FACILITATOR PROGRAMME STRATEGY

April 2024

BACKGROUND

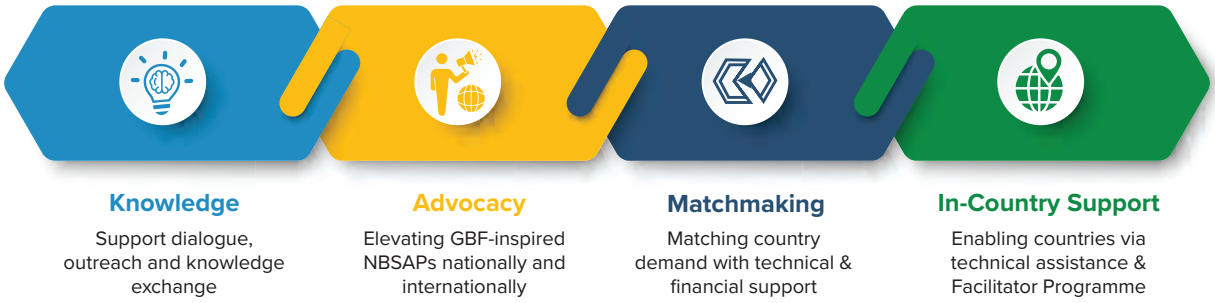
The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is a country-led global initiative to support the development and implementation of ambitious National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Its goal is to collectively achieve the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) established by the Convention on Biological Diversity, ultimately achieving the global vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. Under the leadership of the governments of Colombia and Germany, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership brings together countries with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to strengthen global, regional, and national ambition on biodiversity action aligned with GBF targets.

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership was established to support countries in achieving the goals and targets of the GBF. Central to the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership logic is that the effective implementation of more ambitious, high-quality NBSAPs will contribute to the overall achievement of the goals and targets of the GBF. The pathway towards effective implementation of NBSAPs requires innovative solutions and strategic collaboration. The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership acknowledges that empowering and building the capacities of countries to develop and implement their NBSAPs requires coordinated, coherent, and aligned support from all relevant stakeholders across sectors.

NBSAP ACCELERATOR PARTNERSHIP

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership brings together countries, institutions, non-state actors, and other stakeholders in a unique partnership to understand needs and accelerate action towards more ambitious NBSAPs globally.

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is raising the profile of NBSAPs and promoting nature-positive action, fast-tracking implementation support through four work areas: increasing access to **Knowledge**, international and national **Advocacy** to elevate NBSAPs on the political agenda, **Matchmaking** to enhance access to technical and financial resources, and providing **In-Country Support** via a Facilitator Programme at the national and regional level.



The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is guided by four governance structures: Steering Committee, a Global Coordination Unit (GCU), a Technical Advisory Group and a Members group. The GCU as the secretariat, is responsible for enabling and coordinating key activities, measuring, and communicating progress and supporting the Steering Committee in achieving the objectives of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership. This unit works closely with country, institutional and non-state actor members, as well as other stakeholders.

An independent unit, the GCU is supported and hosted by the Secretariat of CBD, UNDP and UNEP. Through utilizing the strengths and networks of these three entities, the GCU aims to ensure that the

facilitators are working in coordination and alignment with existing and upcoming projects and events to minimize duplication while leveraging the networks of the entities to reach a wide range of country and regional offices across the globe.

The GCU also supports facilitators and facilitators hosts by providing opportunities and platforms for knowledge exchange, advocacy and outreach in national, regional and international fora.

THE FACILITATOR PROGRAMME SUPPORT OFFER

Implementing ambitious NBSAPs requires significant efforts to align policy and promote coherence across all sectors which depend on and impact biodiversity. The Facilitator Programme, the second key output of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, provides direct support to countries and regions in accelerating action and enhancing coordination in NBSAP implementation.

Output II: Countries are capacitated to coordinate and implement NBSAPs through the services of a national / regional facilitator
Ind. II.1: Percent of facilitator host countries / regions that have assessed their capacity to deliver on NBSAPs by 2026.
Ind. II.2: Number of non-state stakeholders involved in assessment of in-country/regional NBSAP capacity needs and/or development of request packages [MS1] by 2026.
Ind. II.3: Total number of requests that have been articulated by facilitators for their host country/region and submitted to GCU.

Facilitators[1] are representatives of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership embedded within relevant government institutions, regional bodies, or transboundary organizations and are fully funded by the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership for a two- or three-year period. Hosted at national, regional or transboundary bodies, facilitators are mandated to support the identification and prioritization of national or regional needs and translate them into concrete requests for support that may be submitted to the MatchMaking Mechanism. Facilitators are also responsible for facilitating the management and coordination of activities designed to accelerate the updating and implementation of GBF-aligned NBSAPs. They also mobilize and facilitate the engagement and networking of various stakeholders through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Facilitators play an important role in the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership Theory of Change by preparing and submitting country and regional request packages to the MatchMaking Mechanism and actively contributing to knowledge generation and advocacy efforts by facilitating experience sharing and knowledge exchange events and supporting the production of materials such as case studies, reports, and communications pieces.

1 See Appendix for more details about the role and responsibilities of the Facilitators.

The key deliverables of the facilitators are:

- Identify and monitor country-specific biodiversity priorities, capacity needs/demands, and implementation challenges;
- Channel specific requests for assistance, including technical capacity, financial resources, and increased political will through the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership MachtMaking Mechanism;
- Foster alignment and collaboration among existing and emerging initiatives to ensure a whole-of-society approach with activities, programmes, and partnerships to streamline efforts, leverage investments and maximize synergies across the 3 Rio Conventions and the SDGs.

It is important to emphasize that the facilitators will be key to the MachtMaking Mechanism's initial development and early phases. They will be among the first to use the MachtMaking Mechanism when supporting their hosts in developing and submitting request packages to the digital platform. Facilitators will be vital in increasing and optimizing available resources and expertise, promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and ensuring effective coordination and support from the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and other initiatives.

The GCU will oversee and steer the facilitator's work based on country/region-identified priority needs. The facilitator will maintain direct and regular communication channels with the GCU and will be provided with a seed budget for activities and a work plan co-developed with the host. Facilitators will play a crucial role in monitoring and reporting on country progress and challenges to the GCU, refining the acceleration support available to countries, and preparing summary reports and briefings for the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership's Steering Committee (SC), thus ensuring transparency, accountability, and alignment with the principles of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.

In addition, the facilitators will be part of a global network of facilitators to ensure peer-to-peer learning, south-south, north-south and triangular cooperation and experience sharing, and the discovery of synergies, lessons learned, and global best practices.

Facilitators will be recruited through The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for a period of two to three years with a standard Terms of Reference (see Appendix II), which will be amended to the geographic context in collaboration with the host.

The Facilitator Programme currently has funding available for up to 24 facilitators, 20 at the national level and four at the regional level, through financial support provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) via its International Climate Initiative (IKI). By capturing best practices and lessons learned in its initial work, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership aims to demonstrate its success and discover opportunities to expand and scale up the Facilitator Programme.

Recruitment & onboarding
Host identified
Terms of Reference customised
Recruitment process launched
Host + NBSAP AP selection panel set-up
Embedded in host government or institution
Facilitator onboarding completed
Identification of initial insights, constraints and expectations
Work plan developed
Assessment
Scoping of NBSAP landscape conducted
Stakeholder motivations and commitments mapped
Country/region-specific biodiversity priorties, capacity needs/demands, implementation challenges Identified and monitored
Project planning: research, diagnostic, engagement plan developed
Mobilization
NBSAP coordination with WoG and WoS approach facilitated with alignment and collaboration among existing and emerging initiatives
Initial implementation activities facilitated
Continuous liaison between host and GCU
Feedback mechanisms supported for improvement
Coordination
Mobilization support to host through development of requests for technical capacity, financial resources and increased political will
Design of request package: needs, costs, timeframe
Plans finalized and tested with hosts and broader stakeholder group
Development and coordination of request package(s) with GCU
Match between country and supplier finalized
Oversight of implementation progress and troubleshooting completed
Reporting & communication
NBSAP implementation progress monitored and reported to GCU
Opportunities for knowledge and information exchange e.g. peer-to-peer, south-south, north-south and triangular knowledge exchange opportunities for host government/ institution identified

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FACILITATOR HOSTS

Facilitators can be hosted and embedded within governments, regional institutions, or transboundary organizations. The role of the hosts is to provide the facilitator with a productive working environment and the necessary tools to succeed in their role. This entails access to relevant materials, knowledge and information, inclusion in relevant meetings, events and working groups, and opportunities to engage with experts and decision-makers at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate.

The facilitator and the host office must work closely together using the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership Guiding Principles as a guide to support a whole-of-government and whole-of society approach. It is key that the host maintains an openness and willingness to collaborate with and include the facilitator in relevant working groups, committees, meetings, workshops, etc., to enable success in reaching the GBF goals. The facilitators are expected to focus on their role and assigned tasks, which ought to mainly contribute to issues relevant to the overall goals of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and the GBF.

The hosts are required to designate at least two focal points for a direct line of communication with the facilitator. In the case of national facilitators, the host should designate one focal point from the host ministry and one from the endorsing ministry. In the case of the regional or transboundary facilitators, the host should designate two focal points at a relevant level depending on the mandate of the regional institution or transboundary organization. The focal points should maintain close communication with the facilitators and act as liaisons between the Facilitators, their respective offices, and others relevant to the context.

Through these focal points, the facilitators will have direct and continuous access to planned and ongoing national and regional processes relevant to NBSAP implementation, enabling them to keep abreast of challenges and opportunities in the host's context. Together with the GCU, hosts may align the facilitator's Terms of Reference to their specific needs, as well as develop a work plan that ensures ownership, engagement, and alignment of the facilitator's role with national/regional priorities and existing efforts. This alignment will also contribute to minimizing duplication of efforts.

FACILITATOR NETWORK

The GCU will establish a network for facilitators to connect, learn, and share experiences from different national and regional contexts. This network will also provide opportunities for collaboration and coordination on NBSAP-related events and activities at regional and international levels. Through this initiative, the GCU aims to create opportunities for experience sharing and knowledge exchange between facilitators, member countries of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, and other relevant initiatives, encouraging a sense of partnership and shared vision.

COORDINATION ACROSS THE BOARD

A vital aspect of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and the Facilitator Programme is coordination across a wide range of stakeholders, initiatives, partnerships and forums. It is key that the work is aligned within the broader NBSAP landscape to ensure coherence with other national, regional, or global programmes and projects offering support to countries and regions in their NBSAP development and implementation.

Facilitators will liaise and coordinate with other initiatives and projects, as well as other facilitators or coordinators in existing initiatives such as the GEF Early Action Support projects, NDC Partnership, Biofin and High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and others as relevant. By bringing together facilitators and coordinators from other initiatives, cohesion and synergies across thematic areas can be enhanced contributing to the creation of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the Rio Conventions.

APPENDIX

A. Facilitator Standard Terms of Reference

1. General Background

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is a country-led global initiative to support the development and implementation of ambitious National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and collectively achieve the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and, ultimately, the global vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. Under the leadership of the governments of Colombia and Germany, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership brings together countries with a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach to strengthen global, regional, and national ambition on biodiversity action. The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is raising the profile of NBSAPs and promoting nature-positive action, fast tracking implementation support through the MatchMaking Mechanism, increasing access to expertise, knowledge, and capacity development and providing coordination and facilitation support to countries/regions.

2. Purpose and Scope of Assignment

Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Country Engagement Coordinator who reports to the Global Coordinator, the facilitator is responsible for the effective delivery of assigned tasks below.

Facilitators represent the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership but are embedded in relevant ministries or regional institutions, to support and fast-track NBSAP implementation. The facilitator will act as a bridge between the host government and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.

The in-country facilitator of the NBSAP Acceleration Partnership plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The primary objective for the role of the in-country facilitator is to facilitate the identification and prioritization of NBSAP needs, mobilize support, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and accelerate NBSAP implementation through supporting a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach.

Key Responsibilities include:

- Assess NBSAP Landscape:
- Identify and monitor country/region-specific biodiversity priorities, capacity needs / demands and implementation challenges if needed this might include e.g., conducting high-level mapping of stakeholders to identify key players, their motivations, commitments, and potential synergies.
- Facilitate national, country-specific, multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- Develop a comprehensive work plan outlining goals, objectives, activities, and timelines for NBSAP implementation support together with the host government/institution.
- Monitor country/region-specific NBSAP priorities and implementation progress, providing ongoing support and guidance as needed.

Mobilize Support:

- On behalf of host country/region, identify specific needs and requests e.g. technical capacity, financial resources and increased political will.
- Through a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach, assist host government/institution in the design and development of specific requests for support.
- Submit requests for support to relevant stakeholders e.g. through the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership the MatchMaking Mechanism or other platforms.
- Support host government/institution in selecting best fit of offered support packages.
- Monitor the implementation of the support packages.
- Identify and support resource mobilization

Coordinate Action:

- Foster alignment and collaboration among existing and emerging initiatives to ensure a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach with activities, programmes and partnerships to streamline efforts, leverage investments and maximize synergies across the 3 Rio Conventions.
- Support the strengthening and monitoring of existing national structures for NBSAP implementation.
- Sharing global best practices, guidance, tools materials in country/region but also taking learning, case studies, sharing with other facilitators
- Identify and coordinate knowledge and information exchange e.g. peer-to-peer, south-south, north-south and triangular knowledge exchange opportunities for host government/institution.
- Facilitate and coordinate exchanges between key partners working on NBSAP implementation and link to services and activities to ensure alignment and avoid duplication.

3. Monitoring and Progress Controls

- Maintain regular communication with designated host country national focal points to ensure alignment with other ongoing activities.
- Maintain regular communication with the Country Engagement Coordinator of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, providing updates on progress, challenges, and achievements.
- Prepare periodic reports on the status of NBSAP implementation, including key milestones, lessons learned, and recommendations for improvement.
- Prepare quarterly financial reports of expenditures to the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.
- Performance Evaluation (PER) conducted annually by Country Engagement Coordinator and national focal points.

4. Qualifications and Experience

a. Education

- Advanced degree in environmental science, biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, or related field.

b. Work Experience

- At least 7-10 years of relevant experience in biodiversity conservation, project management, facilitation, stakeholder engagement or other relevant areas.
- Proven track record of working effectively with government institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners.
- Strong communication, negotiation, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to act as a bridge and mobilize support across diverse stakeholders.
- Previous experience working with NBSAPs and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and other international biodiversity frameworks is required.
- Previous experience working for regional or international organisations is an advantage.
- Fluency in English (additional languages relevant to the country/region is an advantage).

B. Facilitator Standard Workplan

This is a standard workplan for all facilitators with space to contextualize for each host but provides a template for standardization across the support provided to facilitator hosts, which in turn will aid in the monitoring, reporting and cohesion of oversight by NBSAP Accelerator Partnership on the direct support provided to national governments and regional institutions.

1. Assess NBSAP Landscape (months 1-6)

Activity 1: Conduct high-level mapping of stakeholders to identify key players, motivations, commitments, and potential synergies.

Activity 2: Facilitate national, country-specific multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Activity 3: Collaboratively develop a comprehensive work plan outlining goals, objectives, activities, and timelines for NBSAP implementation support with the host government/institution.

Activity 4: Monitor country/region-specific NBSAP priorities and implementation progress, providing ongoing support and guidance as needed. Ongoing throughout.

2. Mobilize Support (months 7-24)

Activity 5: Identify specific needs and requests (e.g., technical capacity, financial resources, political will) on behalf of the host country/region.

Activity 6: Assist the host government/institution in designing specific requests for support through a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach.

Activity 7: Submit requests for support to relevant stakeholders (e.g., NBSAP Accelerator Partnership) through appropriate platforms.

Activity 8: Monitor the implementation of support packages and support resource mobilization efforts.

3. Coordinate Action (months 7-24)

Activity 9: Foster alignment and collaboration among existing and emerging initiatives to ensure a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach.

Activity 10: Support the strengthening and monitoring of existing national structures for NBSAP implementation.

Activity 11: Facilitate knowledge and information exchange opportunities for the host government/ institution.

Activity 12: Facilitate exchanges between key partners working on NBSAP implementation and ensure alignment to avoid duplication.

4. Monitoring & Reporting (continuous)

Activity 13: Document lessons learned, best practices, and success stories for dissemination and knowledge sharing.

Activity 14: Maintain regular communication with designated host country national focal points and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.

Activity 15: Prepare quarterly progress reports on NBSAP implementation status, milestones, lessons learned, and recommendations.

Activity 16: Submit quarterly financial reports of expenditures to the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.

Note: After the first 12 months, the facilitator, together with the host focal points and the Country Engagement Coordinator will review and adjust work plan as necessary. Towards the final three months of the contract, the facilitators are expected to support their hosts with sustainability planning, and work with host government/institution to develop sustainability plans for continued NBSAP implementation beyond project duration.

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is co-chaired by Colombia and Germany and it is coordinated by a Global Coordination Unit hosted by:

Convention on Biological Diversity

UNDP

UN environment programme

Supported by:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

based on a decision of the German Bundestag