



Tunisia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SPANB 2018–2030)

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Introduction

Although forests cover only 7 percent of Tunisia's territory – about 1.2 million hectares – they are vital for biodiversity, climate regulation, water management, and the livelihoods of rural communities.

Tunisia is a Mediterranean country with mostly arid and semi-arid lands. This makes forest conservation and restoration a national priority for ecological resilience and for the well-being of our people.

Our NBSAP is fully aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and is connected to the other Rio Conventions – the UNFCCC for climate change and the UNCCD for combating desertification.

Key forest-related commitments

In our NBSAP, forests are included across several strategic objectives:

- ❑ **Strategic Objective 5.1** – Protect and restore forest biodiversity, including in dryland and steppe areas.
- ❑ **Strategic Objective 4.1** – Reduce drivers of biodiversity loss, with a focus on:
 - Preventing and fighting forest fires.
 - Sustainable management of non-timber forest products.
- ❑ **Integrating forest biodiversity into agriculture, water, and regional development policies.**

Our commitments are linked to the Aichi Targets and now aligned with the KMGBF Targets.

EXAMPLE 1: PARFD PROJECT

**Project for the promotion of agroforestry and the restoration of degraded forest landscapes,
funded by the Climate Investment Fund through the African Development Bank.**

The “Agroforestry and Restoration of Degraded Forest Landscapes” project is financed by the Climate Investment Funds through the African Development Bank.

It focuses on the north-western governorates of Béja, Bizerte, and Siliana.

Main actions: participatory agroforestry systems, restoration of degraded forest areas, and improving rural incomes.

It also strengthens local governance through active involvement of communities and women’s groups.

Ecosystem and Forest Landscape Restoration – Target 2

Restoring forests is at the heart of our NBSAP and directly supports Target 2 of the KMGBF.

Key actions include:

- Reforestation with native species adapted to arid and semi-arid climates, such as Aleppo pine, acacia, and wild olive.**
- Restoring oasis forest systems and integrating trees into agro-pastoral systems.**
- Building ecological corridors to improve habitat connectivity.**
- Implementing soil and water conservation measures, including rainwater harvesting and dune fixation.**



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Adaptive management and restoration of the degraded Aleppo pine forest in Kasserine.

The project is aligned with Priority 5 of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity (SPANB) which aims to protect and restore biodiversity, improve the resilience of ecosystems, and strengthen their ecosystem services.



Kunming-Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



Korea Forest Service



UN
environment
programme



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Project Objective:

To restore and manage degraded Aleppo pine forest ecosystems in the Kasserine region through the development and implementation of adaptive, integrated, and participatory management plans to enhance resilience to climate change, preserve biodiversity, halt an already initiated degradation process, and maintain productivity.

Activities:

community-based forest management, fire prevention, and development of climate-resilient forest value chains.

Duration of execution: 48 months

Budget: \$3 million (GEF-8 funding)

Expected Results

- Adaptation of forests to climate change ensured;
- Biodiversity enhanced and ecosystem services maintained;
- Carbon sequestration maintained;
- Erosion reduced, runoff controlled;
- Forest production, particularly of non-timber forest products, maintained;
- Forest community sensitized and living standards improved;
- Integration of climate risks into forest planning and management processes ensured;
- Forest monitoring system established;
- Integration of the concept of climate change into an adaptive and integrated forest ecosystem management system.

Technical approaches:

- **Landscape approach** – working at watershed scale, integrating forestry, agriculture, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Nature-based solutions** – assisted natural regeneration, fire management, erosion control, and water harvesting techniques.
- **Agroforestry integration** – combining trees, crops, and livestock to reduce pressure on natural forests.

Research and innovation:

- **Partnership with the National Forestry Research Institute to develop models for dryland restoration.**
- **Remote sensing and GIS for monitoring forest changes.**

Financing and partnerships:

- **Strategic resource mobilization plan combining national budgets, international funds (GEF, CIF, Green Climate Fund), and public–private partnerships.**
- **Community co-management agreements to share restoration benefits and ensure local ownership.**

Our NBSAP includes a **national monitoring and evaluation system** with indicators such as:

- Area of forest restored or reforested.
- Connectivity between forest habitats.
- Conservation status of key forest species.

Progress will be reported in Tunisia's **7th National Report to the CBD**, highlighting our achievements in restoration and sustainable forest management.

Conclusion

Tunisia's forests may be small in area, but they are strategic for biodiversity, climate resilience, and rural livelihoods.

The PARFD in the north-west and the GEF project in Kasserine are strong examples of how national commitments are turned into concrete action on the ground.

Our key message is this: Restoring and sustainably managing forests in dryland areas is not only a biodiversity goal – it is a pathway to climate adaptation, sustainable development, and community well-being.

We look forward to strengthening international cooperation to expand these initiatives and achieve the targets of the KMGBF and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 13 and SDG 15.

Thank You!