

NBSAP and NDC Synergies: Opportunities for Governance and Monitoring

Insight Series: NBSAP Implementation Experiences

Ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss are clearly interlinked with climate change, which often functions as an accelerator of other drivers of biodiversity loss. In turn, healthy ecosystems offer cost-effective and proven measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) recognizes this interdependence. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the key instrument for planning, implementation and reporting on the GBF and are currently being updated. In parallel, the updating process of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is planned for 2025. This is a key moment to promote synergies between climate and biodiversity action on the ground.

Visit the project webpage!



The GIZ Global Project “Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets (GBF Implementation)”, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), is supporting synergies between climate and biodiversity action at national level. Contributing to the objectives of the country-led NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the project supports eight partner countries: Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Namibia, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Laos, and Indonesia. In all partner countries, the project is funding (together with the BMZ and EU co-financed GIZ Program Euroclima) an in-depth study identifying challenges and solutions to align NBSAP and NDC implementation in the areas of governance, sectoral implementation, financing, and monitoring and reporting.

Global Study background information

11
countries

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- DR Congo
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Madagascar
- Mexico
- Namibia
- Peru

Strengthening synergies in NBSAP and NDC governance structures

Existing NBSAPs and NDCs overlap thematically, but this general alignment and the competition for (financial) resources can lead to fragmented implementation. In many countries, the Ministry of Environment coordinates both NBSAP and NDC processes. This Ministry has a strategic role in target setting, reporting to CBD and UNFCCC, and steering of implementation processes with sectoral ministries, regional/local governments, civil society, and other non-state actors. Practical challenges arise because different ministerial departments are responsible for NBSAP and NDC coordination, leading to gaps in communication. In addition, sectoral Ministries responsible for NBSAP and NDC implementation have the challenge to simultaneously mainstream biodiversity and climate change considerations into their priorities. Promising examples of a coordinated effort under the Rio conventions exist nevertheless.

Both GBF-aligned NBSAPs and NDCs are ambitious when it comes to including non-state actors as well as Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LC) into their revision and implementation. Yet, synergies between the participatory/consultation processes are limited to date. In most countries, separate processes exist, either through institutionalized platforms with a fixed membership or ad-hoc consultations. In many contexts, biodiversity-related governance is more inclusive, based on established cooperation fora and with a respected role for IPs, as was underlined by the recent NBSAP updates.



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Climate change governance organizes consultations often more in an ad-hoc manner, but often with a differentiated group of actors, and at higher level (government). Established consultation spaces enable more inclusive accompaniment of NDC and NBSAP implementation beyond the elaboration of the national plans.

In **Colombia**, the Ministry of Environment has made progress in mapping out how the 2020 NDC targets align with the existing NBSAP goals to foster better coordination between biodiversity and climate change policies. The inclusion of climate action in the updated NBSAP signals an important step towards integrated territorial management that promotes biodiversity conservation alongside climate action efforts.

Key recommendations

- Creating synergies by joining national climate and biodiversity processes as well as linking them with other environmental treaties offers considerable opportunities.
- Fostering synergies in the implementation of NBSAP and NDCs in forestry, agriculture, fishery, tourism, and energy sectors limits tradeoffs.
- Institutionalizing one national platform for coordination on biodiversity and climate change with all relevant actors fosters an understanding of NDC-NBSAP synergies.

In **Peru**, the National Commissions on Climate Change (CNCC) and on Biodiversity (CONADIB) bring together actors from government and civil society (including organizations representing IP&LCs) to monitor compliance with public policies as well as Peru's international commitments. While CONADIB provides the right to voice an opinion, CNCC updated its membership in 2021 and now all have a voice and a vote.

Strengthening synergies in NBSAP and NDC monitoring and reporting

In 2026, Parties to CBD and UNFCCC will prepare their 7th National Reports and 2nd Biennial Transparency Reports respectively. To date, the existing national reporting mechanisms vary in their respective strength and there are hardly any joint systems and methodologies. In many countries the NDC reporting system, which is built up or already in place, systematically tracks of CO2 emissions by sector. In many contexts, as of now, NBSAP reporting is less strongly elaborated and provides less clarity on the level of achievement of CBD goals. Yet, there are gaps in tracking progress and/or limited public visibility on the current status of goal achievement. The new GBF Monitoring Framework will provide more clarity on target achievement. The different reporting methodologies, criteria, format, and timelines of the UNFCCC and CBD are a key challenge for national governments. Often the institutional set-up is fragmented and information is inaccessible for the public. It is also difficult to collect and incorporate data from IP&LCs into the official monitoring and reporting systems.



Madagascar introduced an Environmental Management Information System (SIGE) providing information related to the three Rio conventions and facilitating the management of statistical data and environmental documents.

Key recommendations

- Aligning CBD and UNFCCC reporting criteria and methodology supports joint national monitoring (building on the Berne III process is an opportunity).
- National governments should encourage learning between biodiversity and climate reporting to benefit from the respective strengths, e.g. data collection (climate) and participatory processes (biodiversity).
- Strengthening a joint national reporting platform and boundary institutions for building bridges to IP&LCs enhances whole-of-society implementation.

Involving Women and Youth in NBSAPs

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IP&LCs shaping NBSAPs



Local Community Biodiversity Conservation



Study coming soon: November 2024, on the project webpage.

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