



**Kunming Biodiversity Fund  
2025 Consolidated Annual Narrative Report**

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## Executive Summary

One million species face extinction largely due to human activities, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. This according to the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES). Ecosystems on land and in the ocean have declined dramatically with three-quarters of the land-based environment and two-thirds of the marine environment significantly altered. This accelerating loss of biodiversity threatens the foundation of economies, livelihoods, food security, and health. The KMGBF provides the roadmap to halt and reverse this decline.

Three-quarters of land-based environments and two-thirds of marine areas have been dramatically altered. This accelerating biodiversity loss threatens economies, livelihoods, food security, and health worldwide. Launched in May 2024, the fund aims to speed up implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework – the international roadmap to halt and reverse nature loss.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the KBF Fund's progress thus far, emphasizing significant accomplishments throughout its portfolio, implementation lessons learned, and the ongoing development of its investment strategy.

It illustrates how the Fund is enhancing its capacity to mobilize finance, assist locally driven projects, and cultivate collaborations between the public, commercial, and charitable sectors.

The report functions as a strategic reference point for continued cooperation, adaptive management, and progress toward the Fund's long-term goals and 2030 vision by documenting both quantifiable impact and the learning process. The Kunming Biodiversity Fund aims to facilitate the successful implementation of the GBF at regional, national, subnational and local levels, with participation and involvement from the whole of government and whole of society.

## Background

The Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) is a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) established by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The initial funding is 1.5 billion Yuan from the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China. The KBF aims to facilitate the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at regional, national, subnational and local level by supporting developing countries to accelerate and upscale their actions for the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The purpose of the KBF is to support developing countries to accelerate and upscale their actions for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPS). The fund facilitates the successful implementation of the GBF at regional,

national, subnational and local levels with a focus on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).



The Fund aims to support countries to accelerate implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the KMGBF). The Fund prioritizes implementing a whole-of-society approach to address nature and biodiversity loss, improving policies for biodiversity across all national and subnational levels, strengthening capacities and cooperation, and mobilizing additional resources.

## Introduction

While completing the Fund's operationalization, the majority of the effort in 2025 was concentrated on the first full-size projects. Even though the tasks were undertaken in tandem and timelines were challenging, all objectives were met and 2025 ended with the Fund's approval of its Operational Manual, a newly established and operational ITAG, the catalytic projects' closing operations, and 22 new full-sized projects.

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.

There have been significant developments in 2025, and these include:

- Selection of 22 full-size projects
- Selection and operationalization of the Independent Technical Advisory Group (ITAG)
- Implementation and operational closure of 5 Catalytic Projects
- Approval and the operationalization of the KBF Operations Manual
- Operationalization of KBF Terms of Reference

## Portfolio Management

In 2025 the Kunming Biodiversity Fund Executive Council approved 22 projects as its first full-size initiatives, supporting 34 countries across all regions to meet global biodiversity commitments.



The 2024–2025 Call for Proposals was announced during 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cali, Colombia in October 2024.



This was the first Call for proposals operating simultaneously with function starts and ITAG selection. Out of the 136 concept notes that were initially received, the Secretariat selected 98 that were suitable for the ITAG's assessment. Based on the ITAG's assessment and recommendations, the EC chose 46 of them after the ITAG examined them.



"China has consistently advanced the global biodiversity conservation agenda with the strongest determination and most proactive approach. The Kunming Biodiversity Fund should adhere to the principles of international operation and multilateralism, uphold fairness, openness and transparency, strengthen the supervision and management of project implementation, and continuously monitor progress and evaluate the effectiveness of approved projects." said HUANG Runqiu, Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China.

A month was provided to the proponents to create a comprehensive project document, which was then assessed by the ITAG and presented to the EC with a list of recommendations. As a result of the 2024-2025 Call for Proposals, 22 projects were selected by the KBF Executive Council, 15 of which were approved, and 7 of which were conditionally approved. At least 34 countries will benefit from these projects, which amount to approximately 28 million USD, to be implemented by ten UN organizations.

*Reference to full projects.<sup>1</sup>*

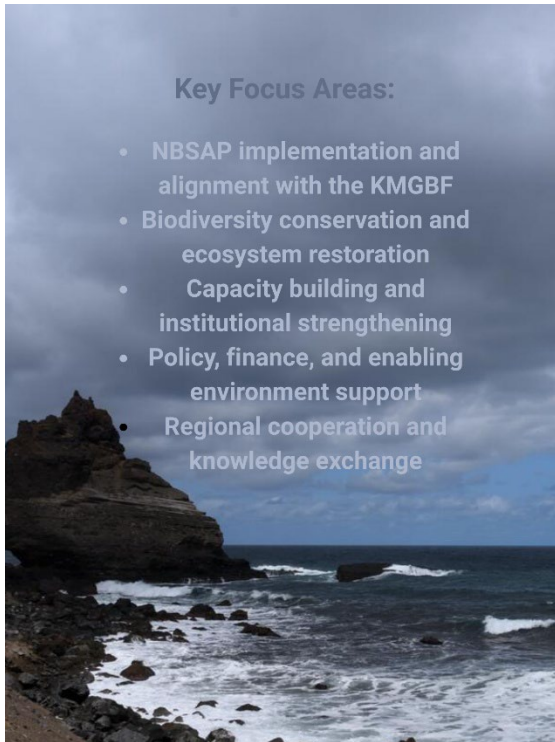
## **Portfolio Overview**

The Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) portfolio reflects a globally distributed and programmatically diverse set of projects, designed to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming–Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

The current pipeline includes both national and multi-country initiatives spanning all major developing regions, with a strong emphasis on equity, capacity building, and biodiversity impact. There were 129 concept notes received, which underwent through an eligibility check and initial assessment. Against the established criteria, 46 proposers were asked to submit full project proposals.

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<sup>1</sup> [Kunming Biodiversity Fund endorses first full-size projects to support global action on biodiversity](#)



### Key Focus Areas:

- NBSAP implementation and alignment with the KMGBF
- Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening
- Policy, finance, and enabling environment support
- Regional cooperation and knowledge exchange

The portfolio includes single-country projects, funded at around USD 1 million, supporting national implementation priorities.

Multi-country and regional programmes, with larger allocations (up to ~USD 2.5 million), designed to address shared ecosystems, transboundary challenges, and regional cooperation.

Global initiatives, including support to the CBD, to strengthen knowledge, coordination, and enabling frameworks.

This mix reflects a balanced approach between local implementation and systemic/global support.

### *Strategic Focus*

Across the portfolio, projects are aligned with:

- NBSAP implementation and updating
- Capacity development for biodiversity governance
- Ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Strengthening enabling environments (policy, finance, institutions)
- Regional cooperation and knowledge sharing
- Delivery is anchored in a strong UN system partnership model
- Overall, the portfolio reflects a strategic shift toward operationalizing global biodiversity targets on the ground

## Full Projects Breakdown

The breakdown of the 22 projects approved by the Executive Council in its 2nd meeting of 2025 is reflected in the table below. It combines country-level implementation with regional and global coordination.

	Project Title	Country	PO/PUNO/IE/IA	Budget
1	Empower communities through knowledge management of ecosystems and species to achieve the KMGB	Cook Islands	FAO	1,000,000
2	Effective Management of Invasive Alien Species for Ecosystem Benefits in Nepal	Nepal	FAO	1,000,000
3	Prevention and Control of Invasive Alien Species for Enhanced Biosecurity in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	FAO	999,551
4	Strengthening Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainable Management of Egirdir Lake in Turkiye for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Adaptation (SER-SEL)	Turkiye	FAO	999,422
5	Assessing and protecting marine turtles in Khore Omiera Protected Area - Yemen	Yemen	CMS	997,817
6	Albania's Path to Strengthening Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Albania	UNDP	1,000,000
7	United for the Forest: Community Restoration and Conservation in the Colombian Amazon region	Colombia	UNDP	1,000,000
8	Improving management of coastal marine resources and strengthening governance and resilience of Garifuna communities in Honduras	Honduras	UNDP	1,000,000
9	Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas Affected by Sand and Dust Storms via Community Engagement	Islamic Republic of Iran	UNDP	1,000,000
10	Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Sharks and Rays in Libyan Waters	Libya	UNDP	1,000,000
11	Restoration and connectivity of priority habitats for species conservation in Serbia	Serbia	UNDP	1,000,000
12	Develop New Framework for Pakistan Biodiversity Conservation to Achieve the "30x30" Target and Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation by Delineating Ecological Conservation Redline	Pakistan	UNEP	1,000,000
13	ABD-Peru: Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agrobiodiversity in Peru's Mountain Ecosystems	Peru	UNESCO	999,994
14	Strengthening capacities for human rights-based, inclusive and sustainable marine biodiversity conservation and policy integration	South Africa	UNITAR, OHCHR	1,000,000
15	Mother Earth-Centered Actions Within the Framework of Living-Well for The Conservation of Biodiversity in Bolivia	Bolivia	OHCHR, FAO, UNDP	1,000,000
16	Protecting and Restoring Ecological Integrity and Connectivity of Transboundary Ecosystems in Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	CMS	1,800,000

	Project Title	Country	PO/PUNO/IE/IA	Budget
17	SFS4Nature: Converging action on nature and agrifood systems to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu	UNEP	2,500,000
18	Policy mainstreaming in Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria through policy coherence for effective environmental governance	Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria	UNEP	1,800,000
19	Enhancing evidence-based biodiversity conservation, policy, and action for designated areas in SIDS.	Cabo Verde, Mauritius, Seychelles	UNESCO	1,800,000
20	Science, Policy and Action: Strengthening and implementing NBSAPs through enhanced regional cooperation on ocean-based conservation in Asia and the Pacific	Maldives, Cambodia, Philippines	ESCAP	1,800,000
21	Enhancing biosafety capacity for sustainable use	Global	CBD	1,300,000
22	Mainstreaming biodiversity into agrifood systems to implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	Madagascar, Mexico and Uganda	FAO	1,800,849

## Geographic Coverage

The portfolio demonstrates broad global reach, covering:

- Asia (e.g. Nepal, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, Pakistan, Iran)
- Africa (e.g. Libya, South Africa, regional West Africa programme)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (e.g. Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia)
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia (e.g. Albania, Serbia, Central Asia multi-country initiative)
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (e.g. Cook Islands and Pacific regional programmes)
- Global and interregional projects

This distribution highlights a strong focus on developing countries and biodiversity-rich regions, particularly those with capacity and financing gaps. The regional distribution of projects demonstrates strong engagement in Asia, with moderate participation across LAC, Africa, and SIDS, and more limited representation in other regions. While the portfolio reflects geographic diversity, further efforts may be required to strengthen project pipelines in underrepresented regions. The regional distribution of projects can be visualised below.

### Distribution of 'Region'

Region	Count of Region
Asia	8
LAC	4
SIDS	3
Africa	3
Global	2
East Europe	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Participating Organisations	No. of Full Projects per Entity
UNDP	6
FAO	5
UNEP	3
UNESCO	2
CMS	2
UNITAR, OHCHR	1
ESCAP	1
CBD	1
OHCHR, FAO, UNDP	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22</b>

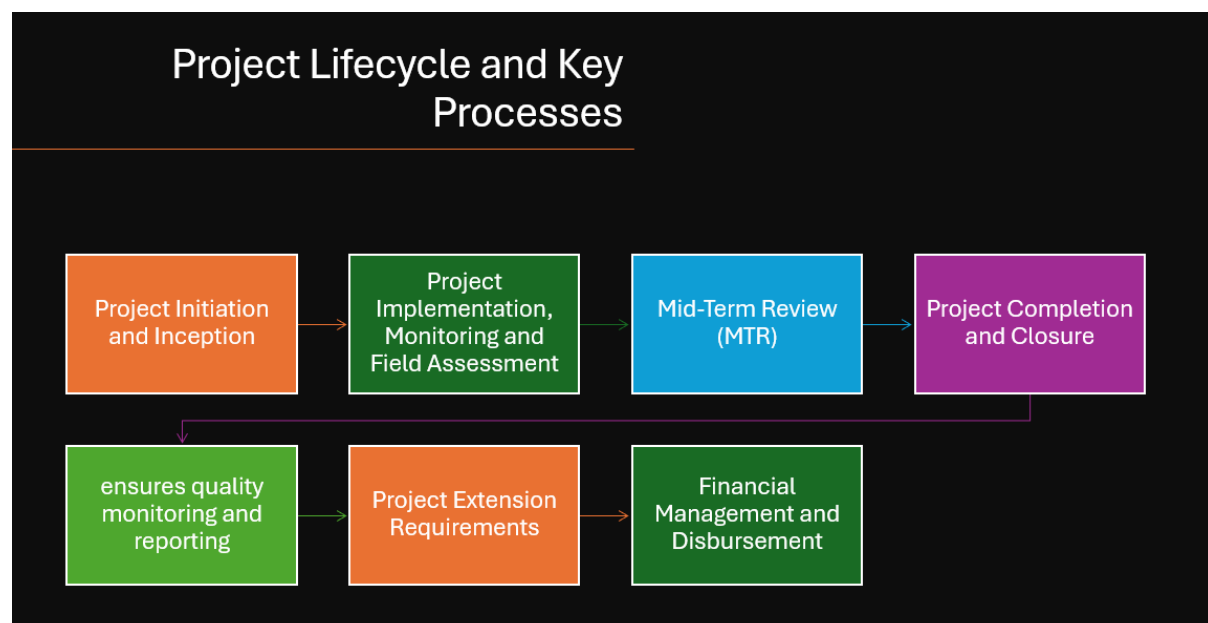
## Implementing Partners

Projects are delivered through a diverse set of UN agencies and international organizations, including UNDP, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, UNITAR, OHCHR, ESCAP, and the CBD Secretariat and specialized bodies such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

This multi-agency model promotes technical specialization, cross-sector collaboration, and integrated delivery across biodiversity, climate, human rights, and sustainable development agendas

## Knowledge Management & Learning

Knowledge and learning within the KBF framework involve generating, sharing, and applying evidence, best practices, and data to support informed decision-making and continuous improvement in biodiversity implementation. The need to instil quality assurances in all aspects of the project cycle is currently being pursued. In addition, knowledge and learning are being applied to project teams by embedding continuous feedback, data sharing, and lessons-learned processes into daily operations, enabling adaptive management and better delivery outcomes; in turn, scaling this across all players in the KBF Secretariat ensures coordinated learning loops, consistent evidence-based decision-making, and strengthened collaboration across portfolios, functions, and partners.



## Partnerships



## Operations & international coordination

The operations of the KBF (Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) Secretariat within the SCBD involve strengthened staffing and office capacity to coordinate implementation, monitoring, and reporting of biodiversity targets, alongside an expanded portfolio management role to oversee financing, partnerships, and delivery of biodiversity commitments at global and national levels.

## Lessons learnt

There is a need to strengthen engagement in Africa, SIDS and Eastern Europe. While the portfolio reflects geographic diversity, further efforts may be required to ensure more balanced access to funding opportunities and strengthen project pipelines in underrepresented regions.

Building on lessons learned from the catalytic projects implemented in 2024 and the processes established in 2025, the next call for proposals will adopt a more efficient approach to evaluation and strengthen overall project quality assurance management. This includes enhanced focus on risk management, review processes, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, communication, and visibility across all KBF-supported projects. In addition, the Fund will promote stronger country ownership by ensuring active participation of countries in project design, implementation, and evaluation, to enhance accountability and ensure meaningful and well-documented impacts.

## **Communications**

In 2025, the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) conducted a full range of communication and outreach activities and achieved fruitful results. During the UNEA7 events, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly held a press conference to present the major progress and achievements of KBF. The Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP attended the conference. Representatives from KBF's partner organizations and project implementing agencies also shared on-site experiences, illustrating how the Fund has effectively galvanized the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and generated tangible positive outcomes for relevant biodiversity initiatives worldwide.