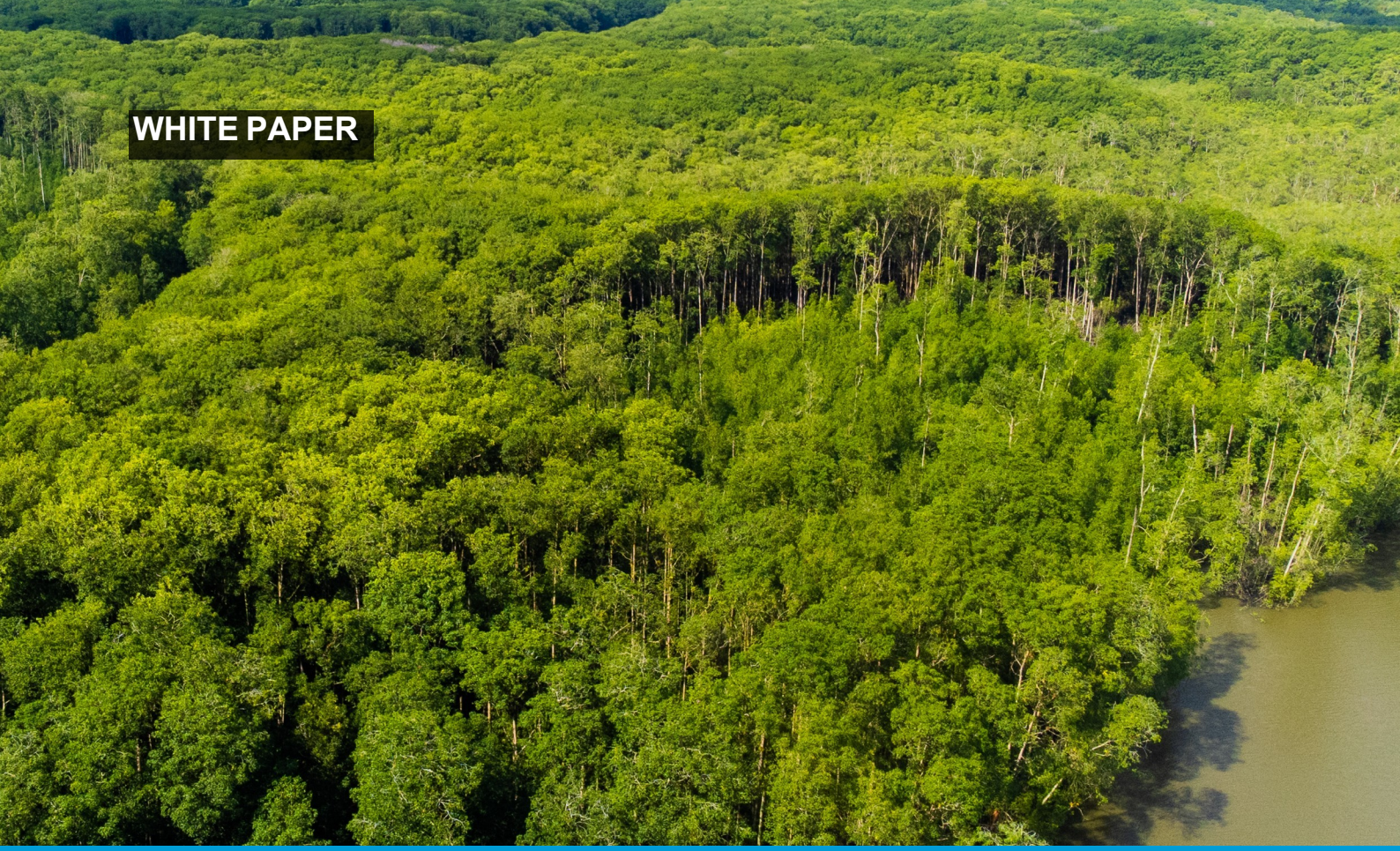

WHITE PAPER

From Silos to Synergies

Linking Planning, Finance, and Monitoring for Coherent Action on Climate, Biodiversity, and Land

Contents

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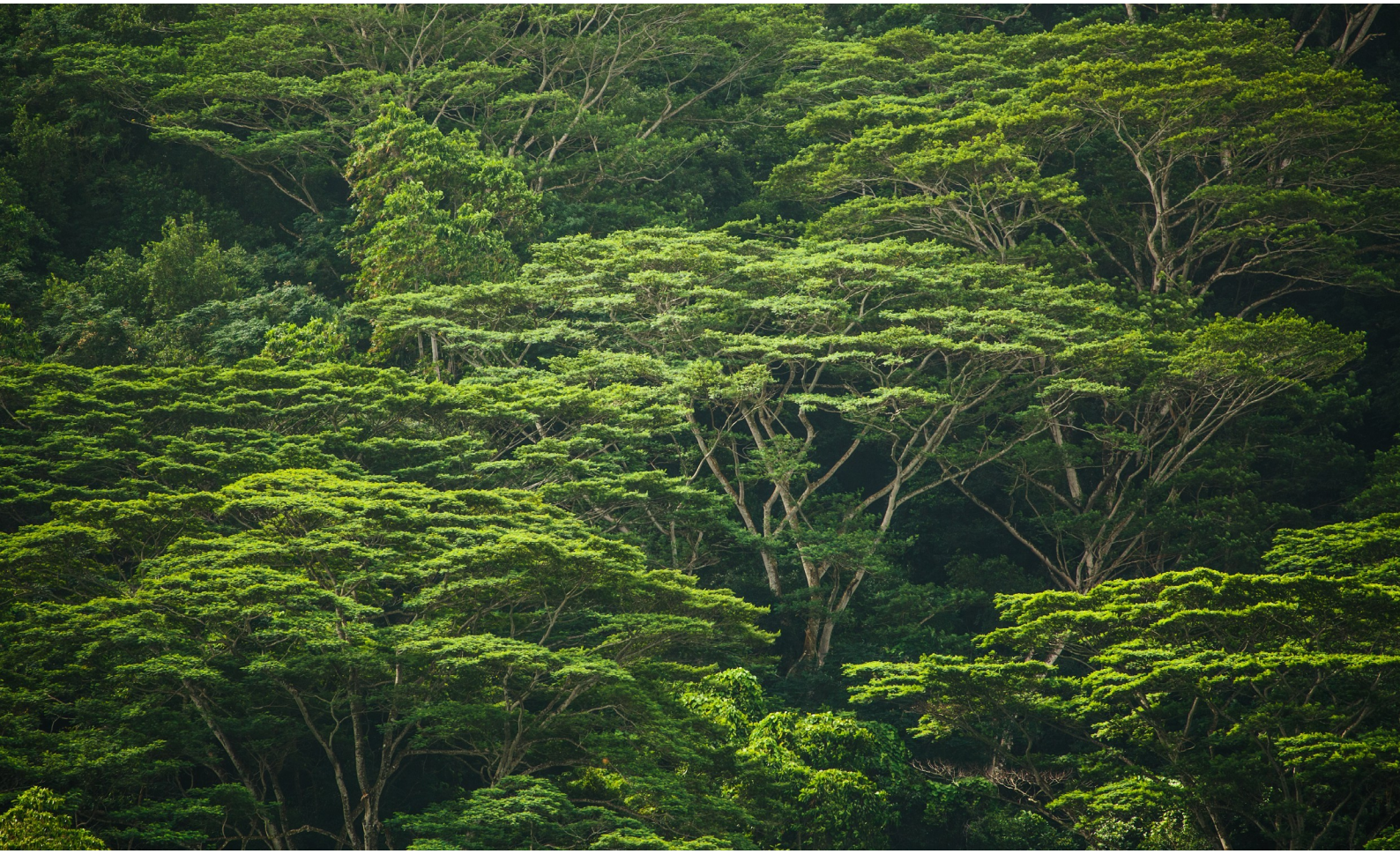


Preamble

As countries prepare for the next cycle of global commitments under the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda, the need for integrated planning and implementation has become urgent. Building on insights from a Rio Synergies Stakeholder Dialogue Series, this white paper identifies practical pathways to turn synergy from principle into practice. It distils dialogue outcomes—highlighting both enablers and barriers—to guide the shift from siloed approaches to coherent implementation systems that deliver across climate, biodiversity and land objectives efficiently, transparently and at scale.

1 Introduction

The urgent threats posed by the climate, biodiversity and land crises have reinforced what scientists and practitioners have long recognized and what policymakers are increasingly beginning to acknowledge: these agendas are interdependent pillars of sustainable development (**IPBES, 2024**). Yet, despite decades of commitments under the Rio Conventions, national and local implementation remains fragmented. Climate action plans, biodiversity strategies and land-use policies often advance in isolation, shaped by distinct mandates, funding flows and reporting frameworks. This results in fragmented delivery, duplication and missed opportunities for greater impact.

Between July and October 2025, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)—with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety—hosted a web-based dialogue series. It sought to identify and assess barriers and opportunities in leveraging synergies across the three Rio Conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The Rio Synergies Dialogue Series reaffirmed that the challenge is very real: while scientific understanding of climate-biodiversity-land interlinkages is well established, recognition of this has not yet translated into coherent policy, finance and implementation systems across the conventions. In three closed meetings and four open dialogues with participants from academia, member states, international organizations, civil society and the private sector across all regions, discussion focused on how to move from recognition of fragmentation to creating meaningful synergies.

The case for mutually supportive implementation is clear; what is now needed are actionable approaches on topics that have points of convergence across the three conventions. The dialogues explored key barriers, including concerns related to *double counting* leading to insufficient resources for achieving multiple objectives, similar targets, and institutional mandates and visibility. Achieving coherence depends as much on trust and governance as on technical alignment. Stakeholders agreed that progress requires shifting from coordination to coherence – embedding synergy into planning, budgeting, and monitoring, and systematizing it within governance, finance and data systems. This applies to topics that offer tangible opportunities for convergence and coherence.

Emerging experiences show that this transition is underway. Some countries are piloting integrated budget tagging systems to track climate, biodiversity and land investments; others are establishing country-led financing platforms that align public, private and international resources. Landscape-level initiatives are linking spatial planning, fiscal incentives and ecosystem restoration to deliver on the three Rio Conventions simultaneously. These cases demonstrate that synergistic implementation is practical, measurable and improves efficiency across sectors.

This white paper synthesizes these insights and showcases practical examples that are translating the Rio Synergies agenda into action. It explores how planning, financing and monitoring systems can be restructured to deliver multiple benefits efficiently, manage trade-offs and enhance policy coherence. The following sections highlight how stakeholders can operationalize this shift, outlining key enablers such as political commitment, inter-sectoral coordination, skills development, data governance and spatial planning that drive coherent implementation across the climate, biodiversity and land agendas.

Since 2014, non-profit group Trees for the Future has benefitted 50,000 households across Africa by helping to diversify food and income sources, making families more resilient, and pushing back against land degradation. Photo credit: UNEP/Todd Brown.

2 Integrated Planning and Policy Coherence

Integrated planning is essential for implementing the three Rio Conventions coherently. Aligning Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets effectively within national policy cycles can strengthen coordinated action across institutions, from the national to local levels. Done well, this could reduce duplication and enhance coherence in decision-making. Dialogue participants identified four systemic barriers:

- **Institutional silos**: Coordination mechanisms lack the authority, budget or political leverage to drive cross-ministry change.
- **Misaligned planning cycles**: Differing timelines for NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs hinder alignment.
- **Capacity and incentive gaps**: These include limited technical expertise for cross-sectoral planning and weak incentives for collaboration.
- **Data and knowledge fragmentation**: Disconnected information systems prevent consistent tracking and reporting.

2.1 Political commitment, vision and financing alignment

High-level political commitment and long-term strategic vision are vital to integrate the Rio Conventions into domestic policymaking. Clear national priorities that link national sustainable development, green growth and ecological transitions should be supported by stable institutional arrangements that endure beyond electoral cycles.

Embedding convention targets into national budget processes and financing plans can ensure that ministries beyond the environment portfolio take ownership. Tools such as budget tagging help operationalize commitments, while legal and regulatory instruments formalize mandates, data-sharing and joint target-setting. Without legal anchors, inter-agency platforms often lose momentum.

2.2 Intersectoral and multilevel coordination

Effective national and subnational coordination is essential, provided that it drives real, on-the-ground functional change rather than procedural alignment. Legal mandates, steering committees and cross-sector mechanisms can synchronize timelines, address conflicting sectoral priorities, and identify and minimize trade-offs.

However, while particular targets in NDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs and LDNs may be assigned to particular institutions or cross-government mechanisms, systemic programmatic integration and regulatory enforcement leading to real change remains a challenge. Coherence also depends on aligning national and subnational plans, budgets and regulations, supported by regular engagement with civil society to uphold rights-based and participatory approaches.

As implementation happens on the ground, local governments are critical. Integrating the priorities outlined in NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs into decentralized planning frameworks and ensuring fiscal transfers and performance incentives for local authorities can strengthen coherence. Capacity-building and access to data at the county and municipal levels can help operationalize synergies "from the ground up."

2.3 Skills development and capacity strengthening

Building cross-disciplinarity expertise within government and academia enhances coherence and strengthens the science–policy interface. Investment in research partnerships and evidence-based policymaking supports integrated planning, especially for nature-based solutions. Beyond technical capacity, dialogue participants underscored the need for institutional incentives and accountability mechanisms that reward cooperation. Examples include joint performance indicators across ministries and performance-based budget allocations tied to synergistic outcomes. Embedding such mechanisms within public sector reforms and civil service appraisal systems can encourage sustained collaboration.

2.4 Digitalization and data governance for integrated planning

Digital tools and platforms, such as information management systems, can reduce institutional fragmentation, improve data collection and facilitate more transparent and evidence-based decision-making. Ensuring interoperability across climate, biodiversity and land degradation datasets fosters collaboration and data sharing. Public access to these tools enhances participation and trust in governance. Peer learning can help countries adapt effective knowledge management models to national governance contexts. Integrated data platforms should also inform planning and budgeting in real time, creating a continuous feedback loop across planning, budgeting and monitoring. Integrated data ecosystems can thus act as both the foundation and the connective tissue of coherent implementation.

Strengthening policy coherence for nature-based solutions

Nature-based Solutions (NbS), as defined at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (**UNEA 5.2**), link climate action, biodiversity restoration, and poverty reduction, but their full potential depends on coherent policy and institutional alignment. Integrated planning that maps links across restoration, mitigation, adaptation and development goals enables co-benefits and avoids policy contradictions. Embedding NbS into national development, agriculture and infrastructure plans can support shared accountability and efficient resource use.

Assessing coherence across NbS investments improves cost–benefit analysis and ensures that financing decisions capture the full value of ecosystem services. Inclusive design that integrates Indigenous and local knowledge strengthens legitimacy, adaptability and national ownership.

Key takeaway: Coherent NbS planning bridges policy, finance and knowledge systems – aligning national strategies while grounding implementation in local realities.

2.5 Spatial and landscape planning as a vehicle for coherence

As a practical vehicle for coherence, spatial planning links the global goals of the Rio Conventions to local realities, strengthening accountability and transparency at multiple levels. Linking global targets to national spatially explicit indicators translates policy interventions into landscape-level outcomes, supports coherent reporting across the conventions and enables adaptive management to anticipate trade-offs between intensification and conservation. Success relies on accessible data and effective coordination between national and local authorities.

Ultimately, coherent planning depends as much on governance and trust as on technical alignment. Key governance arrangements include joint committees and co-chaired decision-making structures that bring together environment, finance and planning authorities under shared mandates and budgets, while reducing institutional competition.

Planning synergies across NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs: The GIZ checklist for "Effectively Delivering on Climate and Nature"

The dialogue's session on planning and policy coherence highlighted the value of practical tools that turn integrated planning principles into action. The GIZ BioClime project presented a **checklist** co-developed with partner countries to guide policymakers through NDC, NAP and NBSAP processes. The checklist highlights opportunities for synergy, gender equality, and inclusion, helping to avoid duplication, strengthen coherence and maximize co-benefits.

The checklist shows how to embed coherence throughout planning. It is structured around five sequential stages: assessment, goal-setting, identifying strategies and activities, financing and implementation, and monitoring, evaluation and learning. Examples such as Colombia's integrated NDC, NAP and NBSAP cycles illustrate how alignment improves coordination.

Key takeaway: Practical, structured tools can embed integration, gender equality and inclusion across ministries and throughout the entire planning cycle.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, a UNEP project in Uganda is helping communities to restore forests and wetlands to provide a natural defence against the impacts of climate change. Photo credit: UNEP/Marcus Nield.

Case Study 1: Aligning climate and biodiversity plans through spatial prioritization

Conservation International supported governments in aligning their NDCs and NBSAPs by mapping high-carbon, high-biodiversity ecosystems. In Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya, and the Philippines, the initiative helped ministries of environment and planning identify areas where conservation supports both climate and biodiversity goals, reducing duplication and improving policy efficiency. It also fostered cross-ministerial coordination and data-sharing for integrated target-based and science-based planning.

Key takeaway: Spatial mapping offers an evidence-based method to align climate and biodiversity strategies, turning global goals into coherent, place-based actions.

Case Study 2: Climate-resilient forest livelihoods in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia's Kafa Biosphere Reserve, deforestation was tackled through participatory forest management and new income opportunities. Collaboration between the Ethiopian Forestry Development Authority, the Ministry of Finance and local administrations created 59 forest management groups with over 21,000 members, conserving 51,000 hectares of forest and planting 14 million trees. Communities adopted beekeeping, fruit cultivation and coffee farming, strengthening household resilience while reducing forest pressure. The programme linked regional implementation with national policy oversight, ensuring that forest conservation contributed directly to climate mitigation, biodiversity protection and rural development goals.

Key takeaway: Integrating livelihoods with forest-management strengthens climate-biodiversity synergies in community practice and coordination across governance levels.

3 Financing Synergistic Implementation

Despite three decades of multilateral commitment, finance for climate, biodiversity and land restoration remains largely siloed. Climate finance dominates, whereas funding for biodiversity and land restoration relies mainly on grants or project-specific windows – limiting efficiency and co-benefits.

Consultations highlighted four structural mismatches:

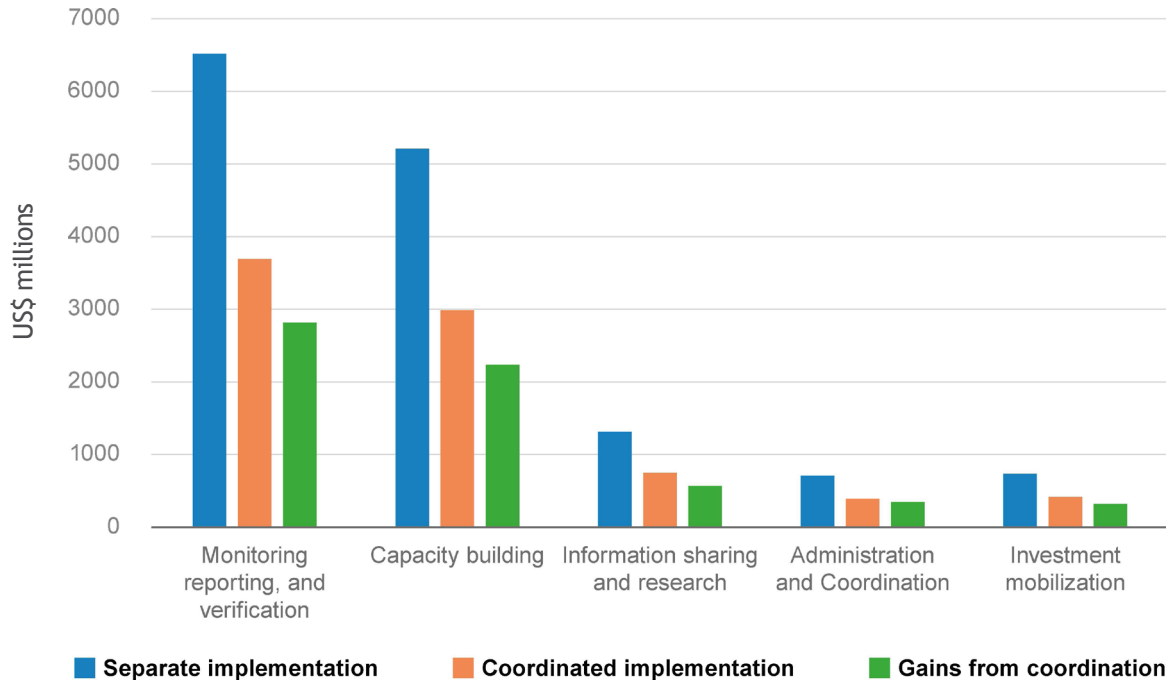
- **Scale and time horizons**: Synergistic projects are often small (US$10–20 million) and long-term, whereas investors generally seek large, liquid assets with short pay-back periods.
- **Fragmented funding architecture**: Hundreds of uncoordinated facilities drive duplication, high transaction costs and weak alignment with national priorities.
- **Public-good economics**: Ecosystem services rarely generate direct revenue, weakening bankability and risk–return profiles.
- **Data and integrity gaps**: Systems for carbon monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) are mature, but metrics for biodiversity and land lag, creating investor uncertainty.

3.1 Domestic public finance and policy coherence

Domestic budgets for climate, biodiversity and land tend to be managed by different ministries with separate reporting lines. In many low- and middle-income countries, allocations are static or declining in real terms, and heavy reliance on international finance risks predictability. Environment ministries often lack the convening power to integrate these agendas across economic planning, agriculture, infrastructure or finance portfolios. However, approaches are emerging to improve cross-sectoral integration:

- **Integrated budget tagging and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs)**: Environmental or "synergy" budget tags track cross-sector spending, revealing overlaps and cost-sharing options.
- **Whole-of-government coordination**: Inter-ministerial "green transition" committees or super-ministries unify oversight of NDC, NBSAP and LDN implementation. In Central Asia, such councils cut investment by 24 per cent (by US$ 6.2 billion) from 2020 to 2050 by aligning efforts (Figure 1).
- **Public narrative and political economy**: Framing synergistic investments as public goods that support food security, disaster preparedness and rural livelihoods enhances budget protection and legitimacy.

Figure 1: Costs of coordinated versus separate implementation of land restoration in Central Asia from 2020 to 2050



With strong coordination across national ministries and agencies, Central Asian countries could improve implementation efficiency by 24 per cent compared with working in isolated silos. This boost in efficiency brings major cost savings: coordinated restoration efforts could rehabilitate ecosystems degraded between 2001 and 2020 at a cost of US$7.9 billion lower than uncoordinated efforts. A coordinated model would also strengthen countries' capacity to meet their commitments under the Rio Conventions. Source: Mirzabaev, A. and Akramkhanov, A. (2025). Integrative land-biodiversity-climate action: Leveraging synergies through ecosystem restoration in Central Asia. A case for the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative. www.eld-initiative.org.

Key recommendations:

- Engage planning and finance ministries in synergy coordination platforms.
- Link NDCs, NBSAPs and LDN targets to fiscal signals through national finance strategies.
- Expand environmental taxonomies and budget codes to capture multi-benefit spending.

3.2 International finance and country-led platforms

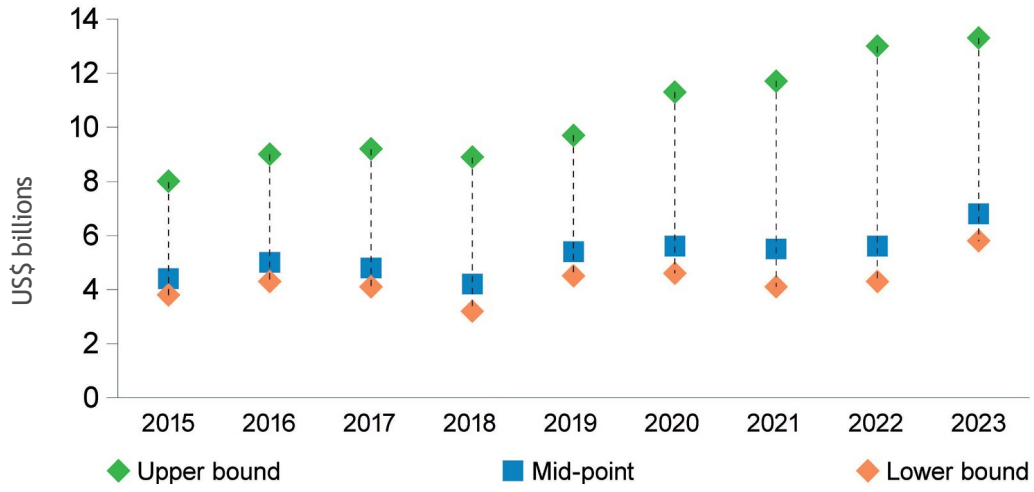
Country-led financing platforms are emerging to address fragmentation. They function as coordination hubs, aligning grants, concessional loans and private capital with national priorities while reducing transaction costs. The key design principles are:

- National ownership via government-hosted secretariats with cross-ministerial representation.
- Alignment to national priorities through co-creation, e.g. joint calls for proposals and agreed eligibility criteria.
- Monitoring and evaluation anchored in interoperable MRV systems to track climate, biodiversity and land outcomes.

Models include multi-partner "integrated landscape funds" and blended facilities co-governed by ministries of finance and environment.

Tracking international public finance for mutually supportive implementation of Rio Convention targets: The forthcoming *State of Finance for Nature 2025* report (December 2025) estimates that official development finance (ODF) targeting Nature-based Solutions totalled US$6.8 billion in 2023, up 22 per cent from 2022 (US$5.6 billion) and 55 per cent from 2015 (US$4.4 billion) (Figure 2). This shows rising donor support for integrated action.

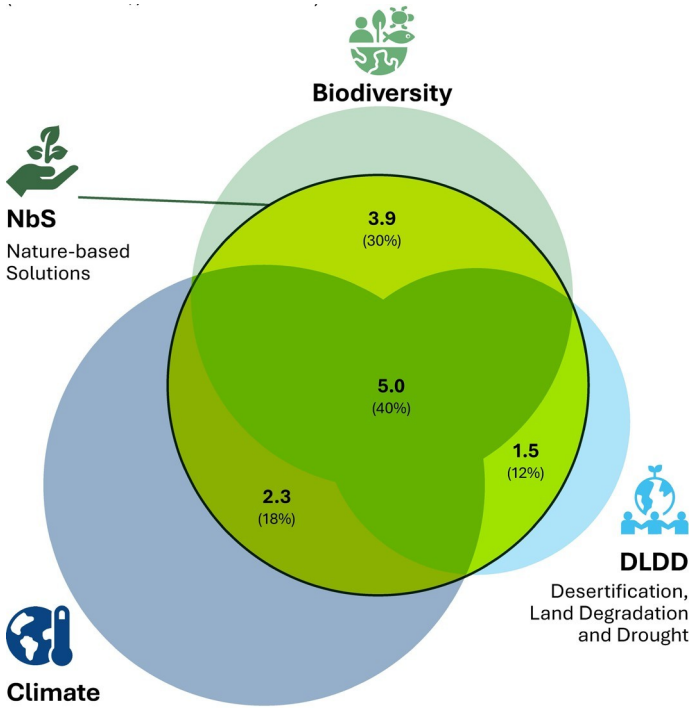
Figure 2: Official development finance flows to Nature-based Solutions from 2015 to 2023



This analysis applies two levels of criteria with different degrees of stringency. The upper-bound estimate includes projects that support biodiversity objectives and that carry at least a "significant" biodiversity Rio marker. The lower-bound estimate applies more stringent criteria, capturing only those projects tagged with a "principal" biodiversity marker and that also include NbS-related keywords in their project descriptions. Source: Preliminary finding from the State of Finance for Nature 2025 report, to be published in December 2025.

Around 43 per cent of the ODF targeting Nature-based Solutions in 2023 supported projects delivering against all three Rio Conventions, demonstrating important synergies to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) (Figure 3). An analysis in Colombia estimated that in 2023 around 50 per cent of ODF flows supported projects aligned with all three conventions.

Figure 3: **Contribution of official development finance to Nature-based Solutions and Rio Conventions in 2023 (in US$ millions, % share in brackets)**



This analysis is based on upper-bound estimates, which include 100 per cent of the value of transactions tagged with the biodiversity Rio marker or equivalent. Source: Adapted from preliminary findings of the *State of Finance for Nature 2025* report, to be published in December 2025.

The *State of Finance for Nature 2025* report also finds that gender integration is stronger in multi-convention projects (68 per cent) than in biodiversity-only projects (37 per cent), underscoring the role of gender equality in inclusive, effective environmental action.

Improved tracking of official development finance for enhanced transparency and clear accounting:

The *State of Finance for Nature 2025* analysis supports improved transparency of development finance flows. Data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) allow tracking of ODF by donor, transaction/project and Rio marker (on biodiversity, climate and DLDD), and by the extent to which finance flows deliver on different Rio targets with a single intervention. This type of analysis can support enhanced transparency and may inform discussions on the total amount of ODF as well as on ODF volumes going to biodiversity, climate, and DLDD, separately or simultaneously.

Policy coherence as an enabler for investment:

Fiscal, trade, agriculture and infrastructure policies must reinforce rather than counteract environmental objectives. Consistent signals—such as phasing out harmful subsidies and embedding nature-positive conditions in public procurement—create an enabling environment that attracts private investment.

Finance taxonomies beyond climate:

Emerging taxonomies that integrate biodiversity and land metrics (e.g. EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy extensions, ASEAN Taxonomy v2) illustrate how classification systems can mainstream multi-benefit investments. Adapting such frameworks to national contexts will improve transparency and comparability.

3.3 Private sector and blended finance approaches

Both real and perceived risks constrain efforts to mobilize private capital for synergistic outcomes. Dialogue participants emphasized that risk-sharing structures and integrity systems are essential to scale investment in climate, biodiversity and land restoration.

- **Layered capital and risk-mitigation instruments**: Public funds can absorb early-stage or policy risk through concessional or first-loss tranches, lowering capital costs and attracting commercial lenders. Guarantees and insurance—such as political-risk coverage and performance guarantees—unlock investment in long-term sectors like land restoration and ecosystem services. Results-based payments linked to verified multi-metric outcomes (carbon, biodiversity and land condition) can further align public and private incentives.

- **Aggregation and portfolio mechanisms**: Bundling smaller initiatives into landscape-scale portfolios reduces costs while maintaining environmental and social standards. Country-led blended funds co-governed by finance and environment ministries can standardize due-diligence and generate transparent pipelines of multi-benefit projects.

- **Market integrity and standards**: Investor confidence depends on credible measurement and disclosure. Local MRV systems that are interoperable with international standards ensure verified, comparable outcomes. Transparent reporting of co-benefits and social safeguards reduces reputational risk, prevents "greenwashing" and builds trust for longer-term private finance.

- **Financial literacy and capacity-building**: Domestic institutions lack expertise to evaluate nature-related risks and multi-benefit returns. Training development banks, pension funds and regulators through South-South exchange supports integrated, blended-finance models.

- **Technology as an enabler**: Standardized, verifiable biodiversity and ecosystem metrics improve transparency, reduce investment risk and attract capital at scale to address climate, biodiversity and land restoration goals. For example, Oxford's LEON (Leveraging Earth Observation for Nature Finance), funded by the European Space Agency and involving over 40 financial institutions, uses satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to identify and unlock new financing strategies for nature, including sovereign finance.

3.4 Enabling conditions for synergistic finance

Scaling integrated finance depends on predictable policy, institutional coordination and reliable data. Essential enablers include:

- **Policy stability and regulatory clarity**: Long-term policy signals and coherent national financing strategies are prerequisites for private engagement. Immediate levers to improve policy coherence include clear taxonomies, removal of harmful subsidies and embedding nature-related conditions in public procurement.

Funded by the Green Climate Fund, a UNEP project in Gambia is creating economic opportunities for communities by harnessing the power of nature and restoring over 30,000 hectares of degraded ecosystems. Photo credit: UNEP/Lisa Murray.

- **Institutional capacity and coordination**: Finance and planning ministries need tools to value synergistic investments. Cross-ministerial financing committees can align budget processes with Rio Convention targets, and collaboration with development banks and line ministries translates policy ambition into bankable pipelines.

- **Data infrastructure and transparency**: Robust data systems underpin credibility. Integrated MRV frameworks and accounting based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework enable consistent tracking of climate, biodiversity and land outcomes. A best practice example is Colombia's finance-tracking platform.

- **Inclusive governance and social safeguards**: Involving civil society, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in fund design contributes to legitimacy and equitable benefit-sharing.

- **Narrative and market perception**: Framing synergistic investments as core strategies for economic resilience, competitiveness and well-being attracts broader capital pools.

3.5 Summary of actionable next steps

Advancing synergistic finance will require coordinated efforts:

- **National authorities**: Link Rio Convention targets to fiscal frameworks, integrating synergy tagging into budgets and establishing cross-ministry financing committees.

- **International funds and donors**: Support joint programmatic calls, flexible country-led platforms and harmonized verification standards.

- **Private investors**: Scale through portfolio aggregation, apply integrity standards and disclose nature-related risks.

- **UN system and Joint Liaison Group partners**: Provide technical support and standardized reporting and sustain dialogue between the finance and environment communities.

Coordinated public-private action can turn fragmented flows into coherent, country-led investment systems that deliver simultaneously for climate, biodiversity and land.

Case Study 3: Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) initiative in Rwanda

The **ELD Initiative**, with Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Bonn, showed that coordinated implementation of Rio Convention objectives reduces costs and boosts impact. Using a Total Economic Value framework, integrated land restoration planning was found to cut transaction costs by 56 per cent, saving around US$45.6 million annually. The initiative recommended joint planning, fund mobilization, and monitoring and research platforms to align national LDN, NBSAP and NDC targets. This led to the creation of a National Coordination Committee and informed Rwanda's new National Agriculture Strategy, embedding synergy principles into domestic policy and budgeting.

Key takeaway: Economic valuation demonstrates the cost savings of integrated implementation, strengthening the case for joint financing and cross-sector coordination.

4 Monitoring and Reporting

The three Rio Conventions have different reporting requirements, timelines and indicators. Harmonizing indicators and data collection across all three conventions can increase efficiency, reduce duplication and lower administrative burdens. Integrated monitoring saves financial, human and technological resources; enhances sharing of data and information; and minimizes the need to develop multiple tools and processes. Even partial alignment of indicators and harmonized reporting strengthens coherence and accountability and reduces duplication of work.

The dialogues highlighted several challenges limiting coherent monitoring and reporting:

- **Local level**: Diverse indicators and methodologies may hinder aggregation into national reporting. Many subnational actors lack access to technology, stable platforms and/or data management capacity.
- **National level**: Coordination across ministries and sectors can be weak. Sectoral monitoring systems (e.g. forestry vs. grasslands) increase duplication and siloed data.
- **Policy integration**: Monitoring is rarely used to inform decision-making or policy design.
- **Data ownership and institutional mandates**: Unclear responsibilities reduce data sharing and integration across conventions.
- **Financing**: Tracking funds that deliver all outcomes across the Rio Conventions is challenging. Co-benefits often go unrecorded, and private or harmful investments are poorly captured.

4.1 Enablers of coherent monitoring

The following strategies were identified as ways to facilitate coherent monitoring and reporting and synergistic implementation of the three Rio Conventions:

- **Institutional coordination**: A whole-of-government approach engages all ministries that are collecting relevant data. Ministries and convention Focal Points can standardize data collection, storage and management. Cross-convention working groups can be established to identify opportunities for further harmonization.

- **Local integration**: National monitoring systems should incorporate subnational data. Low-capacity regions and actors must be supported to ensure they are able to contribute to global monitoring frameworks.

- **Sectoral alignment**: Data from water, forest, rangelands, agriculture and finance sectors can serve all three Rio Conventions. Shared taxonomies and joint field monitoring enable integrated monitoring. Thematic issues like nature-based solutions and food systems can link the conventions through soil health and sustainable production.

- **National data repositories**: Centralized platforms facilitate "collect once, use many times," with data-sharing agreements developed with civil society (including Indigenous Peoples and local communities) and different levels of government.

- **Harmonized analytical frameworks**: Using a single tool (e.g. DaRT) and unified indicators streamlines reporting. Integrated MRV systems improve transparency and accountability for public and private finance. For example, Colombia's platform integrates public, private and international finance data across climate, biodiversity and land restoration.

- **Policy feedback**: Monitoring outputs should feed into policy cycles, supporting adaptive management and guiding implementation.

Case Study 4: Wildlife recovery as a synergy Indicator

Long-term monitoring of sea otter populations along the North Pacific coast illustrates how biodiversity recovery can serve as a measurable climate-land-ecosystem indicator. After decades of decline, population restoration in key coastal zones has increased kelp forest density, carbon sequestration and coastal resilience to erosion. The programme integrates ecological surveys, satellite imaging and carbon-flux measurements within a single reporting framework, linking wildlife data to ecosystem-service metrics used for national climate inventories and biodiversity assessments. This coherence allows policymakers to demonstrate multiple benefits—carbon storage, habitat recovery and community protection—through one monitoring system.

Key takeaway: Integrated ecosystem-based monitoring frameworks translate species and habitat recovery into quantifiable indicators of climate–biodiversity–land synergy.

5 Way Forward

The Dialogue Series underpinning this white paper reaffirms a shared understanding: achieving coherence across the climate, biodiversity and land agendas is a necessity, not an aspiration. Fragmented approaches reduce efficiency, raise costs and limit countries' ability to meet international commitments. The experiences shared here show that the tools, partnerships and political momentum needed for synergistic implementation are slowly taking shape, despite residual resistance to change.

The emerging transition from fragmented planning and financing to integrated systems of delivery represents more than administrative reform. It signals a deeper shift in how development is perceived. Integrated planning, country-led financing platforms and interoperable monitoring systems are redefining environmental goals as levers for economic resilience, fiscal stability and social inclusion. Coherence is not about creating new structures but aligning existing ones around shared priorities and evidence-based decisions.

Stakeholders emphasized that this shift requires vision, persistence and leadership that bridges ministries and mandates. It relies on institutional cultures that reward collaboration, on technical systems that make data accessible, and on trust across agencies and financial flows. Confronting difficult questions—around *double counting* leading to insufficient resources, overlapping mandates and data ownership—has been central to this process, allowing a realistic assessment of what it takes to move from coordination to coherence.

Examples in this paper—from integrated budget tagging and landscape-based planning to blended finance and interoperable monitoring—show that synergy is achievable across diverse contexts. Coherence strengthens the integrity of results and prevents policy and investment trade-offs, enabling a no-harm approach that safeguards both natural and human capital. Linking environmental priorities to fiscal and developmental outcomes turns synergy into a pathway to stability and competitiveness.

The priority now is to scale these lessons into systemic practice - embedding synergistic principles into national development strategies, budgets and monitoring systems. This demands sustained international cooperation, so that global processes support, rather than fragment, national efforts. The next phase should strengthen the enabling environment for coherence: institutional capacity, legal mandates, and transparent, interoperable data for adaptive management.

Ultimately, the value of synergy lies in its practicality. It helps governments do more with finite resources, design policies with multiple benefits, and measure progress with clarity and credibility. Integration may be complex, but it is attainable and indispensable. If the lessons become embedded in governance and finance, synergistic implementation can anchor a new era of environmental and developmental policy - delivering coherence in purpose, efficiency and integrity.

In conclusion, the next chapter of the Rio Conventions story must enable synergies across institutions, sectors and scales. Coherence must become the norm, not the exception. The Rio Synergies Stakeholder Dialogue Series has been a small impulse adding to the momentum to move from pilots to systemic practice. A collective effort from national governments, international partners and the UN system can turn this momentum into a durable architecture for action - where climate ambition, biodiversity stewardship and land restoration stand as interdependent pillars of a sustainable future.

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