



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# Framework for a national nature strategy

Facilitating the development of  
national nature strategies that are  
aligned with the Convention on  
Biological Diversity

October 2023





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Economic Commission for Africa

# FRAMEWORK FOR A NATIONAL NATURE STRATEGY

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Publications Section  
Economic Commission for Africa P.O. Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: +251 11 544-9900  
Fax: +251 11 551-4416  
E-mail: [eca-info@un.org](mailto:eca-info@un.org)  
Web: [www.uneca.org](http://www.uneca.org)

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**Disclaimer:** *The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States. To the best of the authors' knowledge, this document is up to date as of October 2023.*

## Definition of key terms used in this report

<b>Biodiversity<sup>1</sup></b>	The variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
<b>Ecosystem services<sup>2</sup></b>	Contributions of ecosystems to the benefits that are used in economic and other human activity.
<b>Environmental assets<sup>3</sup></b>	The naturally occurring living and non-living components of the earth, together constituting the biophysical environment, which may provide benefits to humanity.
<b>Ecosystem assets<sup>4</sup></b>	Contiguous spaces of a specific ecosystem type characterized by a distinct set of biotic and abiotic components and their interactions.
<b>Nature<sup>5</sup></b>	The natural world with an emphasis on its living components.
<b>Natural capital<sup>6</sup></b>	The stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (e.g., plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits or “services” to people.

1 United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

2 *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting* (United Nations publication, 2021). Available at: [seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting](https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting).

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), *glossary* (2021). Available at: [www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/nature](https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/nature).

6 Natural Capital Coalition, (London, 2016). Available at: [capitalscoalition.org/capitals-approach/natural-capital-protocol/?fwp\\_filter\\_tabs=training\\_material](https://capitalscoalition.org/capitals-approach/natural-capital-protocol/?fwp_filter_tabs=training_material).

## Executive summary

The economies of African countries, like those of countries in other global regions, are heavily reliant on natural resources. Nature loss and degradation pose significant risks for economic development and well-being. Investments to protect and restore natural environments can help safeguard African and other global regions from risks associated with environmental degradation and unlock new economic opportunities.

A national nature strategy can facilitate countries' efforts to navigate an increasingly complicated normative landscape characterized by numerous compliance obligations and commitments, including those stemming from the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and countries' nationally determined contributions. National nature strategies can help countries respond to nature-related risks and opportunities, align policies with international, regional and market priorities, and make implementation and reporting more efficient. National nature strategies can also help countries improve climate-related outcomes at the many points where nature interacts with the climate.

In this report, the authors present a framework that can facilitate efforts by African and other countries to draw up and implement national nature strategies. The framework provides start-to-finish guidance and covers the implementation of nature assessments, the establishment of a national vision and related targets, the development of a strategy to deliver on those targets, strategy implementation, the exploitation of nature-related opportunities, the management of nature-related risks, and compliance with international obligations, such as those stemming from the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and from national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The strategy was developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, nature experts and representatives of non-governmental and multilateral organizations.

The framework comprises four components, namely: (I) Baseline and ambition: reasons for a national nature strategy and outcomes to aim for; (II) Initiatives: actions to take in order to achieve the aforementioned outcomes; (III) Instruments: incentivizing action to achieve desired outcomes; and (IV) Governance and implementation: planning and implementing the strategy and assigning responsibilities.

Four levels of detail are presented:

- A. *Components and subcomponents: as illustrated in figure 1, the framework has four components and 14 subcomponents.*



**Figure I**

**Components and subcomponents of the framework**

	I	II	III	IV
<b>Components</b>	<b>I</b> <b>Baseline and ambition</b>	<b>II</b> <b>Initiatives</b>	<b>III</b> <b>Instruments</b>	<b>IV</b> <b>Governance Implementation</b>
	Assess the state of nature and define a vision for nature outcomes with targets and/or goals	Identify and prioritize initiatives to implement the vision, by sector	Establish a suite of policy and financing instruments	Develop governance arrangements and an implementation plan
<b>Subcomponents</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural capital assessment</li> <li>2. Public and private case for nature</li> <li>3. Vision and targets</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Impact initiatives</li> <li>5. Cross-cutting initiatives</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Regulatory and voluntary instruments</li> <li>7. Economic and financial instruments</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Institutions</li> <li>9. Stakeholder engagement</li> <li>10. Resource mobilization</li> <li>11. Political support and alignment</li> <li>12. Measurement</li> <li>13. Transparency and disclosure</li> <li>14. Implementation</li> </ol>

*B. Questions, outputs and options: the framework sets out a number of guiding questions that a country should aim to answer when building its nature strategy. The framework also sets out potential responses to key questions and suggests a number of outputs across subcomponents.*

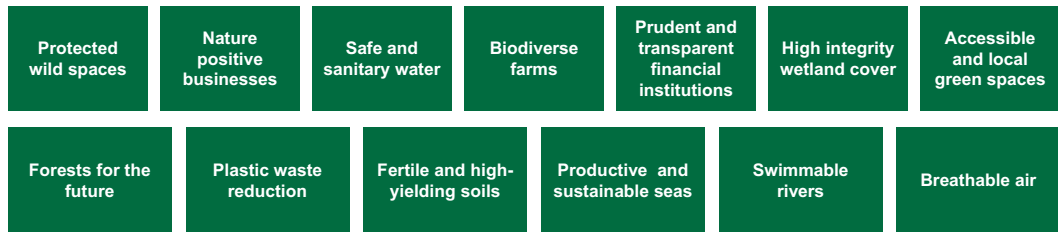
The questions act as a guide, with answers to those questions reflected in outputs, and establish a foundation for a country’s national nature strategy. Not all outputs will necessarily be made available in the form of publically-accessible documents. Outputs can be used to communicate relevant information or decisions taken, stimulate discussion and facilitate planning.

For example, for subcomponent 4 (Impact initiatives), an example question included in the framework is “What initiatives could be developed, and where would they be feasible?” The output for that subcomponent is a list of initiatives, each with a narrative statement, objectives and a list of prioritized levers, enablers and supporting activities.

Options are provided in the form of option sets, with one set offered for each of the choices to be made. The options serve as a source of inspiration that can be adapted to reflect the priorities and needs of a particular country. For subcomponent 4 (Impact initiatives), for example, the options given provide a starting point for the development of a range of initiatives (see figure II).

**Figure II**

**Options provided under subcomponent 4: Impact initiatives**



- C. *Curated guidance: the framework offers a list of resources to which a country can refer to obtain further information and guidance; and*
- D. *Exhibits and tools: the framework highlights examples and tools from the curated guidance that might be helpful in answering questions and in building suggested outputs.*

The national nature strategy preparation process is dynamic and iterative. In practice, countries are likely to begin that process by focusing on the governance and implementation component, establishing some of the necessary institutional structures and facilitating stakeholder engagement. Thereafter, outputs will go through a process of iteration and improvement.

Section 3 of the present report, on implementation, sets out a work plan and suggests how subcomponents could be sequenced. For example, a country might use a gap assessment to analyse how current coverage compares against a range of criteria, such as Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets or other targets set by the country in question. This could provide a country with an initial indication of the baseline maturity of components that could be incorporated into its nature strategy, and where more or less effort might be required. The section also illustrates how the prioritization of initiatives could be used to establish the sequence with which activities are to be implemented.

The aim of the framework is to accelerate the development of national nature strategies. It has been drafted in line with the provisions of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and a number of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and provides systematic guidance that countries may find helpful when formulating their national nature strategies.



## Introduction

In the present report, the authors present a framework that can facilitate efforts by African and other countries to formulate national nature strategies. The framework provides systematic guidance to help relevant stakeholders formulate and present key questions, gather evidence and identify and implement solutions with a view to safeguarding and restoring countries' national capital.

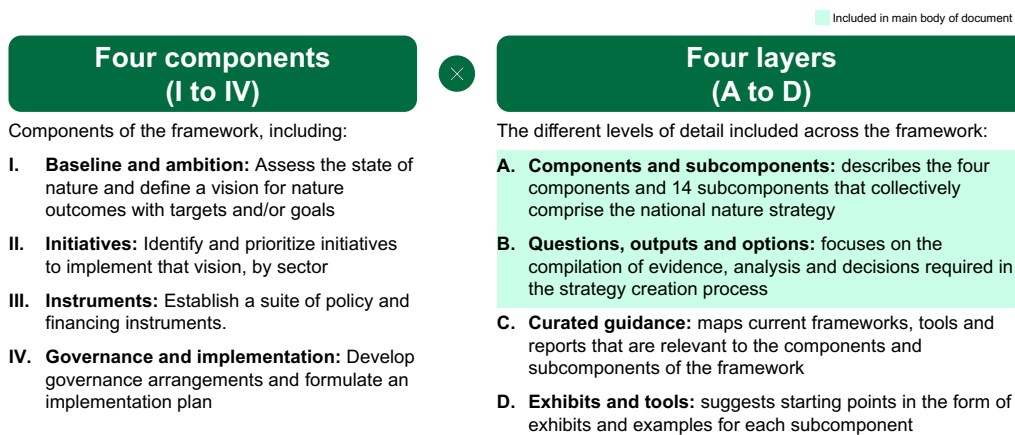
Efforts have been made to ensure that the framework sets out clear and actionable measures to accelerate the development of national nature strategies. The framework provides start-to-finish guidance and covers the implementation of nature assessments, the establishment of a national vision and related targets, the development of a strategy to deliver on those targets, strategy implementation, the exploitation of nature-related opportunities, the management of nature-related risks, and compliance with international obligations, such as those stemming from the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and from national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The strategy was developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, nature experts and representatives of non-governmental and multilateral organizations, and was piloted in collaboration with stakeholders in Ghana, including government representatives.

This framework is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to which it makes reference, and, where relevant, incorporates guidance prescribed in the Convention on Biological Diversity across components and subcomponents. Building on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the framework provides for the formulation of national nature strategies whose scope extends beyond biodiversity, water and air quality, will facilitate discussions on potential policy initiatives, and will facilitate the development of financing instruments to support strategy formulation and implementation.

The framework comprises four components, namely: (I) Baseline and ambition; (II) Initiatives; (III) Instruments; and (IV) Governance and implementation. The framework provides four levels (layers) of detail: (A) Components and subcomponents; (B) Questions, outputs and options; (C) Curated guidance; and (D) Exhibits and tools. An overview of the components and layers is provided in figure III. The framework transitions in its approach from high-level to detailed in order to suit the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders.

### Figure III

#### The four components and four layers of the framework



This remainder of the present report is structured as follows: in section 1 (Context), the authors describe the need for and benefits of national nature strategies. Section 2 (Framework) presents the structure of the framework, providing an overview of layer A (Components and subcomponents) and layer B (Questions, outputs and options). In section 3 (Implementation), the authors discuss strategy implementation, while section 4 (Annex) provides an overview of the layer C (Curated guidance) and layer D (Exhibits and tools).

# 1. Context

The economies of African countries, like those of countries in other global regions, are heavily dependent on natural resources.<sup>7</sup> However, the natural capital of many African countries is declining rapidly. This is of particular concern as some 70 per cent of people in sub-Saharan Africa depend on forests and woodlands for their livelihoods.<sup>8</sup> There is diverse and substantial evidence of environmental degradation on the continent: some 25 per cent of African countries are now under water stress, some countries lost as much as 30 per cent of their tree cover between 2001 and 2022, nearly 75 per cent of deserts and drylands are degraded, and some 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) is lost annually from soil and nutrient depletion.<sup>9,10,11,12</sup>

Nature loss and degradation pose significant risks for economic development and well-being. Africa loses approximately \$195 billion in natural capital annually through unsustainable or illicit activities.<sup>13</sup> In the real economy, nature loss can undermine growth in sectors that are particularly reliant on nature, including the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors, which together generated some 17 per cent of GDP in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022.<sup>14</sup> This translates into risk in the finance sector, where, as illustrated in figure IV, nature-related risks could roughly double expected financing losses in agriculture in some finance portfolios by 2030. Additionally, many tropical West African countries could experience a 30 per cent decrease in marine fishery catches by 2050, resulting in a significant reduction in the dietary protein available to millions of Africans.<sup>15</sup>

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7 World Economic Forum, "Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy", New Nature Economy series (Geneva, World Economic Forum, 2020). Available at: [www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_New\\_Nature\\_Economy\\_Report\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_New_Nature_Economy_Report_2020.pdf).

8 African Development Bank Group, "African Green Growth Readiness Assessment" (January 2022). Available at: <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/africa-green-growth-readiness-assessment>.

9 Matt Luch, Matt Landis and Francis Gassert, "Aqueduct Water Stress Projections: Decadal Projections of Water Supply and Demand Using CMIP5 GCMs", technical note (Washington D.C., World Resources Institute, 2015). Available at: [www.wri.org/research/aqueduct-water-stress-projections-decadal-projections-water-supply-and-demand-using-cmip5](http://www.wri.org/research/aqueduct-water-stress-projections-decadal-projections-water-supply-and-demand-using-cmip5). Water stress level based on analysis by Vivid Economics; water stress projections assuming a representative concentration pathway (RCP) of 8.5 (a "business-as-usual" scenario).

10 Global Forest Watch, "Forest Change" dashboard. Available at: [www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/global/](http://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/global/) (accessed on 1 October 2023).

11 United Nations, Convention to Combat Desertification, Annex I: Africa. Available at: [www.unccd.int/convention/regions/annex-i-africa](http://www.unccd.int/convention/regions/annex-i-africa).

12 World Resources Institute, "African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100): Restoring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded land in Africa by 2030" (n.d.) Available at: [www.wri.org/initiatives/african-forest-landscape-restoration-initiative-afr100](http://www.wri.org/initiatives/african-forest-landscape-restoration-initiative-afr100).

13 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "Is Africa's Natural Capital the Gateway to Finance Its Development?" (September 2016). Available at: [www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/africas-natural-capital-gateway-finance-its-development](http://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/africas-natural-capital-gateway-finance-its-development).

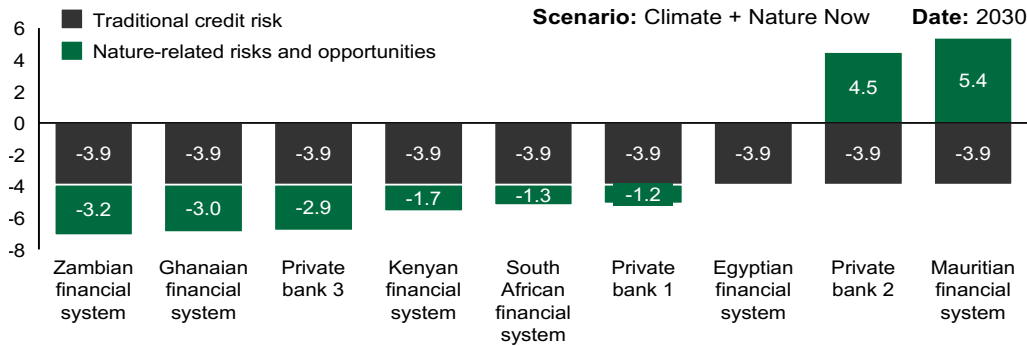
14 World Bank, "Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP) – Sub-Saharan Africa", World Bank Open Data. Available at: [data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=ZG&name\\_desc=false](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=ZG&name_desc=false) (accessed on 1 October 2023).

15 World Bank, Climate Change and Marine Fisheries in Africa: Assessing Vulnerability and Strengthening Adaptation Capacity (Washington, D.C., World Bank Group Publications, 2019). Available at: [documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/280891580715878729/pdf/Climate-Change-and-Marine-Fisheries-in-Africa-Assessing-Vulnerability-and-Strengthening-Adaptation-Capacity.pdf](http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/280891580715878729/pdf/Climate-Change-and-Marine-Fisheries-in-Africa-Assessing-Vulnerability-and-Strengthening-Adaptation-Capacity.pdf).

**Figure IV**

**Changes in expected losses for lending to agriculture by lender, 2030**

(Percentage of loan book value)



**Source:** Nature and financial institutions in Africa: A first assessment of opportunities and risks (McKinsey & Company, 2022).

Investments to restore and protect nature can unlock new economic opportunities and shield the region from risks. The continent’s nature endowment offers African countries a competitive advantage. For example, its vast coastline provides an opportunity for the development of the blue economy, which could generate \$576 billion a year and create 127 million jobs by 2063 through research, innovation, and ecosystem management.<sup>16</sup> As part of the growth of the blue economy, marine and coastal tourism could generate \$100 billion a year in revenue and employ 28 million people by 2030. Overall, a nature-positive transition and efforts to restore and safeguard natural environments have the potential to mobilize \$10 trillion in investments and create 395 million jobs by 2030.<sup>17</sup>

Increasingly, safeguarding nature is viewed as a priority at the national, regional, global and corporate levels. At the national level, 13 countries have drafted legislation on ecocide and codified crimes against the environment,<sup>18</sup> while more than 190 countries have developed national biodiversity strategies and action plans.<sup>19</sup> At the regional level, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union has established a goal of environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies. In 2022, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment recognized that nature underpins the region’s economy and reaffirmed its support for efforts to safeguard the environment.<sup>20</sup> At a global level, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which has been endorsed by more than 190 countries, establishes 23 global targets to be achieved by 2030 and four goals to be achieved by 2050. Furthermore, the

16 UNEP, Africa Environment Outlook for Business: Our Environment Our Wealth (Nairobi, August 2023). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.59117/20.500.11822/43127>.

17 Ibid.

18 Ecocide law, “Ecocide law in national jurisdictions”, database. Available at: [ecocidelaw.com/existing-ecocide-laws/](http://ecocidelaw.com/existing-ecocide-laws/) (accessed on 18 October 2023).

19 Convention on Biological Diversity, “Search NBSAPs and National reports”, database. (accessed on 18 October 2023). Available at: [www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/](http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/).

20 UNEP, “About ACMEN” (n.d.). Available at: [www.unep.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment/about-amcen](http://www.unep.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment/about-amcen).

17 Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development include Goals pertaining to the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, the sustainable management of forests, the reversal of land degradation and the prevention of biodiversity loss. At its 2023 summit, the Group of 20 affirmed its commitment to preventing land degradation and managing water resources sustainably, while at the 2023 Group of Seven Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment, ministers agreed on actions to reverse biodiversity loss and made a commitment to increase funding to that end.

At a corporate level, nature-related standards have been established by a number of organizations, including the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, the Science Based Targets Network, the International Sustainability Standards Board of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation and the Climate Disclosure Standards Board, prompting some business enterprises to set nature targets that complement their net zero carbon emission commitments. The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, which launched its most recent framework in September 2023, has established standards for nature disclosures, including in connection with risk and impact measurements.<sup>16</sup> The Science Based Targets initiative and the Science Based Targets Network lay out standards for climate and nature-related target setting. The Science Based Targets Network released initial guidance in some areas in May 2023 and that initiative is currently in the piloting stage.<sup>21</sup> The International Sustainability Standards Board of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation launched its first two sustainability disclosure standards in June 2023,<sup>22</sup> while the Climate Disclosure Standards Board published biodiversity guidance in November 2022.<sup>23</sup> About 1,800 companies and financial institutions are already taking action to align their activities with the objectives set out in one or more of those initiatives.

A national nature strategy can facilitate efforts by countries to articulate their national positions and uphold their international commitments, including those made in the context of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their nationally determined contributions. National nature strategies can help countries respond to nature-related risks and opportunities, align policies with national priorities, and make implementation and reporting more efficient. National nature strategies can also help countries uphold regional and global commitments and improve climate-related outcomes at the many points where nature interacts with the climate.<sup>24</sup>

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21 Science Based Targets Network, "The first science-based targets for nature". Available at: [sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/how-it-works/the-first-science-based-targets-for-nature/](https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/how-it-works/the-first-science-based-targets-for-nature/).

22 International Financial Reporting Standards, "General Sustainability-related Disclosures". Available at: [www.ifrs.org/projects/completed-projects/2023/general-sustainability-related-disclosures/](https://www.ifrs.org/projects/completed-projects/2023/general-sustainability-related-disclosures/).

23 Climate Disclosure Standards Board, "CDSB Framework: Application guidance for biodiversity-related disclosures", November 2021. Available at: [www.cdsb.net/sites/default/files/biodiversity-application-guidance-single\\_disclaimer.pdf](https://www.cdsb.net/sites/default/files/biodiversity-application-guidance-single_disclaimer.pdf).

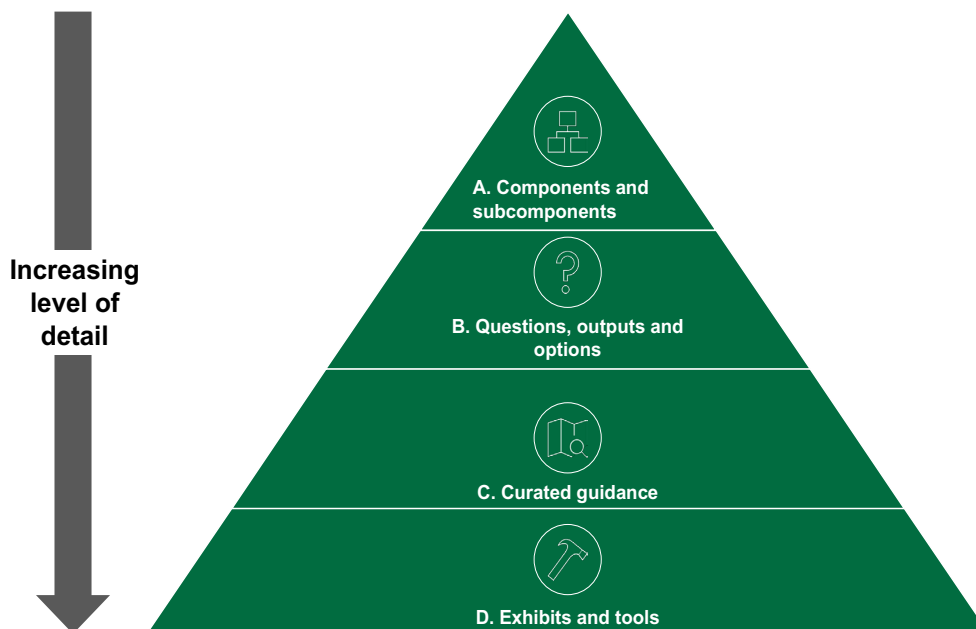
24 Finance for Biodiversity Initiative, The Climate-Nature Nexus: Implications for the Financial Sector (2021). Available at: <https://www.naturefinance.net/resources-tools/the-climate-nature-nexus-1/>.



## 2. Framework

The aim of the framework outlined in the present report is to provide systematic guidance that countries might find helpful in the formulation of their national strategies. As illustrated in figure V and as mentioned previously, the framework sets out four layers of detail: (A) Components and subcomponents; (B) Questions, outputs and options; (C) Curated guidance; and (D) Exhibits and tools. Layers A and B are described in the present chapter of the report, while layers C and D are described in the Annex.

**Figure V**  
Layers of the framework



### 2.1 Overview of layers A and B

#### 2.1.1 Layer A: Components and subcomponents

The framework comprises four components, namely: (I) Baseline and ambition: reasons for a national nature strategy and outcomes to aim for; (II) Initiatives: actions to take in order to achieve the aforementioned outcomes; (III) Instruments: incentivizing action to achieve desired outcomes; and (IV) Governance and implementation: planning and implementing the strategy and assigning responsibilities.

The framework includes the following 14 subcomponents:

## I. **Baseline and ambition**

1. **Natural capital assessment:** Diagnose the current state of the natural environment, assess trends and evaluate pressures on nature;
2. **Public and private case for nature:** Assess the social and economic benefits of protecting and restoring the natural environment, with particular attention given to key sectors;
3. **Vision and targets:** Articulate desired national outcomes with measurable targets/goals and a timeframe for their achievement;

## II. **Initiatives**

4. **Impact initiatives:** Define and select thematic programmes;
5. **Cross-cutting initiatives:** Provide supportive action, such as building capacity, promoting innovation, establishing nature markets and facilitating the disclosure of information;

## III. **Instruments**

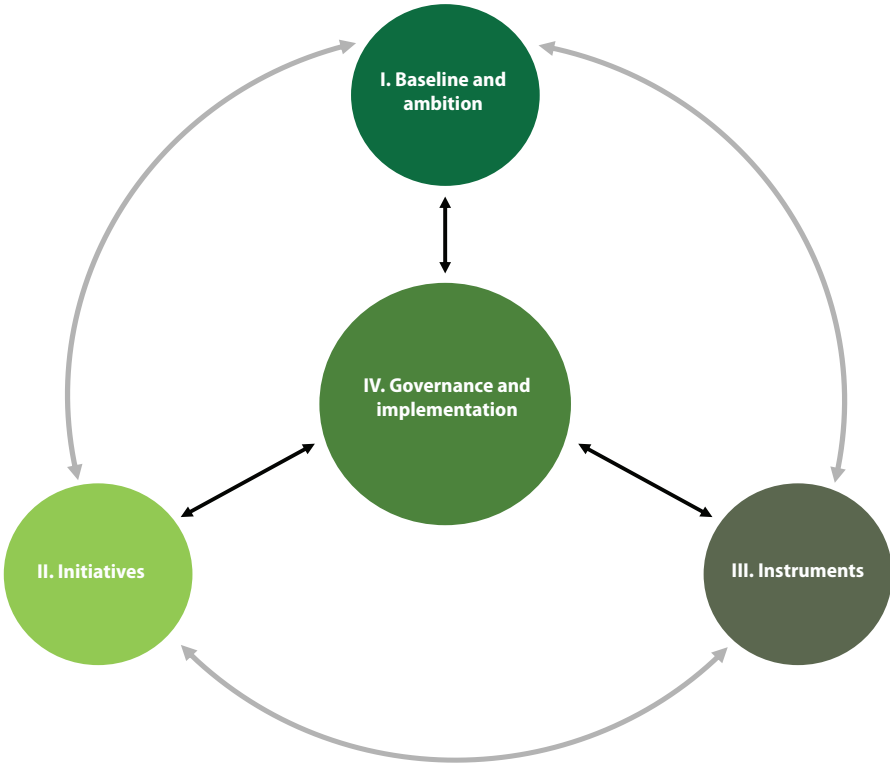
6. **Regulatory and voluntary instruments:** Identify policies that incentivize action;
7. **Economic and financial instruments:** Identify policies that incentivize the financing of nature recovery and protection initiatives.

## IV. **Governance and implementation**

8. **Institutions:** Develop institutional structures to implement, monitor and ensure delivery of the nature strategy;
9. **Stakeholder engagement:** Identify and engage with stakeholders;
10. **Resource mobilization:** Secure funding for implementation of the nature strategy;
11. **Political support and alignment:** Secure broad political support and ensure that the strategy incorporates key commitments;
12. **Measurement:** Select data and metrics;
13. **Transparency and disclosure:** Monitor, report and communicate on the strategy and progress made in that regard;
14. **Implementation:** Write a delivery plan.

The national nature strategy preparation process is dynamic and iterative. In practice, countries are likely to begin that process by focusing on the governance and implementation component, establishing some of the necessary institutional structures and facilitating stakeholder engagement. Consequently, and as illustrated in VI, the Governance and implementation component plays a central role. Thereafter, outputs will go through a process of iteration and improvement. For example, countries could begin their national nature strategy development process with an assessment of the state of nature and of pressure on their natural environments, and refine and improve that natural capital assessment as the strategy takes shape. Along the way, an initial set of targets might be proposed which could then be refined and improved through stakeholder engagement. Section 3 of the present report, on implementation, sets out a work plan and suggests how subcomponents could be sequenced.

**Figure VI**  
Interaction among the components of the framework: a dynamic and iterative process



### 2.1.2 Layer B: Questions, outputs and options

The following section sets out a series of questions, outputs and options relating to the national nature strategy. Those elements are not prescriptive or exhaustive and could be selected or adapted in line with national circumstances.

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### Box 1: Questions, outputs and options

**Questions:** Key considerations in the development of a national nature strategy.

**Outputs:** The products of each subcomponent, which incorporate the answers to the questions and facilitate efforts by stakeholders to develop and implement the strategy.

**Options:** A non-exhaustive and adaptable set of choices that can help stakeholders respond to the questions asked.

---

The questions act as a guide, with answers to those questions reflected in outputs, and establish a foundation for a country's national nature strategy. Not all outputs will necessarily be made available in the form of publically-accessible documents. Outputs can be used to communicate relevant information or decisions taken, stimulate discussion and facilitate planning.

Options are provided in the form of option sets, with one set offered for each of the choices to be made. The options serve as a source of inspiration that can be adapted to reflect the priorities and needs of a particular country.

Below, we set out the questions, outputs and options under each subcomponent.

## 2.2 Component I: Baseline and ambition

Component I (Baseline and ambition), facilitates efforts by country to assess the state of their natural environments and formulate a vision for nature outcomes with associated targets. Component I comprises three subcomponents, namely natural capital assessment, public and private case for nature, and vision and targets. Table 1 presents a definition for each subcomponent, and a set of questions that can facilitate progress towards prescribed outputs. The authors then set out three sets of options for classification systems on the definition of nature and the scope of natural capital (subcomponent 1), for communicating the public and private case for nature (subcomponent 2) and for setting nature-related targets (subcomponent 3).

**Table 1**

**Component I: Baseline and ambition – subcomponents, definitions, questions, outputs and associated layer D exhibits**

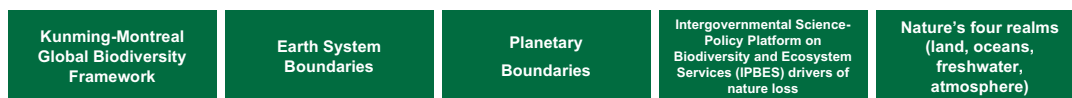
Subcomponent	Definition	Questions	Outputs	Layer D exhibits (see annex)
1. <b>Natural capital assessment</b>	Diagnose the current state of the natural environment, assess trends and evaluate pressures on nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What natural assets does the country have?</li> <li>• What is the current state of the natural environment, what trends are apparent and where is information lacking?</li> <li>• What are the pressures driving nature outcomes?</li> <li>• What are the natural assets that are impoverished or in decline? Which assets are particularly important and require urgent action?</li> </ul>	<b>Natural assets and risk register:</b> an assessment of the current state of the natural environment and natural capital trends	Box 3 Box 4 Box 5 Box 6 Box 7 Box 8  Box 9 Box 10 Box 11
2. <b>Public and private case for nature</b>	Assess the social and economic benefits of protecting and restoring the natural environment, with particular attention given to key economic sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What opportunities for economic growth and improved welfare can enhancement and protection of nature environments bring? Which economic sectors could be developed further?</li> <li>• How are the economy and its key sectors dependent on nature? What are the key risks to natural capital?</li> </ul>	<b>Public and private case for nature:</b> an assessment of why, where and when to invest in nature	Box 12 Box 13 Box 14
3. <b>Vision and targets</b>	Articulate desired national outcomes with measurable targets/goals and a timeframe for their achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the desired future state of nature in the country?</li> <li>• What are the country's short- and long-term targets?</li> <li>• What are the international commitments that the country has made or wishes to make?</li> </ul>	<b>Vision:</b> a vision developed or tested in collaboration with stakeholders <b>Targets:</b> a set of targets developed and tested in collaboration with stakeholders	Box 15 Box 16

## Baseline and ambition: Options

To carry out a natural capital assessment (subcomponent 1), countries must establish the scope and extent of their nature resources and perform a baseline assessment. To that end, they should adopt and make use of a classification system. Five options for classification systems are set out in VII. Countries are free, however, to establish classification systems on the basis of alternative criteria.

## Figure VII

### Classification systems that can help countries establish the scope and extent of their natural capital



The goals and targets established in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework offer one option for classifying natural capital.<sup>25</sup> While the Framework is extensive in scope, its focus is on biodiversity, including the threats to biodiversity posed by pollution, and the importance of protected areas in promoting biodiversity. If a country wishes to embrace a broader definition of nature, the Planetary Boundaries or the Earth System Boundaries frameworks are potential options that provide for national performance to be measured in relation to each boundary.<sup>26,27</sup> Further details on key concepts used in natural capital assessments are provided in boxes 3 to 11 in the present report (see annex).

A country may wish to highlight the rationale for its nature strategy, publicly and/or privately. The capacity to communicate that rationale clearly can support the development and rollout of the strategy by deepening the engagement and support of stakeholders and facilitating the mobilization of resources.

A number of options pertaining to countries efforts to communicate the public and private case for nature are set out in figure VIII. The relevance of each option will depend on the particular circumstances of the country in question and the stakeholders involved. Further details on ways to communicate the importance of efforts to safeguard nature, both with the general public and in private, are provided in boxes 12 to 14 in the present report (see annex).

<sup>25</sup> Conference to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, document CBD/COP/DEC/15/4. Available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> Johan Rockström and others, "A safe operating space for humanity", *Nature*, vol. 461, pp. 472–475 (September 2009). Available at: [www.nature.com/articles/461472a](http://www.nature.com/articles/461472a).

<sup>27</sup> Johan Rockström and others, "Safe and just Earth system boundaries: Supplementary information appendix", *Nature*, 619, pp. 102–111 (May 2023) Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06083-8>.

### Figure VIII

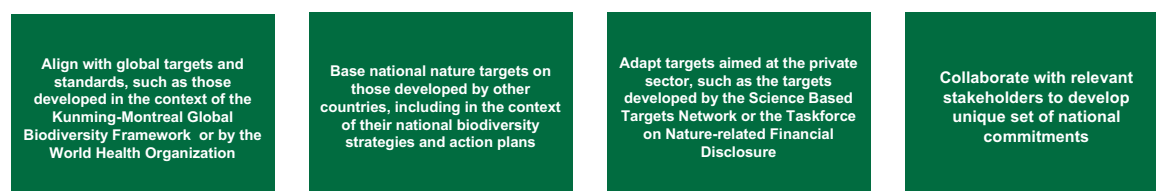
#### Options for communicating the public and private case for nature



When designing a set of targets, a country should endeavour to balance ambition and achievability, and might adopt an iterative approach in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to that end. As illustrated in figure IX, that approach could be based on various standards and targets.

### Figure IX

#### Options for setting nature-related targets



A country may wish to set its own framework of targets, which could be developed in collaboration with local stakeholders. In addition or alternatively, it could base its strategy on the goals and targets established in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly if it is a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity and will therefore be required to report on its progress towards implementation of the targets established by the Convention. An overview of the targets set out in the Convention is provided in box 16 to the present report (see annex). Countries could also adopt other global targets, such as the air quality targets established by the World Health Organization or targets established by other countries in the context of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. They could also base their strategies on the targets and objectives adopted by the Science Based Targets Network, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures or other relevant networks or entities.

## 2.3 Component II: Initiatives

The aim of Component II, Initiatives, is to facilitate efforts by countries to identify and prioritize initiatives that can help them achieve their vision for natural environments. Component II includes two subcomponents, namely impact initiatives and cross-cutting initiatives. Table 12, the authors present a definition for each subcomponent, and a set of questions that can facilitate progress towards pre-

scribed outputs. They also set out options for impact and cross-cutting initiatives (subcomponents 4 and 5, respectively). An impact initiative is a thematic programme of action that facilitates the achievement of targets, while a cross-cutting initiative is a collection of instruments and supporting components that enable multiple initiatives. Box 2 then provides definitions for a number of the terms used in this report, including impact initiatives, cross-cutting initiatives, levers, and instruments, together with relevant examples.

**Table 2**  
**Component II: Initiatives – subcomponents, definitions, questions, outputs and associated layer D exhibits**

Subcomponent	Definition	Questions	Outputs	Layer D exhibits (see annex)
4. <b>Impact initiatives</b>	Define and select thematic programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What initiatives could be developed, and where would they be feasible?</li> <li>• What are the country's high priority and urgent initiatives?</li> <li>• What levers are to be delivered?</li> <li>• What are the benefits, costs, returns on investment and distributional impacts?</li> </ul>	Initiatives: For each, a narrative statement should be developed, together with objectives and a list of prioritized levers, enablers and supporting activities	Box 17 Box 18 Box 19 Box 20 Box 21 Box 22
5. <b>Cross-cutting initiatives</b>	Provide supportive action, such as building capacity, promoting innovation, establishing nature markets and facilitating the disclosure of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What investment in capacity-building and information disclosure support the vision?</li> <li>• What opportunities are there for investing in innovation to reduce the cost of strategy implementation?</li> <li>• What opportunities are there for creating nature markets or rights of nature?</li> </ul>		Box 23



## Box 2: Terms used in the present report, together with relevant examples

A vision is a concise, aspirational statement that clearly articulates the outcomes a country wishes to achieve in nature in the future. For example, “nature, now and in the future, is healthy and resilient to threats, understood, and valued”.

Targets are quantifiable and, if achieved, imply material progress towards the fulfilment of the vision. For example, “no net forest loss by 2030”.

An impact initiative is a programme formulated around a theme that might drive towards one or several targets and can be used in communication with and coordination among parties. For example, “Forests for the future”. An initiative can be a collection of levers, instruments and supporting elements.

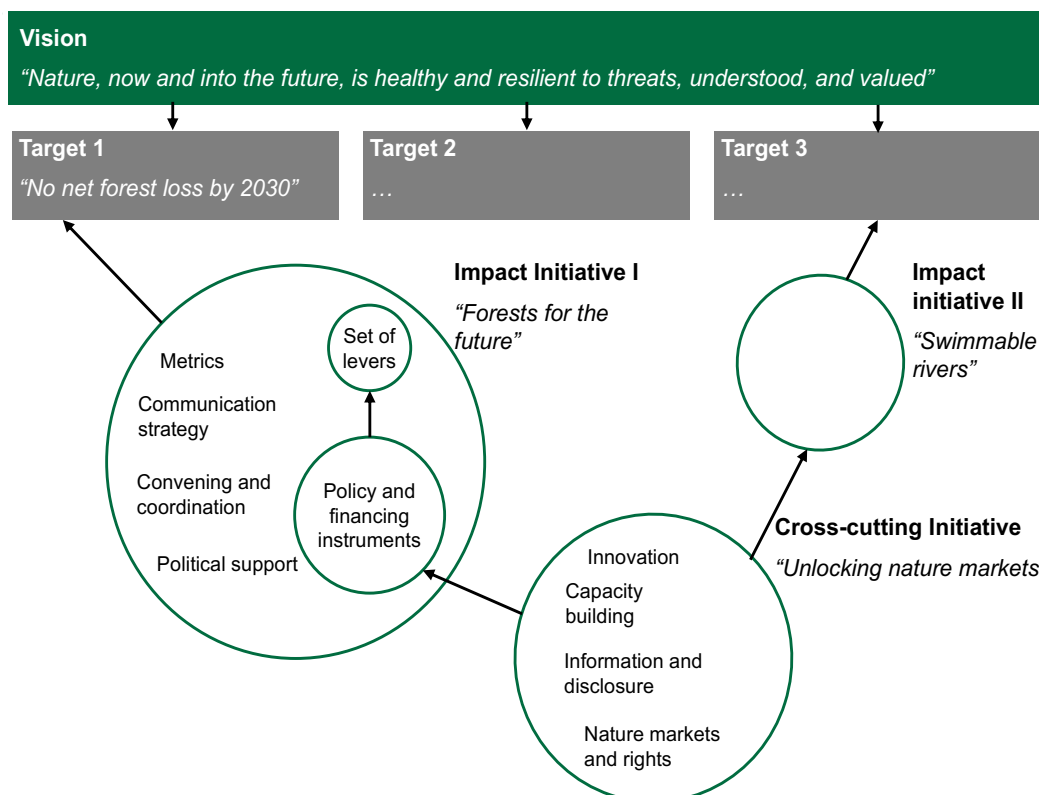
Levers are actions that directly deliver improved nature outcomes. For example, afforestation by planting trees on degraded agricultural land.

Instruments are incentives that stimulate the adoption of levers. For example, specific payments made to incentivize land restoration.

Supporting elements, may include metrics (performance indicators) and a communication strategy to convene and coordinate support.

A cross-cutting initiative is a collection of instruments and supporting components that enable multiple initiatives. For example, the establishment of carbon and/or nature credit markets.

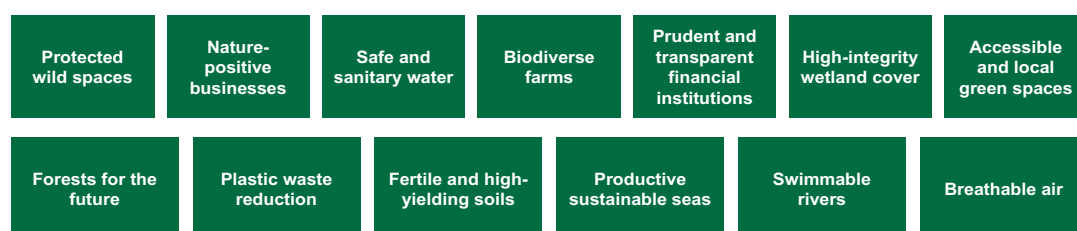
The following figure illustrates the interconnectivity of several of those terms:



## Initiatives: Options

**Impact initiatives** are thematic programmes of actions. They are a package that can be communicated clearly and understood by the public and/or specific individuals or groups who are likely to be affected. Those actions might include multiple levers, instruments and supporting components that, implemented together, can facilitate the achievement of intended outcomes. The options outlined in figure X are offered for inspiration and illustrate the types of impact initiatives that could be formulated.

**Figure X**  
Options for setting impact initiatives



Further details on how countries could select and prioritize initiatives are provided in boxes 17 to 22 in the annex to this report.

**Cross-cutting initiatives** facilitate implementation of impact initiatives through supporting activities, including capacity-building, promoting innovation, and monitoring and enforcement activities. XI illustrates possible cross-cutting initiatives that could be incorporated into a country's national nature strategy. Further information on the types of cross-cutting initiative that countries could consider is provided in box 23 in the annex to this report.

**Figure XI**  
Options for setting cross-cutting initiatives



## 2.4 Component III: Instruments

Component III, Instruments, includes two subcomponents, namely regulatory and voluntary instruments, and economic and financial instruments. In table 3, the authors present a definition for each subcomponent, and a set of questions that can facilitate progress towards prescribed outputs. They also set out options for regulatory and voluntary instruments (subcomponent 6) and economic and financing instruments (subcomponent 7).

**Table 3**

**Component III: Instruments – subcomponents, definitions, questions, outputs and associated layer D exhibits**

Subcomponent	Definition	Questions	Outputs	Layer D exhibits (see annex)
6. <b>Regulatory and voluntary instruments</b>	Policies that incentivize action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What policy instruments are already in place?</li> <li>• What is the impact of those instruments?</li> <li>• How much revenue is generated by existing instruments and where is it spent?</li> <li>• What is the full range of possible policy instruments, including enhancements to existing instruments?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Extensive list of regulatory and voluntary instruments:</b> An extensive list of potential instruments should be compiled to help achieve progress towards targets</p> <p><b>Prioritized instruments:</b> A shortlist of prioritized and selected instruments, grouped into initiatives, should be compiled</p>	Box 24 Box 25 Box 26 Box 27
7. <b>Economic and financial instruments</b>	Policies that incentivize the financing of nature recovery and protection initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the current rate of net investment in nature from public and private sources?</li> <li>• What economic and financial instruments are already in place?</li> <li>• What is the full range of possible economic and financial instruments, including enhancements to existing instruments?</li> <li>• What are the prioritization criteria for shortlisting instruments?</li> <li>• How could the shortlisted instruments facilitate progress towards the country's priority targets and initiatives?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Extensive list of financial instruments:</b> An extensive list should be compiled of potential financial instruments with the potential to drive action and investment</p> <p><b>Prioritized instruments:</b> A shortlist of prioritized and selected instruments, grouped into initiatives, should be compiled</p>	Box 28 Box 29 Box 30

## Instruments: Options

Once a country has decided which actions to take with regard to nature, it must adopt a range of policy and financial instruments to support implementation of those actions. A non-exhaustive list of options in that regard is provided in figures XII and XIII.

**Figure XII**

**Options for regulatory and voluntary instruments**

Command and control	End of pipe or ambient standards	Rights of nature in law	Licensing	Bans and prohibitions	Permits (including tradeable permits/quotas)	Land use restrictions	Process regulation
Market-driven	Corporate nature positive alignment	Corporate nature risk disclosure	Supply chain assurance	Nature positive goods and services	Carbon credit codes	Voluntary agreements	
Information	Guidance	Community programmes	Convening	Training	Naming and shaming	Demonstrations	Technical assistance

**Figure XIII**

**Options for economic and financial instruments**

Economic instruments	Voluntary carbon markets	Compliance emissions trading scheme	Performance/innovation prizes	Deposit-refund schemes	Advance market commitment	Nature credit markets	Liability for ecocide	Fees/charges	Payments for ecosystem services
Financial instruments	Blended finance funds	Public-private partnerships	Insurance	Credit lines	Nature-linked loans	Debt for nature swaps	Technical assistance		
Fiscal instruments	Subsidies	Taxes (e.g. eco-taxes, levies on sustainable use)							

A range of instruments might be used to drive an outcome. For example, under an initiative entitled “Forests for the Future”, instruments could include the introduction of a tax on logging, creating protected areas with land use restrictions, and/or establishing training programmes in sustainable forestry management.

Instruments can be appraised against their expected impact, cost and ease of implementation, including the level of support they receive from stakeholders.

Further details on how countries could select and prioritize instruments are provided in boxes 23 to 30 in the annex to this report.

## 2.5 Component IV: Governance and implementation

Component IV, Governance and implementation, includes seven subcomponents, namely institutions, stakeholder engagement, resource mobilization, political support and alignment, measurement, transparency and disclosure, and implementation.

In table 4, the authors present a definition for each subcomponent, and a set of questions that can facilitate progress towards prescribed outputs. They also set out options for institutional arrangements (subcomponent 8) and for indicators or indices to help measure progress against established targets (subcomponent 12).

**Table 4**  
**Component IV: Governance and implementation – subcomponents, definitions, questions, outputs and associated layer D exhibits**

Subcomponent	Definition	Questions	Outputs	Layer D exhibits (see annex)
8. <b>Institutions</b>	Develop institutional structures and arrangements to support implementation and oversight of the country’s nature strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is responsible and accountable?</li> <li>• What capacity does the organizational structure have to deliver on the strategy?</li> <li>• How will the organizational structure and practices support diversity, equity and inclusion?</li> </ul>	<b>Governance structure:</b> Organizational structures and key roles and responsibilities must be established	Box 31 Box 32
9. <b>Stakeholder engagement</b>	Identify and engage with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are the stakeholders?</li> <li>• What are some best practices for engaging with indigenous people and local communities?</li> <li>• How will engagement ensure gender parity and representation of marginalized groups?</li> <li>• How will stakeholders be engaged?</li> </ul>	<b>Stakeholder engagement plan:</b> Knowledge should be accumulated, solutions identified and the use of resources coordinated in collaboration with a range of stakeholders <b>Diversity and inclusion policy:</b> Policies should be developed to promote diversity and inclusion in both internal and external teams	Box 33 Box 34

Subcomponent	Definition	Questions	Outputs	Layer D exhibits (see annex)
10. <b>Resource mobilization</b>	Secure funding for implementation of strategy-related initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the current rate of net investment in nature from public and private sources compare to the desired rate in the short, medium and long term?</li> <li>• How can investment in initiatives be incentivized?</li> <li>• Who will pay and by which means will payment be made?</li> <li>• How does the distribution of the funding burden compare with the distribution of benefits and the distribution of adverse impacts (the “polluter pays” principle)?</li> </ul>	<b>Resource mobilization plan:</b> A plan should be developed for the mobilization of resources for specific public and private sector investments	Box 35
11. <b>Political support and alignment</b>	Secure broad political support and promote long-term commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can broad political support be mobilized?</li> <li>• How can commitments be upheld in the context of political change (for example, through legislation)?</li> </ul>	<b>Political plan:</b> A long-term commitment should be made and long-term accountability ensured	Box 36
12. <b>Measurement</b>	Select appropriate data and metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What metrics should be used to measure progress?</li> <li>• What data, tools and infrastructure are needed?</li> <li>• How often will progress be measured and reported?</li> <li>• Who is responsible for monitoring and reporting progress?</li> </ul>	<b>Set of metrics:</b> A set of tools should be developed in order to measure progress	Box 37 Box 38 Box 39

Subcomponent	Definition	Questions	Outputs	Layer D exhibits (see annex)
13. <b>Transparency and disclosure</b>	Monitor, report and communicate the strategy and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where will the national nature strategy be published?</li> <li>• How often will the strategy be updated?</li> <li>• To whom will progress be reported?</li> <li>• What is the communication plan?</li> <li>• How will the private sector be encouraged or compelled to disclose relevant data?</li> </ul>	<b>Communications strategy:</b> A communications plan should be developed to explain the strategy and incentivize and coordinate action	Box 40
14. <b>Implementation</b>	Write a delivery plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the work plan for implementing the national nature strategy?</li> <li>• How will participants be made part of a learning system?</li> </ul>	<b>Implementation plan:</b> An implementation plan should be formulated; implementation of that plan should be overseen by a programme office <b>Operating cadence:</b> A plan should be developed to ensure that transformative actions maintain momentum	Section 3 (Implementation)

## Governance and implementation: Options

Countries may choose a lead institution to oversee implementation of the national nature strategy. That institution could be a ministerial department or public agency. Some non-exhaustive options for that lead institution are given in figure XIV. When choosing a lead organization, countries should ensure that that entity has the political capacity and resources to formulate and implement a national nature strategy. Apart from selecting a lead institution, a country might also map a delivery structure. Figure XIV also sets out options for delivery structures, and box 32 in the annex provides further details on each option.

**Figure XIV**  
Options for institutional arrangements

Lead institution	Ministry of the Environment	Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Planning	Office of the Environment / Environment Agency
Organizational options	Centrally managed (i.e. hub and spoke model)	Decentralized (e.g. management shared between partner organizations)	Mandated (tasks contracted on a case-by-case basis)	

Countries should establish a set of indicators to communicate overall progress. Examples of possible indicators are provided in figure XV. In addition to measuring impacts on natural capital, indicators measuring indirect progress may also be helpful. Those indicators could, for example, include the number of jobs created under a particular initiative or the total annual spend or investment in nature. Figure XV also introduces options on indices to measure biodiversity. Further details on two key indices, namely the Biodiversity Intactness Index and Mean Species Abundance index, are provided in box 37 in the annex.<sup>28,29</sup>

The monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets out indicators that countries should use to report on their compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>30</sup> An overview of those indicators, which could be adopted by countries in the context of their national nature strategies, is provided in box 38 in the annex to the present report.

**Figure XV**  
Indicator and index options for measuring and assessing progress against targets

Indicator categories	<b>Biodiversity</b> e.g. net gain <i>(detailed index examples provided below)</i>		<b>Conservation and protection</b> e.g. fraction of land/marine area protected; forest loss (percentage and hectares per year); International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List species change in abundance		<b>Resource use</b> e.g. Proportion of farmland overfarmed (percentage and hectares per year); minerals extracted (kg per year)	
	<b>Air quality</b> e.g. UNEP index rating		<b>Marine pollution</b> e.g. marine plastic debris density kg/m <sup>3</sup>		<b>Soil quality</b> e.g. soil pH	
Biodiversity indices	Biodiversity Intactness Index	Mean species abundance	Ecosystem integrity index	Species threat abatement and recovery	Potentially disappeared fraction	Biodiversity habitat index
						Biodiversity impact metric

28 Helen Phillips and others, "The Biodiversity Intactness Index – country, region and global-level summaries for the year 1970 to 2050 under various scenarios", data set. Natural History Museum, London. Available at: [data.nhm.ac.uk/dataset/biibte](https://data.nhm.ac.uk/dataset/biibte) (accessed on 18 October 2023).

29 Aafke Schipper and others, "Projecting terrestrial biodiversity intactness with GLOBIO 4". *Global Change Biology*, 26(2), pp. 760–771 (November 2019). Available at: [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.14848](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.14848).

30 Conference to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, document CBD/COP/DEC/15/5. Available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf).

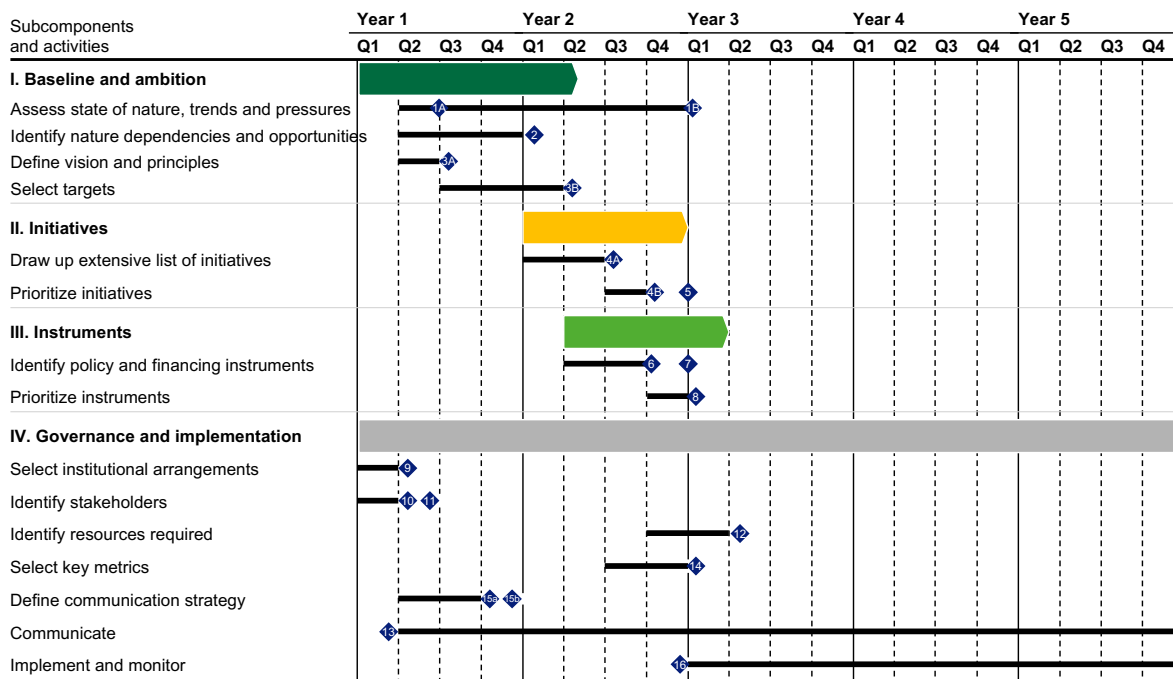


### 3. Implementation

In this section, the authors provide an overview of how countries can formulate their national nature strategies and implement strategy-related initiatives. While detailed instructions on the long-term delivery of a strategy are outside the scope of the framework, guidance is provided in this section to help countries embark on implementation, illustrating how components could be structured into an illustrative plan, suggesting an approach for initial assessments of current activities, and noting how reporting obligations could be factored in from the outset of the strategy development process.

Figure XVI provides an example of a plan for the creation and implementation of a national nature strategy, shows how subcomponents might be sequenced and lists the potential outputs of each. A country might, for example, begin the strategy development and implementation process by selecting a lead institution, mapping the stakeholders that are likely to be involved in the strategy development and implementation process, and formulating a stakeholder engagement plan.

**Figure XVI**  
Example of a plan for a national nature strategy



## Outputs

◆1a "Stocktake" rapid assessment	◆5 Supporting initiatives	◆12 Resource mobilization plan
◆1b Natural assets and risk register	◆6 Extensive list of policy instruments	◆13 Political plan
◆2 Public and private case for nature	◆7 Extensive list of economic and fiscal instruments	◆14 Set of metrics
◆3a Vision and principles	◆8 Prioritized instruments	◆15a Operating cadence
◆3b Targets	◆9 Governance structure	◆15b Communications strategy
◆4a Natural capital asset management plan	◆10 Stakeholder engagement plan	◆16 Implementation plan
◆4b List of priority initiatives	◆11 Diversity and inclusion policy	

Countries may wish to map the current state of their natural environments by analysing current activities in order to identify gaps and priority areas for action. A gap assessment could be used to analyse where a country already has some level of coverage against the elements set out in the national nature strategy framework. Figure XVII illustrates how the current activities of a hypothetical country could be mapped against the subcomponents of that framework. Each subcomponent has been given a score of between 0 and 2, where 0 indicates there are no or limited activities that address the subcomponent and 2 indicates that there are well-established and mature activities already underway. Such an analysis could provide a country with an indication of the baseline maturity of components forming a nature strategy, and where additional efforts may be required. It could also help to inform the timeline or sequencing of the implementation plan.

**Figure XVII**

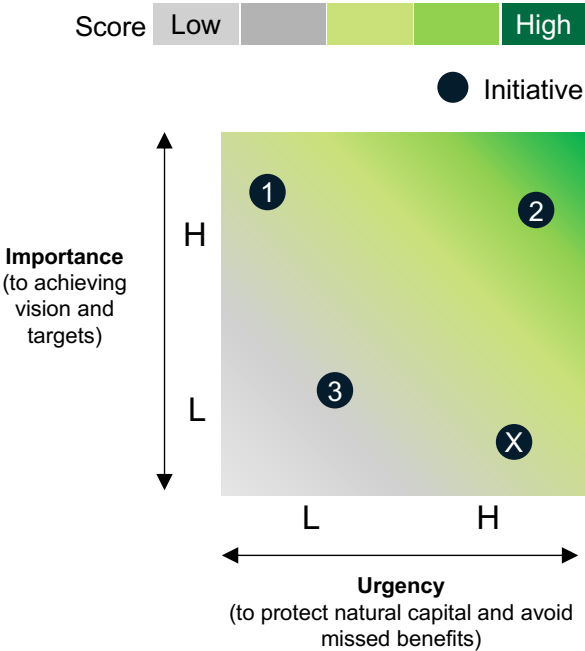
**Example of a gap analysis output, comparing current initiatives against framework components**

Component	Subcomponent	Existing coverage assessment
<b>I. Baseline and ambition</b>	1. Natural capital assessment	0
	2. Public and private case for nature	2
	3. Vision and targets	1
<b>II. Initiatives</b>	4. Impact initiatives	2
	5. Cross-cutting initiatives	0
<b>III. Instruments</b>	6. Regulatory and voluntary instruments	2
	7. Economic and financial instruments	0
<b>IV. Governance and implementation</b>	8. Institution	2
	9. Stakeholder engagement	1
	10. Resource mobilization	0
	11. Political support and alignment	2
	12. Measurement	0
	13. Transparency and disclosure	1
	14. Implementation	1

No or very limited limited
  Some coverage, but could scale further
  Coverage both well established and at sufficient scale

A gap assessment could also allow stakeholders to gain an initial understanding of the performance of activities against the targets established in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, or how different sectors compare in terms of their nature-related activities. Those baseline assessments can be helpful as a starting point when thinking about which initiatives to undertake, as well as for tracking progress relative to an initial starting point. Further examples of outputs can be found in box 21 in the annex to this report.

**Figure XVIII**  
 Example of a prioritization approach for initiatives



**Figure XIX**  
 Example of a prioritization timeframe for initiatives


	Near-term (1-2 years)	Mid-term (2-5 years)	Long-term (5+ years, or not at all)
Initiative 1			
Initiative 2			
Initiative 3			
...			
Initiative X			



## 4. Annex

### 4.1 Layer C: Curated guidance

In this section, a number of relevant frameworks, tools and reports are mapped against the components and subcomponents of the framework.

Component	Subcomponent	Type of guidance:													
		I. Baseline and ambition			II. Initiatives		III. Instruments		IV. Governance and implementation					Detailed process or tools	
		1. Natural capital assessment	2. Public and private case for nature	3. Vision and targets	4. Impact initiatives	5. Cross-cutting initiatives	6. Regulatory and voluntary instruments	7. Economic and financial instruments	8. Institutions	9. Stakeholder engagement	10. Resource mobilization	11. Political support and alignment	12. Measurement	13. Transparency and disclosure	14. Implementation
 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Ensuring Inclusive Societal Engagement in the Development, Implementation and Updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans <a href="#">Getting political support for the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and financing their implementation</a> <a href="#">Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</a> <a href="#">Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans</a> <a href="#">Using the Biodiversity Planning Process to Prepare or Update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</a> <a href="#">Training Module: Communication Strategy for Issues in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans</a> <a href="#">Training module: Setting national biodiversity targets in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets</a>														














High-level guidance or target



Detailed process or tools

Component	I. Baseline and ambition			II. Initiatives		III. Instruments		IV. Governance and implementation						
	1. Natural capital assessment	2. Public and private case for nature	3. Vision and targets	4. Impact initiatives	5. Cross-cutting initiatives	6. Regulatory and voluntary instruments	7. Economic and financial instruments	8. Institutions	9. Stakeholder engagement	10. Resource mobilization	11. Political support and alignment	12. Measurement	13. Transparency and disclosure	14. Implementation
Subcomponent														
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations									✓					
Finance for Biodiversity Pledge Green Finance Institute										✓				
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	✓								✓					
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)		✓												
McKinsey & Company		✓												
Natural Capital Coalition	✓													
Natural Capital Coalition Committee	✓		✓	✓						✓				
	✓													

Component	I. Baseline and ambition			II. Initiatives		III. Instruments		IV. Governance and implementation						
	1. Natural capital assessment	2. Public and private case for nature	3. Vision and targets	4. Impact initiatives	5. Cross-cutting initiatives	6. Regulatory and voluntary instruments	7. Economic and financial instruments	8. Institutions	9. Stakeholder engagement	10. Resource mobilization	11. Political support and alignment	12. Measurement	13. Transparency and disclosure	14. Implementation
Subcomponent														
Nature Finance		<p>Biodiversity credit markets</p> <p>Finance for Biodiversity Initiative: Aligning Global Finance with Nature's Needs</p> <p>Harnessing biodiversity credits for people and planet</p> <p>Legal and Sustainable wildlife trade: Learnings and implications for nature market governance</p> <p>Making nature markets work</p> <p>Soft commodities scoping paper</p> <p>The Rights of Nature: Developments and implications for the governance of nature markets</p> <p>Policy Instruments for the Environment (PINE) database</p> <p>Biodiversity, natural capital and the economy: A policy guide for finance, economic and environment ministers</p> <p>A comprehensive overview of global biodiversity finance</p> <p>Tracing economic instruments and finance for biodiversity</p> <p>Science-Based Targets for Nature</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Guidance</p> <p>Planetary boundaries</p> <p>Safe and just Earth system boundaries</p> <p>Best Practice in Delivering the 30x30 Target</p>												
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)														
Science Based Targets Network														
Stockholm Resilience Centre														
The Nature Conservancy														

Component	I. Baseline and ambition			II. Initiatives		III. Instruments		IV. Governance and implementation						
Subcomponent	1. Natural capital assessment	2. Public and private case for nature	3. Vision and targets	4. Impact Initiatives	5. Cross-cutting initiatives	6. Regulatory and voluntary instruments	7. Economic and financial instruments	8. Institutions	9. Stakeholder engagement	10. Resource mobilization	11. Political support and alignment	12. Measurement	13. Transparency and disclosure	14. Implementation
The Partnering Initiative	 The Partnering Initiative	<a href="#">The Partnering Initiative</a>						✓						
Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures	 Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures	<a href="#">Beta framework v0.4</a>	✓						✓			✓		
United Kingdom Environment Agency		<a href="#">Choice of policy instruments for modern regulation</a>				✓								
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)		<a href="#">Prioritising nature-related disclosures: Considerations for high-risk sectors</a> <a href="#">State of Finance for Nature 2022</a>	✓							✓				
World Bank Group		<a href="#">Natural Capital Assessments at the National and Sub-national Level: a guide for environmental practitioners</a> <a href="#">The Economic Case for Nature</a>	✓											
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)		<a href="#">Unlocking Nature-Smart Development: An Approach Paper on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 30X30: A guide to inclusive, equitable and effective implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</a> <a href="#">The MSP Guide: How to design and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships</a>	✓						✓				✓	
Herman Brouwer and others								✓						
Angela Bester and Leon Hermans								✓	✓					



## 4.2 Layer D: Exhibits and tools

### 4.2.1. Component I: Baseline and ambition

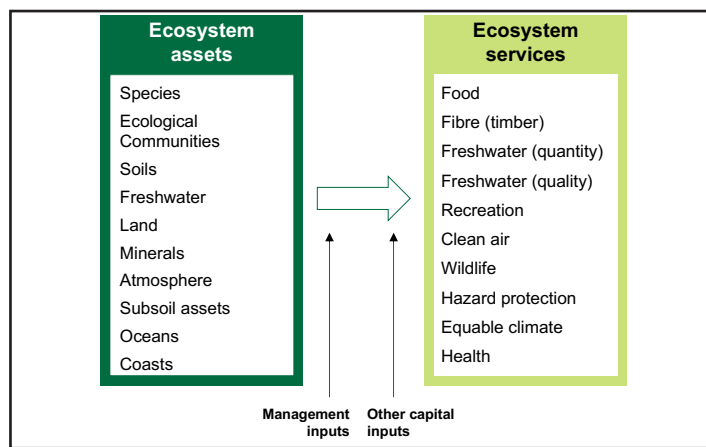
- **Subcomponent 1: Natural capital assessment**

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#### Box 3: Key concepts relevant to the natural capital assessment<sup>31 32 33 34 35 36</sup>

<b>Biodiversity</b>	The variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems
<b>Ecosystem services</b>	Benefits that people obtain from nature, including provisioning, regulating and maintenance, and cultural services
<b>Environmental assets</b>	The naturally occurring living and non-living components of the earth, which together constitute the biophysical environment, which may provide benefits to humanity
<b>Ecosystem assets</b>	Contiguous spaces of a specific ecosystem type characterized by a distinct set of biotic and abiotic components and their interactions
<b>Nature</b>	The natural world with an emphasis on its living components
<b>Natural capital</b>	The stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (e.g., plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people

**Ecosystem assets in combination with management and capital inputs provide ecosystem services (benefits).**



31 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

32 *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting* (United Nations publication, 2021). Available at: [seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting](https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting).

33 Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), *glossary* (2021). Available at: [www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/nature](https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/nature).

34 Natural Capital Coalition, (London, 2016). Available at: [capitalscoalition.org/capitals-approach/natural-capital-protocol/?fwp\\_filter\\_tabs=training\\_material](https://capitalscoalition.org/capitals-approach/natural-capital-protocol/?fwp_filter_tabs=training_material).

35 Natural Capital Committee, *The State of Natural Capital: Protecting and Improving Natural Capital for Prosperity and Wellbeing*, (Natural Capital Committee, London, 2015). Available at: [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/516725/ncc-state-natural-capital-third-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/516725/ncc-state-natural-capital-third-report.pdf).

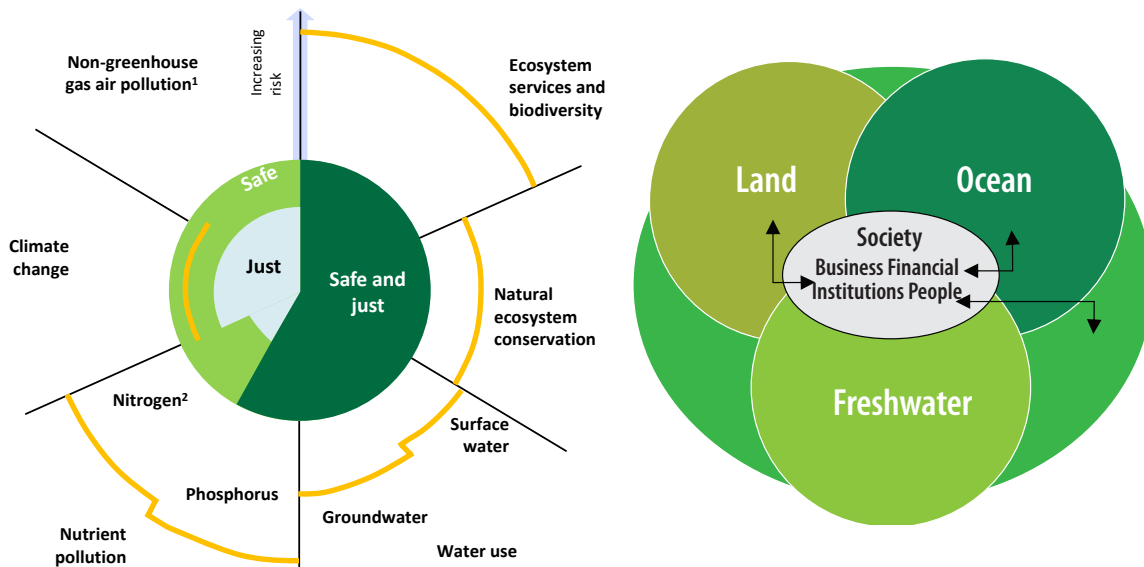
36 Sandra Díaz and others, “The IPBES Conceptual Framework – connecting nature and people”. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, vol. 14, pp. 1–16 (June 2015).

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides guidance to countries wishing to conduct natural capital assessments. The following table was developed by UNEP to illustrate the relevance of key ecosystem assets to specific economic sectors and beneficiary groups living along the banks of the Sorou River in Burkina Faso.

Ecosystem asset	Ecosystem service	Where does the service provide an input into priority sector activities?	Benefiting priority sector	Vulnerable beneficiary groups	Cost of substitute for the provided ecosystem service
Agricultural areas along the Sorou River	Regulating soil fertility (nutrients are provided by rich wetland soils)	Identified agricultural areas	Agriculture	Local communities are highly dependent on agricultural production for livelihoods and sustenance	Medium: fertilizer could be used but may have a significant impact on the provision of other ecosystem services
Sorou River and impoundments of its waters	Provisioning (fishing)	Fishery areas	Fisheries	Local communities are highly dependent on fishing for their livelihoods	Medium: More expensive alternative food sources are available
Areas of acacia woodland on the banks of the Sorou River	Provisioning (timber, fuel wood)	Areas of acacia woodland on the banks of the Sorou River	Forest	Local communities are highly dependent on wood for fuel and construction	High: It is possible but expensive to obtain goods from markets
Sorou Valley wetland areas	Cultural (animals for nature viewing, including hippopotamuses)	Ecotourism areas	Tourism	Revenue from ecotourism is important in supplementing livelihoods in local communities	High: there are limited opportunities for ecotourism nature viewing in the area

**Box 4: Earth system boundaries and the four realms of nature establish the dimensions of the natural world** <sup>37 38 39</sup>

Countries can conduct natural capital assessments across all earth system boundaries or across all four realms of nature. Alternatively, they can choose to select high-priority nature dimensions.



37 Johan Rockström and others, "Safe and just Earth system boundaries: Supplementary information appendix", Nature, 619, pp. 102–111 (May 2023) Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06083-8>.

38 Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, The TNFD Nature-Related Risk and Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework, (London, 2022). Available at: [https://framework.tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/TNFD\\_Management\\_and\\_Disclosure\\_Framework\\_v0-3\\_B.pdf](https://framework.tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/TNFD_Management_and_Disclosure_Framework_v0-3_B.pdf).

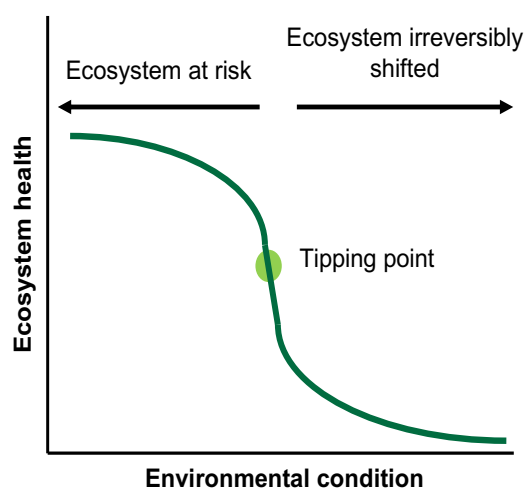
39 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. (IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 2019). Available at: [zenodo.org/records/6417333](https://zenodo.org/records/6417333).

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## Box 5: Earth system boundaries comprise a widely-used framework that can facilitate discussions about nature<sup>40 41</sup>

### What are earth system boundaries?

- Earth system boundaries are a scientifically-based framework that establishes a “safe operating space for humanity” across nine, interrelated planetary systems
- For each system, scientists have identified control variables to track and estimate a safe threshold, or “boundary” to stay below in order to ensure the stability of earth’s systems; some boundaries also include a “zone of uncertainty” that is looser (and riskier) than the boundary
- The boundaries helped lay the foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals, are the basis of emerging targets for nature from the Science Based Targets Network, and have been used by a number of large business corporations, including L’Oréal, IKEA, and H&M



### Example tipping points

**Greenland ice sheet disintegration:** Irreversible retreat of the ice sheet caused by rising temperatures.

**Boreal forest shift:** A shift in boreal forests create expansion into tundra to the north and dieback to the south.

**Indian monsoon shift:** Strengthened monsoon caused by rising CO2 emissions or a weakened monsoon caused by high aerosol emissions.

### Why do they matter?

Crossing any boundary increases the risk of crossing a “tipping point,” a sudden, significant, and irreversible shift in life-supporting earth systems

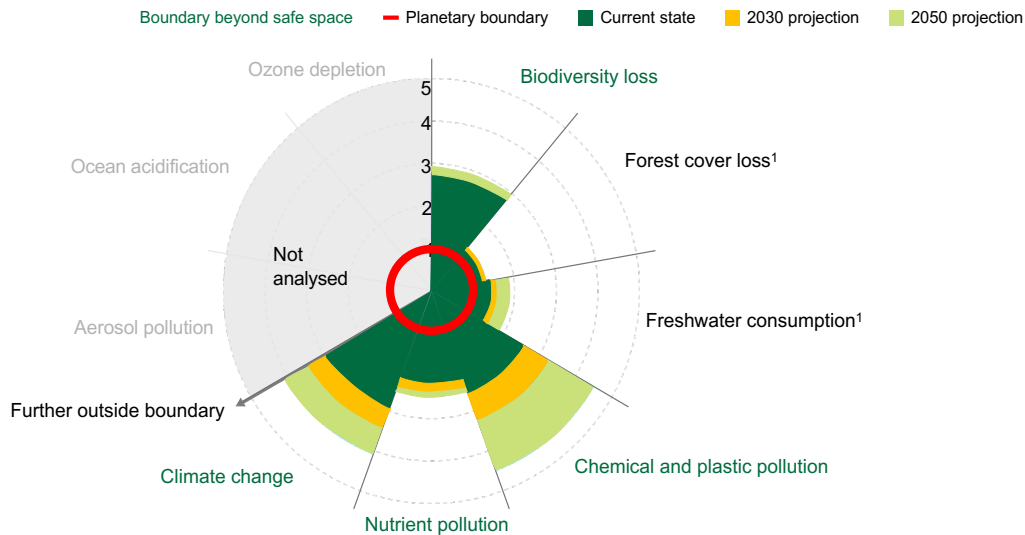
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40 Johan Rockström and others, “A safe operating space for humanity”, Nature, vol. 461, pp. 472–475 (September 2009). Available at: [www.nature.com/articles/461472a](http://www.nature.com/articles/461472a).

41 Will Steffen and others, “Planetary Boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet”, Science, vol. 347, issue 6223 (January 2015).

## Box 6: The planetary boundary model is one option for defining the scope of a national nature strategy<sup>42</sup>

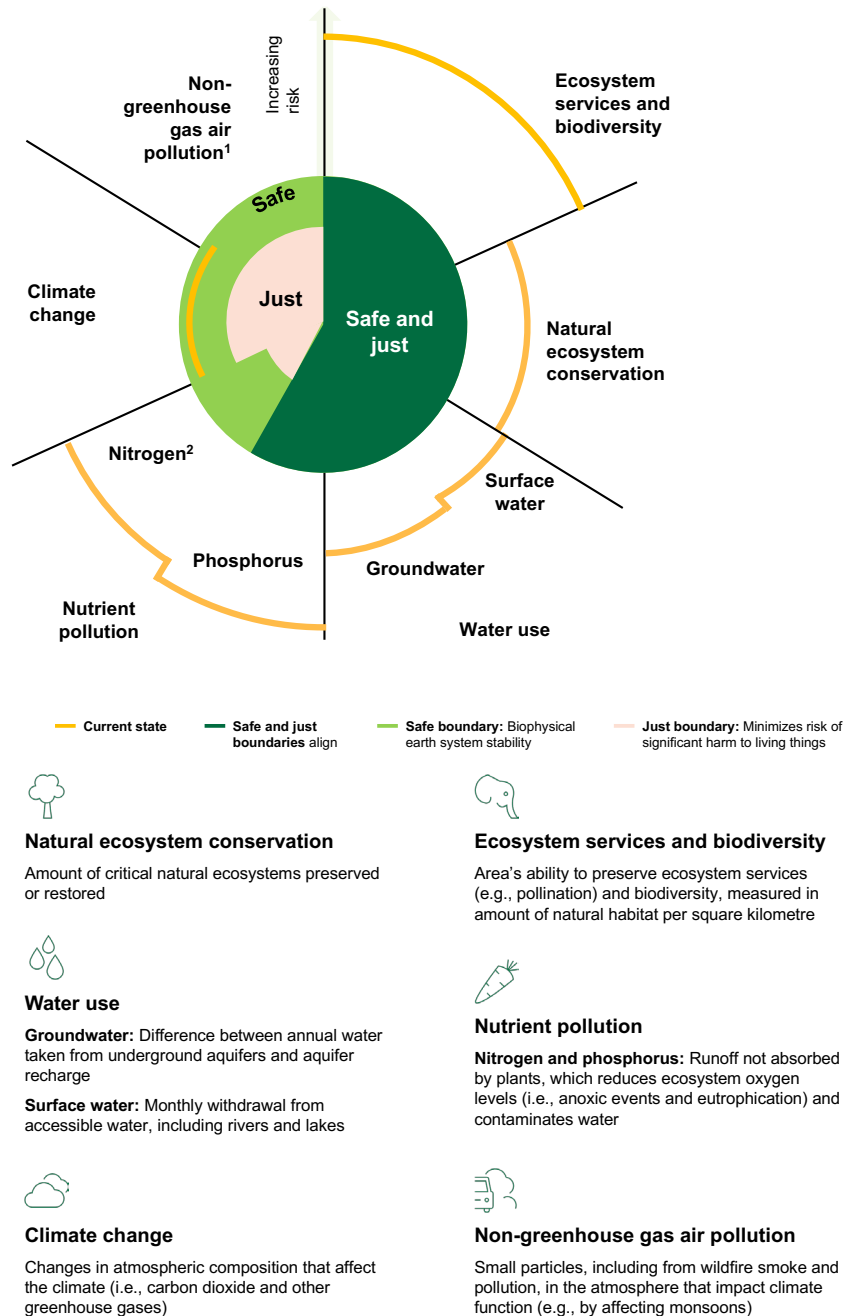
The planetary boundary model can help countries define targets and highlight where priority initiatives might be needed. Global analysis on planetary boundaries suggests that human activity has pushed the planet beyond a “safe operating space” on at least four boundaries:



1. The current impact of human activity for forest cover loss and freshwater consumption is deemed to be in the “zone of uncertainty”.

<sup>42</sup> McKinsey & Company, Nature in the balance: What companies can do to restore natural capital (December 2022)  
Available at: [www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/nature-in-the-balance-what-companies-can-do-to-restore-natural-capital](https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/nature-in-the-balance-what-companies-can-do-to-restore-natural-capital).

**Box 7: The earth system boundary model builds on the planetary boundary model to identify safe and just limits for eight processes that regulate the earth's stability and resilience across biophysical and social justice components<sup>43</sup>**



1. Subglobal goal.
2. Nitrogen surplus can also result in nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions, which contribute to climate change.

<sup>43</sup> Johan Rockström and others, "Safe and just Earth system boundaries: Supplementary information appendix", Nature, 619, pp. 102–111 (May 2023) Available at: [www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06083-8](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06083-8).

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**Box 8: Main drivers of nature loss, as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)<sup>44</sup>**

The following list is provided with a view to helping countries assess the drivers of identified declines in their ecosystem assets:





<b>1</b>	<b>Land-use change</b>	Includes the conversion of land cover, changes in the management of ecosystems or agro-ecosystems, or changes in the spatial configuration of the landscape
<b>2</b>	<b>Pollution</b>	Includes, most notably, the atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and the use of nitrogen-phosphorus fertilizers
<b>3</b>	<b>Invasive species</b>	Out-compete local and indigenous species for natural resources, with negative implications for biodiversity
<b>4</b>	<b>Climate change</b>	Changes in climate and weather patterns, which impact in situ ecosystem functioning and cause the migration of species and entire ecosystems
<b>5</b>	<b>Natural resource use and exploitation</b>	Anthropogenic exploitation of wildlife, such as fishing

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<sup>44</sup> Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), "Models of drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem change". Available at: [www.ipbes.net/models-drivers-biodiversity-ecosystem-change](http://www.ipbes.net/models-drivers-biodiversity-ecosystem-change) (accessed on 17 October 2023).

**Box 9: Using a natural capital assessment to identify key ecosystem assets, evaluate their current state and assess ecosystem trends<sup>45 46</sup>**

The aim of a natural capital assessment is to identify the most important ecosystem assets and the ecosystem services they provide

<b>Elements in a natural capital assessment</b>	
 <p><b>Ecosystem assets</b></p> <p>Which ecosystem assets should the assessment focus on? Where are those assets located? What are the scales that need to be considered for analysis?</p>	 <p><b>State of nature and trends</b></p> <p>What is the state of ecosystem assets and what ecosystem trends are apparent?</p>
 <p><b>Drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem change</b></p> <p>What are the direct pressures (for example, land use change) and indirect pressures (for example, population increase) on ecosystem assets?</p>	 <p><b>Nature-related risks and opportunities</b></p> <p>What are the most significant risks posed by the degradation of ecosystem assets? What opportunities could stem from maintaining or rehabilitating ecosystem assets?</p>

45 Convention on Biological Diversity. "Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Training Package Module 2 – Using the Biodiversity Planning Process to Prepare or Update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan" (Montreal, Canada, June 2011). Available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b2-train-prepare-update-nbsap-revised-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b2-train-prepare-update-nbsap-revised-en.pdf).

46 UNEP, "Is Africa's Natural Capital the Gateway to Finance Its Development?" (21 September 2016). Available at: [www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/africas-natural-capital-gateway-finance-its-development](http://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/africas-natural-capital-gateway-finance-its-development).



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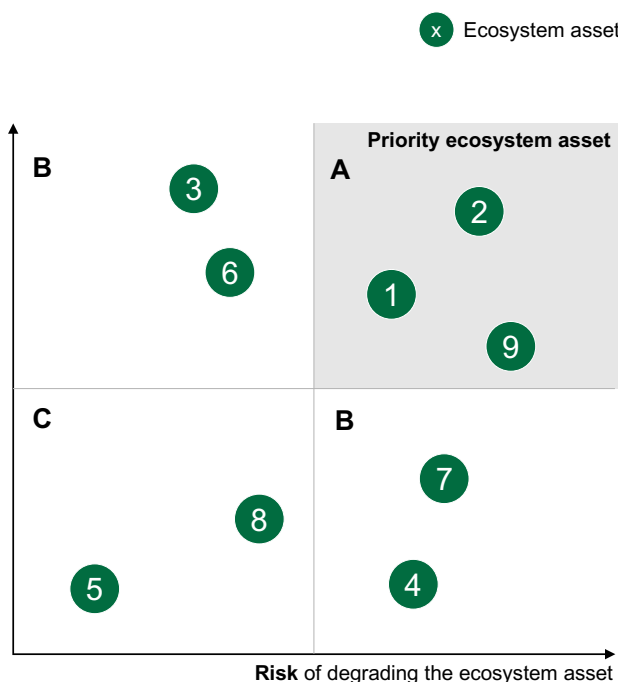
**Box 10: A natural capital risk register can be used to take stock of priority ecosystem assets<sup>47</sup>****What is a natural capital risk register?**

A comprehensive list of ecosystem assets and the ecosystem services (benefits) they provide, together with an assessment of the risk that the identified benefits will be lost or degraded.

**Why is it a useful tool?**

The register can help stakeholders identify the ecosystem assets that provide the largest benefits and those that are at highest risk.






It can also help stakeholders prioritize actions to protect ecosystem assets in line with their importance (level of benefits) and the risk that benefits will be lost or degraded.



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<sup>47</sup> Natural Capital Committee, The State of Natural Capital: Protecting and Improving Natural Capital for Prosperity and Wellbeing, (Natural Capital Committee, London, 2015). Available at: [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/516725/ncc-state-natural-capital-third-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/516725/ncc-state-natural-capital-third-report.pdf).

**Box 11: The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures provides guidance to help stakeholders prioritize ecosystems according to their integrity and importance**<sup>48</sup>

Guidance	Criteria	Description	Tools and databases
 <p>Which biomes and ecosystems do these activities interface with? What is the current integrity and importance of the ecosystems at each location?</p>	<p><b>High-integrity ecosystems</b></p> 	<p>Ecosystems that may provide significant opportunities for safeguarding stocks of environmental assets and maintaining ecosystem service provision</p>	<p>Ecosystem Integrity Index Forest Structural Condition Index Intact Forest Landscapes database</p>
	<p><b>Areas of rapid decline in ecosystem integrity</b></p> 	<p>Areas with declining resilience of ecosystem service provision and high exposure to an organization's dependency-related risks</p>	<p>International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Ecosystems database</p>
	<p><b>Areas of high-biodiversity importance</b></p> 	<p>Include, but are not limited to, protected areas or otherwise internationally-recognized areas</p>	<p>Global Biodiversity Information Facility database Global Biodiversity Model for Policy Support mean species abundance database. World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) Biodiversity Risk Filter World Database on Protected Areas and world database on other effective area-based conservation measures WWF Priority Ecoregions database</p>
	<p><b>Areas of water stress</b></p> 	<p>Area where the quality and/or quantity of available water is deteriorating</p>	<p>WWF Water Risk Filter Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas</p>

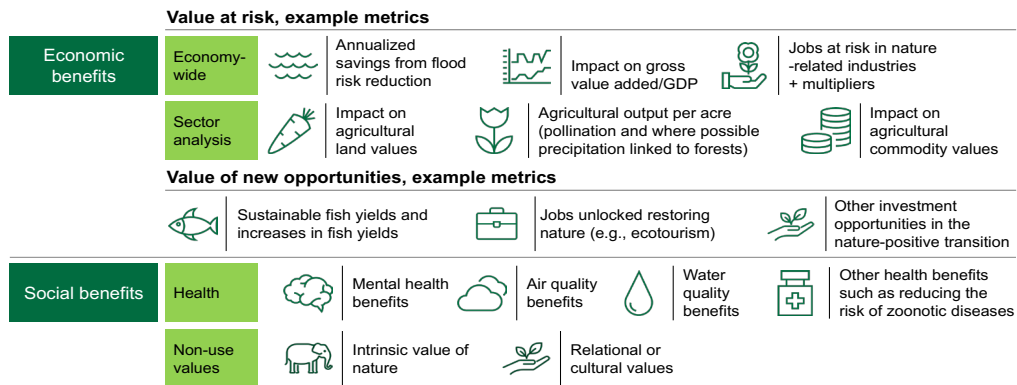
<sup>48</sup> Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, The TNFD Nature-Related Risk and Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework (London, 2022).

- **Subcomponent 2: Public and private case for nature**

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**Box 12: The public case for nature should be based on the economic value at risk, the value of emerging opportunities and wider social benefits 49 50**

Countries could, for example, seek to mobilize public support for initiatives to safeguard nature and the country's natural resources by drawing attention to the following:



Source: Collated from several sources including McKinsey (2020) Valuing nature conservation, IPBES (2022) Summary for policymakers of the methodological assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

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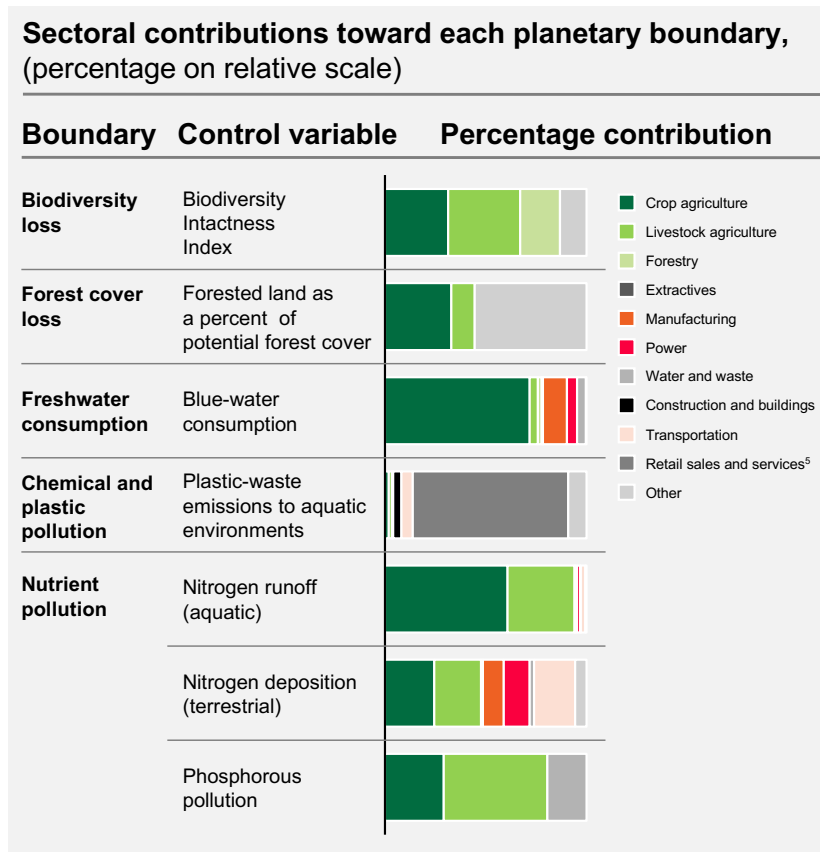
49 McKinsey & Company, "Valuing nature conservation: a methodology to evaluate where safeguarding natural capital could have the biggest impact on climate, economies and health", (September 2020). Available at: [www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/valuing-nature-conservation](http://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/valuing-nature-conservation).

50 IPBES, Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Patricia Balvanera, Unai Pascual, Michael Christie, Baptiste and David González-Jiménez, eds. (IPBES Secretariat, Bonn, Germany, 2022). Available at: [www.researchgate.net/publication/369138935\\_Methodological\\_Assessment\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Diverse\\_Values\\_and\\_Valuation\\_of\\_Nature\\_of\\_the\\_Intergovernmental\\_Science-Policy\\_Platform\\_on\\_Biodiversity\\_and\\_Ecosystem\\_Services\\_IPBES](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369138935_Methodological_Assessment_Report_on_the_Diverse_Values_and_Valuation_of_Nature_of_the_Intergovernmental_Science-Policy_Platform_on_Biodiversity_and_Ecosystem_Services_IPBES).

**Box 13: Making a public case for nature should include an assessment of the economic value at risk in key sectors**<sup>51 52 53</sup>

A number of studies have identified the economic sectors that are highly dependent on natural capital and/or have the greatest impact on nature. For example:

A. McKinsey & Company analysed which economic sectors are most responsible for exceeding planetary boundaries. Sectors with a significant impact on nature include crop agriculture, livestock agriculture, and retail sales and services:

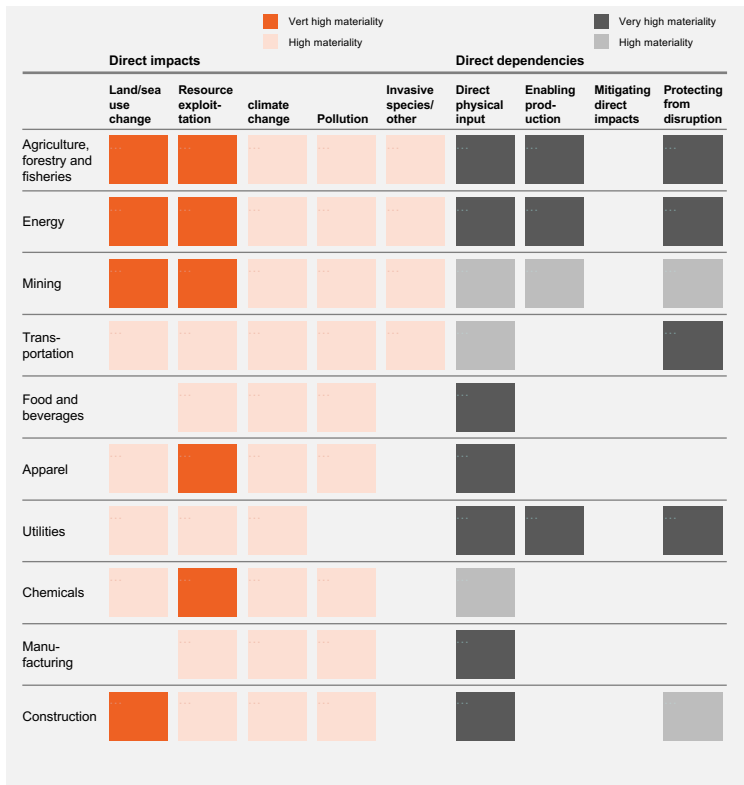


B. UNEP identified sectors that are most dependent and have the largest impact on nature. Those sectors include agriculture, forestry and fisheries, energy and mining:

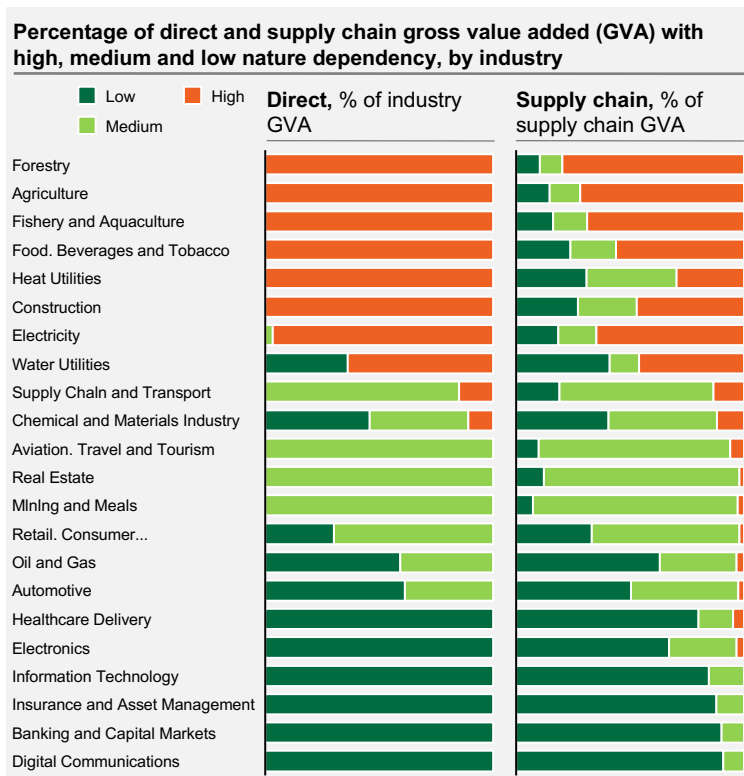
51 McKinsey & Company, Nature in the balance: What companies can do to restore natural capital (December 2022). Available at: [www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/nature-in-the-balance-what-companies-can-do-to-restore-natural-capital](http://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/nature-in-the-balance-what-companies-can-do-to-restore-natural-capital).

52 United Nations, Environment Programme Finance Initiative, Prioritising nature-related disclosures (April 2022). Available at: [www.unepfi.org/publications/prioritising-nature-related-disclosures-considerations-for-high-risk-sectors](http://www.unepfi.org/publications/prioritising-nature-related-disclosures-considerations-for-high-risk-sectors).

53 World Economic Forum, "Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy", New Nature Economy series (Geneva, World Economic Forum, 2020). Available at: [www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_New\\_Nature\\_Economy\\_Report\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_New_Nature_Economy_Report_2020.pdf).



C. The World Economic Forum analysed the level of nature dependency by industry and supply chain. Sectors that are most dependent on nature include forestry, agriculture, and fisheries and aquaculture:



## Box 14: A sector-level “heatmap” can inform scoping and help stakeholders highlight sectors facing particularly high nature-related risks<sup>54</sup>

Ranking	Sector	GDP contribution (% of GDP)	Direct impacts				Direct dependencies				Overall score
			Deforestation	Air pollution	Water pollution	Overfishing	Water scarcity	Pollination	Soil quality	Flood protection	
1	Mining and quarrying	■	High	Med	High	Low	High	Low	Low	Med	High
2	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	■	Med	Med	Med	Low	High	Low	Low	Med	High
3	Transport and storage	■	Med	High	Med	Low	Low	Low	Low	Med	High
4	Real estate activities	■	Med	Med	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High
5	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	■	High	Med	Med	Med	High	Med	Med	Low	Med
6	Water supply	■	Low	Med	High	Low	High	Low	Med	Med	Med
7	Construction	■	High	Med	Med	Low	Med	Low	Low	Med	Med
8	Manufacturing	■	Med	Med	Med	Low	Med	Low	Low	Med	Med
9	Wholesale and retail trade	■	Med	Low	Med	Low	Low	Low	Low	Med	Med
10	Accommodation and food service activities	■	Med	Low	Med	Low	Med	Low	Low	Low	Low
11	Professional, scientific and technical activities	■	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Med	Low
12	Information and communication	■	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
13	Administrative and support service activities	■	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
14	Public administration and social security	■	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
15	Education	■	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
16	Human health services and social work activities	■	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
17	Arts, entertainment and recreation	■	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

- **Subcomponent 3: Vision and targets**

## Box 15: Setting out the aspirations of countries: a national vision

A national-level vision can be developed and/or endorsed through collaboration among a range of relevant stakeholders.

Examples of national visions informing national biodiversity strategies:



**Angola:** By 2025, Angolan biodiversity should be valued, converted, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, maintaining a healthy and unpolluted environment, and sharing essential benefits for all people



**Ghana:** By 2030, effective systems will be in place to ensure that biodiversity in Ghana is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used to maintain ecosystem services, and sustain life support services for a healthy planet while ensuring continuous and equitable sharing of the costs and benefits arising therefrom, to the well-being, prosperity and security of all Ghanaians



**Nigeria:** A Nigeria with healthy living environment where people live in harmony with nature and sustain the gains and benefits of biodiversity, integrating biodiversity into a national programme aimed at reducing poverty and developing a secure future in line with the principle of ecological sustainability and social equity



**Rwanda:** By 2040, national biodiversity will be restored and conserved, contributing to economic prosperity and human well-being through the delivery of benefits essential for Rwandan society in general

<sup>54</sup> United Nations, Environment Programme Financial Initiative, Prioritising nature-related disclosures.

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**Box 16: Countries may select targets in line with established global targets and objectives, such as the 23 targets set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>55</sup>**

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets (summary):

- Target 1. Land- and sea-use spatial planning to bring loss of high biodiversity areas close to zero by 2030
- Target 2. Thirty per cent of degraded ecosystems under restoration by 2030
- Target 3. Thirty per cent of areas effectively conserved and managed by 2030
- Target 4. Actions to halt the extinction of, recover and conserve species
- Target 5. Sustainable harvest, trade and use of wild species
- Target 6. Eliminate, reduce and/or mitigate the impact of invasive alien species
- Target 7. Reduce pollution risks by 2030
- Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change: nature-based solutions
- Target 9. Sustainable use and benefit-sharing of wild species
- Target 10. Sustainable use of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry
- Target 11. Regulation of air, water, hazards and extreme events
- Target 12. Increased access to green and blue spaces in urban areas
- Target 13. Access and benefit-sharing from genetic resources
- Target 14. Mainstreaming biodiversity into policies, regulations, planning, etc.
- Target 15. Encourage sustainable business activity, production and supply chains
- Target 16. Encourage sustainable consumption choices
- Target 17. Manage biotechnology impacts
- Target 18. Eliminate harmful incentives
- Target 19. Increase financial resources from all sources
- Target 20. Strengthen capacity-building
- Target 21. Ensure accessible data, information and knowledge
- Target 22. Representation of indigenous people and local communities
- Target 23. Gender equality

To set their targets, a country should consider:

- Baseline state of nature: What does the data obtained in the course of the initial assessment tell us about the current state of nature in the country?
- Nature trends: What trends are apparent and what are the main pressures on the country's natural capital and ecosystem services?

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<sup>55</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, document CBD/COP/DEC/15/4. Available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf).

## 4.2.2 Component II : Initiatives

- **Subcomponent 4: Impact initiatives**

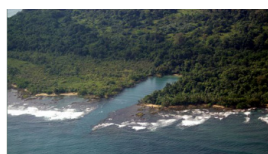
### Box 17: Examples of options for the identification of potential initiatives

Options for the identification of potential initiatives include bottom-up processes with communities, detailed spatial analytics, an analysis of current national or sectoral strategies, and engagement with experts. The following list is illustrative and not exhaustive:



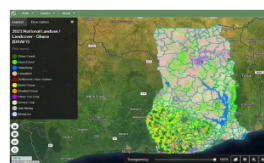
#### Communities

Identify effective current initiatives through bottom-up processes



#### Current national or sectoral strategies

Introduce, scale up or exit sectoral initiatives in collaboration with relevant ministries, such as the ministries of the environment, finance, planning and/or economic development)



#### Analytics

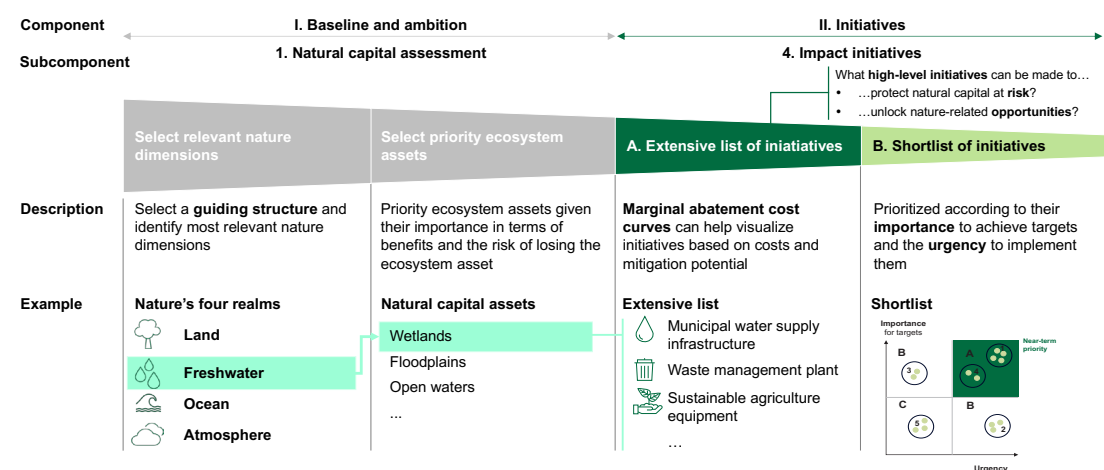
Identify initiatives based on detailed spatial analytics



#### Experts

Design initiatives by drawing on expertise in other areas or international best practices

### Box 18: Cost, importance and urgency criteria can help countries select priority initiatives





## Box 19: Marginal abatement cost curves can help identify the most cost-effective initiatives<sup>56</sup>

### What are marginal abatement cost curves?

- A marginal abatement cost curve provides a visual overview of initiatives, which are organized from left to right on the curve according to their economic cost

### Why are marginal abatement cost curves useful?

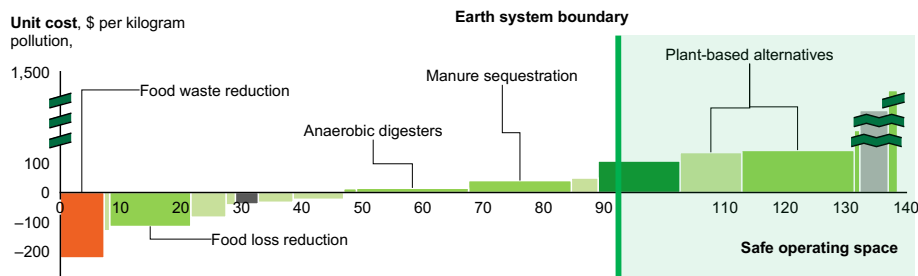
- They facilitate a comparison of a range of initiatives in different locations under one metric
- They help stakeholders visualize initiatives on the basis of their cost and mitigation potential
- They help stakeholders identify the “low hanging fruit”, namely the most cost-effective initiatives, which include:
  - Initiatives with a negative cost on the curve (a cost saving)
  - Initiatives with the largest mitigation potential at the lowest cost

### What data are needed to formulate marginal abatement cost curves?

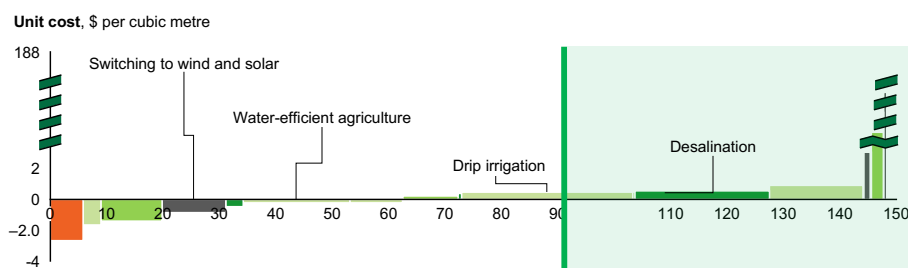
- Total cost per initiative: expenses, including capital expenditure and operating expenses, in addition to financial savings
- While climate marginal abatement cost curves can be based on a single metric, such as carbon, nature marginal abatement curves must be based on different metrics across several dimensions. Given that complexity, one potential approach is to formulate one marginal abatement curve per nature dimension.

### Examples of marginal abatement cost curves across nature dimensions:

#### Initiatives to mitigate nutrient pollution



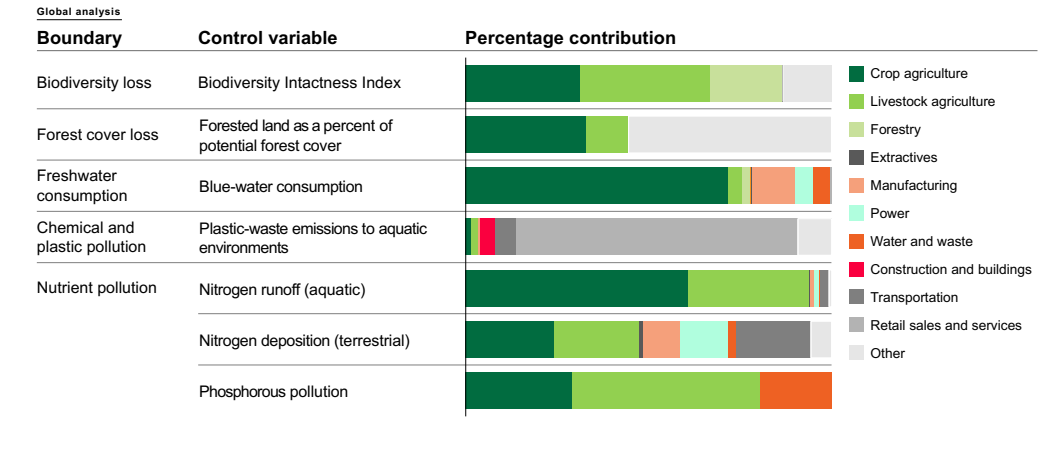
#### Initiatives to mitigate freshwater consumption



<sup>56</sup> McKinsey & Company, Nature in the balance: What companies can do to restore natural capital (December 2022)  
Available at: [www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/nature-in-the-balance-what-companies-can-do-to-restore-natural-capital](https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/nature-in-the-balance-what-companies-can-do-to-restore-natural-capital).

**Box 20: Understanding the extent of nature losses caused by different economic sectors can help stakeholders select initiatives and determine which levers will be most effective<sup>57</sup>**

Global sectoral contributions toward each planetary boundary (percentage on relative scale):



57 Ibid.

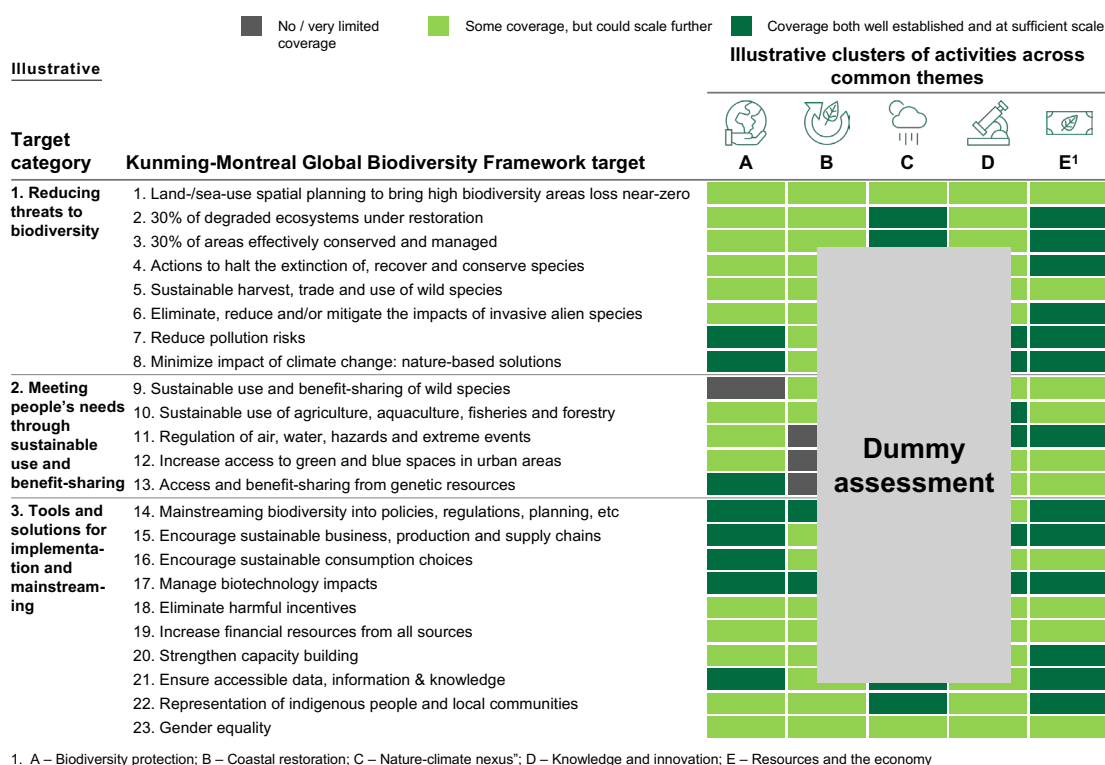
## Box 21: Countries could map their current activities to identify gaps and priority areas

Current coverage could be assessed against different criteria. For example, by:

- Sector
- Targets set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Framework components and subcomponents

The insights thus gained could help countries identify areas that should be strengthened. Countries may, for example, find that:

- There are limited activities addressing nature-issues in the utilities and waste sector
- Activities across clusters could benefit from renewed emphasis on gender equality
- No consistent approach to transparency and disclosure has been adopted across activities



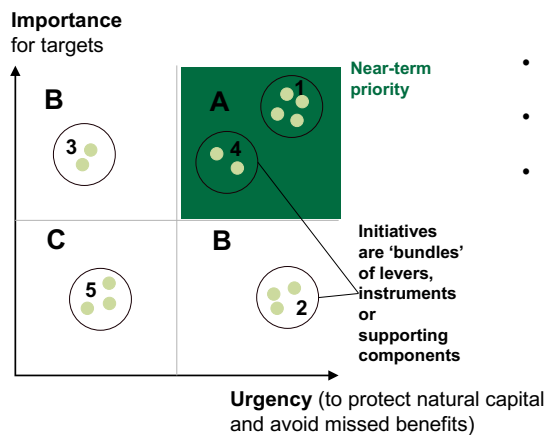
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## Box 22: Countries could draw up a shortlist of initiatives that deliver high impact at reasonable cost

### Shortlist of priority initiatives

Initiatives identified as cost-effective, can be sequenced according to their:

- Importance: How important is the initiative in efforts to achieve set targets?
- Urgency: If the initiative is not made:
  - Could significant opportunities for sustainable growth be missed?
  - Is there a significant risk that a natural ecosystem will be degraded or destroyed?



### Near-term initiatives

Initiatives in quadrant A (important, urgent, and cost-effective);

Actions to enable initiatives in quadrant B

### Mid- and long-term initiatives

Initiatives in quadrant B

### Final output

A shortlist of three to five priority near-term initiatives should be formulated




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- **Subcomponent 5: Cross-cutting initiatives**

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**Box 23: Cross-cutting initiatives that contribute to an enabling environment may be needed**

Countries should consider cross-cutting initiatives that can help foster an enabling environment for nature, including in areas such as capacity-building, information disclosure, innovation, rights of people and nature, and nature markets

	Capacity-building 	Innovation 	Nature markets 
<b>Key question</b>	What investment in capacity-building supports the delivery of prioritized initiatives (for example, apprenticeship and capacity-building programmes)?	What opportunities are there for investing in innovation to reduce the cost of delivering on the strategy?	What opportunities are there for creating nature markets?
<b>Supporting questions</b>	What knowledge and skills are needed to deliver on direct initiatives (for example, the use of spatial planning tools, effective management of land- and sea-use change)?	In which areas of nature or sectors is it a priority to reduce the cost of delivering on the strategy?	Which sectors or industries can benefit from nature-based solutions, (for example, ecotourism or sustainable agriculture)?
	What facilities and materials are needed to deliver the investments?	Which technologies have the potential to reduce the cost of investments in nature in these areas?	Are there any opportunities for the creation of incentives or the removal of barriers with a view to developing nature markets further?
	What data and information are needed and how can they be made accessible to decision makers?	What knowledge sharing opportunities are there (for example, through international cooperation or collaboration with non-governmental organizations?)	

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### 4.2.3. Component III: Instruments

- **Subcomponent 6: Regulatory and voluntary instruments**

#### Box 24: A country should determine which instruments are already in place<sup>58</sup>

The OECD Policy Instruments for the Environment (PINE) database includes data on environmental policy instruments for 134 countries and may be a helpful starting point for countries wishing to determine which instruments are already in place.

- PINE data is collected via a network of more than 450 country experts from government bodies, including ministries of finance and the environment and national statistical institutes, as well as from research institutes and international organizations.
- Country experts are asked to provide updated data once a year using an online data collection platform. Data is collected systematically for the 38 OECD member countries and for countries that have started the process to accede to the organization.
- A growing number of non-member countries also provide data, although that data may be less comprehensive or less frequently updated than the data provided by member countries. It should therefore be supplemented with data obtained through national assessments.

#### Summary

Thirty instruments, of which 28 are active

#### Instrument types

Taxes and fees: 80%, Environmentally-beneficial subsidies and payments: 17%, Tradable permits and offsets: 3%

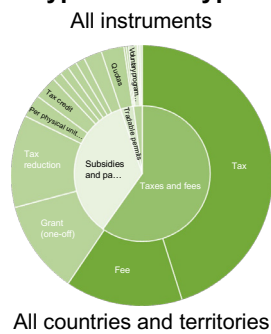
#### Environmental domains

Most instruments address climate change mitigation: 24.3%, air pollution: 18.9%, energy efficiency: 8.1%, fossil fuels: 8.1%, solid waste: 6.8%, and biodiversity: 6.8%

#### Environmentally-related tax revenue

Revenue from environmentally-related taxes accounted for 2.92% of GDP in 2020.

#### Policy instruments by type and subtype



Country name	Instrument type	Instrument Type detail	Instrument name
Country X	Environmentally-beneficial subsidies and payments	Grant (one-off)	Environmental treatment and recycling or waste disposal asset allowance
Country X	Taxes and fees	Fee	Custom and excise levy
Country X	Taxes and fees	Tax	General fuel levy

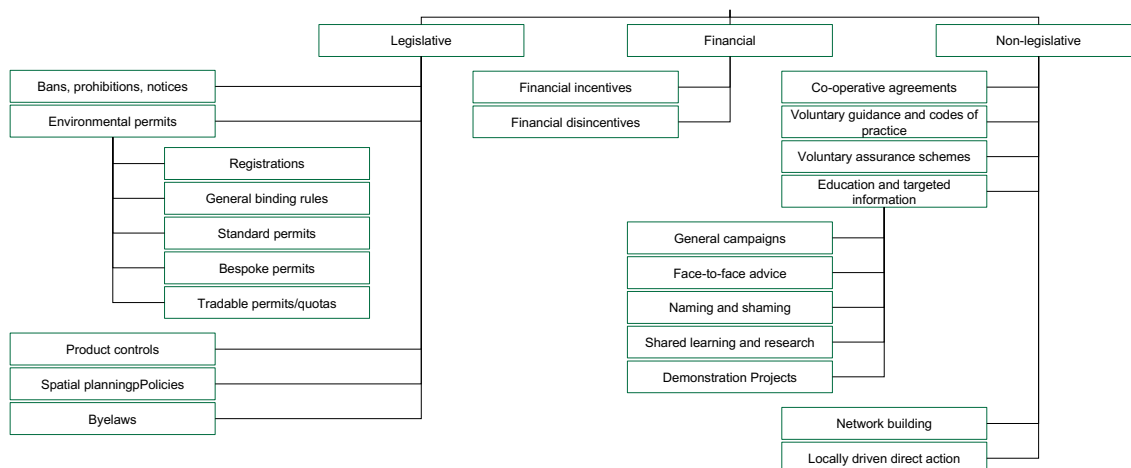
<sup>58</sup> OECD, Policy Instruments for the Environment (PINE) database. Available at: <https://t4.oecd.org/environment/indicators-modelling-outlooks/policy-instruments-for-environment-database/>. (Accessed on 18 October 2023).

## Box 25: A wide range of instruments can be used to mobilize nature investments

The instruments deployed will depend on the pressures, resources and objectives of the country in question. Examples of those instruments include:

Instrument category	Sub-category	Examples	Lever enabled:
1. Legislation and regulation	A. Laws	1A Make ecocide a criminal offence	Deterrent to individuals/ organizations harming nature on a mass scale
	B. Regulations		
	C. Rights of nature		
2. Economic and fiscal	A. Taxes	2A Introduce taxes on logging	Reduction in deforestation and creation of revenue for forest restoration
	B. Fees/charges		
	C. Subsidies/grants		
	D. Deposit-refund schemes		
	E. Public spending		
3. Nature markets	A. Trading nature assets	2C Remove subsidies for chemical fertilizers	Lower levels of soil pollution
	B. Credit markets		
4. Private sector engagement	A. Consumer product claims	4C Mandate reporting and disclosures through the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures	Private sector understands risks of not accounting for nature and reduces negative impacts
	B. Targets		
	C. Reporting and transparency		
5. Funding streams	A. Public	6A Community education programme on water consumption	Increased knowledge capital in populations leading to reduced water use
	B. Private		
	C. Grants/philanthropy		
6. Voluntary and informational measures	A. Non-mandated schemes		

## Box 26: Example of how an environment agency may classify policy instruments<sup>59</sup>



<sup>59</sup> United Kingdom Environment Agency, A choice of policy instruments for modern regulation (London, December 2009). Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/291173/scho1209brrr-e-e.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291173/scho1209brrr-e-e.pdf).

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**Box 27: One national environment agency suggests that an assessment of a range of attributes should be conducted when appraising instruments<sup>60</sup>**

**Highlighted boxes provide additional detail that countries may choose to include when assessing and shortlisting instruments:** The selection and assessment of policy instruments can be carried out by asking and answering the following questions, all of which are conditional on the special circumstances of the policy objective concerned.

**Environmental effectiveness:** Will the instrument(s) achieve the environmental objective(s) within the specified time span and what degree of certainty can be expected? If the environmental outcome is somewhat uncertain and different instrument levels are needed, how acceptable is deviation from the set goal?

**Cost effectiveness:** Will the instrument(s) achieve the environmental objective(s) at the minimum possible cost to society? The social cost of a policy instrument(s) comprises three elements: (a) abatement or compliance costs; (b) regulatory costs, and (c) transactions costs.

**Flexibility:** Is the instrument(s) flexible enough to adjust to changes in technology, resource scarcity and market conditions?

**Dynamic efficiency:** Does the instrument(s) provide incentives for developing and adopting new environmentally cleaner and economically more efficient technologies? Overall, does it promote the development of environmentally sound infrastructure?

**Equity:** Will the costs and benefits of the instrument(s) be equitably distributed? Who gains and who loses?

**Ease of introduction:** Is the instrument(s) consistent with the legislative framework? If new legislation is necessary, how feasible is it? Does the relevant branch of government have the administrative capacity to issue the necessary regulations and administer the instruments? What is the administrative opportunity cost given limited administrative resources?

**Ease of monitoring and enforcement:** How difficult or costly will monitoring and enforcement be?

**Predictability:** Does the instrument(s) combine flexibility and predictability?

**Acceptability:** Is the instrument(s) understandable by the public, acceptable to economic agents and politically sellable? Does the instrument(s) agree with certain moral precepts?

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<sup>60</sup> United Kingdom Environment Agency, A choice of policy instruments for modern regulation (London, December 2009). Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/291173/scho1209brrr-e-e.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291173/scho1209brrr-e-e.pdf).



- **Subcomponent 7: Economic and financial instruments**

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**Box 28: A country might consider a wide range of financial instruments for nature<sup>61</sup>**

Type of financial instrument	Description	Examples
Grant-based instruments	Public funding or private donations seeking a positive impact but not seeking direct financial returns	Domestic government budget allocations, official development assistance, philanthropic grants
Investment-based instruments	Public or private funding seeking financial returns along with a positive social or environmental impact	Crowdfunding, debt-for-nature swaps, project finance for permanence, bonds and loans (including blue bonds)
Compensation-based instruments	Voluntary or compulsory compensation for negative environmental impacts	Eco-taxes, extractive fees, royalties, permits, carbon offsets including blue carbon, biodiversity offsets
Ecosystem value-based instruments	Monetization of sustainable ecosystem value	Levy on sustainable use, payment for ecosystem services, insurance premium discounts

OECD has tracked the use of certain finance mechanisms at the global level:

Finance mechanism	Financial resources mobilized	Coverage
Biodiversity-relevant official development assistance	\$7.8 billion per year commitments (2017–2019 average at constant 2019 prices)	OECD Development Assistance Committee members
Biodiversity-relevant taxes	\$7.7 billion per year in tax revenue in OECD countries  \$8.8 billion per year in all countries (2017–2019 average)	More than 120 countries reporting
Biodiversity offsets	\$6.9 billion per year	Global
Payments for ecosystem services	\$10.1 billion per year (2017–2019 average)	Across 10 countries that provided data on finance

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<sup>61</sup> OECD, "Tracking economic instruments and finance for biodiversity" (OECD, 2021). Available at: [www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/tracking-economic-instruments-and-finance-for-biodiversity-2021.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/tracking-economic-instruments-and-finance-for-biodiversity-2021.pdf)

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## Box 29: Countries should select the economic and financial instruments most likely to accelerate action on their nature priorities<sup>62</sup>

The Taskforce on Nature Markets, for example, has analysed the relationship between planetary boundaries and nature markets:

Planetary boundary/description	Types of unit-base market schemes
1. <b>Biosphere integrity:</b> Units represent measurable protection, regeneration or stewardship outcomes for a species or ecosystem	<p><b>Biodiversity offset schemes:</b> Globally, a significant number of compliance schemes use biodiversity units to offset direct development impacts.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity credit schemes:</b> A number of voluntary initiatives and pilot projects relating to unit-based voluntary biodiversity markets have recently been launched or are in development.</p>
2. <b>Climate change:</b> Units represent 1 ton of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO <sub>2</sub> e) greenhouse gas emissions removed or reduced from the atmosphere	<p>Globally, a significant number of national, international and voluntary compliance schemes and standards have been launched.</p> <p><b>National and international emissions trading schemes:</b> Examples of well-known schemes include the European Union and New Zealand emission trading schemes.</p> <p><b>Voluntary standards and schemes:</b> Examples of well-known voluntary standards and schemes include the Australian Emissions Reduction Fund, the Verified Carbon Standard and the Gold Standard.</p>
3. <b>Land system change:</b> Partially addressed by unit-based schemes relating to climate change and biosphere integrity (see above)	<p><b>Emissions trading schemes, including voluntary carbon schemes:</b> Globally, a significant number of voluntary and other compliance schemes and standards use carbon units created in the context of countries' national biodiversity strategies, with the aim of preventing or curbing the impact of projects leading to deforestation or forest degradation. Carbon credits can, for example, be generated in the context of the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+) mechanism, the ART-TREES standard and the national scheme of Australia.</p>
4. <b>Freshwater use:</b> Units represent an entitlement for the use of a defined volume of water from a specified source	<p><b>Water allocation and trading schemes:</b> Compliance schemes based on the allocation of water units can be used to regulate freshwater water use. For example, a water allocation framework that would be underpinned by tradeable water "management units" is being considered in the Ruamahan-ga catchment in New Zealand</p>
5. Novel entities, including the release of chemicals, plastics and organisms into the environment	<p><b>Water quality schemes:</b> The voluntary Reef Credit Scheme has been established with the support of the Queensland state government in Australia. Under the scheme, tradeable units (called "Reef Credits") are issued for improvements to water quality achieved as a result of changes in land management practices. Each unit under the scheme represents a specified volume of nutrient, pesticide or sediment prevented from entering the Great Barrier Reef catchment.</p>
(a) <b>Chemicals:</b> Units represent a measurable reduction in chemicals, including pesticides, entering a waterway or catchment area	<p><b>Plastic reduction schemes:</b> The voluntary Plastic Waste Reduction Program has been launched by Verra, a non-profit corporation headquartered in Washington, D.C. Under the programme, tradeable units (known as "Plastic Credits") are issued to project proponents for collecting plastics from the environment or for recycling plastics that would otherwise not have been recycled.</p>
(b) <b>Sediments:</b> Units represent a measurable reduction in sediment entering a waterway/catchment area	
(c) <b>Plastics:</b> Units represent a reduction of 1 ton of plastic waste, which is consequently not released into the biosphere.	
6. Biogeochemical flows, including phosphorus and nitrogen loading through the overuse of chemical fertilizers. Units represent a measurable reduction in nutrients entering a waterway or catchment area.	<p><b>Water quality schemes:</b> As mentioned previously, under the Reef Credit Scheme, established with the support of the Queensland state government, "Reef Credits" are issued for a specified volume of nutrient, pesticide or sediment prevented from entering the Great Barrier Reef catchment.</p>

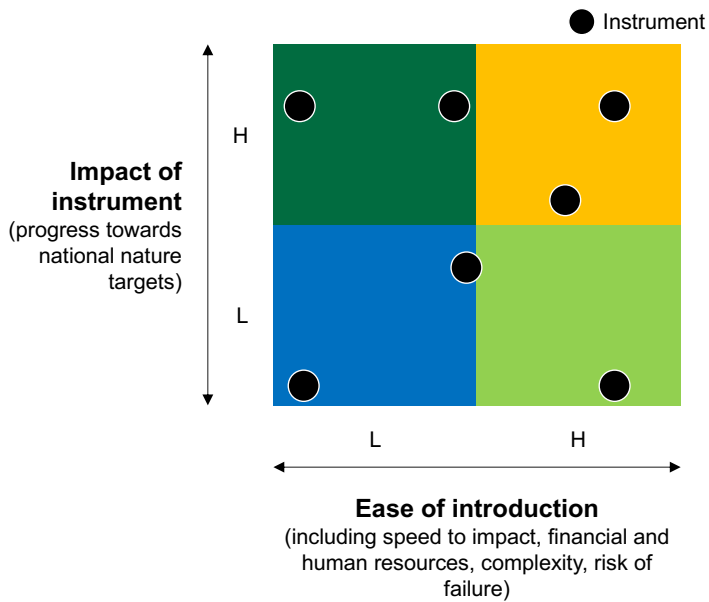
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<sup>62</sup> Taskforce for Nature Markets, "Biodiversity Credit Markets: The role of law regulation and policy" (April 2023). Available at: [www.naturemarkets.net/publications/biodiversity-credit-markets](http://www.naturemarkets.net/publications/biodiversity-credit-markets).

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### Box 30: A value-ease matrix is a simple way to assess priority

This matrix is based on the same principles as those underpinning the priority matrix for initiatives, but plots the impact of instruments against ease of introduction instead of risk level.



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**Highest priority**

Action: implement

Assign resources immediately; prioritize based on the time required to realize benefits of each initiative, sequence to suit

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**Potentially desirable**

Action: challenge

Select elements of initiatives to simplify implementation (if there is no interference with high priorities)

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**Potential quick wins**

Action: pick

Execute selected initiatives as quick wins (if there is no interference with high priorities)

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**Least desirable**

Action: kill

Not a good resource investment – delay or abandon

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## 4.2.4. Component IV: Governance and implementation

- **Subcomponent 8: Institutions**

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### **Box 31: Adoption of a multi-stakeholder partnership approach can support the development and implementation of a national nature strategy<sup>63 64</sup>**

According to The Partnering Initiative, a global organization dedicated to multi-stakeholder partnering, multi-stakeholder partnerships involve organizations from different societal sectors working together, sharing risks and combining their unique resources and competencies in ways that can generate and maximize value towards shared partnership and individual partner objectives.

Benefits of a multi-stakeholder partnership approach include:

- Enhanced capacity to address nature issues, which are often highly complex and cannot be addressed effectively by a single institution or entity;
- More harmonized programmes and actions;
- Enhanced mobilization of resources and expertise from a range of sources;
- Enhanced inclusivity, ensuring no one is left behind and promoting transparency and credibility.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are not one-size-fits-all and can take many forms. Institutions may consider the following questions as they begin the partnership-building process:

- 
- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  <b>Who will be the leading institution driving strategy development and implementation</b> (government, specific ministry, dedicated function etc.)? |  <b>Who will be responsible for day-to-day operations?</b> Does a project management or secretariat function need to be established? |
|  <b>How will key stakeholders make decisions on an equal footing?</b>   |  <b>Who will be a champion of and who will impede</b> the aims of the process?   |
|  <b>Who will ultimately make decisions</b> (steering committees, secretariat etc.)?   |  <b>How is initial strategy development being funded?</b>  |
|  <b>Does the chosen leader institution have the power to act on decisions?</b> If not, who does?  |   |
- 

63 Angela Bester and Leon Hermans, "Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Implications for Evaluation Practice, Methods and Capacities", National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) conference paper (United Nations Development Programme Independent Evaluation Office, 2017). Available at: <https://nec.undp.org/publications/multi-stakeholder-partnerships-implications-evaluation-practice-methods-and-capacities>.

64 Ros Tenyson, The Partnering Toolbook: An essential guide to cross-sector partnering (The Partnering Initiative, 2017) Available at: <https://thepartneringinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Partnering-Toolbook-en-20113.pdf>

**Box 32: Countries may choose from among several institutional arrangements<sup>65</sup>**

Management option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Centralized management: management of partnership or project taken on by one partner organization on behalf of the partnership	<p>Maximum efficiency</p> <p>Unambiguous decision-making procedures and day-to-day management systems</p> <p>Familiar/conventional management approach</p> <p>“One-stop shop” for external agencies or individuals</p> <p>Rapid response times</p>	<p>Too distant from experience or the potential contribution of other partners</p> <p>Too much influence or control perceived to be in the hands of one partner</p> <p>Too conventional for the flexible needs of some partnerships</p> <p>May take decisions too rapidly</p>
Decentralized management: different aspects of management shared among the partner organizations	<p>Maximum diversity at operational levels</p> <p>More opportunities for individual leadership</p> <p>Shared sense of ownership</p> <p>Moving away from conventional power bases</p> <p>Greater freedom of operations</p>	<p>Greater potential for conflicts of interest</p> <p>Partners or individuals may feel isolated</p> <p>Cumbersome decision-making processes</p> <p>Lack of coherence</p>
Management by mandate: specific tasks contracted on a case-by-case basis to individuals or single partner organizations that are answerable to the partners as a group	<p>Those who have most time (or care most about the task) can be given key management roles</p> <p>Highly-flexible approach that can be reviewed and changed as often as necessary</p> <p>Tasks can be easily shared among partners, promoting a sense of collective responsibility</p>	<p>Tasks need to be clearly defined and allocated appropriately</p> <p>Highly dependent on the actions and reliability of individuals</p> <p>Risk of individuals/single partner organizations “doing their own thing” without adequate coordination with the partner group</p>

65 Ibid.

- **Subcomponent 9: Stakeholder engagement**

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**Box 33: Guidance on who to involve in strategy development tends to focus on seven key stakeholder groups<sup>66 67 68</sup>**

Relevant stakeholders groups in the national nature strategy development process:

**1. Those with rights related to nature or natural resources**

- May include indigenous people and local communities and/or agencies and private sector actors with rights to genetic resources;

**2. Those directly affected by nature loss**

- May include indigenous people and local communities and/or other stakeholder groups affected by poor water, air or soil quality or by overfishing;

**3. Those directly affected by potential mitigation actions**

- May include populations in protected areas, including individuals and groups directly affected by nature loss and those with a direct or indirect impact on nature;

**4. Those with a direct or indirect impact on nature**

- May include stakeholders in the agriculture, transport, forestry, fisheries, urban development and energy sectors, in addition to financial institutions and regulators;

**5. Those with responsibility for oversight of natural resources**

- May include the ministry of the environment, the national environment agency, coastal/forest/water management agencies and subnational governments and/or city authorities;

**6. Those who can add value in the planning/implementation process**

- May include project management offices, steering groups and nature project developers;

**7. Those with relevant expertise**

- May include research institutes, academics, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations focusing on development and/or human rights, international trade unions and training experts.

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66 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. "Ensuring Inclusive Societal Engagement in the Development, Implementation and Updating of NBSAPs", Capacity training module B-5 (Revised July 2012) Available at: [www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/](http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/).

67 Science Based Targets Network, "The first science-based targets for nature".

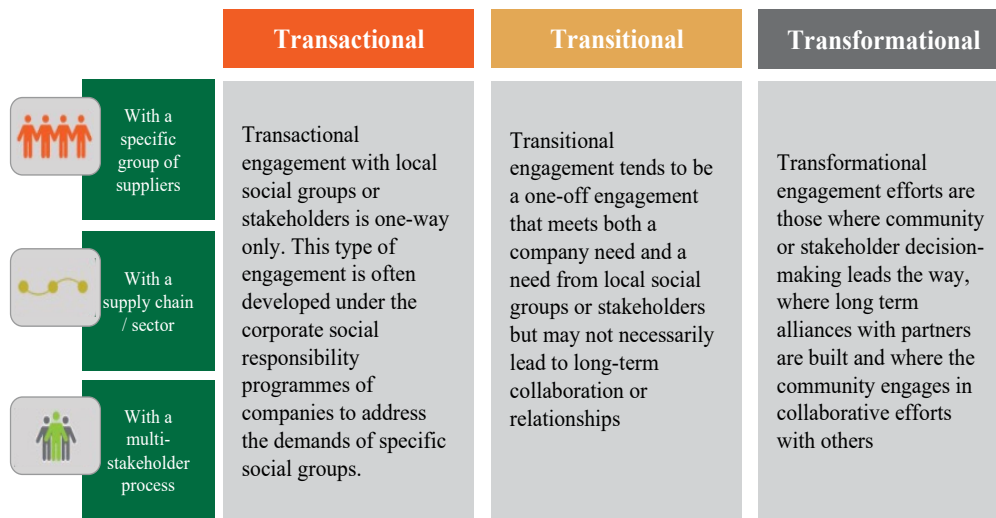
68 Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, The TNFD Nature-Related Risk and Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework (Beta v0.4), Annex 4.9: Draft Guidance on Engagement with Affected Stakeholders (London, 2022). Available at: [https://framework.tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/23-23882-TNFD\\_v0.4\\_Annex\\_4.9\\_v7-1.pdf](https://framework.tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/23-23882-TNFD_v0.4_Annex_4.9_v7-1.pdf).

**Box 34: Sources of guidance on the formulation and implementation of stakeholder strategies** <sup>69 70 71 72</sup>

A focus on indigenous people and local communities is a key feature of the following guidelines on stakeholder engagement:

**1. Science Based Targets Network stakeholder guidance:** Guidance is most relevant where stakeholders have been significantly affected by actions; it is crucial to establish clear follow through/feedback, governance and accountability mechanisms, ensuring that long-term stakeholder engagement is integrated into the strategy.

The following figure illustrates the difference between transactional, traditional and transformational stakeholder engagement:



**2. Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity – training on national biodiversity strategies and action plans:** Provides guidance on how to manage multiple stakeholders in a participatory process, including setting up workshops and breaking up parts of the content to delegate to smaller working teams. The training module also provides examples on how this has been achieved in a number of countries and outlines the different degrees of stakeholder involvement in public policy making.

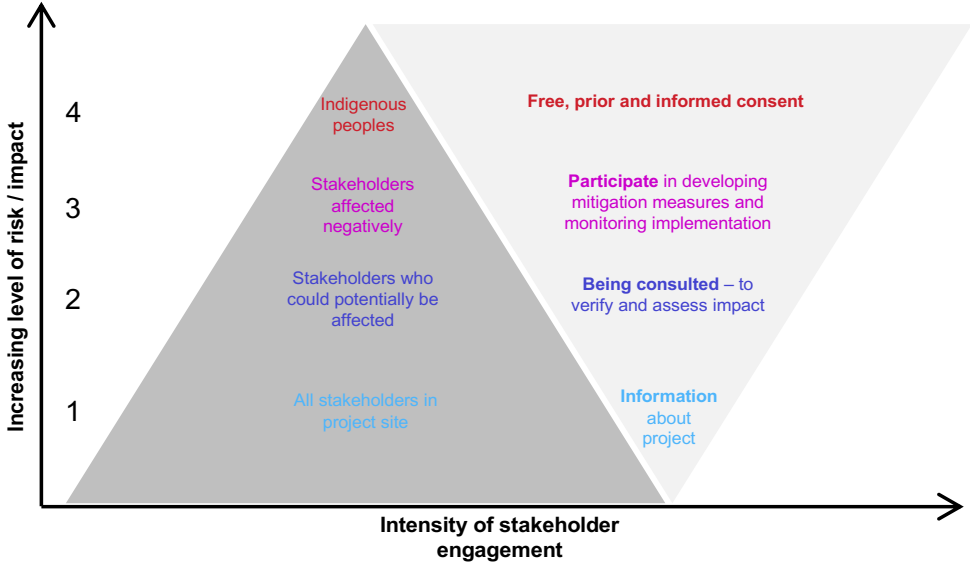
The following figure highlights the different degrees of public participation, as envisaged in the training module:

69 Science Based Targets Network, "The first science-based targets for nature".  
 70 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. "Ensuring Inclusive Societal Engagement in the Development, Implementation and Updating of NBSAPs".  
 71 Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, The TNFD Nature-Related Risk and Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework (Beta v0.4), Annex 4.9: Draft Guidance on Engagement with Affected Stakeholders.  
 72 International Union for Conservation of Nature Environmental and Social Management System, "Stakeholder Engagement in IUCN projects", guidance note (May 2021). Available at: [www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/esms-stakeholder-engagement-guidance-note.pdf](http://www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/esms-stakeholder-engagement-guidance-note.pdf)

- Informing** – Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
- Consulting** – Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions
- Engaging** – Work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
- Collaborating** – Partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution
- Empowering** – Place final decision-making authority in the hands of citizens

**3. International Union for Conservation of Nature environmental and social management system:** Provides a methodology for engaging stakeholders throughout project cycle and sets out a number of guiding principles for that process: for example, engagement should begin as early as possible, actions should be targeted to the audience, and sufficient emphasis should be placed on engagement at the local level. The system also provides templates for conducting stakeholder analysis, documenting consultations and building an engagement plan.

The following figure shows that the intensity of stakeholder engagement is correlated with the level of risk/impact for specific groups:



**4. Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures Nature-Related Risk and Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework (Beta v0.4), Annex 4.9:** Provides a set of questions that can be asked during the scoping phase that can inform stakeholder engagement. The questions are targeted at companies but could be adapted to other stakeholder groups. Guidance is also provided on how to prepare for, design, conduct and integrate stakeholder engagement into plans and strategies.





The following table sets out a number of questions that could be asked to facilitate stakeholder engagement:



Scoping the assessment	How does input from affected stakeholders inform scoping decisions?	
	Prepare to respond and report	Informed by stakeholder engagement
<b>P1 Strategy and resource allocation</b>	What strategy and resource allocation decisions should be made as a result of this analysis?	Does the resource allocation reflect identified needs for meaningful and ongoing stakeholder engagement as part of mitigation and management strategies?
<b>P2 Performance measurement</b>	How will we set targets and define and measure progress?	Are the targets defined, and is progress measured with input from affected stakeholders?
<b>P3 Reporting</b>	What will we disclose in line with Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure recommendations?	What are the affected stakeholders expectations in terms of disclosure?

- **Subcomponent 10: Resource mobilization**




**Box 1: To estimate current financial flows, countries could, at the outset, consider flows in the following categories<sup>73</sup>**





Category	Subcategory	Description
 Public sector	Domestic government expenditure	Sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries Water resource conservation and land management, pollution control and other natural resource management Pollution abatement, wastewater management and environmental protection Protection of biodiversity and landscapes Environmental and other policies
	Bilateral/multilateral flows	Bilateral and multilateral aid in support of sustainability, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and/or desertification
 Private sector	Carbon markets	Transactions in voluntary carbon markets and investments in the context of the REDD+ mechanism
	Biodiversity offsets	Investment in programmes to compensate for unavoidable impacts stemming from development projects
	Sustainable supply chains	Investment in biodiversity conservation in the context of sustainable-certified commodity markets
	Impact investing	Equity and debt-based investments to generate positive, measurable environmental, social and governance impacts and financial returns
 Not-for-profit sector	Payment for ecosystem services	Voluntary financial flows between service users and providers that are conditional on agreed rules of resource management that provide for the generation of ecosystem services
	Non-governmental organizations	Expenditures reported by large non-governmental organizations focusing on conservation activities
 International cooperation	Philanthropic foundations	Grants and non-grants reported by philanthropic foundations
	Multilateral flows	Private finance leveraged by development finance institutions, other agencies striving to promote development and multilateral climate and biodiversity funds

<sup>73</sup> UNEP, State of Finance for Nature (Nairobi, June 2023). Available at: [www.unep.org/resources/report/state-finance-nature](http://www.unep.org/resources/report/state-finance-nature).

• **Subcomponent 11: Political support and alignment**

**Box 36: Political support and alignment: key actions, questions and stakeholders<sup>74</sup>**

		Public sector	Private sector	Academic institutions, think tanks and non-governmental organizations	Indigenous people and local communities
How can broad political support be secured?		Decision and policymakers	Can unlock investments	Provide expertise, experience, and knowledge	Role in protecting nature and biodiversity
Aligning stakeholders, starting with key decision makers in the public sector	Why is their buy-in needed?				
		Key departments or sectors, including, for example, the environment, finance, agriculture and health sectors	Largest impacts and dependencies  Opportunities	Expertise, tools and know-how	All relevant indigenous people and local communities across nature dimensions and identified investments
	Who should be involved?				
		Building a case for nature that demonstrates its public and private economic value	Highlighting the business case for nature and its nature-related risks and opportunities	Bringing these stakeholders into relevant discussions and consultations	Organizing consultation workshops and closely involving these stakeholders in bottom-up processes to prioritize investments
	How can their support be obtained?				

	Mechanism	Description	Example
How can commitments be protected from short-term political change?		Legislation that facilitates long-term alignment	Multiyear or long-term budgets
	Legislative		
		Coordination mechanisms that align short-term and long-term visions	Short- and long-term priorities supervised by same institution
	Institutional arrangement		
		Planning for regular reviews in order to align long-term priorities	Defining a review and revision cycle
	Review and revision cycles		
		Deepening the awareness of relevant stakeholders of the need to safeguard funding can help ensure that nature investments remain a priority	Stakeholder engagement and awareness campaigns
	Advocacy and awareness		

<sup>74</sup> UNEP, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Global Environment Facility, "Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation" Capacity training module B-6 (July 2007). Available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b6-train-political-support-finance-nbsap-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b6-train-political-support-finance-nbsap-en.pdf); OECD, "Aligning short-term recovery measures with longer-

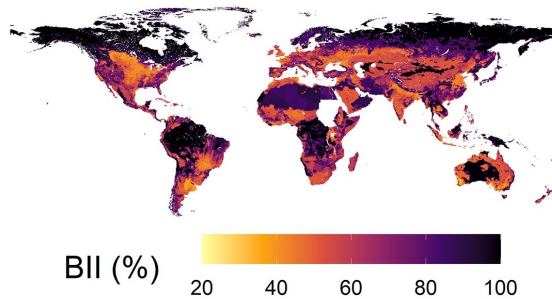
- **Subcomponent 12: Measurement**

**Box 37: A range of indicators and resources are available to facilitate biodiversity assessment and monitoring activities<sup>75</sup>**

The Biodiversity Intactness Index and the mean species abundance indicator developed by Global biodiversity model for policy support (GLOBIO) can facilitate efforts by national governments to assess and monitor biodiversity.

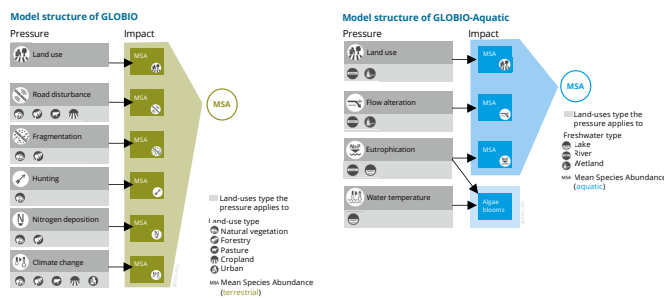
**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Biodiversity Intactness Index**

The Biodiversity Intactness Index (BII) summarizes the change in ecological communities in response to human pressures. The Index is an estimated percentage of the original number of species that remain and their abundance in any given area, despite human impacts.



**GLOBIO model (mean species abundance indicator)**

GLOBIO calculates local biodiversity intactness, expressed by the Mean Species Abundance indicator, as a function of human pressures. The GLOBIO–ecosystem services model also calculates the current state, trends and possible future scenarios of ecosystem services globally.



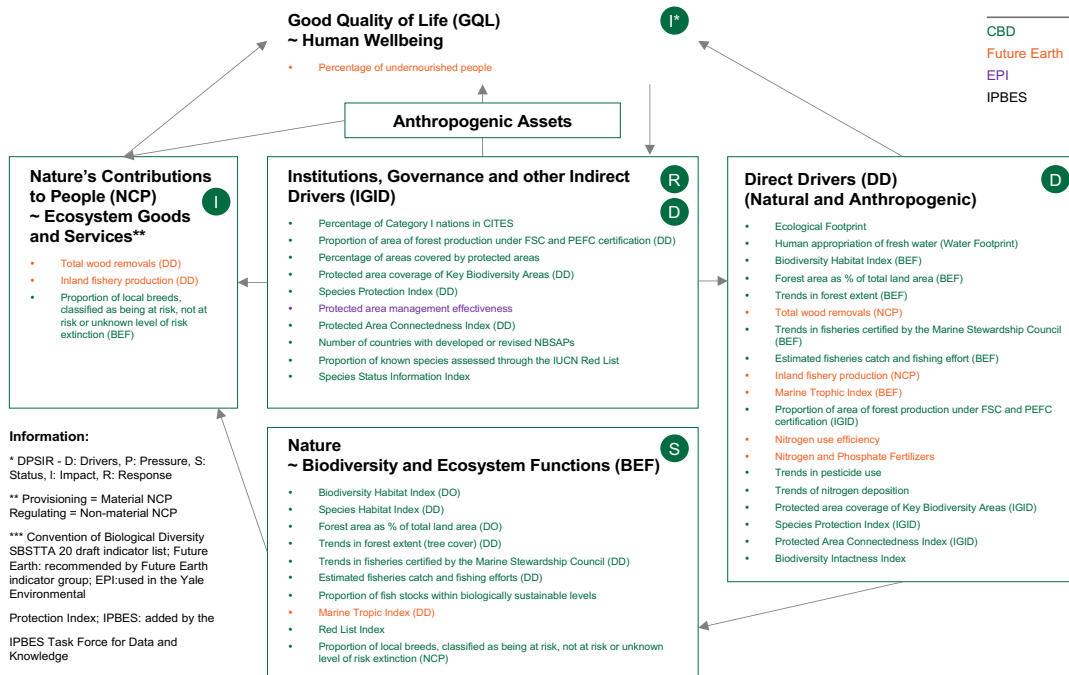
*Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.*

term climate and environmental objectives” (2021). Available at: [www.oecd.org/g20/topics/climate-sustainability-and-energy/OECD-G20-Aligning-recovery-measures-with-climate-objectives.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/climate-sustainability-and-energy/OECD-G20-Aligning-recovery-measures-with-climate-objectives.pdf).

<sup>75</sup> Helen Phillips and others, “The Biodiversity Intactness Index – country, region and global-level summaries for the year 1970 to



IPBES provides an overview of quantitative indicators of change in biodiversity and ecosystem services. IPBES defines indicators as: "... measures or signs that reflect the status, cause or outcome of an object or process". The figure below sets out core indicators for measuring biodiversity and ecosystem services as defined by IPBES. More detail on indicators used for measuring targets can be found in the IPBES global assessment report.



Source: [IPBES indicators](#); [IPBES global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services chapter 3](#)

2050 under various scenarios", data set. Natural History Museum, London. Available at: [data.nhm.ac.uk/dataset/bii-bte](http://data.nhm.ac.uk/dataset/bii-bte); Aafke Schipper and others, "Projecting terrestrial biodiversity intactness with GLOBIO 4". *Global Change Biology*, 26(2), pp. 760–771 (November 2019). Available at: [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.14848](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.14848); IPBES, "Indicators" (2021). Available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/indicators>.

### Box 38: The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provides a list of indicators against each target<sup>76</sup>

Indicators are split into headline, component and complementary at increasing levels of granularity. Some indicators are still under discussion and will be updated in due course in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.<sup>77</sup> Examples of the headline indicators are provided below, and the full list is provided in the monitoring framework.

Target (summary)	Example headline indicator
Target 1. Land- and sea-use spatial planning to bring loss of high biodiversity areas close to zero by 2030	Red List of Ecosystems; percentage of areas covered by spatial plans
Target 2. Thirty per cent of degraded ecosystems under restoration by 2030	Area under restoration
Target 3. Thirty per cent of areas effectively conserved and managed by 2030	Coverage of protected areas and other area-based conservation measures
Target 4. Actions to halt the extinction of, recover and conserve species	Red list index; proportion of populations with population size larger than 500
Target 5. Sustainable harvest, trade and use of wild species	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
Target 6. Eliminate, reduce and/or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species	Rate of invasive alien species establishment
Target 7. Reduce pollution risks by 2030	Index of coastal eutrophication potential; Pesticide concentration
Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change: nature-based solutions	None provided (examples given at other levels of granularity)
Target 9. Sustainable use and benefit-sharing of wild species	Benefits from use of wild species; percentage of the population in traditional occupations
Target 10. Sustainable use of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
Target 11. Regulation of air, water, hazards and extreme events	Services provided by ecosystems
Target 12. Increase access to green and blue spaces in urban areas	Share of built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use
Target 13. Access and benefit-sharing from genetic resources	Indicator on monetary and non-monetary benefits received
Target 14. Mainstreaming biodiversity into policies, regulations, planning, etc.	Indicator on monetary and non-monetary benefits received
Target 15. Encourage sustainable business activity, production and supply chains	Number of companies reporting on disclosures on biodiversity
Target 16. Encourage sustainable consumption choices	None provided (examples given at other levels of granularity)
Target 17. Manage biotechnology impacts	None provided (examples given at other levels of granularity)
Target 18. Eliminate harmful incentives	Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation
Target 19. Increase financial resources from all sources	International public funding for the conservation and use of biodiversity and ecosystems
Target 20. Strengthen capacity-building	None provided (examples given at other levels of granularity)
Target 21. Ensure accessible data, information and knowledge	Indicator on biodiversity information used in the monitoring of compliance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Target 22. Representation of indigenous people and local communities	None provided (examples given at other levels of granularity)
Target 23. Gender equality	None provided (examples given at other levels of granularity)

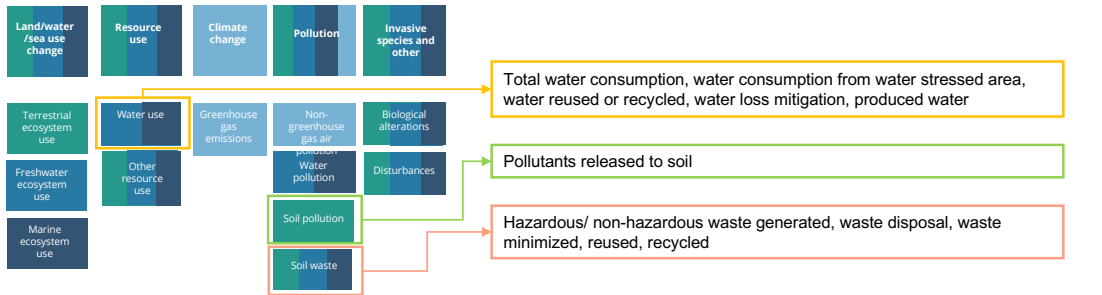
<sup>76</sup> Conference to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, document CBD/COP/DEC/15/4. Available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf).

<sup>77</sup> Conference to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, document CBD/COP/DEC/15/5. Available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf).

### Box 39: Sources of metrics and tools relating to the state of nature<sup>78</sup>



The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures has developed a series of indicators and associated framework references that are relevant to different impact drivers. While it also provides example metrics, these are designed with the private sector in mind and would require adaptation to be used by national authorities.



	Biodiversity Footprint Financial Institutions	Biodiversity Impact Analytics powered by the Global Biodiversity Score	Corporat Biodiversity Footprint	Global Biodiversity Score for Financial Institutions	Global Impact Database, Biodiversity Impact Data	Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure	Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool
<b>Land / sea use change</b>							
Land use change / land transformation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Land occupation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Land use change in river and wetland catchments	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Encroachment	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fragmentation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wetland conversion	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sea use change	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Direct exploitation</b>							
Water use	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Other resource use (e.g. fish, wild caught animals/plants)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Climate change</b>							
Effects of climate change on freshwater ecosystems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Effects of climate change on terrestrial ecosystems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Effects of climate change on marine ecosystems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hydrological disturbance due to climate change)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Pollution</b>							
Terrestrial acidification	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Terrestrial eutrophication	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Freshwater eutrophication	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Marine eutrophication	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Freshwater ecotoxicity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

**Legend realms**

- Freshwater
- Terrestrial
- Marine



The Finance for Biodiversity Pledge provides a guide on biodiversity measurement approaches, with a summary of each approach. It also provides information on data sources, collection methods and tools for measuring progress.






78 Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, "Recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures", Annex 2 (September 2023). Available at: [tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Recommendations\\_of\\_the\\_Taskforce\\_on\\_Nature-related\\_Financial\\_Disclosures\\_September\\_2023.pdf?v=1695118661](https://tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Recommendations_of_the_Taskforce_on_Nature-related_Financial_Disclosures_September_2023.pdf?v=1695118661); Finance for Biodiversity Pledge, "Guide on biodiversity measurement approaches: Annex on Assessing Impact to Pledge Guidance", 2nd edition (October 2022). Available at: [www.financeforbiodiversity.org/wp-content/uploads/Finance-for-Biodiversity\\_Guide-on-biodiversity-measurement-approaches\\_2nd-edition.pdf](https://www.financeforbiodiversity.org/wp-content/uploads/Finance-for-Biodiversity_Guide-on-biodiversity-measurement-approaches_2nd-edition.pdf).

- **Subcomponent 13: Transparency and disclosure**

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**Box 40: Countries could streamline the reporting and disclosure process and enhance transparency by making use of a common reporting framework<sup>79</sup>**

Reporting frameworks have been formulated by a number of organizations concerned with biodiversity. There include the following:

						Other voluntary disclosures
<b>Reporting description</b>	National reports submitted within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which make use of indicators set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Updates on national biodiversity strategies and action plans submitted within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which make use of indicators set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Actions Platform registry of voluntary policies, commitments, multi-stakeholder partnerships and other initiatives	National reports submitted in the context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	International Union for Conservation of Nature members can report on their contributions to conservation and restoration actions	...
<b>Obligation</b>	Required by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Required by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Voluntary	Required by parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Voluntary	Voluntary
<b>Timeline</b>	Next report due in 2026  Subsequent report due in 2029	To be submitted prior to of the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scheduled to take place in December 2024	No fixed timeline	Annually on 31 October	No fixed timeline	No fixed timeline

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<sup>79</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "SDG Actions Platform", document CBD/COP/DEC/15/4. Available at: [sdgs.un.org/partnerships](https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), "Reporting requirements: annual report". Available at: [cites.org/eng/imp/reporting\\_requirements/annual\\_report](https://cites.org/eng/imp/reporting_requirements/annual_report); International Union for Conservation of Nature, "Contributions for Nature Platform". Available at: [www.iucncontributionsfornature.org/](https://www.iucncontributionsfornature.org/) (accessed on 18 October 2023).



- **Subcomponent 14: Implementation**

- For guidance on subcomponent 14, see Section 3: Implementation.

Indicator categories	<u>Biodiversity</u> e.g. net gain <i>(detailed index examples provided below)</i>		<u>Conservation and protection</u> e.g. fraction of land/marine area protected; forest loss (percentage and hectares per year); International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List species change in abundance			<u>Resource use</u> e.g. Proportion of farmland overfarmed (percentage and hectares per year); minerals extracted (kg per year)	
	<u>Air quality</u> e.g. UNEP index rating		<u>Marine pollution</u> e.g. marine plastic debris density kg/m <sup>3</sup>		<u>Soil quality</u> e.g. soil pH	<u>Governance</u> e.g. annual spend on nature; staff employed in forest protection	
Biodiversity indices	Biodiversity Intactness Index	Mean species abundance	Ecosystem integrity index	Species threat abatement and recovery	Potentially disappeared fraction	Biodiversity habitat index	Biodiversity impact metric