

## TSCC Reporting Template (2025–2026)

**Name of the TSCC:** IUCN Asia Regional Office – CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (IUCN-ARO TSCC)

**Period covered by the report:** January 2025 – April 2026

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### Part I. Background on the TSCC

The IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO) was formally designated as a Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism, established pursuant to CBD COP 15 Decision 15/8 supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The designation of regional and subregional support centres was finalized through the CBD SBI-4 process in 2024. Further operational guidance under CBD COP 16 Decision 16/3, advanced implementation arrangements for the mechanism.

The IUCN-ARO TSCC was operationalized during the 2025–2026 biennium, with the first virtual Steering Committee meeting convened in April 2026.

The IUCN-ARO TSCC serves countries across South Asia, and East Asia regions through a collaborative partnership model involving governments, CBD focal points, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) representative organization, the women4biodiversity and the youth representation through the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP).

As of April 2026, the six countries aligned with IUCN-ARO TSCC, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Japan, Maldives, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, are actively engaging with the IUCN-ARO TSCC through technical exchanges and more specifically related to Target 3, OECMs, Green List implementation, ecological connectivity, management effectiveness and restoration initiatives.

The strategic focus areas identified through consultations, regional discussions, APAP processes and the biennial workplan include:

- Support to KMGBF Target 3 implementation, including Protected and Conserved Areas (PCAs), OECMs, governance quality, ecological connectivity and management effectiveness;
- Capacity development on IUCN Green List, OECMs, management effectiveness, restoration and spatial planning;
- Support for NBSAP revision and implementation;
- Technical cooperation on freshwater ecosystems, tiger landscapes, marine and coastal

ecosystems, and transboundary conservation;

- Knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation across Asia;
- Strengthening regional coordination, peer learning and technical matchmaking.

The first virtual Steering Committee meeting held in April 2026 emphasized the importance of inclusive and rights-based biodiversity governance. Women4Biodiversity was invited to be a part of the Steering Group process to strengthen gender-responsive approaches and enhance participation of women and local communities and APAP youth representative for bringing in the youth engagement in KMGBF implementation across Asia.

## Part II. Report on Outcomes

### 1. Operationalization of the TSCC

Outputs	Status	Details
Host and coordination arrangements established	Completed	IUCN Asia Regional Office operationalized the TSCC coordination mechanism and initiated regional coordination arrangements aligned with CBD operational modalities.
First virtual Steering Committee meeting convened	Completed	The inaugural virtual Steering Committee meeting was organized in April 2026 with participation from regional representatives, CBD focal points, APAP partners, Women4Biodiversity and technical institutions. The meeting reviewed the biennial workplan, operational modalities and regional support priorities.
Biennial workplan developed	Completed	The 2025–2026 biennium workplan was prepared through regional consultations focusing different Targets and with special emphasis on Target 3, OECMs, Green List, restoration, governance and capacity development. This was presented in the 1 <sup>st</sup> virtual meeting of the

		Steering Group for further guidance and engagement.
Coordination systems and communication channels initiated	In progress	Regional coordination and communication systems are being strengthened through mailing groups, online coordination platforms and integration with APAP and technical partner networks.

### What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

The establishment of the TSCC benefitted from strong thematic expert presence at the IUCN-ARO, regional partnerships and APAP structures. Technical demand from countries is increasing, particularly on Target 1, 2, 3, 4, 20 including thematic – OECMs and PCA Standards, area-based implementation. Limited dedicated financing and uneven institutional capacities remain challenges.

### 2. Visibility and responsiveness

Outputs	Status	Details
Regional Target 3 Workshop participation in Bangkok	Completed	The IUCN-ARO TSCC actively contributed to the East and Southeast Asia Subregional Capacity-Building Workshop on KMGBF Target 3 held in Bangkok, Thailand from 17–20 June 2025. The workshop brought together over 70 participants from 13 countries to discuss protected areas, OECMs, governance quality, connectivity and financing approaches.
Knowledge Management for Biodiversity Workshop	Completed	The TSCC participated in the regional Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) Workshop held in Bangkok in March 2025, contributing to discussions on biodiversity knowledge systems, technical cooperation and regional capacity development.

Regional outreach and visibility	Completed	The TSCC and its mandate were presented through APAP events, regional biodiversity dialogues, technical workshops and international conservation forums.
Stakeholder engagement initiated	In progress	Engagement with governments, academia, IUCN Commissions, NGOs, IPLCs and technical institutions has been initiated to identify support needs for the Parties and strengthen regional collaboration. A survey also has been launched for further needs assessment.
Technical support requests compilation	In progress	Countries and partners have begun sharing requests linked to OECMs, Green List, management effectiveness, restoration and NBSAP implementation support.

### **What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions**

The TSCC has gained strong early visibility through APAP, Target 3 workshops and biodiversity cooperation processes in Asia. Countries recognize the value of a regionally anchored technical support mechanism. Ensuring systematic communication and balanced engagement across diverse subregions remains an ongoing challenge. Also regular coordination with other regional TSCCs in Asia is being actively pursued.

### **3. Partnership development and resource mobilization**

Outputs	Status	Details
Regional partnerships strengthened	In progress	The TSCC continues to strengthen partnerships with governments in each of the aligned countries, APAP, IUCN Commissions, universities, Women4Biodiversity, technical institutions and development partners.
Collaboration with thematic initiatives	In progress	Coordination has advanced with initiatives related to

		Green List, OECMs, species and forests, landscapes, seascapes, freshwater ecosystem conservation, restoration, World Heritage and ecosystem connectivity.
Target 2 Working Group engagement	Completed	The TSCC participated in KMGBF Target 2 working group discussions linked to restoration, ecological connectivity, landscape approaches and ecosystem resilience. IUCN-ARO TSCC is also a part of the TWG3 for Target 2
Resource mobilization discussions initiated	In progress	Initial discussions have been undertaken to identify funding opportunities and align TSCC priorities with donor interests and KMGBF implementation support.

### What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

The TSCC benefits from strong regional goodwill and technical partnerships. However, dedicated financing for long-term TSCC operations remains limited. There is strong potential to align TSCC priorities with ongoing biodiversity, restoration and climate-related initiatives.

### 4. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

Outputs	Status	Details
Support to Target 3 implementation	Completed	The TSCC contributed to regional technical exchanges on Protected and Conserved Areas, OECMs, connectivity and governance under KMGBF Target 3.
OECM technical cooperation	Completed	The TSCC facilitated technical discussions related to OECM identification and application, including river basin and landscape approaches across Asia.
Green List and management effectiveness support	In progress	Technical discussions and country-level interest have emerged around area-based

		conservation, NBSAPs implementation, management effectiveness tools and governance standards.
Capacity building and peer learning	Completed	Regional workshops, webinars and technical exchanges were facilitated through APAP on Target 1,2,3, 21, 23 and partner networks to strengthen peer learning and south-south cooperation across Asia. and networking with global initiatives – GBIF, CASCADE, ACB.
IUCN World Conservation Congress engagement	Completed	The TSCC contributed to discussions on OECMs, Target 3 implementation and collaborative conservation approaches during the IUCN World Conservation Congress and related APAP-led sessions.

### **What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions**

The TSCC has demonstrated a comparative advantage in facilitating regional technical cooperation, peer learning and access to globally recognized standards and tools. Demand for technical support continues to grow, particularly around OECMs, PCA standards, restoration and biodiversity finance. Also coordination with other conventions and relevant focal points to build synergies between CBD and UNFCCC & UNCCD.

### **5. Additional Information**

The IUCN-ARO TSCC operates across one of the world’s most diverse socio-ecological regions, and human dominated landscape and seascapes, ranging from highly industrialized economies to biodiversity-rich developing countries and small island states. This diversity creates both opportunities and challenges for regional technical cooperation.

A major comparative advantage of the TSCC lies in its ability to mobilize regional expertise, facilitate south-south cooperation, and connect global biodiversity Targets with field implementation. APAP, IUCN Commissions, regional institutions and long-standing government partnerships provide a strong foundation for scaling technical support across Asia.

Emerging priorities identified through workshops and technical exchanges include biodiversity finance, freshwater ecosystem governance, ecological connectivity, marine conservation, OECMs, Indigenous and community conserved areas, and integration of One Health and climate resilience approaches into biodiversity implementation frameworks.

## Part III. Summary of Key Achievements and Challenges

### 1. Key Achievements during the 2025–2026 Biennium

- Operationalization of the IUCN-ARO TSCC and successful convening of the first virtual Steering Committee meeting in April 2026.
- Strong regional engagement on KMGBF Target 3, OECMs, Green List and management effectiveness through APAP and regional technical workshops.
- Participation in regional and global biodiversity cooperation platforms including the Bangkok Target 3 Workshop, KM4B Workshop and showcasing the work of TSCC at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

### 2. Main Challenges during the 2025–2026 Biennium and Way Forward

- Limited dedicated financing for sustained TSCC operations and technical staffing.
- Uneven institutional capacities and varying levels of engagement across countries in the region.
- Rapidly increasing demand for technical support related to Target 3, restoration, biodiversity finance and OECMs.

Way forward actions include strengthening resource mobilization efforts, expanding partnerships with academia, civil society and technical institutions, establishing structured technical matchmaking systems, and enhancing communication and knowledge-sharing platforms across Asia.

## References

<https://naturexpairs.org/east-and-southeast-asia-subregional-workshop-on-target-3-strengthening-capacities-and-cooperation-to-turn-30x30-ambitions-into-action-in-asia/>

<https://www.aseanbiodiversity.org/news-events-jobs/knowledge-management-for-biodiversity-km4b-workshop-asia/>

<https://iucncongress2025.org/programme/transforming-biodiversity-conservation-beyond-protected-areas-oecms-asia-advance-km-gbf>

<https://www.women4biodiversity.org>

<https://www.asiaprotectedareaspartnership.org/>