CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Yerevan Biodiversity Finance Challenge

Integrating CBD GBF Targets 18 & 19 into national budgeting and expenditure monitoring frameworks

Final Submission deadline: November 27, 2026

In direct support for the **Armenia COP 31 Presidency's Flagship - The Yerevan Call on Positive Incentives towards Biodiversity**, UNDP, in collaboration with the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and with the support from Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and its' International Climate Initiative (IKI), is pleased to announce the **2-year Yerevan Biodiversity Finance Challenge** (2026-2028). This Challenge aims to galvanize renewed momentum amongst the countries towards Targets 18 and 19.

Through the IKI-financed **UNDP Funding Windows Nature Pledge Flagship Fund,** the Challenge will be able to provide technical support for countries that are ready to implement an innovative approach to:

1. Advance the integration of CBD GBF Target 19 into national budgeting and expenditure monitoring frameworks; and
2. Integrate biodiversity considerations in priority subsidies that are harmful to Nature and to create positive incentives, building on countries' efforts through the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), among others.

Up to 10 countries can be supported with technical support with funding of up to $200,000. There is no minimum project size.

In addition, the Challenge will support coalitions of like-minded countries that are determined to make a huge leap forward towards Targets 18 and 19, through organisations of exchange opportunities to share insights and advocate for biodiversity budget tagging and subsidies screening and greening at international fora.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be Country Members of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership's (NBSAP AP); and
- Demonstrate political will for the project (e.g., the support from different areas of government, a new law aligned with the project results supported by the majority of the legislature).

Proposals must:

- Be submitted by NBSAP AP country focal points through the NBSAP AP MatchMaking Mechanism;
- Be implementable within 19 months (Feb 2027-August 2028) with concrete results to be reported before the COP 18 in 2028;
- Directly address the two focus areas described above;
- Builds on existing work on Biodiversity finance in the Country, including work through the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN); and
- Implementable with technical support not exceeding $200,000.

Process and Timeline

The call for proposals will officially open on **October 20, 2026**[1] during Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia and remain open through November 27, 2026.

Countries will need to submit the **first draft** of their compiled request form through their NBSAP Accelerator Partnership Focal Point to the AP MatchMaking Mechanism (MMM) staff **by 5 November 2026.** Requests will be reviewed as soon as they are received and will be returned to the country focal point within a ~2 week window after receipt.

The **final request** for support will be submitted to the MMM **by 27 November.**

Notification of successful submission will be indicatively sent by the end of December 2026.

Participating countries will join a virtual inception meeting in January 2027, and project implementation will begin no later than 31 January, 2027.

Requests must be submitted via email to:

1. LAC: Erika Rubiano erika.rubiano@nbsapaccelerator.org

2. Africa & MENA: Emily Callahan (emily.callahan@nbsapaccelerator.org)

3. Asia and Pacific: Harvey Suello (harvey.suello@nbsapaccelerator.org)

If there are any doubts, all requests can be centrally submitted to matchmaking@nbsapaccelerator.org

Selection Criteria

	Criterion	Points	What a strong request shows
1	**Alignment with the Challenge's Focus Area demonstrating impact on biodiversity finance**	**25**	Measurable expected impact in the form of strengthening and scaling up nature-positive financial flows, incentives for biodiversity, and innovative financial instruments.
2	**Feasibility of yielding concrete results in 19 months**	**20**	A set of outputs and activities that are feasible within the timeframe with evidence of foundational work.
3	**Country Ownership and Whole-of-Government support**	**20**	A credible and sustainable whole-of-government approach to biodiversity finance that spans Ministries.
4	**Complementarity to UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative and/or broader national finance planning and implementation work**	**20**	Existing national projects, planning and actions that demonstrate momentum and dedication to biodiversity finance at the national level.
5	**Gender mainstreaming**	**15**	Gender-responsive design/analysis highlighting how gender equality contributes to biodiversity targets and carrying its own indicators and targets for gender equality and the meaningful inclusion of women and girls

[1] The call for proposal will be pre- announced in early October on NBSAP AP and BIOFIN websites