

Name of the TSCC: Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre for Central Asia (TSCC-CA)

Period covered by the report: January 2025 – April 2026

Date of submission: 30.04.2026

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

Official launch date of CA TSCC February, 17 2026.

IUCN CA is designated by the CBD Secretariat as a TSC Support Centre mandated to provide technical and scientific cooperation in support of KM-GBF implementation to the following Parties: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Also, after several rounds of discussion we are waiting for a confirmation from Russian Federation to support TSCC Central Asia.

The strategic focus of the 2025–2026 biennium is pragmatic and demand-driven, prioritizing early technical engagement, coordination, and capacity strengthening while ensuring institutional credibility and readiness for sustained cooperation beyond the first biennium.

Needs assessments have been adapted for the region and will be sent to the Parties in the near future. Preliminary discussions indicate that the first step of the TSCC's work will focus on supporting the region's countries in achieving Goal 3 of the KMGBF ((30×30): Strengthening protected and conserved areas, OECMs, governance quality, equity, management effectiveness, and ecological connectivity).

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.)

Outputs	Status	Details
<i>Host agreement signed</i>	Completed	IUCN has formally signed a Host Agreement with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 17 February in Rome, during the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-6), designating the IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) as the official Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Centre for Central Asia.
<i>Steering/ governance committee established and convened</i>	In progress	Negotiations on the Russian Federation's accession to the TSCC have delayed the formation of the Committee. Once Russia officially confirms its participation, an additional agreement between the CBD and the IUCN will be signed to officially include Russia in the TSCC region. Subsequently, letters will be sent to all Parties inviting them to delegate a representative to the Committee. All potential members of the Committee and the list of observers have been identified.
<i>Personnel dedicated to the TSCC</i>	In progress	Dmitry Gorshkov – Head of Central-Asia IUCN office appointed as TSCC Coordinator. Coordinating the TSCC's work is included as part of his official duties. Since there is currently no separate funding to pay for staff, the coordinator's work is conducted on a volunteer basis. In the future, if funding is available, it is planned to attract additional staff members.

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.

500 words

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.)

Outputs	Status	Details
Help desk/One-stop service centre established	Not started	The implementation of “help desk” is preceded by a number of organizational actions (launch of the Committee, mobilization of resources, need assessment of parties, etc).

Communications strategy and products developed	Not started	The preparation of the Communication strategy will be carried out later and approved by the established Committee. Currently, communication about the TSCC's work is conducted occasionally.
Распространение информации о создании и перспективах работы Центра.	In progress	IUCN CA disseminates information about the center and its prospects as much as possible, roundtables and presentations were organized during the following events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Conservation Congress (Abu-Dhabi, October 2025) • CoP20 to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Samarkand, December 2025) • International Scientific and Practical Conference on Nature-Based Solutions for Addressing Environmental Problems (NBSEP) (Tashkent, December 2025) • Subregional capacity-building workshop on Target 3 of the KM-GBF (Tashkent, February 2026) • Regional Ecological Summit (Astana, April 2026)

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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.)

Outputs	Status	Details
Partnerships developed	In progress	Negotiations are underway with the main partner for the TSCC - RECCA. A draft Cooperation Agreement has been prepared and is currently being discussed. A list of potential partners has been identified. In the near future, the questionnaire will be sent to partners to understand their capacity and willingness to cooperate with the TSCC.
Project proposals submitted	Not started	No applications have been submitted for the TSCC's development projects. Several activities are planned to be implemented through existing and new projects of IUCN.
Resources mobilized	In progress	It is planned to implement a number of activities within the framework of existing and new projects of IUCN under the TSCC "brand". The initial list of possible consultants for the TSCC's work has been determined. Financial resources are required to work with them.

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

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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.)

Outputs	Status	Details
New knowledge management products developed under the TSCC	Not started	
New technical and scientific cooperation and/or technology transfer programs and/or projects implemented	Not started	
Capacity-building and development events organized/facilitated	Completed	Subregional capacity-building workshop on Target 3 of the KM-GBF for countries in Central Asia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, Armenia, and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Event was held in Tashkent from 3-6 of February. About 40 experts participated in it. https://iucn.org/news/202602/iucn-and-cbd-support-countries-advance-national-action-biodiversity-conservation-under

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

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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).

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: Support from Parties

During the negotiations with the Russian Federation, a preliminary agreement was reached on Russia's support for the TSCC and its readiness to delegate a representative to the Steering Committee. We are waiting for official confirmation. Russia's involvement in the TSCC's work provides opportunities to participate in development of strategic documents for the largest country with unique natural conditions, while also allowing Russian experts to contribute to the TSCC's activities.

Achievement 2: NBSAP

Even before the official signing of the CBD-IUCN Agreement, ECARO experts were actively involved in the development of the NBSAP in Kazakhstan, which was officially approved by the Government on 31.12.25. We are currently working on the development of the NBSAP in Uzbekistan (led by UNDP). TSCC-CA is coordinating the work on Targets 3, 4, and 9 and will participate in the development of the rest of the Targets.

Achievement 3: Workshops

To achieve Goal 3 of the KMGBF, we are implementing the IUCN Green List tool, which helps to improve the management of Protected Areas. We have received commitments from all Central Asian countries to support the Green List certification and nomination of Protected Areas for assessment. We already have the necessary financial resources for this work within our existing projects. Workshop on this topic was held in Tashkent (see above).

The President of Uzbekistan announced an initiative to create a regional Red Book of Central Asia. The IUCN - CA (TSCC - CA) has been designated as the coordinator of this work. It is planned to prepare such a Red Data Book in accordance with the IUCN criteria. A seminar for experts from Central Asia on the application of the IUCN criteria for assessing the population status of rare species was held in Uzbekistan in 2025. More than 30 experts pass such a course.

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

Challenge 1: Delegation of responsibilities

During the preliminary negotiations with the Parties, we see the wish of Parties to delegate many responsibilities related to achieving the KMGBF Targets to TSCC-CA. The Parties hope that the Center will take on the development of necessary documents, reporting, etc.

One possible solution to this issue is to focus on achieving specific goals at the initial stage. For example, TSCC-CA plans to focus on supporting countries in achieving Target 3, and later expand the scope of tasks to be addressed.

Challenge 2: Lack of finances

Currently, the TSCC reports on its work based on the results from the projects that are already being implemented by the IUCN and its partners. However, these limited funds are not always allocated in accordance with the expectations of the Parties.

The IUCN's Central Asia Office is relatively new, with only seven employees. The TSCC relies heavily on external experts and consultants for its operations. However, not everyone is willing to volunteer or prioritize addressing the TSCC's requests. We need to find a possible Seed financing that would allow us to start the process of preparing applications for TSCC funding, expanding its capabilities, and ensuring its productive work.

Challenge 3: Delays

Low speed of decision-making and responses. Different countries have different approaches to the speed and procedure of information exchange. As a result, many deadlines are not met. At the first stage, the TSCC needs support from the CBD in communicating with the Parties, explaining the role of the TSCC in achieving the KMGBF targets.