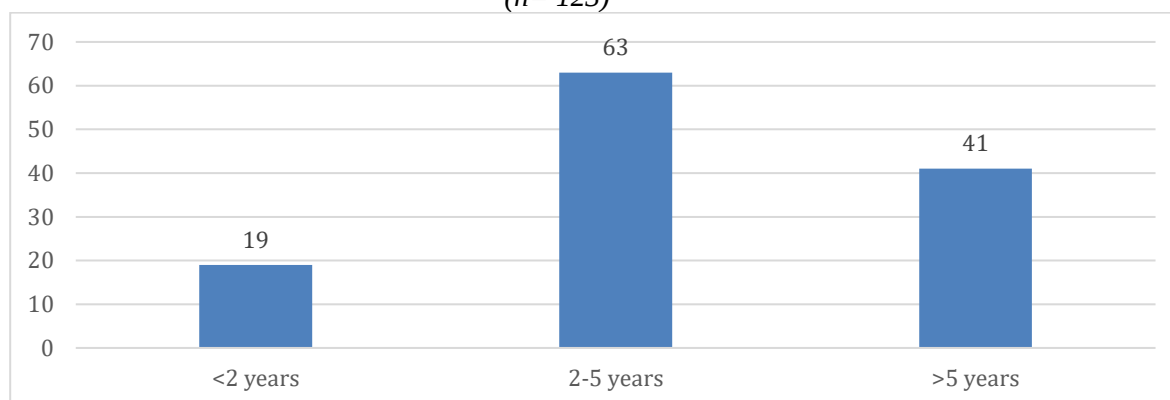


12. With respect to the duration of capacity-building initiatives implemented since the adoption of the Protocol, information is currently available for 123 (92 per cent) of the 134 projects. Sixty-three of the initiatives (47 per cent) fall under the duration period of two to five years, while nineteen (14 per cent) are planned for a duration of less than two years. A further 41 (31 per cent) initiatives are indicated as having a duration of more than five years (see figure 2).

Figure II

Number of capacity-building initiatives by duration, 2010–2026

(*n* = 123)



13. A similar pattern is observed when considering the duration of the 32 ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ capacity-building initiatives currently under implementation. Among initiatives for which duration information is available, the majority are planned for implementation periods of two to five years or longer (15 initiatives), with minimal initiatives designed as short-term interventions (3 initiatives). This suggests that the current portfolio of capacity-building support is oriented towards medium- to long-term engagement, consistent with the longer implementation timeframes observed across the cumulative portfolio.

14. Since the February 2018 update, 24 new GEF-funded ABS projects have been approved (under GEF-6 (3), GEF-7 (12) and GEF-8 (10)), alongside seven new projects led by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and two new projects led by the ABS Initiative. In addition, one

new project has been funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund and two by the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, while seven projects (funded by DFID Darwin Initiative (2), Bio-Bridge Initiative (2), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Government of Switzerland (1), the ASEAN-Indian Green Fund (1) and the Ministry of Municipality and Environment of the State of Qatar (1)) that were not captured in 2018 are now accounted for.

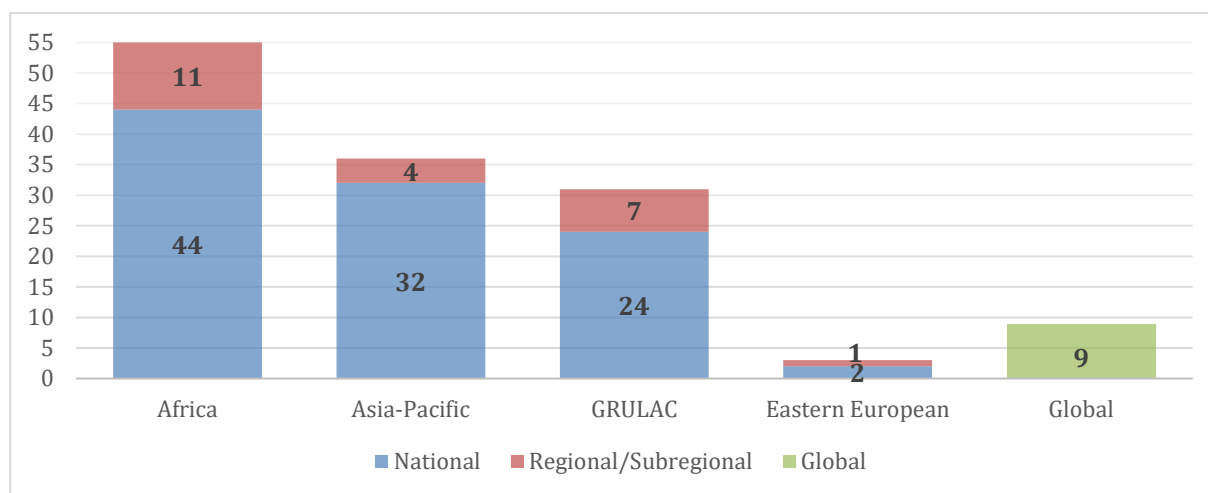
B. Scale, geographic coverage, and thematic focus of capacity-building initiatives

15. In terms of scale,⁷ most of the 134 capacity-building and development initiatives providing direct support to specific countries since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol have been implemented at the national level. National-scale initiatives account for 102 projects (76 per cent), while 23 initiatives (17 per cent) are implemented at the regional or subregional scale and 9 initiatives (7 per cent) are global in scope.

16. From a geographic coverage perspective, capacity-building and development initiatives providing direct support since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol have been most heavily concentrated in the African region, with 44 national and 11 regional or subregional projects. This is followed by Asia-Pacific, with 32 national and 4 subregional projects. Latin America and the Caribbean account for 24 national and seven regional/subregional projects. In Eastern European States, there are two national projects and one subregional. Furthermore, nine global initiatives have been providing support to a number of countries from these regions (see figure III).

Figure III

Capacity-building initiatives by scale and geographic coverage (2010–2026) (n=134)



17. This pattern is also reflected in the current portfolio of ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ capacity-building initiatives as of March 2026, which comprises 16 projects in Africa, 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 5 in Asia-Pacific, complemented by two global initiatives supporting countries across these regions. Taken together, this indicates that implementation support remains most concentrated in regions with historically higher levels of engagement in capacity-building activities. While the geographic distribution of initiatives provides an indication of where support is currently being delivered, it does not in itself capture differences in access to capacity building opportunities, which may be influenced by factors such as national demand, institutional readiness, funding eligibility criteria, and the modalities of available support. In contrast, Eastern European States seem to be the least supported in terms of the scale and number of active initiatives. While the approval of two national projects and three global initiatives since February 2018 has expanded coverage in the

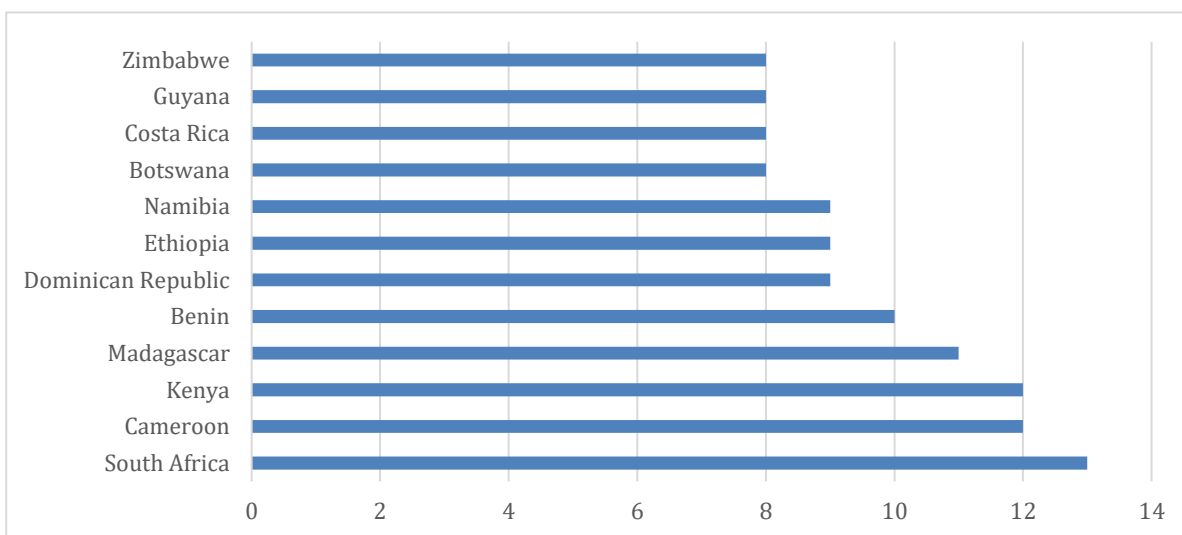
⁷ Capacity-building initiatives were categorized as national (implemented in a single Party only), regional/subregional (involving two or more Parties within the same region or subregion) or global (benefiting Parties from multiple regions) based on the geographic scope of their activities.

region from one Party (Georgia) to six (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia), representing approximately 75 per cent of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol in the region, overall support remains limited.

18. At the country level, a review of national-level data since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol (see figure IV) shows that capacity-building support has been concentrated in a relatively small number of Parties. South Africa has benefited from the highest number of capacity-building projects (13), followed by Cameroon and Kenya (12 each). Madagascar follows closely with 11 initiatives, while Benin has been supported through 10 initiatives. A second grouping of countries, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, and Namibia, each account for 9 initiatives, and Botswana, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Zimbabwe have each benefited from 8 initiatives.

Figure IV

Number of capacity-building projects by country, 2010–2026 (Top 10)



19. An examination of ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ capacity-building initiatives at the country level indicates that current support extends to a substantial number of Parties across all regions. As of March 2026, ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ initiatives provide direct support to approximately 103 Parties, with most countries benefiting from one (67 countries) or two (22 countries) initiatives. By contrast, 13 countries are supported through three initiatives each, and only one country, Madagascar, benefits from four initiatives. Overall, this pattern suggests that the current portfolio places greater emphasis on broad geographic coverage, largely driven by global-level initiatives, rather than sustained or multi-layered country-level engagement.

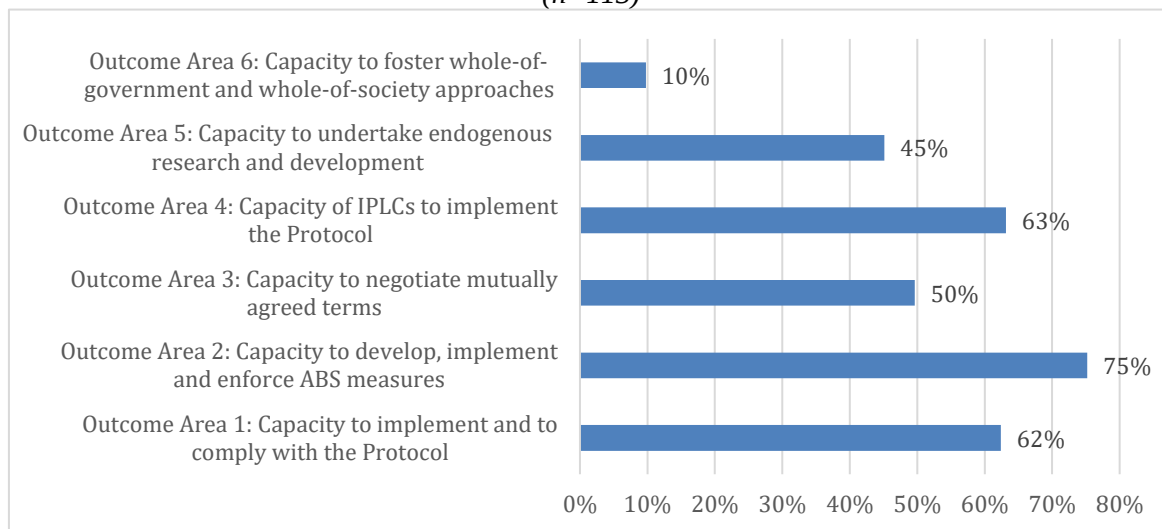
20. With respect to thematic focus, information available for 113 (84 per cent) of the 134 capacity-building and development initiatives implemented since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol has been analysed to assess how support is distributed across the outcome areas of the Capacity-building and Development Action Plan for the Nagoya Protocol⁸ (see figure V).

⁸ In [decision NP-5/3](#), the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted a capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol (para. 3 and annex I to the decision). The framework identifies six outcome areas for capacity-building and development.

Figure V

Thematic coverage of capacity-building initiatives across the outcome areas of the Capacity-building and Development Action Plan (2010–2026)

(n=113)



21. 75 per cent of projects cover outcome area 2 (capacity to develop, implement and enforce ABS measures), followed by 63 per cent on outcome area 4 (capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to implement the Protocol) and 62 per cent on outcome area 1 (capacity to implement and to comply with the Protocol). Moderate levels of coverage are observed for outcome area 3 (Capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms), which is covered by 50 per cent of projects, and outcome area 5 (Capacity to undertake endogenous research and development), addressed by approximately 45 per cent. In contrast, outcome area 6 (Capacity to foster whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches) is covered by 10 per cent of projects.

22. The limited coverage under outcome area 6 is largely attributable to its recent introduction under the Capacity-building and Development Action Plan for the Nagoya Protocol adopted by the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting in 2024. As this outcome was not included in the previous iteration of the Action Plan⁹, the present assessment could only be applied to a limited number of newly approved projects for which relevant information was available (29 projects). In this context, it is also pertinent to note that a substantial proportion of these newly approved initiatives (over 50 percent) are supported by the Global Environmental Facility, whose programming framework integrates cross-cutting elements such as gender equality, knowledge management, and communication and awareness-raising to be integrated into project design and implementation. Against this background, the observed thematic distribution should be understood as reflecting the phased evolution of the Capacity-building and Development Action Plan, with outcome areas introduced after the interim assessment only being reflected in more recent initiatives.

23. An examination of the thematic focus of ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ capacity-building initiatives indicates that current implementation support broadly reflects cumulative patterns. ‘Approved’ and ‘ongoing’ initiatives continue to concentrate on outcome areas related to the development, and implementation of ABS measures, as well as implementation and compliance capacities. While all outcome areas are represented within the current portfolio, comparatively limited emphasis remains on endogenous research and development. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are also present but, reflecting their recent introduction under the revised Action Plan, remain at an

⁹ In [decision NP-1/8](#), the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted a strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (para. 1 and annex I to the decision). The framework identifies five key areas for capacity-building and development.

early stage of integration and have yet to be strengthened at scale within current capacity-building efforts.

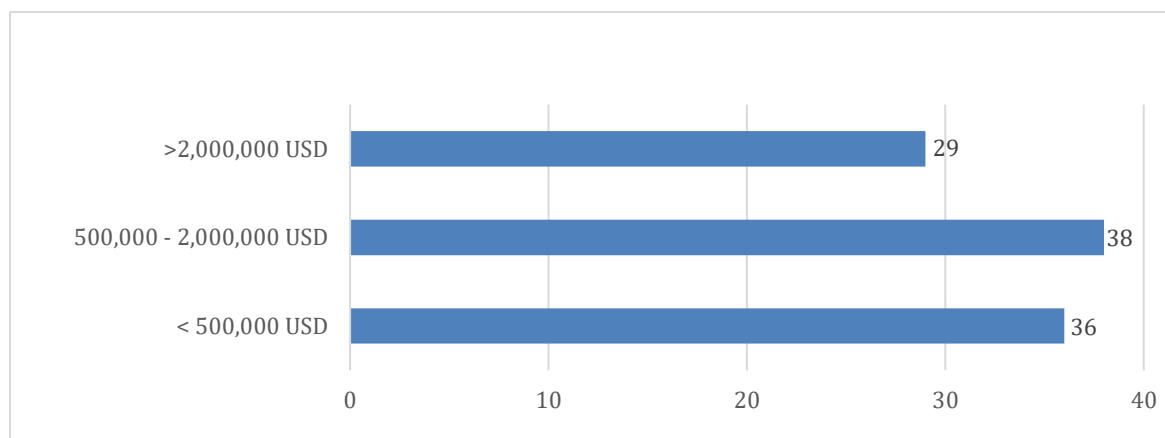
C. Institutional support and funding levels

24. Of the 103 national projects implemented since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, 36 projects (35 per cent) are small-sized with funding of less than 500,000 United States dollars; 38 projects (37 per cent) are medium sized, with funding between \$500,000 and \$2,000,000; and 29 projects (28 per cent) are full sized, with funding of over \$2,000,000 (see figure VI).

Figure VI

Level of core funding for national capacity-building initiatives

(n=103)



25. In contrast to the cumulative portfolio, the current set of ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ national capacity-building projects reflects a shift towards medium- and full-sized initiatives. Among the twenty-nine ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ national projects, funding is concentrated in medium-sized initiatives (19 projects in the \$500,000–2,000,000 range) and full-sized initiatives (8 projects exceeding \$2,000,000), with one small-sized national project currently under implementation.

26. Of the 134 capacity-building initiatives implemented since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, 58 per cent have or are being funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Based on the information compiled by the Secretariat for the present report, the GEF has allocated more than \$141,426,998 million in core funding for capacity-building initiatives on ABS.

27. As can be seen in Table 1 below, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) carried out the greatest number of ABS capacity-building initiatives, followed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). This institutional distribution reflects, in part, the financing structure of the portfolio, as almost 95 per cent of initiatives implemented by UNDP and UNEP are supported by GEF, consistent with their roles as primary GEF implementing agencies. The ABS Initiative has provided support for national-level capacity-building activities in 32 countries; however, after 20 years of capacity-building project implementation, the ABS Initiative programme closed at the end of 2025.

Table

Number and proportion of projects implemented/executed by international organizations 2010–2026

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Asia-Pacific</i>	<i>GRULAC</i>	<i>Eastern European</i>	<i>Global</i>	<i>No. of projects</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
ABS Initiative ¹⁰	11	5	2	-	1	19	14 %
ABS Initiative/GIZ	5	-	-	-	-	5	4 %
Biodiversity International/ ABS Initiative	1	-	-	-	-	1	1 %
Botanic Gardens Conservation International	2	-	-	-	-	2	1 %
Development Bank of Latin America	-	-	1	-	-	1	1 %
GIZ	5	3	7	1	-	16	12 %
IADB	-	-	2	-	-	2	1 %
IUCN	-	1	-	-	-	1	1 %
JICA/COMIFAC	1	-	-	-	-	1	1 %
UNCTAD	-	-	-	-	1	1	1 %
UNDP	13	16	11	2	1	44	33 %
UNEP ¹¹	14	3	6	-	5	28	20 %
UNEP/ABS Initiative	1	-	-	-	-	1	1 %
UNEP/ACB	-	3	-	-	-	3	2 %
UNEP/IUCN	-	1	2	-	-	3	2 %
UNEP/SPREP	-	1	-	-	-	1	1 %
National Governments/Institutions	1	1	3	-	1	6	4 %
Total	54	34	34	2	9	134	100 %

28. Ninety per cent of the current portfolio of thirty-two ‘approved’ and ‘ongoing’ capacity-building initiatives are supported by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The remaining three initiatives are funded respectively by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Germany (BMZ), the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund. In line with the pattern observed in the cumulative data, implementation of the current portfolio is highly concentrated, with all but four initiatives being implemented by UNDP and UNEP. The remaining initiatives are implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB),

¹⁰ The ABS Capacity-Development Initiative through its global project is providing direct national support to 15 countries.

¹¹ This refers only to projects implemented by UNEP and directly executed by national Government agencies.

the Development Bank of Latin America, GIZ and the Nagoya Protocol Hub managed by Leibniz University.

D. Analysis of information on capacity-building initiatives published in the ABS Clearing-House

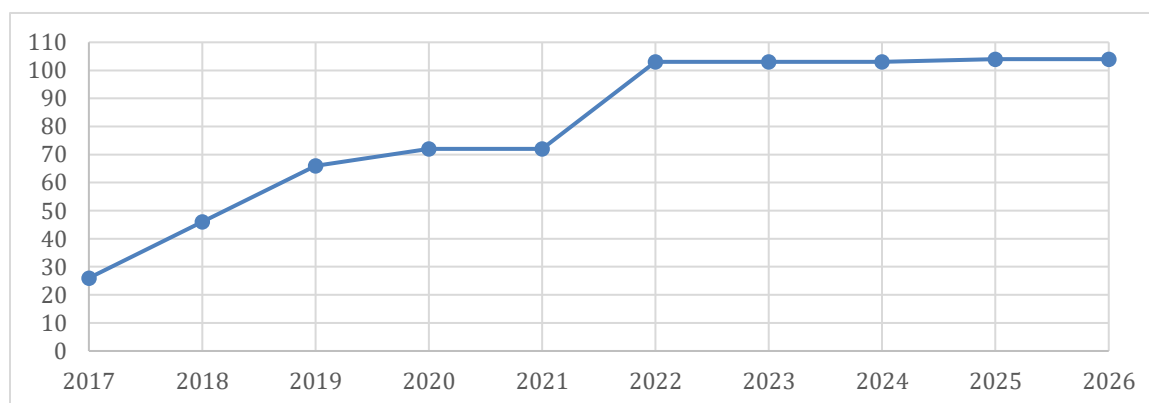
29. An examination of the availability of information on capacity-building initiatives in the ABS Clearing-House indicates that coverage remains partial. Of the 134 capacity-building and development initiatives identified since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010, 61 initiatives have been recorded in the ABS Clearing-House as of 9 March 2026. This represents an increase of four initiatives compared with the 57 initiatives recorded as of the February 2018 reference point.

30. With respect to reference records available in the ABS Clearing-House, 104 records (representing 13 per cent of the 825 reference records as of 9 March 2026) are identified as “capacity development initiatives”. These include 82 national-level records, 13 regional/subregional records and 6 global records. A further distinction shows that 64 records are registered as components or activities of broader capacity-building projects or programmes, while 19 are recorded as stand-alone capacity-building activities.

31. A review of the “capacity development initiatives” published on the ABS Clearing-House at yearly intervals in the nine-year period from 2017 to 2026 shows that the number of initiatives recorded has increased over time; however, the pace of growth has been uneven. Between 2017 and 2019, the number of capacity development initiatives recorded in the ABS Clearing-House rose steadily from 26 to 66, coinciding with targeted efforts by the Secretariat to support the publication of existing information during that period. This was followed by more limited growth during 2020–2021, when only six additional initiatives were recorded. A more pronounced increase occurred in 2022, again reflecting focused Secretariat support for the consolidation and publication of previously unrecorded information, resulting in a total of 103 recorded initiatives. Thereafter, the number of recorded initiatives shows little change, increasing to only 104 records by 2026 (see Figure 7), indicating a marked decline in the frequency of updates by Parties during the period from 2022 to 2026.

Figure VII

Number of capacity development initiatives published on the ABS Clearing-House 2017–2026



32. The information published in the ABS Clearing-House provides a basis for analysing certain characteristics of capacity development initiatives, notably the types of activities¹² reported and the beneficiary groups¹³ targeted. At the same time, the analytical value of the data is constrained by

¹² The 11 categories of capacity-development activities include: institutional capacity development, legal and technical support, workshops, trainings, provision of tools, resources and knowledge products, experiential learning, research and analysis, online learning, online forums and networks, and matchmaking support.

¹³ The 9 categories of target beneficiaries of capacity-development initiatives include: civil society organizations, the general public, government officials, IPLCs, intergovernmental organizations, media, private sector, research/academia, and students.

several limitations, including incomplete entries (for example, where individual activities are uploaded without reference to the broader capacity development initiative), missing core information such as budgets or start and end dates, and the lack of timely updates, including instances where completed initiatives continue to be recorded as “ongoing”.

III. Capacity-building and development tools and resources

A. Analysis of information on capacity-building and awareness raising tools and resources documented by Parties in the first national reports

33. Information provided by Parties in their first national reports¹⁴ offers a comprehensive overview of the diverse capacity-building and awareness-raising tools and resources in use. The following summary highlights four major trends identified across these reports:

(a) Across Parties, capacity-building initiatives emphasize the development of practical, user-friendly learning tools designed to make ABS concepts more accessible and operational. Several countries reported the use of simplified guidance materials including toolkits, checklists, standard operating procedures, model contractual clauses and benefit-sharing templates, to support learning and application among diverse stakeholders. Examples include Bhutan, Malaysia and Malawi, which highlighted the development of ABS toolkits and training resources, as well as Côte d’Ivoire’s illustrated guides and Cuba’s training manuals aimed at demystifying ABS terminology and processes. Other Parties reported the use of glossaries, legal dictionaries, handbooks and structured training modules to support understanding among users and providers;

(b) A second set of tools focuses on audience-specific communication, particularly for non-specialist audiences and stakeholders with limited prior exposure to the Protocol. Countries emphasized the importance of culturally and linguistically appropriate materials to raise awareness among rural communities and indigenous peoples and local communities, including the use of local-language leaflets, brochures and audiovisual materials. Several Parties also reported the use of radio, print and digital media to support outreach and awareness-raising at scale, while Peru highlighted the development of communication materials validated by indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure cultural relevance;

(c) A third focus area concerns the development of capacity-building tools specifically designed for indigenous peoples and local communities. These initiatives focus on strengthening community agency, governance of traditional knowledge (TK) and meaningful participation in access and benefit-sharing processes. Reported tools include community and biocultural protocols, traditional knowledge documentation methods and emerging approaches to TK valuation, all of which are intended to support indigenous peoples and local communities in exercising rights, defining consent and negotiation processes, and engaging more effectively in benefit-sharing arrangements;

(d) Technical skill-building tools constitute a further focus of capacity-building resources, aiming to strengthen understanding and application of ABS obligations, procedures and legal concepts. These tools typically take the form of training manuals, procedural guidance, legal dictionaries, glossaries, model contracts, checklists and online support resources. They are designed to support practical interpretation and implementation of ABS frameworks by improving technical competence, legal clarity and procedural consistency among those responsible for applying the Nagoya Protocol in practice.

34. These capacity-building tools and resources appear with varying geographic distribution, with broad-audience awareness tools reported widely across regions, tools focused on indigenous peoples and local communities concentrated in Asia-Pacific and parts of Africa and Latin America and the

¹⁴ In response to Q53, Q53.1, Q54, Q54.2, Q55 and Q56 of the first national report.

Caribbean, and technical skill-building tools more common among Parties with longer ABS implementation experience.

B. Analysis of information on capacity-building and development tools and resources published in the ABS Clearing-House

35. In previous reports,¹⁵ the overview of capacity-building and development tools and resources was manually compiled by the Secretariat through external internet searches, records from the ABS Clearing-House, information documented by Parties in the interim national reports, and direct engagement with Parties, relevant stakeholders and organizations. While this approach provided a comprehensive snapshot at the time, it was prone to becoming outdated and to containing inaccessible web links. In contrast, the present analysis draws primarily on information recorded in the ABS Clearing-House as the sole repository of records, in line with its role as the primary information-sharing mechanism of the Nagoya Protocol.

36. A review of data on capacity-building and development tools and resources recorded in the ABS Clearing-House suggests that certain aspects of data structuring and presentation limit their ease of analysis and discoverability. In particular, overlaps in categorization and variation in thematic tagging can make it challenging to clearly identify and quantify distinct tools and their intended purpose, while the absence of standardized filters for different resource formats affects the visibility of more interactive or practice-oriented materials. Additionally, it is not always immediately evident whether records reflect resources that remain relevant for current implementation under the Protocol or materials that are archived or superseded by more recent guidance.

37. While information contained in the first national reports indicates that a wide range of practical and context-specific capacity-building tools and resources are being developed and used by Parties to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, this breadth of activity is not readily discernible from the data currently available in the ABS Clearing-House.

IV. Conclusions

38. Between February 2018 and March 2026, the distribution of capacity-building initiatives supporting implementation of the Nagoya Protocol has shifted from a portfolio largely comprised of approved and ongoing initiatives (86 per cent) to one dominated by completed initiatives (72 per cent).

39. Notwithstanding the high rate of project completion, the review identifies a marked deceleration in the initiation of new capacity-building initiatives. Approved and ongoing initiatives now account for only 32 projects (equivalent to 19 per cent) of the cumulative total of 134, indicating a plateau in the implementation pipeline and a slowdown in the flow of new implementation support.

40. While 141 countries have directly benefited from capacity-building and development initiatives supporting implementation of the Nagoya Protocol since its adoption in 2010, this broad reach has not translated into uniform depth of capacity-building support. Implementation has predominantly been national in scale (102 initiatives) and is heavily concentrated in a small number of beneficiary countries, primarily in Africa, while other regions, in particular Eastern European, receive comparatively limited sustained, national-level support. At the same time, relatively few global (9) and regional/subregional (23) capacity-building initiatives have been implemented (currently only 2 initiatives are global and 3 are regional/subregional), constraining opportunities for peer learning, regional exchange and shared learning among Parties.

41. The thematic emphasis of the capacity-building initiatives continues to focus on core ABS implementation capacities, in particular the development and implementation of ABS measures.

42. The analysis highlights a significant shift in the financing landscape for capacity-building under the Nagoya Protocol, characterized by a narrowing range of funding sources. Following the closure

¹⁵ [CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2019/1/2](#) and [CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2019/1/2/ADD2](#).

of major non-GEF programmes, including the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, approximately 90 per cent of the current capacity-building portfolio is now supported through GEF-funded interventions. This concentration highlights the reliance on a single financing mechanism to sustain technical support.

43. Beyond financing, this shift has also affected the architecture of capacity-building delivery. The closure of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, together with the limited number of remaining specialized capacity-building providers, has resulted in a portfolio increasingly implemented through a small number of large implementing agencies rather than through dedicated, long-standing capacity-building providers.

44. Despite the extensive capacity-building activity under the Nagoya Protocol, its visibility in the ABS Clearing-House remains partial, with only 61 of the 134 identified initiatives recorded as of March 2026. The increase in records observed in earlier periods reflects the targeted stock-taking and publication efforts led by the Secretariat, rather than sustained, routine updating by Parties and capacity-building providers themselves. The slowdown in the recording of capacity-building initiatives after 2022 suggests that the capacity-development component of the ABS Clearing-House has not yet become a central or consistently valued channel for the regular sharing and updating of information by Parties and capacity-building providers. As a result, the value and effectiveness of keeping this information in the ABS Clearing-House up to date could be further discussed.

45. Information from the first national reports demonstrates that a wide and diverse range of practical capacity-building tools and resources are being developed and used by Parties to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; however, information on these activities is not being consistently published in the ABS Clearing-House. The ABS Clearing-House could be enhanced to improve the visibility and accessibility of implementation-relevant tools as the Protocol's primary information-sharing mechanism.

Annex

Overview of capacity-building and development initiatives providing direct support to countries for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The present overview has been prepared by the Secretariat based on information available on capacity-building and development initiatives implemented or proposed for implementation after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010 and which have provided or are providing direct support for country-level activities either supporting ratification of the Nagoya Protocol or contributing to its implementation. The overview complements the last stock-taking exercise¹⁶ prepared for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, held in November 2022 and thus contains only new initiatives and initiatives that were not captured in previous reports.

Table

Capacity-building and development initiatives

Scope	Region	Title of initiative	Implementing/ executing agency	Status (as at 9 March 2026)	Start date	End date	Duration (# of months)	Core Funding Source	Core funding in US\$	Record available on ABS- CH
GLOBAL										
Global	Global	Support to Preparation of the Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean) Bhutan, Kenya, Fiji, Guatemala, Sao Tome and Principe, Namibia, Egypt, Gambia, Albania, Comoros, Djibouti, Guyana, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Gabon, Samoa, Congo, Botswana, India, Lao PDR, Micronesia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Eswatini, Congo DR, Liberia, Burundi, Kyrgyz Republic, Vanuatu, Cuba, Moldova, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Senegal, Belarus, Cambodia, Tajikistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Ethiopia, Mali, Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Togo, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia, Myanmar, Seychelles, Zambia, Guinea, Mauritius, Benin, Malawi, Cameroon	UNEP	n/a	May-19	n/a	n/a	GEF TF/GEF-6	1,430,000	No

¹⁶ [CBD/NP/MOP/4/INF/1](#)

Global	Global	Support towards preparation of the first national report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean) Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Yemen, Argentina, Zambia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Eswatini, Bangladesh, Lesotho, Mexico, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Central African Republic, Cuba, Uganda, Guatemala, Cote d'Ivoire, Lao PDR, Morocco, St. Kitts and Nevis, Benin, Burundi, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uruguay, Cameroon, Egypt, St. Lucia, Senegal, Tuvalu, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, Tonga, Serbia, Gambia, Marshall Islands, Panama, Albania, Bhutan, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Turkmenistan, Fiji, Maldives, Pakistan, Congo, Micronesia, Niger, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Botswana, Sudan, Bahrain, Madagascar, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Chad, Congo DR, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Vanuatu, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Mali, Palau, Angola, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Costa Rica, Kiribati, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Honduras, Mongolia, Peru, Ecuador, Malaysia, Mozambique, Guinea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Moldova, China, Nigeria, Mauritania, Montenegro, Malawi, Jordan, Cambodia, Guyana, Tajikistan, Togo, India	UNEP	ongoing	Apr-25	Mar-27	23	GEF TF/GEF-8	3,701,250	No
Global	Global	BioTrade Initiative - Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development Africa, South-East Asia and the Americas	UNCTAD	completed	Apr-18	Mar-22	47	SECO	n/a	Yes
Global	Global	Communicating user-friendly ABS procedures (Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America) Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Peru and the Republic of Moldova	Nagoya Protocol HuB	ongoing	May-25	Nov-26	18	Japan Biodiversity Fund	100,000	No
Regional/subregional										
Regional/ Subregional	Africa	Access and Benefit Sharing Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa (ABioSA) - Phase 2 Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe	GIZ	completed	Nov-21	Dec-25	49	SECO	5,134,000	Yes

Regional/ Subregional	Africa	Multi-Donor-Initiative Capacity Development for ABS Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and South Africa	GIZ	completed	Sep-22	Dec-25	40	BMZ, SECO, NORAD, MLNV	10,000,000	Yes
Regional/ Subregional	Africa	Implementing access and benefit sharing for biodiversity (Phase II) Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, South Africa	ABS Initiative	completed	Jan-23	Dec-25	36	BMZ, SECO, NORAD, MLNV	n/a	No
Regional/ Subregional	Asia-Pacific	ASEAN-India Cooperation Project: Capacity Building towards Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, the City Biodiversity Index and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (ASIA) Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam	National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, India & ACB	completed	2018	2020	n/a	ASEAN-Indian Green Fund	n/a	No
Regional/ Subregional	Latin America and the Caribbean	Regional Programme: ABS/CCAD-GIZ – Strengthening ABS Frameworks and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala	GIZ	completed	2020	2023	36	BMZ	n/a	No
Regional/ Subregional	Latin America and the Caribbean	Strengthening the implementation of the principles of access to genetic resources and fair sharing of benefits (ABS) Costa Rica and Dominican Republic	GIZ	completed	Apr-23	Mar-25	24	BMZ	820,906	No
Regional/ Subregional	Latin America and the Caribbean	Promotion of the implementation of a regional biodiversity strategy for the protection and sustainable use of Caribbean habitats (includes ABS component) Guyana, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	GIZ	ongoing	Jul-25	Jun-26	11	BMZ	3,200,000	No
National										
National	Africa	Promoting Beneficiation and Value Addition from Genetic Resources through Enhanced Capacity for Research and Development and the Protection of Traditional Knowledge in Botswana	UNDP	ongoing	Oct-23	Oct-27	48	GEF TF/GEF-7	1,665,982	No
National	Africa	Support to Nagoya protocol implementation, research and development, on Biodiversity value chain for small holders in the South West and Far North Regions of Cameroon	UNEP	ongoing	Sep-23	Jul-27	46	GEF TF/GEF-7	2,000,000	No
National	Africa	Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation Morocco	UNDP	ongoing	Aug-23	Aug-28	60	GEF TF/GEF-7	1,776,620	No

National	Africa	Effective Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing of the Nagoya Protocol and Integration into Planned co-management Arrangements in the Nyambai Forest Park of The Gambia	UNEP	ongoing	Aug-23	Feb-26	30	GEF TF/GEF-7	3,074,886	No
National	Africa	Operationalizing the Nagoya Protocol Access and Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge Regime in Burkina Faso (ONATRA)	UNEP	approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	GEF TF/GEF-8	2,639,726	No
National	Africa	Establishing the National Framework and Operational Capacities for Implementing the Nagoya Protocol through demonstration of replicable models for equitable access and benefit sharing (ABS) in Equatorial Guinea	UNEP	approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	GEF TF/GEF-8	1,319,863	No
National	Africa	Responsible exchange of plant genetic resources for research and development Ethiopia, Uganda	Botanic Gardens/ Conservation International	completed	Jul-20	Jun-23	35	DFID/ Darwin Initiative	437,436	No
National	Africa	Establishment of an African Legal Network on ABS in Morocco and Participating French-Speaking African Countries	State Secretary for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development	completed	Mar-18	Jun-18	3	Bio-Bridge Initiative	25,000	No
National	Asia-Pacific	Advancing ABS implementation in Cambodia	UNDP	approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	GBFF/ GEF-8	1,182,877	No
National	Asia-Pacific	Strengthening ABS Governance in Cambodia Through Digital Traceability	UNDP	approved	Apr-26	Apr-28	24	GBFF/ GEF-8	842,683	No
National	Asia-Pacific	Compounding Biodiversity Actions and Traditional Knowledge for Access and Benefit Sharing Systems Transformation (CATALYST) Indonesia	UNDP	approved	Dec-26	Dec-30	48	GEF TF/GEF-8	5,000,000	No
National	Asia-Pacific	Building Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Framework for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Thailand	UNDP	approved	Dec-26	Dec-30	48	GEF TF/GEF-8	1,685,160	No
National	Asia-Pacific	Strengthening capacities for the effective implementation of the ABS regime Bhutan	National Biodiversity Centre	completed	May-21	Dec-21	7	Bio-Bridge Initiative	20,000	No
National	Eastern European	Albania's Path to Strengthening Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	UNDP	approved	2026	n/a	30	Kunming Biodiversity Fund	1,000,000	No

National	Eastern European	Enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks	UNDP	completed	2024	2025	8	Kunming Biodiversity Fund	200,000	No
National	Latin America and the Caribbean	Developing the potential of <i>Thalassia testudinum</i> in the health sector in Cuba in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	ongoing	Apr-23	Apr-27	48	GEF TF/GEF-7	910,745	No
National	Latin America and the Caribbean	Developing the national ABS legal, policy and institutional framework in Jamaica to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol	UNDP	ongoing	Mar-26	Mar-29	36	GEF TF/GEF-7	826,697	No
National	Latin America and the Caribbean	Strengthening access and benefit-sharing (ABS) policies and institutional frameworks through demonstrable models in Saint Lucia	UNEP	ongoing	Sep-23	Aug-27	47	GEF TF/GEF-7	1,593,836	No
National	Latin America and the Caribbean	Support to the Development of Legal and Institutional Frameworks on Access to Genetic Resources and related Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge in line with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	UNEP	ongoing	Dec-24	Dec-29	60	GEF TF/GEF-7	1,776,484	No
National	Latin America and the Caribbean	Support for the development of a national policy, institutional and monitoring framework to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol in Belize	UNDP	approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	GBFF/GEF-8	1,009,361	No
National	Latin America and the Caribbean	Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Nagoya Protocol, the Cartagena Protocol, and the Promotion of Sustainable Bio-Businesses in Honduras	Development Bank of Latin America	approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	GBFF/GEF-8	3,266,655	No
National	Latin America and the Caribbean	Improving indigenous participation through the CBD's ABS mechanisms Guatemala	Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Indígena Biodiversity Limited, CITES - Peru	completed	Jan-19	Mar-22	38	DFID/ Darwin Initiative	432,665	No

Note on acronyms: (ACB) ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity; (ASEAN) Association of Southeast Asian Nations; (BMZ) Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany; (CITES) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; (DFID) Department for International Development of the United Kingdom; (GEF) Global Environment Facility; (GEF TF) Global Environment Facility Trust Fund; (GEF-6, GEF-7 and GEF-8) sixth, seventh and eighth replenishments of the Global Environment Facility, respectively; (GBFF) Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under GEF; (GIZ) German Corporation for International Cooperation; (MLNV) Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands; (NORAD) Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation; (SECO) State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland; (UNDP) United Nations Development Programme; (UNEP) United Nations Environment Programme; and (UNCTAD) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.