



Biodiversity
Mainstreaming
Champions Group

Mainstreaming in Practice: Pathways to Accelerate Progress





Introduction

The CBD Global Report on Collective Progress finds that improving biodiversity mainstreaming and policy coherence is necessary to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). It identifies weak mainstreaming and poor cross-sector policy coherence as major barriers impeding progress across multiple targets, including efforts to mobilize and align biodiversity finance. Across the mainstreaming-related targets 14, 15, 16 and 18, around two-thirds are self-assessed as making no significant change or insufficient progress, while roughly 30% consider themselves on track.¹ These findings point to a gap where to unlock broad progress to the KM-GBF, biodiversity policy must reach into fiscal, economic, and sectoral decision-making. While there is broad agreement on the need for mainstreaming and the types of action it requires, mainstreaming remains often discussed as a single abstract objective. This leaves Parties without a concrete, shared picture of what mainstreaming looks like once implemented and the portfolio of effective tools

at their disposal, especially those that work across multiple sectors.

This brief features examples from BMCG members and insights from the group's discussions to strengthen the evidence base available to Parties in support of more informed policy discussions and more effective national implementation. The examples reflect different stages of development, ranging from established policies and mechanisms to recently adopted measures and emerging practices. They also illustrate the diversity of approaches available to Parties.

The examples that follow are organized around three dimensions of biodiversity mainstreaming:

- (I) coordinating across ministries and levels of government,
- (II) embedding biodiversity within and across sectors, and
- (III) learning and exchange across peers.

The Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group (BMCG) is an informal and government-led network launched at COP16 that includes 19 Parties, alongside several non-state partners.² The group has spent roughly two years sharing insights and comparing what biodiversity mainstreaming looks like in practice across sectors and stakeholders. Learn more about the group and additional resources at: bmcg.conabio.gob.mx.

Coordinating across ministries and levels of government

Many fiscal choices, land-use approvals, subsidies, and infrastructure plans that affect biodiversity sit with finance, planning, and sectoral ministries. As a result, biodiversity outcomes depend on decisions made beyond environmental agencies alone, which is why CBD Decision 16/13 calls for mainstreaming at all levels of government and society, within and across all sectors.³ In practice, Parties to the CBD are approaching this by developing shared targets owned by other ministries or levels of government, promoting joint action across ministries and levels of government, and implementing plans with strong cross-sector dimension that are built to survive changes in political leadership.

Mainstreaming across ministries

Zambia: Cross-ministerial coordination⁴

Zambia established a National Technical Committee and a National Steering Committee on Biodiversity, giving the Ministry of Finance and Planning and other sectoral ministries a formal seat in biodiversity decision-making rather than treating them as external consultees. The revised NBSAP is also being mainstreamed directly into the country's 9th National Development Plan, with the committees providing a standing channel through which ministries align around shared targets.

South Africa: Integrated spatial planning⁵

South Africa's Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act requires all sectors, including agriculture, to participate in a shared spatial planning process, mapping where sectoral activities will occur and coordinating through

common Spatial Development Frameworks. Bringing every sector into one planning system allows land-use conflicts to be identified and mitigated early, embedding biodiversity priorities alongside other development needs rather than treating them as a separate track. In practice, biodiversity spatial information, including Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), can be incorporated into spatial planning and land-use decision-making to identify areas of biodiversity importance, ecological connectivity and support functions that should be considered alongside development priorities. This provides a spatially explicit basis for avoiding or appropriately locating incompatible development, informing Spatial Development Frameworks and guiding development decisions before land-use proposals are advanced.

Fiji: Green Growth Framework and national planning⁶

Fiji's Green Growth Framework, adopted in 2014, has been mainstreamed into national planning through successive national plans and the current National Development Plan 2025–2029 and Vision 2050, giving green growth, including biodiversity and natural resource considerations, a foundation in the country's core development planning. The approach shows how a cross-cutting framework, once adopted into a plan, can carry forward into successive planning cycles without being re-argued each time.

Belgium: A depolarization methodology⁷

Belgium is creating a methodology offering a structured, criteria-based approach for comparing agricultural innovations and their alternatives against preset ethical,

environmental, and socioeconomic criteria. Designed as a rapid policy-support tool, it will draw on data, literature and expert judgment to inform contested policy debates, for example by comparing GMOs, alternative proteins, or new pesticides. Framing discussions around trade-offs may help depolarize difficult sector conversations.

France: Ecological planning⁸

In 2022, France created a General Secretariat for Ecological Planning directly under the Prime Minister's authority, to coordinate national strategies on climate, biodiversity, water, energy and the circular economy. Sectoral ministries keep ownership of their policies, but all can be reviewed against shared targets tracked through a public barometer of more than 250 indicators to ensure consistency, while regional meetings turn these targets into annual local roadmaps. This high-level mandate lets biodiversity be weighed alongside economic priorities rather than treated as an outside constraint.

Finland: Cross-sectoral management of invasive alien species⁹

Mainstreaming of invasive alien species issues into regular planning, decision-making and practical activities of different administrative sectors and stakeholders is the fundamental basis for the management of invasive alien species in Finland. This is based on broad-based cooperation involving the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Transport and Communications, other administrative sectors, as well as public authorities, research institutes, municipalities, landowners, businesses, organisations and citizens. These contributions include statutory monitoring, planning and enforcement duties assigned to public authorities, or the obligations of landowners and operators to prevent the spread of invasive alien species. These efforts are complemented by management plans, research, monitoring,

observation data collection, advice and communication, as well as invasive alien species control events organised by associations, communities and citizens. In this way, statutory duties, voluntary action and local participation form a comprehensive approach aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and reducing the harm they cause to biodiversity, human health and livelihoods.



Garden lupin, an invasive species in Finland
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Colombia: Cross-ministerial commitments in the National Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁰

Colombia's National Biodiversity Action Plan to 2030 assigns 191 commitments to 15 ministries, including Agriculture, Finance, Mines and Energy, Transport and Trade, alongside the National Planning Department and the statistics office, with intersectoral integration as one of four strategic pillars. A further 269 commitments were agreed with the representative bodies of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and other communities. The Plan also sets economic targets only non-environmental sectors can deliver, including positioning the bioeconomy at 3% of GDP. Naming which ministry owns which commitment turns a national strategy into obligations each sector holds.

Emerging Practice: Establishing synergies with national circular economy strategies¹¹

The 7th National Reports demonstrate that some countries are positioning circular economy strategies as a means to deliver biodiversity targets across sectors. While using circular approaches to eliminate pollution and improve waste management remains important, an increasing number of countries are applying circular principles further upstream, with design standards, procurement rules, supply chain traceability, and the redirection of incentives toward regenerative production positioning circular approaches and business models as means to mainstreaming biodiversity into economic decisions and practices across a

variety of sectors, including both business and finance actors.

Across levels of government

ICLEI: Multi-country city programs¹²

Through the Urban Natural Assets for Africa (UNA) and INTERACT Bio initiatives, ICLEI has supported cities across Africa, Latin America, and Asia in embedding biodiversity into governance, planning, and finance, producing shared knowledge products and city-to-city learning exchanges on evidence-based decision-making. The model illustrates how national mainstreaming commitments can be translated into subnational practice through a structured, multi-country peer network.

Embedding biodiversity within and across sectors

Target 14 of the KM-GBF calls for integrating biodiversity within and across sectors. Coordinating structures, like those previously covered above, help ministries align around shared direction. However, biodiversity must also be mainstreamed within specific sectoral instruments and practices. National reporting suggests this is a particularly difficult element of Target 14.¹ While the mechanisms for biodiversity mainstreaming differ by sector, the underlying objective is the same: ensuring biodiversity considerations are reflected in the rules, incentives, standards, and decisions that shape sectoral activities. The examples that follow illustrate how biodiversity can be integrated into existing sectoral mandates and instruments.

Cross-sectoral and business engagement

Germany: Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt (UBi)¹³

The German “UBi project” was launched in 2013 with the aim of strengthening the integration of biodiversity into business practices and capacity building across key economic sectors. It is currently run by five organisations (Biodiversity in Good Company, Bodensee-Stiftung, Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production, DIHK Service GmbH and Global Nature Fund). The project supports biodiversity mainstreaming in the private sector through the development of sector-specific guidance for areas such as food, textiles, retail, tourism, DIY stores and company premises, complemented by cross-sectoral training programmes, both online and in person, as well as networking and

knowledge-sharing activities. The UBi project promotes dialogue and cooperation among relevant stakeholders, including businesses, chambers of commerce, business associations and nature conservation organisations. A particular focus is placed on small and medium-sized enterprises, which represent a significant share of the German economy. UBi also organises the annual national Business and Biodiversity Conference (UBi Dialogforum), bringing together approximately 350 participants from business, science, environmental organisations and civil society to exchange knowledge, share good practices and foster cooperation.



UBi Dialogforum
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Germany: National Business and Biodiversity Initiative¹⁴

The national Biodiversity in Good Company Initiative, established at CBD COP 9 as a pioneering initiative for mainstreaming biodiversity within the private sector, contributes to the integration of biodiversity into corporate strategies, business operations and policy-related processes. Technical working groups elaborate collaborative projects around specific topics such as nature credits, biotope management and reporting. The initiative also develops and implements pilot projects in cooperation with the scientific community, with a particular focus on integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into corporate decision-making and value

chains. These activities aim to translate strategic biodiversity commitments into practical approaches that can contribute to more resilient and sustainable supply chains. The Initiative actively engages in relevant business and biodiversity processes and frameworks, including the CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, IPBES and TNFD. Through this engagement, it facilitates knowledge exchange between national and international expert groups and contributes practical experience from the German private sector to the broader international dialogue on biodiversity mainstreaming and vice versa.

Emerging Practice: Sectoral nature-positive transition pathways^{15, 16}

Sectoral Nature-Positive Transition Pathways (NPPs) are government-led plans that determine how a specific sector (e.g. energy, agriculture, construction, finance) will align with national biodiversity targets. By establishing a long-term direction, identifying sector-specific actions and clarifying the roles of government, companies, and finance, they provide a mechanism to support nature-positive economic transitions. They also offer a means to establish concrete synergies at the level of implementation between different national strategic goals, such as biodiversity, climate, or circular economy. This new, replicable approach has been proposed by a coalition including Business for Nature, Finance for Biodiversity, the Green Finance Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and WWF. Complementary efforts are required at company level. For this, WWF and CDP have convened an informal working group on Nature Transition Planning, with the Netherlands and United Kingdom as observers.

Ecosystem and natural capital accounting¹⁷

Mexico and South Africa were among five pilot countries under the UN's Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem

Services project, compiling ecosystem extent, condition and services accounts. Mexico is developing an ecosystem integrity index and now chairing the UN expert subgroup aligning public and private sector accounting. South Africa, using donor funding where available, has continued to contribute to the advancement and application of natural capital accounting to support sustainable development and informed decision-making and has produced national extent accounts, for example accounts for protected areas and accounts for Strategic Water Source Areas. South Africa also chairs the Africa Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) Community of Practice. The South African NCA Coordination Group convenes an NCA Forum every second year where examples of the application of accounts are shared. The recent events included representatives from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector and the southern Africa region. Compiling and comparing these approaches offers practical value for cross-ministerial understanding and a metric-based method for monitoring progress.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Finland: Sector-led Biodiversity Road Map¹⁸

Finland's Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) and the Central Union of Swedish-speaking Farmers and Forest Owners in Finland (SLC) developed their own Biodiversity Road Map through a bottom-up process: ecological and scenario analysis, an assessment of policy instruments, and a survey of its own members. The Road Map frames biodiversity as inseparable from sustainable, profitable rural livelihoods and links to the EU Common Agricultural Policy, while also exploring nature credit markets as a

funding mechanism. As a sector-association-led rather than government-led initiative, it demonstrates a pathway for mainstreaming that starts with the regulated sector building its own ownership of the agenda.

Tanzania: Mainstreaming in Agriculture¹⁹

Tanzania's measures to address agriculture as a primary driver of biodiversity loss include: actively promoting ecological and organic agriculture as a biodiversity conservation strategy and training farmers in sustainable methods like organic farming and agroforestry. Tanzania adopted the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) in 2023 to embed ecological principles into agricultural production. By implementing the NEOAS, biodiversity will be safeguarded and efforts made to reduce harmful impacts. The Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, alongside organizations like the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity and the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement, play a vital role in researching and scaling up agrobiodiversity practices in Tanzania.



A local community practicing agroecology in Tanzania
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Mexico: Embedding biodiversity in agriculture, forestry and fisheries^{20, 21}

Mexico is advancing toward zero deforestation and sustainable practices across agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, building on institutional infrastructure within each sector. The Ministry of Agriculture hosts a dedicated Biodiversity Mainstreaming Center (Centro de Integración de la Biodiversidad) and has

adopted successive sectoral strategies (2020–2024 and 2025–2030) linking biodiversity to food sovereignty and rural wellbeing. Concrete measures include a presidential decree banning 35 highly hazardous pesticides under a One Health approach, and the Ministry's sustainability office has been elevated to vice-minister level. More recently, the forestry (CONAFOR) and fisheries (CONAPESCA and IMIPAS) agencies mapped their 2026–2030 sectoral programs against the national biodiversity strategy (ENBioMex 2.0) and the NDC 3.0, rated progress using the categories of national reports to the CBD, and classified implementation gaps. In forestry, 56 of 98 linked action lines are on track, and payments for ecosystem services, which added around 400,000 ha in 2025–2026, deliver conservation and carbon capture at once. In fisheries, the National System of Fish Refuge Zones, built jointly with the protected areas agency (CONANP), complements protected areas. An intersectoral workshop in September 2026 brought both sectors together with finance actors for the first time. Together, these experiences show how sector agencies can own biodiversity and climate targets through the instruments they already manage.

Tanzania: Fisheries consultative workshop²²

Tanzania's Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, together with FAO co-hosted a workshop from 7–9 October 2025 in Dar es Salaam with over 50 participants, including government officials, researchers, fishing communities, NGOs, and development partners, focused on mainstreaming biodiversity into fisheries management. The workshop brought together multiple stakeholders and developed a specific roadmap, which includes promoting inclusive marine spatial planning and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). Stakeholders conducted inventories and monitoring of threatened aquatic species, participated in the awareness of and identifying

OECMs along coastal and marine areas, including developing co-management plans, protecting alternative livelihoods, and ensuring gender equality.



Stakeholders participated in a three-day consultative workshop organized by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), in collaboration with the FAO in Dar es Salaam aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity into fisheries management in the context of the KM-GBF.

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Finance

France: Corporate disclosure requirements (Article 29) and business mobilization²³

Article 29 of the Energy–Climate Law (2019) and its implementing decree have strengthened the non-financial transparency framework for financial actors in France. This provision clarifies the Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on disclosure of sustainability information in the financial services sector (Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation), by introducing additional climate and biodiversity-specific obligations:

- Publication of strategies on alignment with the Paris Agreement and biodiversity conservation objectives;
- Integration of ESG risks into risk management processes, with a distinction between emerging and current risks, internal and external;
- Addition of a "comply or improve" principle requiring, in the event of non-

compliance, a plan to improve practices and communicated information.

A guide, developed by French Environment and Energy Management Agency and the Ministry of Ecological Transition, aims to address the difficulties of financial institutions in implementing a biodiversity approach. A complementary initiative, Roquelaure "Companies and Biodiversity," convened the financial sector directly and generated multiple sector-led proposals for public policy, including a mapping tool for financial actors. The approach illustrates how disclosure mandates and structured business dialogue can reinforce each other.

Tanzania: Mainstreaming with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)²⁴

The National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (NEMPSI- 2022-2032), was designed to provide strategic guidance for key environmental interventions where it aims to conserve biodiversity. Every sector has mainstreamed the NEMPSI into their planning and budget. In March 2025, mainland Tanzania officially launched BIOFIN. The project aims to integrate biodiversity into all policy and decision-making areas, encourage private sector adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices, and mobilize substantial financial resources. The government has specifically called on the banking and financial sectors to explore green financing and impact investment opportunities and identifies financial possibilities for the implementation of the KM-GBF.

South Africa: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Finance Sector²⁵

South Africa aims to embed biodiversity across financial policies, regulations, investment decisions and market practices. This includes integrating biodiversity considerations into the Green Finance Taxonomy, financial risk assessment and supervision, disclosure guidance, and sustainable bond frameworks. It

helps financial institutions understand how their activities depend on and affect nature, while identifying credible opportunities to finance conservation, restoration and sustainable land management as biodiversity loss can affect businesses, livelihoods and the value of financial investments. It creates opportunities to direct capital towards projects that deliver measurable biodiversity benefits, develop suitable financial products, and strengthens the capacity of banks, investors and companies to assess nature related risks and opportunities. National Treasury, South African Reserve Bank, financial regulators, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, and finance sector partners are to each contribute within their mandates.

OECD: Toolkit for scaling biodiversity-positive incentives and subsidy reform²⁶

OECD tracks the use of positive incentives (taxes, fees, payments for ecosystem services) and how they are distributed across sectors, and has provided ten recommendations for scaling up biodiversity-positive incentives, published in 2025. It has also developed guidance for identifying subsidies harmful to biodiversity and moving from assessment to reform in sectors such as fisheries and agriculture. Together, these tools give countries a starting menu and best practices for aligning economic incentives with biodiversity goals and objectives. OECD has also developed a supervisory framework for assessing nature-related financial risks, first applied in Hungary and since adopted by other central banks and regulators.

Infrastructure

Peru: Biodiversity criteria in the National Infrastructure Plan²⁷

Peru's National Infrastructure Plan 2026–2031 embeds biodiversity considerations directly into

national investment planning. In 2022, sustainability criteria, including biodiversity measures, were integrated into the prioritization of 72 infrastructure projects worth approximately US\$38 billion. The 2026–2031 plan goes further through the use of Territorial Notes, which incorporate biodiversity, land-use, and community considerations before projects are selected, helping identify potential risks and opportunities at the earliest stages of planning. The plan incorporates monitoring

systems and biodiversity indicators into governance mechanisms for portfolio management across four macro-zones to decentralize investment and address regional needs, including in the Amazon. Peru's experience illustrates how biodiversity can be integrated into infrastructure planning and project prioritization, helping guide existing and future investment flows in ways that support national biodiversity objectives.

Learning and exchange across peers

Peer exchange platforms allow governments to borrow, adapt, and stress-test tools another country or institution has already built. These platforms also help accelerate implementation by reducing the time and resources needed to develop new approaches from scratch. As countries move from target-setting to delivery, access to tested tools, methods, and lessons learned is increasingly important.

Community of Practice on Nature and Infrastructure (CoPNI): Mainstreaming Infrastructure²⁸

In response to CBD COP Decision 16/13 requesting sector-specific communities of practice, CoPNI connects governments and partners working to shift infrastructure from a driver of biodiversity loss to a tool for its recovery. As of 2026, CoPNI includes 109 members across 34 countries and has established an active program of webinars, consultations, and practitioner exchanges on infrastructure planning, finance, and delivery. The community is coordinated by WWF and The Nature Conservancy, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). CoPNI's value lies in connecting global biodiversity policy with infrastructure practice

through peer exchange. It enables governments, financiers, engineers, and civil society to exchange practical experience on advancing nature-positive infrastructure, and bring implementation lessons back into policy discussions.

FAO: Strategy and Action Plan on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors²⁹

Since 2019, FAO has run a standing strategy and successive action plans (2021–2023, 2024–2027) to mainstream biodiversity across agri-food sectors, aligned with the KM-GBF. Delivery includes a knowledge hub of resources and indicators, direct country support for integrating biodiversity targets into revised NBSAPs (including Uganda, Lao PDR, and Madagascar), and an Agri-NBSAPs Support Initiative addressing enabling environment, implementation, finance, and knowledge gaps. The model shows how a technical UN agency can operationalize mainstreaming support across many countries at once.

BIODEV2030: From sector diagnostics to voluntary commitments³⁰

BIODEV2030 applies a common method across 16 pilot countries in Africa, Asia, South America and the Pacific. Each country begins with a scientific diagnostic identifying the two or three

economic sectors placing most pressure on national biodiversity, commonly agriculture, livestock, mining, logging or fisheries, then convenes a multi-stakeholder dialogue with those sectors to negotiate voluntary commitments to reduce pressure. Commitments feed back into revisions of sectoral public policy and national biodiversity strategies. BIODEV is financed by the French

Development Agency, coordinated by Expertise France, implemented by IUCN and WWF-France. In 2023, BIODEV's second phase shifted from diagnosis to implementation, focusing on the specific sectoral policy instruments that needed to be reformed to reduce these pressures, while also developing concrete territorial pilot projects.

Conclusion

These three practical approaches make mainstreaming possible: institutions that coordinate and set the frameworks for decision-making, approaches and tools that change day-to-day practice across sectors, and peer platforms that help improve information access and learning. Within this mainstreaming structure, these examples help respond to what Parties called for under Decision 16/13 — a stronger, shared base of

practical experience on biodiversity mainstreaming.³ Finally, the cases shown here exemplify biodiversity mainstreaming approaches. They show that mainstreaming succeeds when biodiversity objectives become embedded in the mandates, incentives and planning systems of institutions whose primary purpose lies outside environmental policy and the importance of biodiversity is recognized by all.

Acknowledgements

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Notes

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