



OSS Regional, Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Center: **Biannual Report**

2025
2026



TSC OSS Centre Countries:



Part I. Background on the TSCC

The Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC) for North Africa and the Horn of Africa marks a significant milestone in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). It was established pursuant to Decision 15/8 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which created a global network of regional and subregional TSCCs to advance demand-driven technical cooperation, technology transfer, and knowledge exchange in support of the KMGBF. Following the formal selection of OSS by the COP Bureau on 28 May 2024, subsequently confirmed through CBD Decision 16/3, a Host Agreement was signed between OSS and the CBD Secretariat in July 2025, on the sidelines of the 20th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). This signing marked the official launch of the Centre, positioning it among the five regional and eighteen global TSCCs recognized by the CBD Secretariat, with a mandate extending through 31 December 2030.

Building on OSS's three decades of experience as a science-policy interface, the Centre serves as a regional catalyst for evidence-based biodiversity governance across eight beneficiary Parties: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia. In this role, it promotes demand-driven technical cooperation, technology transfer, and innovation tailored to the specific ecological and socio-economic contexts of African drylands.

A cornerstone of the Centre's initial phase is the comprehensive capacity needs assessment currently underway. To ensure that support mechanisms are fully aligned with national priorities, the OSS TSCC has developed and circulated a detailed assessment framework to all partner countries. This structured consultation addresses key areas such as NBSAP alignment, biodiversity data management, monitoring systems, and biodiversity finance mobilization. By adopting this demand-driven approach, the TSCC remains responsive to the evolving technical and institutional needs of the subregion, while strengthening long-term resilience and supporting the effective implementation of the KMGBF.

Part II. Report on outcomes

1. Operationalization of the TSCC

Outcome 1: the OSS TSCC achieves key operational milestones and is established as a credible, functional and well-governed subregional support centre, equipped to deliver responsive and structured technical and scientific cooperation services to Parties and partners

Outputs	Status	Details
<i>Host agreement signed</i>	Completed	The designation of OSS as a subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre followed the selection process established under the Convention and was formalized through the signature of the Host Agreement between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory in August 2025. This represents a key operational milestone, providing the legal and institutional basis for the OSS-hosted TSCC to function within the CBD technical and scientific cooperation mechanism.
		The Agreement clarifies OSS's responsibilities as host organization, including coordination, reporting, institutional support and facilitation of demand-driven technical and scientific cooperation for the Parties served by the Centre. It also establishes the framework for engagement with the CBD Secretariat and the global coordination entity, and enables the progressive implementation of governance, coordination and service-delivery arrangements foreseen in the TSCC workplan.

<p>Governance mechanisms established</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Governance arrangements for the OSS TSCC are being established following the signature of the Host Agreement in August 2025. OSS has initiated the structuring of two complementary mechanisms: a Steering Committee, responsible for strategic orientation, oversight and alignment with Party priorities; and a Partnership Committee, intended to support technical outreach, partner coordination and collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>The Steering Committee is expected to include representatives of the eight Parties served by the Centre, OSS, the CBD Secretariat or Global Coordination Entity as appropriate, and selected regional partners. The Partnership Committee will involve technical and financial partners, research institutions and relevant cooperation initiatives, including those able to respond to identified country needs.</p> <p>The terms of reference, composition and working modalities are being finalised. The first meetings are planned during 2026, once membership has been confirmed, with the aim of ensuring country ownership, technical relevance and accountable implementation of the TSCC workplan.</p>
<p>Personnel dedicated to the TSCC</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The operationalization of the OSS TSCC is supported through a combination of dedicated and shared human resources within the institution. A coordination function has been formally assigned, with a designated TSCC Coordinator responsible for overall coordination, liaison with the CBD Secretariat and partners, and oversight of workplan implementation.</p> <p>The coordinator is supported by a multidisciplinary technical team drawing on existing OSS expertise in biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem restoration, geospatial data, capacity-building and regional cooperation. This team includes both full-time and part-time contributions, estimated at approximately 3–4 full-time equivalent (FTE), ensuring flexibility while enabling delivery of priority functions.</p> <p>This phased staffing approach reflects the early stage of TSCC operationalization and allows the Centre to mobilize existing institutional capacities while progressively strengthening dedicated resources as activities expand. It ensures immediate functionality while maintaining alignment with available resources and emerging operational needs.</p>
<p>Operational planning framework established (Biennial Workplan)</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The OSS TSCC Biennial Workplan (2025–2026) has been designed as a strategic, results-based framework that operationalises the functions of Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres under CBD Decisions 15/8 and 16/3. It positions the Centre as a regional delivery mechanism, structuring the articulation of country demand, technical cooperation and knowledge systems in support of KM-GBF implementation. Organised around five interlinked areas, the workplan embeds a systems approach linking data production, indicator</p>



		<p>frameworks, monitoring systems and national reporting processes, including targeted support to Seventh National Reports. It builds on OSS's operational capacities in Earth observation, biodiversity monitoring and natural capital accounting, notably through Afrik'ENCA, enabling interoperable data and decision-support tools. The framework reflects a shift from fragmented support towards structured, demand-driven cooperation, with 2025 focused on system set-up and 2026 on delivery, scaling and consolidation, and ensuring alignment with regional priorities, global coordination mechanisms, and emerging opportunities for biodiversity finance mobilisation.</p>
Additional result(s)	<p>Beyond the outputs defined in the workplan, the operationalization phase has enabled early positioning of the OSS TSCC within regional and global biodiversity processes. The Centre actively engaged in key milestones, including COP16 in Cali and regional dialogues in Yaoundé, Tunis and Addis Ababa, contributing to the consolidation of African perspectives on KM-GBF implementation.</p> <p>These engagements facilitated structured coordination with the five African TSCCs, strengthening alignment of approaches, exchange of tools and identification of opportunities for joint action. They also reinforced linkages with strategic partners, including the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and UNEP-WCMC, particularly on biodiversity monitoring, knowledge systems and NBSAP support.</p> <p>In parallel, OSS has leveraged its technical platforms to align with TSCC functions, notably in relation to biodiversity indicators and Earth observation, enhancing the Centre's visibility and providing a foundation for coordinated, demand-driven cooperation during the biennium.</p>	

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions



The operationalization of the OSS TSCC has benefited from a clear structuring logic, as reflected in the biennial workplan, enabling a progressive transition from institutional set-up to service delivery. The Host Agreement signed in August 2025 provided the institutional anchor for this transition, while the early mobilisation of OSS’s existing technical capacities, particularly in geospatial systems, biodiversity monitoring and knowledge platforms allowed the Centre to initiate its functions on a solid operational basis.

What has worked particularly well is the ability to position the TSCC not merely as a coordination mechanism, but as an interface linking data, monitoring and reporting processes across conventions, in line with CBD Decisions 15/8 and 16/3. This is reflected in early efforts to align biodiversity-related support with land degradation neutrality processes and to contribute to more coherent national reporting pathways. In this regard, emerging engagement around KM-GBF Target 2, notably through interaction with the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), is particularly relevant. FERM provides a common platform for monitoring, reporting and knowledge-sharing across ecosystems and conventions, enabling countries to link restoration efforts with land condition and reporting processes.


At country level, initial support has demonstrated the Centre’s ability to deliver integrated technical assistance. In Tunisia, targeted engagement contributed to both capacity strengthening and reporting processes under the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols, while fostering multisectoral coordination. Additional support is emerging in areas such as marine biodiversity in Libya. Strategic partnerships further strengthen this operational base. In particular, the MoU with ESRI represents a concrete achievement, enabling the provision of geospatial licences, up to three per country, and improving access to tools for spatial analysis, monitoring and reporting. Collaboration with partners such as UNDP, including Biodiversity Lab, UNEP-WCMC and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership also contributes to embedding OSS within a broader technical support ecosystem.

However, several challenges remain. The TSCC operates in a crowded institutional landscape, where mandates related to data, capacity-building and technical support may overlap, requiring careful positioning to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity. Financial constraints are also significant: the absence of predictable and dedicated funding for TSCC core functions limits the Centre’s ability to scale coordination, helpdesk services and sustained technical support. In addition, translating the interoperability agenda into operational practice, particularly in linking data systems, indicators and reporting tools across conventions, remains complex.

To address these challenges, the Centre will prioritise a focused and strategic approach. This includes consolidating its role as a regional integrator of data and reporting systems, strengthening its interface with countries through demand-driven support, and leveraging partnerships to expand technical capacity. Close coordination among the five African TSCCs will be essential to ensure complementarity rather than competition, reduce fragmentation of support, and build a coherent African technical cooperation offer for Parties. Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting harmonised monitoring and reporting approaches, including synergies between CBD and UNCCD processes, and on progressively positioning the TSCC as a credible intermediary capable of linking technical support, data systems and emerging biodiversity finance opportunities.

2. Visibility and responsiveness

Outcome 2: 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
<p><i>Help desk/One-stop service centre established</i></p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The help desk/one-stop service centre is currently being structured OSS acts as a focal point in coordination with the CBD, partners, and hub countries. Its main functions are to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, support technology transfer and strengthen assistance to stakeholders in implementing biodiversity and sustainable development-related initiatives. As part of its activities, the centre builds on projects already implemented by OSS in several countries, which benefit from ongoing technical support.</p> <p>The Afrikenca platform  AfrikEnca , which serves as a unique portal for showcasing Africa’s natural capital and the first continental geospatial decision-support platform for African ecosystem accounts,</p>



		<p>is also intended to include a dedicated component for the centre. This will enhance its visibility, accessibility and regional positioning as a reference mechanism for supporting and coordinating scientific and technical actions.</p>
<p><i>Communications strategy and products developed</i></p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The TSCC is recognized as a visible and responsive support centre for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the region and subregion. In this context, several communication products have been developed to strengthen its visibility and highlight its actions.</p> <p>An institutional brochure was produced to clearly present the centre, its context, mission, and strategic areas of intervention. Disseminated during meetings and workshops, it has helped stakeholders better understand the centre's role.</p> <p>An information note on OSS's contribution to the Kunming-Montreal GBF, as well as a good practice guide on ENCA, were also developed.</p>  
<p>Visibility, Outreach and Strategic Positioning Strengthened</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Articles have also been published following various events to showcase the activities carried out, highlight the results achieved, and relay key messages to a wider audience. In this context, a dedicated communication strategy is being considered, aligned with the OSS 2030 Strategy and fully integrating the objectives of the GBF, in order to strengthen the visibility, coherence, and impact of the TSCC's actions.</p> <p>The international positioning of the TSCC has been reinforced through several strategic engagements. On 18 July 2025, during the 20th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Nairobi, an agreement was signed between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Observatory of the Sahara and Sahel to host the TSCC, marking an important step in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The TSCC was also promoted during SBSTTA-26 in Nairobi in May 2024 and at the First African Biodiversity Summit in Gaborone in November 2025, further strengthening its visibility and partnerships in Africa.</p> 



Additional result(s)	Additional results include the strengthened visibility of the TSCC and its activities beyond the outputs foreseen in the workplan, through continuous communication and media outreach efforts. The centre’s activities have been highlighted through interviews conducted during various regional and international meetings, providing direct insights into its role, objectives, and added value in supporting technical and scientific cooperation. These interviews have helped improve understanding and increase the visibility of the centre among stakeholders and partners.
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3. Partnership development and resource mobilization

Outcome 3: The TSCC initiates partnership development and advances the establishment of sustainable, long-term resource mobilization mechanisms to support its operations and service delivery.

During the reporting period, the TSCC has made significant progress in positioning itself as a strategic regional platform for partnership development and resource mobilization in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). Leveraging the institutional credibility and convening power of the host organization, the Centre has engaged a diverse range of stakeholders, including regional and international organizations, development partners, research institutions, and technical agencies.

These efforts have enabled the identification of strategic collaboration opportunities and the gradual structuring of a partnership ecosystem aligned with Parties’ priorities and needs. In doing so, the TSCC is contributing to enhancing coherence, coordination, and complementarity among existing initiatives, while promoting a demand-driven approach to technical and scientific cooperation.

In parallel, the TSCC has initiated a forward-looking resource mobilization process aimed at securing sustainable and diversified funding sources. This includes the exploration of key financing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as well as the development of initial project concepts aligned with regional priorities.

Although dedicated financial resources remain limited at this stage, the TSCC has effectively leveraged in-kind contributions and ongoing programmes of the host institution to initiate its operations and demonstrate early added value.

Moving forward, the TSCC will focus on consolidating its strategic positioning, operationalizing a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy and business case, and strengthening partnerships with key financial and technical actors. This will be essential to ensure predictable, sustained, and scalable support to Parties, and to reinforce the TSCC’s role as a catalyst for technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention.

Outputs	Status	Details
Partnerships developed	In progress	During the reporting period, the TSCC built on the Sahara and Sahel Observatory’s extensive partnership network to strengthen strategic collaborations with key regional and international stakeholders. These include regional organizations and technical institutions working on biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and environmental data management. Key partnerships were advanced with Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, NEPAD/AFR100, Esri (through a Memorandum of Understanding), Food and Agriculture Organization under the Forest and Farm Facility, the United Nations Development Programme Biodiversity Lab (UNBL), and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership. These collaborations support technical cooperation, improve data accessibility, and assist countries in implementing and monitoring their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).



		<p>The TSCC also engaged partners through ongoing programmes of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory, including ecosystem accounting initiatives such as Afrik'ENCA, which provide concrete entry points for technical and scientific cooperation.</p> <p>In parallel, consultations were conducted with national focal points and regional actors, including the United Nations Environment Programme, across North Africa and the Horn of Africa to identify priority needs and align partnership opportunities. Engagement was also initiated with continental programmes such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security Africa, strengthening links with Earth observation and environmental monitoring initiatives. Exchanges with the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat and other TSCCs in the Mediterranean and African regions further positioned the Centre within the global Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) network, fostering collaboration, peer learning, and knowledge exchange.</p>
Project proposals submitted	In progress	<p>The TSCC has actively contributed to the development of project proposals aligned with its mandate, building on the Sahara and Sahel Observatory's strong track record in accessing international climate and environmental finance. Concept notes and proposals have been explored under key financing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the Green Climate Fund, and the International Climate Initiative. These include initiatives related to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity monitoring, and climate resilience, often building on existing OSS programmes such as COPERNICEA and AdaptWAP.</p> <p>In this context, project concepts have been developed, including Scaling up Nature-based Solutions in living labs in the Congo Basin combined with Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting, as well as Biodiversity Restoration and Community Empowerment: Revitalizing Jazeera's Ecosystems for a Sustainable Future in Somalia. In addition, the TSCC has supported the identification of opportunities linked to the Great Green Wall initiative and ecosystem-based adaptation programmes, integrating biodiversity into broader land and climate interventions.</p> <p>These efforts contribute to establishing a pipeline of bankable projects aligned with regional priorities and Parties' needs.</p>
Resources mobilized	In progress	<p>At this stage, dedicated financial resources mobilized specifically under the TSCC remain limited. However, the Centre benefits from significant in-kind contributions from the Sahara and Sahel Observatory, including technical expertise, operational support, infrastructure, and access to established platforms such as Afrik'ENCA and MISBAR.</p> <p>Furthermore, the TSCC leverages ongoing OSS projects funded by partners such as the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund, and the Agence Française de Développement, which contribute indirectly to its objectives, particularly in ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, and biodiversity monitoring.</p> <p>In addition, targeted support has been mobilized through smaller-scale funding, notably from the Global Environment Facility, to support activities related to the implementation and reporting of the Nagoya Protocol, the Cartagena Protocol, and the BBNJ Agreement, as well as</p>



		<p>contributions linked to Target 2 on ecosystem restoration. These complementary funds amount to approximately USD 2.5 million.</p> <p>OSS's accreditation to major climate finance mechanisms represents a key asset for future resource mobilization. Ongoing work on proposal development and donor engagement is expected to support the mobilization of dedicated financial resources in the next phase of implementation.</p>
<p>Resource mobilization framework developed</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The TSCC has initiated the development of a structured resource mobilization framework, building on OSS's experience in designing financing strategies and accessing international funds.</p> <p>This includes the identification of priority donors and financing mechanisms, such as the GEF, GCF, and GBFF, as well as regional development banks and bilateral partners. The TSCC is also exploring innovative financing approaches, including blended finance and nature-based investment opportunities linked to ecosystem restoration and natural capital accounting.</p> <p>The development of a business case is underway, highlighting the TSCC's value proposition as a regional hub for technical and scientific cooperation.</p> <p>This framework will support more strategic engagement with financial partners and enhance the TSCC's ability to mobilize predictable and sustainable funding.</p>
<p>Additional result(s)</p>	<p>As an additional result, the TSCC has contributed to strengthening synergies between the three Rio Conventions the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by promoting integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and climate adaptation. Through its activities and partnerships, the TSCC has supported the alignment of national priorities and reporting processes, encouraged the use of shared data and tools, and facilitated dialogue among stakeholders working across these conventions. This integrated approach enhances coherence, reduces duplication of efforts, and strengthens the overall impact of technical and scientific cooperation in the region.</p>	

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions



What has worked well

During the reporting period, the TSCC successfully leveraged the institutional strengths, technical expertise, and partnerships of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory to establish a solid foundation for partnership development and resource mobilization. OSS's recognized role as a regional science-policy interface and its long-standing collaboration with African countries and international partners enabled the TSCC to position itself rapidly as a credible platform for technical and scientific cooperation.

The integration of the TSCC within ongoing OSS programmes, including Afrik'ENCA for ecosystem accounting and projects supported by the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, provided immediate operational entry points. These initiatives facilitated early partner engagement, demonstrated the added value of the TSCC, and supported the development of an initial pipeline of collaborative actions and project concepts.

In addition, strong alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework particularly targets related to capacity-building, technical cooperation, and resource mobilization has enhanced the TSCC's strategic relevance and facilitated dialogue with partners and donors.

Ongoing challenges

Despite this progress, several challenges continue to constrain full operationalization. The most critical is the limited availability of dedicated financial resources. At this early stage, the TSCC relies largely on in-kind contributions and synergies with ongoing OSS programmes, limiting its ability to scale up activities and respond proactively to Parties' needs.

The absence of a fully operational resource mobilization strategy and a clearly articulated business case also limits structured engagement with donors. While initial contacts have been established, a more targeted and systematic approach is needed to secure predictable and diversified funding.

In addition, the increasingly competitive landscape of international environmental finance poses a challenge. Accessing major funding mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, and Global Biodiversity Framework Fund requires strong project pipelines, clear value propositions, and effective coordination among partners.

Finally, ensuring coherence with other regional and global initiatives remains essential to avoid duplication, particularly within the broader TSCC network.

Possible solutions and way forward

To address these challenges, the TSCC will prioritize the development and operationalization of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy and business case. This will clarify its positioning, comparative advantages, priority investment areas, and funding needs, providing a solid basis for structured donor engagement.

The TSCC will also strengthen and diversify its partnership base through targeted engagement with regional development banks, international financing institutions, and strategic technical partners. Developing co-financing arrangements and joint project initiatives will be key to increasing impact and resource mobilization.

Efforts will be intensified to build a robust pipeline of high-quality, demand-driven project proposals aligned with Parties' priorities, leveraging OSS's accreditation to major climate finance mechanisms and its experience in project development and implementation.

Finally, enhanced coordination with the Global Coordination Entity and other TSCCs will be essential to maximize synergies, promote knowledge exchange, and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism under the Convention.

4. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

Outcome 4: OSS 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
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New knowledge management products developed under the TSCC	In progress	The OSS TSCC has initiated the development of several knowledge management and technical support products to facilitate regional cooperation and biodiversity knowledge exchange. These include technical guidance materials, regional knowledge-sharing resources, and information products linked to biodiversity monitoring, geospatial tools, Earth observation applications, and KMGBF implementation support. In addition, the TSCC has begun compiling regional expertise and technical resources through stakeholder mapping and the establishment of partner registries to facilitate access to knowledge, tools, and expertise for Parties. These products contribute to strengthening regional knowledge management systems and improving access to technical and scientific information relevant to biodiversity conservation and restoration.
New technical and scientific cooperation and/or technology transfer programs and/or projects implemented	In progress	The TSCC has initiated several cooperation processes aimed at supporting countries in NBSAP implementation, biodiversity monitoring, and national reporting under the CBD. Particular emphasis has been placed on facilitating peer exchange, matchmaking between countries and technical partners, and promoting South-South and triangular cooperation opportunities. The Centre also promotes the use of OSS geospatial and Earth observation tools, including Afrik'ENCA and MISLAND, to support biodiversity monitoring and ecosystem assessment. Technical support has already been initiated for biodiversity-related reporting processes, including support provided to Tunisia for the preparation of biodiversity data and indicators for the Seventh National Report to the CBD.
Capacity-building and development events organized/facilitated	In progress	Capacity-building activities constitute a core component of the TSCC workplan for 2025–2026. The Centre plans to organize regional technical trainings for CBD national focal points and national institutions on NBSAP implementation and alignment with the KMGBF, as well as workshops on biodiversity indicators, monitoring systems, and data management. The TSCC will also facilitate regional knowledge exchange workshops, webinars, and peer-learning sessions focused on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and the use of geospatial and Earth observation tools for biodiversity monitoring. During the biennium, at least two technical trainings, two peer-exchange sessions, one regional workshop, and two regional knowledge-sharing events are expected to be conducted for stakeholders from the eight beneficiary countries.
Output(s) from workplan (as needed)	Select an option	Under Outcome 4 of the biennial workplan, the OSS TSCC is implementing activities aimed at progressively delivering technical and scientific cooperation services across the subregion. These include supporting countries in NBSAP implementation, strengthening biodiversity monitoring capacities, facilitating regional knowledge exchange, and promoting matchmaking for technical cooperation. Planned activities also include technical guidance for the preparation of biodiversity-related indicators and national reporting to the CBD, as well as facilitating access to expertise, methodologies, technologies, and regional cooperation opportunities. The workplan further emphasizes peer learning and cooperation among Parties to encourage the exchange of good practices and strengthen regional collaboration mechanisms.
Additional result(s)		



Beyond the planned outputs, the TSCC has strengthened its role as a regional platform for technical cooperation and biodiversity knowledge exchange in North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Through consultations with Parties and engagement with regional and international partners, the Centre has increased awareness of technical cooperation opportunities related to KMGBF implementation. The TSCC has also contributed to strengthening collaboration among regional institutions, biodiversity experts, and technical partners, while promoting demand-driven support tailored to country priorities and ecological contexts. These efforts contribute to building long-term regional capacities for biodiversity governance, monitoring, reporting, and ecosystem restoration.

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

Not at this stage

Part III. Summary of key achievements and challenges

1. Key achievements during the 2025-2026 biennium


Achievement 1: Operationalization of the OSS TSCC and establishment of the regional support mechanism

The 2025–2026 biennium marked the successful operationalization of the OSS-hosted Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC) for North Africa and the Horn of Africa. A major milestone was achieved with the signature of the Host Agreement between the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory during AMCEN 2025 in Nairobi, formally establishing the Centre within the global TSCC network. The OSS TSCC progressively established its coordination mechanisms, operational framework, and institutional arrangements, including the designation of a coordinator and the mobilization of multidisciplinary technical expertise within OSS. The Biennial Workplan (2025–2026) was finalized as a strategic and results-based framework aligned with CBD Decisions 15/8 and 16/3. In parallel, the Centre strengthened its regional positioning through participation in key biodiversity events and consultations with Parties and technical partners, laying the foundation for demand-driven technical and scientific cooperation across the subregion

Achievement 2: Visibility, outreach and technical cooperation services strengthened

During the reporting period, the TSCC significantly enhanced its visibility and responsiveness as a regional platform for biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation. Several communication and outreach products were developed, including an institutional brochure, information notes, and visibility materials highlighting OSS contributions to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Centre was promoted during major regional and international events, including SBSTTA-26 and the First African Biodiversity Summit, strengthening its recognition among African biodiversity stakeholders. In parallel, the TSCC initiated the establishment of a regional help desk and one-stop service mechanism to facilitate access to expertise, technical tools, and cooperation opportunities. The Centre also launched activities supporting biodiversity monitoring, NBSAP implementation, peer exchange, and national reporting processes, including technical support to Tunisia for biodiversity indicators linked to the Seventh National Report to the CBD.

Achievement 3: Strategic partnerships and resource mobilization processes initiated



A major achievement of the biennium was the consolidation of strategic partnerships and the initiation of resource mobilization processes supporting the long-term sustainability of the TSCC. Building on OSS's extensive regional and international network, the Centre strengthened collaboration with several technical and financial partners, including UNEP, FAO, UNDP Biodiversity Lab, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, CEDARE, AFR100, and Esri through a Memorandum of Understanding. These partnerships facilitated access to geospatial tools, technical expertise, biodiversity monitoring resources, and knowledge-sharing opportunities for beneficiary countries. The TSCC also contributed to the development of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration project concepts targeting international financing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and the Green Climate Fund. In addition, ongoing OSS programmes and in-kind institutional contributions enabled the Centre to initiate operational activities despite limited dedicated financial resources.

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

Challenge 1: Limited dedicated financial resources for TSCC operations

One of the main challenges faced during the biennium was the limited availability of dedicated financial resources to fully operationalize and scale up TSCC activities. At this early stage, most activities relied heavily on in-kind contributions, existing OSS programmes, and partner-supported initiatives. While this approach enabled the Centre to initiate operations and demonstrate early added value, it constrained the expansion of technical assistance, help desk services, regional workshops, and long-term country support. The absence of predictable funding also limited the ability to recruit additional dedicated staff and accelerate implementation of planned activities. To address this challenge, the TSCC will prioritize the finalization of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy and business case, strengthen engagement with international donors and financing institutions, and develop a pipeline of demand-driven project proposals aligned with Parties' priorities and the objectives of the KMGBF.

Challenge 2: Complexity of coordination and overlap with existing regional initiatives

The TSCC operates within a complex institutional landscape characterized by multiple regional and international initiatives working on biodiversity, land restoration, climate adaptation, and environmental monitoring. These created challenges related to coordination, complementarity, and the avoidance of duplication of efforts. Ensuring clear positioning of the TSCC within the broader technical cooperation architecture required continuous dialogue with partners, conventions, and regional organizations. In addition, harmonizing approaches among the African TSCCs and strengthening coordination with the Global Coordination Entity remain ongoing priorities. To overcome these challenges, the Centre will continue strengthening collaborative mechanisms with other TSCCs, regional institutions, and technical partners, while promoting integrated approaches linking biodiversity, climate, and land degradation agendas. Greater emphasis will also be placed on joint programming, knowledge exchange, and interoperability between regional data and reporting systems

Challenge 3: Technical complexity of interoperability, monitoring and reporting systems

Another important challenge relates to the technical complexity of strengthening interoperability between biodiversity data systems, monitoring frameworks, and reporting mechanisms under different multilateral environmental agreements. Countries in the region face varying levels of technical capacity, data availability, and institutional coordination, making it difficult to establish harmonized approaches for biodiversity monitoring and reporting. Integrating Earth observation tools, ecosystem accounting systems, and KMGBF indicators into national processes also requires sustained technical assistance and specialized expertise. To address these issues, the TSCC will continue promoting regional capacity-building activities, peer learning, and technical guidance on biodiversity indicators and reporting systems. The Centre will also strengthen collaboration with partners such as UNEP-WCMC, ESRI, and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership to improve access to tools, methodologies, and technical expertise supporting more coherent and integrated biodiversity monitoring systems across the region.

2025-2026

OSS Biannual Report



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