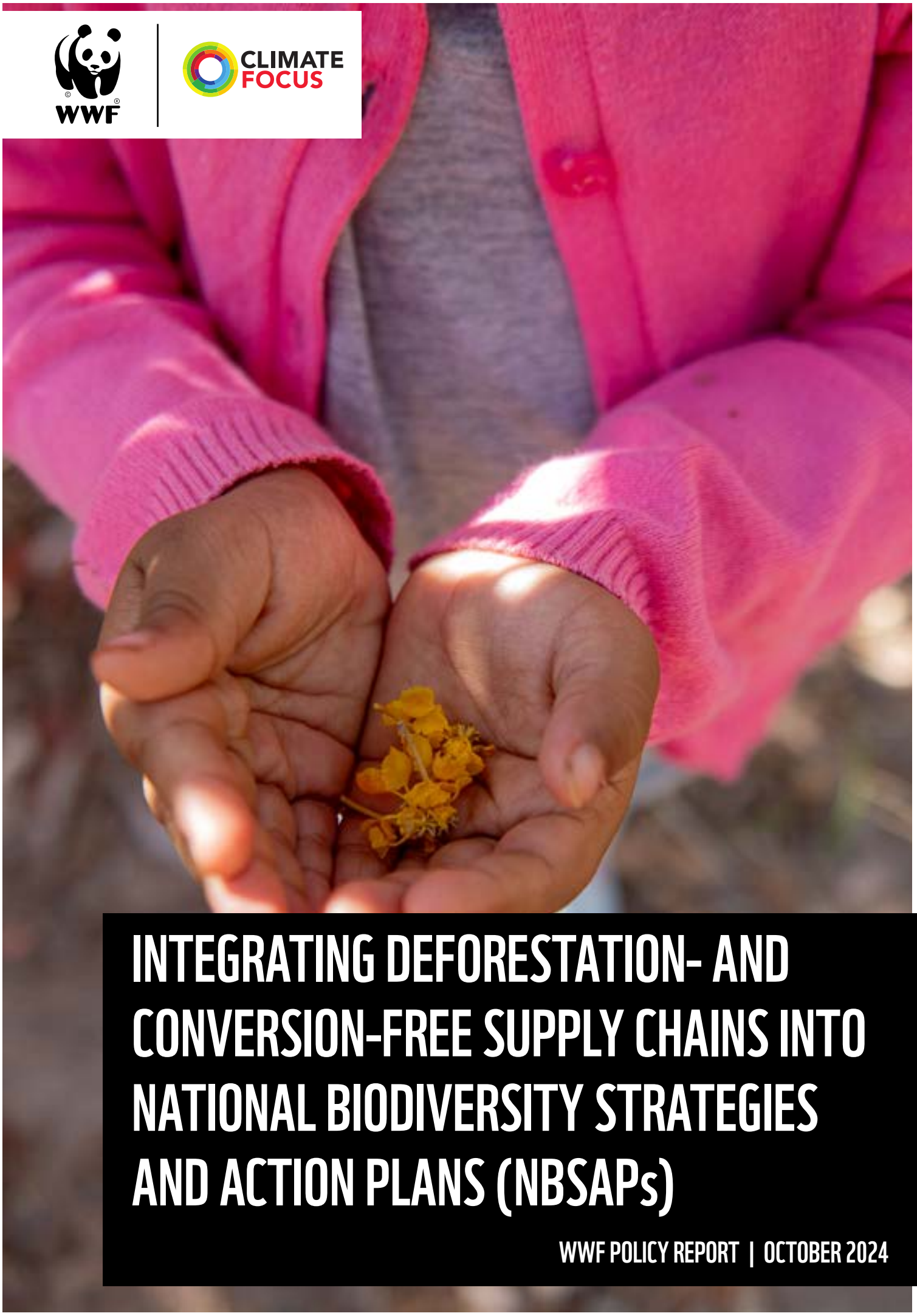

INTEGRATING DEFORESTATION- AND CONVERSION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS INTO NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

WWF POLICY REPORT | OCTOBER 2024

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Cover photo: Nova Xavantina region, Mato Grosso, Brazil..

Back cover photo: Colombian Amazon.

Mato Grosso, Brazil. © Jacqueline Lisboa / WWF-Brazil

INTRODUCTION

Many of the world's irreplaceable natural ecosystems – and the biodiversity they are home to – are being destroyed at an alarming pace. Agricultural production is a primary driver of this loss. Between 2000 and 2018, over 152 million hectares of forest area was converted for both large-scale and small-scale agriculture.[1] The consequences of this for the world's biodiversity are immense: as more ecosystems are degraded and destroyed for food production, an estimated 86 per cent of species are at risk of extinction.[2]

World leaders have recognized the importance of sustainable agricultural production for nature and biodiversity loss across several international commitments. In 2021, 145 government leaders committed under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by, in part, implementing policies incentivizing sustainable agriculture. Building on this, the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership was established, with its Action Area 1 focused on transforming our food and land use system. In 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – a landmark framework for halting and reversing the biodiversity crisis – was established. It acknowledges the importance of sustainable agriculture for meeting the framework's targets and goals. In 2023, 160 world leaders signed the COP28 Declaration on Food and Agriculture, recognizing that addressing climate change can't be done without a food systems transformation.

Despite these recognitions, in practice, governments often overlook the importance of deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) agricultural production in addressing the biodiversity crisis. Enacting policies that foster DCF production are, in many ways, the 'low-hanging fruit' of policy action: they offer cost-effective, evidence-based and well-established policy options to curb climate change and biodiversity loss simultaneously. Stopping ecosystem destruction is a critical enabler of the GBF goals. Yet the[3] GBF Monitoring Framework does not include specific targets to halt forest loss (unlike Aichi Target 5), nor indicators related to DCF production.

In 2024, it is more important than ever that policymakers recognize the importance of DCF production in meeting biodiversity goals – and take action to capitalize on related policies. The ongoing revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) offers an opportunity to translate these global commitments into concrete policy measures.

This report lays out five steps for policymakers and other stakeholders to further harness the power of DCF policies to meet national and international biodiversity goals. It clarifies the links between GBF targets and DCF production and highlights opportunities for DCF production policies to contribute to GBF. The existing language of the GBF already presents numerous opportunities where DCF policies can directly support the achievement of specific targets, as evidenced by indicators directly or indirectly related to agricultural production. However, there is significant potential for the GBF targets and indicators to more explicitly recognize the critical role of DCF production. This can be achieved by integrating specific indicators related to DCF production, thereby ensuring that its contributions are fully leveraged, implemented and monitored.

While focusing on the impact of agricultural production, this report recognizes that other drivers contribute significantly to the ongoing loss of natural ecosystems and biodiversity – including timber production, extractive industries, infrastructure development and urban expansion, all of which remain critical components of a holistic strategy to curb deforestation and ecosystem conversion.

FIVE STEPS FOR POLICYMAKERS TO HARNESS DCF POLICY MEASURES TO MEET GBF TARGETS AND GOALS

1 Assess drivers of deforestation and ecosystem conversion and consider the role that agricultural production plays in driving nature and biodiversity loss.

90% of tropical deforestation occurs in landscapes where agriculture is the dominant driver of tree cover loss, and could be as high 99%

80% of central grasslands in North America have been converted to cropland, and the remainder is at high risk of conversion

46% of the Brazilian Cerrado had been cleared to make way for crops and pastures by 2022, and its conversion is accelerating

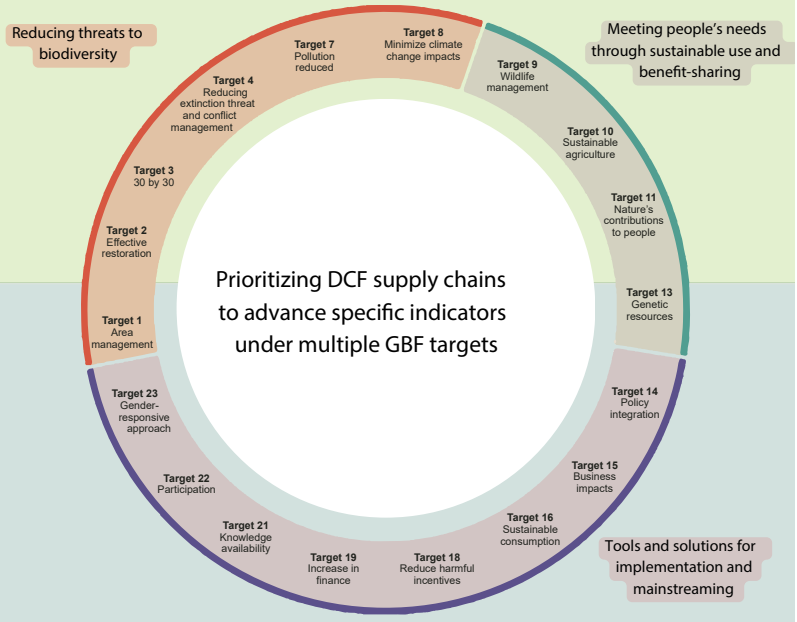
2 Identify specific policy measures to build DCF production and supply chains within national contexts.

- EQUITABLE & EFFECTIVE LAND USE REGULATIONS
- INCREASED FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
- DEMAND-SIDE MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION
- LANDSCAPE AND JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES
- STRENGTHENED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES TENURE RIGHTS
- SUBSIDY REFORM

3 Integrate DCF policy measures and targets within national biodiversity strategies (NBSAPs).

+ DCF policy measures
+ DCF quantitative targets

4 Implement priority DCF measures, as identified in Step 3, as part of ambitious NBSAPs.



5 Report progress on NBSAP implementation.

STEP 1: ASSESS DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION AND ECOSYSTEM CONVERSION AND CONSIDER THE ROLE THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PLAYS IN DRIVING NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS

The types and scales of agricultural production – and their impacts on forests and other habitats – vary significantly across and within national contexts. To effectively leverage DCF policies in achieving biodiversity goals, it is crucial for governments to first assess the drivers of deforestation and ecosystem conversion within their borders. This assessment should focus on understanding the specific role that agricultural production systems play in driving nature and biodiversity loss – for example, large-scale versus small-scale, commercial versus subsistence, and types of commodities. After that, countries can develop and implement policy measures that are tailored to their unique national contexts.

It is difficult to overstate agriculture's overall impacts on deforestation, conversion and biodiversity loss – especially in the face of growing global demand for agricultural commodities. 40 per cent of global deforestation is commodity driven,[4] and an estimated 90 to 99 per cent of tropical deforestation occurs on landscapes where agriculture was the main driver of forest loss, either directly or indirectly.[5] Agricultural production, including for both crops and livestock, has expanded in recent decades to meet an increasing demand: between 2020 and 2021, the production of primary crops grew by 54 per cent, and meat production grew by 53 per cent.[6] With global food demand forecasted to increase by 35 to 56 per cent between 2010 and 2050,[7] building DCF supply chains is pressing.

Similarly, for decades there has been significant conversion of natural grassland for agricultural production to meet rising demands for food, feed and fiber.[8] While global aggregate data is limited, regional findings highlight the scale of this conversion: 80 per cent of central grasslands in North America has been converted to cropland, and 43 million hectares of the Eurasian steppe have been converted into cropland.[9] Between 1988 and 2017, East African cropland area expanded by 35 per cent, driving large-scale reductions in woody vegetation.[10] In Brazil, the Cerrado has been intensively converted into agricultural lands,[11] alongside the Pantanal biome.[12]

The destruction of biodiverse forests and other natural ecosystems for agriculture is the predominant driver of biodiversity loss. Agriculture alone has threatened 24,000 of the 28,000 species at risk of extinction.[13] Agricultural expansion is estimated to account for 70 per cent of the projected loss of terrestrial biodiversity.[14] The remaining biodiversity in deforested or converted landscapes is drastically reduced compared to its previous state. For example, species richness in cropland sites is estimated to be 40 per cent lower on average than in primary vegetation.[15]

On average, forest vertebrate populations declined by 79 per cent between 1970 and 2018.[16] The biggest three threats to forest wildlife are habitat loss and habitat fragmentation, mainly due to agricultural expansion, forestry and infrastructure; overexploitation from hunting; and climate change.[17] Even though habitat degradation or change accounted for 60 per cent of the threats to forest specialists, changes in tree cover did not always reflect changes in populations of forest animals.[18] Forest animals face multiple threats in addition to habitat loss and degradation, such as overexploitation, invasive species, climate change and disease.[19] Tackling deforestation and increasing forest cover are essential but on their own insufficient to restore forest biodiversity. To reverse the decline of forest biodiversity, it is crucial to address the multiple pressures on forest species.

The conversion of forests and other natural ecosystems also drives biodiversity loss by contributing to climate change, which is a growing driver of biodiversity loss, locking in a positive feedback loop. Some estimates suggest that climate change-induced temperature increases could threaten as many as one in six species worldwide.[20] Further, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report warns that 18 per cent of all terrestrial species could become extinct if the planet experiences 2°C of warming, and 29 per cent could become extinct under a 3°C rise in temperature.[21] This underscores the intricately intertwined nature of the climate and biodiversity crises – and the need to harmonize our solutions to them.

To harness the power of DCF supply chains in meeting biodiversity goals, policymakers must quantitatively assess the impacts of agricultural commodity production on biodiversity loss. This should be considered in the context of an overall analysis and identification of the priority challenges and drivers of biodiversity loss in their country:

- *Producer countries* must assess the scale of deforestation and ecosystem conversion from agricultural commodity production, including crops and livestock production, and its impact on biodiversity at the national and sub-national level.
- *Consumer countries* must also assess the embedded deforestation and ecosystem conversion associated with their domestic consumption, as well as re-export of commodities and their biodiversity impacts.
- *Companies and financial institutions* must assess the impacts of their investments and operations on ecosystems conversion and biodiversity loss, transparently monitor and report on them, and assess enabling conditions for action (e.g. financial regulatory frameworks).

STEP 1 - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Accountability Framework initiative (AFi): Tools to monitor deforestation and conversion
- Accountability Framework Initiative: Reporting tools
- Trase: Approaches to assessing commodity-driven deforestation
- Good Growth Partnership: Addressing Commodity Driven Deforestation – Findings from Indonesia, Liberia and Paraguay.
- Climate Bonds Initiative: Agri-Food Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) Sourcing FAQs
- Global Canopy: Eliminating Commodity-Driven Deforestation – Finance Sector Roadmap
- WWF: Seeing the forest for the trees – A practical guide for financial institutions to take action against deforestation and conversion risks
- WWF: DCF Supply Chains – Vision, Guiding Principles, and Asks
- WWF: Deforestation and conversion – An introductory guide for central bankers, financial regulators and supervisors

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STEP 2: IDENTIFY SPECIFIC POLICY MEASURES TO BUILD DCF PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY CHAINS WITHIN NATIONAL CONTEXTS

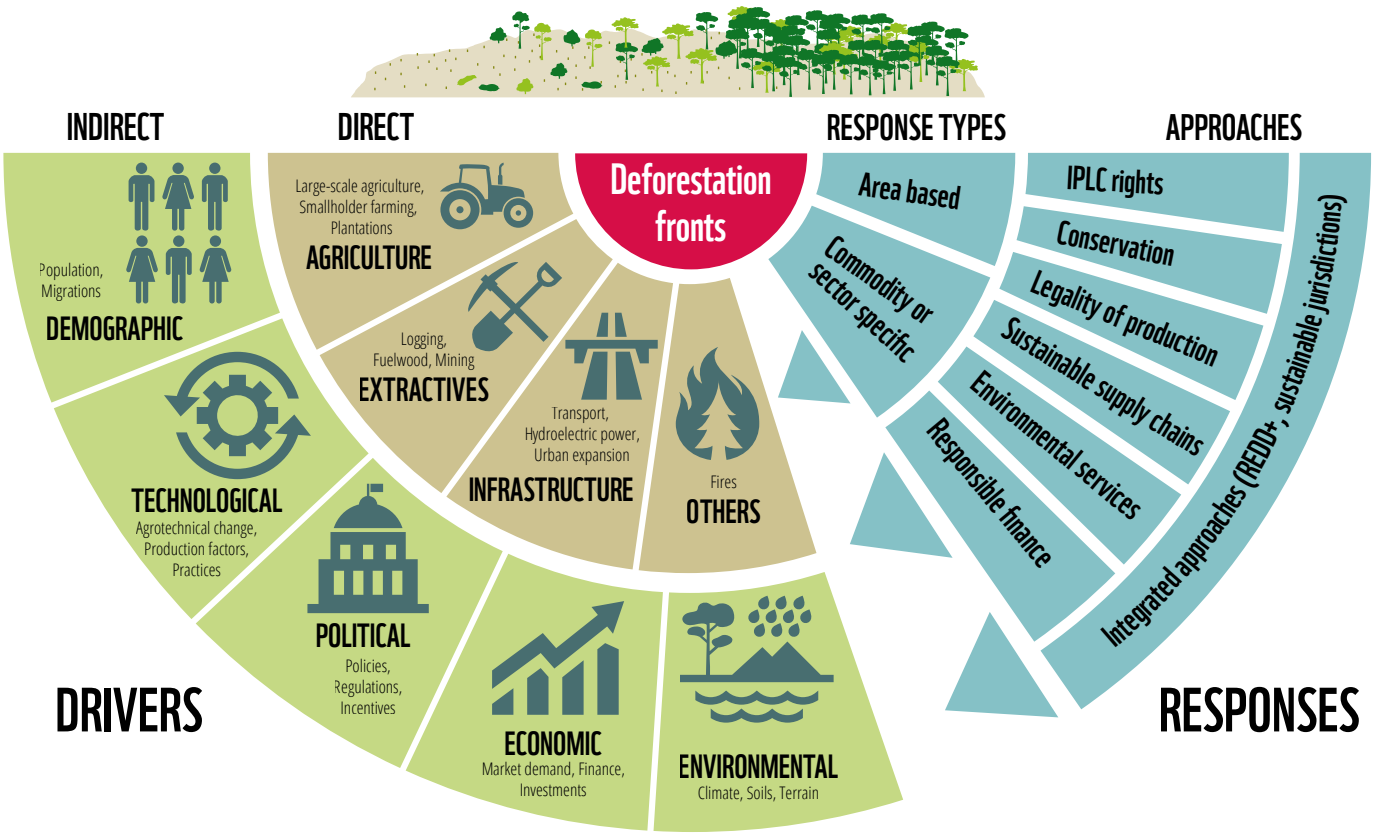
To capitalize on the power of DCF policies within their NBSAPs, policymakers must identify the most appropriate measures that suit their national contexts.

Many different policy responses contribute to building DCF supply chains by addressing the drivers of deforestation and ecosystem conversion, and the resulting biodiversity loss (Figure 1). These can take the form of land use planning to promote sustainable commodity production, securing land tenure rights for Indigenous peoples and local communities, and identifying, reforming and eliminating harmful agricultural subsidies – all of which are central to building DCF supply chains and achieving global biodiversity goals.

Given their ability to curb climate change and biodiversity loss in tandem, policies that help build DCF supply chains can be considered some of the most straightforward and effective policy actions to address both crises at once. While more ambitious action is needed to build on these existing approaches across scales and within landscapes, they provide a unique opportunity to align DCF supply chain efforts with global biodiversity goals.

Within their NBSAPs, countries define their national targets that contribute to the GBF's 23 targets. Different country contexts, such as the main agricultural commodities produced or existing land use regimes, will require different combinations of DCF policies. Policymakers may consider how a range of policies that facilitate DCF supply chains can help meet specific GBF targets, as the examples below illustrate.

Figure 1. Drivers of and responses to deforestation and conversion of ecosystems. Source: WWF (2021)



WHAT DO DCF POLICY MEASURES LOOK LIKE WITHIN THE GBF TARGETS?

Target 1

Target 1 aims to *ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated, and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.*

Target 1 is the most critical target to end commodity-driven deforestation and conversion as it provides an entry point to design and target any spatial planning and management processes to halt deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems. In light of the previous Aichi Target 5 (at least halving or ending the loss of forest) as well as the GLD commitments, Target 1 provides a unique opportunity to integrate DCF action into land use planning and management processes.

Examples of DCF policies relevant to Target 1 of the GBF include:

- *DCF-related spatial planning policies, such as land use planning policies, which are instrumental in building DCF supply chains. These include zoning laws, protected area regulations, moratoria and environmental protection acts.* Evidence suggests that protected and conserved areas are one of the most effective tools for curbing deforestation and ecosystem conversion.[22] These policies play a crucial role in shaping mosaic landscapes where different land uses coexist, including agricultural production, conservation areas and human settlements, allowing for sustainable management of natural resources while maintaining biodiversity. Governments might also mandate that new commodity production must occur on already converted or degraded land to prevent the conversion of forests and other ecosystems.
- *Embedding, monitoring, and reinforcing the respect for human rights considerations within commodity supply chains,* including the collective rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities and other rights holders who are particularly dependent on natural resources and/or impacted by supply chains. These include land rights, access rights, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), workers' rights, gender equality and fair governance, among others. Where any human rights abuses directly or indirectly relate to soft commodity production, processing and trade have occurred, they must be effectively halted and remediated.[23]
- *Securing the tenure rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, including governance systems of their territories, which is crucial to reducing deforestation and ecosystem conversion and preserving biodiversity.* Estimates indicate that Indigenous peoples' and local communities' lands coincide with at least 30 to 40 per cent of the Earth's intact ecosystems and protected areas. In some regions, they may safeguard as much as 80 per cent of biodiversity.[24]

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 1

In June 2023, the Brazilian government signed a decree for the creation and expansion of conservation areas in Paraíba and Pará states.[25] The decree created a 61,000 hectare national park (the Serra do Teixeira National Park) and a 1,800 hectare expansion to the Chocoaré-Mato Grosso Extractive Reserve. Additionally, the government instituted decrees for the establishment of two Indigenous territories in Fonte Boa and Jutaí – two municipalities in the Amazonas.[26]

In Indonesia, there have been two main moratoria in place, along with one regulation, that aim to protect remaining natural forests and peatlands: one moratorium focuses on palm oil expansion (Presidential Instruction 8/2018), and another bans the clearing of primary natural forests and peatland (Instruction 5/2019).[27] The country's peatland regulation sets rules for the depth of allowed peatland drainage (Regulation 57/2016).[28] Indonesia's decline in deforestation from 2017 to 2021 has been linked to, among others things, the implementation of the moratoria.[29]

TARGET 1 - RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

UNDP: Integrated Spatial Planning Workbook

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment

WWF: Forest Pathways Report 2023

WWF: Taking deforestation and conversion out of supply chains – A toolkit for companies to implement deforestation and conversion free commitments

AFi: Guidance outlining company best practice in securing FPIC of Indigenous peoples and local communities in operations and supply chains

Target 2

Target 2 aims to *ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity*. The expansion of crop and grazing lands into natural areas, unsustainable agricultural and forestry practices, and climate change are some of the main causes of land degradation.[30] This means that DCF supply chains are essential to halting and reversing land degradation.

Examples of DCF policies relevant to Target 2 include:

- *Implementing land use regulations that redirect commodity production towards already degraded landscapes using nature-positive practices*. This makes way for landscape restoration and ecosystem restoration actions, based on strong inclusive landscape planning

and the landscape approach. It also considers the forest and landscape restoration principles from the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR).

- *Designating degraded forest areas for social forestry programs* as part of DCF interventions can contribute to restoration targets through inclusive agroforestry practices, while delivering food security and livelihood benefits to local communities.
- *Direct payments for undertaking regenerative farming practices on degraded lands for food production*. Supporting agricultural practices such as agroecological approaches that enhance soil fertility (e.g. crop diversification, reduced tillage, cover crops, agroforestry) can help restore degraded land, making it suitable for food production. This decreases the need to convert forests and other natural ecosystems into new agricultural land.

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 2

In Brazil, estimates indicate the existence of approximately 28 million hectares of degraded pastures that have potential for agricultural production. If only grain cultivation is considered for cropping, this amount would represent a near 35 per cent increase in Brazil's total planted area in comparison with the 2022/23 crop year.[31]

Until 2022, the Indonesian government granted 4.7 million hectares of forest land to local communities as part of a social forestry initiative, aiming to reduce carbon emissions and biodiversity loss by slowing deforestation and promoting agroforestry.[32]

TARGET 2 - RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

IPBES: Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration

UNCCD: Global Land Outlook, Land Restoration for Recovery and Resilience

FAO: The State of the World's Forests

UNEP: Global Peatlands Assessment: The state of the World's Peatlands

UNCCD: National Voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality Targets and related country reports submitted under the UNCCD

Target 3

Target 3 aims to *ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.*

Protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), and Indigenous and traditional territories (ITTs) are a central element of biodiversity conservation strategies at local, national and global levels. Policies that build DCF production and supply chains can specifically help meet indicators under Target 3 by ensuring no expansion of agricultural production in these areas.

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 3 include**:**

- *Increasing coverage of protected and conserved areas and set specific, measurable and time-bound targets* (hectares conserved, percentage increase in coverage by 2030, etc.) and target areas most threatened by commodity production. This will ensure that new protected areas are equitably governed and effectively managed, while recognizing the of rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories.
- *Ensuring the equitable governance of protected areas,* OECMs and ITTs to account for the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders through benefit sharing measures or mechanisms. Equity in protected area implementation is an important success factor, both in terms of conservation effectiveness and social and political legitimacy of the regulations.[33]
- *Clearly articulating the role of protected and conserved areas* in reducing commodity-driven deforestation and ecosystem conversion in NBSAPs. Commit to managing protected and other conserved areas for current and anticipated risks to nature and biodiversity loss, while calling attention to the need for increased technical and financial support to improve protected area management in the face of rapid change.[34]
- *Working with local stewards* to offer opportunities to expand non-traditional ways of protecting and conserving natural and semi-natural forests and other valuable ecosystems. Provide financial incentives for landowners that counterweigh short-term incentives from commodity production.

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 3

Bolivia has implemented a series of laws to recognize and protect Indigenous territories. The 1996 Agrarian Reform Law provided legal recognition and titling of these lands.[35] The 2009 Constitution grants collective ownership of Indigenous lands and ensures their right to manage natural resources.[36]

The Australian government has committed to provide US$148 million in grants to Indigenous Protected Areas from 2023-28 to support Indigenous leadership in managing its fragile ecosystems.[37]

In February 2023, the Togolese government adopted a draft bill for the creation and management of protected areas. That November,[38] they announced the creation of the National Office for Protected Areas, which should help to conserve the country's natural potential.[39]

TARGET 3 – RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

World Database on Protected Areas

Protected Planet: Global database on protected areas management effectiveness

CBD: Program of work on protected areas

CBD: Technical Series No. 97. Making Money Local: Can Protected Areas Deliver Both Economic Benefits and Conservation Objectives?

IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs: Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures

Target 4

Target 4 aims to *ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.*

Achieving Target 4 requires integrating biodiversity conservation and species recovery efforts with sustainable agricultural practices. Agricultural production significantly affects ecosystems, wildlife and genetic diversity. Several policies related to DCF production can help contribute toward halting species extinction, protecting genetic diversity and managing human-wildlife conflict.

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 4 include:

- *Introducing land use planning policies that integrate wildlife corridors and protected areas*. Implement policies requiring farmers to set aside portions of their land as conservation zones, buffer strips or wildlife corridors. These can provide safe habitats for species and promote biodiversity, while allowing productive farming to continue.
- *Promoting wildlife-friendly fencing within croplands*. Use wildlife-friendly fencing to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts without harming wildlife.[40] Incorporate wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity into land-use planning in agricultural regions to reduce habitat fragmentation and allow species to move freely. This may reduce the likelihood of human-wildlife conflict.
- *Monitoring systems along the agriculture-wildlife interface*. Implement systems to monitor wildlife movements and alert farmers to potential conflicts, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, for example through a real-time camera-based alert system.[41]

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 4

The San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor in northern Costa Rica, established in 2001, connects tropical forests in Costa Rica and Nicaragua and contributes to the larger Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.[42] It promotes sustainable practices and biodiversity through a combination of government-run payments for ecosystem services and grassroots initiatives. This has led to some successes in reducing deforestation, promoting tree planting and enhancing forest regeneration and connectivity.[43]

TARGET 4 – RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

IUCN: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

IPBES: Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)

IUCN: Global Species Action Plan

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC): A guide to the GSPC: all the targets, objectives and facts

CBD: Global Taxonomy Initiative

CBD: Agricultural Biodiversity

Target 8

Target 8 aims to *minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity*.

Climate change is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss. A range of strategies, including nature-based and ecosystem-based approaches, can enhance the resilience of ecosystems and human communities to climate change impacts. These measures also have the potential to reduce emissions from

deforestation and land-use changes while boosting carbon sequestration.[44] These approaches can also deliver numerous social, economic and environmental co-benefits.

All policies that foster DCF agriculture can help reduce the impact of agriculture and commodity production on climate change – from land use planning to jurisdictional approaches to international trade regulations. Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 8 include:

- *Introducing binding legislation to eliminate deforestation and ecosystem conversion from commodity supply chains*. Additionally, increase protected areas, which has been shown to be one of the most effective tools for reducing deforestation and its related emissions.[45]
- *Promoting community-based forest management,* which is widely recognized as an effective measure for stopping deforestation while also supporting the livelihoods of local communities.
- *Securing the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities* is crucial to reducing deforestation and ecosystem conversion and preserving biodiversity. Indigenous peoples' and local communities' territories have high rates of carbon storage and biodiversity,[46] providing essential ecosystem services[47] and experiencing significantly less deforestation and degradation compared to surrounding areas.[48]
- *Implementing moratoria on commodity production* that drives the destruction of primary forests and/or Key Biodiversity Areas. Moratoria can serve as stepping stones towards a permanent ban on deforestation and conversion.

In practice: Policies and practices relevant to Target 8

In Laos' Khamkeut District, a WWF program offered villagers technical support in managing forests and natural resources according to Forest Stewardship Council standards. It also promoted forest-based livelihoods through rattan handicraft production and sustainable forest management.[49] After nearly 20 years, an evaluation of the project's impact on forest cover revealed that the areas involved experienced a significantly lower rate of natural forest loss compared to other regions of similar forest governance. Interviews with local people indicate that, with appropriate incentives, community members are willing to resist converting natural forests for agricultural land uses that offer higher short-term gain but at a cost of managed-use forests.[50]

In Indonesia, several moratoria have been implemented, where Presidential Instruction 5/2019 halted new permits for the clearing of primary natural forests and peatland.[51]

TARGET 8 – RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

IPCC: Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IPBES-IPCC: Co-Sponsored Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change

IPCC: Special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL)

IPBES: Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

IPCC: Special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways

UNFCCC, CBD, IISD, GIZ, UNEP and SwedBio: Promoting Synergies between Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity Through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) Processes

CBD: Technical Series No. 93. Voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and supplementary information

Target 10

Target 10 aims to *ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity-friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.*

Unsustainable practices in the agriculture and food systems are responsible for growing losses of biodiversity. This means there is an urgent need for sustainable agricultural management by shifting to nature-positive and agroecological practices.

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 10 include:

- *Incentives for producers, in addition to demand for DCF products, to shift away from conversion-based production.* Financial incentives and technical support should help producers, particularly smallholders, establish agroecological practices, including rehabilitating soils and degraded areas.
- *Mandate that new agricultural commodity production, including for crops and livestock, must occur on already converted or degraded land* to prevent the conversion of forests and other ecosystems,[52] which can help reduce the pressures of commodity production on non-degraded lands.

- *Increase areas under productive and nature positive agriculture, consider incentives for producers to diversify agriculture, adopt agroecological practices and engage in organic farming*. This includes promoting the use of a wide variety of well-adapted crops and livestock. For example, agroecology, with its emphasis on agricultural biodiversity, is vital to the three key objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): conservation, sustainable use and equitable access.[53]

- *Demand-side measures can influence the consumption of the commodities most implicated in the destruction of ecosystems* – and these policies are crucial for promoting DCF supply chains and meeting global biodiversity goals. Interventions include public education campaigns to inform consumers about the benefits of choosing products that do not contribute to deforestation or ecosystem conversion. Other measures might include governments providing tax incentives for companies that follow sustainable practices, along with stricter import regulations on products linked to environmental and social damage.

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 10

Many countries offer direct support to rural populations, resulting in positive impacts on forests as additional benefits. For instance, governments in Indonesia, Nepal, Liberia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Argentina and Kenya are encouraging more intensive and permanent cultivation methods in areas where extensive systems like shifting cultivation are common.[54] In contrast, some countries provide support without explicitly targeting forest conservation. Brazil, for example, runs several incentive programs, including a rural credit initiative aimed at enhancing practices among smallholder farmers.

TARGET 10 - RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

FAO: The State of Food and Agriculture

CBD: Agricultural Biodiversity

FAO: Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE)

FAO: The 10 elements of agroecology – Guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems

FAO: Framework for action on biodiversity for food and agriculture

Target 15

Target 15 aims *to take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions: (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios; (b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns; (c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.*

All businesses depend on biodiversity in some way, but these dependencies are not always recognized or considered in their supply chains. This target seeks to foster more sustainable patterns of production and financing. It aims to progressively reduce the risks related to biodiversity loss faced by business and finance as well as their negative impacts on biodiversity, and to increase their positive contributions to nature. By monitoring and reporting risks, dependencies and impacts, companies and financial institutions contribute to a broader understanding of how their supply chains impact biodiversity.

Additionally, companies must play a pivotal role in transforming their supply chains to minimize biodiversity risks and work towards DCF commodity production. The application of frameworks such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Science-Based Targets for Nature (SBTN), and the Accountability Framework initiative (AFi) is crucial for guiding businesses to this end. No nature-positive transformation is possible without DCF supply chains, and businesses and financial institutions must not only halt deforestation and ecosystem conversion but also actively contribute to restoration and biodiversity conservation. Alignment with these initiatives can help enable companies to better contribute to DCF production and consequently global biodiversity targets.

Implementing certain policy measures to facilitate DCF production can help countries meet headline, component and complementary indicators of Target 15.

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 15 include:

- *Implementing policies that require or encourage companies and financial institutions to monitor, evaluate, concretely mitigate and report on business risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including those for multinational entities*. This might involve providing economic and technical incentives for sustainable production practices and setting deadlines for remediation in cases of non-compliance, working in partnership with local civil society organizations.

- *Governments, especially financial supervisors, can mandate that financial institutions,* to estimate the environmental materiality associated with deforestation and conversion within their portfolios, as well as the exposure to associated financial risks when such exposure is material. They must send the right signals and issue clear expectations for financial institutions to integrate deforestation and conversion related risks, from a double materiality perspective, in their risk assessment and management.
- *Implementing due diligence regulations to mandate that companies account for and mitigate the environmental and social impacts of their operations, further embedding accountability across supply chains*, and issue expectations that disclosure requirements and due diligence on climate and nature need to integrate deforestation and conversion associated risks.
- *Introducing binding legislation to eliminate deforestation and ecosystem conversion from commodity supply chains.*
- *Whenever there is not enough data, financial supervisors should take a precautionary approach.* They can do this by asking financial institutions to apply a margin of conservatism in front of each financed or insured activities that are associated with deforestation and conversion and/or have a detrimental impact on forests, and for which they are not disclosing enough information for risk/impact mitigation.[55]

Logging road and forest destruction.
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In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 15

In recent years, due diligence regulations that encourage or mandate businesses to comply with forest and nature-related frameworks have been implemented in various geographies. These include legislation such as the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), UK Forest Risk Commodities Regulation, the US Forest Act, EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) (Directive 2024/1760). Companies will need to disclose material impacts, risks and opportunities related to forest- and nature-related issues.

Voluntary initiatives also play a role in mitigating the impact of commodity production on deforestation and conversion, and so help safeguard biodiversity. For instance, the implementation of the Amazon Soy Moratorium – a 2006 agreement to ensure Amazonia soy production occurs on already converted land, rather than driving new deforestation – has coincided with reduction in soy-related deforestation and significant increases in agricultural productivity. This highlights that agricultural output can be bolstered while protecting nature.[56]

Aligned to the European Green Deal, the European Central Bank has issued supervisory expectations urging financial institutions to identify, understand, incorporate and disclose climate and environmental risks (which include biodiversity loss, deforestation, air, water and land pollution) in their risk framework and management processes.[57]

There are other central banks and financial supervisors implementing relevant measures, for example:

- The Central Bank of Malaysia (Bank Negara Malaysia, BNM) includes within its due diligence questions of the Climate Change Principle-based taxonomy questions such as whether clients are looking to achieve deforestation and conversion free supply chains across relevant high-risk commodities. The bank has also launched voluntary sectoral guidelines, including one for palm oil, within the framework for Islamic financial institutions.[58]
- The Financial Supervisor of Singapore (Monetary Authority of Singapore) requires insurers to apply risk criteria to identify sectors with high environmental risk, including the vulnerability to deforestation.[59]

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Target 16

Target 16 aims to *ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.*

Unsustainable consumption is a main underlying driver of the biodiversity crisis. Consumer choices have significant impacts on deforestation, ecosystem conversion and biodiversity loss. These choices are shaped both on the individual level, by the products we choose to purchase, and on a policy level, through the trade regulations and broader regulations (e.g. incentives and education) that influence consumer decisions. For instance, consumption within the European Union is estimated to be responsible for 16 per cent of tropical deforestation linked to international trade.[60] Governments play a key role in providing information that is both available and accessible to consumers, enabling them to make more informed and thoughtful consumption decisions.

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 16 include**:**

- *Establishing legislation to dissuade import of products that were produced on deforested or converted land*, looking to the EUDR as an example. Major consumer markets have already introduced (e.g. European Union) or are in the process of introducing (e.g. United States and the United Kingdom) due diligence legislation to ban commodities linked to deforestation – most commonly *illegal* deforestation. These actions are vital first steps in establishing standards for DCF sourcing and ensuring that respect for human rights in supply chains becomes the new normal – though these current plans must be more ambitious and comprehensive**.** For instance, the UK and US policies cover only illegal deforestation, while the EUDR doesn't cover the conversion of other non-forest ecosystems, like grasslands and savannahs. Due diligence policies must go beyond legal compliance and comprehensively cover all deforestation and ecosystem conversion.

- *Promoting the import of products certified under sustainable food production certification schemes* that ensure DCF production through segregated and identity-preserved supply chains to support sustainability of operations and practices in producer countries. Implement long-term policies and incentives to reduce overall demand for commodities that drive deforestation, conversion and human rights abuses. This should include reducing food and material waste; supporting sustainable, local alternatives to these commodities; and promoting lower-footprint consumption habits and healthy and sustainable diets.

- *Introducing incentives and educational programs to shift consumer behavior towards the consumption of sustainably produced commodities*, and conducting campaigns to increase consumer awareness about the environmental impact of ecosystem-risk commodities. Additionally, promote the consumption of sustainably produced goods via circular economies, helping to reduce the demand-driven pressures on forests and other natural ecosystems in producer countries. Labeling and voluntary certification programs can help consumers identify – and potentially favour – DCF products instead of their counterparts. And long-term policies and incentives should also aim to reduce overall demand for commodities linked to deforestation and ecosystem conversion.

- *Making a clear commitment within revised NBSAPs to begin monitoring consumption-based impacts, including impacts occurring overseas*. This includes measuring the country's current footprints to set a baseline for setting targets, and measuring progress, and selecting a dashboard of critical consumer footprints (e.g. material, biomass, land use footprints) to measure consumption impacts.[61]

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 16

Major consumer markets have already introduced (e.g. European Union) or are in the process of introducing (e.g. United States and the United Kingdom) due diligence legislation to ban commodities linked to deforestation.[62] These actions are vital first steps in establishing standards for DCF sourcing and ensuring that respect for human rights in supply chains becomes the new normal. [63]

In China, efforts are underway to establish voluntary guidelines on DCF supply chains, such as in the palm oil and meat industry.[64] While these actions are important first steps, these current plans must be more ambitious and comprehensive. For instance, the UK and US policies cover only illegal deforestation, while the EU's Regulation on Deforestation Free Products doesn't cover the conversion of other non-forest ecosystems, like grasslands and savannahs. Due diligence policies must go beyond legal compliance and comprehensively cover all deforestation and ecosystem conversion. [65]

TARGET 16 – RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

UNEP: Food Waste Index Report 2021

UN: Sustainable Development Goals: Responsible consumption and production – facts and figures

One Planet Network: Communication guide for linking consumption with biodiversity

One Planet Network: Policy brief: Integrating biodiversity into sustainable production and consumption activities – the way forward for policy makers

UNEP: Sustainable Consumption and Production: a Handbook for Policymakers

FAO: Food wastage footprint – Impacts on natural resources

Commodityfoodprints.earth: The Global Environmental Impacts of Consumption (GEIC) Indicator

Target 18

Target 18 calls for leaders to *identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity*.

Financial incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, such as many agricultural subsidies, are a key underlying driver of the biodiversity crisis, including forest and ecosystem loss. Estimates from the agriculture sector subsidies range between US$470 billion[66] and US$635 billion a year that are driving the destruction and degradation of crucial ecosystems.[67] Subsidies for products such as soybeans, palm oil and beef which drive deforestation are responsible for 14 per cent of forest loss every year.[68] Public support for agriculture and forestry, such as subsidies, often aims to advance development goals related to food security and poverty reduction – but these subsidies often present risks to biodiverse ecosystems. They can reduce farmers' production costs, distort their decisions on where and how much to produce, and incentivize the expansion of commodity production into forest areas.[69]

Under Target 18, the 196 signatories of the GBF committed to identifying, eliminating, phasing out, or reforming subsidies and incentives harmful to biodiversity, while increasing positive incentives. Although there is broad recognition of the need to repurpose harmful subsidies, little progress has been made in establishing guidelines for doing so. To reduce environmental harm and meet the socioeconomic and environmental objectives of subsidies in a "just, fair, effective, and equitable way", as outlined in Target 18, carefully designed repurposing strategies are required. Key elements include minimizing negative impacts, protecting forests and ecosystems, supporting small producers, fostering innovation in sustainable practices and ensuring food security. Necessary conditions must be established, and trade-offs thoughtfully managed.

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 18 include:

- *Reforming, redirecting and repurposing existing public finance and subsidies*, and increasing finance to enable sustainable, DCF commodity production. This includes conducting a thorough analysis of existing subsidies for food production in order to understand the types and amounts of subsidies and identify which ones may be repurposed. Explore how repurposing harmful subsidies can complement domestic resource mobilization in national biodiversity finance plans.
- *Introducing direct payment for the provision of payments for ecosystem services (PES) through the introduction of regenerative agriculture and agroecological practices*. Reallocating harmful subsidies to bolster funding for the provision of ecosystem services can scale up regenerative agriculture and agroecological practices. These include crop-livestock-forestry systems, agroforestry systems, and allowing natural regeneration.
- *Insurance and credit support based on environmental criteria*. Implementing stringent environmental criteria for allocating credit, combined with efficient monitoring systems, can steer conventional agriculture away from ecosystem degradation. This promotes sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices, which are crucial for DCF supply chains.
- *Support for crop-livestock-forestry systems*, which are effective in restoring degraded pasture and diversifying production. Subsidies in the form of direct payments should be decoupled from production. Material support and guidance (e.g. extension services) can further support these systems, contributing to DCF supply chains and biodiversity conservation.

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 18

In Brazil, Bolsa Verde (or Green Grant) is a program that pays extremely poor households for forest conservation. It has reduced deforestation among grant-receiving areas between 3 to 5 per cent.[70] By offering cash payments and training in sustainable practices, the program promotes the preservation and sustainable use of forest resources among people with extremely low-incomes living in the Amazon region.[71]

TARGET 18 – RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

OECD: Identifying and assessing subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity – A comparative review of existing national-level assessments and insights for good practice. OECD environment working papers 206

OECD: Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity

Forest Declaration Assessment: Finance for forests: Theme 3 Assessment

Climate & Company, GERMANWATCH: Sustainability due diligence obligations for financial institutions: the role of financial institutions in mitigating supply chain impacts - the case of deforestation.

Global Sustainable Investment Alliance: Global Sustainable Investment Review 2020.

European Commission: Corporate sustainability due diligence

Land-use Finance Tool

CDP: The financial sector needs to report on nature risks, and here's why.

World Bank: Detox Development: Repurposing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies.

WWF: Turning harm into opportunity: Repurposing agricultural subsidies that destroy forests and other ecosystems

FAO: Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP)

BIOFIN: A step-by-step guide to repurpose subsidies harmful to biodiversity and improve their impacts on people and nature

Target 19

Target 19 aims to *substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by 2030 mobilizing at least 200 billion United States dollars per year*.

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 19 include:

- *Designing and offering financial products and financial mechanisms, individually or through partnership, to incentivize and enable DCF production, trade and sourcing*, as well as soft commodity expansion exclusively on already cleared and degraded lands. These could include loans, green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, blended finance mechanisms, and others.
- *Undertaking research to understand and manage the risks associated with deforestation and conversion, including systemic risks*. Additionally, issue clear supervisory expectations for financial institutions to integrate deforestation- and conversion-related risks in risk management processes, including in their strategies and risk appetite. This can help lower the risk profile of investments towards reducing deforestation and conversion.
- *Financial regulators and supervisors should establish expectations for financial institutions to develop DCF policies*, with clear objectives and time-bound targets, covering all their financial activities and all deforestation risk commodities, which should include human rights compliance. These expectations should also be integrated into the financial institution's transition plan for nature or, at least, be consistent with it, and be based on an exposure and risk analysis. Progress towards objectives and targets should be monitored and assessed.

In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 19

In 2023, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon – which accounts for over half of the entire Amazon – dropped by nearly 50 per cent compared to 2022.[72] While there are multiple reasons behind this trend, one of them can be traced back to increased forest finance. In 2023, the Brazilian government revived the Amazon Fund to attract donor financing[73] and introduced new incentives for municipalities showing progress in reducing deforestation.[74] Finance from donor countries is essential for halting deforestation in the Amazon. The United States, for instance, committed US$500 million to the Amazon Fund in April 2023 and, in April 2024, delivered US$47 million.[75]

A new proposed fund, titled Tropical Forests Forever, aims to raise US$250 billion from governments and the private sector to support tropical countries in limiting deforestation. The fund will disburse money to nations that meet specific deforestation reduction targets, incentivizing conservation efforts and penalizing increases in deforestation rates, and could play an important role in preserving tropical forests.[76]

TARGET 19 – RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

Forest Declaration Assessment: Finance for forests: Theme 3 Assessment

OECD: Biodiversity and development finance – Main trends, 2011-20

OECD: A comprehensive overview of global biodiversity finance

The Paulson Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability: Financing Nature: Closing the global biodiversity financing gap

CBD Decision 14/15. Safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms (2018)

CBD Decision 14/16. Methodological guidance concerning the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities (2018)

CBD Decision XII/3 Resource Mobilization: Voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms (2014)

BIOFIN: The Finance Resource for Biodiversity (FIRE) database

Target 22

Target 22 calls for *the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders*.

Secure tenure and rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities reinforce local values and local management practices and institutions, creating the right enabling conditions for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. The recognition of Indigenous rights has proven to be effective in containing deforestation, protecting biodiversity and securing carbon stocks.[77] Protected Indigenous lands contain the healthiest and most biodiverse forests in the world.[78] In the Amazon, for example, research shows that Indigenous lands experience far lower deforestation rates than non-Indigenous lands.[79]

Relevant policies for DCF in the context of Target 22 include:

- *Securing the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities is crucial to reducing deforestation and ecosystem conversion from commodity production, and preserving biodiversity*. Estimates suggest that Indigenous peoples' and local communities' lands overlap with at least 30 to 40 per cent of the Earth's intact ecosystems and protected areas, and that in some areas they may protect up to 80 per cent of the biodiversity.[80]

Indigenous peoples' and local communities' territories have high rates of carbon storage and biodiversity,[81] providing essential ecosystem services[82] and experiencing significantly less deforestation and degradation compared to surrounding areas.[83] Meanwhile, at least 1.375 billion hectares of land to which Indigenous peoples and local communities have customary or historic claims have not yet been legally recognized by national governments.[84] This lack of secure tenure rights poses a major threat to progress on eliminating deforestation, ecosystem conversion and meeting biodiversity goals. The clearance of forests and other ecosystems for agricultural production is often preceded by – or leads to – the violation of the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities and other groups.[85]

- *With special attention to those who are traditionally excluded from decision-making, engaging different food systems stakeholder groups* (e.g. from public and private sectors; civil society organizations; community-based, grassroots, and Indigenous peoples groups; NGOs; consumers; organizations representing producers; food systems workers; international and donor communities; academia and knowledge institutions; and media).
- *Introducing adequate, effective measures to recognize and protect the rights of environmental and human rights defenders and investigate and punish attacks or threats against the same groups.* Establishing an environmental function in the offices of the government body charged with defending human rights in the country.

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In action: Policies and practices relevant to Target 22

In October 2022, Colombia's government launched a reform aiming to provide formal titles to 10 million hectares of land to Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant peoples, local communities and peasant families. The government announced the titling of 680,000 hectares, including the creation of 10 new Indigenous Reserves spanning nearly 300,000 hectares.[86]

In Brazil, the government has demarcated six new Indigenous territories, covering over 612,000 hectares. This process involves evaluating the needs of the Indigenous population, physically delineating the territory and officially registering the land with a notary.[87]

Between 2015 and 2020, Sub-Saharan Africa experienced the most significant increase in the legal recognition of community land rights for Indigenous peoples and local communities, driven largely by new laws in Kenya and Liberia.[88]

In December 2022, Canada announced CA$800 million to support up to four Indigenous-led conservation initiatives.[89] while the United States has implemented a court-ordered Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.[90]

TARGET 22 - RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER READING

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – studies and reports by members

OHCHR: Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – reports and studies

OHCHR: Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – annual thematic reports

CBD: Joint program of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity

Mo'otz Kuxtal voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the FPIC

CBD: Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for Traditional Knowledge Repatriation

CBD: Training manual on the incorporation of traditional knowledge into the description and identification of EBSAs

CBD: Tkarihwaié:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities Relevant to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity

CBD: The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments

STEP 3: INTEGRATE DCF POLICY MEASURES AND TARGETS WITHIN NBSAPS

In 2024, as Parties to the CBD update their national biodiversity plans targets ahead of COP16, they have an opportunity to capitalize on existing DCF measures to meet their targets. As guiding national documents for reversing biodiversity loss, NBSAPs should explicitly integrate the policy measures and targets identified in Step 2, in their revised NBSAPs to achieve DCF production and supply chains. Establishing such targets will provide a concrete framework for monitoring and achieving DCF supply chain objectives, ensuring accountability, and facilitating international comparisons. By embedding DCF supply chain policies in NBSAPs, countries can ensure that their biodiversity conservation strategies are aligned with global efforts to reduce deforestation and ecosystem conversion.

As countries integrate DCF policy measures into their updated NBSAPs, policymakers must ensure that they take a multi-stakeholder approach within this process, including the voices of a diverse range of public and private sector stakeholders, including Indigenous peoples and local communities. Multi-stakeholder approaches ensure that DCF policies and targets are grounded in local realities while contributing to both national and global biodiversity goals.

DCF production and supply chains must be part of a broader transformation of our food systems, which is addressed in other targets of the GBF. These targets include a clear commitment to apply agroecological principles (within Target 10), as well as halving food waste, ensuring comprehensive food access, and adopting culturally appropriate sustainable and healthy diets and eliminating overconsumption of all materials (within Target 16).

STEP 3 - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CBD Decision 15/6 Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (2022)CBD: Why are National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) on the SBI 4 agenda?

NBSAP Forum

Forest Declaration Assessment 2023: Protecting Nature, Respecting Rights: Putting Indigenous and community rights at the heart of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

GEF, CBD, UNEP, UNDP: Technical Guidance to support the alignment of national biodiversity targets with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Nature Conservancy: Steps to review and update NBSAPs (National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans)

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STEP 4: IMPLEMENT PRIORITY MEASURES, AS IDENTIFIED IN STEP 3, AS PART OF AMBITIOUS NBSAPs

Progress towards and achievement of NBSAPs calls for a whole-of-society approach that requires effective implementation across ministries, and meaningful engagement of subnational governments and non-state actors, including rights holders, youth and women, and private sector in the implementation and monitoring of the NBSAPs, including actions related to DCF.

Therefore, *all countries* must create the enabling conditions for action. This includes strengthening land governance and regulation, combating illegal forest clearing and conversion, clear recognition of land and tenure rights. It also needs to use binding rules and legislation, ambitious policies, economic and technical incentives, and international cooperation as outlined in previous steps.

Producer countries must adopt and enforce binding legislation, rules and incentives to eliminate all deforestation, conversion and related human rights abuses from soft commodity production, and implement policies for inclusive and just conversion-free, nature-based development pathways in high-risk regions.

Consumer countries, alongside upstream companies and financial institutions, need to engage with high-risk suppliers to prevent further deforestation, conversion or human rights violations. They must adopt and enforce binding legislation, policies and incentives to eliminate all domestic and imported deforestation, conversion and related human rights abuses in soft commodity supply chains. They must also support inclusive and just conversion-free, nature-based development pathways in regions at high risk of natural ecosystem loss.

Private sector actors, in support of governments in implementing their NBSAPs, must rapidly adopt and implement DCF policies, set measurable targets related to biodiversity conservation and restoration, and regularly review and update production strategies to ensure alignment with the goals of the GBF. To foster DCF supply chains, businesses should engage with a wide range of stakeholders, while pushing other businesses, governments and financial institutions to similarly take part – actively participating in multi-stakeholder partnerships involving governments, non-state actors, Indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure their actions align with NBSAP objectives. Businesses should play a leading role in systemic approaches, whether in their own sector, through landscape and jurisdictional approaches or through advocacy for due-diligence mechanisms and policy regulations from governments. The private sector should continuously review and update their sustainability strategies to ensure they remain aligned with evolving NBSAP goals and GBF targets.

Financial institutions, in support of governments, must eliminate deforestation, ecosystem conversion and human rights abuses from all investments, loans and portfolios, as well as from any related land concessions and real estate. To do this, financial institutions can adopt and implement comprehensive and explicit environmental, social and governance (ESG) policies, require that corporate clients and investees set commitments and comply with a robust DCF and human rights policy, and implement an action plan that delivers on time-bound targets. Financial institutions must also engage regulators, including central banks, to develop DCF policies, guidelines and rules to mitigate systemic risks such as climate change and biodiversity loss within the financial system.

STEP 4 – ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NBSAP Forum

NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, including the Biodiversity Toolbox and Good Practice Database

Cacao seedpod.
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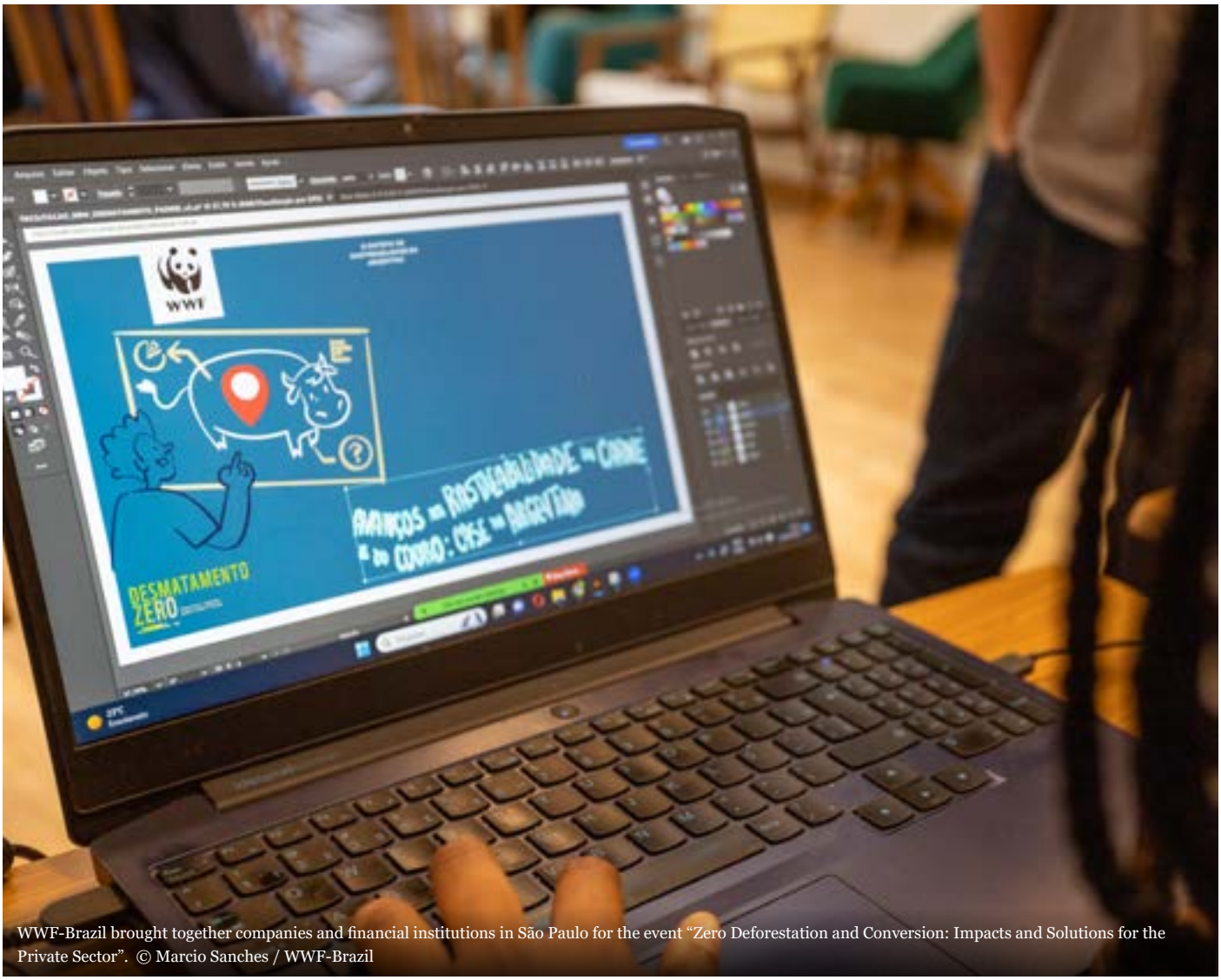
STEP 5: REPORT PROGRESS ON NBSAP IMPLEMENTATION

Countries must transparently monitor the implementation of their NBSAPs and track their progress against the indicators of the GBF monitoring framework. This includes monitoring their advancements towards establishing DCF production and supply chains. By integrating robust tracking mechanisms, countries can assess the effectiveness of their policies, identify gaps and make necessary adjustments to ensure that their agricultural and land-use practices contribute to biodiversity conservation while supporting sustainable and equitable DCF supply chains.

The strong connections between DCF policies and existing GBF targets and indicators are clear. Even so, DCF considerations are still not adequately integrated within the current GBF monitoring framework. As we move forward, it is crucial to emphasize the need for the monitoring framework to incorporate new DCF-specific indicators that better capture the impact and progress of DCF policies.

While countries can use additional indicators in their NBSAPs, such as those related to biodiversity loss from commodity production and imported deforestation and ecosystem conversion, to effectively monitor progress towards DCF supply chain goals, the GBF should include specific DCF indicators within its monitoring framework.



WWF-Brazil brought together companies and financial institutions in São Paulo for the event "Zero Deforestation and Conversion: Impacts and Solutions for the Private Sector". © Marcio Sanches / WWF-Brazil

INTEGRATING DCF SUPPLY CHAINS INTO THE GBF MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Target 10

The current headline indicators are *10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture* and *10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management*.

WWF recommends adding an additional indicator: *10.3 Proportion of agricultural area considered deforestation- and conversion-free*.

Comprehensive data sources for measuring the proportion of agricultural areas considered deforestation- and conversion-free are limited. Countries may need to rely on satellite imagery, remote sensing data and other high-resolution systems, in combination with national-level land surveys, to effectively monitor land use changes and detect deforestation or ecosystem conversion.

Target 15

The current headline indicator is *15.1Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts*. WWF recommends the headline indicator be amended to: *15.1* ***Share of GDP*** *of companies* ***and financial institutions*** *disclosing* ***all*** *their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impacts* ***and opportunities using the TNFD or TNFD-aligned standards***.[91]

Alongside companies, financial institutions should also be named as not all financial institutions are companies (e.g. development banks) and to align with the target wording:

The monitoring framework should measure outcomes, and not just process (as headline indicator 15.1 measures). While disclosure and reporting is an important first step for companies, it should lead to action. To measure whether action is being taken, WWF suggests a component indicator: *"Number of companies and financial institutions setting science-based target and transition plans, by using credible frameworks, such as the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) guidance, and reporting measurable progress".*[92]

WWF also recommends a complementary indicator for Target 15: "*Commodity-driven deforestation*", which is an indicator tracked under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.[93]

Finally, WWF proposes an additional indicator: "*Agricultural area as a proportion of total land area"*. This would help to measure progress towards achieving zero conversion of natural ecosystems for agriculture.

Target 16[94]

- One of the following component indicators for Target 16 should be made a headline indicator:[95]
- *Material footprint per capita* – this is already a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator (12.2.1)
- *Global environmental impacts of consumption* – this is a comprehensive way to measure the footprint of consumption
- *Ecological footprint* – this is a widely used indicator and easy to communicate to the public.

Each of these indicators has limitations but could be used as an adequate proxy to measure progress on reducing the global footprint of consumption.

WWF recommends moving the following complementary indicator to component indicator: *"Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessments"*. This is because the indicator directly measures the component of Target 16 relating to **sustainable consumption choices** by improving education.

Additionally, CBD Parties, notably those with significant existing resources, should support the development of the indicators for Target 16, including by contributing to identify gaps and common challenges across countries with respect to data availability and capacities; building national capacities for data collection and footprinting, coordinating the transfer of technical capacity and funding from developed to developing countries; and investing in improved data availability for footprints.[96]

Target 18

Headline indicators for Target 18 currently measure the positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (Indicator 18.1) and the value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed (Indicator 18.2). These indicators provide a foundation, but they can be strengthened to better capture the dynamics of DCF supply chains.

To do this, WWF recommends making indicators of Target 18 identifying the specific financial value of harmful *agricultural* subsidies that are driving deforestation and conversion (potentially under Indicator 18.2) and repurposing these funds to scale up positive incentives (Indicator 18.1) such as reallocating subsidies to support regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and other sustainable practices that align with DCF objectives.

Target 21

Under Target 21, WWF suggests an additional complementary indicator: *"Customary sustainable use of biological diversity incorporated by Parties, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, into NBSAPs"* (an indicator from the CBD Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use).[97]

Target 22

Either of these two component indicators for Target 22 would make an appropriate headline indicator:

- *Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure* (SDG indicator 1.4.2), or
- *Participation in decision-making of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and people with disabilities in the implementation of the Convention at all levels.*[98]

Ultimately, countries must recognize and assess the scale of deforestation and ecosystem conversion from commodity production and its impact on biodiversity and set clear, quantitative targets and policy measures for DCF supply chains within their NBSAPs. At the international level, the GBF monitoring framework should also explicitly integrate, through DCF-specific indicators, considerations of commodity production's role in biodiversity loss. And governments can't do this alone: producers, financial institutions and other private sector actors within commodity supply chains must also work to align their actions with NBSAP goals.

Local communities. © camilodiazphotography / WWF Colombia / WWF-UK

ENDNOTES

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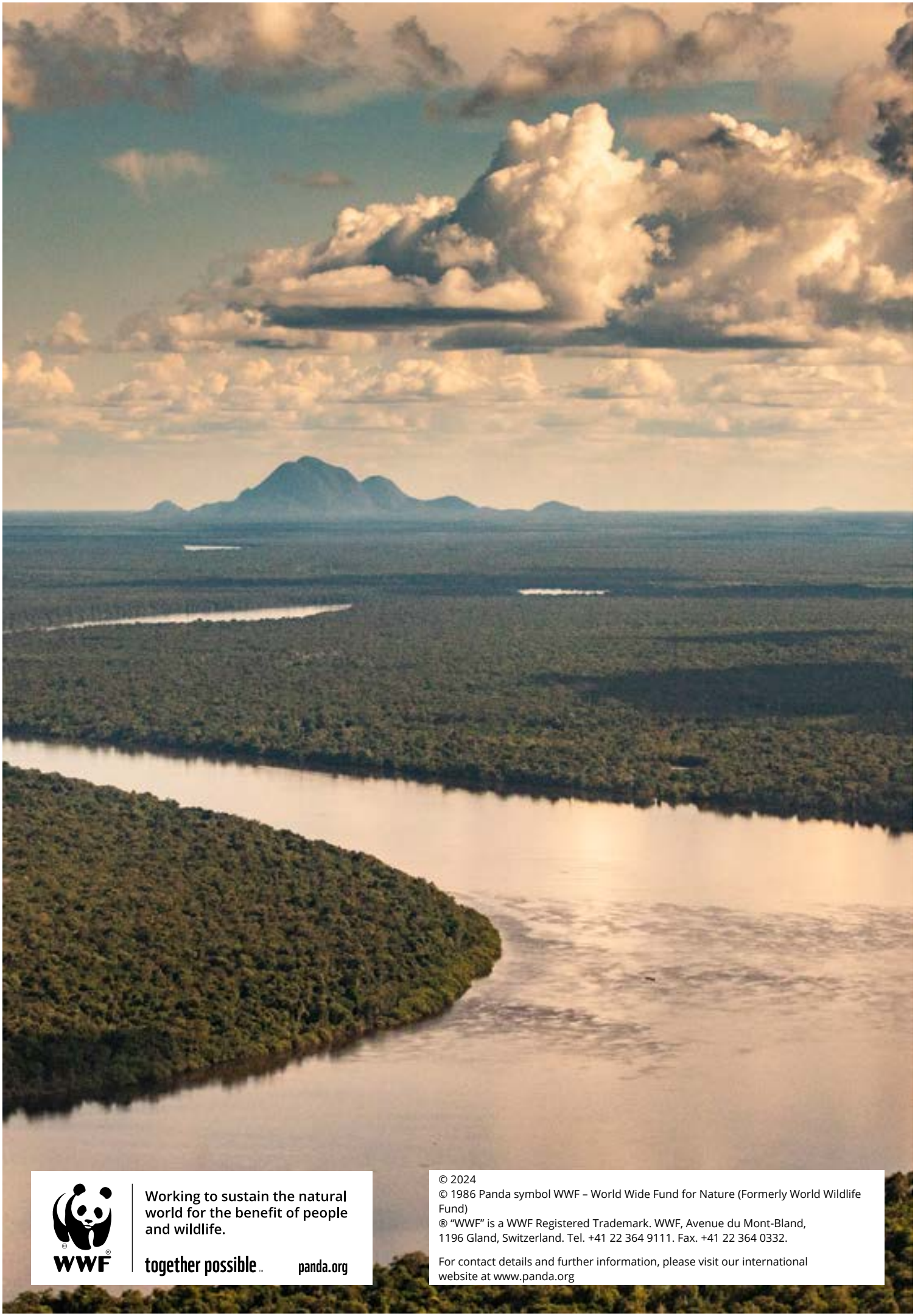

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