EFFECTIVELY DELIVERING ON CLIMATE AND NATURE: NDCs, NAPs AND NBSAPs SYNERGIES

A checklist for national policymakers

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A NEW WORLD IS COMING

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) Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The next two 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 were 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 policymakers 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)

CONVENTION	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		Convention on Biological Diversity
FRAMEWORK	PARIS AGREEMENT		GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIES	**NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCS)** • Established under the Paris Agreement, NDCs are the plans in which each country outlines and communicates its post-2020 climate actions. • Set the dual purpose of establishing both targets and an action plan to cut emissions, and may include information on adaptation to climate change. • Submitted every 5 years and must provide information necessary to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding, which includes quantifiable information on baselines, timeframes for implementation, planning processes, and other methodological approaches (UNFCCC, 2018).	**NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS (NAPS)** • Established in 2010 under the Cancún Adaptation Framework, NAPs are strategic plans for identifying and addressing a country's medium- and long-term priorities to adapt to the impacts of climate change (UNFCCC, 2012). • The NAP process is a continuous, progressive, and iterative adaptation planning process that involves analyzing current and future changes in climate and assessing vulnerability to impacts (Hammill et al., 2020). This provides a basis for identifying and prioritizing adaptation options, financing and implementing these options, and tracking progress and results.	**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP)** • NBSAPs provide national-level strategic direction on the protection and management of biodiversity within a country and are the main tool guiding actions to implement the GBF at the national level (CBD, 2023a). • Each party to the CBD is expected to review or update its NBSAP to align it with the GBF.
RATIONALE			
MANDATE			
TIMING			
SYNERGISTIC APPROACH			
WAY FORWARD			
REFERENCES			
COUNTRY CASES			

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[1]. 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.

1 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

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 COP 28 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).

- COP 16 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, NBSAP update and 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 effi ciency, 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	**High-level political will and mandates** will be needed to foster synergies, integration, and alignment among NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs at the national level: ✓ A national mandate exists to coordinate between the process to develop or update the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP. ✓ A coordination mechanism is in place for the departments/ministries and teams responsible for the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP planning and implementation. ✓ Other line ministries relevant to climate and biodiversity commitments and strategy are involved in these coordination mechanisms, including gender departments. ✓ Gender responsiveness and social inclusion have been established as guiding principles for all three policy instruments. ✓ 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.			
ASSESSMENT	**Greenhouse gas emissions assessment**	**Climate vulnerability and risk assessment**	When conducting a **climate vulnerability and risk assessment** and/or a **biodiversity assessment:** ✓ Mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity experts have been involved in the respective NDC, NAP, and NBSAP assessment processes. ✓ Respective assessments cross-reference and take into consideration existing climate vulnerability and risk assessments, biodiversity and ecosystem assessments, and/or greenhouse gas emissions assessments. ✓ Common stakeholders for engagement processes, areas of focus, or cross-cutting themes (e.g., Indigenous Peoples and local communities, gender experts) are identified. ✓ Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge have been recognized, valued, and integrated into the assessments and the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP. ✓ Key priority sectors are identified and aligned across the assessments and the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP. ✓ To ensure a gender-responsive approach for the processes to develop or update the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP: ✓ 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. ✓ Existing analyses on gender and climate change and gender and biodiversity in the country have been taken into account in the respective policy instruments.	**Biodiversity assessment and national ecosystem assessment**

GOAL-SETTING

MITIGATION

Setting mitigation targets, including land-use and land-use change and forestry

ADAPTATION

Setting adaptation objectives, goals, priorities, and targets

SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS

Consider the following when setting goals, targets, and priorities:

- ✓ A common narrative or statement on climate and nature is included across the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.
- ✓ The NDC, NAP, and NBSAP cross-reference each other on their respective goals and priorities sectors.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Goals and priorities in the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

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

- ✓ Gender equality and social inclusion goals and priorities are integrated into the goals, priorities, and targets across the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity assessment and national ecosystem assessment

IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIES, POLICIES, AND ACTIVITIES

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

Biodiversity assessment and national ecosystem assessment

IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIES, POLICIES, AND ACTIVITIES

MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS	BIODIVERSITY
Assessment and selection of mitigation measures	**Assessment and selection of adaptation options**	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 national ecosystem assessment**

FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION

MITIGATION

Financing and implementation of measures

ADAPTATION

Financing and implementation of measures

SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS

Consider the following **cross-cutting considerations:**

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Integrate joint mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity considerations into sectoral policy frameworks and into domestic budgets and resource allocation.
- ✓ Finance needs and gaps are assessed in a coordinated manner among the teams developing and updating the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.
- ✓ 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.

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

- ✓ Diverse actors, including gender actors, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples, are involved in implementing strategies, policies, and activities identified.
- ✓ Measures to be implemented are informed by free, prior, and informed consent.
- ✓ Customary rights are recognized and upheld. Costs and benefits are distributed equitably among marginalized groups, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples.

BIODIVERSITY

Financing and implementation of measures

MONITORING, REPORTING, AND STOCKTAKING	MITIGATION	ADAPTATION	SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS	BIODIVERSITY
	Measurement, reporting, and verification **(through a biennial transparency report [BTR])** **and iterative updates based on outcomes of the global stocktake**	**Monitoring, evaluation, and learning** **(through an Adaptation Communication [AdCom], BTR)** **and iterative updates based on outcomes of the global stocktake and NAP assessment**	Consider the following: ✓ The monitoring frameworks and/or indicators for the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP are cross-referenced, where applicable. ✓ Other processes' reporting requirements are taken into consideration to identify shared information or data sources that could be used when developing respective monitoring frameworks. ✓ 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. ✓ 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[2]. ✓ 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. To ensure a **gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach:** ✓ Where applicable, local and Indigenous Knowledge have been utilized in developing and collecting data for monitoring frameworks. ✓ Indicators for gender equality and women's empowerment have been included in the respective monitoring frameworks. ✓ 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.	**Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting** **(through National Report)**

2 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-yearUAE-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 policymakers to further assess and improve this checklist as a practical tool.

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COUNTRY CASES:

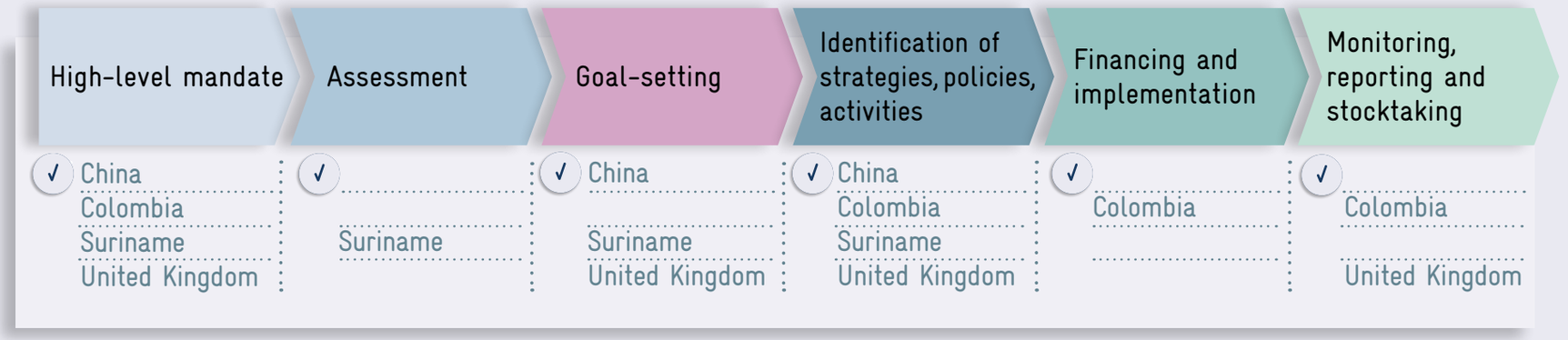
Effectively delivering on climate and nature: NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs synergies – compendium of case studies

The following compendium of case studies is a supplement to the knowledge product ↳"Effectively delivering on Climate and Nature: NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs Synergies – A checklist for national policymakers", showcasing "early movers" and "good practice examples" of countries delivering climate and nature commitments through synergistic planning and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The case studies emphasize the importance of integrating these policy instruments to achieve enhanced results, avoid trade-offs, and ensure gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches. The selected countries case studies represent both the global north and south, showcasing illustrative steps countries are actively taking to align their climate and biodiversity policies.

Each case study provides a brief overview of the country's planning status of its NDC, NAP and NBSAP, emphasizing the alignment of these national strategies. Based on the checklist, the case studies were assessed in relation to opportunities and interactions during the development or revision of the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP, covering mandates, assessments, goal-setting, financing, implementation, and monitoring. Furthermore, they provide an analysis of how gender considerations are incorporated into the processes of the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP.

The case studies underscore the critical need for innovative and proactive policy integration to address climate change and biodiversity loss. They offer an important contribution towards sharing good practices, success stories, and lessons learned to increase the international community's understanding of how to foster synergies, maximise co-benefits, and ensure inclusive and gender-responsive approaches in their climate and biodiversity strategies.

Figure 3. Potential opportunities and interactions during the development or update process of the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)

Jeffrey Qi

Asia	Development Status[3]: Upper-middle income economy
Party to the:	✓ Paris Agreement ✓ UN Convention on Biological Diversity
Latest NDC submission:	✗ 2025 | Not submitted yet ✓ 2021 | ↳ China's Achievements, New Goals and New Measures for Nationally Determined Contributions (English version)
Latest NBSAP submission:	✓ 2024 | ↳ China National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023 – 2030) (Mandarin Chinese version only)
Latest national climate change adaptation policy instrument:	✓ 2022 | ↳ National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 (Mandarin Chinese version only)

1. National Climate and Biodiversity Commitments and Strategies Development Context and Process

China is an important player in global climate and biodiversity actions. It is one of the world's largest greenhouse gases emitters, and its domestic climate policies and energy transition have significant implications for the world's achievement of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. At the same time, China is home to unique geographies and complex ecosystems. These diverse ecosystems support rich biodiversity, including many endemic species, and underpin China's major economic sectors.

However, China also faces significant environmental and policy challenges. It faces rising risks from extreme weather, desertification, sea level rise, and biodiversity loss, all of which threaten its population and development (Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the PRC [MEE], 2022). The Government recognizes economic and social priorities, such as energy security, poverty reduction, and public health, alongside environmental responsibility.

China submitted its updated unconditional Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2021 that outlines its domestic climate action and targets by 2030; including reaching emissions peak by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060. It emphasizes reducing carbon intensity, expanding renewables, and strengthening ecosystem carbon sinks (MEE, 2021). Its NDC also serves as its Adaptation Communication, as it includes information on China's climate risks and vulnerabilities, as well as information on its National Adaptation Strategy's planning process. At the publication of this case study, China has not submitted its NDC 3.0, which would outline its targets and actions until 2035 – 2040.

3 https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups

The MEE released China's 2035 National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) in 2022. It outlines key adaptation actions to be undertaken by 2035 and emphasized the importance of balancing mitigation and adaptation, and "fully integrate climate adaptation into the broader framework of economic and social development" (MEE, 2022). The NAS focuses on four action areas: 1) Strengthening monitoring, early warning, and risk management systems; 2) Enhancing the adaptive capacity of natural ecosystems; 3) Strengthening the adaptive capacity of socio-economic systems and sectors; 4) Establishing regional frameworks for adaptation. It also outlines the necessary institutional arrangement adjustments, financing, and capacity building for implementing the NAS.

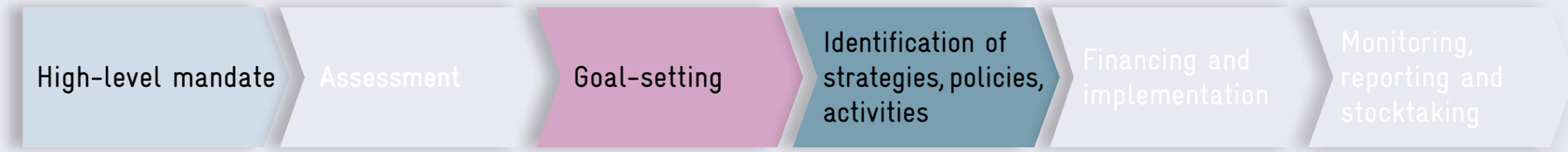
As the Presidency of CBD COP15, China was one of the earliest countries submitting its updated NBSAP that is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). In its January 2024 submission, China's updated NBSAP covers an implementation period of 2023-2030 and is considered to "reflect a high degree of ambition and commitment... especially considering the degree of complexity and size of the country" (WWF, n.d.). The priority areas include: 1) Mainstreaming biodiversity; 2) Addressing threats to biodiversity losses; 3) Sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing; and 4) modernising biodiversity governance capacity (MEE, 2024). The plan is well integrated into national legislations and regulations and includes all 23 targets of the KMGBF.

2. Good Practices for Synergistic Actions

✓ High-level mandate

- China has expressed political willingness to integrate the implementation of biodiversity and climate change. Its 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for National Economic and Social Development highlights that ecosystem protection and restoration are at the core of China's sustainable development strategy (Government of the PRC, 2020, ch. 11). The key priority actions outlined include improving China's Ecological Security Barrier System, forest and wetland protection, key ecosystems restoration, and actions to address soil erosion and desertification. It mandates the establishment of new protected areas and national parks and emphasizes the importance of adaptation and resilience-building, as well as enhancing ecosystem carbon sequestration capacity.
- In 2021, the State Council released its Guiding Opinion on Further Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation, which contained China's 2025 and 2035 targets for biodiversity conservation and the associated actions. It reaffirms the role of the China National Committee for Biodiversity Conservation (CNCBC) to coordinate conservation activities between the 23 ministries and departments of the central government. It also mandates ministries and departments to fulfill their responsibilities of enhancing ecosystem services and "coordinate effectively, collaborate closely, share information, and advance

Figure 4.
Identified synergies between the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP in China



biodiversity conservation in an orderly manner" (State Council of the PRC, 2021). Further, the Guiding Opinion mandates the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in mid- and long-term development plans of subnational governments and sectors.

✓ **Goal-setting**

- The 14th FYP and the Guiding Opinion provides the high-level goal-setting and common narrative for national climate and biodiversity actions. The NDC, NAS, and NBSAP reference the high-level mandates and commit to horizontal and vertical integration and coordination of climate and biodiversity actions.

- China's NDC, NAS, and NBSAP emphasize the importance of ecosystems and ecosystem services. Its NDC and NAS outlines the country's plan to protect, conserve, and restore ecosystems in order to increase natural carbon sinks and strengthen the resilience of both ecosystems and socio-economic systems. Its NBSAP highlights the importance of nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and commits to enhancing synergies between climate and biodiversity actions at the national level.

- China's NDC and NAS both mention the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems and include ecosystems as one of the key priority sectors in its climate vulnerability and risk assessment. Its NBSAP recognizes the impacts of current and projected climate change on China's ecosystems and take them into account during the planning of its biodiversity actions.

✓ **Identification of strategies, policies, activities**

- Cross-cutting activities are identified in China's NDC, NAS, and NBSAP, including large-scale ecosystem-based approaches and NbS using landscape-/seascape-level approaches. All three commitments and strategies mention ecosystem protection and restoration as key priorities, including integrated water management; new protected areas, nature conservation areas and ecological red lines; wetland, grassland, forest and mangrove protection and restoration; key eco-zones' reforestation; and promote sustainable and climate-smart agriculture.

- In the updated NBSAP, promoting synergies between climate protection and biodiversity conservation is highlighted as the 14th prioritized action, with specific projects aimed at supporting biodiversity adaptation to climate change, synergistic support for climate action and biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem carbon stabilization and sink enhancement.

3. Integration of Gender Responsive Measures

According to the UN Populations Fund (UNFPA, N.d.), China has made significant progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. However, gaps remain in terms of integrating gender-responsive measures in domestic environmental policy- and decision-making. The NDC and NAS do not mention gender-responsive approaches nor intersectionality, and the NBSAP only mentions that the government will "ensure the rights of women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities to participate in biodiversity conservation actions and leverage their positive impact" (MEE, 2024, p. 28). In the 14th FYP, safeguarding the land rights of rural women, as well as "guaranteeing women's equal political rights and promote their widespread participation in social affairs and democratic governance" were highlighted as key priorities (Government of the PRC, 2020, sec. 50.1).

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COLOMBIA

Ana Sofia Almagro, Shirley Matheson, Matt Adams Williams

Latin America	Development Status: Middle income country
Party to the:	✓ Paris Agreement ✓ UN Convention on Biological Diversity
Latest NDC submission:	✓ 2020 | ↳ NDC (with climate ambition up to 2030) ✗ 2025 | Not submitted yet
Latest NBSAP submission:	✓ 2024 | ↳ NSBAP
Latest national climate change adaptation policy instrument:	✓ 2016 | ↳ NAP (The Ministry is currently working on an update)

1. National Climate and Biodiversity Commitments and Strategies Development Context and Process

Colombia ranks among the world's most biodiverse countries, hosting nearly 10 % of Earth's biodiversity within its borders (Climate Action Tracker, 2023). The country has a variety of ecosystems, from Andean highlands and páramos[4] to the Amazon rainforest, with coastlines, wetlands, and islands, coral reefs, and other marine ecosystems. Half of Colombia's territory is ocean, boasting the third-largest coastal area globally.

Colombia submitted its latest NDC in 2020. The NDC commits Colombia to 51 % unconditional emissions reductions by 2030 (compared to a business-as-usual scenario). The NDC includes a sector commitment to eliminate deforestation of natural forests by 2030 and to limit total deforestation to around 50,000 hectares per year. The latest NAP was submitted in 2016, with a new version currently under development. Colombia acknowledges the role of the NAP as an instrument that establishes strategic guidelines on adaptation actions. The NAP outlines Colombia's broader long-term vision for resilience, setting a vision for near-term adaptation priorities set out in the NDC.

As Presidency of CBD COP16, Colombia submitted its NBSAPs during the conference in 2024. The NBSAP is established as a call to the authorities of the National Environmental System, sector ministries, and productive, social, and academic sectors to work in a coordinated and articulated fashion. It contains 33 interconnected strategies addressing the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss in Colombia.

4 A distinct high-altitude biodiversity rich ecosystem distributed along the Andean mountain range.

2. Good Practices for Synergistic Actions

✓ High-level Mandate

- Colombia's climate action is anchored in ↳Law 1931 of 2018, which established the Sistema Nacional de Cambio Climático (National Climate Change System, or "SISCLIMA") to coordinate governmental efforts across sectors and administrative levels (Convention on Biological Diversity, n.d.). Synergies are also found in the Climate Change Policy (2017), including one of its nine strategies: "Managing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services." (Departamento Administrativo de la Función Pública, 2018). Colombia's long-term plan, the 2050 Climate Strategy launched in 2022, also incorporates socio-ecological resilience as a core pillar for long-term action.

- The Política Nacional para la Gestión Integral de la Biodiversidad y los Servicios Ecosistémicos (National Policy for the Integral Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services [PNGIBSE]) provides the overarching strategic framework on biodiversity. The PNGIBSE is also tasked to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change.

- The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minambiente) leads the implementation of these frameworks in coordination with relevant departments. Corporaciones Autónomas Regionales (Regional Environmental Authorities) play crucial roles in implementation and environmental law enforcement and respond as the primary actors to support environmental education and awareness with local authorities and communities, while the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change facilitates cross-sector coordination at national levels.

✓ Identification of policies and activities

- Both the NDC and NBSAP also include targets to expand Colombia's protected area network, while the NAP acknowledges these areas as strategic for EbA. Colombia's NDC includes a target to restore 18,000 hectares within protected areas of the National Natural Parks System and their buffer zones by 2030. Separately, the 2024 NBSAP sets a broader goal to conserve and manage 34 % of the country's terrestrial, freshwater, and marine-coastal areas through protected areas, Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and collective ethnic territories.

- Sustainable agriculture also appears across all these frameworks, with the NDC focusing on reducing emissions from agricultural practices, the NBSAP emphasizing agrobiodiversity conservation, and the NAP promoting climate-resilient farming systems.

- Colombia's climate adaptation and biodiversity policies have consistently linked climate risks with the conservation and management of key ecosystems involved in the water cycle. Colombia has emphasized watershed management as a core element of its

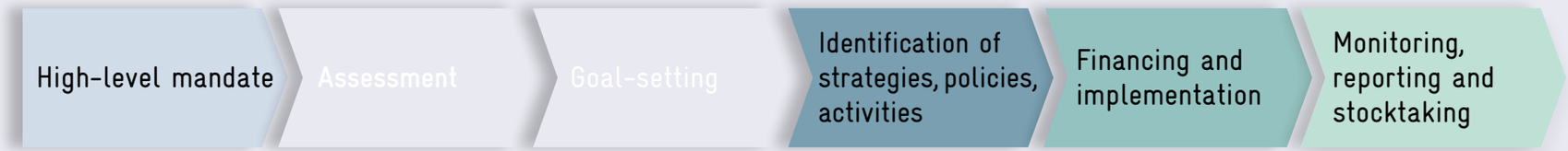

Figure 5.
Identified synergies between the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP in Colombia

environmental strategy since the early 1990s, rooted in regulatory and policy actions influenced by the outcomes of the Rio Convention. This focus is reflected in the NAP, which prioritizes water security in the context of climate change; the NBSAP, which targets the conservation of freshwater ecosystems; and the NDC, which incorporates water management as a critical component of adaptation strategies.

- Building green economies and improving development based on forest economies, biocommerce, and sustainable use of biodiversity are core elements in the national transformation goals included in all three policies. Both the NDC and NBSAP claim alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and nature-based solutions.

- Ecosystem-based approaches are also prominent, with the NDC promoting nature-based solutions, the NAP incorporating ecosystem-based adaptation measures, and the NBSAP advocating for maintaining ecosystem services.

✓ Financing and Implementation

- Colombia's climate and biodiversity planning frameworks feature both joint and distinct financing mechanisms, ensuring each has adequate access to funding. The Government recognizes the value in joined up thinking and is working towards more coordinated financing approaches, particularly through NbS and EbA projects that can tap into both climate and biodiversity funds. This is bolstered by a new policy framework addressing financing across all three frameworks (See Minambiente, 2024; NAP Global Network, 2024; El País, 2024).

✓ Monitoring and Reporting

- The Presidential Cabinet Commission for Climate Action and the Intersectoral Commission for Climate Change are key platforms for intersectoral governance. Additionally, the 2024 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan proposes reforming their functions and related decrees to explicitly incorporate biodiversity targets into monitoring and decision-making.

- The 2024 NBSAP proposes strengthening these bodies through legal adjustments to formally incorporate biodiversity targets, enable joint planning, monitoring, and investment tracking. This would institutionalize biodiversity in high-level decision-making and align with the KMGBF.

- Colombia's adaptation governance architecture, coordinated through SISCLIMA and informed by frameworks like the NDC, NAP, and National Development Plan, is addressing challenges in coordination across priorities and levels of government. The Minambiente is working on enhanced information systems and improved alignment across different international agreement reporting requirements.

3. Integration of Gender Responsive Measures

The institutional coordination for gender mainstreaming across these environmental policies involves collaboration between Minambiente, the Presidential Council for Women's Equity, and various civil society organizations focused on gender and the environment.

In Colombia's NDC (2020), gender is integrated as a cross-cutting element. The updated NDC explicitly recognizes gender equality as essential for effective climate action and includes gender-responsive approaches in both mitigation and adaptation components. It acknowledges women's increased vulnerability to climate impacts while also recognizing their role as agents of change. The implementation framework includes gender-disaggregated indicators and mentions the development of a specific Gender and Climate Change Action Plan to ensure women's meaningful participation in climate governance and the recent launch of the Planning instrument to guide gender-inclusion in climate action (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, n.d.).

Regarding the NAP, Colombia's approach increasingly incorporates gender considerations. While the original 2012 NAP had a limited gender focus, subsequent sectoral adaptation plans have progressively strengthened gender integration. For example, adaptation planning for agricultural sectors has begun to include gender-differentiated vulnerability assessments. Colombia's NBSAP acknowledges the importance of inclusive governance for conservation and includes a response to GBF target 23. There are references to the participation of indigenous and local communities, which implicitly includes women.

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SURINAME

Anika Terton

Latin America	Development Status[5]: Upper-middle income economy
Party to the:	✓ Paris Agreement ✓ UN Convention on Biological Diversity
Latest NDC submission:	✗ 2025 | Not submitted yet ✓ 2020 | ↳ The Republic of Suriname – Nationally Determined Contribution 2020
Latest NBSAP submission:	✓ 2024 | ↳ Updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Suriname (NBSAP Project)
Latest national climate change adaptation policy instrument:	✓ 2020 | ↳ Suriname National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

1. National Climate and Biodiversity Commitments and Strategies Development Context and Process

Suriname, a high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD) country, contributes just 0.01 % of global GHG emissions. In 2020, the country submitted its second NDC. While the NDC does not set an overall emissions reduction target, it includes enhanced contributions from four of six emitting sectors identified in Suriname's recent GHG Inventory – electricity, road transport, agriculture, and forests – which collectively account for 70 % of the country's emissions (Republic of Suriname, 2020). Suriname has included adaptation in its NDC which identifies the country's NAP as the document that describes in detail how the adaptation commitments in the NDC will be achieved.

Suriname initiated its NAP process and finalized its first NAP document in 2019 (Government of Suriname, 2019). The NAP aims to achieve goals outlined by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, including reducing climate change impacts through adaptation and resilience-building, as well as integrating and mainstreaming the NAP into relevant policies, programs, activities, and development planning processes. The document addresses strategic priorities, sectoral plans for "productive sectors" and "cross-foundation sectors", along with strategic objectives, specific adaptation measures, a capacity-building plan, and financing modalities (Government of Suriname, 2019). Furthermore, Suriname's NAP highlights the effects of climate change on terrestrial and marine ecosystems, as well as wildlife habitats, while emphasizing the intrinsic connections between climate change and biodiversity loss.

5 https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups

In 2024, Suriname unveiled its updated NBSAP, aligning with the KMGBF and incorporating all 23 KMGBF targets. The NBSAP outlines national strategies to achieve biodiversity goals, supported by Biodiversity Finance Plans. It establishes four main objectives: conserving biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources, equitable benefit sharing, and fostering enabling conditions. The plan emphasizes maintaining Suriname's carbon neutrality while highlighting ongoing efforts through NbS, particularly REDD+ (Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, 2024).

2. Good Practices for Synergistic Actions

√ High-level Mandate

- While there is no high-level mandate that provides an overall directive for synergistic implementation, it should be noted that Suriname's ↳ Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022 – 2026 is closely integrated with the Sustainable Development Goals (Republic of Suriname, 2021, page VII) which provides a solid foundation for alignment between the NDC, NAP and NBSAP and the country's national development plan. In addition, "alignment"; "cohesion" and "coherence" among climate change and biodiversity action plans and actions is a cross-cutting theme across all three strategies and embraced to achieve "win-win outcomes and use resources efficiently" (Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment, 2024; page 24).

√ Assessment

- Suriname's NDC, NAP and NBSAP emphasize the importance of the country's forests and its designation as an HFLD country (with 93 % of forest land). All three strategies point to Suriname's forests as a biodiversity hotspot and a carbon sink and point to the interconnectedness of biodiversity, forest conservation and climate change. All three strategies point to the country's First, Second and Third National Communication to the UNFCCC as the common source for climate change data, national greenhouse gas emissions inventory risk and vulnerability assessment findings and local projections. However, Suriname's NBSAP highlights the importance "to strengthen research and identify synergies between actions that help address interrelated climate and biodiversity issues" (Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, 2024; page 35).

√ Goal-setting

- The NAP and NBSAP stress how climate change affects ecosystems and wildlife, and subsequently the functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide. Both strategies call for a more systematic approach to addressing both mitigation and adaption that will enable strengthening resilience, maintaining the carbon stock, and reducing emissions. Forests being at the heart of these strategies, particularly with the goal to increase protected areas to 30 % of the nation's terrestrial, marine, and wetland areas, showcases Suriname's dedication to aligning with the KMGBF. This synergy

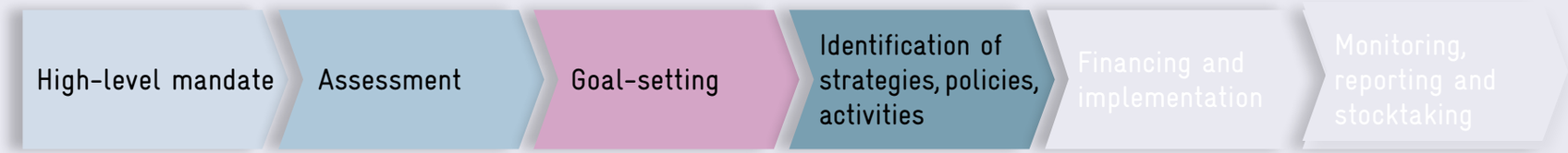

Figure 6.
Identified synergies between the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP in Suriname

among the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP demonstrates a thoughtful pathway to integrate biodiversity goals into climate policies and plans effectively. All three strategies align in their goals and targets related to forests.

- Suriname's NBSAP makes specific reference to the efforts undertaken during the updating phase to highlight synergies between targets with climate actions and the SDGs (Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, 2024; page 14).

✓ **Identification of strategies, policies, activities**

- As a HFLD country, forests are a central component of Suriname's economic, social, and cultural life, as highlighted in the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP. To preserve forest resources while increasing their sustainable contribution to economic development, Suriname developed its National REDD+ Strategy. This strategy outlines activities aimed at protecting Suriname's forests in the context of climate change and enhancing their carbon storage capabilities. To ensure alignment of efforts and avoid duplication, Suriname's National REDD+ Strategy has been integrated as a central element into the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP, guiding the nation's initiatives in effective protected area management and sustainable forest practices.

3. Integration of Gender Responsive Measures

Integrating gender-responsive measures in NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs remains crucial for countries to plan and implement climate and biodiversity actions that are effective and inclusive, and leading to equitable and sustainable results. Suriname released its overarching National Gender Vision Policy in 2019 which identifies "Environment and Climate Change"as a priority area within the policy. It affirms that:

> *"The effective participation of women in this priority area is actually essential, not only because women are disproportionately heavily affected by the consequences of climate change and disasters, but also because they are agents of change and play an important role in formulating and implementing policy and plans of actions relating to the environment, protection of biodiversity, as well as adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The interventions must explicitly include a gender perspective and take the specific requirements of women into account"* (Ministry of Home Affairs, p.70.).

This is well reflected across the NDC, NAP and NBSAP. The NDC notes that "gender impact" and "inclusiveness" are key points that have informed the updating process and assessment of NDC policies and measures (Republic of Suriname, 2020). Suriname's NAP identifies gender as a priority sector and cross-cutting issues. At the same time the NAP highlights the important knowledge that women contribute to climate action, making them "effective actors and agents of change" (Government of Suriname, 2019, p. 26). Gender mainstreaming has been integrated as one of the key principles to guide the implementation of actions included in Suriname's updated NBSAP to strengthen incorporating the role that women and men play in conserving biodiversity and gender perspectives on biodiversity (Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, 2024).

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UNITED KINGDOM

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Europe	Development Status: **Developed**
Party to the:	✓ Paris Agreement ✓ UN Convention on Biological Diversity
Latest NDC submission:	2025 | Submitted ✓ ↳ UK NDC
Latest NBSAP submission:	✓ 2025 | ↳ Blueprint for Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss: the UK's NBSAP 2030 The UK's ↳ National Targets (2024)
Latest national climate change adaptation policy instrument:	✓ 2023 | ↳ Third National Adaptation Programme (last updated in February 2024)

1. National Climate and Biodiversity Commitments and Strategies Development Context and Process

The UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries (Burns et al., 2023). Many UK species – nearly one in six – are at risk of going extinct in the UK. In February 2025, the UK published its most recent NBSAP in 2025 called "Blueprint for Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss," outlining the UK's contribution to achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets.

The UK submitted a 2035 NDC in 2024, pledging to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by at least 81% by 2035, compared to 1990 levels. The Climate Change Act (2008) also requires the UK government to produce a five-yearly National Adaptation Programme after a Climate Change Risk Assessment. The latest iteration (known as "NAP3") was last updated in February 2024 and covers the time period 2023 – 2028. The UK uses its National Adaptation Programme as its submission of a National Adaptation Plan to the UNFCCC.

The UK's devolved governance structure means that climate and biodiversity activities are delivered across four nations by four national governments as well as local governments. Institutions including the Climate Change Committee (CCC) – an independent and official advisory body – and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) provide a vital advisory role at the UK and devolved level across these four nations. The CCC provides, for example, scientific assessments and recommendations to the Government in setting ambition in the NDC, Long Term Strategy, and NAP. The UK submits single UK-wide NDCs, NBSAPs, and NAP, while the delivery of these strategies may be supported through different policies in each nation.

2. Good Practices for Synergistic Actions

✓ High-level mandate

- There is a shared narrative across the UK's NDC, NAP and NBSAP and strong high-level policy coherence. Shared priorities like NbS and sustainable agriculture are acknowledged as delivering multiple benefits for climate and nature

- The UK's NDC and NBSAP clearly recognize the importance of "joining up approaches to tackling the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity and pollution, including by improving coordination between international conventions" and of jointly designing and delivering NDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs and other relevant strategies (Miliband, 2024).

✓ Goal-setting

- The UK's 25-Year Environment Plan (25YEP) serves as a cross-cutting policy framework. It sets long-term goals for clean air, thriving wildlife, and climate resilience, and is referenced as a core delivery mechanism in the UK's NBSAP, NAP, and environment-related climate commitments (DEFRA & Gove, 2018).

- Internally, each of the UK devolved nations has a range of national legislations that help in implementing goals for climate change and biodiversity. Additionally, each nation of the UK has set out its own individual plans on pollution, climate change and other environmental issues. The devolved nature of the UK necessitates a level of coordination between national targets and the action plans of the Nations in achieving broader targets – particularly as land carbon sinks are disproportionately located in Scotland.

- To ensure synergy and coordination, lead government departments work together to jointly develop and deliver the UK's international and domestic priorities across climate and nature. The UK NBSAP, NDC and NAP3 were developed with input across UK departments and devolved administrations – including the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office (FCDO), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) (Northern Ireland), Scotland and Wales. For the NDC, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero worked closely with other departments, such as the Department for Environment, in its development. For the NBSAP, JNCC coordinated the joint whole-UK, working with biodiversity leads from each Nation's government

✓ Identification of strategies, policies, activities

- The UK has committed to elevate joint action on climate change and biodiversity loss as a key feature of its international engagement. The 2030 Strategic framework for international climate and nature action (DEZNZ, 2023) published in 2023 is an important framework that outlines a coherent and strategic vision for the

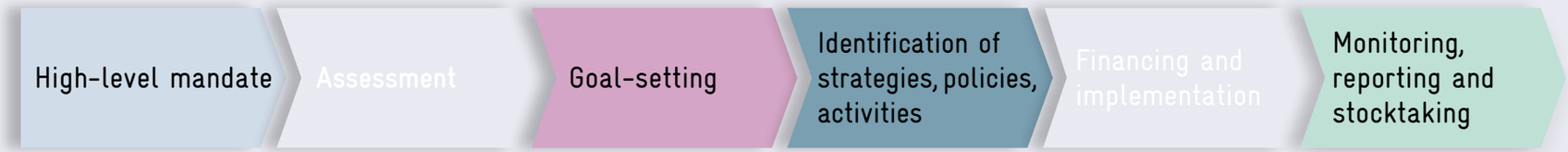

Figure 7.
Identified synergies between the NDC, NAP, and NBSAP in United Kingdom

UK's global action on climate and biodiversity. In 2024, the UK appointed two new Special Representatives, one on climate change and one on nature, to champion the UK's ambition to put climate and nature "at the heart of UK foreign policy" (FCDO, 2024a; FCDO, 2024b). The UK also pledged to spend at least £3bn of the £11.6bn of its International Climate Finance commitment on protecting and restoring nature between 2021 and 2026. This commitment is aligned with the UK's support for an integrated approach to scale up climate and nature finance, and to align financial flows with the Paris Agreement and the KMGBF.

- The UK government recognizes NbS as delivering a wide range of benefits across climate and nature. NbS are referenced in several national policies – including the Environment Act (2021) and The Climate Change Act (2008). The UK NDC, NBSAP, and NAP3 all support the restoration and protection of ecosystems, particularly peatlands, wetlands, woodlands, and coastal habitats, to deliver multiple outcomes: carbon sequestration, biodiversity recovery, and flood and climate resilience. They aim to scale up NbS across landscapes and seascapes, recognizing these as critical tools for climate mitigation, species protection, and adaptive capacity.

- The UK has also recognized the transition to sustainable agriculture as a critical area to jointly deliver on climate and biodiversity goals. Agricultural policy reforms in the UK further illustrate alignment across climate, biodiversity, and adaptation goals. The Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs), mentioned in the UK NDC and NBSAP, are central to post-Brexit agricultural support in England, rewarding farmers for practices that deliver public goods – including carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and resilience to climate impacts (See DEFRA, 2022). ELMs contribute to emission reductions under the NDC, improve habitat quality as targeted in the NBSAP, and promote climate-smart agriculture as outlined in the NAP.

✓ Monitoring, reporting, and stocktaking

- The UK's Outcome Indicator Framework (OIF) underpins the UK's 25-Year Environment Plan by providing a comprehensive set of indicators to track environmental change and policy impact across climate, biodiversity, and adaptation agendas (DEFRA, 2024). It includes over 60 indicators spanning air and water quality, species abundance, habitat extent, soil health, and climate resilience. The OIF supports coherence between the UK's NDC, NBSAP, and NAP by offering a shared evidence base for monitoring progress – for example, using land cover change and ecosystem carbon metrics to assess both emission reductions and habitat restoration outcomes. Regularly updated by Defra and its agencies, the OIF strengthens accountability and enables adaptive management across environmental strategies.

3. Integration of Gender Responsive Measures

The NDC is most extensive in how it addresses gender integration, referring to the UK's participation in UNFCCC gender workstreams. Gender responsive measures are also acknowledged in the NBSAP. It refers to UK legislation such as the Equality Act, which means that public bodies should consider gender equality when implementing any policies, including on climate change.

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