

# EFFECTIVELY DELIVERING ON CLIMATE AND NATURE: NDCS, NAPS AND NBSAPS SYNERGIES

A checklist for national policymakers



# INTRODUCTION

The 2015 Paris Agreement and 2022 Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) are synergistic and complementary. The overarching goals on climate and biodiversity—to protect biodiversity and mitigate and adapt to climate change—are inextricably linked, and to be effective, each agreement depends on the other’s implementation success (Streck, 2023). This has been recognized by science and in multiple decisions, declarations, and calls for enhanced cooperation and establishes a foundation for creating functional linkages in countries’ efforts to synergistically achieve their commitments under these global agendas.

Countries are in the process of renewing their respective commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change’s (UNFCCC’s) Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The next 2 years represent an important opportunity to foster synergies, integration and alignment (see Figure 1) in the planning and implementation of national climate change and biodiversity commitments and strategies that are effective, just, gender-responsive and socially inclusive.

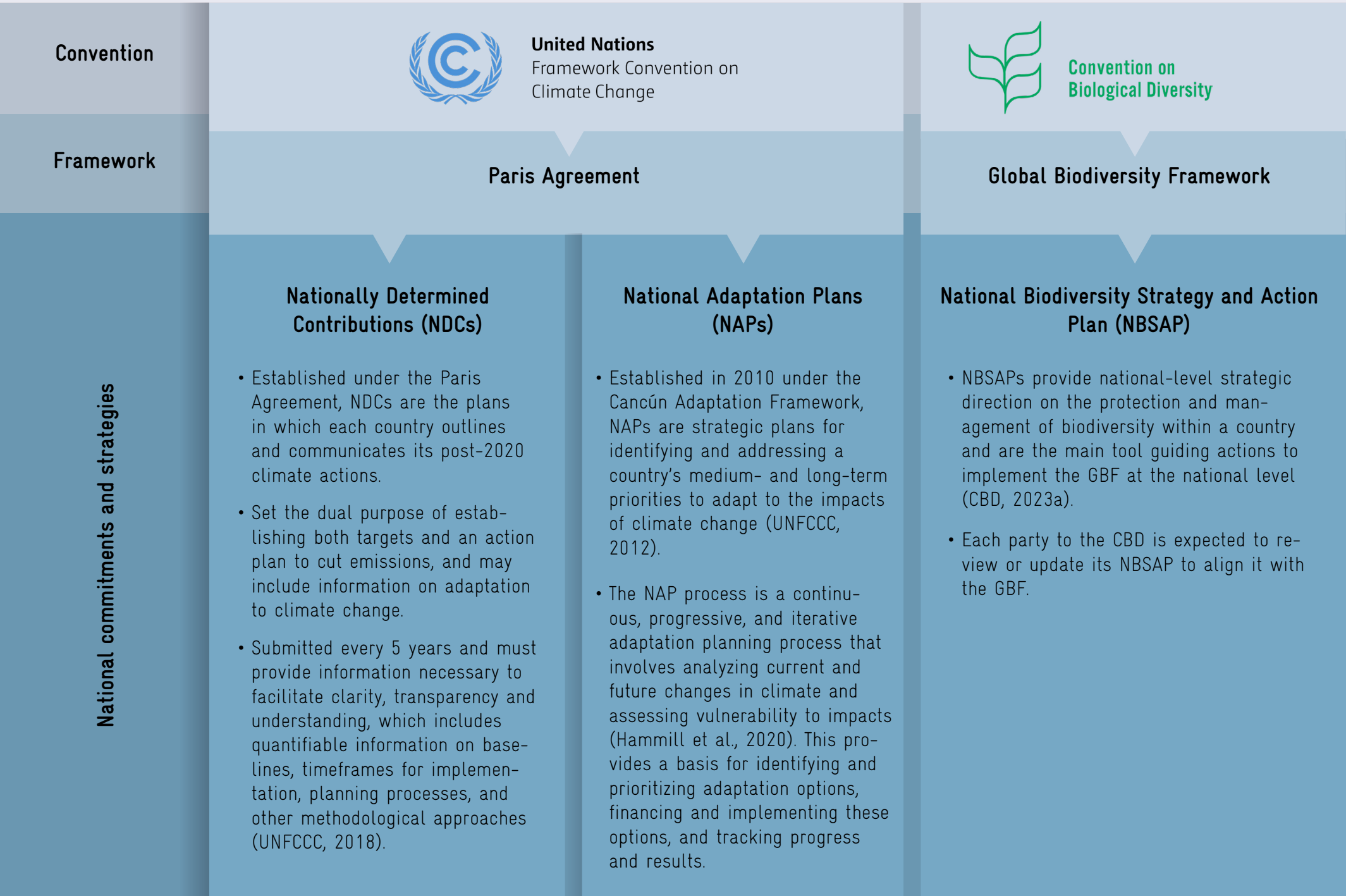
In 2025, countries are expected to update their NDCs under the Paris Agreement. The recently concluded global stocktake at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) and the upcoming assessment of progress on the NAP process provide momentum for strengthening countries’ adaptation planning and implementation. Countries are also mandated to update their NBSAPs—or at least update their national targets—to align with the Kunming–Montreal GBF under the CBD before the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) in October of 2024. See Box 2 for an overview of the three commitments and strategies.

This brief looks across these policy instruments with an integrated lens to provide practical recommendations on how national-level policy-makers could—without causing any further delay—advance synergistic, just, and gender-responsive actions on climate and nature at this critical juncture.

## BOX 1: WHAT DOES CREATING SYNERGIES MEAN?

For the purpose of this brief, creating synergies involves the intentional coordination of planning and implementation of national climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies (nationally determined contributions [NDCs], National Adaptation Plans [NAPs], and national biodiversity strategies and action plans [NBSAPs]) at the national level to achieve enhanced results greater than if each policy instrument were implemented by itself. Creating synergies creates multiple co-benefits, seeks more effective outcomes, and ensures efforts in one area do not undermine progress in another.

Figure 1. What are NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs? (Adapted from Bakhtary et al., 2023)



# THE RATIONALE:

## Synergistic planning and coordination lead to effective, inclusive implementation

Countries have increasingly championed solutions that have cross-cutting applications—such as nature-based solutions (NbS), ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and ecosystem-based approaches—as well as gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches in their national climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies. Realizing synergies at the national level requires strategic coordination between actors, sectors, and levels of government for achieving a shared vision and harmonized implementation. It will help build coherence, minimize risks, support the efficient use of valuable resources, and avoid duplication of work.

Aligning climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity commitments and strategies ensures a holistic approach, allowing **different commitments and strategies to reinforce each other**. This way, NDCs and NAPs may be updated or planned considering the biodiversity priorities identified in the NBSAP, and vice versa. Second, planning and updating NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs in silos could result in fragmented efforts and may lead to trade-offs, duplication of work or maladaptation (see Box 2). A clear understanding of current and future climate and biodiversity risks and vulnerabilities can inform the identification and implementation of climate and biodiversity actions. It means ensuring that the **selected mitigation and adaptation actions are not detrimental to biodiversity and adversely affect local communities; and at the same time, ensuring the selected biodiversity actions are “climate informed,”** i.e., that current and future climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity are taken into account and their mitigation and adaptation co-benefits maximized.

### BOX 2: WHAT DO ‘TRADE-OFF’ AND ‘MALADAPTATION’ MEAN?

**Trade-off** refers to a situation where prioritizing one action may result in a diminishing or counterproductive outcome in another. For instance, climate-resilient agriculture practices or fishing practices may have negative impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity. Multiple factors could lead to trade-offs, including “inadequate conditions, competition among means of implementation, the negative consequences of pursuing both simultaneously, and a lack of technical capacities” (Qi & Terton, 2022, p. 4).

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2022), **maladaptation** is an “action that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, including via increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increased or shifted vulnerability to climate change, more inequitable outcomes, or diminished welfare, now or in the future.”



Furthermore, NDCs, NAPS, and NBSAPs share a set of common approaches to guide countries in the design and implementation of these instruments<sup>1</sup>. These principles ensure that the processes are effective and inclusive, and leading to equitable and sustainable results. For instance, applying **a coherent approach to the integration of gender considerations and inclusive approaches** (see Box 3) in climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies will ensure that relevant gender experts are engaged in each respective process, and gender analyses are cross-referenced.

For example, coordinating the participation of diverse stakeholders and knowledge-holders in NDC, NAP, and NBSAP development ensures that different knowledge systems and existing expertise and information are being accessed and cross-referenced. This helps facilitate and demonstrate commitment to gender equality and social inclusion across mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity commitments and strategies.

Lastly, climate change and biodiversity policy instruments are often the responsibility of the same ministry or agency. Coordinating these efforts improves collaboration between departments and ministries and encourages knowledge-sharing. Identifying overlapping objectives in planned climate and biodiversity measures helps prevent unnecessary duplication of efforts across different line ministries and teams. For instance, taking stock of what has already been done under various policy processes—through an existing climate vulnerability and risk assessment, a planned EbA project, or biodiversity indicators under development—could increase efficiency, help identify and prioritize synergistic actions, and facilitate monitoring and reporting. It also helps policy-makers assess synergies and trade-offs in order to achieve the highest possible benefits with often limited financial and human resources.

### BOX 3: WHAT ARE GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE APPROACHES?

A **gender-responsive approach** entails actively examining and addressing gender norms, roles, and inequalities—seeking to promote gender equality—and “empower women in their households and communities as well as the broader policy and planning processes” (NAP Global Network & UNFCCC, 2019).

A **socially inclusive approach** includes ways of working that examine and actively address discrimination toward equitable access to resources and opportunities, increased voice in decision-making, and realization of rights for people who are disadvantaged, including Indigenous Peoples (UN, 2016). Socially inclusive approaches complement gender-responsive approaches by applying additional lenses to understand who may be excluded and why, focusing on the structures of inequity that affect people’s lives.

<sup>1</sup> Under the UNFCCC, the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its gender action plan set out the objectives and activities to “advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming” across the UNFCCC process (UNFCCC, 2019). Under the CBD, the Gender Plan of Action outlines the activities to be undertaken by Parties and other stakeholders to support and advance gender mainstreaming and gender responsive implementation of the GBF (CBD, 2022d).

# THE MANDATE:

## Synergies across multiple international forums

Parties to the UNFCCC and the CBD are mandated to develop NDCs and NBSAPs (and encouraged to undertake the NAP process) as part of their responses to the Paris Agreement and the CBD and its GBF. Language across these political forums, and in other relevant international discussions, indicates a broad mandate to explore a synergistic approach. Some of these include:

- The [outcome of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement](#) notes the importance of conserving, protecting, and restoring nature and ecosystems and **calls for alignment with the GBF** while encouraging countries to implement “integrated, multi-sectoral solutions,” such as NbS and EbA, among others (UNFCCC, 2023a, paras. 33, 55).
- The [COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People](#) calls for fostering strong synergies, integration, and alignment in the coherent, synergistic, and holistic planning and implementation of national climate, biodiversity, and land restoration plans and strategies.
- The [United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience](#) invites all stakeholders to support its implementation in a “**coherent and integrated manner, building on synergies among activities and processes**,” to enable the achievement of the targets embedded within the framework (UNFCCC, 2023b, para. 21).
- **Target 8 of the GBF** calls for “minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity,” including from NbS and EbA (CBD, 2022, p. 10). The CBD’s [guidance for NBSAPs](#) encourages countries to **leverage commitments made under other intergovernmental processes and multilateral environmental agreements** in their national targets. It also asks countries to develop their NBSAPs with **intersectional and cross-sectoral considerations in mind** (CBD, 2023a).
- COP16 will negotiate on two agenda items relevant to synergy: [Biodiversity and Climate Change](#) (CBD, 2023b) and [Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations](#) (CBD, 2024). Their recommended decision texts for COP adoption highlight, inter alia, the importance of fostering stronger synergies and coordination in the planning and implementation of national climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies, as well as strengthening coherence among revised NBSAPs and NDCs and updated NAPs, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth.
- **NbS is recognized as a key approach for fostering synergies between climate change and biodiversity efforts.** The 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) adopted [Resolution 5/5 on a definition of NbS](#), recognizing that they play an essential role in effectively and efficiently



addressing key global challenges like biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, poverty, and inequality while supporting sustainable development and human well-being (UNEA, 2022).

- At the 6th UNEA, countries [adopted Resolution 6/4](#), which called on countries to further promote synergies, cooperation, or collaboration for the national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement and the GBF (UNEA, 2024).



# THE TIMING:

## **NDC and NBSAP update & NAP assessment Synergistic planning and coordination lead to effective, inclusive implementation**

The three policy instruments are mandated or expected to be progressive and more ambitious over time, with reviews and assessments taking place either within a prescribed periodic cycle (through the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement and global review and global analysis under the CBD) or as per national contexts and circumstances (for example, for NAPs).

### **Updated and revised NBSAPs**

For biodiversity, following the adoption of the GBF, parties to the CBD are expected to submit their revised/updated NBSAPs ahead of CBD COP16 at the end of 2024 (CBD, 2022c). Parties facing capacity challenges may submit revised targets before fully revised and updated NBSAPs by COP16. Countries in the process of revising their NBSAP have an opportunity to closely draw from their NAP documents and associated climate risk assessments to understand and incorporate detailed information about ecosystem vulnerabilities and risks under different climate trajectories. Further, many NDCs and NAPs include NbS and EbA actions that contribute positively to countries' biodiversity goals (Terton et al., forthcoming; WWF-UK, 2021). Drawing close linkages to those actions enables efficiency, accounts for co-benefits, and avoids duplication of work.

### **NDC Update 2025**

For climate change, in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the relevant decisions under the UNFCCC, parties are required to communicate new NDCs in 2025 that are intended to demonstrate progress beyond their current NDCs and reflect the highest possible ambition. For countries that have included an adaptation component in their NDC, the NAP process and its results could be used to enhance the quality of adaptation-related information in the NDC. For example, since the last NDC update, many countries have progressed in their NAP process, providing an opportunity to communicate their most up-to-date adaptation priorities, needs, and costs. Countries that will conclude their NBSAP revisions before the NDC update should use this as an opportunity to ensure the NDC and NBSAP complement each other. Mitigation and adaptation actions to address the climate crisis must avoid negative impacts on biodiversity while maximizing positive climate-biodiversity



outcomes. Similarly, explicitly considering potential adaptation and mitigation benefits stemming from biodiversity-related policies should be considered in the NDC update.

In addition, the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement called on Parties that have not done so to have in place their NAPs or other adaptation policies and planning processes by 2025. Parties are also expected to adopt a decision on the assessment of progress on the NAP process at COP29 in 2024, which hopes to provide national NAP teams with further

guidance and lessons learned on the NAP process—including on NDC–NAP alignment and nature–adaptation synergies—for the formulation of their NAP documents by 2025 or for updates to their NAP.

The timing of these two upcoming policy instruments' revision and update, as well as the NAP assessment, presents a strategic opportunity for countries to demonstrate and ensure consistency between the high-level NDC and national-level NAP and NBSAP processes and promote nature–climate action.



# A SYNERGISTIC APPROACH TO CLIMATE AND NATURE

The checklist below illustrates potential opportunities and interactions during the development or update of the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP. It provides a list of points for consideration to enhance synergies and co-benefits throughout planning and implementation phases, ensuring gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches.

This checklist builds on the existing works and resources developed by IISD, WWF, and GIZ, including WWF's [guidance on enhancing synergies across NDCs and NBSAPs](#) (Bakhtary et al., 2023), [the supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on promoting synergies between NAPs and NBSAPs](#) developed by IISD and GIZ with other partners (Terton et al., 2022), and GIZ's [publication on building bridges between NDCs and the GBF through EbA](#) (Kindermann et al., 2022). Additional resources can be found in the resource section at the end of the checklist (see Box 4).



Figure 2. Checklist

	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS	BIODIVERSITY
HIGH-LEVEL MANDATE	<p><b>High-level political will and mandates</b> will be needed to foster synergies, integration, and alignment among NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs at the national level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ A national mandate exists to coordinate between the process to develop or update the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li><li>✓ A coordination mechanism is in place for the departments/ministries and teams responsible for the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP planning and implementation.</li><li>✓ Other line ministries relevant to climate and biodiversity commitments and strategy are involved in these coordination mechanisms, including gender departments.</li><li>✓ Gender responsiveness and social inclusion have been established as guiding principles for all three policy instruments.</li><li>✓ A commitment has been made to ensure Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge and other knowledge systems are integrated into the planning and implementation of climate and biodiversity commitments and strategies.</li></ul>			
ASSESSMENT	Greenhouse gas emissions assessment	Climate vulnerability and risk assessment	<p>When conducting a <b>climate vulnerability and risk assessment</b> and/or a <b>biodiversity assessment</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity experts have been involved in the respective NDC, NAP, and NBSAP assessment processes.</li><li>✓ Respective assessments cross-reference and take into consideration existing climate vulnerability and risk assessments, biodiversity and ecosystem assessments, and/or greenhouse gas emissions assessments.</li><li>✓ Common stakeholders for engagement processes, areas of focus, or cross-cutting themes (e.g., Indigenous Peoples and local communities, gender experts) are identified.</li><li>✓ Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge have been recognized, valued, and integrated into the assessments and the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li><li>✓ Key priority sectors are identified and aligned across the assessments and the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li></ul> <p>To <b>ensure a gender-responsive approach</b> for the processes to develop or update the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Gender analyses have been undertaken as part of the assessments to understand gender dynamics and the differential climate- and biodiversity-related impacts, vulnerabilities, and risks.</li><li>✓ Existing analyses on gender and climate change and gender and biodiversity in the country have been taken into account in the respective policy instruments.</li></ul>	Biodiversity assessment and national ecosystem assessment

GOAL-SETTING	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS	BIODIVERSITY
	Setting mitigation targets, including land-use and land-use change and forestry	Setting adaptation objectives, goals, priorities, and targets	<p>Consider the following when setting goals, targets, and priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ A common narrative or statement on climate and nature is included across the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li><li>✓ The NDC, NAP, and NBSAP cross-reference each other on their respective goals and priorities sectors.</li><li>✓ Maintaining and enhancing healthy critical carbon sinks and ecosystems have been identified as a part of the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP goals and priorities and reference co-benefits for reducing vulnerability and protecting biodiversity.</li><li>✓ Goals and priorities in the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.</li><li>✓ Ecosystem and biodiversity goals (and land-use change and forestry targets, as appropriate) take into consideration future climatic change and associated impacts. The goals and targets are realistic and achievable under different global warming trajectories.</li><li>✓ Long-term goals and anchors on the conservation and protection of nature (in line with the GBF and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience) are integrated across the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li></ul> <p>To ensure a <b>gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Gender equality and social inclusion goals and priorities are integrated into the goals, priorities, and targets across the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li></ul>	Assessment and selection of biodiversity actions



## MITIGATION

Assessment  
and selection of  
mitigation  
measures

## ADAPTATION

Assessment  
and selection of  
adaptation options

## SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS

Consider the following:

- ✓ Large-scale ecosystem-based approaches and NbS using landscape-/seascape-level approaches are identified as a cross-cutting strategy and activities across the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.
- ✓ The respective NDC, NAP, and NBSAP teams have reviewed the proposed actions and mechanisms under the three policy instruments to ensure coherence and synergy and avoid duplication of work.
- ✓ The respective NDC, NAP, and NBSAP teams have cross-referenced those proposed actions and priorities that contribute to common goals, objectives, and priorities of their respective strategy.
- ✓ The respective NDC, NAP, and NBSAP teams have assessed trade-offs among actions and identified measures to ensure they do not undermine the progress of one another.

When designing **climate change mitigation actions**:

- ✓ Climate risks on the proposed mitigation measures, including NbS, are assessed and managed.
- ✓ The proposed mitigation measures do not undermine the adaptive capacity or increase the vulnerability of local communities or ecosystems.
- ✓ The adaptation and biodiversity co-benefits of the proposed mitigation measures are assessed, which will likely result in an increase in biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, functions, and services.

When planning **climate change adaptation actions**:

- ✓ Proposed adaptation measures are not carbon intensive or impede mitigation efforts.
- ✓ Opportunities are explored for the proposed adaptation measures to serve mitigation functions.
- ✓ The proposed adaptation measure takes into consideration ecosystems and ecosystem services.

## BIODIVERSITY

Assessment and  
selection of  
biodiversity actions

## MITIGATION

Assessment  
and selection of  
mitigation  
measures

## ADAPTATION

Assessment  
and selection of  
adaptation options

## SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS

When developing **biodiversity policies**:

- ✓ The proposed biodiversity policy and actions consider future climate risks and limitations.
- ✓ The proposed biodiversity policy and actions have the potential to help make ecosystems more resilient in the face of climate change.
- ✓ The proposed biodiversity policy and actions generate climate mitigation or adaptation co-benefits. They will likely provide other health, social, and environmental benefits to the local community.

To ensure a **gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach**:

- ✓ The identification and planning process for the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP uses a participatory and inclusive approach, involving people of different genders, representatives of marginalized groups, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples.
- ✓ The design of strategies, policies, and activities is informed by gender analyses considering the intersection of gender equality, social inclusion, maladaptation, and adverse impacts of responses.
- ✓ Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge, local knowledge, and other knowledge systems have been integrated during the identification of strategies, policies, and activities across the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.
- ✓ The “contribution to gender equality” has been considered as a criterion for prioritization of measures.

## BIODIVERSITY

Assessment and  
selection of  
biodiversity actions



FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS	BIODIVERSITY
	Financing and implementation of measures	Financing and implementation of measures	<p>Consider the following <b>cross-cutting considerations</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Financial resources (e.g., cost-sharing agreements) are prioritized and pooled for actions that address joint objectives and priorities of the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li><li>✓ Integrate joint mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity considerations into sectoral policy frameworks and into domestic budgets and resource allocation.</li><li>✓ Finance needs and gaps are assessed in a coordinated manner among the teams developing and updating the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.</li><li>✓ Joint strategies are developed to raise and allocate financial resources for measures that deliver climate and biodiversity benefits and help achieve the goals, targets, and priorities of all three policy instruments.</li></ul> <p>To ensure a <b>gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Diverse actors, including gender actors, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples, are involved in implementing strategies, policies, and activities identified.</li><li>✓ Measures to be implemented are informed by free, prior, and informed consent.</li><li>✓ Customary rights are recognized and upheld. Costs and benefits are distributed equitably among marginalized groups, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples.</li></ul>	Financing and implementation of measures

MONITORING, REPORTING, AND STOCKTAKING	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS	BIODIVERSITY
	<p>Measurement, reporting, and verification</p> <p>(through a biennial transparency report [BTR])</p> <p>and iterative updates based on outcomes of the global stocktake</p>	<p>Monitoring, evaluation, and learning</p> <p>(through an Adaptation Communication [AdCom], BTR)</p> <p>and iterative updates based on outcomes of the global stocktake and NAP assessment</p>	<p>Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The monitoring frameworks and/or indicators for the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP are cross-referenced, where applicable.</li><li>✓ Other processes' reporting requirements are taken into consideration to identify shared information or data sources that could be used when developing respective monitoring frameworks.</li><li>✓ Qualitative and quantitative indicators are aligned between the different policy instruments to facilitate reporting to the Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement and the Global Review of the GBF.</li><li>✓ Relevant ecosystem and biodiversity indicators across the three policy instruments are informed by, or based on, the GBF and its Monitoring Framework and the relevant guidance provided by the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience<sup>2</sup>.</li><li>✓ Mechanisms are set in place to allow different teams responsible for reporting and stocktaking to cross-reference and support one another when compiling information for the BTR, AdCom, or National Report, as well as relevant submissions to the global stocktake and the Global Review.</li></ul> <p>To ensure a <b>gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Where applicable, local and Indigenous Knowledge have been utilized in developing and collecting data for monitoring frameworks.</li><li>✓ Indicators for gender equality and women's empowerment have been included in the respective monitoring frameworks.</li><li>✓ Where possible, sex-disaggregated data is being collected to monitor gender-differentiated impacts of climate and biodiversity actions on women, men, and marginalized groups, as well as the distribution of resulting benefits.</li></ul>	<p>Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting</p> <p>(through National Report)</p>

<sup>2</sup> The GBF Monitoring Framework is available at CBD (2022b). The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience is available at UNFCCC (2023b). The indicators for the GBF Monitoring Framework are being developed. Similarly, the indicators for the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience are being developed and negotiated. The 2-year UAE-Belém work program will conclude at UNFCCC COP30 in 2025.

## BOX 4: RELEVANT FURTHER RESOURCES

### On synergies:

- [Synergies Between Biodiversity and Climate Policy Frameworks – A Series of Thematic Papers](#) (IISD, GIZ, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research [UFZ])
- [Synergies Between Adaptation, Biodiversity and Mitigation: How Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Can Build Bridges Between Nationally Determined Contributions and the New Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GIZ)
- [Addressing Climate Change Through Integrated Responses: Linking Adaptation and Mitigation](#) (IISD)

### For NDCs:

- [Breaking Silos: Enhancing Synergies Between NDCs and NBSAPs](#) (WWF)
- [Checklist for the NDCs We Want](#) (WWF)
- [The NDC Handover Checklist](#) (Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement)
- [A Guide for Including Nature in NDCs](#) (Nature4Climate)
- [Supporting Gender-Responsive NDCs: Gender Integration in NDC Partnership Member Countries](#) (NDC Partnership)
- [Using NDCs, NAPs and the SDGs to Advance Climate-Resilient Development](#) (NDC Partnership)

### For NAPs:

- [Alignment to Advance Climate-Resilient Development: Country Perspectives on Alignment of the National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Process and Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) (NAP Global Network)
- [Supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on promoting synergies between NAPs and NBSAPs](#) (UNFCCC, CBD, IISD, NAP Global Network, GIZ, UN Environment Programme, SwedBio)
- [Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans \(NAPs\): Supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines for the NAP Process](#) (UNFCCC, NAP Global Network)
- [Toward Gender-Responsive Ecosystem-Based Adaptation](#) (GIZ, IISD)
- [Using NDCs, NAPs and the SDGs to Advance Climate-Resilient Development](#) (NDC Partnership)

### For NBSAPs:

- [Breaking Silos: Enhancing Synergies Between NDCs and NBSAPs](#) (WWF)
- [Supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on promoting synergies between NAPs and NBSAPs](#) (UNFCCC, CBD, IISD, NAP Global Network, GIZ, UN Environment Programme, SwedBio)
- [CBD Gender Plan of Action](#) (CBD)



# WAY FORWARD

With the growing and intensifying impacts of climate change, the need for innovative and proactive policy recommendations is more critical than ever. Synergistic approaches to national commitments and strategies for the Paris Agreement and the GBF—NDCs, NAPS, and NBSAPs—offer the opportunity to efficiently support urgent and effective action.

The above checklist offers a starting point to explore practical applications, highlighting opportunities to avoid duplication of effort, maximize co-benefits, and integrate gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches. Ways forward that will strengthen and support national capacity for synergistic approaches include:

- integrating synergistic approaches into stocktaking activities for NDCs, NAPS, and NBSAPs, with the aim of gathering feedback from “on-the-ground” stakeholders and continuing improving this checklist;
- exploring challenges and opportunities for synergistic investment planning across NDCs, NAPS, and NBSAPs, focusing on unlocking finance flows and enhancing transparency and support;
- developing further guidance for national actors in identifying national enabling conditions and governance structures that can facilitate synergistic planning and implementation of NDCs, NAPS, and NBSAPs.

Actors like GIZ, IISD, and WWF stand ready to explore these opportunities further. Priority next steps include surveying for best practices and case studies to share lessons learned throughout the ongoing policy development period in 2024–2025, and activities with national policy-makers to further assess and improve this checklist as a practical tool.

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