

Scaling action for nature:

How the circular economy can help deliver the **Global Biodiversity Framework**



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CBD Communities of Practice Webinar series

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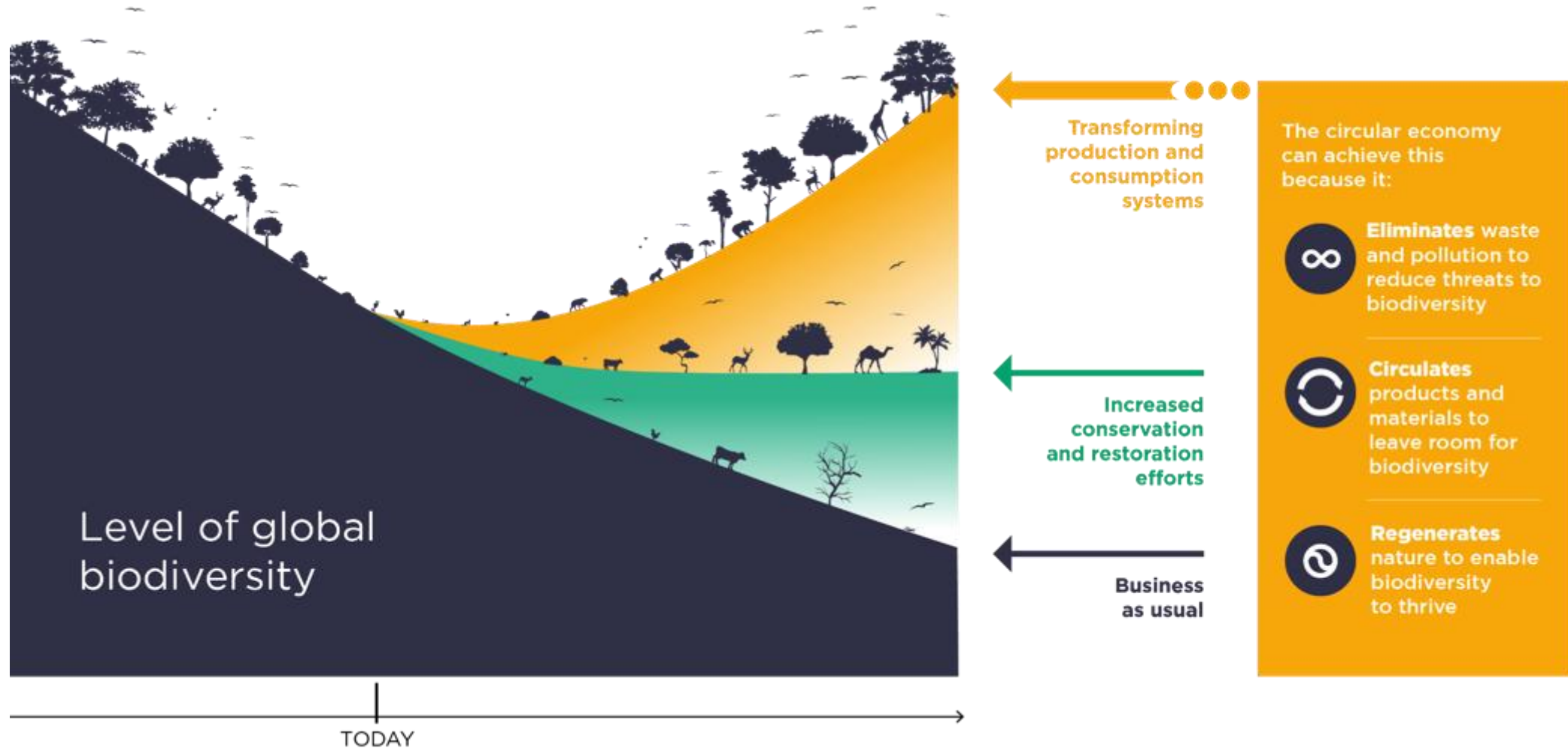
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The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is built around a theory of change which recognizes that urgent policy action is required globally, regionally and nationally to achieve sustainable development so that the **drivers of undesirable change** that have exacerbated biodiversity loss will be reduced and/or reversed to allow for the recovery of all ecosystems and to achieve the Convention's Vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Theory of change | [Global Biodiversity Framework \(2022\)](#)



The circular economy plays a crucial role in bending the curve on biodiversity loss*



* This image is an adaptation of that presented by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity's report [Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 \(2020\)](#) and the Nature article [Bending the curve of terrestrial biodiversity needs an integrated approach](#) (2020). It does not intend to accurately represent the impact of potential scenarios.

Key message no.1: circular economy can support all GBF Targets

2030 Biodiversity targets	How circular economy supports target delivery
8 Climate change: minimise the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience (e.g. mitigation and adaptation through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches)	• Circular economy is key to reducing the 45% of global GHG emissions associated with the production and consumption of products and goods. This is achieved by reducing demand for virgin steel, aluminium, cement, and plastics, and the emissions associated with their production, keep products in use, using regenerative agricultural practices, and designing out food waste.^{A, B, D, F, G, K} • Circular and regenerative approaches, including nature-based solutions, can support climate adaptation across ecosystems (urban, agricultural, etc.). For example, regenerative agriculture improves the water infiltration and retention properties of soils, increasing their resilience to droughts and floods, and increasing tree canopies and expanding green spaces can help reduce urban peak temperatures by up to 3°C.^{A, B, D, F}
9 Basic well-being: manage wild species sustainably to benefit people	• As Target 5
10 Sustainable management and use: enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry	• Circular economy supports regenerative approaches to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture, including the adoption of closed loop nutrient and water cycles, diversification, and opting for lower-impact species.^{A, C, J} • Circular economy helps eliminate waste and pollution which in turn supports retaining the health and quality of soils, forests, and marine and inland water ecosystems.^C
11 Ecosystem services: restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people	• Nature-positive, circular approaches support the maintenance and restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services.^{A, B, C}
12 Green and blue spaces: enhance green spaces and urban planning for human well-being and biodiversity	• Nature-positive, circular approaches are integral to increasing the sustainability and resilience of built environments and urban planning approaches.^B
13 Access and Benefit Sharing / Nagoya Protocol: increase the sharing of benefits from genetic resources, digital sequence information, and traditional knowledge	• To be in line with the GBF Target 13, bio-based solutions and innovations need to support the fair sharing of benefits and due acknowledgement of traditional knowledge where applicable. This in turn can help financing conservation and sustainable use efforts in the place of origin. As such, circular, bio-based innovations can play an active role in implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
14 Policy integration and coherence: integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level	• Circular economy approaches can be vehicles to integrate biodiversity-related or indirectly – into policy frameworks across economic sectors and at municipal, national, and supranational levels.^{A, B, C, H}
15 Business and biodiversity: businesses assess, disclose, and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts	• Nature-positive circular business models (CBMs) can form a framework for and disclose their biodiversity dependencies. Adopting circular strategies and impact will facilitate this disclosure. In turn, the disclosures will increase accountability, and support a systemic tracking of biodiversity-related risks. Resulting data will help to inform the Target 15 implementation efforts.^J • Nature-positive CBMs reduce negative and increase positive business impacts and can mitigate risks related to biodiversity and nature dependencies (e.g. for food products).^{A, B, J}

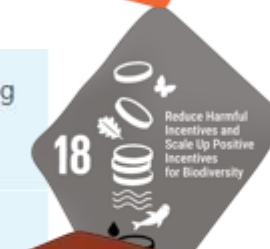


Source: EMF (2025)



Key message no.2: prioritise links to some Targets, for impact across all

14	Policy integration and coherence: integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level	Circular economy approaches can be vehicles to integrate biodiversity-related considerations – directly or indirectly – into policy frameworks across economic sectors and at municipal, regional, national, and supranational levels.^{A, B, C, H}
15	Business and biodiversity: businesses assess, disclose, and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts	- Nature-positive circular business models (CBMs) can form a framework for businesses to assess and disclose their biodiversity dependencies. Adopting circular strategies and tracking their performance and impact will facilitate this disclosure. In turn, the disclosures will increase transparency and accountability, and support a systemic tracking of biodiversity-related risks and contributions. The resulting data will help to inform the Target 15 implementation efforts.^J - Nature-positive CBMs reduce negative and increase positive business impacts on biodiversity, and can mitigate risks related to biodiversity and nature dependencies (e.g. in sourcing ingredients for food products).^{A, B, J}
16	Sustainable consumption: enable sustainable consumption choices to reduce waste and overconsumption	- The circular economy reduces waste across the economy and its associated threats to ecosystems.^{C, E} - Greater availability and traceability of nature-positive, circular products enable consumers to choose options that are better for biodiversity than the industry average (e.g. regenerative approaches to producing food and other bio-based products).^{A, J}
18	Subsidy reform: reduce harmful incentives by at least USD 500 billion per year, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity	Circular approaches (e.g. CBMs) can form an economically appealing alternative for governments looking to re-target existing subsidies and, as such, can help to accelerate subsidy reform.^{A, B, H}
19	Resource mobilisation: mobilise USD 200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including USD 30 billion through international finance	Circular approaches (e.g. CBMs) offer economically attractive routes to ecosystem restoration, regenerative resource management, and GHG emission reduction and so can attract funding directly or indirectly aimed at improving biodiversity.^{A, B, I}



State of play:

Integration of CE into national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Explicit references to circular economy in NBSAPs

(24 countries out of 97) mention
CE in their NBSAPs

25%

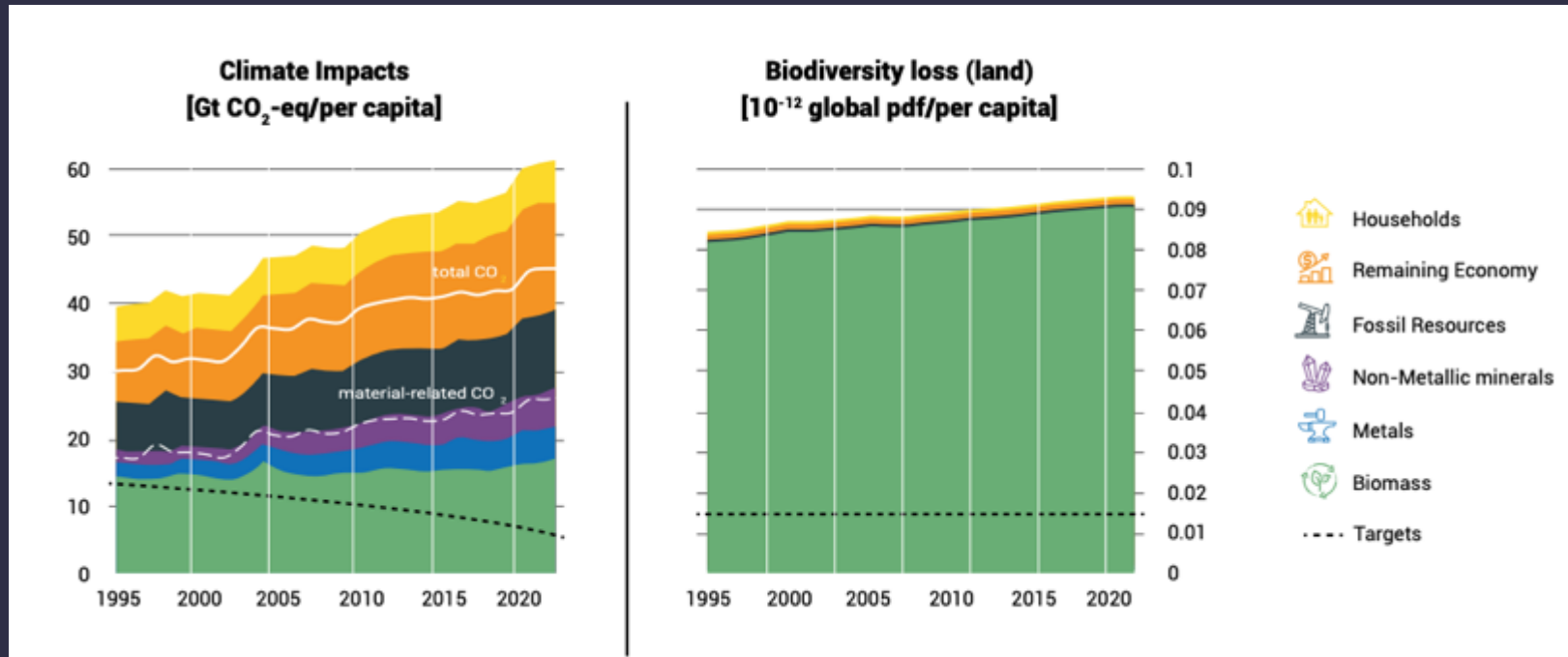
- 37 countries out of 147 (Sep 2025), counting both NBSAPs and submitted targets
- Mostly only one mention / mention only related to one theme
- Plastics and waste reduction most identified theme

Big question for COP17 and beyond:

How to use the circular economy to accelerate
GBF implementation?



Big ticket item no.1: improving circularity of bio-based resource use



“Biomass (agricultural crops and forestry) also account for over 90 per cent of the total land use related biodiversity loss and water stress.”

Big ticket item no.2: driving biodiversity benefits through circular design



**Circular bio-based
materials & products**



**Regenerative
production**



**Nature based
solutions**

CIRCULAR DESIGN

Circular design “pulls”
biodiversity opportunities



What next / call to action

- **COP17 on site:** more visibility for biodiversity & circular economy synergies
- **COP17 outcomes:** integrating circular economy into relevant Decisions, e.g. the Global Review, Mainstreaming agenda ...
- **NBSAPs:** improving synergies at national level, building on the 7th National Report “stock take”

Rather than bending
nature to produce food...

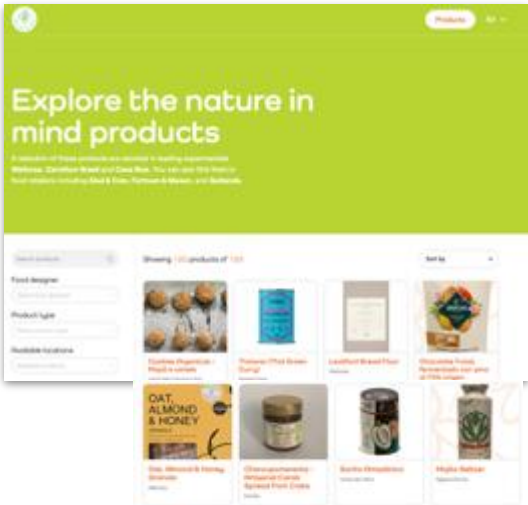


Rather than bending
nature to produce food...



food can be designed for nature to thrive

Products **can** be designed for nature to thrive



Retail activation

Showcase Events - New York, São Paulo, London, Amsterdam



Big Food Redesign products revealed

Dozens of sustainable food items – either new or redesigned using circular economy principles – are set to hit the market following an 18-month project by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Some 141 products made by 57 organisations in 12 countries – including Nestlé, Waitrose and First Milk – have entered the Big Food Redesign Challenge. Innovations include burgers made from blended beef and seaweed, and a range of



Online and media amplification



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