



Nature Now

TNC ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

2023 REVIEW

In December 2022, world leaders gathered at the 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) and agreed to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030—the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This major achievement lays out specific goals and targets for the world to meet in the coming years.

But negotiating the GBF was the easy part. To deliver on the promise of the agreement, all countries must now turn the goals of the GBF into action—at the national and local levels. What’s been termed “the decade of delivery,” this moment is critical for countries to recognize the importance rich biodiversity plays in our own health and meeting our global climate goals.

It’s been just one year, but progress has been made to put in place what was agreed at CBD COP 15. This report provides a brief snapshot highlighting how The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is supporting these efforts.

Global Progress

With funds flowing to countries to revise and update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), governments are actively consulting stakeholders and developing national targets to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework’s targets. These are due to be made public in time for CBD-COP16 in October 2024 in Colombia, and some have already started trickling in.

Countries agreed to the High Seas Treaty in 2023, which sets out a comprehensive framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions. Implementation of the Treaty will be crucial for the success of the global goals and targets set under the GBF, including on Target 3 (*Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas*).

The GBF must be implemented with the involvement of governments, civil society, and the business sector. The “It’s Now for Nature” campaign developed by Business for Nature, a global coalition of more than 85 partner organizations and in collaboration with PwC UK, calls on businesses to assess and disclose their nature-related risks, impacts, and dependencies, and align their reporting with GBF Targets. The Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) Framework that was released in September also aims to align reporting with GBF targets.

Money is moving—but more is needed

In August 2023, as part of the financing deal reached in Montreal, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) set up a fund to move additional cash quickly for biodiversity projects. This supports the GBF agreement to raise \$200 billion for nature conservation from public and private sources annually by 2030, with additional targets for wealthier donor countries to facilitate international financial flows of \$20 billion per year by 2025 and \$30 billion by 2030 to help meet that global goal. The new GEF fund will make it easier and faster for developing countries to access this financing, with 36% of the money going to least developed countries and small island developing states and 20% toward supporting indigenous peoples and local communities.

The last year has seen the launch of several global support tools and funding mechanisms. These include the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, supported by Germany and Norway, and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People. Germany has also reinvigorated the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership with an influx of new funding. The Freshwater Challenge has now 45 members that will benefit from technical and financial support to implement freshwater ecosystem protection and restoration targets across climate, biodiversity and other sustainable development plans.

Another sign of progress is the [10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity](#) (10PP), an initiative launched by the United Kingdom, Gabon, Maldives and Ecuador, which sets out a roadmap for unlocking nature finance from all sources. With endorsement now from 42 countries, a new dashboard shows how we’re progressing a year on toward filling the nature finance gap across a comprehensive suite of measures.

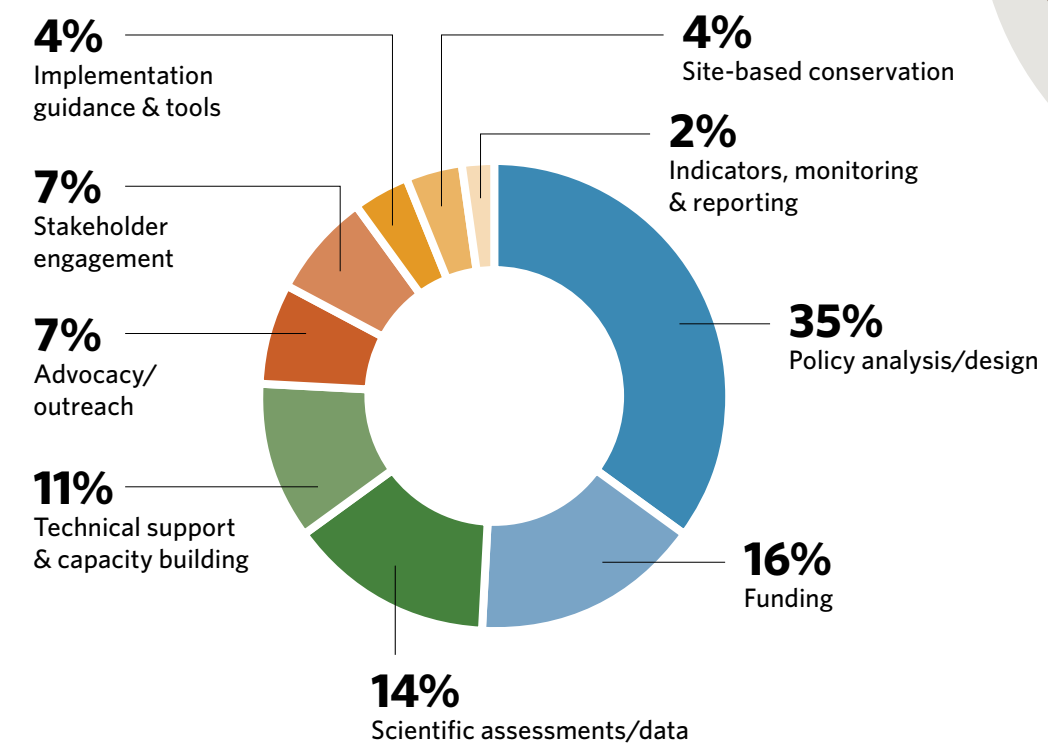
Large scale and long-term finance mechanisms and collaborative efforts like Enduring Earth are advancing landscape and seascape-scale conservation projects, covering millions of hectares of critical ecosystems. Innovative financial transactions—include Belize, Ecuador, and Gabon’s debt-for-nature conversions; Barbados’ debt refinancing; and Chile and Uruguay’s sustainability-linked bonds—are providing tangible gains in both debt reduction and sustainable financing for conservation. The world’s leading multilateral development banks and bilateral agencies have also just established a task force to explore how they can better provide credit enhancement to take these transactions to scale.

TNC’s Support for the GBF in 2023

In the first year since the adoption of the GBF, TNC has been engaging with partner governments to see where our science, conservation action and recommendations can contribute to implementation at the national level. Initial activities have been centered around updating NBSAPs in time for COP16 in October. In 2023, TNC staff were engaged in NBSAP or GBF implementation processes at some level in 49 countries in all regions (out of 70 countries globally where TNC has ongoing activities). We expect this number to expand and grow deeper as more countries ramp up stakeholder engagement to develop their NBSAPs in 2024.



Distribution of TNC engagement activities in Year 1 of implementation



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The following pages offer highlights of TNC’s work toward specific GBF targets.

Where TNC is contributing to the GBF

NORTH AMERICA
9
TNC activities in
3
countries

EUROPE
11
TNC activities in
12
countries

CARIBBEAN
17
TNC activities in
12
countries

ASIA
37
TNC activities in
9
countries

LATIN AMERICA
57
TNC activities in
8
countries

AFRICA
49
TNC activities in
7
countries

GLOBALLY,
we have
18
ongoing activities

	North America	Europe	Asia Pacific	Latin America	Caribbean	Africa	Global
All / General	1	1	3	5	4	12	1
30x30	2	2	9	11	4	14	6
Agriculture	1	0	3	2	4	2	0
Climate-Biodiversity links	0	0	8	9	5	5	1
Finance	1	4	8	10	3	6	3
Fisheries	2	0	1	6	1	7	0
Freshwater	0	2	1	13	1	10	2
IP & ILC (cross-cutting)	1	0	1	7	0	4	0
Mainstream / Infra / Energy	0	2	4	1	0	0	1
Restoration	1	2	2	1	2	3	1
Spatial Planning	1	0	2	2	1	1	1
Other	0	0	2	5	0	2	3



South Africa TNC has been working on restoration of the unique *fynbos* ecosystem in the Greater Cape Town region; we are now using this expertise to help connect the dots on freshwater, ecosystem services and restoration for South Africa's NBSAP update. © Roshni Lodhia



Kenya is well on its way to an updated NBSAP. TNC has been supporting government to draft national targets through multi-stakeholder process in a series of workshops held in 2023. © Allen Wildisrael/TNC Photo Contest 2023



Gabon—TNC helped refinance \$500 million of Gabon's national debt and generate an expected \$163 million in new funding in support of protecting 30%—and improving management over 100%—of Gabon's ocean. This will help Gabon reach its ambitious Target 3 objectives. © Roshni Lodhia

Protected and Conserved Areas—30x30

Thematically, TNC has been most widely engaged in Target 3 (*Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Ocean*) implementation in countries, with 19 of 49 TNC country teams reporting activities on area-based conservation measures in support of the GBF target. TNC is conducting policy analysis and engaging in proposals for legislative reforms in countries (e.g., Mongolia, Kenya, Colombia, Gabon) to advise on adjustments that would benefit the full implementation (all qualitative elements) of the target. A major sub-theme is understanding the applicability of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in various national contexts and supporting the development of related national policies—including in Belize, Brazil, Chile, Kenya, China, and South Africa. TNC has particularly emphasized the inland waters component of Target 3—for example in South Africa, Tanzania, Gabon, Angola, Zambia, Ecuador, Belize, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru and the Balkans.

Working with the High Ambition Coalition, TNC has spearheaded the development of www.30x30.solutions, a new web-based toolkit designed for governments, conservation practitioners and NGOs to access best-in-class guidance and examples on aspects of the commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of all ecosystems. TNC is also co-leading the development of IUCN guidance on the application of Target for inland waters and the design of tailored indicators to measure progress as part of ongoing CBD processes.

Resource Mobilization

Resource Mobilization (GBF Targets 18 & 19) has been another focus for TNC. Our work on the issuance Nature Bonds in Seychelles, Gabon, Belize, and Barbados is providing significant funding for the expansion of marine protected areas in those areas. Similarly, Project Finance for Permanence (PFP)—for which TNC is a core partner—in Kenya, Gabon, Canada and Mongolia is on track to secure protection and improved management for millions of hectares of forests, grasslands and thousands of kilometers of rivers in those countries. We are also helping to drive policy and advocate for other innovative funding mechanisms such as the development of a Nature Repair Market in Australia (legislation that passed in December 2023). Globally, TNC has been providing technical and policy support for the 10 Point Plan and a member of the CBD's Resource Mobilization Advisory Committee.

TNC has also been working to increase investment in nature-based solutions for water security, building on our experience with over 50 watershed investment programs (or Water Funds) across 30 countries from Ecuador to South Africa. As part of these efforts, TNC provides technical assistance for nature-based-solutions in support of private and public sector partners seeking to design and strengthen watershed investment programs that financially support those ecosystem services (Target 11).

Indigenous and community-led conservation

Indigenous and community-led conservation is a key cross-cutting element for TNC's engagement on Target 3 and across the GBF in our country partnerships. Indigenous territories are some of the most important remaining strongholds for biodiversity; supporting and strengthening indigenous management will be crucial to success of the GBF. TNC's role is to support indigenous and local communities to engage in NBSAP consultative processes, to ensure their voices are heard and their rights are respected. We are working with indigenous and local partners in Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, Canada, Mongolia, Zambia and elsewhere to ensure NBSAPs are constructed based on strong stakeholder engagement and equity.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity

GBF Targets that address mainstreaming biodiversity across economic sectors will be critical to achieving positive biodiversity outcomes but are some of the most challenging issues for governments to address. Many countries have yet to adopt a whole of government approach in their NBSAP update process. TNC is working across institutions to engage the right stakeholders and build support for transformational outcomes, particularly in the agricultural (Targets 7, 10, 18) and fisheries (Targets 5, 9 and 10) sectors, energy & infrastructure (Targets 1, 14, 18). Engagement of the private sector will also be critical in ensuring transparency on impacts (Target 15) and building alignment.

Spatial Planning

TNC is drawing on its extensive expertise on spatial planning to develop capacities and support partners integrate the best available data into cutting-edge tools and spatial analyses, guiding strategic and cost-effective conservation interventions. Spatial data and decision-support tools are core to Targets 1, 2, and 3 of the GBF, and it is required to support conservation planning and priority setting across a range of other targets. Building on this expertise, TNC partnered with Microsoft to develop the Marxan Planning Platform (MaPP) to enhance the accessibility of conservation planning to non-experts. MaPP is helping TNC and partners in priority regions, including Africa, Asia-Pacific, and the Americas.

Climate & Biodiversity synergies

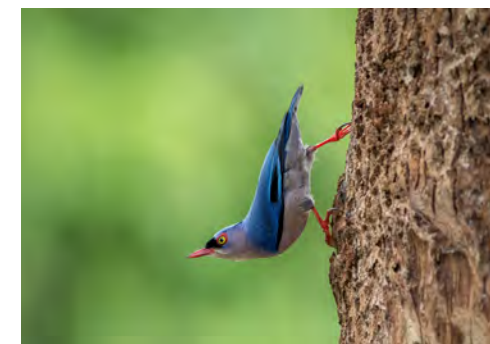
Other TNC country programs have focused on identifying climate-biodiversity linkages in support of Target 8 implementation. We are working to assess Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans under the Climate Convention and NBSAPs to ensure they are working coherently and synergistically. TNC commissioned a gap analysis to review options for synergies across these policy instruments in 20 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and Caribbean that will be available in early 2024. We hope this will help develop strong national climate and biodiversity policies that are mutually supportive.



In **Guatemala**, TNC is working to incorporate the traditional Mayan knowledge on water management into the NBSAPs and freshwater outcomes for the Selva Maya region and the Mesoamerican Forest Bridge. © Gabriel Sandi/TNC Photo Contest 2019



Peru—TNC has been supporting the Peruvian government on the development of a national infrastructure plan with environmental sustainability criteria, among them, ecosystem protection. This will minimize conversion of natural habitat in infrastructure development. We hope this can form the backbone of Peru's mainstreaming strategy in support of Target 14. © Christian Contreras/TNC



In **Indonesia**, the government asked TNC to provide detailed spatial data on Kalimantan province. This data will be used to inform its biodiversity strategy across a range of targets. © Akbar Abdillah/TNC Photo Contest 2023

The Road to COP-16

CBD parties have been asked to submit their National Targets to a global database prior to COP16 in October 2024, so that an assessment can be made on whether these national contributions will be sufficient to attain the Global Targets. It will be a race to the finish line, as many countries are just getting started on their NBSAP reviews.

TNC is strengthening its own portfolio and capacity to deliver on the Global Biodiversity Framework. We need to redouble our efforts with government partners, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders to support the update of national strategies in a timely fashion. We also need to strengthen partnerships for policy and finance to ensure durability of the conservation measures being put into place. TNC can build on its activities across 70 countries to draw lessons, tools and measures for success.

Reshaping the world means bringing in all sectors of society. The GBF has laid the track for that, and a year into the implementation, we're seeing traction, but we must increase momentum to meet implementation targets for COP16. This is the year to empower action to create real change for nature.



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THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

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