

AGROECOLOGY IN NBSAPS AND NATIONAL TARGETS

Five Steps from Ambition to Implementation

Policy Brief October 2026

KEY MESSAGES

- **Most National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) include agroecology, but far fewer have plans to operationalise it.** Of 108 NBSAPs, 105 (97%) include **at least one agroecological intervention area.** Beyond just mentioning it, 86% of NBSAPs contain **a target** and 82% **a policy action** related to agroecology. But only 51% of NBSAPs do all four (i.e. state a commitment, add an indicator to track progress, name an institution to lead, and attach financing).
- **NBSAPs focus largely on intervention areas at the food production level, treating agroecology as a farming technique rather than a lever for agrifood systems transformation.** Agroecological farming practices (in 91% of NBSAPs), moving from agrochemicals to biological inputs (87%) and diverse local seeds and crops (84%) are the three areas included in the majority of these plans. However, social and market dimensions of agroecological transitions, such as territorial markets (32%), farmer-led knowledge and co-development (30%) and equitable access to resources (16%), are much less common in NBSAPs.
- **Two agroecological intervention areas are the most prominently included within national targets.** Among 104 Parties that submitted both an NBSAP and national targets to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), agroecological farming practices (in the national targets of 78% of these Parties) and benefit-sharing from genetic resources (74%) are the two most widely integrated intervention areas. National targets, not plans, are what countries are formally reviewed against, so the lack of national targets on agroecology makes agroecology invisible in international reporting.
- **Despite wide recognition, NBSAPs do not always assign an implementing agency or budgets for agroecology commitments or policy actions.** 62% of NBSAPs name an institution in the lead for any agroecological intervention area and 49% name an enabling condition (e.g. a law or a capacity building programme), while 66% include a reference to agroecological intervention areas in resource mobilisation plans. However, a commitment with no named institution and no budget line is a statement of ambition and not an implementation plan.

WHY AGROECOLOGY IN NBSAPS?

Food systems sit at the centre of the interlinked climate, biodiversity, and food security crises. They generate roughly one third of global greenhouse gas emissions[1] and are the principal driver of biodiversity loss, with agricultural expansion and intensification identified as the leading pressure on ecosystems and species worldwide.[2] The costs of this model, including hidden environmental, social and health costs, run to more than USD 10 trillion per year – almost 10% of global GDP.[3] A production model that erodes the soils, water, ecosystems and rural livelihoods on which it depends cannot deliver food security and sovereignty in a warming world.

Agroecology offers a systemic response to this: a redesign of food systems spanning agroecosystem management, economic diversification, co-creation of knowledge, social equity and governance. Grounded in diversity and resilience, it can tackle the climate, biodiversity and hunger crises together rather than in isolation.[4]

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) made food systems unavoidable in biodiversity policymaking. Target 10 asks Parties to bring areas used for agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry under sustainable management, "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". Target 18 requires harmful incentives, including agricultural subsidies, to be identified and reformed. Target 16 addresses sustainable consumption and food waste. Target 13 addresses access and benefit-sharing from genetic resources. Targets 22 and 23 address the participation and rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women. Beyond these, analysis has identified that a total of 18 GBF targets directly intersect with one or more of the 13 principles of agroecology, providing a crucial lens to assess national and global policy priorities and plans for food systems transformation under the global biodiversity agenda.[5]

BOX 1 — OVERVIEW OF METHODOLOGY

108 NBSAPs (submitted as of September 15, 2026) were downloaded from the CBD Online Reporting Portal and data was extracted into 52,540 passages. A list of 150-pattern agrifood keywords covering food production, inputs, diets, supply chains, genetic resources, incentives and staple crops was used to parse the passages, resulting in 24,905 passages potentially relevant to agriculture and food systems. A language-model relevance screen then confirmed 10,119 passages as being related to food systems, across 108 countries.

Each of those passages was classified independently and assigned to the 14 agroecological intervention areas as defined in the "Boosting Biodiversity Action through Agroecology" guidance (see Box 2) used in this brief. Every assignment involves the source passage being scanned for the presence of a verbatim evidence quote. The unit of analysis is the passage; countries are counted as having an agroecological intervention area when at least one of their passages contains keywords relevant to it.

Separately, the 3,937 national targets submitted (as of September 15, 2026) to the CBD by 173 Parties were subjected to the same agroecology review, with the same model and the same controls.

HOW NBSAPS WORK

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, required under Article 6 of the CBD, are the principal national implementation instrument of the Convention. They are where global targets under the GBF are meant to be translated into national targets, policy and planning and where Parties state what they will actually deliver. Under CBD Decision 15/6, Parties were asked to submit a revised NBSAP by the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the CBD, and those unable to do so in time were invited to communicate their national targets as a standalone submission instead. The two instruments are therefore layers of the same commitment but on different timelines, which is why 173 Parties have filed national targets, 108 have submitted an NBSAP, and 104 have submitted both as of September 15, 2026.

Most NBSAPs follow a common architecture: a situation analysis of biodiversity status, pressures and policy context; a strategic section setting a vision, goals and national targets, now generally mapped to the four goals and 23 targets of the GBF; and an action plan setting out measures, responsible institutions, indicators, timelines and, in some plans, costs. The balance between those parts of NBSAPs varies widely in practice: some are narrative documents of several hundred pages, while others are built around metrics in which each target occupies a table row with columns for actions, responsible actors, indicators and budget.

ABOUT THE NBSAPS ANALYSIS IN THIS BRIEF

This brief presents an analysis of all 108 revised NBSAPs and 2,509 national targets submitted by the 104 Parties that filed both instruments. The brief uses a five-tier assessment framework based on 14 agroecology intervention areas recommended by "Boosting Biodiversity Action through Agroecology: Guidance for developing and updating NBSAPs" (Box 2), and traces how far each intervention area is integrated inside an NBSAP (i.e. from strategic narrative to a stated commitment, to an indicator, a named institution and a budget line). Below is the five-tier approach applied to each passage related to agroecology in NBSAPs.

TIER	STEP	WHAT THE NBSAP DOES
1	Raises it	Says anything at all about this area
2	Commits	States an action, a target or a commitment, not only a description
3	Adds an indicator	Names an indicator, baseline, review or monitoring measure so progress can be tracked
4	Adds an institution or instrument	Names a body made responsible, or a legal or policy instrument to implement it
5	Adds financing	Attaches a budget, a costing, a funding instrument, a fund or a named financing source



The 14 agroecology intervention areas framework that originates from the "Boosting Biodiversity Action through Agroecology" guidance tool covers a complete transition, beyond only farming practice. The areas are divided into four categories:

- **Practice and inputs:** (i) agroecological farming as a named system, (ii) the transition from agrochemicals to biological inputs and natural cycles, (iii) diverse and local seeds and crops, and (iv) landscape and territorial management.
- **Markets and value:** (v) non-market mechanisms such as payments and redirected subsidies, (vi) recognition instruments such as certification and geographical indications, and (vii) territorial markets and short supply chains.
- **Knowledge and awareness:** (viii) farmer-led and transdisciplinary research and co-development, and (ix) awareness, information-sharing and communication.
- **Rights, people and diets:** (x) inclusion of underrepresented actors, (xi) equitable access and rights to resources, (xii) gender linkages, (xiii) benefit-sharing from genetic resources and biocultural norms, and (xiv) the integration of biodiversity with diets and food environments.

The breadth and depth of integration of these areas in NBSAPs can reveal the degree of alignment of these biodiversity plans with GBF targets – particularly Target 10 – and agroecological transition pathways of countries as outlined in "Boosting Biodiversity Action through Agroecology: Guidance for developing and updating NBSAPs". See Box 2 below.

BOX 2 — THE AGROECOLOGY NBSAPS GUIDANCE

"Boosting Biodiversity Action through Agroecology: Guidance for developing and updating NBSAPs" (2024) was published by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food with Biovision Foundation, WWF International and the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, with input from the CGIAR Agroecology Initiative. It is available in English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese at nbsap.futureoffood.org.

It argues that integrating agroecology into an NBSAP advances biodiversity alongside climate, land degradation, hunger, poverty and health objectives at once, and sets out entry points across the NBSAP cycle, from situation analysis through targets, actions, institutional arrangements and financing. This brief is, in effect, a baseline assessment against it: how far the NBSAPs and national targets submitted so far already do what the guidance asks, and which entry points remain unused.

This brief is intended for Parties and national teams drafting the next round of NBSAPs and national targets, and for civil society, farmer and Indigenous Peoples' organisations, funders and companies working to get agroecology fully integrated in NBSAPs.

FINDINGS

GENERAL TRENDS IN INCLUSION OF AGROECOLOGY IN NBSAPS

Agroecology is widely covered in both NBSAPs and national targets. In total, of the 108 NBSAPs, 105 (97%) include at least one of the 14 agroecological intervention areas. Similarly, of the 104 of these same 108 Parties that also submitted national targets separately, 96 (92%) include agroecology in at least one of their national targets.

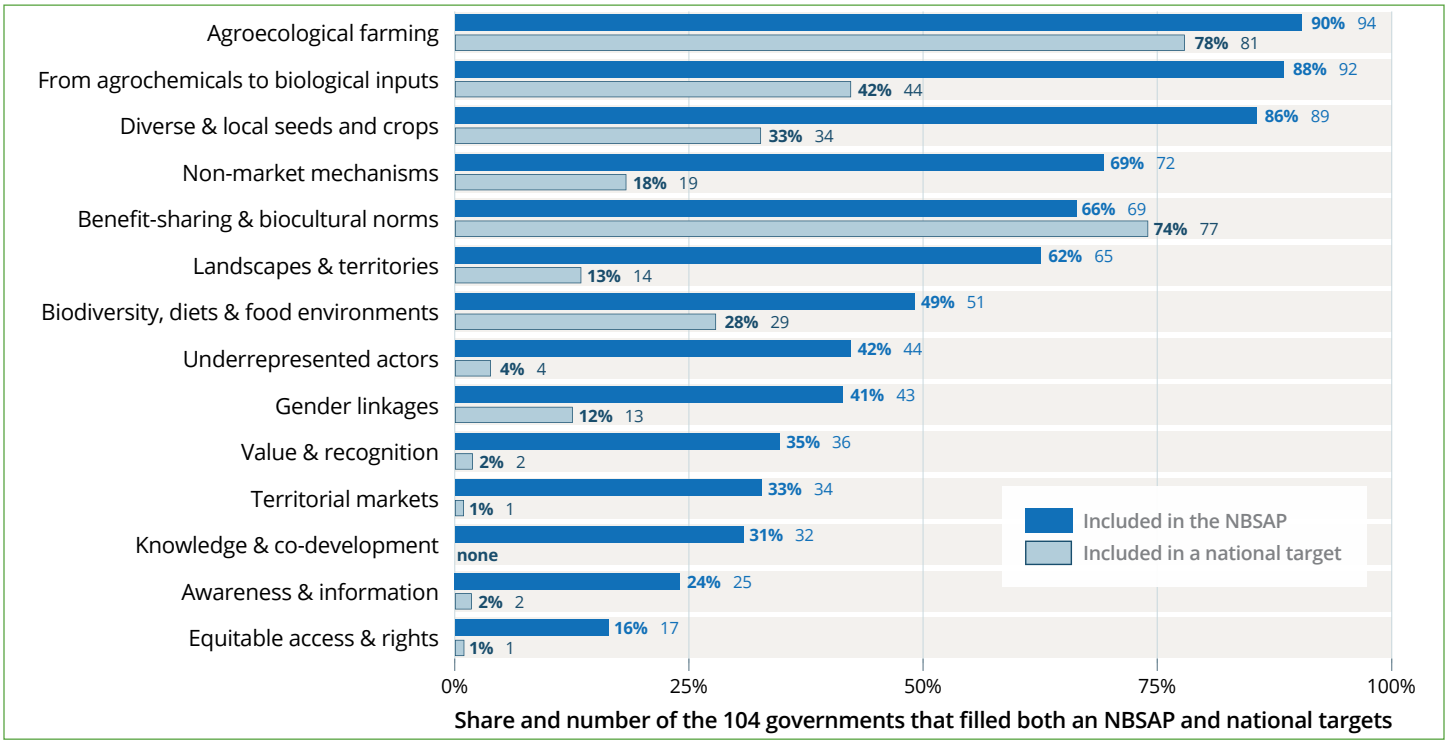


FIGURE 1 — Agroecological intervention areas included in NBSAPs vs committed in the national targets of 104 Parties that submitted both. For each of the 14 intervention areas, the graph displays the share and number of NBSAPs including the area, as well as the share and number of Parties with a national target that addresses it. Drawn on the 104 Parties that filed both an NBSAP and national targets, so both bars describe the same countries. Sorted by NBSAP coverage. n=104.

As Figure 1 shows, both NBSAPs and national targets focus more on interventions close to the farm level (e.g. 'agroecological farming', 'from agrochemicals to biological inputs', and 'diverse and local seeds and crops') than on intervention areas that aim at market transformation to enable adoption of on-farm practices (e.g. 'territorial markets', 'value and recognition', 'equitable access and rights').

The trend also indicates that where an intervention area is explicitly mentioned in the text of the GBF target, it is widely integrated in NBSAPs and national targets. For example, both 'agroecological farming' and 'benefit-sharing and biocultural norms', which are integrated in more than two thirds of NBSAPs and national targets, are named in the texts of GBF Target 10 and GBF Target 13, respectively. As national targets are drafted against the GBF target architecture and NBSAPs are plans for their implementation, national targets and GBF targets align more closely. Hence, where the GBF target architecture has a place, agroecology is integrated, and where it does not, agroecology stays in the narrative chapters of NBSAPs. Any effort to strengthen agroecology in the next round of national targets has to work with that mechanism by attaching the intervention areas to the targets closely related to them, particularly Targets 10, 13, 18, 19, 22 and 23.

AGROECOLOGY INTEGRATION ACROSS NBSAP COMPONENTS

Our analysis reveals that agroecology is overwhelmingly integrated in narratives, commitments or policy actions in national biodiversity plans, with 92% of NBSAPs describing it as a strategic area, 86% including it as targets, and 82% incorporating it as policy actions. Far fewer NBSAPs integrated agroecology in components focused on implementation, such as monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilisation, institutional arrangements and enabling conditions. Figure 2 shows where in NBSAPs agroecology interventions sit.

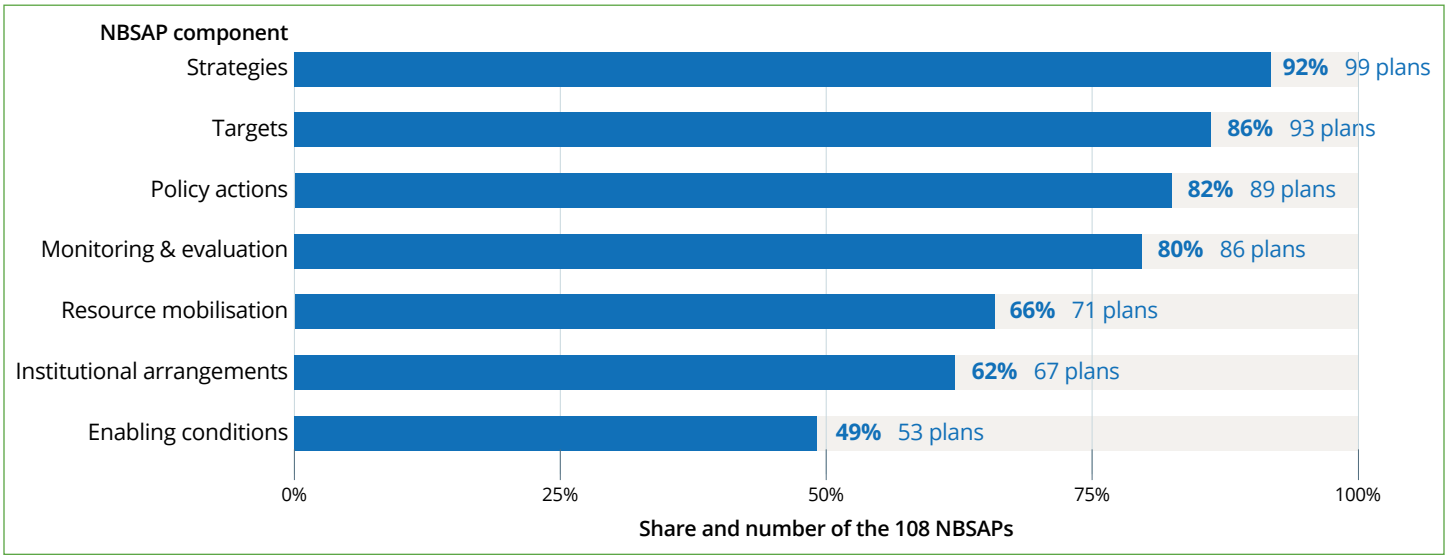


FIGURE 2 — Share of the 108 NBSAPs with at least one agroecology passage in each component, ranked by coverage. Each NBSAP is counted only once per component, irrespective of the number of relevant passages it contains.

While NBSAPs can have different scopes and lengths, their structure generally comprises several components, with each outlining specific aspects of government planning for biodiversity at the national level. Strategic narrative establishes key policy issues like agroecology as a legitimate national concern and frames how the problem is understood; targets and policy actions convert that framing into something a government can implement, while monitoring and evaluation metrics and measures decide what will be measured and monitored, and therefore what will count as progress. Enabling conditions outlined in NBSAPs provide details about the institutional foundations, such as laws, capacity and extension services; institutional arrangements, including accountable agencies and how agriculture and environment ministries coordinate; and how resources are to be mobilised for NBSAP implementation.

Agroecology must be mainstreamed across all of these components, because it is a systemic transition rather than an isolated, one-off intervention; an area named in the narrative but absent from the institutional and financing components is an aspiration with no clear implementation plan behind it, and an area with a budget but no indicator cannot be shown to have worked.[5]

Therefore, how agroecology is integrated across these components in an NBSAP matters as much as the number of intervention areas covered. The table below shows some examples on how countries incorporate agroecology across different components:

NBSAP COMPONENT	EXAMPLE	WHAT IT SHOWS
Strategic narrative	**Brazil** "Sustainable and landscape-integrated practices are those that help enhance the positive effects of production while reducing its negative impacts on biodiversity, soil and water resources. They largely overlap with practices that make improved use of on-farm biodiversity to support productivity, the provision of ecosystem services and agricultural resilience."	Defines a concept without attaching any commitment to it, and no actor, date or measurable change is included. This is the most common form agroecology takes in an NBSAP.
Target	**Austria** "All rare agricultural crop varieties under ÖPUL [Austrian Programme for the Promotion of an Agricultural System that is Environmentally Sound, Extensive and Protective of Natural Habitats] are preserved on-farm, the area of cultivation of rare agricultural crops and varieties in the ÖPUL is increased by 20%. [...] Orchard trees included under ÖPUL are increased by 5%"	Names a measurable change against an existing national scheme that already has a budget, a farm registry and its own evaluation indicators. The target inherits that machinery rather than having to build it.
Policy action	**Argentina** "Studies of edible native plants to facilitate their inclusion in the National Food Code and the corresponding official registries."	Names a task and the register it feeds into. It is a step towards a change, but it is an action, not a target.
Monitoring: agrochemical reduction	**Eritrea** "Changes in the quantity of organic fertilizers and organic pesticide produced [...] Changes in the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides [...] % reduction in the entry of inorganic agrochemicals and livestock drugs"	Tracks a direction of travel in input use, adds a percentage reduction for monitoring and rests on input statistics that already exist.
	Côte d'Ivoire "Percentage of agricultural land adopting pollinator-friendly practices [...] Number of pollinator species assessed [...] Number of factors contributing to pollinator decline monitored"	Measures the share of farmland under a practice, which is closer to an outcome than a count of only activities providing strong datapoints for monitoring.
Monitoring: genetic resources	**Rwanda** "Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in conservation facilities."	Adopts the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and GBF headline formulation verbatim, which makes it internationally comparable, but it lacks national specificity.
	Nigeria "Nigerian National gene bank for cultivated plants and domesticated animals [...] report on gene bank accession [...] reports on cultivated plants and domesticated animals with genes stored"	Counts accessions in a named national gene bank, which is auditable but says nothing about diversity at farm level.
Resource mobilisation	**Egypt** "Funding for sustainable projects: Providing grants or subsidies to agricultural or tourism projects that rely on environmentally friendly practices, such as organic farming or ecotourism."	Names the instrument and what it would support, but no amount, no source and no recipient, which is financing named in principle but not clearly committed.
Enabling condition	**Côte d'Ivoire** "Agricultural Framework Law on the regulation of agribusiness, agrochemicals, agro-industry, agro-pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology available"	Points to the legal instrument that would make the practice possible.
Institutional framework	**Czechia** "Ensure protection, inventory GZR [plant genetic resources] populations and actively support in situ conservation of wild species related to cultivated plants [...] Ministry of Agriculture [responsible]; Ministry of the Environment, Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection [...] Number of supported projects/inventory of GZR populations"	It names an action, a responsible ministry, co-managers and an indicator, all in one row, providing the institutional framework for implementation and monitoring.

FROM AMBITION TO IMPLEMENTATION

When considering how comprehensively agroecology is integrated across the components of each NBSAP, the analysis reveals that just over half (55 of 108) of NBSAPs include a complete implementation chain (i.e. a commitment, an indicator to monitor progress, an institution to lead and a financing mechanism or plan to implement it) for agroecology. Seventeen NBSAPs state an agroecological commitment and go no further, a further 16 add an indicator but no institution, instrument or financing, and two mention agroecology only in narrative (see Figure 3 below). The gap between tiers 2 and 5 is the practical measure of how much of the stated ambition currently has a route to implementation and delivery.

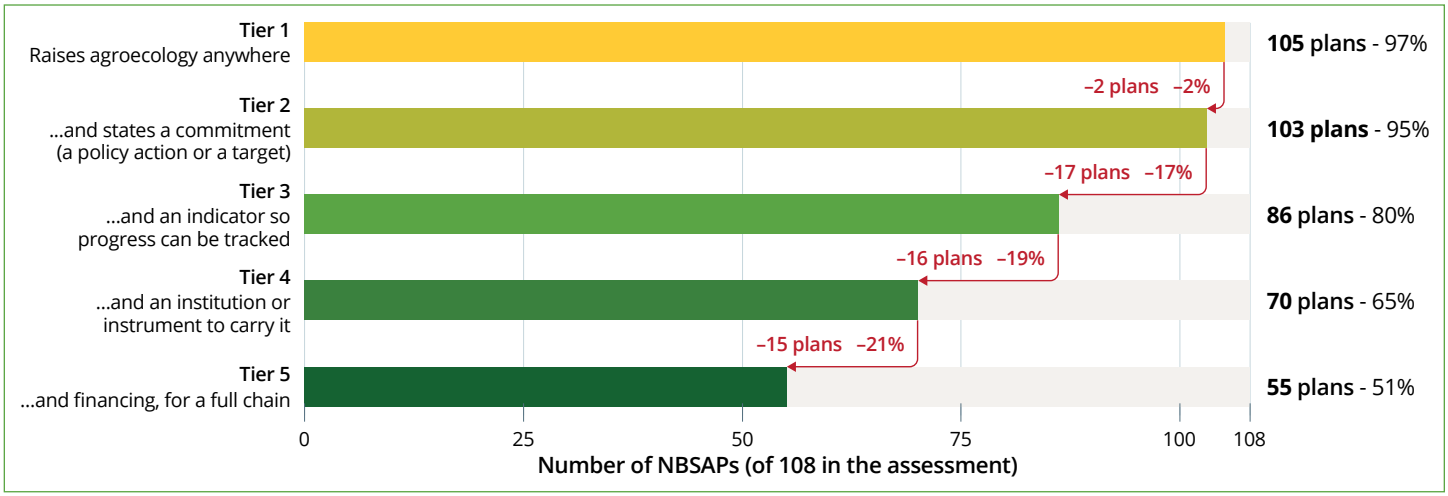


FIGURE 3 — From ambition to implementation. Each tier is a subset of the one above: of the 105 NBSAPs that mention agroecology, 103 commit to something, 86 add an indicator, 70 add an institution or an instrument, and 55 add financing for a full chain. Figures in red denote the NBSAPs lost at each step, and the share of the tier above that they represent.

To enable agroecological transition, an NBSAP must do more than just naming agroecology. It must include clear policy actions with targets, milestones and deadlines to send explicit policy signals that tell ministries, producers, financiers and supply chains that a specific change is expected on a specific timetable. This is what lets budget lines be defended, extension service needs be estimated and private investment be planned. It is also the only form in which a policy outcome can be monitored and reviewed. This level of detail needed in NBSAPs is reflected in the CBD's own guidance under Decision 15/6, which asks revised NBSAPs to include national targets and "concrete actions, policies and programmes designed to meet" them, national monitoring using headline, component and complementary indicators, and the identification of financing and capacity gaps together with national finance plans.

However, while a full implementation chain for agroecology more generally can be seen in the 55 NBSAPs, the implementation chain is not necessarily there for a specific agroecology intervention area. These NBSAPs might be committing to one area, monitoring another area and financing a different area. Hence, when assessed at the level of each of the 14 agroecology intervention areas, only 24 NBSAPs include a commitment, indicator, institution and financing for the same agroecological intervention area, producing 31 complete chains in all, with Nigeria and Sudan accounting for three each. Even in these NBSAPs, the implementation chain for each intervention area is not explicit or always very clear. But from the details in different components of the plan, a chain can be drawn from a commitment to financing plans.

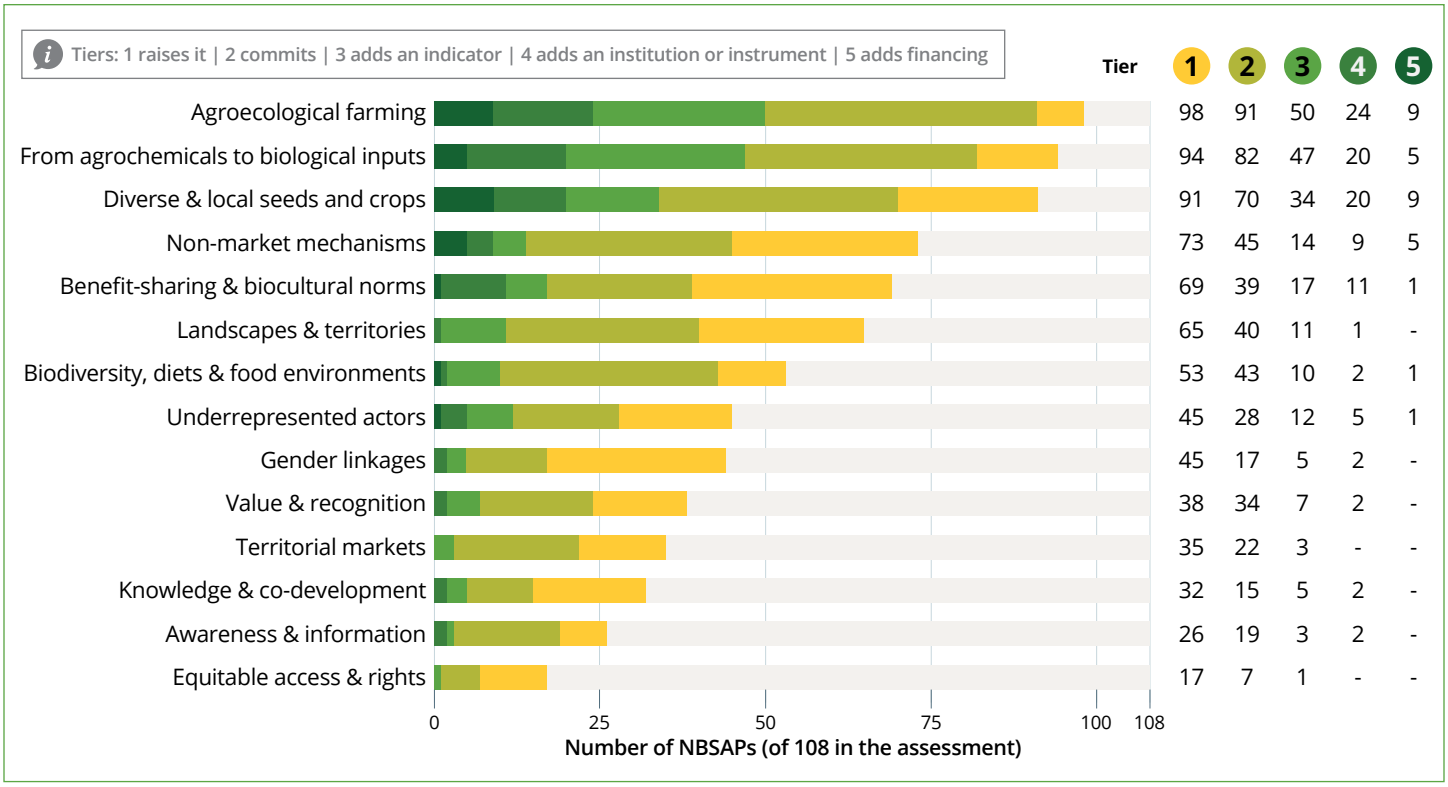


FIGURE 4 — The implementation chain by agroecological intervention area. The same five tiers, applied within each area: an NBSAP reaches tier 3 for an area only if it both commits to that area and monitors it. Bars are drawn one on top of the other, with the deepest tier in front (dark green) and lowest tier at the end (gold), so each band represents the number of NBSAPs that get that far and no further; the columns on the right give the NBSAP counts at each tier.

Among the 14 areas, 'agroecological farming', 'from agrochemicals to biological inputs', and 'diverse and local seeds and crops' are the only ones where a significant number of NBSAPs include more than just a commitment (i.e. higher than tier 2), with only five to nine NBSAPs including a full implementation chain – from commitment to financing and monitoring – in any of these three areas. Most other intervention areas are included only as commitments, with few NBSAPs also including an indicator for monitoring. No NBSAPs include any financing plans at all for half of the 14 intervention areas – including 'landscapes and territories', 'underrepresented actors' and 'equitable access and rights'.

This trend indicates that mechanisms for implementation of agroecology in NBSAPs (i.e. indicators, institutional homes, budget lines) have been built around production practices, whereas the social, market and rights enablers of agroecology are included only in the narrative or policy actions that no one is clearly accountable for or tracking yet.

However, a complete chain does not guarantee that an intervention area will be implemented, or that an agroecological transition will follow, because in practice budgets get cut, ministries reorganise and a well-drafted target can sit unimplemented. But it is also true and likely that an intervention with no indicator cannot be tracked, one with no institution has no accountability attached, and one with no budget line competes for money with other government priorities. Therefore, by giving a strong policy signal, tiers 3 to 5 are necessary conditions for making implementation structurally possible.



WHAT AMBITION LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE

Below, examples of strategies and policy actions for different agroecology intervention areas are quoted from the NBSAPs and national targets themselves. They were selected for the strength of the written commitment (i.e. a named action, a date, a responsible government authority).

1. AGROECOLOGICAL FARMING

Ethiopia

> *"National Target 10: By 2030, biodiversity issues are integrated into agricultural systems through application of biodiversity-friendly practices and use of improved decision support processes in agricultural production systems, where at least 25% of agricultural land is put under agro-ecological practices."*

This is a strong agroecology commitment as it names the approach explicitly, sets a measurable share of the national agricultural land base and carries a deadline. It is also budgeted, as the target line in the plan carries a cost figure. This places it in the 66% of NBSAPs that connect agroecology to resource mobilisation.

Liberia

> *"Target 2.3: By 2030, apply sustainable, biodiversity-friendly management practices across at least 30 percent [...] used for agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry. Promote sustainable intensification and agroecology [...] improve ecosystem services, food security and biodiversity conservation. GBF alignment: Target 10."*

Liberia's national target directly translates GBF Target 10 at the national level with a proportion attached, covering all four production systems rather than cropland alone, and stating the GBF alignment explicitly.

2. SEEDS AND CROP DIVERSITY AND AGROCHEMICAL TRANSITION

The Gambia

> *"Target 6.1: Conserve and promote 10 priority local crop/seed varieties and 5 local livestock breeds with community seed banks and in-situ conservation by 2030. [...] Target 6.2: Reduce chemical pesticide use in smallholder systems by 25% by 2035 through IPM and extension services."*

This includes two clear targets that together cover two intervention areas, both quantified and dated, with both specifying the implementation mechanisms (i.e. community seed banks, integrated pest management delivered through extension).

3. GENDER LINKAGES

Timor-Leste

> *"Implement the National Gender Equality Policy at national and municipal levels. Ensure 40% of women are beneficiaries of agricultural programs. Support 30% young women in horticulture and fruiticulture sectors. Promote 30% women extensionists at municipal level. Build MALFF capacity to collect sex-disaggregated data."*

The commitment sets clear targets and includes a named ministry, a stated administrative level and a data commitment treating gender as a target implementation approach and not only a narrative or principle.

4. NON-MARKET MECHANISMS AND INCENTIVE REFORM

Nigeria

> *"50% of agricultural subsidies and incentives that are harmful to biodiversity are identified and progressively reformed, redirected or repurposed; and 100% reformed, redirected or repurposed [...] by redirecting or repurposing them."*

Quantified targets for subsidies reform are uncommon among reviewed NBSAPs except in the case of Nigeria's NBSAP, which states a staged proportion against GBF Target 18. This converts a general commitment to subsidy reform into a quantified target to monitor progress against.

5. BIODIVERSITY, DIETS AND FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

Japan

> *"Percentage of consumers who use organic food at least once a week 17.5% (FY2017) → 25% (FY2030). Area of organic farming efforts 25,200 ha → 63,000 ha."*

The target clearly combines a production target with a demand-side target and gives both a baseline year.

6. BENEFIT-SHARING FROM GENETIC RESOURCES

Chile

> *"Target III.28: By 2026, a national discussion on access to and the sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources will have begun, with the aim of developing a proposal for a legal framework to regulate these matters. [...] Establish the work agenda for the inter-institutional technical working group on access and benefit-sharing (ABS)."*

Chile included a dated, institutionally anchored and procedurally clear target with a specific deliverable that is a legal framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below are intended to support policymakers and other stakeholders in addressing the specific gaps in NBSAPs that our assessment reveals, so that effort is directed where the evidence shows it is most needed.



FOR PARTIES REVISING NBSAPS AND NATIONAL TARGETS

- **Mainstream agroecology across the whole NBSAP, not only its agriculture components.** According to this NBSAP assessment, agroecological content is concentrated in the areas of agroecological farming, input transition and seed diversity, while the market, knowledge and rights dimensions are less integrated. Mainstreaming the 13 principles of agroecology and 14 agroecological intervention areas across the vision, the targets and the implementation sections is necessary to enable agroecological transition as part of biodiversity action.
- **Assign every agroecological commitment a responsible government institution, a policy instrument and a budget line.** Fifty-five of 108 NBSAPs contain all four elements (i.e. a commitment, an indicator, an institution or instrument, and financing) somewhere in the plan, yet only 24 line them up on the same intervention area, and 17 state a commitment without an institution, instrument or financing attached. Naming a responsible ministry and an existing law, programme or extension service converts a stated intention into something a budget process can recognise.
- **Pair commitments to 'agroecological farming' practices with enabling commitments and actions.** Out of the 91 NBSAPs committing to agroecological farming, only 20 also commit to 'territorial markets' and six to 'equitable access and rights'. A practice target without a market channel or a tenure provision is a commitment to a farming technique, not a systemic transition. For each practice target, NBSAPs should identify and mention rights holders of the land and seed, and markets for their produce. These can be articulated under an existing GBF target (e.g. Targets 9, 18, 20, 22 and 23).
- **Strengthen inter-ministerial collaboration for implementing agroecology interventions.** The ministries needed for mainstreaming agroecology across sectors are already represented in the agrifood-related sections of most NBSAPs, but they are absent from sections specific to agroecology interventions. Finance and planning is named somewhere in 86 of the 108 plans, but only in 19 is it specific to agroecological commitments. Similarly, health and nutrition is named in 56 NBSAPs, but in only nine is it in relation to agroecology. Trade and industry is referenced in 57 NBSAPs but it is linked with agroecology in only five. Overall, 50 NBSAPs name no ministry or other institution for any of the agroecological commitments.
- **Leverage public purchasing as a market instrument to incentivise agroecological production.** Territorial markets appear in only 35 of the 108 NBSAPs and are committed to in 22, but none name a responsible institution or attach a budget. A clear commitment to increase the share or value of institutional food purchasing (e.g. through school meals, hospitals and public canteens) sourced from smallholder or agroecological producers, with an implementing ministry named alongside the ministry of agriculture, would align closely with GBF Target 16.

- **Commit to define a baseline within a realistic and clear timeframe, rather than a reason to delay target-setting.** Out of the 595 national targets that include agroecology, 63% name a deadline, yet only 18% specify a quantified target to achieve. This shows that Parties commit to when, but not how much. Instead of avoiding setting a target, Parties can write, for example, "Baseline established by 2027; quantified target adopted at the first review" as a time-bound policy action. Existing data sources, such as the agricultural census, farm registry, input statistics or gene bank records, can often support the initial quantification of targets. Where such data do not exist, the creation of a baseline should be treated as a formal commitment, with a named statistical office and clear deadline, and reporting arrangement under GBF Targets 20 and 21.
- **Invest in measuring under-monitored agroecology intervention areas in NBSAPs.** While 86 NBSAPs monitor at least one agroecological intervention area, monitoring is concentrated in farming practices, input transition and seed diversity, where national statistics or data exist. Intervention areas focused on markets, rights and knowledge-sharing lack usable indicators more than they lack political commitment. To close these gaps, prioritise developing, piloting and embedding indicators for markets, rights and knowledge. Also strengthen the limited indicators that already exist for benefit-sharing and territorial markets, drawing on the HLPE's 13 principles of agroecology, the FAO's 10 Elements of Agroecology, GBF indicators, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators (e.g. 2.3, 2.5, 5.a, 10.2), and existing national agricultural and land-use statistics, to make the new indicators comparable, feasible and ready for NBSAP monitoring and reporting.



FOR CIVIL SOCIETY, FARMER ORGANISATIONS, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- **Advocate for participation and rights of underrepresented groups as commitments under Targets 22 and 23, with a clear role and a budget line.** Forty-four NBSAPs mention the inclusion of underrepresented actors but only 17 make a commitment; 17 mention equitable access and rights as an issue but only seven commit to it. Since Targets 22 and 23 already provide a framework for participation, equity and rights, underrepresented groups can ask Parties to include them in the NBSAP coordination bodies and enable them to have meaningful involvement in the revision of national targets and NBSAPs.
- **Use benefit-sharing as an entry point for structured engagement in NBSAP implementation.** 'Benefit-sharing and biocultural norms' is the only intervention area in which a majority of Parties (74%) have a target with an agroecological dimension. In the plans themselves, however, 39 of the 69 NBSAPs that raise the area state a commitment, only 17 add an indicator, 11 identify a responsible institution and one attaches financing. This opens the door for Indigenous Peoples' organisations and civil society to engage on the implementation of this commitment, through mechanisms already in place, such as access and benefit-sharing (ABS) national focal points designated under Article 13 of the Nagoya Protocol; community protocols recognised under the Nagoya Protocol's Article 12; free, prior and informed consent under GBF Target 21; and the Cali Fund, which allocates 50% of its resources to Indigenous Peoples and local communities in support of NBSAP implementation. This engagement can also support the implementation of other intervention areas, such as seed and crop diversity, equitable access and rights to resources, and farmer-led knowledge co-development, which are determined within the same policy processes.
- **Support Parties with gathering, cataloguing and analysing data to set baselines for agroecology targets in NBSAPs.** Only 63% of national targets related to agroecology name a deadline and just 18% include a quantified target. That gap is often technical as countries may lack agreed baselines, indices and data systems. Civil society, universities, researchers, gene banks and Indigenous and local knowledge holders can help fill this gap by partnering with Parties in the next NBSAP revision and co-developing agrobiodiversity indices, mapping Indigenous and traditional food systems, and converting commitments into specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) national targets.



FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FINANCE COMMUNITY



- **Invest in NBSAP implementation as active partners.** Private sector actors, including investors and private corporations in agriculture and food systems, should finance the measurement and baseline gap in agroecology target setting, de-risk agroecological and territorial markets, embed agroecology and rights-based standards in investment and sourcing decisions, and support inclusive accountability through disaggregated reporting and grievance mechanisms. By aligning capital, supply-chain data and standards with NBSAP targets, they can help turn agroecology commitments into measurable, financed and accountable action.
- **Share supply-chain and market data with cooperatives and SMEs and build their capacity to track and scale agroecology.** Private sector actors, business associations and investors should establish structured data-sharing arrangements with Parties, covering agroecological sourcing volumes, producer prices, seed varieties, market access and territorial market flows so that national baselines and indicators for markets, benefit-sharing, and territorial markets can be populated with real-world data. In parallel, they should invest in capacity-building for cooperatives and SMEs through training, mentoring, access to finance, technology transfer and business development services, enabling these actors to participate in and scale agroecological value chains beyond isolated pilots.
- **Offer flexible and affordable capital to agroecological SMEs along the value chains and farmers to implement agroecological practices.** By using instruments that reward agrobiodiversity and climate resilience, such as affordable insurance, payment-for-ecosystem-services schemes and blended finance, investors can help implement and scale agroecology. They should also advocate for fiscal and policy incentives that align private investment with NBSAP implementation, ensuring that public and private finance reinforce rather than contradict each other. By de-risking agroecological investments and lowering the cost of capital for small-scale producers, investors can accelerate the scaling of agroecology beyond isolated pilots. This approach would help translate NBSAP targets into tangible, financed and resilient action on the ground.

ENDNOTES

1 Crippa, M., Solazzo, E., Guizzardi, D., et al. (2021). Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. Nature Food 2, 198–209.

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3 FAO (2023). The State of Food and Agriculture 2023: Revealing the true cost of food to transform agrifood systems. Rome. https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/hidden-costs-of-global-agrifood-systems-worth-at-least--10-trillion/en

4 Agroecology Coalition, Why Agroecology, https://agroecology-coalition.org/why-agroecology/; and Coalition for Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology, UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

5 Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Biovision Foundation, WWF International, Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, and the Agroecology Coalition (2024). Boosting Biodiversity Through Agroecology: Guidance for Developing and Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Global Alliance for the Future of Food, n.p.



Lead author: Haseeb Bakhtary (Climate Focus).
Co-authors: Moritz Fegert, Charlotte Pavageau and John Garcia Ulloa (Biovision Foundation) , Martina Fleckenstein (WWF International).

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Annex:
Method and limitations

