

Part I. Background on the TSCC

The Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC), hosted by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), aims to strengthen regional capacity for implementing biodiversity-related commitments, including the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF). The overall objective of the ACB TSCC is to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer to support the member Parties in implementing the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and their respective targets.

The ACB has made progress in planning, monitoring, and interim management for the TSCC. However, institutional delays, resource constraints, and governance complexities remain significant hurdles. Moving forward, adaptive management, strategic partnerships, and the finalisation of the Host Agreement will be essential to ensuring that the TSCC evolves into a fully functional and responsive support mechanism for biodiversity cooperation in the region.

Progress is also seen in laying the foundations for visibility and communication under the TSCC, with clear plans for branding, systems development, and partnership engagement. However, institutional delays, resource constraints, and governance complexities remain significant hurdles. Moving forward, the successful completion of the Host Agreement, operationalisation of the service centre, and strengthening of resource strategies will be critical to ensuring that the TSCC evolves into a fully functional and responsive support mechanism for biodiversity cooperation in the ASEAN region.

In terms of technical and scientific cooperation and partnerships, the ACB has progressed on various co-developed dialogues and workshops relating to the KM GBF targets. These include identifying gaps on knowledge management, ecosystem restoration, and protected areas and OECMs.

The priority way forward is to ensure that the Host Agreement is endorsed by the ASEAN, in order to fully implement the succeeding activities in the work plan.

Part II. Report on outcomes

1. Operationalization of the TSCC

Outcome 1: The ACB achieved operational milestones and is established as a functional support centre

Outputs	Status	Details
Output 1.1 Management systems established	Ongoing	<p>Upon finalisation of the host agreement, the ACB will formally establish the TSCC Coordinating Unit via Special Order. Interim support is currently provided by designated ACB staff.</p> <p>Ad hoc coordination meetings are held to discuss TSC implementation plans.</p>
Output 1.2 Planning, monitoring, and reporting systems established	Ongoing	<p>A biennial work plan for 2026–2027 was finalized in February 2026, serving as a foundational output for the technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) management systems. Once these systems are fully operational, the work plan will undergo regular monitoring.</p> <p>Formal reporting structures are being established to provide consistent updates to the ACB TSC Steering Committee and the ACB Governing Board.</p> <p>The ACB TSCC Steering Committee provides strategic oversight, ensuring that planning and monitoring efforts align with the ACB's mandate and the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan. To maintain effectiveness, the TSCC will employ adaptive management, adjusting activities based on insights gained from monitoring and reporting cycles.</p>
Output 1.3 Coordination and inclusive governance systems established	Ongoing	<p>The Host Agreement between the ACB and SCBD remains pending, as further clarification and justification regarding the establishment of the Steering Committee are being addressed.</p> <p>The ACB TSCC is currently supported by existing ACB staff who provide interim support alongside their regular duties, including 1 Lead Coordinator and 3 supporting Coordinators. While currently operating with core internal team members, the ACB may hire dedicated staff exclusively for the TSCC or engage external consultants for advisory roles, subject to the availability of funds.</p>

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

The ACB has made progress in establishing the TSCC, particularly in planning and monitoring systems. A foundational biennial work plan for 2025–2026 was finalised in February 2026, providing a structured roadmap for activities and outputs. Interim management arrangements have been put in place, with designated ACB staff—including one Lead Coordinator and three supporting Coordinators—providing operational support to the TSCC Coordinating Unit. Ad hoc coordination meetings are held to discuss implementation plans, ensuring that activities remain aligned with broader objectives. These achievements demonstrate that the Centre has been proactive in laying the groundwork for governance and coordination despite absence of full institutional arrangements.

Nonetheless, several challenges continue to hinder full operationalisation. A key institutional contingency is the pending finalisation of the Host Agreement between the ACB and the SCBD. This agreement is essential, as it underpins the development of the Communication Strategy and provides governance clarity for the TSCC. Without it, the formal establishment of key structures—such as the TSCC Coordinating Unit via Special Order and the TSCC Steering Committee—remains delayed. Resource constraints also pose a significant hurdle. The lack of dedicated resources limits the Centre’s ability to scale up activities and respond effectively to growing demands from Parties and partners. This gap has forced reliance on interim staffing arrangements, which, while functional, are not sustainable in the long term. Governance complexity adds another layer of difficulty, as the Centre must navigate dual reporting lines to both its established Governing Board and the newly formed TSCC Steering Committee. This dual accountability structure risks overlaps, delays, or conflicting priorities if not carefully managed.

To address these challenges, the ACB is adopting adaptive management approaches, adjusting activities based on insights gained from monitoring and reporting cycles to maintain effectiveness. This flexibility allows the Centre to respond to evolving needs while ensuring that progress remains on track. In terms of staffing and consultancy, the ACB is exploring partnerships to bridge gaps and sustain momentum until dedicated resources are secured. Options include hiring dedicated staff or engaging external consultants, subject to fund availability. Governance clarity is also a priority, with the successful completion of the Host Agreement seen as critical to unlocking the next phase of institutional development. Once finalized, the operationalisation of the service centre and the formal establishment of the TSCC Coordinating Unit and Steering Committee can proceed, providing the structural backbone needed for effective service delivery.

2. Visibility and responsiveness

Outcome 2: The ACB is recognised as a visible and responsive support centre for technical and scientific cooperation in the subregion

Outputs	Status	Details
Output 2.1 <i>Communication strategies and systems established</i> <i>Ex.: Communications strategy and products developed</i>	Pending	<p>The Communication Strategy's development is contingent on the finalisation of the Host Agreement between the ACB and SBCD, with a target completion of Q3 or Q4 2026. Pending the comprehensive strategy, initial systems and products are being identified, including: (i) a dedicated TSCC website and email address to promote the KM GBF, and (ii) specific branding and communication products to establish the ACB as a sub-regional TSC support centre.</p> <p>The ACB has developed materials that promote the TSCC through its <i>Biodiversitalks</i> podcast, as well as through speaking engagements in various forum and dialogues with the supported parties and broader stakeholders as its audiences.</p>

<p>Output 2.2</p> <p><i>Demand-driven support system established</i></p> <p><i>Ex.: Help desk/One-stop service centre established</i></p>	<p>Pending</p>	<p>A one-stop service centre, such as the demand-driven help desk and guidance framework, will be designed to provide timely responses to requests from Parties and partners.</p> <p>A help desk for Target 2 on the FERM was established with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. To date, Brunei Darussalam has expressed intent for further support on monitoring Target 2.</p>
---	----------------	--

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

The ACB has taken important initial steps toward strengthening its role as a sub-regional TSCC under the KM GBF. While the key outputs for this outcome remain pending, the groundwork for visibility and institutional positioning has been laid. The ACB has identified foundational systems and products to be developed, including a dedicated TSCC website and email address, which will serve as primary platforms for promoting the KM GBF and facilitating communication with partners. In addition, specific branding and communication products have been outlined to establish the ACB's identity as a credible and responsive support centre. These early actions demonstrate foresight in ensuring that the TSCC is not only operational but also visible and accessible to Parties and partners, thereby enhancing its legitimacy and recognition in the region.

Despite these achievements, several challenges continue to hinder full operationalisation. A major institutional contingency is the pending finalisation of the Host Agreement between the ACB and the SCBD. This agreement is critical, as it underpins the development of the full Communication Strategy and provides the necessary governance clarity for the TSCC. Without it, the establishment of key structures such as the TSCC Coordinating Unit and Steering Committee remains delayed, limiting the Centre's ability to deliver services effectively. Service delivery is also constrained by the absence of a demand-driven support system, such as a help desk or one-stop service centre, which is intended to provide timely responses to technical requests from Parties and partners. Until these mechanisms are in place, the TSCC's responsiveness and credibility remain limited.

Operational hurdles further complicate progress. The lack of dedicated resources for full operationalisation is a primary challenge, affecting the Centre's ability to scale up activities and meet the growing demands of stakeholders. This resource gap has forced the ACB to consider interim measures, such as leveraging strategic partnerships for staffing and consultancy support. Additionally, the Centre will face complexity of managing dual reporting lines to its established Governing Board and the anticipated TSCC Steering Committee. This dual accountability requires careful navigation to avoid overlaps, delays, or conflicting priorities, and underscores the need for clear governance arrangements.

To address these challenges, the ACB is adopting adaptive management approaches, adjusting activities based on insights from monitoring and reporting cycles to maintain effectiveness. The Communication Strategy, though pending, is targeted for completion in Q3 or Q4 2026, providing a concrete timeline for delivery. In terms of service design, the planned one-stop service centre will be tailored to provide demand-driven support, ensuring that Parties and partners receive timely and relevant guidance. Meanwhile, the resource mobilisation strategy includes exploring partnerships to bridge staffing and consultancy gaps, thereby sustaining momentum until dedicated resources are secured.

3. Partnership development and resource mobilization

Outcome 3: The ACB initiated partnerships and developed resource mobilisation strategies to aid its operations, and technical and scientific support to subscribed Parties.

Outputs	Status	Details
<p>Output 3.1</p> <p><i>Resource mobilisation strategies and approaches established</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The ACB is currently exploring partnerships with other organisations interested in supporting ACB's TSCC work across institutional, global, and private sectors to support KM GBF implementation. This exploration includes engaging with multilateral organisations, dialogue partners, and international organisations,</p>

		<p>among others. These potential partnerships aim to secure co-financing opportunities, leverage technical expertise, and facilitate capacity-building initiatives essential for the successful delivery of the TSCC's mandate and implementation of the KM GBF.</p> <p>A resource mobilisation strategy for the TSCC will be developed and established for vetting by the Steering Committee once the Agreement is signed.</p>
<p>Output 3.2</p> <p><i>Resources to support TSCC requests/needs secured</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>In support of Technical and Scientific Cooperation implementation, the ACB is actively developing proposals for partnerships with various organisations and stakeholders. Two primary projects are currently underway and slated to begin in Q3/Q4 2026: The first project, funded through a small-scale funding agreement, focuses on Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3, titled <i>Development of a Regional Strategy to Meet Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in Southeast Asia</i>. The second major initiative is a collaboration with UNEP WCMC, titled <i>Strengthening National Biodiversity Monitoring Systems for Enhanced Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>.</p>

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

The ACB has actively pursued partnerships with multilateral organizations, regional bodies, INGOs, and foundations, securing initial collaborations such as a small-scale funding agreement on Target 3 and a UNEP-WCMC project to strengthen biodiversity monitoring, among others.

Despite these achievements, several challenges persist. Delays in finalising the Host Agreement with SCBD hinder institutional set-up and governance, including the establishment of the TSCC Coordinating Unit and Steering Committee, while the matchmaking process for linking subregional needs with donors remains unclear. The lack of dedicated resources for full operationalisation necessitates reliance on interim staffing and consultancy support. Furthermore, limited direct access to specific funds, such as the Kunming Biodiversity Fund restricted to UN agencies, constrains financing opportunities. Overall, while strong groundwork has been laid, institutional finalisation, clearer matchmaking mechanisms, strengthened financial systems, and expanded funding access are critical to sustaining momentum.

4. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

Outcome 4: The ACB initiates technical and scientific cooperation activities, which may be demand-driven or align with the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan, including collaborating with other TSCCs

Outputs	Status	Details
<p>Output 4.1</p> <p><i>Knowledge base of information for the ACB and subscribed Parties enhanced</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>The ACB and Brunei Darussalam have signed a Letter of Agreement to provide technical assistance for monitoring and reporting national progress toward KM GBF Target 2, particularly focusing on planning, monitoring, and reporting effective ecosystem restoration through technical support, capacity development on FERM, and data exchange. This collaboration falls under the ACB-FAO LOA project, <i>Building Sub-regional Capacity to Deliver the Target 2 Roadmap</i>.</p> <p>Building on the ACB's engagement with CBD on the Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B), the ACB continues to implement a systematic approach to knowledge management. This</p>

		is being enhanced through key activities under the Biennial Workplan, which include expanding the information and knowledge base through forging and continuing partnerships with dataholders to enhance existing in-house knowledge management systems, such as the ASEAN CHM, to align with the KM GBF.
Output 4.2 <i>Knowledge exchange and capacity development via technical and scientific cooperation facilitated</i>	Pending	Under the SSFA between ACB and the SCBD (to be approved), a regional consultation workshop will be conducted and participated in by the TSCC constituent parties to validate the regional strategy for Target 3 and regional guidance on OEEM.
Output 4.3 <i>System for demand-driven requests established</i>	Pending	This output remains pending as the ACB continues to coordinate with constituent Parties to identify their specific capacity requirements. Implementation will proceed through the partnership with UNEP-WCMC focused on strengthening national biodiversity monitoring systems to support the KM GBF. This collaborative project will feature a specialized matchmaking mechanism designed to address national capacity gaps in biodiversity monitoring. A matchmaking registry will be developed to connect national needs with professional technical assistance, including expert engagement and structured thematic dialogues.

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

The ACB has made significant strides in enhancing its knowledge base and implementing systematic approaches to knowledge management under the KM GBF. A key achievement is the bilateral technical assistance agreement with Brunei Darussalam, which supports capacity development on Forest Ecosystem Restoration Management (FERM) and facilitates data exchange to monitor and report national progress toward KM GBF Target 2. This initiative is part of the broader ACB-FAO project, “Building Sub-regional Capacity to Deliver the Target 2 Roadmap.” Building on its engagement with the CBD’s Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B), the ACB continues to strengthen its systematic approach to knowledge management.

Despite these advances, challenges remain. A regional consultation workshop intended to validate the regional strategy for KM GBF Target 3 and provide guidance on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OEEM) is pending approval. Additionally, the establishment of a formal demand-driven system for capacity requests is delayed, as the ACB continues to coordinate with Parties to identify specific needs.

To address these challenges, the ACB is pursuing solutions through partnerships with UNEP-WCMC, focusing on strengthening national biodiversity monitoring systems. This collaboration will include the development of a specialised matchmaking mechanism and registry to connect national capacity gaps with technical assistance. By engaging experts and facilitating structured thematic dialogues, the registry will serve as a practical tool to ensure that Parties receive timely and targeted support. Overall, while foundational progress has been achieved, the operationalisation of demand-driven systems and approval of pending activities remain critical next steps for consolidating ACB’s role as a sub-regional hub for technical and scientific cooperation.

5. Additional information (optional)

Part III. Summary of key achievements and challenges

1. Key achievements during the 2025-2026 biennium

Achievement 1: Output 3.2 Resources to support TSCC Requests/Needs

The ACB's TSCC has advanced two major project proposals to strengthen regional biodiversity governance. First, in partnership with the SCBD, the ACB is preparing a Small-Scale Funding Agreement to develop a **Regional Strategy for Target 3** of the KM GBF. This initiative, expected to launch in June 2026, includes a regional consultation workshop to validate guidance on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures. The subscribed Parties will be involved in this project.

Second, the ACB is collaborating with UNEP-WCMC on a project to strengthen national biodiversity monitoring systems. This effort will establish a demand-driven mechanism, including a matchmaking registry to connect national capacity gaps with expert technical assistance and structured thematic dialogues. This project will focus on national-level monitoring activities in Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Thailand, but will also involve the ASEAN at the regional-level activities.

Achievement 2: Output 4.1 Knowledge base of information for the ACB and subscribed Parties enhance

The ACB has made strides in terms of enhancing the knowledge base through the ACB-FAO project on *"Building Sub-regional Capacity to Deliver the Target 2 Roadmap."* This has provided further support to the ASEAN Member States and supported Parties on FERM. A series of webinars about FERM has been conducted, and such process of discussion has been replicated in other TSCCs. Further, the interest of Brunei Darussalam for further capacity development on FERM is also noteworthy to highlight.

2. Main challenges during the 2025-2026 biennium and way forward

Challenge 1: Output 1.3 Coordination and inclusive governance systems established

The delay in operationalisation remains a challenge to fully mobilise efforts on the ACB's role as TSCC. The Agreement between ACB and SCBD on the TSCC hosting remains in the endorsement process pending clarifications on delineating ASEAN and TSCC activities where there may be overlaps. Alignments are being explored, to capture a whole picture of the subregion, as well as further collaborations with other TSCCs. ACB is coordinating with the SCBD to ensure feedback are captured and addressed accordingly. Once this is addressed, it is anticipated that the succeeding outputs will be acted upon accordingly.