GEF Global Program on Biodiversity Finance Plans PIR July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

UMBRELLA PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FINANCE PLANS
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

This progress report is launched as part of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded programme supporting the development of National Biodiversity Finance Plans (NBFPs) in 91 countries. The programme aims to bridge the estimated $700 billion annual global biodiversity financing gap by deploying the UNDP-developed Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) methodology. This approach aligns strategic financial planning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to catalyze systemic change and promote sustainable financing solutions.

Covering the reporting period from **1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**, this progress report serves to:
1.Track national progress toward project objectives;
2. Assess implementation performance, including timelines, financial management, stakeholder engagement, gender inclusion, and delivery of key outputs;
3. Identify and manage risks affecting implementation, along with mitigation measures;
4. Document lessons learned and share emerging practices across countries; and
5. Support adaptive management by reflecting on challenges and opportunities to optimize ongoing efforts.

This is a public document, and a consolidated version of the progress report will be shared with COs and PMUs at the end of the exercise in mid-September 2025. This ensures transparency, promotes shared learning, and reinforces collective ownership of results. This exercise also underscores our shared commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and knowledge exchange in the global pursuit of effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Data Privacy Statement

All information collected through this survey will be treated with strict confidentiality and used solely for evaluation and monitoring purposes. Participation in this survey is REQUIRED. By proceeding, you consent to the collection and use of your responses in accordance with applicable data protection regulations. Data collected will be stored securely and retained only for as long as necessary to fulfill the purpose of the survey. Access to this data will be limited to authorized personnel. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your data privacy rights, please contact Kamille Rosales (kamile.rosales@undp.org). *

- (●) Agree
- ( ) Disagree

Country / Respondent Profile

Country *

Serbia

Full Name *

Zorica Korac

Office/Designation *

UNDP Serbia

Gender *

Woman

Role in GBFP Project *

project lead

Email Address *

zorica.korac@undp.org

Procurement and Recruitment

Project team recruitment status
Not Started – Position not yet advertised

Ongoing – Position advertised and recruitment process ongoing
Completed – Staff on board *

	Not Started	Ongoing	Completed
Project Coordinator	○	○	◉
Project Associate	○	○	◉

Project team recruitment status *

	NPSA	IPSA	Other
Project Coordinator	◉	○	○
Project Associate	◉	○	○

Contract arrangements of core staff *

	Full time with GBFP	Part-time / Shared with other projects
Project Coordinator	○	◉
Project Associate	○	◉

Have you experienced any recruitment challenges? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Status of Consultant Procurement
Not Started – Position not yet advertised
Ongoing – Position advertised and recruitment process ongoing
Completed – Staff on board
*

	Not Started	Ongoing	Completed
Sustainable Finance Expert (BFP Writing/ Lead Technical Consultant)	○	○	◉
Environmental Policy Specialist (PIR)	○	○	◉
Biodiversity Finance Specialist (BER and FNA)	○	○	◉

Procurement of other consultants: If you have other consultants being procured (firms, etc), please specify the consultancy and indicate its current status. If none, please put N/A. *

Engaged additional assistance (one IC) to the financial experts for helping in collection and processing of BER data, contracted.

Has the project experienced any procurement challenges during the reporting period, which may risk the completion of any critical activity within the approved project duration? Please click all that apply.
*

- ☐ Delays in the planned initiation of key procurement processes
- ☐ Capacity gaps to develop technical requirements (TORs/specifications)
- ☐ Procurement capacity gaps
- ☑ None or very limited market response to tenders issued, evaluation delays, rejections/delays on reviews by procurement oversight committees,

- [ ] Protests/complaints logged by bidders
- [ ] Incapacity of contractors to deliver on contractual terms
- [ ] Weak contract management
- [ ] Weak operational and/or maintenance plans developed
- [ ] Intellectual property rights issues
- [ ] Other

Nature Pledge

A new Nature Pledge Reporting Section was introduced as part of PIR's for GEF projects. This is a significant step forward in showcasing our collective contribution toward halting and reversing nature loss, while aligning with global mandates. The Nature Pledge reporting section will support the following:

o Enable UNDP to present a unified, credible, and evidence-based contribution towards the Nature Pledge and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
o Strengthen our portfolio-level narrative to donors, the GEF Secretariat, and global platforms (Tri-COPs, GEF Assembly, UNDP Strategic Plan reporting etc.).
o Helps move beyond isolated project achievements- and rather identify opportunities for coherence and scale- by curating system-wide contributions to Nature-positive, climate-resilient, and sustainable development.

Has your country implemented its biodiversity finance plan and/or specific finance solutions? *

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

Has the country completed an assessment on nature harmful subsidies? *

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

Has the project supported the mainstreaming of nature and biodiversity finance into national development plans, spatial and sectoral plans, and related gender strategies? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Development Objectives Progress

Current Status of Component Reports.
Some countries may also be involved in the implementation of the GEF 7 Global Biodiversity Framework- Enabling Action Support (GBF-EAS) Project. Some work may have been done under component 4 of the said project; please consider that when answering below. *

	Not Started	In Progress WITHOUT draft	In Progress WITH draft	Completed
Policy and Institutional Review	○	○	◉	○
Assessment on Harmful Subsidies	○	○	◉	○
Biodiversity Expenditure Review	○	◉	○	○
Finance Needs Assessment	◉	○	○	○
Biodiversity Finance Plan	◉	○	○	○

All reports that are "in progress" and "completed" are **REQUIRED** to have evidence. Please upload the draft and/or completed reports in your country folder in this format: COUNTRY_Document_Description (BAHRAIN_PIR_draft report) and put the link here. If "no progress" and "in progress without draft", please put N/A.
https://bit.ly/PIREvidence *

Draft PIR
https://undp.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/GEF8_BIOFIN/Shared%20Documents/07%20Project%20Implementation%20Report/2025%20Evidence%20per%20country/Serbia/SERBIA_Draft%20PIR.docx?d=we82d9ac0948447e48dacceebf4cfd5fa&csf=1&web=1&e=HE5hpL

Draft assessment of subsidies
https://undp.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/GEF8_BIOFIN/Shared%20Documents/07%20Project%20Implementation%20Report/2025%20Evidence%20per%20country/Serbia/SERBIA_Draft_Assessment%20of%20Positive%20and%20Negative%20Incentives%20for%20Biodiversity.docx?d=wa587d2acfb8c479bbe4ab153ba588f00&csf=1&web=1&e=PxeQHH

Have you experienced any challenges in the implementation of the project's components and activities in compliance with the project's approved implementation/work plan? *

- [x] Lack of support from the Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- [x] Lack of support from the Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- [ ] Insufficient human resources, high staff turnover, or lack of expertise in biodiversity finance
- [ ] Weak information systems or a lack of disaggregated financial and biodiversity data
- [ ] Fragmented collaboration among government agencies, civil society, and the private sector
- [ ] Limited uptake of recommendations
- [ ] Capacity building
- [ ] Other

Please provide more information based on your response to the question above. *

Due to elections and forming of the new Government in the first quarter of 2025, we had delay in kickstarting the activities. However, obstacle was removed with formal appointments of two Ministries' focal points, and stakeholder workshop was organized by end-May 2025.

Are there any enabling factors that helped you achieve your outputs that you want to highlight? *

- [x] Elevated political will and recognition of the national biodiversity agenda

- [x] Elevated political will and recognition of the global biodiversity agenda
- [ ] Leadership from MoE to work on biodiversity finance
- [ ] Leadership from MoF to work on biodiversity finance
- [x] Effective technical support received from Global Technical Teams
- [ ] Other

Please provide more information based on your response to the question above. *

Ministry of Environmental Protection is currently drafting the new National Nature Protection Program (which is a parallel to the national biodiversity strategy), and is aligning it with the global biodiversity agenda. Ministry recognized that BIOFIN process fits well within this process, and it will contribute to the formulation of the Program. Global Technical Team has been successfully guiding our local team in all steps so far.

Please upload any relevant reports in your country folder in this format: COUNTRY_Document_Description and put the link here. If none, please put N/A. https://bit.ly/PIREvidence *

https://undp.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/GEF8_BIOFIN/Shared%20Documents/07%20Project%20Implementation%20Report/2025%20Evidence%20per%20country/Serbia/SERBIA_Draft%20Inception%20report.docx?d=w021f0b552bff490aafa7ddf8ef8576f0&csf=1&web=1&e=LZxbJS

Project Governance

Has the project established a steering committee led by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Finance and/or any other ministry or equivalent Government Agencies? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Indicate the **dates** of the project board meetings and upload the **minutes of the meetings** in your country folder in this format: **COUNTRY_Document_Description** and put the link here. https://bit.ly/PIREvidence *

UNDP organized a kick off BIOFIN meeting with representatives of Ministry of Environmental Protect

Has project oversight been exercised effectively via the Project Board meetings during this reporting period? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please briefly expand your response to the previous question. *

Assigned focal points from two Ministries have followed project activities. Expert team consulted two Ministries throughout the analysis development. Jelena Ducic, head of the Biodiversity Department at the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), also participated in the stakeholder consultations, and arranged follow up meetings with the MEP's finance department that provided information needed for PIR and BER analysis.

Beneficiary Tracking, Gender, Stakeholder Engagement, and Social and Environmental Standard

The project document encourages the project to positively impact beneficiaries in your country. We recognize the challenge in validating this outcome on a national scale and invite you to suggest a more accurate number of beneficiaries.

This project aims to engage a diverse set of stakeholders in capacity-building activities. The project results framework aims for each country to reach at least 1,000 per country accessing technical support and capacity building activities (i.e., in person and virtually). Disaggregated by gender, the aim is for 50% of these beneficiaries to be women. Beneficiaries can include those attending webinars, trainings, workshops, meetings, and accessing technical tools. Stakeholders engaged through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches could be recorded.

How many **MALES** have participated in trainings, workshops, and capacity-building activities related to biodiversity finance activities? *

18

How many **FEMALES** have participated in trainings, workshops, and capacity-building activities related to biodiversity finance activities? *

19

What specific initiatives has your country implemented to ensure women's participation/engagement in biodiversity finance activities *

We've build on the initiatives implemented under parallel projects that we're running, in particular Gr

Select all the stakeholders that have been involved in the project implementation process (please select all that apply): *

- [ ] National focal points for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- [x] National focal points for the UN Convention to Convention on Biological Diversity
- [ ] National focal points for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- [ ] National focal points for other related conventions
- [x] National government ministries, outside of the Ministry of Environment or equivalent
- [x] Subnational governments
- [ ] Indigenous Peoples
- [x] Local community organizations
- [x] Research and academic bodies
- [x] Sectors that directly impact biodiversity: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, mining, energy, transport, manufacturing
- [x] Sectors that indirectly impact biodiversity: planning, finance, health, education, and poverty reduction sectors

- [x] Environmental management bodies
- [x] Non-profit and non-governmental organizations
- [ ] Women's organizations
- [x] Civil society
- [x] Academic institutions (e.g. Universities, Research and academic entities, Colleges...)
- [ ] Sustainable development and poverty eradication groups
- [x] Youth Organizations/ Youth-led Non-Profit Organizations, Youth groups (e.g. Schools, Universities, Student-led advocacy groups...)
- [x] Private sector representative
- [ ] Other

If your country faced challenges in ensuring meaningful participation and engagement of diverse stakeholders (e.g. civil society, private sector, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women's groups, youth) in the project, please select which: *

- [ ] Lack of established mechanisms or platforms for stakeholder participation
- [ ] Limited capacity of key stakeholder groups to effectively engage
- [ ] Inadequate financial resources for stakeholder engagement processes
- [ ] Inadequate human resources for stakeholder engagement processes
- [x] Difficulty securing high-level political support and cross-sectoral leadership
- [ ] Legal, institutional, or cultural barriers to engagement of certain groups
- [ ] Unable to determine the primary challenge at this stage
- [ ] Physical accessibility constraints in accessing stakeholder groups
- [ ] Language constraints

- [ ] Other

Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Have any minor amendments been made to the project design or implementation that do not significantly affect the project's objectives, outcomes, or scope? If no, choose others and put **N/A**. If yes, please tick the relevant option(s) below: *

- [ ] Results Framework
- [ ] Components and cost
- [ ] Institutional and implementation arrangements
- [ ] Financial management
- [ ] Implementation schedule
- [ ] Executing Entity
- [ ] Executing Entity Category
- [ ] Minor project objective change
- [ ] Safeguards
- [ ] Risk Analysis
- [ ] Location of project activity
- [x] N/A

Please upload **any relevant supporting documents** in your country folder in this format: **COUNTRY_Document_Description,** and put the link here. If none, please put N/A. https://bit.ly/PIREvidence *

N/A

Knowledge Management & Communications

Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: social media posts, media coverage, etc.) If possible, for content written by UNDP please add the author's name plus UNDP office (CO, RB, BERA, etc.) *

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7345747163315892225
https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSerbia/posts/pfbid02Tw5GSdhrBAqcx6Tj4pNbgKjE976B2fW17ebfKnaqThHa6fcqK8EmSjAY3tw4tyqrl

Please upload **any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials** in your country folder in this format: **COUNTRY_Document_Description,** and put the link here. If none, please put N/A. https://bit.ly/PIREvidence *

https://undp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/GEF8_BIOFIN/Shared%20Documents/07%20Project%20Implementation%20Report/2025%20Evidence%20per%20country/Serbia/SERBIA_Photos%20Stakeholder%20Workshop?csf=1&web=1&e=Y2KwWd
https://undp.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/GEF8_BIOFIN/Shared%20Documents/07%20Project%20Implementation%20Report/2025%20Evidence%20per%20country/Serbia/SERBIA_Roll%20up_200x100cm_press.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=2bfuvX

Overall Comments and Assessment

Looking back at the project implementation to date, how would you assess its overall performance and impact? Please share any final observations, suggestions, or additional comments *

Overall progress is satisfactory. Methodology is proving to be very helpful, as well as the assistance and support from the global team. Analyses (PIR, BER) that are in progress are a pioneering work. Data collection requires overcoming the obstacles related to lack of budget tagging that would allow straightforward attribution of funds allocations. This is also indicating the needs for improving the budgeting system, and it's a learning process for both Ministries as well. In that sense, impact is being created throughout the process. The biggest impact is of course expected, once the results of analysis are final, and we're create solutions that will enable positive changes.

Microsoft 365

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