

KUNMING BIODIVERSITY FUND
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 16 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2024

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Kunming Biodiversity Fund Secretariat Programme Number: N.A. MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00140826 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p><i>Country/Region:</i> Global and and Interregional</p> <hr/> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results:</i> N.A.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNEP 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations: N.A.
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: N.A.</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution: N.A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p>Agency Contribution N.A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p>Government Contribution: <i>(if applicable)</i> 1.5 billion CNY (~210 million USD)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) N.A.</p> <p>TOTAL: 1.5 billion CNY (~210 million USD)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>): 240 (10 years)</p> <p>Start Date² (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 16/09/2024</p> <p>Original End Date (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 28/05/2034</p> <p>Current End date³(<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 28/05/2034</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Maudie Fraser Title: Associate Programme Management Officer Participating Organization (Lead): UNEP Email address: Maudie.fraser@un.org

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

³ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP 16	The 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
EC	Executive Council
ITAG	Independent Technical Advisory Group
KBF	Kunming Biodiversity Fund
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MEE China	Ministry of Environment and Ecology, People's Republic of China
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MPTFO	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity and Action Plans
SAA	Standard Administrative Agreement
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kunming Biodiversity Fund was officially launched in May 2024 in Beijing, China to support developing countries to accelerate and upscale their actions for the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with a particular emphasis on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). KBF Interim Secretariat, housed at UNEP with support from the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, plays roles to conduct the necessary preparatory work to enable and support the establishment and operationalization of the Fund. The Interim Secretariat coordinated and convened all the necessary activities for the fully operationalized Fund. There have been significant developments of the Fund through these Interim Secretariat's efforts from 16 September to 31 December 2024 as follows:

- Completion of the Fund's governance structure
- Selection of catalytic projects
- Launch of call for the full-size project proposals
- Launch of the expression of interest for the Independent Technical Advisory Group (ITAG)

During the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16), in Colombia, October 2024, KBF Interim Secretariat also organized two major events including i) the first in-person meeting of the fully established Executive Council (EC) and ii) the side event on the call for the full-size project proposals.

I. Purpose

The overall expected result of the Project is to efficiently and effectively perform the functions of the KBF Interim Secretariat, as stipulated in the Fund's Terms of Reference, in order to enable and contribute to the achievement of KBF's Results Framework and facilitate the implementation of its Theory of Change. The Interim Secretariat's functions, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, will be implemented by promoting a strong culture of accountability, transparency and results-based management, reporting and evaluation and solid knowledge management and communication strategies. All financial transactions, reporting and auditing are carried out in compliance with United Nations rules and regulations. The efficient functioning of the KBF Interim Secretariat supports SDGs 14 (Life below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

2024 was the inaugural year of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, which was officially established on 28th May 2024. The critical objective of the KBF's Interim Secretariat during the reporting period was to conduct the necessary preparatory work to enable and support its establishment and operationalization. This was achieved through three major components, which the Interim Secretariat successfully prepared for, led and coordinated:

- Preparation and coordination of all key documents to enable establishment (ToR, ToC, MoUs, SAA)
- Completion of the Fund's governance structure
- Selection and initiation of the catalytic projects

During the reporting period, the Interim Secretariat enabled the transition from a proposed new Fund to a fully operational MPTF.

The KBF has seven action areas at the outcome level:

1. Restored and protected ecosystems to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services
2. Biodiversity effectively mainstreamed into policies, regulations, planning and strategies
3. Sustainable use of biodiversity enhanced
4. Biodiversity mainstreamed among businesses and consumers to drive positive behaviors
5. Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequencing information on genetic resources
6. Prevention and control of Invasive Alien Species for enhanced biosecurity
7. Strengthened resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation

The Interim Secretariat conducted all the necessary work to launch two calls for proposals, and to conduct and coordinate review of the catalytic project proposals. This involved diverse coordination with all partners and EC members as follows:

- Agreeing on the terms and template for the calls
- Developing a review template and process and the collation of reviews from all partners
- Convening of 3 virtual EC meetings to discuss and share feedback on the projects
- Analyzing feedback and making recommendations on project selection
- Facilitating the in-person EC meeting at the CBD COP16 during which the projects were formally selected
- Organizing and facilitating a side event at COP16 during which the selected catalytic projects were announced and the call for full-size project proposals was launched

This led to the selection of the nine catalytic projects under the Fund, which the list of selected catalytic projects are as follows:

	Project Title	Countries	Implementing Agency	Budget (USD)
1	Scaling up connectivity in the Trifinio-Fraternidad Transboundary Biosphere Reserve	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras	UNESCO	300,000
2	Enhancing institutional capacity for effective mainstreaming and implementation of NBSAP	Bhutan	UNDP	200,000
3	Characterizing unsustainable consumption and production patterns to improve policies to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services	Chile	UNDP	200,000
4	National Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy for the Papua New Guinea NBSAP	Papua New Guinea	UNDP	200,000
5	National Outlook on Indigenous and Local Knowledge of Biodiversity / Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) documentation, capacity building and ILK mainstreaming in biodiversity policies in Africa (Malawi, and Namibia), and SIDs (Trinidad and Tobago)	Malawi, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago	UNESCO	300,000
6	Assessment of capacity-building needs for the implementation of the GBF	Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar	FAO	300,000
7	Strengthening Implementation and Monitoring of Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	Samoa	UNDP	200,000

8	Enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks	Albania	UNDP	200,000
9	Strengthening Community Engagement for Biodiversity Conservation in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area	Nepal	UNESCO	200,000
Total				2,100,000

Its work to launch and publicize the call for full-size project proposals, largely through the organization, preparation and facilitation of a dedicated side event at CBD COP16, raised significant awareness of this funding opportunity and was instrumental in attracting many applications. The Interim Secretariat also collated feedback from the technical review of the catalytic projects and communicated this to the implementing agencies, helping them to strengthen their projects. These actions represent significant progress towards the Fund achieving its seven outcome areas through the projects it enables.

Concrete outputs that enabled these results are:

- Agreed and signed ToR containing agreed ToC
- Agreed, legally reviewed and signed MoUs
- Agreed and signed SAA
- Formal establishment of the Fund including ED's mission to China
- First call for proposals (Catalytic projects) launched
- Four virtual EC meetings held
- Full EC formed with the incorporation of Cambodia, Colombia, Egypt and the GEF as an observer
- In-person EC meeting at COP16 in Cali
- Side event at COP16 in Cali
- Exhibition/helpdesk held at COP16 in Cali
- 9 catalytic projects selected
- Second call for proposal (Full-size projects) launched
- Expression of Interest for the Independent Technical Advisory Group (ITAG) launched
- Drafting process of the Fund Operations Manual initiated

This is in line with the expected results of the project, which is “to efficiently and effectively perform the functions of the KBF Secretariat”.

Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:

The KBF set itself an ambitious workplan for 2024, from the ideation phase to having projects in implementation. This raised a number of challenges, including how to conduct a review of catalytic projects without an ITAG and meeting ambitious deadlines, without compromising the integrity of the processes and results. The Interim Secretariat was composed of one person for most of 2024 and therefore had limited capacity to facilitate such fast-paced progress. This resulted in the workplan being amended several times and undue pressure on the small Interim Secretariat. The lesson learned is to set reasonable and realistic workplans and timelines from the outset, commensurate with the capacity of the Secretariat.

The Interim Secretariat also noted that windows given to the EC to review and comment on documents were too short to enable optimal review. This was especially true prior to the EC meeting at COP16 when all EC members were very busy with preparations, especially Colombia as the host. This meant that most members were unable to familiarize themselves with many of the documents tabled for discussion and approval during the meeting. This in turn slowed the meeting down so that some agenda items were pushed to a future meeting. The lesson learned is similar to above: set reasonable, realistic timelines well in advance, bearing in mind any extenuating context such as an upcoming COP or large meeting, to ensure

that the EC has enough time to review meaningfully documents on which they are expected to make inputs or discussions.

Qualitative assessment:

The Interim Secretariat of the KBF achieved a high level of achievement during the reporting period with all goals set for the year achieved. Under this project, the Interim Secretariat undertook all necessary actions to enable the establishment and swift operationalization of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund. The Interim Secretariat, without the ITAG and with limited capacity, managed to successfully launch and complete the First Call for Proposals for Catalytic projects of the fund as well as set up the necessary processes for the achievement of a full operationalization status.