



**IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO)
Biennium Workplan 2025-26
CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre**

*For discussion
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Montreal, Canada*



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| Acronym | Full Name |
|----------|---|
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| APAP | Asia Protected Areas Partnership |
| ARO | IUCN Asia Regional Office |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CBP | CBD Party / Parties |
| COP | Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CT | Coordination Team |
| ECARO | IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| GBF | Global Biodiversity Framework |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GCE | Global Coordination Entity (CBD Secretariat) |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| IPLCs | Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities |
| KM-GBF | Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework |
| MEA | Multilateral Environmental Agreement |
| MEL | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning |
| NBSAP | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| OECM | Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure |
| PA | Protected Area |
| SC | Steering Committee |
| SOMACORE | Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience |
| TSC | Technical and Scientific Cooperation |
| TSCC | Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEA | United Nations Environment Assembly |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| WCC | IUCN World Conservation Congress |

IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO)
Biennium Workplan 2025-26
CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre

1. Workplan Purpose and Context

The 2025-26 Biennium Workplan of the IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO) CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Centre presents:

- i. a revised planning logic that recognizes 2025 as a year of establishment, mobilization, and early operational milestones, and
- ii. 2026 as the primary delivery year for structured technical and scientific cooperation with CBD Parties and KM-GBF stakeholders.

The workplan is prepared in line with CBD COP Decisions 15/8 and 16/3, Article 8 of the Convention, and the draft guidance issued by the Global Coordination Entity (GCE). It builds directly on ARO's prior longstanding collaborative efforts to support KM-GBF implementation in the region. It provides the foundational partnership platform that the TSC Centre strategically builds during its establishment phase in 2025 and towards its transition to a fully structured, results-oriented delivery in 2026.

2. Mandate and Geographic Coverage

As Subregional TSC Support Centre, IUCN ARO covers a three-fold mandate (Fig 1):

- i. Sub-regional technical and scientific services hub directly supporting six Parties for KM-GBF implementation:
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - Japan
 - Maldives
 - Sri Lanka
 - Republic of Korea
- ii. Region-wide convening and capacity building platform to foster knowledge-sharing among CBD Parties and TSC Centres, KM-GBF stakeholders, and GCE of the CBD Secretariat.
- iii. Regional and inter-regional innovation incubator for priority KM-GBF tools and knowledge products in area-based conservation and governance, biodiversity assessment and monitoring, and strategic communication for policy engagement.

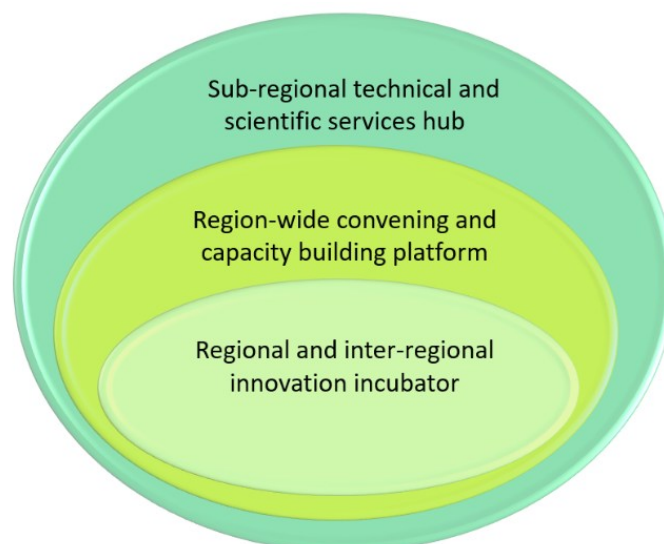


Fig 1. IUCN ARO's three-fold mandate as TSC Centre.

3. Strategic Focus and Added Value

The strategic focus of the first biennium is deliberately pragmatic, demand-driven, and results-oriented. The Centre prioritizes agile responsiveness to Parties' immediate needs and opportunities in 2025 as a credible and trusted knowledge source, while laying the foundation for sustained and inclusive multi-stakeholder cooperation from 2026 onwards.

Strategic priorities include to:

- Enable NBSAP updating, implementation and reporting for better alignment with KM-GBF.
- Facilitate collaborative learning to advance KM-GBF specific goals and targets, and to achieve its integrated agenda and overall vision
- Foster coherence and synergy in policies for biodiversity, climate and environment nexus.
- Catalyze South-South and North-South cooperation among CBD Parties for strengthening links between science, policy and practice.
- Harness best available knowledge and tools in addressing area-based targets while achieving cross-target commitments.
- Ensure whole-of-society engagement for governance and action through meaningful participation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), women and youth, and non-government and private business sectors.
- Mobilize diversified financial and other resources for KM-GBF implementation, and their equitable access and use among actors.

4. Biennium Outcomes

By the end of 2026, the IUCN ARO TSC Support Centre will have achieved the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Established a TSC Centre Responsive to CBD Parties' KM-GBF Support Needs
Operationalized a functional, inclusive and transparent governance and coordination mechanism for TSC Centre, endorsed by CBD Parties and aligned with CBD Article 8.

Outcome 2: Enabled CBD Parties to Advance NBSAP Policy and Planning
Provided on-demand technical and scientific support to six priority CBD Parties in updating their respective KM-GBF aligned NBSAPs.

Outcome 3: Enhanced Targets-Focused Capacities of KM-GBF Stakeholders in the Region
Launched region-wide collaborative learning and knowledge-sharing mechanisms to enhance KM-GBF stakeholder's capacities particularly for Targets 1,2,3 and 4.

Outcome 4: Facilitated Regional and Inter-Regional Incubation of KM-GBF Innovations
Collaborated in regional and inter-regional piloting and roll-out of priority KM-GBF tools and knowledge products in: i) area-based conservation and governance, ii) biodiversity assessment and monitoring, and iii) strategic communication for policy engagement.

5. Biennium Milestones Outputs

Outcome 1: Established a TSC Centre Responsive to CBD Parties' KM-GBF Support Needs
2025

- a. Internal coordination mechanism for IUCN-hosted TSCs established (Q3-Q4)
- b. TSC hosting agreement signed between CBD Secretariat and IUCN ARO (Q4)
- c. Participated in regular meetings with Secretariat GCE and TSCs (Q1-Q4)

2026

- a. Nomination of Steering Committee (SC) members confirmed (Q1)
- b. IUCN ARO's TSC Coordination Team (CT) is organized (Q1)
- c. SC convened (in person) to endorse updated biennium workplan (Q2)
- d. SC convened (virtual) to review progress of biennium workplan (Q4)
- e. Biennium report prepared and shared with CBD Parties and Secretariat GCE (Q4)

Outcome 2: Enabled CBD Parties to Advance NBSAP Policy and Planning

2025

- a. CBD Parties formally confirmed to join IUCN ARO TSC (Q2-Q3)
- b. Preliminary discussions held with CBP Parties on status of NBSAP updating (Q2-Q3)
- c. Bilateral consultations with CBP Parties on biennial workplan held at UNEA7 (Q4)

2026

- a. Assessment of CBD Parties' priority needs for TSC support completed (Q1)
- b. CBD Parties convened to validate results of needs assessment (Q2)
- c. Bilateral workshops with CBP Parties to support NBSAP 2026 implementation (Q2-Q4)

Outcome 3: Enhanced Targets-Focused Capacities of KM-GBF Stakeholders in the Region

2025

- a. 6 CBD Secretariat KM-GBF regional workshops co-hosted/supported (Q1-Q3)
- b. Series of policy and practice briefs prepared and shared with KM-GBF stakeholders (Q1-Q4)
- c. Series of training-workshops on area-based conservation held for KM-GBF stakeholders held (as part of IUCN ARO members and partners engagement initiatives (Q1-Q4)
- d. 2 side events organized at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Q3)

2026

- a. (To confirm) CBD Secretariat KM-GBF regional workshops co-hosted/supported (Q1-Q3)

- b. (To prioritize by SC) Series of policy and practice briefs prepared and shared with KM-GBF stakeholders (Q1-Q4)
- c. (To prioritize by SC) Series of training-workshops on area-based conservation held for KM-GBF stakeholders held (as part of IUCN ARO members and partners engagement initiatives (Q1-Q4)
- d. (To prioritize by SC) Co-development of projects for GEF-9 and other KM-GBF funding mechanisms (Q1-Q4)
- e. (To confirm) Side-events at CBD COP17 and 2026 UNFCCC-UNCCD COPs (Q3-Q4)

Outcome 4: Facilitated Regional and Inter-Regional Incubation of KM-GBF Innovations
2025

- a. 5 side events organized at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Q3)
- b. 1 webinar for IUCN Members on global tools and standards relevant to KM-GBF (Q2)
- c. 1 global workshop on Red List of Ecosystems (Q1)

2026

- a. (To confirm) Piloting of IUCN tools for biodiversity assessment -- Red List of Ecosystems, Piloting of Rapid High Integrity Nature-Positive Outcomes (Q1-Q4)
- b. (To prioritize by SC) Follow-up trainings and implementation of Green List, OECMs and Panorama (Q2-Q4)
- c. (To confirm) Trainings on-demand by KM-GBF stakeholders (Q2-Q4)
- d. ARO in-house workshop on policy engagement for CBD/MEAs (Q2)

6. Governance and Coordination

The TSC's governance and coordination model balances CBD Parties' ownership, KM-GBF stakeholders' inclusivity, and IUCN-driven technical credibility.

The SC provides overall strategic and operational oversight to the Centre. It comprises: 1) representatives of the six CBD Parties, 2) representatives of IPLC and women/youth sectors, 3) ex-officio representatives from IUCN ARO and CBD GCE. The SC may decide to appoint non-voting Observers representing KM-GBF stakeholders.

The Centre Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day coordination, technical delivery, reporting, and liaison with CBD GCE. It consists of IUCN ARO staff serving as: 1) Director, 2) Technical Coordinator, 3) Management Officer, and 4) Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Officer. Hosted by IUCN ARO and in liaison with CBD GCE, the Secretariat draws on administrative and logistical support services from the Regional Office.

To support workplan implementation, the Centre also includes

1. *IUCN global/regional/ country experts team* comprising staff from: i) IUCN ARO Science and Strategy Group, ii) Country Offices, iii) Secretariat-wide TSCs Coordination Group, and iv) Global Commissions.
2. *Technical partners* from various external organizations including: i) academic and research organizations, ii) civil society organizations and multi-sectoral alliances, iii) private business sector, and iv) financial resource partners.

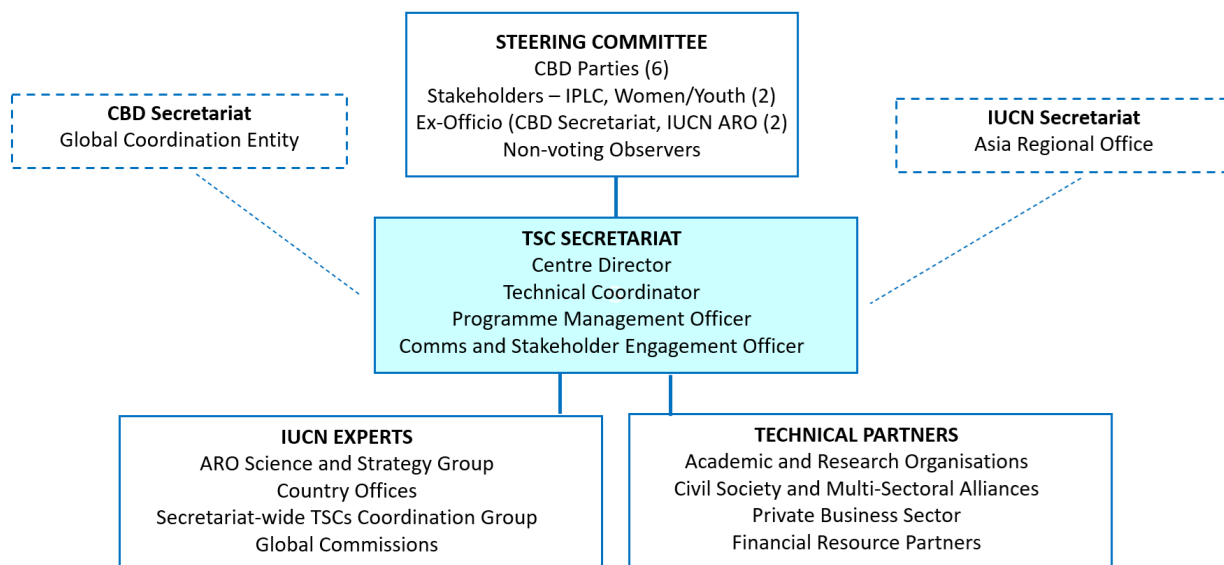


Fig 2. TSC Organizational Structure

7. Resource Mobilization and Sustainability

The establishment phase in 2025 has been supported through core institutional resources and in-kind contributions, enabling rapid mobilization and early engagement. In 2026, the TSC financing plan draws diversified funding from the following confirmed sources

Earmarked

- IUCN Framework Donors
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Delta Electronics Foundation
- Seed Funding from IUCN Asia Multilateral Finance Portfolio
- Private philanthropy (APRIL International, Energy Development Corp)

Restricted Projects (provisional list)

- Japan and Korea grants to Asia Protected Areas Partnership
- GEF-8 Impact Programme for Indo-Malaya Primary Forests
- GIZ Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience (SOMACORE) in the Coral Triangle
- GEF-NORAD Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystems
- EU Communities, Local Outcomes and Regional Science

Additional co-financing is being pursued through strategic partnerships with governments, donors and other partnership platforms. Additional revenue is expected to be raised through training and service fees from various participants, clients and donors.

The Centre also seeks to engage with CBD GCE in pursuing grant opportunities through various KM-GBF funding and other related schemes.

Annex A. TSC organizational structure

| | |
|---|--|
| Steering Committee* | |
| Bangladesh | Farhina Ahmed - Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| Bhutan | Sonam Tashi - Director Department of Environment and Climate Change Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources |
| Japan | Yoshiaki Fuse - Director Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Maldives | Ilham Atho Mohamed - Assistant Director Environment Programme, Ministry of Tourism and Environment |
| Republic of Korea | Dageeom Kim - Third Secretary Climate Change, Energy, Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Sri Lanka | B K Prabhath Chandrakeerthi - Secretary Ministry of Environment |
| IPLCs | Representative, Indigenous Peoples Rights International |
| Women and Youth | Representative, Women4Biodiversity |
| IUCN ARO (ex-officio) | Dindo Campilan, Regional Director, Asia and Oceania Hub |
| CBD Secretariat (ex-officio) | TBI |
| Observers (non-voting) | TBI |
| Secretariat (IUCN Asia Regional Office) | |
| Centre Director | Dindo Campilan, Regional Director, Asia and Oceania Hub |
| Technical Coordinator | M.K.S. Pasha, Regional Lead, Protected-Conserved-Heritage Areas |
| Programme Mgt Officer | TBI |
| Comms Officer | Ryo Sekiguchi, Comms and Stakeholder Engagement Officer |
| IUCN Experts Team | |
| Raquibul Amin | In behalf of Science and Strategy Group |
| Country Representatives | IUCN Country Offices for CBD Parties |
| Valérie D'Hoedt Meyer | In behalf of Secretariat-wide TSCs Coordination Group |
| Global Programme Teams | TBI |
| Global Commissions | TBI |
| Technical Partners Group | |
| Asean Centre for Biodiversity Asia Protected Areas Partnership Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas Intl Centre for Integrated Mountain Development Wildlife Institute of India Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Delta Electronics Foundation Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency | Asian Forest Cooperation Organization Asian Institute of Technology Korea Environment Institute Centre for People and Forests ADB Nature Solutions Finance Hub UNDP GEF-8 Umbrella Programme for NBSAP Support World Wildlife Found FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Office <i>Others</i> |

*CBD Parties to update their representatives in 2026

ANNEX B. Activities, meetings and workshops in 2025

| Period | Event / Activity | Format / Location | Purpose and Contribution |
|------------|--|---|--|
| Early 2025 | Introductory coordination meeting convened by CBD Secretariat | Virtual | Orientation of Subregional TSC Centres on Article 8 expectations and coordination |
| Q1–Q2 2025 | Development of ARO TSC governance framework | ARO-led | Drafting TORs, Steering Committee structure, and operating modalities |
| Q2–Q3 2025 | Regional technical consultations | Virtual / bilateral | Identification of Party needs, priorities, and potential areas of support |
| 2025 | Engagement with IUCN programmes and commissions | Internal coordination | Alignment with Green List, OECMs, governance, and capacity-building tools |
| Dec 2025 | IUCN Asia signed the host CBD Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres, agreement with CBD Secretariat at UNEA-7 | Host Agreement signed by the Regional Director IUCN-ARO | The Host Agreements officially mandate IUCN ARO to lead, coordinate, and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation for CBD Parties in Asia. TSC Centre position collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and science-based decision-making at the heart of regional efforts to achieve global biodiversity targets. |

ANNEX C. CBD Secretariat regional workshops supported by IUCN ARO TSC n 2025

| Title of Event | Date | Venue (City, Country) | TSC Region | Relevant KM-GBF Targets | Reference Notes |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) Workshop – Asia | 11–13 March 2025 | <i>Bangkok, Thailand</i> | Asia & Pacific | Target 19 – Knowledge & Monitoring | Organized by ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), UNEP, CBD Secretariat; aims to enhance data availability & support KM-GBF implementation |
| Subregional Capacity-Building Workshop on Target 3 for East & Southeast Asia | 17–20 June 2025 | <i>Bangkok, Thailand</i> | East & Southeast Asia | Target 3 – Area-based conservation (30×30) | Supports Parties to advance conservation effectiveness and planning. |
| Subregional Dialogue on Biodiversity Monitoring & Reporting (Focus on Target 2) | 2–5 September 2025 | <i>Bangkok, Thailand</i> | Asia & Pacific | Target 2 – Ecosystem restoration monitoring; Target 19 – Knowledge & Reporting | Dialogue emphasizes ecosystem restoration monitoring and reporting; new FAO-CBD partnership launched. |
| Regional Workshop on Accelerating KM-GBF Implementation | 7–9 October 2025 | <i>Bangkok, Thailand</i> | Asia & Pacific | Targets 2, 3, 19 | Focus on integrated, synergistic implementation of the GBF across sectors. |
| Regional Dialogue for East & South Asia on Biodiversity Monitoring & Reporting | 9–10 October 2025 | <i>Bangkok, Thailand</i> | East & South Asia | Target 2, Target 19 | Strengthens national monitoring systems and indicator use. |

ANNEX D. Results-based framework for biennial workplan

| Outcome | Output | Activities | Indicators | Baseline pre-TSC | Targets (2026) | Lead / Partners |
|--|--|--|---|------------------|--|--|
| Outcome 1: <i>Established a TSC Centre Responsive to CBD Parties' KM-GBF Support Needs</i> | Steering Committee established and functional | Formalize governance, convene meetings, approve workplan | SC established; meetings held | No SC | SC operational; annual meeting held | IUCN ARO; CBD Secretariat; Parties |
| Outcome 2: <i>Enabled CBD Parties to Advance NBSAP Policy and Planning</i> | Technical support delivered for NBSAPs updating | Bilateral clinics; regional workshops; policy briefs | Updated NBSAPS incorporating TSC inputs | Adhoc support | 6 Parties submitted updated NBSAPs | IUCN ARO; APAP, IUCN Commissions |
| Outcome 3: <i>Enhanced Targets-Focused Capacities of KM-GBF Stakeholders in the Region</i> | KM-GBF stakeholders received training/ capacity building support | Training modules; country support missions, publications | Workshops conducted; tools applied | Limited uptake | 20+ organizations representing KM-GBF stakeholders | IUCN ARO, IUCN Academy, IUCN Commissions |
| Outcome 4: <i>Facilitated Regional and Inter-Regional Incubation of KM-GBF Innovations</i> | Regional and inter-regional learning platforms | Collaborative action learning projects & activities | Tools for area-based conservation, biodiversity assessment, policy engagement | Fragmented | 10 communication materials to disseminate tools & knowledge products | IUCN ARO; IUCN Global Centre for Science & Knowledge |

ANNEX E. Mapping Biennium Outcomes to KM-GBF Targets and Headline Indicators

| Outcomes | KM-GBF Target(s) | Example of Relevant Headline / Component Indicators |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Outcome 1: <i>Established a TSC Centre Responsive to CBD Parties' KM-GBF Support Needs</i> | 20 | Indicator 20.1 (Capacity-building support provided to developing countries) |
| Outcome 2: <i>Enabled CBD Parties to Advance NBSAP Policy and Planning</i> | 14,15,19 | Indicator 14.1 (Mainstreaming biodiversity), Indicator 19.1 (Financial resources mobilized) |
| Outcome 3: <i>Enhanced Targets-Focused Capacities of KM-GBF Stakeholders in the Region</i> | 1,2,3,4,11 | Indicator 3.1 (Coverage of protected areas and OECMs), Indicator 3.2 (Connectivity), Indicator 3.3 (Governance and equity) |
| Outcome 4: <i>Facilitated Regional and Inter-Regional Incubation of KM-GBF Innovations</i> | 20,21 | Indicator 20.1; Indicator 21.1 (Access to information and participation) |

ANNEX F. Risk and assumptions

| Risk | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigation / Assumptions |
|--|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Limited national capacity to engage | Medium | Medium | Demand-driven support; phased engagement; regional peer learning |
| Overlap with other regional initiatives | Low– Medium | Medium | Coordination via GCE; alignment with existing CBD and IUCN mechanisms |
| Resource mobilization delays | Medium | Medium– High | Modular workplan; co-financing; leveraging IUCN institutional support |
| Political or policy shifts at national level | Low– Medium | Medium | Maintain technical neutrality; flexibility in delivery modalities |

ANNEX G. TSC governance plan

1. Purpose

The governance structure provides strategic guidance, oversight, and legitimacy to the IUCN-ARO CBD TSC Support Centre in line with Article 8 of the CBD. It is intended to ensure that the Centre is transparent, accountable, and shaped by the priorities of Parties, while creating space for diverse voices to be heard.

It strengthens Party ownership, promotes inclusivity by engaging Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), women, and youth, and brings in technical partners and observers in a structured way. The aim is to combine national leadership with broad expertise and lived experience, so that the Support Centre remains credible, responsive, and able to guide Parties in meeting their biodiversity commitments.

2. Steering Committee

2.1 Composition

The Steering Committee (SC) will have **up to 9 members** as follows:

2.2 Voting Members from Parties and Sector Representative (7):

1. Six representatives nominated by the CBD National Focal Points of the Parties directly supported by the Centre:
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - Maldives
 - Sri Lanka
 - Republic of Korea
 - Japan
2. One IPLC representative nominated through the ICCA Consortium, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are represented, including their women and youth groups.

2.3 Ex officio members (2):

- IUCN Asia Regional Director
- Representative of the CBD Secretariat / global coordination entity.

2.4 Non-voting Observers (up to 4, expandable as needed) representing a combination of:

- Academe
- Research
- Policy
- Civil Society Organizations

(Other relevant organizations, including donors and the private sector, may be invited ad hoc to participate in Steering Committee meetings.)

2.5 Selection Criteria for Committee Members and Observers (as per Article 8.4)

- Demonstrated involvement in NBSAP design/implementation.
- Expertise in technical and scientific cooperation, capacity building, and biodiversity knowledge management.
- Familiarity with CBD, Cartagena, and Nagoya Protocols.

3. Functions of the Steering Committee

- Strategic Guidance: Approve biennial workplans, review progress, and align activities with KM-GBF targets.
- Oversight: Ensure accountability and adherence to Article 8 provisions.
- Regional Coordination: Facilitate collaboration across the six Parties and with other subregional/global TSC Centres.
- Inclusivity: Guarantee the effective participation of IPLCs, women, and youth.
- Resource Mobilization: Support partnerships and fundraising for Centre sustainability.

4. Governance Procedures

4.1 Chairperson: Elected by consensus for a two-year term.

4.2 Meetings:

- At least one ordinary meeting per year (in-person, hybrid, or virtual).
- Extraordinary meetings convened by the TSC Centre Coordinator under the leadership of Director – TSC Centre in consultation with the Chair.

4.3 Quorum: At least four Party representatives plus the IPLC representative.

4.4 Decision-Making: By consensus wherever possible; if not, by two-thirds majority of voting members.

4.5 Observers: May contribute technically but cannot vote.

5. Secretariat and Operations

- The Coordinator of the IUCN-ARO CBD TSC Support Centre acts as Secretary to the Steering Committee.
- Under the Regional Director’s general oversight, IUCN-ARO provides administrative and technical support, through the TSC Centre Team led by Coordinator of the IUCN-ARO CBD TSC Support Centre.
- Meetings and documentation follow IUCN and CBD Secretariat protocols.

6. Institutional Arrangements

- The Steering Committee is established within 90 days of entry into force of the Agreement.
- Operating costs are covered through mobilized resources (Host Organization + external funding).
- Staff are appointed per IUCN policies, with priority to qualified regional applicants.
- The TSC Centre ensures office facilities, digital platforms, and communication tools are available.

