

Name of the TSCC: European TSCC

Period covered by the report: 2025-30 April 2026

Date of submission: 24 April 2026

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Purpose and general instructions for completing the report:

As per the operational modalities in decision 16/3, the TSCCs are requested to submit their biennial activity reports to the global coordination entity who will report to the COP through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. For this reporting cycle, SBI will review progress made by the TSCCs to identify possible gaps and solutions for improving the delivery of technical and scientific cooperation for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth meeting.

Please do not exceed 10-12 pages.

- An indicative word count is specified in each section.
- Upload the final draft of the report in a Word file onto the TSCC space on SharePoint. In case of a technical issue, please send the report to mea-cbd-technicalcooperation@un.org.

Part I. Background on the TSCC

Instructions: Please provide a succinct introduction to the report. Relevant introductions from the workplans can be used here, but please ensure to also include the following elements:

- Official launch date
- Parties served by the TSCC
- Key results of needs assessment and areas of focus

Introduction

From **24 to 25 September 2025**, in Brussels, Belgium, the European Commission, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Med), and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), have launched the European subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation support Centre (European TSCC). This meeting was organised with the support of the CO-OP4CBD project.

The European TSCC is coordinated by the European Commission Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (EC KCBD) in partnership with IUCN Med and RBINS, and supports 45 Parties in Europe in implementing the KMGBF, in line with TSCC core functions (CBD decision 15/8 paragraph 26).

The European TSCC operational model relies on a decentralised coordinated network of Knowledge Hubs, each aligned with one of the 23 targets of the KMGBF. Each hub will provide four key services in line with their specific mandate and capacity:

1. Access to best available knowledge and science, methods, tools, and, when possible, technologies and data,
2. Capacity building and development,
3. Technical and scientific cooperation support for policy implementation,
4. Demand-driven technical and scientific assistance to Parties and major Stakeholder groups as well as guidance for methodology alignment.

The list of **45 Parties** tentatively allocated to the European TSCC includes the following countries:

- the EU and its 27 Member States,
- the 9 EU candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine),
- the 4 member countries of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland),
- Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the United Kingdom.

148 capacity building needs were expressed in the NBSAPs, divided into four categories (Guibal *et al.*, 2026):

1. **Knowledge:** creation and management
2. **Management:** management plans, strategies, actions, and monitoring and evaluation
3. **Policy:** implementation and enforcement, sectoral integration, legal frameworks, policies and strategies, funding
4. **Cooperation** at the national, regional and international levels, and **outreach and education**.

323/300 words

Part II. Report on outcomes

Instructions:

- Please list the actual outcome(s) included in the workplan of the TSCC under each area of work.
- In the first column, list the output(s) included in the workplan and provide further information in the corresponding “Details” column. For example, you may provide a brief explanation of why an output has not been completed yet.
- Add as many rows as necessary in each table.
- Attach relevant supporting documentation in annex.

1. Operationalization of the TSCC

Outcome 1: Insert outcome 1 of workplan (Ex.: The TSCC achieves operational milestones and is established as a functional support centre.)

Outcome 1: Successful operationalisation of an effective TSC support centre. The European TSCC achieves core operational milestones and is established as a functional support centre.

Outputs	Status	Details
Output 1.1 Systems of effective MANAGEMENT in place	In progress	<p>Appointment of a coordinator for the coordination group of the European TSCC in place in Spring 2025 and regular coordination meetings started in May 2025 (5 in 2025, 3 in 2026 so far).</p> <p>The concept note detailing the operation of the European TSCC defining internal roles, responsibilities, and workflows has been finalised by the European TSCC Coordination Group end of April 2026 (instead of March 15th). This concept note serves as the basis for feeding the tripartite Collaboration Arrangement between the JRC (as host to the EC KCBD Secretariat), IUCN Med, and RBINS.</p> <p>The tripartite Collaboration Arrangement should be signed in June 2026 instead of February 19th 2026.</p> <p>For the concept note and tripartite Collaboration Arrangement, delays are due to details on the governance model and operation of the European TSCC, and institutional processing time to validate proposed approach by all three partner organisations.</p> <p>144/150 words</p>
Output 1.2 Systems of effective PLANNING in place	Completed	<p>Preliminary operational participatory assessment of the European TSCC for establishment of a monitoring framework conducted before the launch of the European TSCC in September 2025.</p> <p>Preliminary operational participatory assessment of the European TSCC setting out the capacity needs to deliver scientific and technical cooperation conducted before the launch of the European TSCC in September 2025.</p> <p>Draft 2025-2026 biennium workplan submitted by January 23rd 2026.</p> <p>Final 2025-2026 workplan submitted by February 15th 2026.</p> <p>72/150 words</p>
Output 1.3 Systems of effective COORDINATION in place	In progress	<p>Ongoing exchange of letters of agreement between SCBD and the European Commission (represented by DG ENV) in spring 2026, in line with the workplan.</p> <p>Agreement operational/signed planned by Summer 2026.</p> <p>30/150 words</p>
Output 1.4 Systems of INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE in place	In progress	<p>Call for interest to establish an inclusive European TSCC Advisory board sent out by March 28th 2026 (delayed to May 2026), in line with governance refinements needing institutional approval from all three coordination institutions.</p> <p>Advisory board memberships to be finalised by August 2026, with first meeting foreseen in September 2026.</p>

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	<i>50/150 words</i>
Additional result(s)	<p>The European TSCC benefits from a high level of support of the EU Horizon Europe Cooperation for The Convention on Biological Diversity (CO-OP4CBD) Project, Grant agreement No 10108, 2022-2027, https://coop4cbd.eu. It is this project that has conducted assessments on needs for capacity and for establishment of a monitoring framework, allowing the European TSCC to save time and start work on other outcomes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>62/150 words</i></p>

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

<p>Please use this space to share what has worked well and what has not under this area of work, as well as possible solutions to ongoing challenges.</p>
<p>The European TSCC Coordination team works really well together, making this a very fluid, constructive and efficient relationship. All three organisations have complementary strengths, making this a very fruitful partnership.</p> <p>The lack of formal agreement between the European Commission and SCBD, and between the three coordination partners, also slows down progress with the TSCC operationalisation.</p> <p>Delays are linked to different institutional frameworks and time needed to find common ground between organisations that can be officially approved at the institutional level. This is the case for the exchange of letters of agreement between SCBD and the European Commission (represented by DG ENV), replacing the host agreement, as well as between the three European TSCC Coordination Group partners.</p> <p>The European TSCC relies on existing funding, processes, activities, meaning that finding the right synergies takes a little more time that would otherwise be the case with dedicated funding.</p> <p>There seems to be a very high level of interest for support to be provided through the TSCC, making good design of TSCC governance critical. Taking time to clarify governance arrangements should make processes more fluid later on.</p> <p>Possible solutions have already been explored and put into practice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>193/500 words</i></p>

2. Visibility and responsiveness

Outcome X: Insert outcome from workplan (Ex.: The TSCC is recognized as a visible and responsive support centre for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer for the region/subregion.)

Outcome 2: Visibility and responsiveness. The European TSCC is recognised as a visible and responsive one-stop service centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation in the subregion.

Outputs	Status	Details
Output 2.1 Operational single-entry-point	Completed	<p>Webpage online before the launch of the European TSCC in September 2025</p> <p>Functional mailbox active before the launch of the European TSCC in September 2025</p> <p>Preliminary draft of a common web template for presentation of all knowledge hubs has been tried out for one Knowledge hub already, ahead of the June 2026 deadline mentioned in the workplan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>57/150 words</i></p>
Output 2.2	In progress	First activity to be completed by July 2026.

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Established responsive demand-driven support system		<p>The European TSCC has a draft interaction framework (request intake, screening, and referral process) that still needs to be refined, and tested with the Parties and Stakeholder groups.</p> <p>36/150 words</p>
<p>Output 2.3</p> <p>Established communication and engagement with Parties and Stakeholder groups</p>	In progress	<p>Design of a European TSCC communication strategy to be drafted by May 2026, with work already started, including liaising with the Global Coordination Entity.</p> <p>Presentation to raise awareness on the European TSCC and its governance to the Central and Eastern European regional group during SBI6 in Rome (February 2026).</p> <p>49/150 words</p>
<p>Output 2.4</p> <p>Promotion and positioning beyond European TSCC Parties and Stakeholder groups</p>	In progress	<p>Presentations to raise awareness on the European TSCC and its governance in various fora, related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - possible Knowledge hub members (EIONET meeting in February 2026), - current projects (WES Med project event in January 2026) - engagement with civil society organisations (during SBI 6, and various CO-OP4CBD project workshops), - CBD processes and NFPs (SBSTTA 27, side event of SBI 6, and various CO-OP4CBD project workshops), - bridging across the Rio Conventions (UNCCD workshop to help build synergies between UNCCD and CBD in March 2026), - other international fora (IUCN World Conservation Congress in Oct 2025, Barcelona Convention COP in December 2025, UFM working group on environment in April 2026) <p>(non exhaustive)</p> <p>113/150 words</p>
Additional result(s)		<p>Include results other than the outputs mentioned in the workplan, if any</p> <p>Feature in the newsletter of the CO-OP4CBD project.</p> <p>8/150 words</p>

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

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Please use this space to share what has worked well and what has not under this area of work, as well as possible solutions to ongoing challenges.

As any new entity, it will take time for the European TSCC to be fully visible from its target beneficiaries. This means that feedback from target beneficiaries (Parties) remains anecdotal at this stage.

There seems to be a very high level of interest for support to be provided through the TSCC, making good design of the governance and operational modalities of the TSCC critical – especially in designing a responsive demand-driven support system.

The European TSCC had already started work on a logo and communication strategy visuals, out of necessity for presentations, when the Global Coordination Entity secured funding for harmonised presentations between all TSCCs. This has led to branches of work not quite lined up, because of the specific governance of the European TSCC quite different from other TSCCs, with additional work required to bring them together.

Possible solutions require time, increased communication and transparency to move forward, and are already implemented.

152/500 words

3. Partnership development and resource mobilization

Outcome X: Insert outcome from workplan (Ex.: The TSCC initiates partnership development and begins the process of identifying and developing sustainable, long-term resource mobilization.)

Outcome 3: Partnership development and Knowledge hub coordination. A decentralised network of Knowledge hubs is initiated and coordinated.

Outputs	Status	Details
Output 3.1 Mapping of existing expertise for each Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) target	In progress	Preliminary screening of capacities within EC KCBD, JRC, IUCN Med and RBINS, identification of Knowledge hubs gaps, as well as possible institutions or networks to be contacted to fill in coverage gaps completed 15 th March 2026. Complementary screening to be finalised by September 2026. Call for collaboration targeting possible Knowledge hub leaders drafted and waiting for inputs from the CO-OP4CBD project (expected June 2026) before circulation. 66/150 words
Output 3.2 Established operational Knowledge hubs, acting as support suppliers and/or brokers	In progress	Two pilot knowledge hubs already set up by end of April 2026 (one for KMGBF target 06 led by the JRC and one for KMGBF target 03 co-led by IUCN Med and the European Environment Agency). 36/150 words
Output 3.3 Stronger partnerships within the remit of the European TSCC	In progress	Connecting possible complementary knowledge providers under a common KMGBF target, to enable them to build up possible synergies. 18/150 words
Output 3.4	In progress	Ongoing exchanges with: - other TSCCs (eg, SBI 6 in February 2026; joint workshop with Africa Regional Centres of Excellence RCoE at the JRC in April

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Strengthened coordination within the global TSCC network		<p>2026; ongoing effort of coordination among centres operating in the Mediterranean region with support from the Union for the Mediterranean–UfM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Global Coordination Entity (GCE) as part of monthly meetings, and bilateral meetings (eg, on communications, April 7th 2026) - specific Target Roadmaps (eg Roadmap for KMBGF target 02, under invitation by CIFOR-ICRAF leading WG3) <p>83/150 words</p>
Output 3.5 Sustainability and engagement	In progress	<p>Initiated preliminary screening of possible in-kind contributions within the subregion that Parties, and associated initiatives could explore. More work is planned on this output by end 2026.</p> <p>27/150 words</p>
Additional result(s)	<p>Include results other than the outputs mentioned in the workplan, if any</p> <p>-</p> <p>150 words</p>	

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

Please use this space to share what has worked well and what has not under this area of work, as well as possible solutions to ongoing challenges.

The European TSCC harnesses existing institutions, networks, projects, resources, which takes time to mobilise and gather within a common framework. It is expected that this approach will lead to stronger and more efficient partnerships. This is however, not something that can be fast-tracked, especially under a demand-drive process.

48/500 words

4. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

Outcome X: Insert outcome from workplan (Ex.: The TSCC promotes and facilitates technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to support the implementation of the KMGB within the region/subregion and across the TSCC network.)

Outcome 4: Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer delivered to the Parties. Targeted technical and scientific cooperation is delivered to support achievement of the KMGBF targets.

Outputs	Status	Details
Output 4.1 Parties and Stakeholder group capacity strengthened and expanded	Not started	<p>An established responsive demand-driven support system is a pre-requisite for this output to materialise.</p> <p>14/150 words</p>
Output 4.2 Demand-driven support provided to Parties and Stakeholder groups for KM-	Not started	<p>An established responsive demand-driven support system is a pre-requisite for this output to materialise.</p> <p>14/150 words</p>

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GBF implementation across the subregion		
Output 4.3 Improved use by Parties of the CBD clearing-house mechanism in relation to KM-GBF targets	In progress	An initial analysis by the CO-OP4CBD project of the status of national CHM amongst European Parties has shown that most parties either lack a national CHM, or it does not provide for an improved use in relation to the KMGBF targets. As a response, the CO-OP4CBD project is undertaking a study to better understand the limitations of European Parties in establishing a functional national CHM, to be presented in Feb. 2027. <i>71/150 words</i>
Additional result(s)	Include results other than the outputs mentioned in the workplan, if any -	<i>150 words</i>

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

Please use this space to share what has worked well and what has not under this area of work, as well as possible solutions to ongoing challenges.

NA at this stage.

4/500 words

5. Additional information (optional)

Instructions: Please provide a succinct summary of any additional information that you would like to share that is not captured in the previous sections. Additional details and examples may be submitted via annex(es).

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500 words

Part III. Summary of key achievements and challenges

Instructions:

- Based on the information reported above, use this space to highlight the top 2-3 accomplishments and the top 2-3 challenges faced by your TSCC during the biennium and suggest a way forward where possible.
- Include, where relevant, suggestions on how the GCE can assist in supporting the TSCCs to address challenges.
- Use both qualitative and quantitative metrics when possible.

1. Key achievements during the 2025-2026 biennium

Achievement 1: Output 1 (Ex.: One-stop shop established and utilized)

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Summary of achievement (Ex.: TSCC established a help desk via email and publicized in all X countries through workshops and targeted outreach at Y and Z events. By May 2026, x of y countries served by the TSCC had utilized the help desk. A total of X queries were received and addressed.)

We are in the final stages of operationalising the European TSCC, with most of the remaining work out of the hands of the TSCC Coordination Team. Clarification of the European TSCC governance modalities in a concept note has provided a solid foundation for drafting a Collaboration Arrangement linking the three coordination partners, and elements for the upcoming work.

The coordination team has already raised awareness on the European TSCC governance model in various workshops and targeted outreach events (see non exhaustive list in Outputs 2.4 and 3.4).

87/150 words

Achievement 2: Output 2

Summary of achievement

Background work is ongoing to build visibility and responsiveness, making very good and fast progress over the past few months. Visuals now need to be finalised in line with the concept note content and discussions with the Global Coordination Entity. A communication strategy is currently under development by the Coordination Group.

51/150 words

Achievement 3: Output 3

Summary of achievement

Partnership development and Knowledge hub coordination is making very good progress, with background work started early in 2025, and the first pilot Knowledge hubs formally set up, one of which is already referenced on the European TSCC webpage. We now need to scale this up to have a few more pilot hubs operational in the coming months.

57/150 words

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

Challenge 1: Description (Ex.: Delays in operationalization)

Challenge 1: Delays in operationalisation

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Brief summary of challenge (*Ex.: Important TSCC milestones were delayed due to competing institutional calendars, important review of legal and contractual documents, and the need to coordinate across X entities.*)

Delays in operationalisation are linked to the unique nature of the European TSCC, bringing successfully together three very different but complementary organisations. Most of the delays are linked to obtaining the necessary mandate to effectively implement the European TSCC from all three organisations.

We are approaching the final stages for a Collaboration Arrangement to be signed between the three coordination partners (JRC as host to the EC KCBD Secretariat, IUCN and RBINS) before the summer.

What remains to be addressed is the exchange of letters of agreement (in lieu of a hosting agreement) between SCBD and the European Commission (represented by DG ENV). For this, a dialogue between the two entities has been initiated in 2025 and work on the text to be agreed upon has resumed in April 2026.

130/150 words

Challenge 2: Description

Challenge 2: High level of interest making good design of the governance and operational modalities of the TSCC critical

Summary of challenge and possible solution or way forward

Conversations with European Union Member States representatives and with Party representatives members of the Central and Eastern European regional group suggest there is a very high interest for Parties to request support from the TSCC, in relation to implementation of the KMGBF. In addition, major Stakeholder groups recognized by the CBD are also part of the possible beneficiaries from TSCC support (some of them such as the Global Youth Biodiversity Network -GYBN potentially having the dual role of requester of support and supplier of support, albeit of a different nature).

Such high interest from very different Parties and stakeholders to access TSCC support makes imperative getting the governance and operational modalities of the European TSCC right from the very start.

The way forward is slowing down a little to get it right from the start, especially when it comes to building the interaction framework and mobilizing Knowledge hubs. A learning curve is still expected in building the process for requests submission and coordination of responses of the Knowledge hubs.

169/150 words

Challenge 3: Description

Challenge 3: The European TSCC relies on Knowledge hubs to provide actual support to Parties and/or major Stakeholder groups, without providing funding.

Summary of challenge and possible solution or way forward

By design, the European TSCC relies on existing knowledge, data, institutions, networks, funding, and other resources... Because the European TSCC does not in itself provide support in answer to requests submitted by Parties and/or major Stakeholder groups, which means that we need to build into the governance and operational processes an incentive for other knowledge suppliers to engage with the European TSCC.

The way forwards relates to the TSCC logo and communication strategy, careful design of the interaction framework in line with both potential requesters (Parties and/or major Stakeholder groups) and suppliers (institutions leading to participating into a Knowledge hub), and building stronger partnerships across the whole subregion. Support from GCE on clear and targeted positioning and communication is crucial.

120/150 words

References

GUIBAL Camille, LAUREAU Constance, MONTEREALE GAVAZZI Giacomo (2026) Report from the launch of the European Subregional TSCC, Prepared upon the request of the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity, EU Horizon Europe Cooperation for The Convention on Biological Diversity (CO-OP4CBD) Project, Grant agreement No 10108, 2022-2027, <https://coop4cbd.eu>