

SANBI TSCC Progress Report (2025-2026)

Name of the TSCC: SANBI

Period covered by the report: 2024-2026

Date of submission: 30 April 2026

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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: 27 August 2025
- Parties served by the TSCC: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Key results of needs assessment and areas of focus:

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Introduction

SANBI has been designated as one of the host institutions for the CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres (TSCC), with a mandate to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation amongst the nine countries within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region (*Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe*) so that Parties can effectively apply science, technology and innovation in implementing the KMGBF and their NBSAPs.

The SANBI TSCC was officially launched on 27 August 2025 at an event that brought together various partners including international collaborators, diplomatic communities, youth and women reps, and IPLCs. The launch was followed by the signing, on the 17 October 2026, of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the SCBD and SANBI on the hosting of a TSCC for the SADC region.

SANBI TSCC further undertook a detailed capacity needs assessment among the nine affiliated countries to assess current progress, gaps and priorities for scientific and technical support so as to inform the TSCC workplan for 2025-2026 and longer-term implementation roadmap. This capacity needs assessment identified over 100 data products and assessments across many different fields of expertise needed to implement and report on the KMGBF. Among the data products and assessments not yet developed, countries most frequently ranked as high priority the development of data products and assessments related to *invasive species; climate-change, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation; agriculture; ecosystem services; and SEEA ecosystem accounts*.

Preferences for capacity building were strongest for hands-on, face-to-face support, including in-country mentoring or coaching and regional technical workshops or exchanges. Applied collaboration, in the form of technical support embedded in live projects and co-development of tools, protocols or data systems, is also highly preferred across most themes. The SANBI TSCC is to deliver on the affiliated Parties' aforementioned capacity priorities and needs by acting as a help desk for sharing knowledge; supporting partnerships and mobilizing resources; and strengthening capacity and learning across the Southern African region.

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. Operationalisation of the TSCC

Outcome 1: Inclusive governance and operations: Establish a functioning SANBI TSC Centre with inclusive governance structures representing IPLCs, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, operationalised with a lean coordination unit, and delivering on a phased implementation roadmap and workplan.

Outputs	Status	Details
Host agreement signed	Completed	The MoA between the SCBD and the SANBI on the hosting of a TSCC for the Southern African region of the CBD was signed by both Parties on 21 October 2026. The purpose of this MoA is to set forth the terms and conditions including the role and functions of the SANBI TSCC, functions of the SCBD, the governance and institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation requirements and issues about the intellectual property rights etc. under which SANBI shall host the TSCC, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the convention as well as relevant decisions of the

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		<p>Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. This Agreement is effective from 21 October 2026 and will remain in force until 31 December 2030, unless terminated in accordance with Article 20 of this Memorandum of Agreement.</p> <p>150 words</p>
Steering Committee for the TSCC established and convened.	In progress	<p>SANBI TSCC Steering Committee is mandated to provide strategic guidance and oversight of the SANBI TSCC's operations and programmes, including the development, implementation and monitoring of its biennial workplans. SANBI TSCC Steering Committee Members were nominated by the Parties in the subregion, plus one representative of IPLCs, and organisations representing women and youth. A representative of the Global Coordination Entity or the Secretariat of the CBD participates ex officio. This Steering Committee was expected to be convened within 90 days of the Host Agreement's entry into force; however, this could not be achieved due to several challenges experienced, including the financial resources required to convene the Committee in-person as per the strongest preferences for hands-on, face-to-face engagements by the National Focal Points. Similarly, the SANBI TSCC Coordinator could not convene any ordinary meetings or any extraordinary meetings as required, either in-person, virtual or hybrid as envisaged in the workplan due to the unavailability of resources. However, the SANBI TSCC held its first-ever in-person meeting with the representatives of the SANBI TSCC-affiliated countries in the margins of the COP 16 in Cali, Colombia, which included some of the identified partners to shape the capacity needs assessment to support the development of the workplan.</p> <p>150 words</p>
Partnership Committee Group for the TSCC established and convened.	In progress	<p>The Partnership Committee is a broader external advisory group to the Steering Committee and the Management Unit that seeks to bring in expertise from partner institutions and the private sector and identify collaboration and funding opportunities. According to the TSCC workplan and the implementation roadmap, the Partnership Committee is to be made up of representatives from key partner organisations, including scientific institutions, government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, international collaborators, as well as platforms representing IPLCs, youth, and women selected to serve fixed terms. To date, the Centre has not constituted nor convened any Partnership Committee Group for the TSCC as envisaged in the workplan; rather, the Centre sent out a "Call for Partnership" calling for an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for partnerships and collaborations in building a TSCC that fosters scientific collaboration and technology transfer across SADC member states, from all the interested and relevant organisations. Over 60 potential partners submitted their Eoi in support of the SANBI TSCC. This is in addition to 383 partners mapped during the Capacity Needs Assessment undertaken across the nine SANBI-TSCC-affiliated countries. Moreover, some of these partners were invited to the SANBI TSCC Launch. The SANBI TSCC Partnership Committee will be constituted from this list and convened accordingly as and when resources become available.</p> <p>150 words</p>
SANBI TSCC implementation roadmap and workplan developed and implemented.	Completed	<p>The SANBI TSCC implementation roadmap and biennial workplan have been developed, submitted to the SCBD and are currently under implementation. The implementation roadmap is a practical internal execution guide for how SANBI TSCC should ready, operate, and continuously improve the SANBI TSCC from 2025 to 2030. It sets direction, milestones and pacing, rather than prescribing a fixed task list.</p>

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		<p>It is designed primarily for the TSCC Coordinator and Management Unit and is intended to support drafting of biennial workplans.</p> <p>While the SANBI TSCC workplan sets out the SANBI TSCC programme of work for a two-year period starting from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2026. The workplan prioritises near-term, low-cost actions that activate cooperation, connect needs and offers, and improve access to data, information and expertise across the region. This workplan is aligned with the capacity needs assessment undertaken by Parties from June to July 2025. It specifically responds to the identified capacity gaps and priorities, thereby supporting Parties in the effective implementation of their NBSAPs and the GBF.</p> <p>150 words</p>
<p>Personnel dedicated to the SANBI TSCC.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>While SANBI does not have personnel dedicated to TSCC for full-time work, SANBI has put in place some of the core foundations for the SANBI TSCC, including an Interim Management Unit and Internal Task Team to ensure the phased implementation of its three biennial phases aligned to workplan cycles. The established Internal Task Team, with representatives across the branches in SANBI, gives strategic and technical guidance, while the Interim Management Unit has functions to meet CBD administrative requirements and support other activities of the nascent SANBI TSCC. The Interim Management Unit is comprised of 1 Senior Manager acting as part-time SANBI TSCC Coordinator and three Managers at Deputy Director level working as part-time support staff on the TSCC programs and activities, as well as three Research Assistants working full-time on TSCC programs and activities. Unfortunately, the contracts of the three Research Assistants who served full-time as helpdesk, data and information systems officers came to an end on 31st of March 2026. The position of the SANBI TSCC Coordinator that ensures effective and efficient discharge of the SANBI TSCC mandate, including managing the SANBI TSCC Management Unit and overall administration and coordination of activities and programmes of the SANBI TSCC, is yet to be appointed, subject to operationalisation resources made available. Moreover, the current Management Unit has a very limited capacity, with a small proportion of the time of staff members in SANBI's BIPA and BRAM divisions available. The SANBI TSCC Management Unit will have to be fully capacitated by hiring a full-time SANBI TSCC Coordinator, two Deputy Directors (L12) with a science background to support with resource mobilisation and proposal writing, one full-time Helpdesk, data and information systems officer (L10) and one matchmaking and broker officer to enable the full and effective functioning of the TSCC.</p> <p>150 words</p>
<p>Additional result(s)</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC participated in TSCCs' meetings convened by the Global Coordination Entity (CBD Secretariat).</p> <p>150 words</p>	

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

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The operationalisation of the SANBI TSCC has demonstrated several strengths, particularly in leveraging SANBI’s credibility under the CBD to convene countries across SADC in a trusted and collaborative manner. The demand-driven approach, anchored in country-identified capacity needs up to 2030, has ensured that support is relevant, targeted, and owned by national stakeholders, especially in processes such as NBSAP revision and implementation. The regional delivery model has further enhanced efficiency by promoting peer learning, reducing duplication, and enabling economies of scale in technical assistance. However, the implementation has also faced notable constraints, among these is the inability to secure sustained funding, including challenges in accessing resources from the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, which has limited the ability to scale support, retain dedicated technical capacity, and ensure continuity of interventions. In addition, the breadth of expectations placed on the TSCC ranging from policy support to finance, monitoring, and coordination has stretched available resources, while weak institutional embedding at national level has sometimes constrained the translation of technical outputs into policy, budgets, and on-the-ground implementation. To address these challenges, there is a need to secure predictable, multi-year programmatic funding; sharpen the strategic focus of the TSCC around high-impact areas such as NBSAP implementation, Target 3, and biodiversity finance; and strengthen its role in developing bankable project pipelines that can attract public and private investment. Embedding TSCC support within national systems, particularly ministries of finance and planning, will be critical to ensuring long-term impact, alongside strengthening partnerships with development finance institutions.

500 words

2. Visibility and responsiveness

Outcome 2: Helpdesk and knowledge access: provide a “one-stop service Centre” for Parties to biodiversity-related conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organisations, and other relevant stakeholders to access technical and scientific knowledge, expertise, tools and other resources. The focus is on enabling connections between countries and partners across the region and access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovations.

Outputs	Status	Details
Helpdesk is operational and effective.	Completed	<p>SANBI TSCC currently has a fully functional help desk for regional technical and scientific cooperation, thereby making SANBI TSCC accessible, easy to communicate with partners and Parties, and to address the knowledge management gaps. This help desk is manned by the staff of the Interim Management Unit. SANBI TSCC has a dedicated email address and an emerging WhatsApp group for communicating with affiliated Parties and partners. To date, we have shared numerous relevant CBD notifications with the SANBI TSCC-affiliated countries via the SANBI TSCC email address. A webpage for the SANBI TSCC has been developed and is periodically updated with information on learning opportunities and knowledge resources. It provides information on the SANBI TSCC, its objectives and key activities, as well as how partners can get involved in the Centre. The webpage link is: https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/science-into-policy-action/subregional-technical-support-centre-for-southern-africa/. A Microsoft Teams channel to support the TSC Centre with knowledge or documentation management relating to SANBI TSCC has been created in line with SANBI's systems. The next step is to maintain operations of the helpdesk and become more structured or standardised where necessary.</p> <p><i>150 words</i></p>
Regular communication with Parties, partners and other stakeholders through appropriate communication channels to share information has been initiated and is effectively maintained.	Completed	<p>SANBI TSCC regularly communicates with Parties and partners and other stakeholders to share information about the Centre service offering, call for requests and offers, etc., through the SANBI TSCC help desk. To date, we have developed and distributed communication materials about SANBI TSCC, such as the SANBI TSCC branding, business case, workplan, implementation roadmap, factsheet, and call for EoI through the SANBI TSCC dedicated email address and webpage. For example, the SANBI</p>

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		<p>TSCC factsheet titled “Introducing the SANBI Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centre” introduces the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism established under the CBD, the SANBI TSCC, nine (9) affiliated countries, outcomes of capacity needs assessment and how the Centre will respond to these priorities, including through a help desk, strategic partnerships, regional exchanges and capacity development. While the business case makes a case for the partners to invest in the establishment and operationalisation of the SANBI TSCC through co-developing projects and programmes, contribute expertise or resources, and help match country needs with solutions. Funders are urged to invest through core grants, programmatic funding or innovative finance to ensure the operations of the SANBI TSC Centre can deliver the science needed for measurable biodiversity action across southern Africa. It also encourages affiliated countries to contact the SANBI TSCC to request support, access or share expertise, and advance the implementation and monitoring of their NBSAPs.</p> <p>150 words</p>
<p>Webpage for the SANBI TSC Centre (including opt-in mailing list) has been developed and is periodically updated.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>A webpage for the SANBI TSCC has been developed and is periodically updated with information on learning opportunities and knowledge resources. The TSCC webpage provides information on SANBI TSCC, its objectives, vision and mission, key activities, as well as service offerings, call for requests, offers and how partners can get involved in the Centre. The webpage link is: https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/science-into-policy-action/subregional-technical-support-centre-for-southern-africa/ 150 words</p>
<p>A dedicated SANBI TSC Centre email address is created and regularly monitored.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC has a dedicated email address for communicating with affiliated Parties and partners. The email address is monitored by all staff of the Interim Management Unit. The TSCC dedicated email address has also been made available on all our communication materials, knowledge products and other communication channels for ease of access by our SANBI TSCC-affiliated countries and partners. To date, we have shared numerous relevant CBD notifications with the SANBI TSCC-affiliated countries via the SANBI TSC Centre email address.</p> <p>150 words</p>
<p>SANBI TSC Centre branding has been developed.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC has developed a branding to identify the Centre. This branding is used on all information, learning opportunities and knowledge resources developed. Together with the logo, a banner representing the flags of the participating member states was developed. This can be used together with the partner logos.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>The image shows the SANBI TSCC logo on the left, which features a stylized map of southern Africa with a rainbow arc above it. To the right of the logo is the text 'Technical & Scientific Cooperation Centre'. Further right is a horizontal banner containing the flags of the ten member states: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Below the flags are the logos of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the African Union (AU), and the United Nations (UN).</p> </div> <p>150 words</p>
<p>SANBI TSC Centre has been launched with Parties and partners.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>SANBI hosted a hybrid breakfast meeting on 27 August 2025 to officially launch the SANBI TSCC as a regional gateway for knowledge exchange and a capacity-building hub to advance global and regional biodiversity conservation goals. The event drew 49 in-person attendees, including SANBI and DFFE leadership, TSCC partners, international collaborators (IUCN, AFD, ESRI), members of the diplomatic community, youth and women representatives, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) alongside more than 130 virtual participants. The launch formally introduced SANBI TSCC as a regional platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and cooperation in implementing the CBD, its Protocols, and the KM-GBF. It also helped to mobilise new strategic partnerships,</p>

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		political and technical support, and financial resources to strengthen the Centre's operations and long-term impact. <i>150 words</i>
Strategic partnership with the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership or other relevant global mechanisms to leverage the matchmaking facility and enhance knowledge access has been explored.	In progress	SANBI TSCC joined the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership as a Partner by endorsing the 10 guiding principles and completing the required paperwork for membership, so as to leverage technical support from the Partnership on the activities of the SANBI TSCC. SANBI TSCC is currently engaging the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership to leverage the matchmaking facility and enhance knowledge access (https://nbsapaccelerator.org/membership-institutions/#active). <i>150 words</i>
Additional result(s)	None. <i>150 words</i>	

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

Please refer to Part III (Summary of key achievements and challenges).

500 words

3. Partnership development and resource mobilization

Outcome 3: Partnerships and resource mobilisation: Build and steward a network of partners to catalyse and support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical and scientific cooperation projects and programmes, mobilising resources to provide timely and targeted support for projects and activities that address specific identified technical and scientific needs in support of the GBF and NBSAPs.

Outputs	Status	Details
Support the development of projects and programmes by Partners that would contribute to meeting the needs of Parties.	Completed	<p>SANBI TSCC hosted the 2025 Universal Greening Organisation Fellowship Cohort, dedicated to strengthening youth involvement in the implementation of Africa's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), the SADC BSAP, and national strategies. Passionate young leaders from Kenya, Tanzania, Dominica (observer) and South Africa shared fresh perspectives and energy to advance biodiversity action across the region.</p> <p>SANBI TSCC supported and co-hosted the following technical cooperation events/meetings that support KM-GBF implementation in the subregion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional OECM Learning Exchange Workshop (co-hosting): involving all countries. - Technical visit of the Secretariat of CBD focused on Target 3 (preparation and cohosting): involving Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, South Africa, WWF, and IUCN. - SCBD Technical visit to support SANBI TSCC to develop a regional workplan to implement Target 3 (hosting): The meeting was also attended by representatives from South Africa (DFFE, SANParks), Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. NGOs were represented by IUCN, WWF-SA, WWF-Africa, and Sustainable Finance Coalition. - Supporting South Africa on the implementation of the Early Action Support Project, NBSAP review process and preparation of the 7th National Report. - Regional workshop on NBSAP review and GBF indicator 7.2 (co-organisers): Feedback session from COP 16 and NBSAP Dialogue amongst EAC and SADC member states (state of play and to

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		<p>determine support). The meeting also provided the SANBI TSCC with an opportunity to host its first in-person meeting with the representatives of the SANBI TSCC-affiliated countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Regional Business & Biodiversity Forum to advance practical action to mainstream biodiversity across key economic sectors, positioning Africa as a leader in biodiversity-aligned development: The project aimed to mobilise investment and partnerships that strengthen resilience, support jobs, and boost long-term economic stability, while equipping governments and businesses for upcoming reporting obligations, including Target 15. <p>150 words</p>
<p>Coordinate with other regional TSCCs and global platforms to ensure the Centre is part of a network of support.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC delivered a regional dialogue, successfully convened through a joint effort by the UNEP, the FAO, the SCBD, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The dialogue brought together 120 participants from SADC and EAC member states, alongside other anglophone African countries and representatives from IPLCs, women, and youth groups. The event was financially supported by UNEP, FAO, the Global Environment Facility, China Trust Fund, the African Union Commission, and the Commonwealth. Key outcomes from the dialogue underscored the urgency for countries to shift from planning to implementation. Central themes included the need to align NBSAPs and to strengthen monitoring systems through investment in baseline data, digital platforms, and inclusive approaches. There was strong emphasis on the role of regional TSCs for technical support, the importance of capacity building and mentorship, and the inclusion of IPLCs, youth, and women as essential actors.</p> <p>The SANBI TSCC, in collaboration with the IUCN ESARO and RCMRD, co-hosted a regional knowledge-sharing workshop on the implementation of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) from 8–9 September 2025. The workshop aimed to facilitate the exchange of lessons and experiences across the region on integrating OECM identification and reporting into national plans and actions, including national dialogues, policy reviews, and site assessments. Participants, at varying stages of OECM adoption, learned from one another about best practices for recognising and reporting OECMs as part of Target 3 of the GBF. The workshop drew the participation of senior officials from SANBI, DFFE, IUCN, and the CBD Secretariat, who all emphasised the critical importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange among countries to effectively implement OECMs and achieve the targets of the GBF. The event brought together over 60 participants from across the Southern and Eastern African countries, representing government agencies, conservation organisations, and technical partners.</p> <p>150 words</p>
<p>SANBI TSCC profiled at key international and regional events/fora.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC participated in the inaugural Africa Biodiversity Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 2–5 November 2025, contributing technical input to the Summit, including to the Summit Declaration and technical sessions focused on biodiversity governance, finance and regional cooperation.</p> <p>SANBI TSCC participated in the G20 Ministerial Segment on Environment, Climate and Sustainability, where SANBI, in partnership with DFFE, co-hosted side events to showcase South Africa’s experience in revising its NBSAP and preparing the 7th National Report and highlight progress and challenges in operationalising TSCC. SANBI contributed to the technical</p>

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		<p>paper on operationalising technical and scientific cooperation, which was included in the compendium of contributions.</p> <p>Profiled SANBI TSCC at key international and regional events, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SANBI TSCC Cocktail Dinner: SANBI hosted a Cocktail Dinner to introduce the SANBI TSC Centre during the margins of CBD CoP 16, in Cali, Colombia (October-November 2024). - SBAPP Mid-Project Mainstreaming Forum in Malawi 2–6 June 2025: This workshop was supported by the African Union Commission, which brought five affiliated countries of the SANBI TSC Centre that are not part of the SBAPP. - SANBI hosted a side-event during the 3rd G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting from 13–15 October 2025 in Cape Town. This side event showcased progress and challenges in the operationalisation of TSC Centres, with centres in Africa sharing experiences on developing workplans, adopting partnership models, and promoting technical and scientific cooperation. The CBD Secretariat and partners also highlighted opportunities for collaboration. <p><i>150 words</i></p>
<p>Funding proposals developed and/or co-developed to respond to priorities identified by Parties in the capacity needs assessment.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Resource mobilisation was advanced through the development of targeted funding proposals to support operationalisation of the SANBI TSCC, which has resulted in funding from the French Development Agency (AFD), the FAO and the CBD.</p> <p>SANBI TSCC, with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), successfully hosted a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop from 11–13 June 2025. The workshop focused on building national capacity and capabilities to deliver training of the trainers on biodiversity-based value chains with a strong emphasis on enabling IPLCs to participate meaningfully in the biodiversity value chains. Approximately 30 participants representing national and provincial governments, academia, SANBI officials, and NGOs engaged in this interactive training. The workshop combined theoretical modules with practical exercises, including the co-creation of context-specific training scripts, simulated negotiation of Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit-Sharing (BABS) agreements and hands-on sessions on value chain development for resources such as Aloe ferox, Baobab, and Mopane Worms. The workshop significantly enhanced participants' confidence and capabilities to design and deliver effective, locally relevant training with the ultimate aim of equipping them to transfer these skills to IPLCs. Building on the successful workshop, two provincial training workshops, delivered by facilitators trained in the workshop, were held with support from GIZ.</p> <p><i>150 words</i></p>
<p>Strategic products developed and/or co-developed to mobilise support to and strengthen operationalisation of TSCC.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC co-developed a technical paper for the G20 to mobilise support to and strengthen the operationalisation of subregional TSC Centres established under the CBD.</p> <p>A SANBI TSCC Business Case that clearly outlines the SANBI TSCC's needs, funding model, and budget requirements has been developed. This business case makes a case for the partners to invest in the establishment and operationalisation of the SANBI TSCC through co-developing projects and programmes, contributing expertise or resources, and helping match country needs with solutions. Funders are urged to invest through core grants, programmatic funding or innovative finance to ensure the operations of the SANBI TSC Centre can deliver the science needed for</p>

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		<p>measurable biodiversity action across southern Africa. It also encourages affiliated countries to contact the SANBI TSCC to request support, access or share expertise, and advance the implementation and monitoring of their NBSAPs.</p> <p>Before SANBI's designation as a TSCC, SANBI became the Lead Implementing Agency of the SBAPP Regional Project with South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi - a €4million project funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM). Additional partnerships with the Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB) on various topics are opening other opportunities for the TSCC.</p> <p>150 words</p>
A Business Case that clearly outlines the SANBI TSCC Centre's needs, capacity shortfalls, and budget requirements has been developed.	Completed	<p>A SANBI TSCC Business Case that clearly outlines the SANBI TSCC needs, funding model, and budget requirements has been developed. This business case makes a case for the partners to invest in the establishment and operationalisation of the SANBI TSCC through co-developing projects and programmes, contributing expertise or resources, and helping match country needs with solutions. Funders are urged to invest through core grants, programmatic funding or innovative finance to ensure the operations of the SANBI TSC Centre can deliver the science needed for measurable biodiversity action across southern Africa. It also encourages affiliated countries to contact the SANBI TSCC to request support, access or share expertise, and advance the implementation and monitoring of their NBSAPs.</p> <p>150 words</p>
Additional result(s)	None.	150 words

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

Please refer to Part III (Summary of key achievements and challenges).

500 words

4. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

Outcome 4: Technical and scientific cooperation, capacity and learning: Facilitate matchmaking between Parties with specific needs and Parties or organisations in a position to provide assistance in response to the priority needs identified, and promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, strengthening of capacities, and technology transfer on a demand-driven basis in a manner that supports knowledge sharing and organisational learning.

Outputs	Status	Details
Support and co-host technical cooperation events/meetings that support GBF implementation in the sub-region.	Completed	<p>SANBI TSCC supported and co-hosted the following technical cooperation events/meetings that support GBF implementation in the subregion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional OECM Learning Exchange Workshop (co-hosting): involving all countries. - Technical visit of the Secretariat of CBD focused on Target 3 (preparation and cohosting): involving Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, South Africa, WWF, and IUCN. - SCBD Technical visit to support SANBI-TSCC to develop a regional workplan to implement Target 3 (hosting): The meeting was also attended by representatives from South Africa (DFFE, SANParks), Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. NGOs were represented by IUCN, WWF-SA, WWF-Africa, and Sustainable Finance Coalition. - Supporting South Africa on the implementation of the Early Action Support Project, NBSAP review process and preparation of the 7th National Report.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional workshop on NBSAP review and GBF indicator 7.2 (co-organisers): Feedback session from COP 16 and NBSAP Dialogue amongst EAC and SADC member states (state of play and to determine support). - UN Biodiversity Lab: UNBL-GBF Mapping Project – Malawi <p>The TSCC participated in the CBD workshop on the operationalisation of technical and scientific cooperation support centres, providing strategic opportunities to advance and strengthen institutional readiness to support initiatives, to access regional and global funding, and strengthen partnerships. This led to the SANBI TSCC convening peer learning webinars in partnership with UNEP, SCBD and UNDP UNBL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of 7th National Reports to support the nine member states in identifying gaps and strengthening their reporting processes, convened in partnership with the CDB Secretariat. - UN Biodiversity Lab (UNBL) spatial data platform to highlight key features relevant to national monitoring and reporting, convened in partnership with the United Nations Environmental Programme. Case studies from Ghana, Malawi, and South Africa demonstrated various applications of UNBL in the African region. - Sharing of experiences in applying the UNBL to support NBSAP updates, implementation readiness, and preparation of national reports featuring Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ghana, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, and convened in partnership with UNBL and the Humboldt Institute. <p>150 words</p>
<p>Enable targeted capacity support directly linked to GBF targets and capacity needs through project funds, using preferred modalities and maximising reach to Parties, IPLCs, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders where possible.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Virtual information sharing sessions have proven successful as capacity building initiatives under the SBAPP Regional Project, which has hosted sessions with themes such as KBAs, species recovery and land use tools – the full list of recorded information sessions is available on this webpage. All information sessions going forward will be open to all TSCC countries, and the first was on the 7NR process. All information session recordings and capacity building materials are listed on the SANBI TSCC webpage.</p> <p>In-person capacity-building sessions are held where funding is available. Through the SBAPP Regional Project, the following sessions have been held since CBD CoP16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Namibia in-country workshop on mapping of ecosystem types (November 2024) - Malawi in-country workshop on Red List of Ecosystems and Key Biodiversity Areas (February 2025) - Namibian student training on Key Biodiversity Areas and Red List of Ecosystems (May 2025) - The Mid-Project Mainstreaming Forum was a capacity-building opportunity for mainstreaming for all four countries - Regional workshop on Key Biodiversity Areas took place in Namibia (November 2025) - Mozambique in-country species Red List training (March 2026) - Malawi in-country spatial planning workshop (April 2026) - Regional ecological condition workshop (May 2026) <p>The SANBI TSCC also enabled targeted capacity support directly linked to GBF targets and capacity needs through existing project funds, through a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) funded project.</p> <p>The Centre undertook a detailed capacity needs assessment among the nine affiliated countries to assess current progress, gaps and priorities for scientific and technical support.</p> <p>150 words</p>
<p>Curated partner registry maintained and regularly updated.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC maintains and regularly updates the database for the TSC partners compiled from the capacity needs assessment and a call for expression of interest for partners to collaborate on the operationalisation of the SANBI TSCC. The capacity needs assessment identified a total of 383 unique partner organizations who are custodians and partners for specific data products and assessments, and /or supporting existing capacity development and regional collaborations. The existing network suggests potential for the SANBI TSCC to</p>

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		<p>leverage these partners for further collaboration. In addition to the existing partner organisations that were captured in the capacity needs assessment, there are many more organisations interested in becoming partners to the SANBI TSCC. This is evident from the responses received to a call for expression of interest to partner with the SANBI TSCC, which was circulated by SANBI on 13 December 2024 and closed on 28 February 2025. There were approximately 60 organisations that submitted expressions of interest, with the majority being NGOs, followed by research or academic institutions, CBOs, international and even private sector organisations. Only 17 of these were identified in the capacity needs assessment as existing partners, so 43 are potentially new partner organisations that see value in affiliation with the SANBI TSCC. Most organisations indicated their interest in supporting the SANBI TSCC by hosting learning exchanges and other capacity building initiatives, providing training and skills development, facilitating knowledge sharing and organisational learning, and providing research support for projects and programmes.</p>
<p>A capacity needs assessment undertaken across the Parties.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>SANBI TSCC undertook a detailed capacity needs assessment among the nine affiliated countries to assess current progress, gaps and priorities for scientific and technical support so as to inform the TSCC workplan for 2025-2026 and longer-term implementation roadmap. In doing so, the capacity assessment identified over 100 data products and assessments across many different fields of expertise needed to implement and report on the KMGBF. Among the data products and assessments not yet developed, countries most frequently ranked as high priority the development of data products and assessments related to <i>invasive species, climate change, nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), agriculture, ecosystem services, and SEEA ecosystem accounts</i>. Preferences were strongest for hands-on, face-to-face support, including in-country mentoring or coaching ($\geq 78\%$ across all themes; 100% in seven thematic areas) and regional technical workshops or exchanges ($\geq 89\%$ in 14 thematic areas; 100% in seven thematic areas). Applied collaboration, in the form of technical support embedded in live projects and co-development of tools, protocols or data systems, is also highly preferred across most themes.</p> <p>150 words</p>
<p>Additional result(s)</p>		<p>Two knowledge products were developed, including a factsheet on the SANBI TSCC, which highlighted the role of the TSC in terms of its support to the 9 member states and outlined the technical and scientific needs in the subregion.</p> <div data-bbox="363 1184 532 1402" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>A slide deck on the SANBI TSC Support Centre was also developed, providing a tool for sharing information on the Centre and its role.</p> <p>150 words</p>

What has worked well, ongoing challenges and possible solutions

Even with limited capacity, SANBI has proven itself to be capable of initiating several of the important functions and operations of the SANBI TSCC. This has however put strain on human capacity within SANBI, and it will be essential for the SANBI TSCC to not only obtain dedicated capacity in the immediate term, but also to pause new initiatives and concentrate on fully consolidating the core functions that have already been initiated.

500 words

5. Additional information (optional)

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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).

None.
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: Helpdesk and knowledge-access “one-stop service Centre” established and operationalised.

SANBI TSCC operationalised a regional helpdesk to provide a single point of access for Parties and partners to technical and scientific cooperation. The service is supported by a dedicated TSCC email address, an emerging WhatsApp channel for affiliated countries, and a SANBI TSCC webpage that is periodically updated with knowledge resources and learning opportunities. Through these channels, SANBI TSCC has shared numerous CBD notifications and technical opportunities with the nine affiliated countries, improving awareness and responsiveness to Convention processes. The helpdesk function has also supported ongoing coordination for KM-GBF implementation, including information sharing relevant to NBSAP revision and national reporting processes. The next phase is to further standardise the helpdesk (e.g., request tracking, service standards and reporting) and restore dedicated helpdesk capacity as resources allow.

150 words

Achievement 2: TSCC operational foundations strengthened through a capacity needs assessment, governance arrangements, and a biennial workplan and implementation roadmap.

SANBI TSCC completed a detailed capacity needs assessment across the nine affiliated SADC countries to identify priority technical and scientific support needs for effective KM-GBF implementation and reporting. The assessment identified over 100 priority data products and assessments needed across multiple themes, with particularly high demand for work on invasive species; climate change, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation; agriculture; ecosystem services; and SEEA ecosystem accounts. Strong preferences were expressed for hands-on, face-to-face modalities, including in-country mentoring/coaching (≥78% across all themes; 100% in seven thematic areas) and regional technical workshops/exchanges (≥89% in 14 thematic areas; 100% in seven thematic areas), complemented by applied collaboration embedded in live projects. These findings directly informed development of the TSCC implementation roadmap (2025–2030) and the 2024–2026 biennial workplan submitted to the CBD Secretariat, sharpening the Centre’s demand-led service model.

150 words

Achievement 3: Partnership network expanded, and early resource mobilisation advanced to support KM-GBF implementation in the subregion.

SANBI TSCC strengthened its partnership and resource mobilisation function by building a broad partner pipeline and convening technical cooperation opportunities. A “Call for Partnership” generated over 60 expressions of interest, complementing the 383 partner organisations mapped through the capacity needs assessment. The Centre also supported or co-hosted multiple regional and international engagements that advanced KM-GBF implementation, including a regional OECM learning exchange, technical visits by the CBD Secretariat focused on Target 3, and a regional dialogue convening approximately 120 participants from SADC and EAC member states (including IPLCs, women and youth representatives). SANBI TSCC also increased visibility by profiling the Centre at key events (e.g., CBD COP 16 margins and regional fora) and by joining the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership to leverage global matchmaking support. Resource mobilisation was advanced through development of targeted proposals and products (including a TSCC business case and a G20 technical paper), resulting in early support mobilised from partners including AFD, FAO and the CBD.

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

Challenge 1: Insufficient predictable funding and dedicated staff capacity to sustain core TSCC functions.

SANBI TSCC's ability to deliver sustained technical support was constrained by limited and unpredictable operational funding. The Centre applied twice to the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) during the biennium but was not awarded funding, contributing to uncertainty in resourcing core functions. While SANBI established interim structures, dedicated full-time TSCC posts were not yet funded and the contracts of three full-time research assistants (helpdesk/data and information systems support) ended on 31 March 2026. This reduced capacity to standardise and track helpdesk requests, maintain systematic outreach, and scale country support (e.g., mentoring/coaching and in-person technical exchanges identified as preferred modalities by $\geq 78\%$ of respondents). **Way forward:** prioritise securing multi-year core funding to staff the TSCC Management Unit (full-time coordinator; helpdesk/data officer; matching/broker and resource mobilisation functions), adopt a phased delivery plan focused on high-impact services (NBSAP implementation support, Target 3/OECMs, and monitoring/reporting readiness), and ring-fence resources for in-person regional and in-country support. **Suggested GCE support:** facilitate access to predictable funding windows (including matchmaking to relevant funds), provide guidance on minimum staffing/service standards, and support a common reporting framework for TSCC performance.

150 words

Challenge 2: Governance and coordination mechanisms were slow to fully activate (Steering Committee and Partnership Committee not yet constituted/convened as planned).

Although governance arrangements and terms of reference were developed, the Steering Committee and Partnership Committee could not be convened within the intended timeframes, largely due to resource constraints (particularly the strong preference of Parties for in-person engagements) and limited coordination capacity. This delayed structured prioritisation, oversight of the biennial workplan, and systematic partner stewardship (despite a strong pipeline of 60+ expressions of interest and 383 mapped partner organisations). **Way forward:** adopt a pragmatic, low-cost governance activation approach by (i) convening an initial virtual/hybrid Steering Committee meeting to confirm priority deliverables and decision-making processes; (ii) using time-bound thematic task teams (e.g., Target 3/OECMs; monitoring/reporting; biodiversity finance) to accelerate delivery; and (iii) establishing a light partnership mechanism annual partner roundtable and partner registry updates) until a full committee can meet in-person. **Suggested GCE support:** provide templates for TSCC governance minimum requirements, support onboarding/orientation of committee members, and enable cross-TSCC peer learning on effective governance and partner models.

150 words

Challenge 3: Breadth and complexity of country needs (100+ priority data products and multiple thematic areas) exceeded delivery capacity, with uneven national-level embedding for implementation.

The capacity needs assessment highlighted a wide scope of demand across the nine affiliated countries, including over 100 priority data products/assessments spanning invasive species, NbS/EbA, agriculture, ecosystem services and SEEA ecosystem accounts, alongside strong demand for hands-on in-country mentoring and regional exchanges. With limited staffing and projectised funding, the TSCC could not simultaneously meet all thematic requests, and in some cases limited institutional embedding at national level constrained uptake of technical inputs into budgets, policies and implementation plans. **Way forward:** sharpen the service catalogue around a small set of high-impact, cross-cutting "minimum viable products" (e.g., Target 3/OECM support package; reporting readiness package for NBSAPs/7NR; core spatial/indicator baselines), deliver these through regional clinics and in-country mentoring, and embed support through country focal points and agreements with key ministries and national institutions. Expand use of digital tools for outreach and request tracking while reserving in-person support for priority deliverables. **Suggested GCE support:** coordinate a shared roster of experts across TSCCs, broker access to global tools/datasets, and support alignment on common KM-GBF data/indicator standards.

150 words