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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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Building Synergies Between Biodiversity and Climate

Insights from countries on NBSAP and NDC planning and implementation

Summary

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FAKT Consult for Management, Training and Technologies

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1. Introduction

The Paris Agreement (2015) and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (2022) are interconnected, with biodiversity protection and climate action relying on each other for success. Over 11 specific decisions on biodiversity and climate change – including the most recent Decision 16/22 from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP) 16, in 2024, held in Cali – call for a better integration of biodiversity and climate protection at the policy, planning, and implementation levels. This recognition lays the groundwork for countries to create effective linkages to achieve commitments under both global frameworks.

Countries' efforts to renew their respective commitments under the relevant conventions represent an important and timely opportunity to foster synergies to effectively address the challenges linked to climate change and biodiversity loss and connect ongoing processes. However, capitalising on the interconnectedness of climate and biodiversity and translating synergies identified on paper into concrete actions is difficult.

The **global study**[1] emphasises strategic approaches and real-world examples, drawing from 10 countries – including **Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Madagascar, Mexico, and Peru** – showcasing specific approaches to foster joint implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The study aims to highlight lessons learned and best practices for other countries to adopt.

What does creating synergies mean?

Creating synergies involves the intentional coordination of planning and implementation of national climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies at the national level to achieve enhanced results greater than if each policy instrument were implemented by itself. Creating synergies creates multiple co-benefits, seeks more effective outcomes, and ensures efforts in one area do not undermine progress in another (GIZ, IISD, & WWF, 2024).

2. Pursuing Synergies Between NBSAPs and NDCs – Why it Matters

Aligning NDCs and NBSAPs fosters coherence, ensuring integrated planning, monitoring, and implementation. Since climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation are deeply connected, solutions require strategic coordination across sectors. Harmonising climate and biodiversity strategies enhances efficiency, reduces risks, and prevents duplication:

A shared narrative and goal help build a single vision for sustainable development. Aligning planning and implementation can help shape a national vision to address climate and biodi-

1 This summary for policymakers includes only a select number of case studies. For a complete collection, please refer to the full global study.

versity crises while fostering climate-resilient development. NDCs and NBSAPs share core principles – gender responsiveness, social inclusion, human rights, and Indigenous Knowledge – guiding their design and execution. Their iterative nature allows for continuous integration, enabling updates based on evolving priorities.

Creating synergies allows different commitments and strategies to reinforce each other and minimise risk. For instance, NDCs may be revised or updated – especially priorities, goals, and targets related to or dependent on ecosystems – by cross-referencing the biodiversity priorities, goals, and targets identified in the NBSAPs and vice versa.

Coordinating efforts between climate and biodiversity actions leads to more efficient allocation and use of resources and avoid duplication of work. Countries often have limited resources, both human and financial, to undertake climate and biodiversity actions. Coordinating and synergising across the different departments and teams responsible for climate change and biodiversity, respectively, help identify overlapping objectives; similar processes and junctures (for instance, community consultation or gender analysis); common methodologies and indicators for monitoring, evaluation, and learning; and new or additional avenues for joint financing.

3. Enhancing Synergies Between NBSAPs and NDCs – Approaches and Good Practices from 10 Countries

As countries try to navigate the complex interplay and the far-reaching consequences of the twin crises – climate change and biodiversity loss – adopting an integrated approach to confronting these challenges has never been more crucial.

To better understand possible approaches for joint planning and implementation of NDCs and NBSAPs, this global study synthesised the findings from 10 national studies[2] undertaken for Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the DRC, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, and Peru. Specifically, it looked at **approaches and opportunities to foster synergies through five entry points**:

1 **integrated planning and institutional coordination structures,**
2 **participatory processes to engage IP&LC,**
3 **promoting synergies through sectoral implementation,**
4 **public and private finance for joint actions and**
5 **building and using existing monitoring and reporting mechanism to foster synergies**.

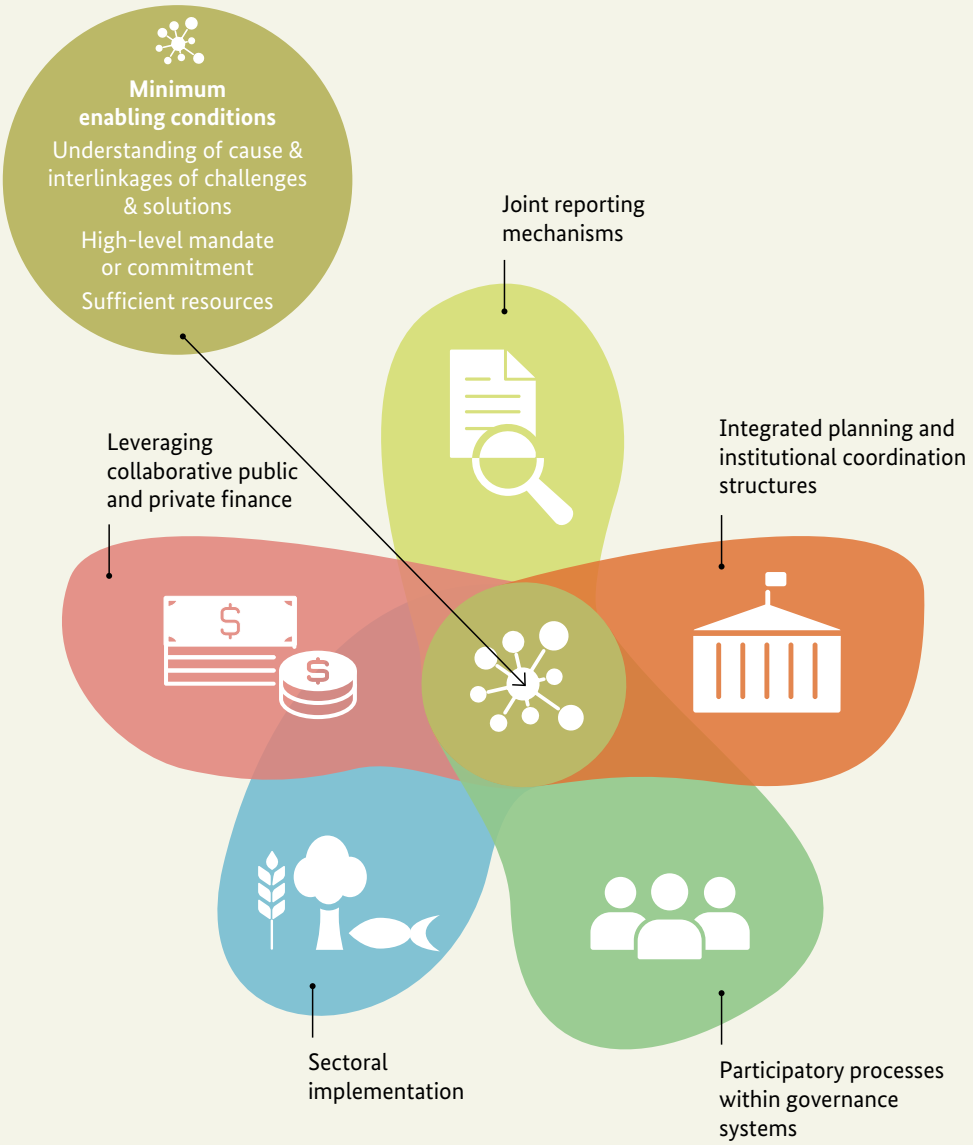
While these approaches provide important opportunities to enhance synergies, they are unlikely to happen without a minimum set of enabling conditions:

• a high-level mandate, statement, or commitment from political leaders that emphasises the need for integrated and synergistic policy-making
• a common understanding of the cause and interlinkages of diverse challenges and subsequent solutions (integrated approaches) to it
• sufficient resources to facilitate and foster synergies among national policies and commitments

2 The national studies included a review of national policy documents and institutional arrangements and resulted in country-specific recommendations. They were undertaken by in-country experts. At the time of completing the global study, the national studies remain unpublished.

Figure 2

Entry points and minimum set of enabling conditions to foster synergies between climate and biodiversity actions at the national level



3.1 Building Synergies Through Integrated Planning and Institutional Coordination Structures

Integrated planning and coordination are crucial for embedding NBSAP and NDC priorities into governmental strategies. This involves institutional arrangements, cross-sectoral collaboration, and improved coordination between planning teams to enhance implementation across national, subnational, and sectoral levels. In many countries, climate and biodiversity policies fall under the ministry of environment, which plays a key role in guiding objectives and steering implementation with local governments and the private sector. Other ministries, such as those managing water, agriculture, and infrastructure, also contribute to the process. Effective institutional links ensure smooth coordination from planning to reporting. For instance, Madagascar has established an interministerial mechanism to integrate environmental priorities across sectors (see box 1). Colombia mapped out how the 2020 NDC targets align with the existing NBSAP goals to foster better coordination between biodiversity and climate change policies.

Box 1

Enhancing synergies through interministerial coordination in Madagascar

The Government of Madagascar has created the Interministerial Committee for the Environment (CIME) to help integrate environmental and climatic dimensions into various sectoral policies, strategies, plans, and programs, particularly in budgetary terms. The committee is made of leading representatives of each ministry and is placed under the authority of the Prime Minister. The CIME has several responsibilities, including ensuring a coordinated approach and involvement of all sectors in creating a common vision of sustainable development and environmental management. In this context, the CIME assists decision-makers in setting the orientation of Madagascar's environmental and climate policies and supporting their implementation. Further, the committee provides mediation on strategic choices and possible conflicts between activities of various sectors and trade-offs for the environment and climate (Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable, 2024).

Coordination issues often arise when different departments within the same ministry handle NBSAP and NDC separately, leading to fragmented decision-making, duplicate governance structures, and competition for resources. Key obstacles include weak legal frameworks, unclear mandates, limited resources, and a lack of concrete processes supporting national goals. While interdisciplinary or interministerial approaches help facilitate coordination, they are often applied separately to biodiversity and climate efforts. Strengthening integration requires a national or ministry-wide mandate, as well as tailored approaches—whether formal or informal—to ensure effective synergy. Colombia's National Environmental System (SINA) exemplifies this effort by integrating climate change, forests, biodiversity, and sectoral environmental management across different levels.

Biodiversity and climate change impact multiple sectors and economic levels, requiring integrated policies for effective implementation. Sectoral ministries and subnational governments play a key role in mainstreaming these priorities through coordinated strategies and harmonised processes. A shared vision among stakeholders fosters information sharing and joint engagement, enhancing synergies.

National governments should establish a common framework to align actions, pool resources, and collaborate across different levels. Peru exemplifies this approach by working with regional governance bodies to implement climate and biodiversity strategies. Regional cooperation is especially vital, as ecosystem-based solutions often span jurisdictional boundaries and benefit both people and nature.

Lessons learned and practical steps to enhance synergies through integrated planning and institutional coordination structures

- Establish formal mechanisms for dialogue and coordination across sector ministries, agencies, and government bodies.
- Promote awareness of the interconnected national goals of climate change and biodiversity.
- Connect existing national coordination platforms to align strategies.
- Map out shared objectives, targets, timelines, tradeoffs, stakeholders, and resources to identify synergies.
- Actively involve both climate and biodiversity representatives in updates to NDC and NBSAP.

3.2 Inclusive and Participatory Processes for National Biodiversity and Climate Strategies

Effective implementation of NDCs and NBSAPs requires collaboration among state and non-state actors through multi-level governance systems. Inclusive governance ensures climate and biodiversity efforts are impactful, just, and representative. Both planning processes follow principles promoting stakeholder engagement, equity, and sustainability. Involvement of government bodies, scientists, private sector actors, and Indigenous Peoples is crucial, particularly in strategy development and decision-making.

In many countries, biodiversity planning has a longer history of inclusive governance, with strong cooperation and Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities (IP&LCs) playing a significant role. Recent updates of NBSAPs and NDCs highlight varying approaches to stakeholder engagement, with biodiversity processes generally more participatory. Climate-related planning often focuses on high-level government involvement and ad hoc consultations. Indonesia exemplifies a whole-of-government approach in its NBSAP and NDC updates, alongside civil society platforms that integrate non-governmental perspectives (see box 2).

Across various countries, IP&LC and civil society engagement in biodiversity and climate processes occurs either through ad hoc consultations or formal platforms. In Costa Rica, diverse stakeholders contributed to NDC consultations through participatory workshops, while Colombia's 2024 NBSAP incorporated extensive IP&LC input, prioritising their rights in conservation planning. This approach fosters integrated territorial management, enhances biodiversity conservation, and provides insights for climate planning.

Effective stakeholder participation requires time, resources, and established coordination systems. Governments should leverage existing structures rather than create new ones to facilitate engagement, enhance information sharing, and avoid duplication. Participation platforms must ensure equal representation. Additionally, environmental laws often fail to recognise the realities of traditional communities, creating barriers to decision-making. Trust-based engagement must incorporate cultural knowledge, a broader vision of change, and the principle of subsidiarity to ensure equitable climate and biodiversity governance.

Box 2

Collaborative processes for NBSAP and NDC updates in Indonesia

In Indonesia, the NBSAP update process was facilitated by the Ministry of National Planning and Development. To ensure a collaborative process for revising the NBSAP that captures the views and experiences of key actors, the Government of Indonesia formed an inter-ministerial steering committee led by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as the CBD National Focal Point (NFP) and a technical committee headed by the Ministry of National Planning and Development. This committee included relevant ministries (Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, National Agency on Research and Innovation, etc.) and NGOs. To enrich the process, additional input from academia, the private sector, media, youth, and local community representatives was sought regularly. The ongoing NDC update also employs a strong whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach facilitated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as the national focal point. The NFP has received and facilitated discussions for NGOs and communities so that the process of preparing the second NDC is more participatory, inclusive, and meaningful.

Lessons learned and practical steps to enhance inclusive and participatory processes for national biodiversity and climate strategies

- Engage all government levels and emphasise local actions for successful global agenda implementation and promote collective accountability and ensure sub-national actors have a voice.
- Strengthen boundary organisations with clear roles to facilitate integrated climate and biodiversity efforts.
- Foster culturally appropriate dialogues with IP&LCs for mutual understanding.
- Consider integrating indicators and targets related to IP&LCs into NDCs and NBSAP updates.
- Utilise existing platforms for stakeholder engagement and participatory processes.
- Empower local governments and communities with funding and prioritise multi-objective activities.

3.3 Promoting Synergies Through Sectoral Implementation

Building cross-sector synergies enables actions that address climate change while benefiting biodiversity. This is particularly important for resource-dependent sectors like water, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Translating national climate and biodiversity strategies into sector-specific targets helps ministries develop tailored approaches, leading to more effective action. While Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based approaches show promise, climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation goals are not always perfectly aligned.

Forestry

Forestry is a crucial sector for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation, particularly in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the DRC, Mexico, and Madagascar. Forests aid climate mitigation through carbon storage, erosion prevention, water regulation, and resource provision. Their effectiveness depends on ecological integrity, ensuring support for essential processes. To leverage forests' climate benefits, countries emphasise protection, restoration, and afforestation as cost-effective mitigation strategies. Many have adopted Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation+ (REDD+) frameworks to reduce deforestation emissions, including the DRC, Madagascar, Brazil, Colombia, and others. Additionally, forestry sector strategies influence national and local environmental plans, such as Costa Rica's Territorial Forest Environmental Plans.

Agriculture

The agricultural sector is highly vulnerable to climate change, facing risks from water scarcity, land degradation, and extreme weather. At the same time, food production drives biodiversity loss, contributing to deforestation, pollution, and habitat destruction, as seen in Madagascar, the DRC, and the Dominican Republic. A major challenge is land-use competition – balancing food production and climate mitigation – along with risks of land dispossession. To address these issues, countries have developed strategies integrating climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. Mexico has advanced biodiversity-friendly agricultural policies, Brazil is mobilising policies and subsidies for climate adaptation, and Colombia promotes sustainable cattle ranching and regenerative agriculture. These efforts aim to balance conservation with economic sustainability.

Water
Water is a key sector in national climate and biodiversity strategies, often linked to adaptation measures addressing droughts, floods, and related risks like water scarcity and soil erosion. Protecting vital ecosystems – rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams –is crucial, though competing priorities such as urban planning and energy provision create challenges. Community-based water management offers sustainable solutions, as seen with local resource associations in Madagascar. NbS also play a crucial role, benefiting wastewater treatment and public investment policies, as highlighted in Colombia. Costa Rica, Brazil, and Mexico have water management strategies. Strengthening biodiversity awareness can enhance water sector resilience and support broader climate and development goals.

Fisheries
The fisheries sector is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts like sea level rise and ocean acidification, making it a priority for adaptation in coastal countries. Costa Rica, Madagascar, and Mexico have developed blue carbon strategies to promote biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Costa Rica's National Blue Carbon Strategy integrates NbS to protect marine ecosystems while benefiting communities. Marine spatial planning strengthens ocean governance by aligning biodiversity and climate goals. Madagascar is advancing an Integrated Ocean Governance Policy, while Mexico has developed four marine ecological planning programs to establish protected areas and enhance reef resilience. These strategies also optimise marine space for aquaculture, fisheries, and tourism, balancing conservation with economic sustainability.

Tourism
The tourism sector faces climate-related challenges that threaten destinations, infrastructure, and local economies, especially in regions reliant on tourism. Additionally, tourism can harm ecosystems through deforestation, pollution, and resource overuse. Mass tourism may also disrupt cultural heritage, prompting resistance from IP&LCs. In contrast, ecotourism and nature-based tourism offer sustainable alternatives that support biodiversity and climate resilience. Mexico, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic have prioritised sustainable tourism policies (see box 3). Costa Rica integrates tourism into its Decarbonisation Plan, promoting zero-emission transport and electrification. It also runs biodiversity-linked programs like the Sustainable Tourism Programme and Ecological Blue Flag Programme. While progress is evident, policy incentives must be carefully designed to maximise climate and biodiversity benefits.

Box 3
Supporting sustainable tourism in Mexico
The ADAPTUR project (Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in the tourism sector) implemented an approach with natural solutions for adaptation to climate change in the tourism sector. For its implementation, a strategic alliance was formed with key actors from the public, private, social, and academic sectors, at national and subnational levels. Today, ADAPTUR is a methodology that seeks to reduce the risks of tourism, protecting the country's natural capital and ecosystem services, through the implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures. This approach is applicable in any tourist destination in the world. One of its virtues has been to clearly and directly state the benefits to the private sector for investing into climate change adaptation projects. This type of framework provides an enabling environment for biodiversity and climate-friendly tourism-related development. However, adequate local community involvement and iterative collective reflexive processes and adjustments to it will be key, considering sociocultural issues and sustainable livelihoods.

Lessons learned and practical steps to promote synergies through sectoral implementation

- Engage sectoral leads to define specific sectoral climate and biodiversity priorities aligned with national goals and commitments (e.g., NDC and NBSAP).
- Promote synergies through approaches like NbS and EbA to achieve synergistic outcomes across sector strategies.
- Encourage collective responsibility by incentivising sector leads to actively participate in planning and implementation of climate and biodiversity strategies.
- Leverage governmental tools like subsidies, certifications, licences, and insurance to advance shared goals in sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism.

3.4 Leveraging Public and Private Finance for Joint Biodiversity and Climate Actions

Financing is crucial for integrating biodiversity conservation and climate change efforts. Strategic investments can be optimised by aligning national goals, incorporating them into budgets, harmonising donor funding, and engaging the private sector for efficiency and impact.

Countries use varied funding sources and mechanisms. Some, like Madagascar and the DRC, primarily rely on international public funding, while others – Costa Rica, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico – combine national and international sources with private sector investments. The following section further explores these financial instruments with country-specific examples.

Domestic Public Finance Options to Enhance Synergies

Budgetary programs and national funds help finance projects with cross-sectoral biodiversity and climate benefits. Governments can enhance resource efficiency by harmonising funding, leveraging co-financing, and prioritising dual-purpose initiatives like NbS. Several countries have established climate and biodiversity funds, supported by budget allocations, levies, and fees. Some, like Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, and the DRC, use ecosystem service charges, while Indonesia and Colombia have introduced carbon and pollution taxes. Costa Rica funds conservation through fossil fuel taxes, biodiversity certificates, and carbon credits

International Public Finance Sources to Enhance Synergies

Various financial mechanisms support climate and biodiversity efforts. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and Global Environment Facility (GEF) provide financing to developing countries. The GEF also funds Rio Conventions, including the CBD, with efforts to align National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NBSAPs. REDD+ initiatives receive backing from the World Bank and the UN-REDD Programme, particularly in forest-rich nations like Brazil, Costa Rica, the DRC, Madagascar, and Mexico. Additionally, the GBF Fund and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund focus on conservation and ecosystem protection in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Debt-for-nature swaps offer financial relief in exchange for environmental commitments. Peru and the United States signed a 2023 agreement to manage protected areas and support sustainable businesses in the Amazon. Costa Rica and Colombia also utilise swaps for forest conservation and climate resilience, contributing to community sustainability.

Private Sector Finance Sources to Enhance Synergies

Private finance is increasingly recognised as essential for biodiversity conservation and climate action. Governments are fostering investment through incentives, regulations, and standards, though biodiversity finance remains largely public-funded. Key financing mechanisms include:

Green Taxonomy

Defines environmentally sustainable investments, helping mobilise capital for climate and biodiversity objectives. Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, and the Dominican Republic are developing these frameworks (see box 4).

Green Bonds

Raise capital for sustainability projects, with Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic using them to promote climate finance.
Blended Public Funds: Combine public and private investment to reduce financial risks and attract large-scale funding.

Carbon Credits

Voluntary markets like REDD+ support forest conservation. Peru leads projects selling carbon credits, but concerns remain over ecosystem complexities and IP&LCs' rights.

Public–Private Partnerships

Governments incentivise private sector biodiversity investment through certification systems and conservation initiatives, such as Costa Rica's agricultural companies preserving forests.

Agricultural Rural Credits

In Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Peru, subsidised loans support sustainable agricultural practices, reducing emissions and strengthening local livelihoods.

Box 4

Greening Colombia's finance system

Colombia has introduced a Green Taxonomy that provides a classification of green economic activities and assets, aiming to help investors understand whether a project delivers green benefits and is aligned with Colombia's NDC. The taxonomy helps expand green-labeled products in the country's capital markets and banking sector. Additionally, it establishes a framework for measuring green finance flows, fostering transparency and sustainable investment. The development of the taxonomy was supported by a large group of stakeholders, including Colombia's financial supervisor, the Financial Superintendence of Colombia, various ministries, Colombia's National Planning Authority, and the Green Bond Initiative (Regelink & Stewart, 2023). Colombia's private sector has developed a work plan to train and align itself with the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures as part of its contribution to the NBSAP. This case study underlines the financial sector's central role in greening the economy and delivering national commitments on climate and nature (Gutiérrez, 2024).

Lessons learned and practical steps to promote synergies through sectoral implementation

- Reduce financing needs by mapping synergies across existing government policies and avoiding duplication in national strategies (e.g., NDCs, NBSAPs).
- Estimate costs and budgets for climate and biodiversity priorities to effectively communicate needs to government, the private sector, and donors.
- Engage finance ministries to build understanding of climate and biodiversity challenges and associated costs.
- Assess existing capacity to properly design and implement fiscal instruments (e.g. removal of harmful subsidies to influence market behaviour)
- Align national funds with climate and biodiversity strategies to achieve multiple outcomes while preventing measures from undermining each other.
- Coordinate international funding efforts to maximise synergies and avoid overlaps in addressing the interconnected climate and biodiversity crises.
- Implement budget-tagging or tracking systems to monitor financing allocation, distribution, and effectiveness of climate and biodiversity designated spending.

3.5 Building and Using Existing Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms to Foster Synergies Between Biodiversity and Climate

The upcoming timeline for reporting offers some entry points for a stronger alignment of biodiversity and climate change reporting. NBSAPs will be revised in 2024 and NDCs in 2025, allowing better integration of targets, indicators, and monitoring provisions. In 2026, CBD and UNFCCC parties will submit their 7th National Reports and 2nd Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), improving biodiversity data inclusion in climate reporting. That same year, the CBD's Global Review of GBF targets and the Paris Agreement's second global stocktake will take place, offering a chance to link findings for more coherent assessments.

National reporting mechanisms vary in effectiveness, with few joint systems for CBD and UNFCCC reporting. While many, like Peru and the Dominican Republic, are improving climate reporting by tracking GHG emissions and financing, biodiversity monitoring remains underdeveloped. Aligning NDC and NBSAP targets can streamline reporting. Colombia, Mexico, and Costa Rica are beginning to pursue a more integrated approach, though efforts are still in early stages.

Despite limited alignment between NBSAP and NDC monitoring, national tools offer opportunities for integrating biodiversity and climate reporting (see box 5). Expanding existing national and regional data platforms to cover both biodiversity and climate information will improve efficiency and reduce duplication. Forestry and agriculture data provide synergies due to their role in carbon sequestration and climate adaptation. The DRC and Lao PDR use REDD+ safeguard information systems that also track social indicators, supporting both biodiversity and climate efforts. Meanwhile, the Dominican Republic collaborates with UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre on a transparency framework to strengthen capacity in food security and tourism.

Box 5

Joint reporting system in Madagascar

Madagascar introduced a national Environmental Management Information System that identifies and maps various indicators, documents, and events related to the three Rio Conventions in one place in an attempt to provide the necessary information to facilitate appropriate, synergistic, and efficient reporting in relation to climate change, biodiversity, and desertification. The Environmental Management Information System was developed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and seeks to strengthen environmental governance in the country by facilitating the management of statistical data and environmental documents in one place (Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable de Madagascar, 2025). This type of tool allows for cross-referencing of information, analyses, updates, and tracking of domestic implementation of international commitments. Most importantly, it has the potential to facilitate coherent and complementary reporting, on synergistic actions relevant for both the NDC and NBSAP.

Aligning NDC and NBSAP goals is key to achieving integrated climate and biodiversity outcomes. Strengthening synergies between reporting mechanisms requires cross-referencing and harmonising indicators, ensuring they align with the GBF Monitoring Framework and BTR guidance. This will also support reporting for the Paris Agreement global stocktake and the GBF global review.

Lessons learned and practical steps on building and using existing reporting mechanisms to foster synergies between biodiversity and climate

- In updating strategies like the NDC and NBSAP, consider shared data sources and existing monitoring processes.
- Align national indicators with international reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement and GBF, following relevant guidance.
- Promote mutual learning between biodiversity and climate monitoring/reporting at the national level and cross-reference monitoring frameworks and indicators where feasible.
- Foster collaboration among teams handling monitoring, reporting, and stocktaking for the BTR and GBF national reports.

4. Conclusion

The ongoing debate around fostering synergies between national climate and biodiversity strategies underscores the need to create a shared understanding of the opportunities and benefits, as well as practical ways to strengthen these synergies. In 2025, countries are expected to submit their new or updated NDCs to the UNFCCC and update their NBSAPs to align them with the new international biodiversity targets. Strong alignment will enhance planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting, avoiding fragmented efforts. This global study and subsequent lessons learned from the national studies are relevant to a range of actors and offer some considerations:

CBD and UNFCCC National Focal Points
The study identifies ways to strengthen synergies between climate and biodiversity goals, fostering integration at the national level. National focal points could enhance coordination with climate and biodiversity teams, especially during NBSAP and NDC updates, to align strategies and prioritise Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This will help access funding lines and capacities already dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in addition to those earmarked for biodiversity conservation. Additionally, focal points could coordinate on coherent submissions for the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement and the GBF review, supporting coherence of information provided for reviews of collective progress.

Bilateral and Multilateral Partners
International funders could prioritise initiatives that align climate and biodiversity policies to achieve multiple goals. Climate projects must maintain environmental and social integrity while actively involving IP&LCs in decision-making. Climate finance for NbS can make a significant contribution toward achieving biodiversity goals, though it will not cover all biodiversity finance needs. Several bilateral and multilateral partners are already aiming to maximise co-benefits by mainstreaming and integrating climate and biodiversity finance by committing a specified share of their climate finance to nature. This acknowledges the role of NbS in advancing mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity objectives under the Paris Agreement and GBF.

CBD and UNFCCC Conventions
As calls for enhanced synergies between the biodiversity and climate agendas increase, the establishment of a joint work programme between the Rio Conventions has recently been proposed as a mechanism to further coordinate policy development and implementation (CBD, 2024). A joint work programme could provide a structured approach to coordinated policy development and implementation of both the GBF and the Paris Agreement and foster synergies while addressing trade-offs (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2024). Most importantly, a joint work programme can be tasked with the collection and sharing of good practices, tools, success stories, and lessons learned to increase the international community's understanding of co-benefits of synergies, cooperation, or collaboration. Additionally, it could align the global stocktake and global review processes to enhance coherence across multilateral environmental agreements.

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