Co-operation for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Report setting out the capacity needs to deliver scientific and technical cooperation

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Summary

This report aims to identify the components and status of capacity building and development needs essential for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It provides an overview of the current situation and outlines strategic ways forward, leveraging Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) to respond to current and future challenges related to capacity building and development in biodiversity management. The report also serves as a resource for policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners aiming to understand the needs and proposed ways forward to strengthen capabilities for managing biodiversity effectively.

Capacity building is defined as a process that enhances the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary for effective biodiversity management. The context for this report is provided by findings from previous reports and studies, including a comprehensive study that identified various functional and technical capacity needs faced by Parties in implementing the CBD and its Protocols. This background is complemented by an analysis of multiple sources, including submitted NBSAPs, questionnaires, National Targets submitted to the Online Reporting Tool (ORT), and other results obtained within the CO-OP4CBD project. The analysis underscores the critical role of capacity building and development in achieving biodiversity goals, emphasizing that effective implementation of the KM-GBF relies on the ability of Parties to fulfil their commitments under the CBD.

The analysis in this report reveals a lack of explicit documentation of capacity building and development needs from Parties. In the NBSAPs, needs are often expressed as challenges or goals rather than clearly defined limitations. Nevertheless, the analysis identified 148 capacity building and development needs, which were later categorized into 4 major themes:

- Knowledge Creation and Management: Emphasizing the need for regular biodiversity assessments and effective data management.
- Management Actions: Focusing on ecosystem and species management, including the need for assessments.
- Policy Implementation: Highlighting the necessity for training in policy enforcement, sectoral integration, funding, and legal framework development.
- Cooperation: Stressing the importance of national and international collaboration to improve biodiversity monitoring and management strategies.

Recommendations to address some of the current challenges include developing standardized processes for documenting capacity needs, encouraging active participation from Parties, fostering regional cooperation, and ensuring adequate funding mechanisms. A simple example of a form that could be distributed to Parties for their voluntary use to document and report their capacity building and development needs is provided at the end of this report, along with suggestions for how such a form could be disseminated. The recent adoption of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres (TSCCs) as well as a global coordination entity provides a promising landscape for a more structured and consistent approach towards capacity building and development.

The report concludes that while some progress has been made in identifying capacity building and development needs, many Parties have not systematically documented these needs. It calls for a concerted effort to enhance capacities at all levels to meet the ambitious

biodiversity targets set forth in the KM-GBF. The findings in this report aim to inspire Parties and decision-makers to engage more actively in identifying their capacity building and development needs and to facilitate targeted support for biodiversity conservation efforts via the (sub) regional TSCCs.

List of abbreviations

BfN	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
COP	Conference of the Parties
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NFP	National Focal Point
ORT	Online Reporting Tool
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
TSC	Technical and Scientific Cooperation
TSCC	Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WEOG	Western European and Others Group

1 Introduction

This report aims to illustrate and identify the components and status of capacity building and development needs essential for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). By conducting this research, the authors aim to provide an overview of the current situation and outline strategic ways forward, thereby leveraging Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) to respond to both current and future challenges related to capacity building in biodiversity management. Central to this effort is the recent adoption under the CBD of a long-term strategic framework that aligns with the goals of the CBD.

This document is structured to provide a comprehensive analysis of current capacity building and development needs in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework as reported by Parties in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). CBD COP Decision 15/6, in paragraph A6 “Urges Parties, [...] and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to provide financial and technical support to biodiversity capacity-building and development activities, [...] in line with the priority needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and/or national capacity-building and development strategies.”

This report serves as a resource for decisionmakers, policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners aiming to have a better understanding of the needs and the proposed ways forward to strengthen capabilities in managing biodiversity effectively. Drawing insights from submitted NBSAPs, two questionnaires (one targeted, the other more general, but sent to the European Union (EU) Member States by the European Commission (EC)), National Targets submitted to the Online Reporting Tool (ORT), and other results obtained within the CO-OP4CBD project, this report provides further insight into understanding the capacity building and development needs of Parties to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework. It also provides suggestions for a way forward, taking into consideration the expected adoption of the regional centres of the TSC mechanism for Europe at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, in mid-October 2024 in Cali, Colombia.

This report aims to be a critical resource for identifying and addressing capacity building and development needs for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. However, it is important to note that due to the limited number of NBSAPs available for analysis at the time of publication (10), the results of the report should be regarded as preliminary. Further analysis, once more NBSAPs become publicly available, will help test the initial findings and the completeness of the proposed framework for grouping of capacity building and development needs. This will ultimately allow for more precise evaluations and the development of strategies aligned with the evolving biodiversity landscape.

The structure of this report is designed to guide readers through a logical flow of information. The introduction outlines the importance of capacity building in achieving biodiversity goals. The methods section explains our approach to identifying and understanding specific capacity building needs, and the results section presents the insights and findings derived from the various analyses in this report. The conclusion synthesizes the findings into actionable recommendations.

1.1 The importance of capacity building and development for biodiversity

Capacity building and development is critical to achieving the biodiversity goals outlined under the Global Biodiversity Framework as it empowers individuals, organizations, and nations to effectively implement and sustain biodiversity conservation efforts, elements that were identified as key shortcomings in the previous CBD strategy for 2010-2020. The Report of the

Study to Inform the Preparation of a Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity-Building Beyond 2020 under the CBD (CBD/SBI/3/INF/9), defines capacity building and development as "the process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole, unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results". This definition emphasizes the need for a sustained effort to cultivate the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary for effective biodiversity management. Furthermore, it recognizes that both individuals and organizations play a crucial role in fostering an environment that can continuously adapt to changing ecological and social dynamics, which is fundamental for achieving the overarching objectives of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and ultimately those of the CBD.

By enhancing knowledge, skills, and institutional frameworks, capacity building and development facilitates informed decision-making and fosters collaboration among stakeholders. This ensures that biodiversity policies are not only designed but also executed effectively, leading to improved monitoring, reporting, and accountability in biodiversity management. Additionally, capacity building and development helps countries adapt to emerging challenges, such as climate change and habitat loss, by fostering innovation and resilience. Ultimately, it creates a foundation for long-term sustainability and enables nations to make meaningful progress towards their biodiversity targets while engaging with global initiatives and commitments.

To facilitate the implementation of the Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Building, Parties are encouraged to integrate its principles into their NBSAPs (CBD/COP/DEC/15/6). In practice, this involves Parties assessing existing capacities, ideally using a whole-of society approach, identifying gaps, and developing targeted training initiatives and collaborative frameworks that foster exchange of knowledge and best practices both within countries and across borders. By leveraging regional partnerships and participating in international cooperative efforts, Parties can enhance their capabilities considerably, promoting a shared vision for biodiversity conservation that transcends national boundaries.

Despite the importance of, and need for, capacity building and development, it appears that the encouragement to assess existing capacities has not been broadly realised. The CBD website states that "A review of 177 NBSAPs shows that at least 55% explicitly highlight capacity development as a means of implementation," when referring to the NBSAPs submitted for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Using the available NBSAPs following the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework to assess capacity building and development needs of Parties to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework, we found that all the NBSAPs analysed seem to focus almost exclusively on the national obligation to have biodiversity management plans in place and have not directly addressed their national capacity building and development needs. The few Parties which have reported having a capacity building and development needs assessment planned will submit their assessment after the delivery of this report.

1.2 Capacity building needs for implementing the CBD

Capacity building and development needs for the implementation of the CBD have been a focal point of global discussions, particularly because effective implementation relies heavily on the ability of Parties to carry out their commitments under the Convention. Over the years, several key areas of capacity building and development have been identified, and various initiatives have been undertaken to address these needs. The aim of this section is to summarize previous work on capacity building and development needs for the implementation of the CBD, focusing both on the direct processes and broader initiatives aiming to coordinate

efforts for several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Early capacity building efforts were focused on developing NBSAPs, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention. As the key instruments for implementing the CBD at the national level, NBSAPs highlighted early on the gaps where capacity development was needed. These included lack of technical expertise, insufficient financial resources, and inadequate institutional frameworks in areas such as policy development, in line with the CBD, scientific research, data management, and public awareness.

As a response to the formulated concerns, one of the four strategic goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20), adopted at COP6 in 2002, focused on capacity building and development. More specifically, Goal 2 states that 'Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention'. One of the objectives associated to this goal is 'Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity. The Appendix 'Obstacles to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity' lists the following institutional, technical and capacity-related obstacles:

(a) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weaknesses

(b) Lack of human resources

(c) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise

(d) Loss of traditional knowledge

(e) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives.

Recognising the inequalities between the various parties participating in its MEAs, the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of UNEP adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building in December 2004 (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1). This plan aims to provide a framework for capacity building to ensure the effective participation of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in the negotiations concerning these MEAs. The Bali Strategic Plan lists the following strategic considerations:

(a) Efforts should build on existing capacities;

(b) Activities under the plan must have national ownership to ensure that built capacities are sustained;

(c) Capacity-building programmes must be tailored to individual countries based on a bottom-up needs-assessment process;

(d) Work must be coordinated, linked with efforts already in progress and integrated with other sustainable development initiatives using existing coordinating mechanisms, such as the Environmental Management Group, the United Nations Development Group and the resident coordinator system;

(e) Work should not duplicate that promoted and undertaken by other organizations and programmes.

The Bali Strategic Plan also provides an indicative list of main areas of technology support and capacity building activities. Among these, some are directly connected to capacity building needs associated to the implementation of the CBD:

(iii) Strengthening of cooperation with civil society and the private sector;

(iv) Assistance for facilitating compliance with and enforcement of obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and implementation of environmental commitments;

(vii) Development of national research, monitoring and assessment capacity, including training in assessment and early warning;

(viii) Support to national and regional institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends;

(ix) Access to scientific and technological information, including information on state-of-the-art technologies;

(xi) Education and awareness raising, including networking among universities with programmes of excellence in the field of the environment.

In 2006–2010, the CBD had several targeted capacity building initiatives and established several thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work (e.g., Protected Areas, Access and Benefit-Sharing, and Invasive Alien Species) that integrated capacity building as a key component. A series of workshops, training sessions, and technical guidance documents were developed to assist countries in fulfilling their CBD obligations. These targeted specific needs such as monitoring, reporting, protected area management, and mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral policies.

The next major step was represented by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20) that identified "capacity-building activities and the effective sharing of knowledge" and the "enhanced support mechanisms for capacity-buildings" as essential for achieving the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Capacity building and development efforts were directed toward enhancing national implementation, mobilizing financial resources, improving scientific and technical cooperation, and mainstreaming biodiversity. Initiatives like the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and the NBSAP Forum provided platforms for knowledge exchange, e-learning, technical support, and capacity development, particularly for financial planning resource mobilization and to develop and implement effective NBSAPs and prepare national reports.

Despite these efforts, none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets were met or achieved at global level, although several Parties made significant progress at national level. Assessing the progress at the global level and evidencing examples of success, the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 concluded that "more progress has been made towards the achievement of targets which have been subject to regular review involving national experts, and for which sustained and ongoing support has been provided through capacity-building activities and through support networks at the regional and subregional levels. There is also a need to ensure adequate funding."

As the CBD moved towards the post-2020 framework, capacity building and development continued to be a significant focus, especially in light of the lessons learned from the Strategic Plan 2011–2020. At its 13th meeting in 2016, the COP, in decisions XIII/23 and 14/24, requested the Executive Secretary to "initiate a process for preparing a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, ensuring its alignment with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework". In addition, it requested that the Executive Secretary "commission a study to provide the knowledge base for the preparation of the long-term strategic framework".

Meanwhile, the 2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report showed that "the sufficiency of indicators for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (judged in relation to their alignment, temporal relevance and spatial scale) is lowest for Strategic Goal E (on enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building)".

The 2020 Report of the Study to Inform the Preparation of a Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity-Building Beyond 2020 (CBD/SBI/3/INF/9) identified numerous functional and technical capacity needs, gaps and cross-cutting capacity needs and several overarching and more focused recommendations. These emphasise the importance of enhanced coordination and cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental

processes; improved access to information, including access to online resources; the development of a well-connected group of technical assistance providers and the active promotion of peer-to-peer learning, building on existing communities of practice and encouraging effective networking; the establishment of a biodiversity-related capacity building working group; reflection on regional differences in capacity; and the promotion of coordination of capacity building efforts at the national level.

The Final Report on the Implementation of the Short-Term Action Plan (2017–2020) to Enhance and Support Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the Convention and Its Protocols (CBD/COP/15/INF/5) highlights the main achievements under the various Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the cross-cutting activities as presented in the action plan. Lessons learned include the:

(a) Need to diversify the capacity delivery modalities and to give due attention to other than the individual levels of capacity-building (i.e. organizational and/or enabling environment);
(b) Need to adopt a long-term vision and a holistic approach;
(c) Key role of identifying of predictable funding sources;
(d) Consideration of follow-up support already at the designing stage;
(e) Need to have a monitoring and evaluation framework to accompany capacity development interventions to ensure that their effectiveness and impact can be assessed;
(f) Need to involve the relevant partners and stakeholders in the design and implementation of capacity development interventions to leverage their expertise and resources and avoid duplication of efforts.

The Final Report on the Implementation also illustrates the major role of online platforms, such as the Biodiversity E-learning Platform and the Bio-Bridge web platform and that of development of various online tools to facilitate the process of national reporting (e.g., the Data Reporting Tool – DaRT or the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership – BIP), and of the regional capacity-building workshops. It also shows the role of targeted capacity-building workshops and webinars dedicated to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) that facilitated the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

During its 15th meeting in December 2022, the COP adopted Decision 15/8 on Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation (CBD/COP/DEC/15/8). This includes also the long-term strategic framework for capacity building and development, listing expected capacity results and providing overarching guiding principles and key strategies to improve capacity-building and development, addressing mechanisms for implementation (Annex I). It also presents the mechanism to strengthen TSC in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework (Annex II).

In addition to the above-mentioned reports, decisions and strategic plans, several other assessments and initiatives have been undertaken over the years to enhance capacity building and development for and within the CBD. Three of these are presented below in chronological order.

In 2003, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) organised a workshop on capacity building for biodiversity in light of the Convention's "2010 target", with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe. Participants at the workshop concluded that capacity-building work should be organised at three levels:

1. Individual/human resource – the importance of training the inspectors

2. Organisational – skilled personnel should be assigned for relevant tasks, otherwise their knowledge will not be harnessed and may erode over time

3. Systemic – functional legal mechanisms at the systemic level have key importance

One of the pillars of capacity building is represented by the skills of individuals to formulate and implement integrated policies. Various actors with different capacity needs are involved in this process (Figure 1).

The **needs** for capacity-building for these actors were described as the following:

Technical staff	Politicians	Public	NGOs	Science/academia
1. Number of staff	6. Knowledge on means for integration	9. Awareness of opportunities for involvement (e.g. Århus-Convention)		13. Education of specialists in governance
2. Awareness of need for integration		8. Awareness of need for integration	10. General knowledge on relevant international processes	14. Identification of research demands
3. Interdisciplinary skills and knowledge	7. Awareness of need for expertise		11. Knowledge on means for integration	15. Holistic approaches
4. General knowledge on relevant international processes (guidance, obligations, opportunities)			12. Networking in a thematically wide range of NGOs	16. Communication skills
5. Capacities for communication				
17. Acknowledgement of importance of traditional knowledge				

Figure 1, The needs for capacity building of the various actors involved in the formulation and implementation of integrated policies (Bundesamt für Naturschutz 2003)

It was also discussed that in order to ensure the effectiveness of capacity building, regular monitoring with appropriate indicators tailored for the various recipients of capacity building activities is essential (Figure 2).

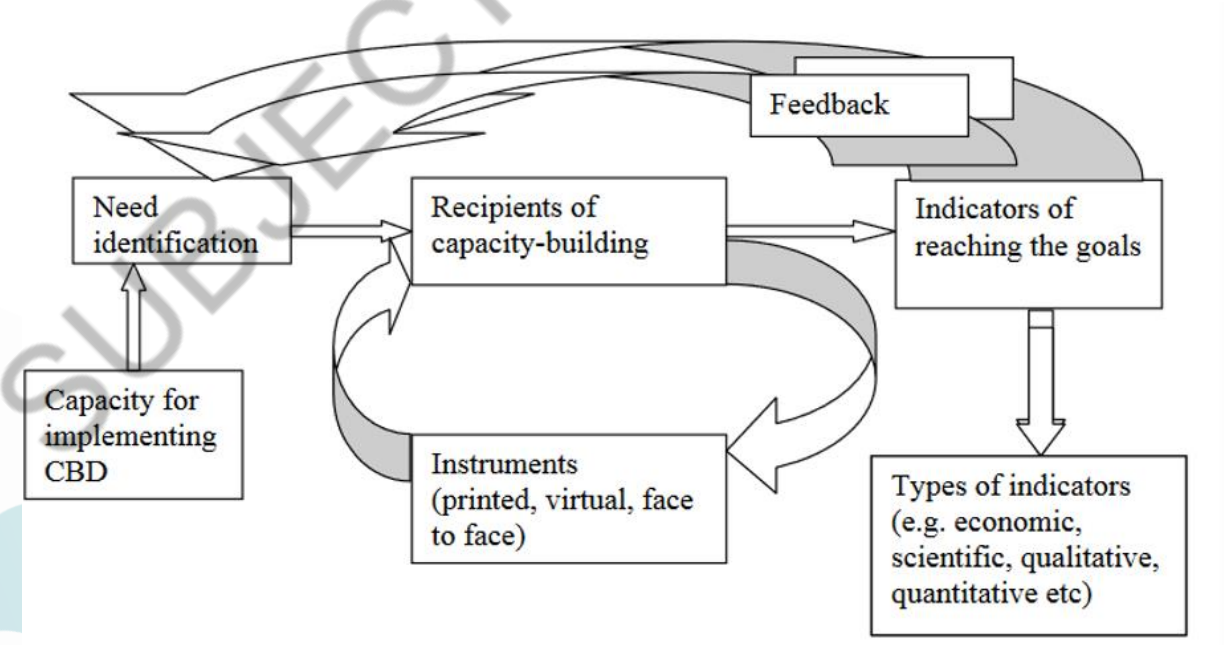


Figure 2, The monitoring process in capacity building as originally presented in Bundesamt für Naturschutz 2003.

The capacity building and development needs related to the CBD and associated initiatives also have been compiled in the 2004 inventory of existing capacity-building and technology support activities of the UN Environment Programme prepared by the UN Environment Management Group. This document summarises the programme elements and related capacity building needs identified for the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation the Programme of Work for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness and the Programme of Work on Technology Transfer and Technological and Scientific Cooperation, among others.

The 2018 Capacity building for biological diversity analysis prepared by UNEP-WCMC represents a follow-up of this compilation, providing an overview of existing activities of UN agencies and conventions in the field of capacity building for biodiversity.

1.3 Tech. & scientific coop. mechanisms and other processes under the CBD

The CBD has established a framework for international cooperation to address the challenges of biodiversity loss and the sustainable use of biological resources. The TSC mechanisms, as outlined in Article 18 of the CBD, are central to this effort. These mechanisms aim to enhance national capabilities, develop cooperative methods, and facilitate joint research and technology development.

Despite progress in capacity building and TSC, including the development of the Bio-Bridge Initiative and the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), the CBD has faced challenges in implementing capacity-building decisions due to difficulties in mobilizing resources.

The Global Biodiversity Framework is driven by a mission to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, putting nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet. It emphasizes the role of TSC in providing access to tools and technologies and adopts a One Health Approach to balance the health of people, animals, plants, and ecosystems.

Goal D of the Global Biodiversity Framework directly addresses TSC, calling for strengthened capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology, and the promotion of innovation and scientific cooperation. Targets 15 and 16 highlight the need for more information and education, while Targets 20 and 21 underscore the role of TSC in ensuring the best available data, information, and knowledge are accessible to guide effective governance and management of biodiversity.

The successful implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework requires not only financial resources but also cooperation and collaboration in building necessary capacity and transferring technologies, especially to developing countries. The framework acknowledges the role of diverse knowledge systems, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the need for transformative, innovative, and transdisciplinary education at all levels.

The TSC mechanisms are essential for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework's ambitious goals. They are key to providing the necessary means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity building, and access to and transfer of technology. The framework's implementation should be based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge, recognizing the role of science, technology, and innovation. The TSC mechanisms are thus pivotal in the CBD's mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and promote the sustainable use of biological resources, ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.

In recognising the importance, COP decision 15/8 decided “to establish a mechanism comprising a network of regional, and/or additional subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres”. The overall goal of the mechanism is to promote and facilitate,

on a demand-driven basis, TSC and technology transfer among Parties and to enable Parties and relevant organizations to effectively utilize science, technology and innovation to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Its specific objectives are:

(a) To enhance local, national, subregional, regional and international capacities in relation to science, technology and innovation by means of human resource and institutional capacity building and development;

(b) To enable technology assessment and monitoring of appropriate technologies;

(c) To promote and facilitate the development, transfer and use of appropriate technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies subject to free, prior and informed consent, according to national legislation;

(d) To promote and encourage joint research, cooperation and collaboration in the use of scientific advances and good practices in research;

(e) To promote the development, implementation and scaling-up of innovative solutions;

(f) To facilitate access to and exchange of relevant technical and scientific data, information and knowledge.

At the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-4), the selection of the regional, and/or additional subregional TSC support centres was made, resulting in the selection of 18 centres in total:

Africa (5)
- Central African Forest Commission
- Ecological Monitoring Centre
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
- Sahara and Sahel Observatory
- South African National Biodiversity Institute

Americas (3)
- Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute
- Caribbean Community
- Central American Commission on Environment and Development

Asia (5)
- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- International Union for Conservation of Nature – Asia Regional Office
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia
- Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

Europe (4)
- European Commission Joint Research Centre
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences

Oceania (1)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

The selection of the (sub)regional TSC Centres was formalised at COP16, where Parties welcomed the 18 subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres (TSCCs) that were selected to support Parties to effectively utilize science, technology, and innovation in the implementation of the KM-GBF. COP16 also adopted modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity and mandated the CBD Secretariat to host it.

Currently there are informal discussions between the TSC Centres for Europe in order to better identify the capacity building and development needs of countries, entry points, and geographical coverage, and also to define the modus-operandi between the regional centres, in order to most efficiently address requests for capacity building and development.

1.4 Capacity building beyond 2020

The Study to Inform the Preparation of a Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity-Building Beyond 2020, commissioned by the CBD Executive Secretariat and prepared by UNEP-WCMC (2020), was circulated at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) as CBD/SBI/3/INF/9. The global study provides an outline of numerous functional and technical capacity needs, gaps and cross-cutting needs that Parties encounter in the implementation of the CBD and its Protocols. The results of the study were significant in informing the Draft Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development Beyond 2020 (CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1).

The study consulted the following sources to develop the list of capacity needs and gaps identified by CBD Parties and stakeholders:

a) NBSAPs and national reports to the Convention and its Protocols
b) Needs assessment reports
c) Readily available assessments and studies, and other grey literature on capacity building from organisations such as IUCN, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office
d) Results from a survey carried out by the CBD Secretariat on the needs of Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities

In addition, UNEP-WCMC used data from NBSAP actions in at least 40 countries, reviewed by UNDP through the NBSAP Tagging project.

The study provides a broad summary of capacity needs and gaps related to biodiversity, including at all three levels of capacity building: individual, organisational, and systemic levels. It refers to both functional capacities—broad cross-cutting skills needed to formulate, implement and review policies, strategies, programmes and projects; and technical capacities—capacities linked to particular areas of expertise and practice.

Some of the most critical capacity needs of a general nature expressed in the sources noted above include resource mobilisation and fundraising skills, cooperation and collaboration with other actors and sectors, institutional capacity (such as human resources and provision of adequate financial resources), networking and communication skills, data collection, management and use (including indicators), knowledge and information sharing, technical skills related to assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including understanding values, integration of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sectors, legislation, compliance and enforcement of environmental policies and legislation, and spatial analysis and remote sensing.

In terms of technical capacity needs and gaps covering various key CBD topics, some of the main needs include sustainable use of biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity,

ecosystem restoration, taxonomy, and biodiversity indicators. However, specific capacity needs within these topics differ on a country level.

Some of the key functional and technical capacity needs of Parties related specifically with the NBSAPs include raising awareness about biodiversity, carrying out assessments of biodiversity and ecosystems status and trends, understanding biodiversity indicators, and grasping the theory and practice of mainstreaming biodiversity—particularly related to biodiversity valuation and ecosystem accounting.

Cartagena Protocol

Priority capacity needs relating to biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol include the development of national biosafety legislation, risk assessment, detection and identification of living modified organisms, public awareness, education and participation, biosafety mainstreaming and sharing of information, strengthening national biosafety frameworks, and liability and redress.

Nagoya Protocol

Priority capacity needs relating to access and benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol include ability to negotiate mutually agreed terms (mainly applicable to least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, and Parties with economies in transition), the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders to implement the Protocol, and the capacity to develop endogenous research capabilities. The latter relates to, for example, building stronger scientific and research institutions in developing countries to add value to their own genetic resources, or capacity building with regards to the assessment of economic value of genetic resources.

This report, prepared within the scope of the CO-OP4CBD project, builds on UNEP-WCMC's study. While the earlier study provides a useful outline of the general types of capacity building needs and gaps for the implementation of the CBD and its Protocols at a global level, this report focuses on the current, specific capacity building needs that EU Member States and associated countries have identified in their NBSAPs, following the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

2 Methods

The primary information source for our work has been NBSAPs submitted by EU Member States and associated countries, as Parties have been encouraged to integrate their capacity needs into their national biodiversity strategies (CBD/COP/DEC/15/6). This was complemented by reviewing the national targets submitted through the On-line Reporting Tool for NBSAPs and National Targets (https://ort.cbd.int/). These sources were supplemented by two additional reports from CO-OP4CBD, D1.1 Report of knowledge needs in relation to the CBD and D3.1 Requirements and capacity needs report and recommendations in relation to the monitoring framework; and two questionnaires targeting CBD National Focal Points (NFPs) and other national staff working on the NBSAPs.

NBSAPs

We considered all NBSAPs submitted by EU Member States and associated countries between December 2021 and 2 September 2024, and one which has not yet been submitted but is in its final phase before adoption (Belgium). Many NBSAPs are only published in the country's official language, and two submitted NBSAPs could therefore not be included due to language limitations in the project team, Italy and Cyprus. The full list of NBSAPs included in this analysis is in Table 1. As a number of Parties have not yet submitted their NBSAPs, this

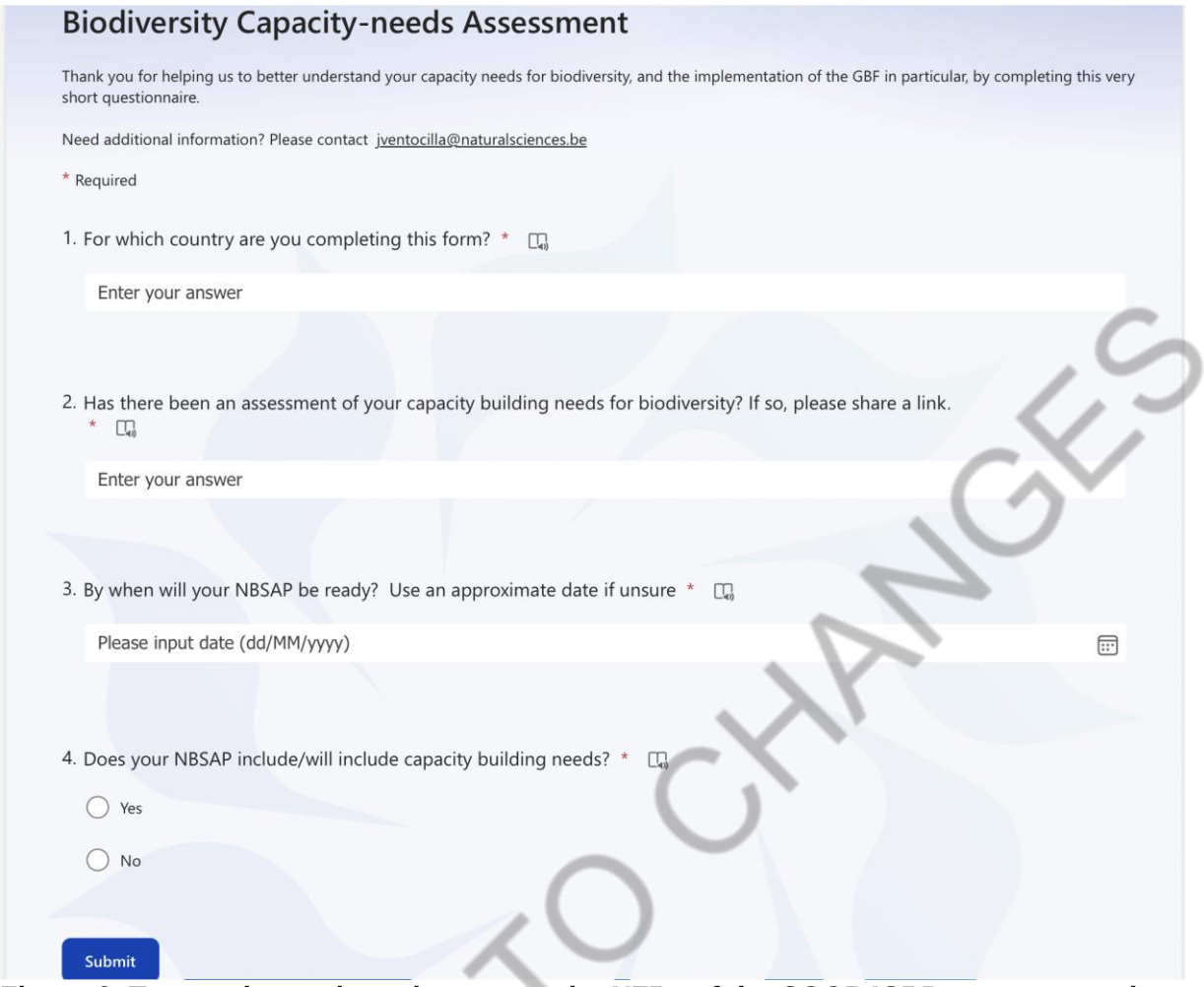
analysis is conducted in such a way that it provides a robust framework which data can be added to in the future once more NBSAPs have been received.

The NBSAPs were distributed amongst members of the CO-OP4CBD project with domain expertise and language proficiency. Each NBSAP was analysed for capacity building and development needs, and information was recorded in a table as both a direct citation (in the native language) and as a translated citation in English. Individual capacity building and development needs were then organized and categorized according to major themes and sub-themes, which proved to be recurring, as more NBSAPs were analysed.

Additional data sources

The results from the NBSAPs were supplemented with additional capacity needs identified in the national targets. EU Member States and associated countries that had submitted national targets by 2 September 2024 include Finland, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Croatia, Austria, France, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, and Hungary (Table 1). National targets associated to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20 for each of our target countries were analysed, before checking if data had been provided for the question “Means to implementation and barriers to implementation” linked to the relevant national targets.

In addition, we developed a targeted questionnaire with 4 questions (Figure 3) and circulated it amongst the NFPs of our target countries. This questionnaire, which received five responses, was publicized and supported by the EC during a Working Party on International Environmental Issues meeting in Brussels, and further shared in CO-OP4CBD meetings with NFPs and other staff that had been involved in the development or update of their NBSAP following the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework. A second questionnaire prepared by the EC and circulated to WEOG countries in preparation for the WEOG NBSAP Dialogue, which took place in Brussels at the end of August 2024, received four responses and was also used to complement our findings. As many Parties have not yet finalized their NBSAPs following the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework, the questionnaires provided a way to gain information that was not publicly available and complemented findings from other sources.



Biodiversity Capacity-needs Assessment

Thank you for helping us to better understand your capacity needs for biodiversity, and the implementation of the GBF in particular, by completing this very short questionnaire.

Need additional information? Please contact jventocilla@naturalsciences.be

* Required

1. For which country are you completing this form? *

Enter your answer

2. Has there been an assessment of your capacity building needs for biodiversity? If so, please share a link. *

Enter your answer

3. By when will your NBSAP be ready? Use an approximate date if unsure *

Please input date (dd/MM/yyyy)

4. Does your NBSAP include/will include capacity building needs? *

Yes

No

Submit

Figure 3, Targeted questionnaire sent to the NFPs of the COOP4CBD target countries.

Table 1, NBSAPs with submission year, National targets, and questionnaire responses included in this analysis. For NBSAPs, a date in parentheses (Date) indicates that the information was submitted but not included due to language limitations. For national targets and questionnaires, X indicates that the submitted information was included in our analysis. Blank cells indicate that the country has not submitted information as of 2 September 2024.

Country	NBSAP date	National targets	Questionnaires
EU Countries			
European Union	2023		
Austria	2024	X	
Belgium	Not yet submitted		X
Bulgaria			
Croatia		X	
Cyprus	(2022)		
Czech Republic (Czechia)			
Denmark			
Estonia			
Finland		X	

France	2023	X	X
Germany			
Greece			
Hungary	2023	X	X
Ireland	2024		X
Italy	(2024)		
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Luxembourg	2023	X	
Malta		X	
Netherlands			
Poland			
Portugal			
Romania			
Slovakia			
Slovenia			
Spain	2023	X	
Sweden		X	
Associated countries			
Albania			
Armenia			
Bosnia and Herzegovina			
Faroe Islands			
Georgia			
Iceland			
Israel		X	
Kosovo			
Liechtenstein			
Moldova		X	
Montenegro			X
North Macedonia			X
Norway			
Serbia	2021		
Switzerland			
Tunisia			
Turkey			
Ukraine			
United Kingdom		X	

Lastly, additional reports generated by CO-OP4CBD that also included capacity building and development needs were incorporated to supplement this analysis where relevant:

- Deliverable D1.1—Report of knowledge needs in relation to the CBD, summarizes the results of a series of surveys and workshops conducted in 2023 and 2024 that collected information on the knowledge needs of CBD negotiators and NFPs. The results of this work are presented for regional groups within Europe as a whole and not by individual country.
- Deliverable D3.1—Requirements and capacity needs report and recommendations in relation to the monitoring framework, surveyed EU Member States and associated countries needs in implementing the monitoring framework for the Global Biodiversity Framework. The report includes responses from 14 countries, and results are presented by region (not individual country).

As the first report focuses on knowledge needs, and the second on needs for the implementation of a specific element of the Global Biodiversity Framework, they are considered a valuable supplement to the discussion of our results, but not a direct input into our analysis.

3 Results

The primary focus of this section is outlining the results of the NBSAPs analysis. Based on the subregions defined by the United Nations Statistical Division, the NBSAPs included in this analysis comprise one country from Northern Europe (Ireland), three countries from Western Europe (Belgium, France, Luxembourg), one country from Eastern Europe (Hungary), and two countries from Southern Europe (Serbia and Spain). This information is then supplemented by information gathered from the national targets and questionnaires, as well as other reports produced by CO-OP4CBD.

3.1 Low response rates

The first finding is that most of the Parties have not explicitly included capacity building and development needs in their NBSAPs. For most Parties, the terms “capacity” or “needs” were rarely used, and capacity building needs were more typically expressed as challenges or goals. There may be many different reasons why a Party’s NBSAP doesn’t include an assessment of capacity building and development needs. One reason may simply be that a Party is planning on writing a separate document that addresses capacity building and development needs. Another reason may be that identifying capacity building needs is a task that in fact requires a certain amount of capacity, and there are no templates available within the CBD for the assessment of capacity and development needs. In this case, both a lack of capacity and also not knowing where to start can be impediments to assessing needs. In other cases, Parties may not see documenting capacity building and development needs as a valuable or relevant exercise or may view it as redundant with previous, similar exercises. Lastly, some Parties could potentially view documenting capacity building and development needs as admitting a weakness in a way that goes against cultural or bureaucratic traditions, which would also explain the lack of political will towards identifying those needs. Gaining a better understanding of the reasons why participation in identifying capacity building and development needs is low, and how to address this, could help develop strategies for future efforts in this area.

3.2 Emerging themes in capacity building needs

From the NBSAPs considered in this report, we could identify capacity building and development needs for France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Hungary, Spain, Ireland, and Serbia.

This includes both direct and indirectly expressed needs. A significant challenge when collecting data for this report is that capacity building and development needs are mostly not expressed as such, but rather as goals or objectives, which leaves it open to some interpretation.

Despite this challenge we were able to analyse and group the capacity building and development needs to define key themes. The primary and secondary themes include:

- Knowledge
  - Knowledge creation
  - Knowledge management (including facilitation)
- Management
  - Management actions
  - Assessments (including monitoring)
- Policy
  - Implementation and enforcement
  - Sectoral integration
  - (Legal) frameworks
  - Funding
- Cooperation
  - National
  - International
  - Outreach

These themes are designed to reflect a practical and applied understanding of the capacity building needs expressed in the NBSAPs. In contrast to the Study to Inform the Preparation of a Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity-Building Beyond 2020 (see section 1.4), in which capacity building needs are categorized according to protocols and general needs, originating from a number of different sources, the themes considered in this report relate to key functions necessary for any country to meaningfully engage with the implementation of the CBD and the Global Biodiversity Framework targets, as indicated in the relevant NBSAP (figure 4). These categories have been designed to limit overlap, yet it's inevitable that some capacity building needs can fit under more than one category. In those cases, the authors have selected the category that best fits the capacity building and development need, in consultation with the expert who analysed the NBSAP and identified the capacity building and development need. In a few select cases, a capacity building need that was expressed as a single need in reality is a need from two different themes. In those cases, the stated need has been duplicated and the relevant part of the need has its text underlined. See Annex 1 for the complete list of capacity building needs.

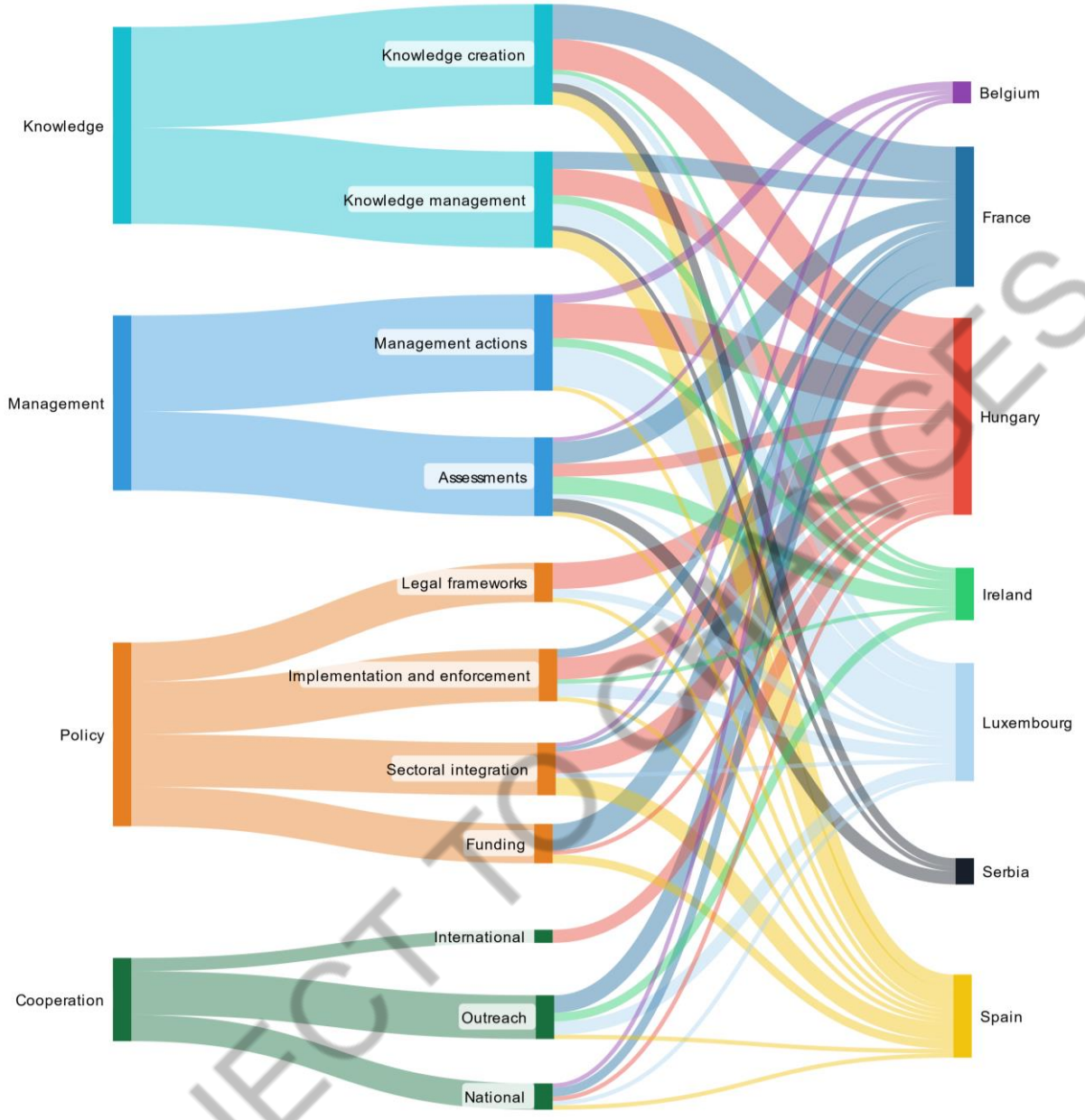


Figure 4, Capacity building needs by category, as expressed by Parties in their NBSAPs.

3.3 Analysing the themes in capacity building needs

To facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Capacity Building, Parties are encouraged to integrate its principles into their national biodiversity strategies (CBD/COP/DEC/15/6). This should translate in practice to capacity building and development needs being gathered, interpreted, and reported on at the national level. As such, how these needs are addressed (or not) is influenced by each Party's organization and priorities included in their NBSAP and how they choose to express and address (or not) their needs. For example, some capacity building needs are expressed directly as a need, while others may

be phrased as a challenge or a goal. Therefore, the capacity building and development needs expressed by each Party vary in scope, precision, urgency, wording, and organizational level. This hinders direct comparison of capacity building and development needs from country to country, and analysing and organizing the needs into themes is a necessarily subjective exercise. As noted in the introduction, as more Parties submit their capacity building and development needs, these themes can be revisited for their relevance.

A total of 148 capacity building needs were extracted from the relevant NBSAPs (see Annex 1 for the complete table).

Knowledge

Examples of **Knowledge Creation** include broad needs such as the need to "carry out a regular and exhaustive census of national biodiversity" (France) to needs connected to very specific groups of species such as invasive alien species (Spain), freshwater algae (Serbia), and pollinating insects (Luxembourg). The **Knowledge Management** category includes general needs related to storing and managing biodiversity data (Hungary and Spain) and more targeted needs related to knowledge facilitation to specific groups such as farmers (France and Hungary) and private forest owners (Luxembourg).

Management

Management Actions primarily consists of needs for ecosystem or species management. **Assessments** include assessing the status to, for example improve skills of biodiversity experts (Ireland and Luxembourg), needs for deploying plans and strategies on marine environments (France), for pollinator management (Hungary), farm assessments (Ireland), economic evaluations (Serbia), and threatened species (Spain).

Policy

Policy **Implementation and Enforcement** includes needs related to training elected officials and administrators (France and Luxembourg) as well as needs related to increasing capacity to implement policies and initiatives, including regional biodiversity strategies (France), wildlife biobanking initiatives (Ireland), and adopted conservation plans (Hungary). **Sectoral Integration** needs include addressing integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies (Hungary and Belgium) or across policy levels (Spain). Capacity building and development needs related to (**Legal**) **Frameworks** include developing new policies or strategies for endangered habitats (Spain), biodiversity accounting in the private sector (Luxembourg), and genetic resources (Hungary).

The number of **Funding-**related needs may at first appear small (only nine found); however, this category only includes needs that directly name funding and financial needs. Many, if not most, of the needs in other categories are also implicitly dependent on funding. For example, Serbia's NBSAP states that a "functional audit of the biodiversity conservation sector has not yet started, and clear institutional competencies and policies have not yet been created." This need has been categorized under Assessments, yet likely also indicates a financial capacity need.

Cooperation

National and **International Cooperation** needs include aligning biodiversity monitoring strategies to enhance regional cooperation (Belgium) and maintaining cooperation with neighbouring countries (Hungary). Lastly, **Outreach** needs include a number of awareness raising needs for targeted groups and the general public (Luxembourg, France, Spain) as well as several education measures (France).

Though capacity building and development needs could be placed into categories, the primary conclusion is that the many needs are manifold and difficult to categorize systematically. Developing a standardized, structured process that supports Parties in documenting their needs could both increase the rate of participation in documenting capacity building and development needs and create standard categories which can facilitate the intervention of the sub/regional TSC Centres and allow for analysis and cooperation across countries and regions. This is discussed further under section 4. Conclusion.

3.4 Supplemental results

In addition to the NBSAPs, information about capacity building and development needs can be gleaned from national targets, the targeted questionnaires, as well as from recent surveys and workshops, as reported in other CO-OP4CBD deliverables. As these sources rely on reporting from individuals and do not necessarily represent a considered view of an entire country, this information is not combined with the NBSAP analysis. Rather, it should be seen as supplemental information that can add nuance to the capacity building and development needs reported in the NBSAPs.

3.4.1 National targets

A review of the national targets relevant to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20 made by Parties via the Online Reporting Tool (ORT) produced limited additional information. For the countries considered in this report, nine EU countries and three associated countries have made submissions via the ORT (as of 2 September 2024). Only three of these countries (France, Spain and Luxembourg) completed the section on capacity needed/available for the implementation of at least one national target. All three of these countries have also identified capacity building and development needs in their NBSAPs.

The only expressed need relevant to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20 in the national targets was for Luxembourg, which indicated the need for additional means of implementation, in the form of technical knowledge, to achieve its national target 3.2. “Strengthen monitoring of implementation, as well as monitoring and assessment of the natural environment.” Spain and France indicate that “Means of implementation are available” for the attainment of the three National Targets associated to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20.

The way in which the Parties have submitted answers to the ORT is extremely diverse in terms of content and detail, which does not allow for the data to be compared. The Parties with the highest number of national targets include Hungary (78), Sweden (60) and France (40), while Finland (24), UK (23), Malta and Spain (22 each) were the Parties with the fewest national targets. The number of national targets does not always relate to a large number of national indicators, except in the case of Hungary. For Sweden, the BIN (binary) indicators of their national targets associated to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20 are mostly financial, which can indicate that resource mobilization is seen as the main way to secure their achievement. Further, one may note that the geographic size of the Party does not seem to affect the number of national targets: both Spain and Malta have 22 targets.

From the Parties that have submitted details in the ORT, most of them have incorporated different Global Biodiversity Framework targets and used them for the development of their national targets. Of the nine relevant Parties that submitted national targets, only the UK has aligned its national targets to the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

3.4.2 Questionnaires

The two questionnaires yielded few results despite broad outreach. The online questionnaire, which asked about Parties’ plans for submitting a NBSAP and whether or not it would include an assessment of capacity building needs, received five responses. Hungary responded that

its NBSAP was already submitted and that capacity building needs were not directly assessed (though our review of the Hungarian NBSAP identified a number of indirectly expressed capacity building needs). North Macedonia and Montenegro have plans to submit NBSAPs in 2025 and 2026 respectively, and both countries also report the plan to assess capacity building needs in their NBSAPs. Armenia and Belgium (Flanders)[1] were in the process of finalising their NBSAP, with Armenia indicating that theirs will include capacity building needs, while Belgium indicated that theirs will not.

The second survey, conducted for the WEOG-EU meeting in August 2024 received four responses, all from countries which are already included in the NBSAP analysis, and from two countries (France and Ireland) who had not completed the previous questionnaire. To the question, "what is the stage of assessment of administrative capacity needs and gaps for Global Biodiversity Framework implementation in your country?", Belgium and Ireland responded, "work has not been initiated yet", while France and Hungary responded, "work in progress or partial assessments completed (for some areas only)." To the question, "What is the stage of preparation of a national capacity development action plan?", Belgium, Ireland, and Hungary responded that "work has not yet been initiated," while France responded "work in progress or partially completed (such as measures for some areas only)."

The low response rates to the questionnaires echoes the low rates of NBSAP submission and national assessment of capacity building and development needs, and there was significant overlap between the Parties that responded to the questionnaires and the Parties that have already submitted NBSAPs. None of the Parties appeared to have completed recent assessments of capacity building and development needs, though the number of "work in progress" responses may indicate that more assessments of capacity building needs will be submitted in the coming months.

3.4.3 Findings in other CO-OP4CBD reports

Task 1.1 in CO-OP4CBD included conducting surveys and hosting two workshops (in 2023 and 2024) to identify CBD negotiators' knowledge needs and preferred formats for receiving information. Though identifying capacity building and development needs was not a primary focus of the task, the topic was touched upon, as some knowledge needs are associated to capacity needs.

The surveys included questions related to Parties' capacities to engage in CBD negotiation processes. When asked about their CBD delegation size, most respondents reported their Party had a small delegation of one to five delegates attending both the SBSTTA/SBI and the COP meetings. Many of these respondents represented Central and Eastern European countries. Countries sending large delegations (more than 20 attendees) to COP meetings include France, Belgium, United Kingdom, and Germany. Thus, there is a clear trend of smaller Eastern European delegations and larger Western European delegations, which in turn also affects the capacities of the delegation. The small size of CBD delegations was identified as a challenge to full participation in COP events, as small delegations do not necessarily have all the required expertise and are not able to be physically present for all items. One survey respondent suggested that easy-to-understand briefings on items and CBD procedures could help alleviate this issue.

The workshops were attended by relatively many NFPs who were new in their roles. Participants repeatedly raised the need to support negotiators and experts to better understand the CBD processes. In the 2024 workshop, two broad categories of needs

[1] The implementation of the CBD in Belgium is done at the regional level, so the questionnaire was also completed by the regional level.

emerged: needs related to engagement with CBD processes and linked to the negotiations; and needs related to national implementation of the outcomes of CBD meetings. Deliverable 1.1 reports the following:

"For those NFPs who were new or relatively new to the CBD context, the mechanisms, processes, and protocols proved challenging to manage. It was mentioned that a targeted training on the CBD negotiations would alleviate these individual-level capacity needs, and the preferred way to organise such training would be through peer collaboration, so that those NFPs with more experience could share their knowhow with the newer NFPs. In addition to such capacity-building training, also other training needs were expressed. These included ways to apply the Monitoring Framework to national reporting and trainings on specific topics."

For engaging with the CBD processes on a national level, participants expressed capacity needs related to enabling environment and organizational levels (in contrast to individual levels). Specific challenges expressed included an insufficient integration of biodiversity-related topics across administrational sectors, for example the health sector. Challenges also included receiving information for monitoring and reporting from data sources managed by other sectoral ministries; a general lack of knowledge about the CBD in other sectors; and the need to raise awareness and "sell" engagement in CBD processes. Lastly, participants brought up the challenge of parallel processes ongoing nationally and in the EU and pointed to the need to better couple national and international processes.

For more detailed information, please see the full report: CO-OP4CBD Deliverable 1.1, Report on knowledge needs in relation to the CBD prioritised by negotiators including possible emergent issues and knowledge gaps.

Task 3.1 in CO-OP4CBD has focused on capacity building needs related specifically to the monitoring framework of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Information was gathered, via a survey (SCBD/IMS/NP/JC/MC/91530), from 14 Parties to the CBD (all consisting of the EU, its Member States, and associated countries) on their abilities to report on headline indicators at the national level. The information gathered is reported by geographic region rather than specific country.

The most frequently reported support required to improve reporting on indicators is "training on the methodology for compiling the indicator at the national context" and "institutional coordination on data reporting". Fewer Parties registered a need for support with "data collection" and "assistance analysing the indicator". Overall, Southern Europe and Western Asia require assistance with the greatest number of headline indicators. Some Parties in Eastern, Western and Northern Europe require assistance with at least some headline indicators. This can indicate that though the capacity building and development needs are greater in some regions, most countries, regardless of location, would benefit from capacity building activities.

The survey also directly asked about financial resources for the production and compilation of headline indicators. On average, 18% of Parties expressed having no financial resources available at national level, 16% expressed that the financial resources are far from sufficient, and another 12% expressed that financial resources available are not quite sufficient. A third of Parties (33%), expressed having sufficient, or assumed sufficient, financial resources available for the production and compilation of headline indicators. Though the sample represented in the survey does not cover all countries, these results give a strong indication that financial resources may be a significant impediment to fulfilling reporting obligations.

For more detailed information on capacity needs related to reporting on headline indicators, please see the full report: CO-OP4CBD Deliverable 3.1, Requirements and capacity needs report and recommendations in relation to the monitoring framework.

Supplementary results from the national targets reported in the ORT as well as additional CO-OP4CBD reports largely align with the results from the NBSAP analysis. Though all countries included in the various analyses report needs for capacity building and development, it's clear that some geographic areas, for example Eastern Europe, are especially under-resourced when it comes to meeting CBD requirements and expectations. This affects not only abilities to execute specific tasks, such as reporting on indicators, but also abilities to integrate biodiversity-related topics across administrative sectors and levels of governance. This latter challenge, though more diffuse, can hamper the long-term uptake and perceived relevance of biodiversity as a central issue and potentially keep low-capacity countries in a persistent low-capacity state when it comes to meeting CBD's goals.

Further, these supplementary results point to organizational challenges related to working across administrative boundaries and coordination across sectors. These cooperation and coordination challenges are also found in the NBSAPs. Taken together, these results highlight the high ambition level embedded in the aim of mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors in a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. These ambitions strongly indicate that the capacity needs are not only at the individual level, but also at the institutional level.

Lastly, these results call attention to funding as a persistent and cross-cutting need that is a prerequisite for addressing many other capacity building and development needs. As also confirmed in the NBSAPs, financial needs are a foundational component of many other capacity building and development needs that Parties identify. The numerous references to "funding" in the NBSAPs analysed was one of the reasons that prompted us to create a sub-category for this topic.

4 Conclusion

In this report we have summarized the state-of-the-art for capacity building and development needs related to the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD. We have also extracted and categorized capacity building and development needs from recent NBSAPs and then supplemented these results with recently submitted national targets, participatory workshops, and information from surveys. Our analysis has taken a functional approach to understanding capacity building and development needs, with knowledge, management, policy, and cooperation as the primary themes in which capacity building and development needs can be categorized. Further, the themes and subthemes in this report are structured to allow additional capacity building needs to be registered as more NBSAPs are submitted.

Our results indicate that few Parties have actively and systematically identified their capacity building and development needs. Among the capacity building needs identified in this report, emerging trends include needs related to coordination and collaboration and an underlying need for adequate financing to carry out CBD obligations. Each Party's expressed capacity building and development needs vary significantly in their scope, wording, and organizational level. This limits abilities to systematize and compare needs across countries and regions beyond the broad themes provided. With both a relatively small sample size and wide range in how capacity building and development needs are expressed, the conclusions in this report are necessarily general in character.

In addition to conveying the general importance of capacity building and development for meeting CBD aims, our intention is that this report can inspire other countries to actively identify their capacity building and development needs. The findings of this report have therefore been used to produce a preliminary capacity and development needs assessment with functional themes, which could be used as a model or template for Parties to document their perceived capacity and development needs and their prioritization.

The low number of NBSAPs that include a clear description of capacity building and development needs can indicate that Parties are unable or unwilling to prioritize identification of capacity building needs. There is no standardized template within the CBD to assess capacity building and development needs. For countries with already limited capacity, knowing where to start can be an additional hurdle. To address this issue, the authors suggest that a simple form or spreadsheet could be provided to Parties to help support and systematize documentation of capacity building and development needs. Through providing clear guidelines and categories of capacity building and development needs, Parties could streamline the process of identifying, documenting, and reporting on needs. With consistent categories of needs, it also would be easier to classify common challenges across countries in order to facilitate delivery of support to meet those needs more effectively. A draft structure for a form to gather and systematize capacity building and development needs can found in Annex 2.

The Global Coordination entity, which will be hosted by the CBD Secretariat and will be accountable to the COP, has the mandate to coordinate and facilitate the work of the TSCCs, including providing them with access to relevant information, tools, advice, technical support and additional resources for their work. We suggest that a form to gather and systematize capacity building and development needs could be disseminated to the TSCCs by the Global Coordination entity. This would be within the mandate of this new global entity and would enable a standardized template across all TSCCs. This suggested form should be carefully reviewed by the Global Coordination entity, in consultation with the TSCCs, before being disseminated to ensure that the categories used and information gathered represent (sub) regional circumstances. To effectively understand and address capacity building and development needs, the information gathered should be actionable and relevant to the regional context.

Parties which have documented and reported their capacity building and development needs are best positioned to acquire the resources and support to address those needs. In addition, developing a comprehensive understanding of capacity building and development needs across countries and regions will enable more effective and targeted support towards meeting those needs and advancing biodiversity priorities. This is particularly relevant in the context of the appointment of the (sub)regional TSCCs and the global coordination entity at CBD COP16.

Iterative reflection will be integral to identifying and meeting capacity building and development needs. Needs will naturally change over time as new capacities are developed, policy priorities evolve, and the state-of-the-art advances. Monitoring and evaluation are a continuous process. We therefore view this report as a first iteration that could and should be periodically updated to ensure that the current state of capacity building and development needs is known and documented and to enable a rapid response to emerging capacity building and development needs in service to protecting and sustainably using biodiversity.

5 Acknowledgements

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https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DOC_8_6-CapacityBuildingTechnologySupport.pdf

Annex 1: Capacity building needs identified in NBSAPs

Knowledge	
Knowledge creation	
Work on the development of suitable materials [knowledge of habitats] and sectors making these materials economically viable (p 139)	France
Identify and certify the blocks of biodiversity skills in the national directory of professional certification or specific directory. (p 200)	France
The structuring of a biodiversity sector, the promotion and valorisation of professions and biodiversity training cannot be done without the Regions and regional agencies of biodiversity (ARB). The Dynamic created with these actors will support the strategies biodiversity and especially through the integration of commitments in favor of biodiversity jobs, particularly through regional charters of commitment in favor of biodiversity. (p 200)	France
Training of all state agents in ecological transition (p 201)	France
Strengthen human resources and training within the environment sector of the Armed Forces (p 201)	France
Reinforce the role of protected areas in [the generation of] knowledge of biodiversity (p 211)	France
Supporting the ecological transition of economic activities through the development of knowledge on biodiversity (p 214)	France
Carry out a regular and exhaustive census of national biodiversity (p 214)	France
Enhancing the ecological network through the development of existing and potential green infrastructure elements based on the evaluation of ecological condition, ecosystem services, and spatial connectivity. (p 49)	Hungary
Extent of (wetlands) affected by habitat restoration and the development of management infrastructure (ha) (p 50)	Hungary
Promoting research on population changes and their ecological impact on species of community interest, and increasing funding (p 52)	Hungary
Increasing knowledge about the impacts of climate change on native species, natural and near-natural habitats. (p 66)	Hungary
Exploring the correlations between the loss of near-natural ecosystems, the quantitative and qualitative degradation of their state and services (e.g. carbon sequestration, carbon storage, water retention) and climate change. (p 66)	Hungary
Developing sectoral collaborations (e.g. on grassland management) to address systemic data gaps in ecosystem condition and service assessments. (p 86)	Hungary
Extending the developed National Ecosystem Map, ecosystem status maps, ecosystem services maps and green infrastructure map thematically, implementing a change analysis based on renewable (national and regional) data. (p 87)	Hungary
Ongoing training for key taxonomic groups (p 102)	Ireland
Improve knowledge of pollinating insects using inventories and systematic monitoring (p 20)	Luxembourg
Given that the successful implementation of measures aimed at greening urban areas and limitation of land artificialization, in particular the development of projects promoting protection of nature and resilience in	Luxembourg

the face of climate change in general, requires knowledge specific and therefore specialized training of all professionals in the field, applicable to send an offer adapted to architects, town planners, design offices, technicians and employees and municipal officials and any other actor relevant in this context. (p 53)	
Updating data on prokaryotic species, freshwater algae, and Rhizopoda (p 4)	Serbia
No data were available for the mining and energy sector (on integrated policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (26)	Serbia
Number of species with unknown conservation status in the marine environment is very high (p 11)	Spain
Need for updated information on species and ecosystems and ecosystem services (p 26)	Spain
Understanding of the impact of biodiversity loss and invasive alien species on the health and emergence of plant, animal, and human diseases (p 28)	Spain
Knowledge management (including facilitation)	
Train teacher-researchers from universities and schools for the transition ecological and sustainable development (p 201)	France
Integrate environmental issues into sea fishing education (p 203)	France
Form a network of naturalists and farmers committed to preservation of biodiversity in agricultural environments (p 203)	France
Integrate biodiversity into training in the planning and management sector town planning and real estate (p 203)	France
Lack of farmers' knowledge about the environmental impact of farming, low motivation to practice nature-friendly farming, lack of extension services (p 44)	Hungary
Collecting good practices for grassland restoration, developing a regulatory framework for implementation (e.g. to ensure availability of seed mix for grassland restoration). (p 51)	Hungary
Collecting and sharing good practices on the sustainable use of biodiversity. (p 89)	Hungary
Ensuring that monitoring data are systematically stored and made available in an appropriately regulated framework. (p 89)	Hungary
Enhancing the transfer of information through the sharing of the latest spatial data and information between scientists and professionals involved in conservation administration, management and other relevant sectors. (p 91)	Hungary
Making the results of scientific research available for practitioners in nature conservation and management. (p 91)	Hungary
By 2024, cross-departmental capacity and capability required to achieve biodiversity targets reviewed; Government Bodies will explore the biodiversity expertise and training requirements across government to ensure the appropriate expertise is available to implement this Plan (p 63)	Ireland
By 2027, enhance knowledge and capacity of Nature-based solutions for catchment management (p 81)	Ireland
A major effort in communication, information and technical training in the sustainable management of ecosystems, the development of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity must be provided to farmers and the agricultural sector in general, including others an integrated agricultural advice. (p 27)	Luxembourg

A major effort in communication, information and technical training in forestry close to nature and protection of the biodiversity must be ensured with private forest owners. (p 28)	Luxembourg
Municipalities are also encouraged to train, inform and raise awareness among municipal staff and citizens of their municipality (p 42)	Luxembourg
Program of work allowing the interoperability of the different databases relating to surveillance (p 48)	Luxembourg
Will develop the necessary data entry and analysis tools allowing the visualization and exploitation of information from monitoring programs in real time, made available to civil servants and specialists (p 49)	Luxembourg
The equipment procured for the Serbian EIONET is largely unused (29)	Serbia
Improve knowledge and structuring of information on biodiversity, especially marine and soil biodiversity (p 10)	Spain
Inform decision making with adequate knowledge of natural heritage and biodiversity and their pressures and threats (p 28)	Spain
Effectively and efficiently manage the knowledge generated (p 28)	Spain
Disseminate knowledge and make it accessible to all administrations, institutions, companies, associations and society as a whole (p 28)	Spain
Management	
Management actions	
Reduce the excess of nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use (p 6)	Belgium
Reduce the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods (p 6)	Belgium
By 2026, all Local Authorities have increased capacity to facilitate and implement all required duties relating to biodiversity at the local level (p 64)	Ireland
By 2030, deliver management actions for threatened species; establish a National Centre for Species Survival at Dublin Zoo, increasing national capacity for species conservation assessments, conservation planning and action (p73)	Ireland
Inappropriate use of available agricultural technologies and inappropriate farming practices pollute the air, the soil, and the surface- and groundwater, and it causes biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation. (p 21)	Hungary
In protected areas that are not managed by national park directorates, conservation objectives often conflict with the proprietary or managerial objectives (financial gain) (p 43)	Hungary
Enhancing the ecological network through the development of existing and potential green infrastructure elements based on the evaluation of ecological condition, ecosystem services, and spatial connectivity. (p 49)	Hungary
Promoting forest management practices among private forest managers that lead to enriched forest structures. (p 52)	Hungary
Keeping the GMO-free status of agriculture. Increasing the capacity of the Certification Body to be able to deliver the necessary quantity and quality of certifications. (p 61)	Hungary
Developing pollinator-friendly habitat management practices and promoting their use in agricultural and municipal environments. (p 64)	Hungary
Promote the use of climate-friendly solutions in agricultural and forestry practices (p 67)	Hungary
Promoting and supporting the conversion to land uses more favourable to biodiversity conservation (e.g. conversion of low quality arable lands	Hungary

to grasslands) in areas unsuitable for agriculture, especially in areas prone to erosion, drought, or waterlogging, in order to switch to a land use better suited to natural conditions (p 70)	
Adopting a method at Union level to map the ecosystems, evaluate them and bring them back to a good ecological state (p 18)	Luxembourg
Development and implementation of measures in-situ/ex-situ conservation for certain plant species. (p 22)	Luxembourg
Adopt an approach of visitor guidance accompanied by abandonment securing certain forest paths and trails, particularly in quiet areas designated for this purpose. (p 28)	Luxembourg
Significant progress is also needed in the identification of contaminated sites, the restoration of degraded soils, the definition of conditions of the good ecological status of soils, the introduction of restoration objectives and the improvement of monitoring of soil quality and biodiversity present there. (p 31)	Luxembourg
Improve the control system for the application of regulatory, administrative or contractual measures concerning the reduction fertilizers and pesticides, as well as the digitalization of related results and information. (p 31)	Luxembourg
Pesticides environmental risk assessment will be reinforced (p 31)	Luxembourg
Develop a visitor guidance approach accompanied by an abandonment of securing certain forest paths and trails, particularly in areas of tranquillity (p 35)	Luxembourg
train participating farmers as active multipliers in the dissemination of good agricultural practices in favor of biodiversity and the preservation of our resources in water. (p 43)	Luxembourg
Land managers (agricultural, forestry etc.) and owners regularly face constraints and regulations linked to regulations in protected areas. Access to information, modalities but above all to opportunities (projects, subsidies, labels, distinctions, etc.) resulting from protected areas could be facilitated through a toolbox developed in connection with the concept of integrated advice. (p 53)	Luxembourg
Species monitoring to periodic evaluate their conservation status (p 11)	Spain
Assessments	
“Eliminate all overexploitation, illegal, unsustainable, unsafe harvest or trade of wild species and investigate and monitor the impact of their overexploitation on biodiversity and ecosystem services” (p 6)	Belgium
Strengthen biodiversity monitoring networks (p 211)	France
Consolidate information systems on biodiversity in agricultural environments (p 212)	France
Develop and share knowledge about the coastal strip thanks to observatories coastline premises in mainland France and overseas (p 212)	France
Define and deploy a global knowledge acquisition strategy on the marine environment (p 212)	France
Deploy a research and knowledge acquisition strategy on deep sea biodiversity (France 2030) as part of the Deep Sea Strategy marine - “knowledge of the biodiversity of the deep sea” strategy (p 212)	France
The inventory of sites suitable for achieving the target for the extent of protected areas, in consultation with stakeholders, and based on the criteria set out in the European Commission (EC)15 guidelines, taking into account the need to ensure an appropriate level of protection for native species and their habitats. (p 48)	Hungary

Delineating areas with low pollination potential in terms of wild pollinators and identifying options and elaborating guidelines for pollinator-friendly development of these areas, elaboration of guidelines. (p 64)	Hungary
Mapping the planning and decision-making processes in key sectors that directly affect the state of natural and near-natural ecosystems: conservation, environment, spatial planning and development, urban development, transport, construction, agriculture, forestry, water protection, water management. (p 87)	Hungary
By 2024, an assessment of biodiversity skills needs for sustainable businesses has been completed (p 97)	Ireland
Conduct a review of skills needs to address the biodiversity crisis e.g., ecologists, taxonomists, and biodiversity data experts; Relevant research and policy networks will assess research priorities and knowledge gaps relating to biodiversity conservation and restoration (p 102)	Ireland
By 2024, biodiversity monitoring programme are sufficiently robust to detect changes over time and fulfil our national, regional and global reporting obligations; develop a site- based monitoring programme to monitor changes in biodiversity over time; Collaboration across Government to support biodiversity monitoring will be enhanced (p 104)	Ireland
By 2030, habitat biodiversity assessments are conducted on all National Farm Survey (NFS) farms; build capacity to work towards ensuring habitat biodiversity assessments are conducted on all NFS farms on a regular basis (p 106)	Ireland
All CNFs (Forest and Nature Centers) will be staffed with necessary qualifications, as well as the appropriate secretariat to ensure their proper functioning (p 52)	Luxembourg
Underdeveloped system of biodiversity evaluation and ecosystem services (p 24)	Serbia
Economic evaluation of biodiversity, protected areas and ecosystem services and the integration of these values into national policies, plans, budgets and strategies have not yet been established (p 25)	Serbia
Functional audit of the biodiversity conservation sector has not yet started and clear institutional competencies and policies have not yet been created (p 26)	Serbia
Develop recovery or conservation plans, officially approved and provided with sufficient resources, for all species listed as threatened (p 32)	Spain
Policy	
Implementation and enforcement	
Support regional biodiversity strategies so that they include provisions in favor of biodiversity uses, particularly through regional charters of commitment to biodiversity. (p 200)	France
Strengthen the continuing training offer for elected officials, future senior executives of local authorities and magistrates in biodiversity, and local authority agents on biodiversity issues (p 202)	France
Importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services is not or not sufficiently understood, and the planning timeframe is too short, and the approach of representatives of the environmental resource management sectors and decision-makers is not holistic enough (p 44)	Hungary
Enforcing and, where necessary, supplementing the relevant national regulation for areas under EU protection and strict protection. (p 49)	Hungary

Implementing the measures defined in the adopted conservation plans, elaboration of conservation plans for endangered species and groups of species. (p 55)	Hungary
Strengthening border controls, providing adequate staff and infrastructure to carry out their tasks and investigate detected infringements for effective enforcement of EU and national legislation. (p 57)	Hungary
Reviewing the National Biodiversity Monitoring System (NBMS), in line with EU and international monitoring and reporting obligations. (p 89)	Hungary
By 2027, resources and capacity for national wildlife biobanking initiatives are increased to safeguard the genetic future of Ireland's wildlife (p 87)	Ireland
Joint and reinforced training of [forest management] advisors (p 44)	Luxembourg
Training program regarding legal prosecution of environmental offenses while analyzing in particular whether the capacities administrations responsible for reporting offenses as well as courts responsible for prosecutions are sufficient (p 45)	Luxembourg
The staff of these administrations (administration of nature and forests and the administration of water management, as well as environmental administration) will need to be strengthened as for the various conceptual services (development of management, action and information/awareness plans), as well as operational (concrete implementation, coordination and management of projects and awareness raising), as well as support (IT, management of databases, accounting etc.). (p 50)	Luxembourg
Lack of capacity to execute measures is a main problem for meeting environmental objectives (p 14)	Spain
Sectoral integration	
"There has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues intro broader policies, strategies, programmes and actions, and therefore the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss have been significantly reduced" (p 2)	Belgium
Ensure fully interministerial management of the SNB (Biodiversity National Strategy) in order to guarantee the achievement of its results (p 233)	France
Inappropriate use of available agricultural technologies and inappropriate farming practices pollute the air, the soil, and the surface- and groundwater, and it causes biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation. (p 21)	Hungary
Biodiversity conservation is not or not sufficiently integrated into sectoral policies (p 44)	Hungary
Identifying and facilitating collaboration between relevant sectors to address data gaps in pollinator status assessment. (p 63)	Hungary
Reviewing the necessary legal and economic regulations and develop cross-sectoral cooperation to ensure the long-term conservation and restoration of ecosystem services. (p 87)	Hungary
Mapping the planning and decision-making processes in key sectors that directly affect the state of natural and near-natural ecosystems: conservation, environment, spatial planning and development, urban development, transport, construction, agriculture, forestry, water protection, water management. (p 87)	Hungary
Guarantee the sharing of responsibilities and ownership by all stakeholders concerned with regard to Luxembourg's commitments in terms of biodiversity (p 39)	Luxembourg

Increase coherence among plans at national, EU, international levels (p 7)	Spain
Strengthen integration of geodiversity and geological diversity in sectoral policies (p 8)	Spain
Management, control and eradication of invasive alien species; Spanish royal decree cannot be applied to specimens of allochthonous species imported from other EU countries, which means that the implementation of this regulation is scarce in Spain (p 24)	Spain
Commitment to Vision for 2050 of "living in harmony with nature" requires strong political will combined with legal, human, and financial means. (p 27)	Spain
Frameworks (legal)	
Collecting good practices for grassland restoration, developing a regulatory framework for implementation (e.g. to ensure availability of seed mix for grassland restoration). (p 51)	Hungary
Providing the administrative tools (e.g. management plan, forest planning specifications) for the management of forests under conservation asset management during forest management planning. (p 52)	Hungary
Establishing and operating an agricultural subsidy scheme (zonal targeting, species-specific agri-environmental payments, compensations) for the conservation of species of community interest associated with arable lands. (p 53)	Hungary
Ensuring compliance with the international and EU obligations in relation to the Nagoya Protocol (p 73)	Hungary
Developing legislation on access to genetic resources. (p 74)	Hungary
Clarifying the definition and primary functions of protected and Natura 2000 forest stands; developing methodological guidelines, and, as a result, formulating more straightforward regulations and requirements in the framework of cross-sectoral consultations. (78)	Hungary
An Interministerial Nature Protection Committee (CIPN) bringing together the different actors from ministries and administrations centers responsible for the implementation of community initiatives related to biodiversity will be created (p 39)	Luxembourg
establish an instrument aimed at encouraging businesses to take biodiversity actively taken into account and integrated within their operations and structures. (p 42)	Luxembourg
In order to reverse threatened status, have conservation and restoration strategies for habitats that are in danger of disappearing (p 32)	Spain
Funding	
To strengthen the financial resources available at the national level: increase in aid from AE and OE, from the OFB, from CDL credits, but also from encouraging the mobilization of communities and particularly the Regions. (p 139)	France
Support [fund and promote] research on biodiversity (p 210)	France
Achieve the doubling of direct bilateral financing in favor of biodiversity by 2025 and contribute to the mobilization of other bilateral donors (p 222)	France
Align financing for development with the global framework for biodiversity (p 223)	France
Mobilize development banks to finance biodiversity (p 223)	France
Strengthen the role of vertical funds in financing biodiversity (p 225)	France
To implement the strategy, it is important to provide sufficient financial resources and establish a supportive regulatory environment for	Hungary

biodiversity conservation at the central and regional administrative levels. (p 94)	
Lack of sufficient and well-prioritized financial resources for development of actions to protect and conserve natural heritage and biodiversity (p 26)	Spain
Sufficiently financed and prioritized programs of actions for management and conservation measures (p 32?)	Spain
Cooperation	
National	
"Align biodiversity monitoring strategies according to EU and international guidelines and enhance collaborations between regions"(p 6)	Belgium
Establish a career observatory. It will describe the core biodiversity professions and annexes, the training necessary to access these professions and quantitative monitoring of biodiversity jobs. (p 200)	France
Mapping and disseminating a directory of continuing training. This mapping will make it possible to identify training organizations offering biodiversity training, targets, themes and professions integrating biodiversity (p 200)	France
Making available and using the scientific (research and monitoring) results on native biodiversity in the development and implementation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management practices to ensure that policy decisions are science based. (p 89)	Hungary
Increase the attractiveness of university centers and research institutes (p 48)	Luxembourg
Poor integration of natural heritage and biodiversity in economic sectors (p 26)	Spain
International	
Maintaining and developing active and good cooperation with the neighbouring countries for the appropriate conservation of biodiversity. (92)	Hungary
Ensuring the participation of Hungarian researchers and experts in the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). (92)	Hungary
Involving Hungary in the European Biodiversity Partnership. (p 92)	Hungary
Outreach	
Finalize and distribute a directory of initial training courses in ecological engineering. A directory of initial training courses related to biodiversity professions will be produced in 2025 and integrated into the "Parcoursup" repository. (p 200)	France
Build training courses for biodiversity professionals and certain sectors in particular, urban and regional planning, sport nature, energy, fishing and if possible tourism (sports educators in the activities of nature (APPN), tourist guides or nature guides, etc.). (p 200)	France
Train artists and cultural professionals in biodiversity (p 204)	France
Promote knowledge of biodiversity throughout society (p 213)	France
Enhance outreach across sectors to more effectively enable their involvement in public policymaking (p 67)	Ireland
By 2025, public sector staff and contractors working in sensitive environments will have access to specialized nature skills training (p 67)	Ireland
Raise awareness among their employees, customers, suppliers and partners to encourage awareness of the dangers weighing on	Luxembourg

biodiversity and sharing clear priorities; Inspire and spread by sharing their experiences and good practices; (p 43)	
Information and guidance documents will be developed and presented to target audiences, accompanied by presentations of typical situations, and disseminated via the various media, in order to improve understanding of the requirements of national legislation relating to nature protection and natural resources, as well as management water, and the importance of nature and ecosystems in economic development and safeguarding quality of life (p 51)	Luxembourg
Strengthening environmental education as part of formal education demand commitment from teachers. In this context, the efforts made in recent years by the EEDD (Education on environment and sustainable development) platform in cooperation with all its members, facilitating access for teachers to the themes of nature thanks for example to the updating provision of educational modules, the extension continuing education offerings and nature outings should be continued. Avenues to explore further concern the optimization of distribution of the existing offer aimed at teachers as well as the implementation of nature outings as an integral part of educational programs. (p 52)	Luxembourg
Improved knowledge, understanding and dissemination of the multiple direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity is required to facilitate understanding and action (p 26)	Spain

Annex 2: Example form for Parties to report capacity building needs

The aim of this form is to support Parties in documenting and reporting on their current capacity building and development needs related to the CBD, and the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in particular. This information could in turn be of use for the TSC Centres in order to identify needs and priorities of each country as well as regional priorities. The form has two parts: In Part 1, Parties can submit up to five specific capacity building needs. In Part 2, Parties respond to questions about the status of their country's capacity needs assessment.

Please note that this form has been produced in the context of, and using data from, EU and associated countries and is therefore representative of the capacity building and development needs of the broader European region, as targeted by this project, hence the reference to the European TSCCs.

Capacity Needs Assessment

PART 1: Specific capacity building needs
This part can be repeated up to five times to record a maximum of five capacity building needs.

1. **Indicate on a scale of 1 (least needed) to 5 (most needed) for which type of capacity is most needed to advance the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in your country?**

Knowledge creation and management	Ecosystem(s) management, monitoring & assessment	Policy, incl. legal frameworks, implementation, sectoral integration, funding allocation	Cooperation, incl. national, international, outreach	Other
				Specify:

2. **You have indicated "x" as the most important theme for capacity building. Could you please specify which element in particular?**

Knowledge
- Creation
- Management (incl. dissemination)
- Other

Ecosystem(s) Management
- Management and monitoring
- Assessments
- Other

Policy
- Implementation/Enforcement
- Sectoral integration

- Creation of (legal) frameworks
- Funding
- Other

Cooperation

- National
- International
- Outreach (to other sectors, stakeholders)
- Other

Other (specify)

3. **Please provide more details about the shortcomings and the type of capacity building required for the specified element. What skills or capacities in particular would you like to be addressed?**

Part 2: Capacity needs assessment status

4. **Has your country already completed a capacity needs assessment in the context of the CBD?**
   Yes – indicate year of publication and weblink. Planned: when? No – Why?

5. **Has your country already benefited from capacity building on CBD-related topics?**
   Yes – When, what and with/from whom. No.

6. **Has your country already made a request for biodiversity capacity building?**
   Yes – When, what and with/whom. No.

7. **Is your country planning to make a request for capacity building for biodiversity?**
   Yes – When, what and from whom. No.

8. **How many people are expected to participate in the capacity building training?**

9. **Do you have any funds to (at least partially) cover for the costs associated with the delivery of the capacity building?**

10. **What kind of support do you expect from the European TSC Support Centres?**