



Workplan CBD TSCC

**IUCN Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
(ECARO)**

CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre



IUCN – Central Asia Regional Office

Tashkent – Uzbekistan

12th January 2026

Workplan CBD TSCC

IUCN Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC)

Transition Phase: 2025 (Establishment & Milestones) → 2026 (Delivery)

1. Purpose and Context

This document presents the Biannual Workplan (2025–2026) of the IUCN Central Asia Regional Office (CA) CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Centre, prepared in accordance with the guidance for first biennium workplans and relevant CBD COP decisions.

The workplan is prepared in line with CBD COP Decisions 15/8 and 16/3, Article 8 of the Convention and the draft guidance issued by the Global Coordination Entity (GCE).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 will build directly on progress already made since IUCN CA's designation as a CBD TSC Support Centre and will be intended to support coordination, feedback, and alignment discussions during the coordination meeting on the 16th.

2. Mandate and Geographic Coverage

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
- Russian Federation
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

In addition to subregional support, the Centre contributes to broader Central Asia-wide cooperation by working closely with other CBD TSC Centres, the GCE and the CBD Secretariat. Through IUCN's regional presence, partnerships and convening role, the Centre helps bridge global CBD guidance and national implementation realities, particularly in relation to area-based conservation and governance.

3. Strategic Focus and Added Value

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

Key thematic priorities include:

- Target 1: Supporting biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, land-use coherence, and ecological connectivity at national and subregional levels;
- Target 2: Supporting ecosystem restoration planning and integration of restoration priorities into national biodiversity strategies and policies;
- Target 3 (30×30): Strengthening protected and conserved areas, OECMs, governance quality, equity, management effectiveness, and ecological connectivity;
- Target 4: Supporting species conservation through science-based planning, monitoring, and integration of species priorities into area-based approaches;
- Target 11: Promoting ecosystem services, equitable benefit-sharing, and nature-based contributions to human well-being;
- Target 14: Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectoral policies, national development frameworks, and NBSAP implementation processes;
- Target 20: Delivering capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and peer-learning support for KM-GBF implementation;
- Target 21: Strengthening access to biodiversity knowledge, data, and science–policy interfaces through regional cooperation and learning;
- Target 23: Promoting gender-responsive, inclusive, and participatory approaches in biodiversity governance and implementation.

Across all thematic areas, the Centre applies cross-cutting commitments to:

- meaningful engagement of Local Communities (LCs),
- gender equality and youth participation and
- strengthening science–policy interfaces through recognised IUCN standards and tools.

In the Central Asia context, engagement with Local Communities requires a context-specific and differentiated approach. While the CBD framework recognises Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as key actors, the legal, institutional and social landscapes across Central Asian countries do not consistently recognise Indigenous Peoples as distinct legal entities, nor do representative regional IPLC organisations exist at the subregional level. Local communities are highly diverse in their governance structures, livelihood systems, and relationships with land and natural resources, and their representation is often organised through local-level institutions, informal arrangements, or sector-specific associations rather than formally recognised community bodies.

As a result, the Centre adopts a pragmatic and inclusive LC engagement approach, grounded in national legal frameworks and local governance realities. Engagement with LCs will be facilitated through collaboration with national authorities, site-level management structures of protected and conserved areas, civil society organisations, academic institutions and trusted local partners with established community linkages. Particular attention will be given to ensuring the participation of women and youth within these local governance and decision-making processes.

4. Biennium Outcomes (Delivery Focus: 2027)

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By the end of 2026, the IUCN CA TSC Support Centre will have:

1. Established a fully functional, inclusive, and transparent governance and coordination mechanism, endorsed by Parties and aligned with CBD Article 8
2. Provided structured technical support to beneficiary Parties to advance KM-GBF-aligned NBSAPs, with particular emphasis on Target 3 on the base of ongoing IUCN projects in the region
3. Delivered Target-3-focused technical assistance, including OECM identification pathways, governance and equity guidance, and PA effectiveness tools
4. Operationalised regional knowledge-sharing and learning mechanisms linked to the global TSC network and IUCN knowledge platforms

5. Summary of Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 1 – Operational and Responsive TSC Centre

- IUCN Central Asia Office established (team members hired, initial meetings provided with partners)
- Steering Committee formally established and operational
- Needs based assessments for the Parties
- 2025 delivery workplan endorsed, monitored, and reported
- Regular coordination with the GCE, CBD Secretariat and peer TSC Centres

Outcome 2 – Strengthened Policy and Planning Capacity

- Targeted technical clinics and advisory support for NBSAP alignment
- Practical policy briefs and technical guidance on KM-GBF related targets

Outcome 3 – Enhanced Area-Based Conservation Implementation

- Capacity-building workshops on protected areas, OECMs, governance, and equity
- Technical support for ecological connectivity and integrated landscape approaches

Outcome 4 – Knowledge, Learning and Cooperation

- Regional peer-learning exchanges
- Systematic documentation of good practices and lessons learned
- Linkages with IUCN tools including the Green List, Red List of Ecosystems and PANORAMA

6. Governance and Coordination

The Centre is overseen by a Steering Committee comprising representatives of the nine supported Parties, Local Communities (LCs) and ex-officio participation from the CBD Secretariat and/or GCE. Regional and global technical partners participate as observers.

IUCN CA and Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC) serves as the Secretariat, responsible for day-to-day coordination, technical delivery, reporting, and liaison

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with the CBD Secretariat and the GCE. This governance model balances Party ownership, inclusivity, transparency and technical credibility.

7. Resource Mobilisation and Sustainability

The establishment phase of the TSC Support Centre, including the setting up of the Tashkent office, recruitment of initial team members, and the convening of early coordination and preparatory meetings, has been supported through core IUCN institutional resources, complemented by in-kind contributions and synergies with ongoing IUCN ECARO projects in the region.

Moving forward, the effective implementation and consolidation of the Centre’s activities during the 2025–2026 biennium will require additional targeted funding. Resource mobilisation efforts will therefore focus on a blended approach combining:

- targeted project-based funding aligned with the TSC mandate;
- strategic partnerships with governments, donors, academia, and regional platforms; and
- continued utilisation of complementarities, expertise, and delivery mechanisms available through the broader IUCN ECARO regional project portfolio.

This approach is intended to ensure financial sustainability, maximise efficiency, and maintain the flexibility required to respond to evolving needs and priorities of Parties, while avoiding duplication and building on existing regional investments.

8. Engagement with the Global Coordination Entity (GCE)

IUCN ECARO values the convening and coordination role of the GCE and welcomes continued guidance, peer exchange, and harmonisation across the TSC network. The Centre looks forward to bilateral technical engagement, including feedback sessions, to further refine its workplan, indicators, and delivery modalities.

9. Activities, Meetings, and Workshops in 2025

Period	Event / Activity	Format / Location	Purpose and Contribution
Aug 2024	National biodiversity strategies and action plans for Central Asia	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	The event presented the Global Species Action Plan and the One Health approach, highlighting their relevance and integration within the KMGBF targets, with a particular focus on linking species conservation, ecosystem integrity, and human and animal health outcomes.
Sept 2024	Inception Workshop for the project Food System, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program in Uzbekistan	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	The session aimed to support the objectives of the CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) framework by promoting the integration of nature-based solutions

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			for landscape restoration and biodiversity conservation within the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program in Uzbekistan (FOLUR–Uzbekistan). It contributed to strengthening coherence between food systems, land-use planning, and restoration efforts, and to aligning programme implementation with relevant targets of the KMGBF through the provision of technical and scientific perspectives.
2025	Consultations with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic	Online	The event supported the incorporation of One Health approach and OECM concepts into action plans and strategic policy documents, promoting their alignment with relevant targets of the KMGBF
Nov 2025	Launch of project on ecosystem restoration	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	The event large-scale ecosystem restoration, conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas, greenhouse gas emission reductions, gender-responsive livelihood benefits, and mobilisation of innovative finance and positioned the project within broader national priorities and long-term strategic pathways for 2025–2030, in alignment with the KMGBF.
Nov 2025	Twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	Samarkand, Uzbekistan	IUCN contributed to the event addressing human-wildlife conflicts and risks of trade in endangered species through restoration of ecosystems and implementation of nature-based solutions” with the overview, cases, and mitigation approaches.
Dec 2025	International Scientific and Practical Conference on Nature-Based Solutions for Addressing Environmental Problems (NBSEP)	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	IUCN contributed to the International Scientific and Practical Conference on Nature-Based Solutions for Addressing Environmental Problems (NBSEP) with the session “Nature-based Solutions: When Nature is Your Ally”.
Feb 2026	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	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	The event will serve as a subregional platform to strengthen coordination and shared understanding among Eastern European and Central Asian countries on the implementation of Target 3 of the KM-GBF. It will aim to enhance technical capacity, promote alignment of national approaches with global commitments and facilitate peer exchange on practical challenges and

			solutions related to protected and conserved areas, including OECMs. The event will contribute by consolidating ongoing regional efforts, providing structured feedback on progress achieved to date and supporting coherence between national processes and subregional priorities. It will also reinforce collaboration between governments, the CBD Secretariat and technical partners, thereby enabling more effective planning, implementation, and reporting under the GBF in Eastern European and Central Asia.
Feb / March 2026	ROAM Validation Workshops in Uzbekistan	Nukus, Khorezm and Shahrisabz, Uzbekistan	These regional workshops are part of the fieldwork and the final steps in the ROAM process within the project Food System, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program in Uzbekistan (FOLUR-Uzbekistan).
Aug 2026	Seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 17)	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Showcase examples of landscape-and-ecosystem restoration and implementation of Nature-based Solutions in Central Asia, as well as their outcomes achieved so far.

10. Engagement with the GCE

Outcome	Output	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2026)	Lead / Partners
Outcome 1: Operational & Responsive TSC Centre	Steering Committee established and functional	Formalize governance, convene meetings, approve workplan	SC established; meetings held	No SC	SC operational; annual meeting held	IUCN CA; CBD Secretariat; Parties
Outcome 2: Strengthened Policy & Planning Capacity	NBSAP and Target 3 technical support delivered	Regional workshops; policy briefs	Parties supported	Ad hoc support	≥9 Parties receive structured support	IUCN CA; Commissions
Outcome 3: Enhanced Area-Based Implementation	Capacity on PAs, OECMs, governance strengthened	Training modules; country support missions	Workshops conducted; tools applied	Ad hoc support	≥5 regional/country trainings	IUCN CA; WCPA;

Annex I-VI

Annex I. Mapping to KM-GBF Targets and Headline Indicators

Biennium Outcome	KM-GBF Target(s)	Relevant Headline / Component Indicators
Outcome 1: Operational & Responsive TSC Centre	Target 20 (Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation)	Indicator 20.1 – Capacity-building support provided to developing countries
Outcome 2: Strengthened Policy & Planning Capacity	Target 14 (Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors); Target 1 (Spatial planning); Target 2 (Ecosystem restoration planning)	Indicator 14.1 – Biodiversity integrated into policies and planning processes; Indicator 1.1 – Spatial planning coverage incorporating biodiversity considerations; Indicator 2.1 – Area under restoration planning
Outcome 3: Enhanced Area- Based Conservation Implementation	Target 3 (30×30) (Protected and conserved areas & OECMs); Target 4 (Species); Target 11 (Nature’s contributions to people); Target 23 (Gender-responsive and inclusive governance)	Indicator 3.1 – Coverage of protected areas and OECMs; Indicator 3.2 – Ecological connectivity; Indicator 3.3 – Governance quality and equity; Indicator 4.1 – Species conservation status; Indicator 11.1 – Ecosystem services contributions
Outcome 4: Knowledge, Learning & Cooperation	Target 20 (Technical cooperation); Target 21 (Knowledge, data and access to information)	Indicator 20.1 – Capacity-building and cooperation support; Indicator 21.1 – Access to biodiversity-related information and participation

Annex II. Risk and Assumptions Table

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 mobilisation	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 III. Steering Committee Endorsement (Summary)

Purpose: Endorse the strategic direction, governance, and priority focus of the Central Asia CBD TSC Centre for 2026.

Key Points for Endorsement:

- Mandate and geographic scope of the Central Asia CBD TSC Support Centre;
- Four biennium outcomes aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and relevant CBD COP decisions;
- Governance and coordination arrangements, including the role and functioning of the Steering Committee;
- Commitment to Target 3 (30×30) and strengthened support for area-based conservation, including protected areas and OECMs.

Annex IV.

List of Parties to be served by the TSC Support Centre

1. *Armenia*
2. *Azerbaijan*
3. *Belarus*
4. *Kazakhstan*
5. *Kyrgyz Republic*
6. *Russian Federation*
7. *Tajikistan*
8. *Turkmenistan*
9. *Uzbekistan*

Annex V.

Core Functions of the regional and/or subregional technical and scientific support centres

1. *To promote and facilitate, on a demand-driven basis, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties, especially from developed country Parties to developing country Parties, to support the implementation of the Convention and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention;*
2. *To provide a “one-stop service centre” for Parties to biodiversity-related conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to access technical and scientific knowledge, expertise, tools and other resources, taking into account the science, technology and innovation capability gaps identified by Parties, especially developing country Parties;*
3. *To provide Parties, especially developing country Parties, with access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovations, including biotechnology research;*
4. *To mobilize resources to provide timely and targeted support for projects and activities that address specific identified technical and scientific needs;*
5. *To facilitate matchmaking between Parties with specific needs and Parties or organizations in a position to provide assistance in response to the priority needs identified;*
6. *To catalyse and support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical and scientific cooperation projects and programmes that:*
 - a) *Promote and incubate international and regional cooperation and partnerships using a programmatic approach;*
 - b) *Facilitate the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies and innovative national, regional and local solutions, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, through scalable initiatives;*
 - c) *Facilitate access to, and utilization of, available scientific knowledge, information and data;*
7. *To strengthen capacities of regional, subregional and national institutions to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation with an emphasis on science, technology and innovation;*
8. *To facilitate knowledge sharing and organizational learning;*
9. *To identify, collate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned regarding biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation, including biotechnology research;*
10. *To maximize synergies and collaborate with other technology transfer initiatives and mechanisms;*
11. *To perform such other activities related to science, technology and innovation as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.*

Annex VI.

Proposal: Governance Structure for the IUCN-CA CBD TSC Support Centre

1. Purpose

The governance structure provides strategic guidance, oversight, and legitimacy to the IUCN-CA 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 Local Communities (LCs), 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 **12 members** as follows:

2.2 Voting Members from Parties and Sector Representative (9):

1. Nine representatives nominated by the CBD National Focal Points of the Parties directly supported by the Centre:
 - Armenia
 - Azerbaijan
 - Belarus
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyz Republic
 - Russian Federation
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - Uzbekistan
2. One LC representative to ensure that Local Communities are represented, including their women and youth groups.

2.3 Ex officio members (2):

- IUCN Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Director
- Representative of the 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 9 Parties and with other subregional/global TSC Centres.
- Inclusivity: Guarantee the effective participation of LCs, 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 five Party representatives.

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

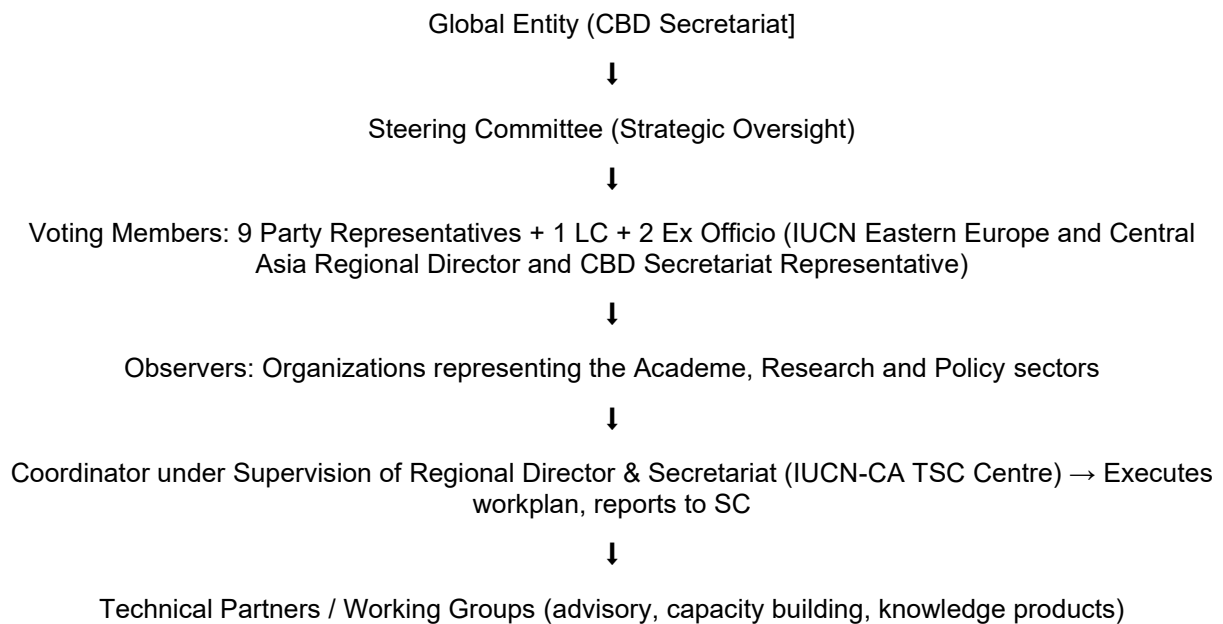
- The Coordinator of the IUCN-CA CBD TSC Support Centre acts as Secretary to the Steering Committee.

- Under the Regional Director’s general oversight, IUCN-CA provides administrative and technical support, through the TSC Centre Team led by Coordinator of the IUCN-CA 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.

7. Proposed Governance Structure For IUCN-ECARO CBD TSC Support Centre



Next Steps for Establishment

1. Circulate draft TORs and governance proposal to 9 Parties for endorsement.
2. Formalize nomination of Party representatives.
3. Invite observer institutions (CAREC, ICARDA, CA-RRI) to confirm participation.
4. Convene inaugural Steering Committee meeting (2026) to:
 - Elect Chairperson
 - Endorse 2025–26 workplan