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ANNEX IV

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme on Global Challenges (Planet) for 2023-2026

Action Document for Capacity Development for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Capacity Development for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) OPSYS number: ACT-61939 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Global
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Global Challenges thematic programme 2021-2027 ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	The action will contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The specific objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean), Expected results 1, 2 and 3 of the multiannual indicative programme Global Challenges;- The specific objective 4 (Improve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance), Expected result 3 and 4 of the regional multiannual indicative programme for Sub-Saharan Africa;- The specific objective 1 (Support for regional cooperation on environmental challenges), Expected result 1 of the regional multiannual indicative programme for Asia and the Pacific;- The specific objective 2 (Strengthen the understanding, protection and conservation of land, land/forest and marine ecosystems and their biodiversity, including through earth observation

¹ Decision C(2021)9157

	and digital data) Support for regional cooperation on environmental challenges), Expected result 1, 2,3 and 4.			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<u>Global Challenges MIP²: Priority area 2 (Planet)</u> <u>Sub-Saharan Africa MIP³: Priority area 3 (Green Transition)</u> <u>Asia and the Pacific MIP⁴: Priority area 1 (Regional integration and cooperation)</u> <u>Latin America and the Caribbean MIP⁵: Priority area 1 (Green Transition)</u> Sector 410 (General environment protection).			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 15 (Life on Land) Other significant SDGs: 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)			
8 a) DAC code(s)	41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management (100%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Donor government's public sector institutions - 11000 Multilateral organisations – 40000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

² Decision C(2021)9157

³ Decision C(2021)9373

⁴ Decision C(2021)9251

⁵ Decision C(2021)9356

	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BUDGET INFORMATION			
12. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 69 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 69 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 20 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 as follows:</p> <p>14.020241 : EUR 20 000 000 (Global Challenges - Planet)</p> <p>And for an amount of EUR 46 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024 subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths, as follows:</p> <p>14.020241 : EUR 7 000 000 (Global Challenges - Planet)</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR 1 750 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR 1 750 000 (East and Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR 1 500 000 (Southern Africa)</p>			

	<p>14.020130 : EUR 6 500 000 (Middle East and Central Asia)</p> <p>14.020131 : EUR 9 500 000 (South and East Asia)</p> <p>14.020132 : EUR 6 000 000 (Pacific)</p> <p>14.020140 : EUR 8 000 000 (The Americas)</p> <p>14.020141 : EUR 4 000 000 (The Caribbean)</p> <p>And for an amount of EUR 3 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2026 subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths, as follows:</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR 1 050 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR 1 050 000 (East and Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR 900 000 (Southern Africa)</p>
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	<p>Direct management through Grants</p> <p>Indirect management with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</p> <p>Indirect management with the French Development Agency (AFD)</p> <p>Indirect management with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p> <p>Indirect management with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p>Indirect management with the entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2</p> <p>Other actions and expenditure as set in section 4.3.4</p>

1.2 Summary of the Action

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) has been adopted in December 2022 at the 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The EU is committed to support the implementation of this Framework in partner countries with a robust package on capacity development for science and knowledge, policy and resource mobilisation and support to civil society, through gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches.

The proposed Action intends to support capacity development in partner countries in order to strengthen their involvement in the implementation of the GBF. This support will be based upon three complementary pillars: i) reinforce informed decision-making and improve conditions for benefit sharing in partner countries; ii) develop or strengthen national policies and financing plans for biodiversity, and iii) increase the meaningful involvement of civil society in activities and in advocacy, policy dialogue and awareness raising.

Implementation of the Framework will contribute to poverty alleviation, gender equality, climate change mitigation and adaptation, security and stability.

The proposed Action will contribute to Priority Area 2 (Planet) of the ‘Global Challenges’ Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) under Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument-Global Europe (NDICI-GE), directly addressing its Specific Objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management), as well as Specific Objective 3 (Supporting the green transition in key areas).

It will contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 15 (Life on Land) but also SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 14 (Life below water). It is fully relevant to the Rio Marker on Biodiversity, but also

contributes to Combat Desertification, to Climate Change Adaptation, to Disaster Risk Reduction and to Climate Change Mitigation.

The geographic focus of the action is global by nature. Priority will be given to biological hotspots/megadiverse countries and least developed countries in Latin America and Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia Pacific.

For all the components of the action, synergies and complementarities will be established with ongoing regional programmes in related fields, such as Euroclima in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme and the Centres of Excellence in Sub-Saharan Africa and the EU-Pacific Green Blue Alliance, as well as all relevant national programmes. A corresponding provision will be made in the implementing contracts.

Main stakeholders are natural resource users and those having significant impact on biodiversity (economic actors, civil society including indigenous peoples and local communities...), research institutes and academia, policy and decision makers, public institutions, civil society organisations/NGOs, international organisations, regional organisations and their relevant bodies, regional observatories for biodiversity, the scientific community, development banks and international financial institutions.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The Action will directly contribute to the external dimension of the European Green Deal, and especially to the fourth pillar of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030,⁶ which aims at supporting biodiversity globally. It will also contribute to the Global Gateway strategy, in particular with reference to the EU support to partner countries in their green transition. The Action is also in line with the European Consensus on Development, which links biodiversity and agri-food systems to the EU planet, prosperity and people (human development) priorities.

The Action is also developed in the context of the commitment from the Commission to double EU external funding for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries, in the 2021-2027 period.

More specifically, the Action will directly contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework, and in particular:

- *Target 1 on spatial planning and/or effective management processes*
- *Target 2 on restoration of degraded areas*
- *Target 3 on the 30x30 (30% of the planet surface effectively conserved and managed by 2030)*
- *Target 6 on invasive alien species*
- *Target 7 on reduction of pollution*
- *Target 8: Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification - through mitigation, adaptation, DRR, nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity*
- *Target 10 on agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry areas*
- *Target 11 on implementing nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches*
- *Target 13 on capacity-building and knowledge*
- *Target 14 on mainstreaming*
- *Target 18 on subsidies and incentives*
- *Target 19 on resource mobilization*
- *Target 20 on capacity-building and transfer of technology*
- *Target 21 on availability of data, information and knowledge*
- *Target 22 on inclusiveness*

⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions COM(2020) 380 final

- *Target 23 on gender equality*

This action will also support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Gender Action Plan adopted during the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and contribute to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III⁷, notably its thematic areas of engagement - “Advancing equal participation and leadership” and “Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation”.

⁷ Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council JOIN(2020) 17 final

2.2 Problem Analysis

Biodiversity is vital to human survival, plays a crucial role in mitigating (by capturing and storing carbon) and adapting (by enhancing resilience to disaster risks) to climate change, and holds significant untapped potential for medical and scientific breakthroughs. Species richness is considered an insurance against climate change since rare but better adapted species may take over fundamentally important roles in maintaining ecosystems when presently common species disappear as a consequence of climate change. Biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate, mainly due to human activities, such as land use changes, pollution and climate change. One million species - out of an estimated total of 8 million - are threatened with extinction. Biodiversity underpins the functioning of "system earth"; loss of biodiversity may be a threat to food security, reduce resilience against climate-related disaster risks, and in turn, lead to increased human conflict.

Although natural resources form the basis of rural livelihoods for a significant part of populations in developing countries, these countries often face significant challenges in managing these natural resources and the unique biodiversity assets that these resources encompass. Many of the world's most biodiverse areas are located in developing countries but are often under threat from unsustainable practices like deforestation, mining, and poaching. Conservation of biological diversity is also a social issue. Numerous factors influence the conservation or loss of biological resources such as conflicts, poverty, gender inequalities and indigenous peoples' rights. In particular, people living in vulnerable situations such as indigenous communities and women (who bear a significant share of the responsibility for farming and food production) are disproportionately affected and they do not enjoy equal benefits from ecosystem services. Indigenous people are inextricably linked to their natural environment, but they also sustain the world's biodiversity with a large share of the planet's remaining biodiversity located in Indigenous Peoples' lands. Furthermore, from a gender perspective, conservation policies frequently trigger the introduction of a series of new activities or the change of existing practices. Such changes can be related to land use, agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries and water management among others, where women and men carry out different activities, have unequal access to different resources, and benefit from their use in a non-equitable manner due to discriminatory socio-cultural norms and gender roles. But despite these barriers, women play a key role in managing agriculture and local biodiversity to meet food and health needs, are the primary savers and managers of seeds and are responsible for the control, development and transmission of significant traditional knowledge. Furthermore, as quite often men are increasingly drawn to seek remunerated work away from their lands and resources, women's role in farming and in the management of family and community biological resources, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge is increasing⁸.

Given its global scope and its numerous direct and indirect drivers, biodiversity loss is a challenge that needs to be tackled by all countries, involving all sides in their societies. Following the failure of achievements of most previous global targets, a new framework for action, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) has been adopted by the international community in December 2022. Its effective implementation requires the development of institutional and individual capacities at various levels, including national, regional, and local. These needs have also been clearly stressed while discussing the setting up of the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity proposed by the EU at COP15.

The EU is committed to support the implementation of this Framework in developing countries through capacity development for science and knowledge as well as for policy and resource mobilisation, and through support to the civil society, through gender-responsive and human-rights based approaches.

⁸ Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans - CBD Technical Series No. 49.

Support to the implementation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework will benefit a wide range of people as rights holders and institutions as duty bearers in targeted countries.

Key stakeholders of the action are:

- Government Agencies: Government bodies, as duty bearers, at the local, regional, and national levels play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity. They are responsible for creating and implementing policies, regulations, and laws related to environmental protection and conservation.
- NGOs: Environmental NGOs and conservation organisations are often key stakeholders in biodiversity protection and restoration, awareness-raising and advocacy for policy changes.
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as rights-holders: IPLCs living in or near areas of high biodiversity are important stakeholders. They can contribute to its sustainable management through their practices and participation in conservation efforts as they possess significant traditional knowledge about their environment and are culturally strongly affiliated to it, in particular women. Nevertheless, this knowledge is often undervalued or not incorporated into mainstream conservation approaches. IPLCs are also an ally as their permanent presence in high-biodiversity areas can enhance monitoring and prevention of biodiversity loss. Furthermore, in some cases, increased pressures on natural resources or changing socio-economic conditions may lead to unsustainable practices within IPLCs which negatively impact biodiversity: overhunting, overfishing, or unsustainable agricultural practices. In some places, IPLC's customary land rights are not adequately recognized or protected by the government, leading to land grabbing or the establishment of protected areas without their consent, and even sometimes displacements. This can disrupt their traditional practices and access to resources, leading to conflicts with biodiversity conservation efforts. Finally, when IPLCs have limited participation in the design and implementation of conservation projects, conflicts can arise due to a lack of ownership, and mistrust. The rights of indigenous peoples have been recognised in a UN Declaration (UNDRIP) and are part of the EU's external policy on human rights.
- Environmental human Rights defenders, including women, indigenous people and youth are front-line defenders against environmental degradation and their activism based on their cultural practices, traditional knowledge and ways of life contributes significantly to biodiversity conservation.
- Scientific and Academic Institutions: Universities, research institutions, and scientific organisations conduct research, provide scientific expertise, and develop conservation strategies to understand and protect biodiversity.
- Regional observatories are key institutions for reporting on biodiversity and ecosystems. They provide information to support policy dialogues, decision-making, and field interventions. They contribute to the development of biodiversity indicators to monitor conservation progress. Through surveys, monitoring, and data collection, they compile, analyse, and disseminate data on biodiversity and ecosystems. They identify conservation concerns, evaluate effectiveness of conservation measures, and inform policy decisions. They engage in capacity building and sharing of knowledge and best practices for sustainable natural resource management and governance. The action will support regional observatories in the Pacific and the Caribbean established under the BIOPAMA programme and be complementary to a similar EU funded action in Africa.
- Private Sector: Businesses, especially those operating in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, mining, and tourism, can have a significant impact on biodiversity. Engaging the private sector as stakeholders is important to ensure sustainable practices that are aligned to with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights⁹. The EU has taken legislative steps towards mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence and EU companies are expecting to report, mitigate and prevent any negative impact. Therefore, there is a growing need for further engagement.
- International Organizations: Multilateral organizations like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have a global mandate which is eminently relevant to the implementation of the GBF, and may provide funding, technical expertise, and policy guidance for projects.
- Regional organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), the Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC) can play a significant role in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development within their member

⁹ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf

countries. They can facilitate the development of policies, foster cooperation and regional initiatives, harmonize approaches, provide capacity building initiatives and technical support, establish regional information systems... They can also assist member countries in monitoring their biodiversity commitments and in accessing funding.

The final beneficiaries are citizens of the partner countries (with specific attention given to women in all their diversity and those populations living in vulnerable situations such as IPLCs), particularly those who depend the most on biodiversity and its services and play a key role on biodiversity conservation, but also humanity as a whole, given the global interconnection of the world's natural ecosystems.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to enhance the sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive management, long-term conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems and their contributions to poverty alleviation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, security and stability. It will contribute to supporting the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in EU partner countries.

The Specifics Objectives of this action are to:

1. Strengthen biodiversity knowledge and knowledge management skills in partner countries for improving full, equitable, meaningful and informed decision-making and benefit sharing from the use of biological resources, including the potential contribution of biodiversity to address climate change mitigation and adaptation targets as defined by Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)s;
2. Strengthen the implementation of national policies and legislations in partner countries, for biodiversity conservation and restoration, including the mainstreaming of the role of biodiversity in sector policies on climate, and other relevant sectors;
3. Strengthen the equal voice, role and meaningful action of the civil society, including IPLCs, women and youth, regarding ecosystems conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

Contributing to Specific Objective 1:

- 1.1 The availability and accessibility of biodiversity data, information, and knowledge (including the one coming from women and IPLCs) for decision makers are improved, to enhance the capacity of partner countries to meet their knowledge needs for the effective implementation of the GBF (*Global Biodiversity Information*).
- 1.2 Regional observatories for biodiversity in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions are strengthened to enhance biodiversity knowledge management systems, skills and support to practitioners, policy- and decision-makers (*Biodiversity Centres of Excellence*)
- 1.3 The conditions for successful cooperation between providers and users of biological resources for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources, and traditional knowledge (in particular, the one coming from women and IPLCs) associated with genetic resources are improved (*Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)/DSI*).

Contributing to Specific Objective 2:

- 2.1 Assessments of institutional and legislative issues affecting natural resources governance and sustainable and inclusive agri-value chains are available for all actors (*Legal Hub on Natural Resources*);

2.2 Biodiversity is mainstreamed into national and regional gender-responsive policies and practices, to implement the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and NDCs where relevant, in particular in the agriculture sector (*Mainstreaming Biodiversity*)

2.3 Financial solutions for biodiversity are developed and their implementation is supported in several partner countries (*Resource Mobilization*)

Contributing to Specific Objective 3:

3.1 Biodiversity conservation and the recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples and local communities' rights are reconciled (*IPLCs in Biodiversity*)

3.2 The involvement and effectiveness of civil society in conservation in biodiversity hotspots is strengthened (*Civil society in Biodiversity*)

3.2 Indicative Activities

Indicative activities relating to Output 1.1 (*Global Biodiversity Information*):

- Support scientific research and communities of practice in open data mobilization and use to sustain biodiversity data flows within the target regions.
- Support the transfer of biodiversity information and knowledge at national and local levels.
- Establish lasting collaborations between institutions in the form of consortia and national biodiversity information facilities.
- Enhance the application of robust biodiversity information in decision processes to support the implementation of the relevant targets within the GBF, NDCs, SDGs and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) open science recommendation.

Indicative activities relating to Output 1.2 (*Biodiversity Centres of Excellence*):

- Provide technological and scientific support to regional observatories for biodiversity to consolidate, enhance and promote decision-support information systems and to organize data collection (disaggregated at least by sex, age and indigenous status, when relevant).
- Produce knowledge products on biodiversity and provide knowledge support and services to practitioners, scientists, policy- and decisions- makers, including on climate action and gender mainstreaming issues
- Support regional observatories in carrying out outreach campaigns to raise the uptake of tools and advocacy activities to enhance the use of policy-science interface, including specialized trainings for high-level decision-makers.
- Implement tailored capacity building programmes for management effectiveness, gender mainstreaming, governance and rights of protected and conserved areas from a human rights-based approach with a focus on IPLCs and women in all their diversity as well as promoting application of global standards and certification.
- Promote networking, participatory and inclusive partnerships and exchange, including inter-sectoral at regional, national and local levels; create synergies, information exchange and cooperation with other knowledge management platforms, in particular the forthcoming Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity.

Indicative activities relating to Output 1.3 (*ABS/DSI*):

- Support partner countries in the simplification, standardization and monitoring of fair and equitable access and benefit-sharing (ABS) and digital sequence information (DSI) frameworks.
- Provide technical support to regional organizations and intergovernmental cooperation bodies in the harmonization of fair and equitable ABS and DSI frameworks at the regional level.

- Promote the mainstreaming of fair and equitable ABS in national and regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and support the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships between users and providers of biological resources, including IPLCs and women, to create favorable and inclusive structures of actors and political environments.

Indicative activities relating to Output 2.1 (*Legal and Policy Support*):

- Develop additional legal diagnostic tools and methodologies to guide the legal analysis in new thematic areas, in relation with the nexus “responsible and deforestation-free agriculture production” – “conservation and valorisation of biodiversity-rich ecosystems” – “human rights of local populations, inclusivity and women’s rights”.
- Train national legal experts accordingly and support the mapping and analysis of the institutional and legal framework of selected partner countries (including from a human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches);
- Disseminate the outcomes and trigger discussions with national authorities on the identified gaps and ways to remedy, provide support to implement changes. A gender analysis and the traditional knowledge from women and IPLCs will inform these discussions. Moreover, a do not harm approach will be taken into consideration to avoid any human rights’ violation, in particular regarding women, IPLCs and local communities.
- Support legal reforms including with regard to the impacts of sectors such as agriculture on biodiversity-rich ecosystems, enhancing the value of biodiversity- rich ecosystems such as forests or supporting the implementation of the 30 by 30 target.

Indicative activities relating to Output 2.2 (*Mainstreaming Biodiversity*):

- Support the development and implementation of pesticide-risk reduction strategies and practices, including through Integrated Pest Management, for the implementation of target 7 and 10 of the GBF (pollution risks including pesticide risk and agro-ecology).
- Support the development of a methodology to measure pesticide risk indicators for the monitoring framework of the GBF.
- Build capacity for the mainstreaming of biodiversity at policy and regulatory level, and for the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Indicative activities relating to Output 2.3 (*Resource Mobilization*):

- Support the implementation of National Biodiversity Finance Plans, selected with EU Delegations, building on the well proven Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) methodology
- Work with the finance sector, notably to identify biodiversity-relevant pipelines for green and inclusive financial instruments
- Support the identification and repurposing of incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, contributing to target 18 of the GBF (incentives and subsidies).
- Strengthen capacities for increased efficiency of domestic biodiversity financing through results-based budgeting and policy coherence.
- Pilot and test innovative financial solutions for the implementation of target 19 of the GBF (resource mobilization) including how to measure biodiversity and the promotion of collective actions such as those led by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Indicative activities relating to Output 3.1 (*IPLCs in Biodiversity*):

- Support the mainstreaming of human-rights based approaches in ongoing conservation operations by leveraging relevant initiatives (on e.g. the training of rangers, use of grievance mechanisms, monitoring of the governance of protected areas, etc) and promoting their consistent application.
- Empower local communities, indigenous peoples, youth and women, including when relevant displaced persons, to meaningfully participate in activities of conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, including through Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and the development of IPLC-managed green MSMEs.

- Empower local communities, indigenous peoples, youth and women, including when relevant displaced persons, to actively engage in advocacy, monitoring, policy dialogue and awareness raising to promote biodiversity conservation as well as sustainable and inclusive use.
- Foster dialogue between civil society organizations (CSOs) and governments to ensure inclusive and participatory implementation of the GBF. Particular attention will be paid to ensure a full and meaningful engagement with women, indigenous and youth's rights organisations.
- Support the development and piloting of gender-responsive guidelines or good practices for the development of protected areas or OECMs, with due respect to the IPLC's rights, so as to contribute to the achievement of the 30 by 30 target.

Indicative activities relating to Output 3.2 (*Civil Society in Biodiversity*)

- Award grants to CSOs, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), in key biodiversity hotspots in the Asia Pacific and South America. In case additional funding from other geographic budget lines be made available, additional hotspots might be taken into consideration. Particular attention will be paid to ensure the equitable access of women, indigenous and youth's organisations to these grants.
- Provide training to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in the target hotspots to be stewards and effective advocates for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.
- Support CSOs in building capacity for ecological monitoring, data-collection and reporting skills, as well as adopting human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches and mainstreaming gender in conservation programmes.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

By promoting biodiversity conservation and supporting GBF implementation, this action includes a direct focus on conserving ecosystems (land and ocean) which serve as natural carbon sinks, absorbing large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. Conserving and restoring natural spaces, and the biodiversity they contain, is essential for limiting emissions and adapting to climate impacts. Targets 8 and 11 of the GBF specifically link biodiversity with increasing resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actions, including through Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and/or Ecosystem-based Approaches. The objectives of this action embrace this, by promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout the various activities.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that women, in all their diversity, participation and leadership will be promoted through disaggregated targets and monitoring, and involvement of women will be specifically supported through activities described above. In particular, support will be provided to civil society organisations in building capacity for adopting gender-responsive approaches and mainstreaming gender in conservation programmes.

Human Rights

The Action will foster inclusive and participatory approaches to ecosystems protection and management, with particular attention to gender equality, women empowerment and the rights of local communities and indigenous

peoples. Preserving biodiversity is considered as contributing to people's security and rights, including the right to a healthy environment.

In particular, the action will apply the five Human Rights Based Approach principles, paying particular attention to ensure that the action contributes to build the capacities of the above-mentioned duty-bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations regarding biodiversity conservation; to strengthen rights-holders' capacities, in particular women, IPLCs and youth to claim their rights associated with biodiversity; to promote their informed and meaningful participation and cooperation in the different activities, with a particular focus on consultation and decision-making process; to incorporate a 'do no harm' approach to prevent harmful outcomes and ensure grievance mechanisms; and to promote transparency and equal access to information (including disaggregated data at least by sex, age and disability status, when relevant). Furthermore, the action will contribute to strengthen environmental human rights defenders' capacities as their activism contributes significantly to biodiversity conservation.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that no specific activity is particularly targeting persons with disabilities or intended to increase the participation of these persons in law enforcement agencies or national judiciary systems. Nevertheless, the action will take into consideration, for instance the disproportionate suffering of people living with disabilities within the indigenous and local communities due to the environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Furthermore, the design and implementation of relevant activities such as trainings or consultations will apply accessibility requirements.

Reduction of inequalities

The Action will include capacity building and knowledge on the intersectionality approach sharing activities for institutions as well as for civil society. This type of activities contributes to reducing inequalities by promoting equal access to information and resources, empowering individuals in all their diversity and communities, fostering full and meaningful participation and inclusion, encouraging collaboration, and strengthening local capacities. These activities support a more equitable, inclusive and just approach to biodiversity conservation that takes into account the different needs and aspirations of all stakeholders, particularly those who are often historically marginalized or disadvantaged like IPLCs. women, youth and people living with disabilities..

Democracy

The Action will foster inclusive and participatory approaches to ecosystems protection and management, ensuring adequate levels of democracy. It will also foster the development and updating of national policies through a consultative and inclusive approach.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The Action will reduce the risk of conflicts in and around biodiversity conservation areas, by fostering the inclusion of IPLCs in the design and implementation of conservation projects, the full recognition and protection of their customary land rights and the recognition and consideration of their traditional knowledge with regards to their environment.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The Action contributes to Disaster Risk Reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework through the protection, conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures

Risks related to the external environment	New pandemic outbreak preventing the organisation of in-person capacity-building activities	L	M/H	Shift to virtual modalities.
People and organizations	Reduced commitments by national and local administrations to prioritise biodiversity policies and financing within domestic political agendas	M	H	Advocacy and communication highlighting how political and financial investments in biodiversity are needed to prevent further nature related disasters and have strong socio-economic benefits
	High turn over of staff decreasing the effectiveness of capacity development efforts in public administrations	M	M	Focus on training of trainers approaches, easily accessible self-training tools, inter-institutional twinning and collaboration programmes
	The beneficiary institutions and individuals at the national level lack of political will to seek active ownership of the results, including for using evidence in the policy- and decision-making process	M	H	Beneficiary administrations, institutions or individuals which have shown previous commitments towards improvement of biodiversity conservation and management will be favoured. Advocacy and communication to demonstrate the benefits of the knowledge-based decisions will be used to reach administrations, institutions or individuals with low capacities or insufficient understanding.
	Brain-drain as capacities improves in certain countries or regions.	M	M	Support to green jobs creation in qualified positions, for example through centres of excellence
	Limited institutional commitment at regional levels to improve knowledge management systems	M	M	Engagement with relevant regional and national organisations / processes
	Lack of knowledge and institutional & other stakeholders' resistances to tackle the structural causes of gender inequality and ensure IPLCs, women and youth's rights	M	H	Organisation of raise-awareness and capacity building activities as well as production and dissemination of gender-responsive and traditional knowledge from IPLCs

Lessons Learnt:

The Action will build on the lessons learnt from previous actions, implemented through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Secretariat (Biodiversity Information for Development), BIOFIN (financial solutions for biodiversity including results-based budgeting), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) (Biodiversity and Protected Area Management - BIOPAMA) and EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity), IUCN (BIOPAMA), FAO (Sustainable Wild Meat and its legal hub, ACP Capacity-building programme for the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements), Expertise France (support to GBF coalitions), AFD (Contribution to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) (ABS Capacity Development Initiative).

Previous experiences of support to developing or updating national policies or strategies have made it clear that collaboration between ministries (environment, agriculture, justice, economy, finance), academia, private sector, CSOs and IPLCs is essential to enable endorsement and uptake and facilitate implementation.

Concerning the first specific objective, the lessons learnt from previous programmes regarding information and knowledge have proven that the key elements for enhancing policy-science interface include: (i) biodiversity data accessibility, standardization and interoperability, improved data collection, monitoring and analysis using advanced technology and innovation; (ii) collaboration and partnerships among multiple stakeholders, including governments, research institutions, CSOs, local communities, and international organizations to leverage the expertise, resources, and data from different sectors. It is also important to incorporate traditional knowledge and practices to enhance understanding, promote community engagement, and support culturally appropriate conservation approaches; (iii) targeted capacity building initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals as well as institutions involved in biodiversity management and governance in data collection, tools maintenance, analysis, interpretation, and decision-making processes; (iv) policy-relevance of information and decision support tools provided; (v) effective communication and advocacy strategies to engage stakeholders at all levels. Hence, these elements will be incorporated into the new actions to address ownership of the technological transfer, the accessibility and use of information and knowledge.

Concerning the second specific objective, former phases of support to the agricultural components of the Convention on Biological Diversity have shown the added value of national workplans agreed with both the ministries of agriculture and environment, ensuring country ownership and inter-ministerial dialogue; pilot activities to feed dialogue with tangible results; and the importance of training and connecting both CBD and agricultural national focal points. On the other hand, former phases of the biodiversity finance initiative (BIOFIN) have allowed to improve the ongoing programme through key lessons learned including (i) ensure the national institutionalisation of the initiative allows for meaningful exchanges between the ministries of finance and the ministries of environment (ideally hosting the initiative in the finance ministries, which is now the case in the majority of the current countries); (ii) invest enough time in the scoping phase (for new countries) in order to ensure ownership, (iii) allow for a certain flexibility around the standard BIOFIN methodology to adapt to national contexts, (iv) need for public donor support to the national biodiversity finance plans, including to expand the donor base. Aiming for “triple wins” (gender, climate, biodiversity) was identified as a critical synergy to cultivate in follow-up programmes, in order to ensure meaningful and sustainable impact.

Concerning the third specific objective, former and ongoing programmes in support of strengthening CSO's capacity in conservation have proven that active consultation and participation of civil society in biodiversity protection leads to better managed ecosystems, especially when it comes to the most biologically rich and threatened ones. Indeed, previous EU funded programmes demonstrate that empowered and engaged civil society entities, including nongovernmental organizations, CBOs and indigenous peoples' groups, have a positive impact in the development and implementation of tailored and effective conservation strategies, both at the local and regional levels. In addition, past programmes illustrated how gender equity plays a critical role in achieving long-term and sustainable conservation objectives.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that parallel reinforcement of decision-making and benefit sharing capacities, of national policies and financing plans for biodiversity, and of the involvement of civil society is indispensable to achieve sustainable and inclusive management, long term conservation and restoration of biodiversity, which is itself indispensable to poverty alleviation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, security and stability.

IF activities related to outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are undertaken, provided beneficiary institutions and individuals seek active ownership of them, THEN (Output 1.1) decision makers will have better access to biodiversity information, to enhance the capacity of partner countries to meet their knowledge needs for the effective implementation of the GBF; (Output 1.2) regional observatories for biodiversity in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions will be strengthened to enhance biodiversity knowledge management systems, skills and support to practitioners, policy- and decision-makers ; (Output 1.3) the conditions for successful cooperation between providers and users of biological resources for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, digital sequence information on genetic resources, and traditional knowledge (in particular, the one coming from women, indigenous and local communities) associated with genetic resources will be improved. As a result, and provided that capacity is retained and exploited at national level, (SO1) biodiversity knowledge and knowledge management skills will be strengthened, decision-making will be well informed and benefit sharing from the use of biological resources will be improved. IF this happens THEN the action will contribute to improved decision-making in favour of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and more equitable benefit sharing from biological resources.

IF activities related to outputs 2.1 and 2.2 are undertaken AND beneficiary institutions as duty bearers at national level maintain active ownership of the programme THEN (Output 2.1) assessments of institutional and legislative issues affecting natural resources governance and sustainable and inclusive agri-value chains will be available for all actors, (Output 2.2) biodiversity will be mainstreamed into national and regional gender- responsive policies and practices, to implement the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, in particular in the agriculture sector and (Output 2.3) financial solutions for biodiversity at national level will be developed and their implementation supported in several partner countries. If this happens, AND beneficiary institutions formally maintain their endorsement of these policies and strategies, THEN (SO2) the Action will contribute to have the implementation of inclusive and gender-responsive national policies and legislations in partner countries strengthened, for biodiversity conservation and restoration

If activities related to output 3.1 are undertaken AND the beneficiary seek active ownership of the results, THEN (Output 3.1) biodiversity conservation and the recognition of women, indigenous peoples and local communities' rights will be reconciled and (Output 3.2) The involvement and effectiveness of civil society, including environmental human rights defenders, in conservation in biodiversity hotspots will be strengthened. If this happens, AND governments do not hinder this involvement THEN (SO3) civil society in developing countries will play a more prominent role regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

If decision-making and benefit sharing from biological resources are improved, national policies and legislations are revised, developed and implemented, domestic and international finance is mobilised for biodiversity, and the voice and role of the civil society is strengthened, THEN (impact) sustainable management, long term conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems will be enhanced as well as their contributions to poverty alleviation, gender equality, climate change mitigation and adaptation, security and stability.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Enhanced conservation/restoration of natural ecosystems, leading to enhanced contributions to poverty alleviation, climate change mitigation/adaptation, security and stability.	1 Red list index (proportion of species threatened with extinction, disaggregated by amphibians, mammals and birds) [GERF 1.7, SDG 15.5.1]	1 41% (amphibians), 26% (mammals), 14% (birds) [2022]	1 No less than 41% (amphibians), 26% (mammals), 14% (birds) [2030]	1 IUCN and BirdLife International	Not applicable
Outcome 1	1.Strengthened biodiversity knowledge and knowledge management skills in partner countries, for improving decision-making and benefit sharing from the use of biological resources	1.1 Number of competent institutions in partner countries using the decision-support tools or functions of the regional observatories and/or open biodiversity data available with EU support for data analysis, decision-making and/or reporting (disaggregated by country)	TBD	TBD	Implementing partner reports	Improved biodiversity knowledge and knowledge management capacity lead to better evidence-based decision making and more fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of biological resources. Capacity is retained and employed at local, national and regional level.
Outcome 2	2. National policies and legislations in partner countries strengthened, for biodiversity conservation and restoration	2.2 Revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments [SDG 15.b.1 (b)]	TBD	TBD	OECD reports	Governments formally endorse the revised policies and strategies
Outcome 3	3. Strengthened voice, role and action of the civil society, including IPLCs and women, regarding ecosystems conservation.	3.1 Number of community-led conservation initiatives implemented by civil society, including IPLCs	TBD	TBD	Implementing partner reports	Governments provide an environment supportive of increased involvement of civil society including IPLCs, women's organisations and environmental human rights defenders

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 The availability and accessibility of biodiversity data, information, and knowledge for decision makers are improved, to enhance the capacity of partner countries to meet their knowledge needs for the effective implementation of the GBF (<i>Global Biodiversity Information</i>).	1.1.1 Number of georeferenced species occurrence records openly published for the use of decision makers in partner countries	TBD according to the final outcome of the ongoing Biodiversity Information for Development programme	TBD	Implementing partner reports	More readily available and accessible biodiversity information, data and knowledge lead to better evidence-based decision making. Policy-makers are willing to integrate scientifically sound biodiversity information into existing decision-making processes.
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Regional observatories for biodiversity in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions are strengthened to enhance biodiversity knowledge management systems, skills and support to practitioners, and decision-makers (<i>Biodiversity Centres of Excellence</i>)	1.2.1 Number of tools for data and information management and analysis provided in the regional observatories 1.2.2 Number of visits on web sites of regional observatories	TBD	TBD	TBD	Beneficiary institutions and individuals seek active ownership of activities and their results
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3 The conditions for successful cooperation between providers and users of biological resources for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, digital sequence information on genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources are improved (<i>ABS/DSI</i>).	1.3.1 Number of partner countries that report on increases of aggregated monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, digital sequence information on genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources	TBD	TBD	Implementing partner reports	Actors from policy, business, academia and civil society are willing to work together on the effective implementation of benefit-sharing in the use of genetic resources, digital sequence information on genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. Willingness from local, national and regional authorities and organizations to streamline and harmonize fair and equal ABS and DSI frameworks and mainstream ABS in national and regional Biodiversity Strategies and

						Action Plans and other relevant policies.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Assessments of institutional and legislative issues affecting natural resources governance and sustainable agri-value chains are available for all actors (<i>Legal and Policy Support</i>)	2.1.1 Number of countries analysis completed and published	0 [2023]	15 [2029]	2.1.1 Implementing partner reports	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Biodiversity is mainstreamed into national and regional gender- responsive policies and practices to implement the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, in particular in the agriculture sector (<i>Mainstreaming Biodiversity</i>)	2.2.1 Number of countries with policies and practices in place that mainstream biodiversity in agricultural policy	TBD	TBD	2.2.1 Implementing partner reports	Beneficiary institutions at national level seek active ownership of the programme
Output 3 relating to Outcome 2	2.3 Financial solutions for biodiversity at national level are developed and their implementation is supported in several partner countries (<i>Resource Mobilization</i>)	2.3.1 Revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments (SDG indicator 15Ab)	TBD	TBD	UNSTAT(Information for the OECD PINE database collected via 200 country experts, including in government agencies, research institutes and international organisations.	Beneficiary institutions at national level maintain active ownership of the programme
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	3.1 Biodiversity conservation and the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities' rights are reconciled (<i>IPLCs in Biodiversity</i>)	3.1.1 Surface of protected and conserved areas under the formal ownership and management of IPLCs	TBD	TBD	World Database on Protected Areas	Political will for the inclusion of IPLCs in the design of systems of protected and conserved areas is reinforced and maintained.
Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	3.2 The involvement and effectiveness of civil society in conservation in biodiversity hotspots is strengthened (<i>Civil society in Biodiversity</i>)	3.2.1 Number of civil society organizations, engaged with active participation in conservation projects in biodiversity hotspots 3.2.2 Number of biodiversity hotspots with improved management	TBD	TBD	Implementing partner reports	Inclusive approaches to conservation lead to improved management of biodiversity hotspot

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 78 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁰.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The purpose of the grant is to support the achievement of Output 1.1.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Potential applicants for funding consists of international organisations as defined per article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation, with an experience in the mobilisation of data, skills and technologies to make biodiversity information freely available for science and decision making in EU partner countries.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Secretariat.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because GBIF holds a *de facto* monopoly in this field. In fact, it is the only aggregator of general data on biodiversity that is supported by national governments, through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by 64 countries. This situation of *de facto* monopoly results from the decision taken by OECD Science Ministers in April 1999 at the OECD special session of its Committee of Scientific and Technology Policy to create GBIF as the world's largest biodiversity databank, following the recommendations of the OECD Megascience Forum and Working Group on Biodiversity Informatics. Consequently, GBIF is the only entity able to collect public data on biodiversity and to guarantee that it remains openly available..Therefore no other candidate could qualify through a call for proposals.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because of the nature of the action requiring a specific type of beneficiary with specific competences, in line with article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation.

¹⁰ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.3.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

• A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with IUCN. This implementation entails part of the activities related to the achievement of Output 1.2 (Biodiversity Centres of Excellence) and 3.1 (IPLCs in Biodiversity). IUCN will take the lead on science advocacy, policy engagement and science-policy interface, training and capacity building and provide thematic support to the regional observatories. IUCN will coordinate closely with JRC, which will carry out another part of the programme through an administrative agreement (see § 4.3.4). The same applies for the activities related to the achievement of Output 3.1 (IPLCs in Biodiversity).

IUCN has been selected using the following criteria: a) thematic expertise, including in science-policy interface, biodiversity knowledge management, issues of governance, equity and rights related to protected and conserved areas; b) regional expertise and an anchorage in the Pacific and in the Caribbean regions (for output 1.2); c) capacity to connect all levels of decision-making; d) experience and operational capacity in managing EU funds.

IUCN is: i) an important policy and strategic interlocutor, because it is the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, with over 1,400 member organizations, with a strong reputation for providing high-quality scientific advice, supporting development of evidence-based policies and promoting best practices; ii) a key implementer for the delivery of the EU's development assistance, in particular the Biodiversity for Life (B4Life) initiative because of its thematic expertise, knowledge, resources and a strong presence in partner countries; iii) a holder of important normative and standard setting mandates because of its position of global authority on environmental issues.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity/entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.1.

• A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: a) experience in implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and related ABS policies in EU partner countries, b) experience in the development of ABS legal and administrative frameworks, and c) logistical capacity and presence in the field. This implementation entails the activities related to the achievement of Output 1.3 (ABS/DSI) of this action.

If negotiations fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.3

• A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This implementation entails the activities related to the achievement of Outputs 2.1 (Legal Policy Support) and 2.2 (Biodiversity mainstreaming in the agriculture sector) of this action, possibly in cooperation with other partners. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: a) international mandate, b) experience in analysis and development of legislations dealing with natural resources management and co-management approaches, c) experience in the promotion of sustainable agriculture, d) available resources and expertise in the area, e) presence in partner countries.

The choice of FAO is justified by its mandate and globally recognized normative and standard-setting expertise in relation with agriculture production and the management of forests and natural resources.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity/entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.1.

- A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This implementation entails the activities related to the achievement of Outputs 2.2 (Biodiversity Mainstreaming in other sectors) and 2.3 (Resource Mobilization) of this action, possibly in cooperation with other partners. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: a) international mandate related to biodiversity finance, b) specific thematic expertise in the implementation of financial solutions for biodiversity, c) logistical capacities (country offices in beneficiary countries).

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity/entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.1.

- A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the French Agency for Development (AFD). This implementation entails the activities related to the achievement of Outputs 3.2 (CSOs in Biodiversity) of this action. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: a) experience in capacity development for CSOs in the field of biodiversity conservation, b) experience in engaging with civil society, including indigenous peoples organisations, in the management of biologically rich and threatened ecosystems, c) experience with gender policies in conservation and awareness rising activities on gender issues with CSOs, d) well-established network in biodiversity hotspots and e) presence in EU partner countries.

AFD is best equipped for designing and implementing the activities relating to Output 3.2, as demonstrated by the successful management, since 2019, of the EU contribution to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a mechanism to support conservation of critical ecosystems through civil society organisations.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity/entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.1.

4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: a) experience in capacity building programmes for biodiversity data mobilization and use, b) experience in enabling open access to large volumes of new data on biodiversity in EU partner countries c) experience in enhancing multi-stakeholders collaborations in the field of biodiversity knowledge, d) presence in partner countries and e) demonstrated influence in the field of on decision makers and the scientific community in partner countries.

In the case that an agreement cannot be met with a pillar assessed international organisation or member state agency for the implementation of outputs 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 and 3.2, or under any other circumstance outside of the Commission's control, the Commission may resort to direct management (grants) for the achievement of corresponding activities, without a call for proposals. The direct grant(s) to non-governmental organisation(s) and/or non-pillar assessed international organization(s) without a call for proposals are justified in accordance to article 195(f) of the Financial Regulations, because the activities related to the aforementioned outputs require specific technical competences that are not widespread and which generally result of a high level of expertise and specialization in relation to:

- The management, analysis and dissemination of biodiversity information in the targeted regions for output 1.2
- The development of capacities of partner countries and entities on aspects related to the design and implementation of mechanisms supporting the sharing of benefits from biodiversity including from digital sequencing information for output 1.3

- The development of legal systems and regulations of partner countries, the development of national and regional policies and the mobilisation of resources, in relation with the protection of biodiversity for respectively outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3
- The active participation and building of capacities of indigenous peoples and local communities in the protection and conservation of biodiversity for output 3.1

The support to and capacity building of Civil Society Organisations in the protection of biodiversity for output 3.2

4.3.4 Other actions or expenditure

Part of this action may be implemented through a Service Level Agreement with the Commission (DG JRC) to mobilize its expertise in the achievement of a part of output 1.2 of the Action given its specific expertise in knowledge management systems and its long-term cooperation with regional observatories on biodiversity. JRC will take the lead for implementation of activities relating to further developing the regional reference information systems and the specific tools of the observatories; it will provide technical and scientific support to the observatories in data access and knowledge generation. JRC will closely coordinate with IUCN.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)		
	2023	2024	2026
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3			
Output 1.1 – Global Biodiversity Information composed of			
Grants (direct management) – cf. Section 4.3.1 [<i>Global funding</i>]	4 000 000		
Output 1.2 – Biodiversity Centres of Excellence composed of			
Indirect management with IUCN – cf. Section 4.3.2 [<i>AsiaPac and LAC funding</i>]		3 500 000	
Implementation through Service Level Agreement with the Commission – cf section 4.3.4 [<i>AsiaPac and LAC funding</i>]		1 500 000	
Output 1.3 – ABS/DSI composed of			
Indirect management with an entrusted entity– cf. section 4.3.2 [<i>Global funding</i>]		2 000 000	

Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 – Legal and Policy Support and on Biodiversity Mainstreaming (in the agriculture sector) composed of			
Indirect management with FAO – cf. section 4.3.2 [<i>Global, SSA, AsiaPac and LAC funding</i>]	8 000 000	8 000 000	
Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 - Biodiversity Mainstreaming (in other sectors) and Resource Mobilization composed of			
Indirect management with UNDP – cf. section 4.3.2 [<i>Global, SSA, AsiaPac and LAC funding</i>]	3 000 000	12 000 000	3 000 000
Output 3.1 - IPLCs in Biodiversity composed of			
Indirect management with IUCN – cf. section 4.3.2 [<i>Global funding</i>]	5 000 000	3 000 000	
Output 3.2 – CSOs in Biodiversity composed of			
Indirect management with AFD – cf. section 4.3.2 [<i>AsiaPac and LAC funding</i>]		16 000 000	
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	May be covered by another Decision		
Totals	20 000 000	46 000 000	3 000 000

The budget and scope of the action may need to be reviewed following the outcome of the mid-term review of the programming expected in the spring 2024.

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Each output-related component will constitute an intervention that shall entail the participation of the Commission in a steering committee with the implementing partner and other donors, if any. In addition to its strategic function, the steering committee shall be responsible for the approval of progress reports, revision to the logframes and workplans.

The steering committee will be responsible for validating the selection of countries for each component, with due respect for the priorities of the Commission and complementarity with other interventions. This selection will make sure that expenditures are in line with the geographic origin of the budgetary allocations.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of

achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex and age, and disability if possible.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

The relevant implementing partner will be responsible for data collection, analysis and monitoring of each intervention.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the Action, evaluations will be carried out for each component of the Action individually. The evaluation methods will be adapted to the specific situation of each component. Where needed, gender and human rights expertise will be included during evaluation missions.

If a mid-term evaluation is envisaged, it will be carried out for problem-solving and learning purposes, in particular with the aim of sharing lessons learned from experience with other components of the action and assess the need for a potential second phase of the Action. If a final or ex post evaluation is envisaged, it will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that parts of the activities are of a recurrent nature.

Evaluation shall also assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities. The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁴. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project. The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 "[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement

as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as :

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Grant for the implementation of Output 1.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Contribution agreement with an entrusted entity for the implementation of Output 1.3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Contribution agreement with FAO for the implementation of Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 (partially)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	Contribution agreement with UNDP for the implementation of Output 2.2 (partially) and 2.3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	Contribution agreement with IUCN for the implementation of Output 3.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 6	Contribution agreement with AFD for the implementation of Output 3.2
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	Contribution agreement with IUCN and Service level agreement with JRC for the implementation of Output 1.2

Appendix 2 BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS BY CONTRACT

Indicative Budget Components	Potential Implementing Partner	EU contribution (amount in million EUR)		Budgetary years and budget lines							
			2023	2024							2026
			GC	GC	SSA	AsiaPac			LAC		SSA
					All	ME/CA	S/SEA	Pac	Americas	Caribbean	All
Output 1.1 - Global Biodiversity Information	Grant	4	4								
Output 1.2 - Biodiversity Centres of Excellence	IUCN	3,5						2		1,5	
	JRC	1,5						1		0,5	
Output 1.3 - ABS/DSI	entrusted entity	2		2							
Output 2.1 - Legal and Policy Support	FAO	8	8								
Output 2.2 - Biodiversity mainstreaming in Agriculture	FAO	8		2	3	1	1		1		
Output 2,2 - Biodiversity mainstreaming in other sectors	UNDP	18	3		2	2,5	2,5		3	2	3
Output 2.3 - Resource mobilization											
Output 3.1 - IPLCs in Biodiversity	IUCN	8	5	3							
Output 3.1 - CSOs in Biodiversity	AFD	16				3	6	3	4		
TOTAL		69	20	7	5	6.5	9.5	6	8	4	3