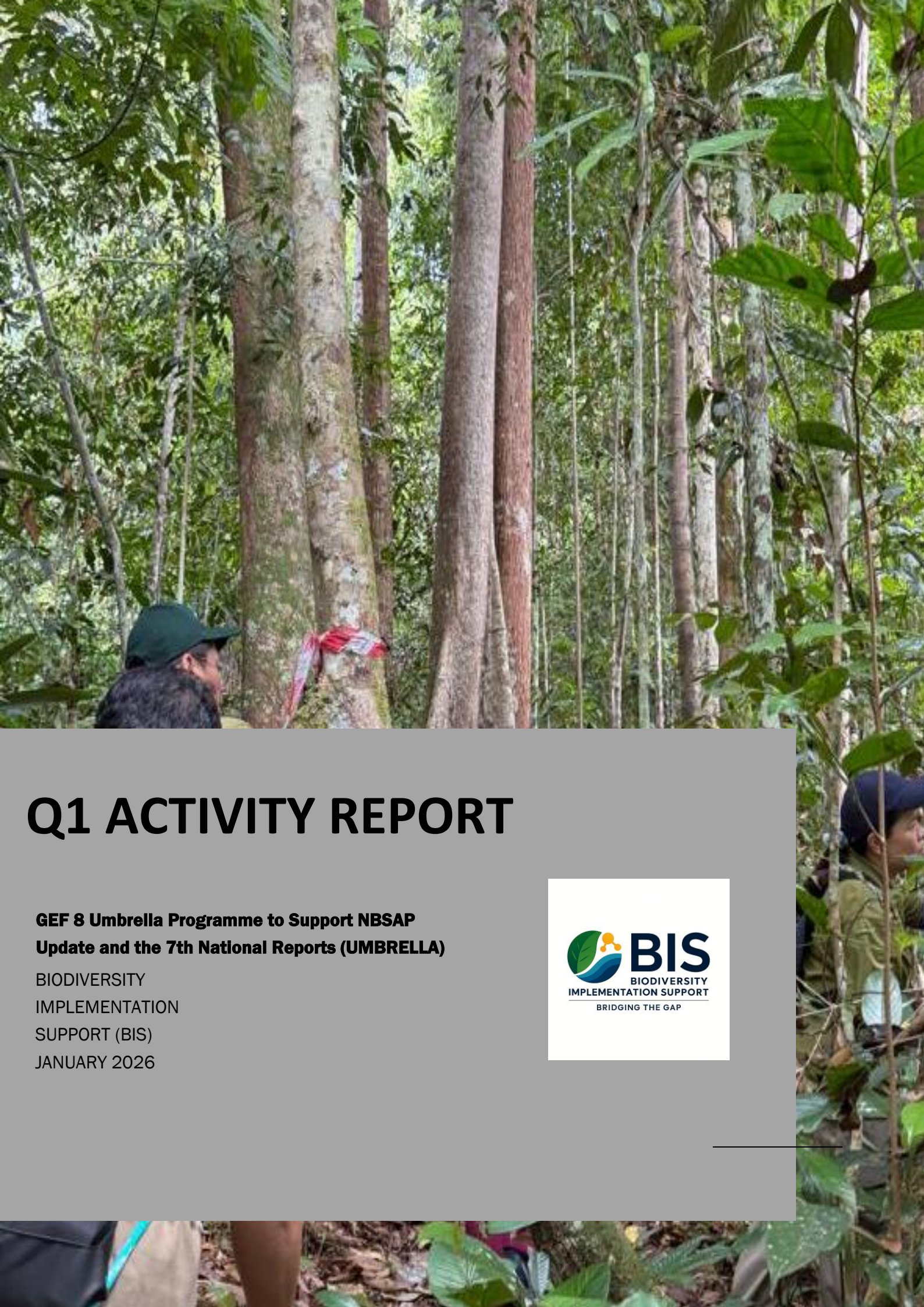


Q1 ACTIVITY REPORT

GEF 8 Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports (UMBRELLA)

BIODIVERSITY IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT (BIS)

JANUARY 2026

1. Project Details

Project Title	GEF 8 Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports (UMBRELLA)
Project Number	01002595
Implementing Agency	UNDP
Start Date	15 May 2024
End Date (based on ProDoc)	15 November 2027
Gender Marker	There's no gender rating data available for the project
Total Project Resources, $ (including co-financing)	USD 463,547.00
% utilization (in $)	USD 343, 943.61 budget balance USD 119,603.39
LPAC Date	29 Feb 2024

Project Description

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the national level. The Government of Malaysia, in expressing its own commitment towards biodiversity, has updated its own NBSAPs in the form of the National Biological Diversity Policy 2016 – 2030 (NPBD) to align with current challenges and the latest targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that were adopted at the CBD's 15th Convention of Parties in Montreal in December 2022. To further Malaysia's commitment, the NPBD is ready for implementation and be mainstreamed to all levels of government, sectors and stakeholders.

The GEF-8 'Umbrella Programme to support NBSAP Update and Seventh National Reports' is a Party-led effort funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to continue the process of updating NBSAPs and undertake reporting on implementation of the GBF. This programme provides financial and technical support to 139 developing countries, small island developing states and economies in transition in their work to update NBSAPs in alignment with the GBF and prepare and submit Seventh National Reports to the CBD. Malaysia is one of the countries receiving these funds and is supported by UNDP to implement the programme.

Additionally, financial packages from two other GEF enabling activities will help build the programme - the 'GEF Early Action Support project' and the 'GEF 8 Umbrella Programme on support development of Biodiversity Finance Plans (BDFP).' The support provided through this programme also aims to assist countries in fostering cooperation and coordination among different sectors and stakeholders, including, and not limited to, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, to ensure their effective participation in and contribution to nationally led NBSAP revision and reporting process.

Pursuant to CBD Decision 15/6, countries committed to submit their updated NBSAPs in line with the GBF. Under Component 1 of the GEF-8 Umbrella Programme, Malaysia is undertaking the following national activities to make progress towards implementing the NBSAP (NPBD):

1.1 Implementing comprehensive NPBD stakeholder engagement to promote whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches

1.2 Enabling gender consideration within consultation processes and within the NPBD

1.3 Identifying and prioritizing gaps and inconsistencies between the NPBD and achieving the GBF 1.4 Strengthening policy alignment, coherence, and biodiversity mainstreaming into key sectors 1.5 Strengthening readiness for NPBD implementation, including potential environmental and social impacts and risks 1.6 Undertaking as needed integrated spatial planning for the NPBD 1.7 Developing, as needed, action plans to support the NPBD 1.8 Undertaking, as needed, planning processes for capacity development, resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation

2. Activity Project Q1 2025

2.1 Summary of Key Achievements

The Biodiversity Implementation Support Unit (BIS) continued its institutional establishment under the UMBRELLA Programme following the completion of the GBF-EAS Programme. Under the new programme, the approved structure for BIS has been expanded to five personnel, compared to three under the previous programme. This expansion reflects lessons learnt from the GBF-EAS Programme which highlighted the need for additional manpower to manage an expanding portfolio of work and a wide range of stakeholders.

Under the approved structure, one National Technical Specialist is supported by two National Technical Coordinators and two Technical Associates to manage the day-to-day operations of the unit. Due to unforeseen technical and administrative challenges, the recruitment and reporting dates of BIS personnel were staggered. This resulted in delays in the preparation and coordination of the initial workplan.

The National Technical Specialist reported for duty on 10 September 2025, followed by National Technical Coordinator I on 4 December 2025 and National Technical Coordinator II on 5 January 2026. As of the date of this report, the two Technical Associate positions have yet to be filled and remain subject to the ongoing selection process.

Key Deliverables for the Report 1 period were as follows:

Deliverable 1&2: (Output 1.1 and 2.1 National Technical Specialist) and (Output 1.1 and 2.1 National Technical Coordinator):
Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan has been developed by the National Technical Specialist for the Biodiversity Implementation Support (BIS) Unit under the

Global Umbrella Programme Component 1. The plan provides a structured framework to engage diverse stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and mainstreaming of the National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD) 2022-2030 while ensuring coherence with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This document represents a preliminary version of the plan. A more comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan was then developed with the active involvement of BIS team members the two National Technical Coordinators reported for duty. The comprehensive version expands on technical annexes, detailed methodologies and case studies ensuring long-term institutionalisation and sustainability of stakeholder engagement for the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2022-2030

Deliverable 3: (Output 3.1 National Technical Specialist)
A Guiding Framework for the Development of a National Gender Analysis on Biodiversity with the aim to Integrate Gender Consideration into the National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD) 2022–2030 was developed. The guiding document has been prepared to support the development of a National Gender Analysis on Biodiversity with the objective of identifying gaps, priorities and practical entry points for integrating gender considerations into NPBD implementation. The document serves as a preparatory and directional document, outlining proposed subjects, analytical themes and engagement activities that will inform a comprehensive gender gap analysis to be undertaken at a later stage. The framework draws conceptually from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Gender Plan of Action (GPA) 2023–2030 and adapts its principles to Malaysia's national circumstances, governance structure and socio-cultural context. It is not intended as a reporting instrument but rather as a roadmap for structured engagement, learning and substance generation to the full analysis undertaken by BIS approximately by end of Q2 2026.

Deliverable 4: (Output 5.1 National Technical Specialist)
An Annual Work Plan for Addressing Gaps and Inconsistency to Achieve the NPBD 2022-2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was developed to sets out the operational direction for the Biodiversity Implementation Support (BIS) Unit to strengthen implementation of the National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD) 2022–2030 in line with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). It responds to the need for systematic identification and resolution of policy and data gaps that hinder effective national delivery of biodiversity targets.

The 2026 AWP is a living management tool that links planning with evidence-based monitoring and feedback. It identifies eight strategic themes for action:
1. Policy Coherence and Coordination
2. Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Sectors
3. Monitoring, Reporting and Knowledge Management
4. Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)
5. Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening
6. Financing and Resource Mobilisation
7. State Government Engagement and Localisation
8. Reporting and Evaluation

The work plan serves three primary purposes: (1) to translate national biodiversity targets into measurable outputs and responsibilities; (2) to improve policy and data consistency across government and stakeholders; and (3) to strengthen monitoring mechanisms that connect local implementation to national and global reporting requirements.

Deliverable 5: (Output 4.1 National Technical Specialist)
Gap Analysis Report for the NPBD 2022-2030 Online Monitoring System Development and Challenges was prepared. This report presents a consolidated analysis of the gaps and inconsistencies identified in the implementation of the National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD) 2022–2030 and the associated NPBD Online Monitoring System (BioDTrack). It brings together observations raised by federal and state agencies, technical partners and the system vendor engaged for the development of BioDTrack.

Gaps and inconsistencies were identified through a combination of qualitative and technical approaches including stakeholder engagement sessions, vendor inception and technical clarification meeting, documents review and internal BIS consolidation.

Mainstreaming the Stakeholders

No	Sessions	Date
1	ASEAN Youth Leaders for Inclusion in Nature and Environment. Kuching, Sarawak. (Mainstreaming and facilitating young leaders to understand more on biodiversity governance, current issues and related initiatives)	14th -19th Sept 2025
2	University Malaya Science Fiesta, Biodiversity Talk. Kuala Lumpur. (Mainstreaming biodiversity and policy to research and academic community)	15th Oct 2025
3	Yayasan Sime Darby National Hornbill Day. Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. (Supporting the research and philanthropy stakeholders in species conservation)	10th Nov 2025
4	Forum Kebangsaan Pengukuhan Tadbir Urus Kawasan Perlindungan Marin (MPA) di Malaysia anjuran DOF. Putrajaya (Panel for topic: MPA framework and national PA governance; and Ecological Fiscal Transfer for Biodiversity Conservation, EFT)	13th Nov 2025
5	Bengkel Penubuhan Jawatankuasa Pemuliharaan Negeri Johor anjuran Kerajaan negeri melalui Perbadanan Taman Negara Johor. Johor Bahru, Johor. (Presenting on policy governance, adoption of national policy at state level and EFT. Also discussing on the establishment of the proposed Jawatankuasa Pemuliharaan Negeri Johor)	21st – 22nd Nov 2025

Technical Facilitation

i) Providing technical input for the delegation substance preparation and intervention notes for Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice SBSTTA.
ii) Members of and facilitating the organising for the Technical and Steering Committee on the NPBD 2022-2030 Baseline study.
iii) Steering Committee for the Youth Environment Living Lab (YELL) Programme.

iv) Steering Committee for Program DOF Bersama Yayasan Petronas bagi Pemetaan Rumput Laut dan Aktiviti Kemasyarakatan.

v) Five meetings and discussion sessions on the development of Online Monitoring Tools to track the NPBD 2022-2030 progress.

vi) Technical facilitation on the stakeholder engagement sessions, data gathering, data validation and relevant facilitation for the preparation of the 7th National Report to CBD. Including 22 engagement sessions with the whole segment of stakeholders.

2.2 Overall Challenges

a) The staggered recruitment and delayed onboarding of BIS personnel posed a significant challenge during the initial phase of programme implementation. While the approved BIS structure was expanded to five personnel in response to lessons learnt from the GBF-EAS Programme, unforeseen technical and administrative issues resulted in delays in filling key positions, particularly the two National Technical Coordinators and the two Technical Associate roles. As a result, early workplan development, coordination of stakeholder engagements and internal consolidation of technical outputs had to be undertaken with limited human resources. This placed additional operational pressure on the National Technical Specialist and the two National Technical Coordinators upon their reporting for duty, requiring prioritisation of critical deliverables and sequencing of activities.

b) The preparation of Malaysia's Seventh National Report (7NR) to the Convention on Biological Diversity presents a significant coordination and time-bound challenge. The role of the Biodiversity Implementation Support (BIS) Unit in this process is primarily technical input, facilitation and coordination including supporting stakeholder consultations, data gathering and validation, consolidation of inputs and alignment of national reporting content with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The reporting process is being undertaken together with the appointed consultants within a very tight timeline, with the official submission deadline set for 28 February, leaving limited flexibility for iterative consultations, data refinement and technical validation. This challenge is further compounded by the requirement for Cabinet consideration and approval prior to submission which necessitates early finalisation of the report content and adds an additional layer of coordination and scheduling risk. The Policy and Multilateral Unit of BPBP, together with the 7th National Report Consultant team, has demonstrated strong coordination and commitment in ensuring effective stakeholder engagement and adherence to key reporting milestones. Given the breadth of stakeholders involved, uneven data availability and varying reporting capacities across sectors and governance levels, sustained technical facilitation by BIS and strong inter-agency collaboration are critical to ensuring that the 7NR is completed on time, meets CBD reporting requirements and accurately reflects Malaysia's progress and challenges in implementing the NPBD and GBF.

c) The NPBD Online Monitoring System (BioDTrack) was initially conceptualised to facilitate structured data collection and consolidation for the preparation of the 7NR, while also serving as a longer-term monitoring and reporting tool for NPBD implementation. However, due to technical, administrative and procurement constraints, the appointment of the system vendor could only be finalised in late

October 2025, significantly limiting the system's readiness within the 7NR reporting timeframe. As a result, the system was unable to be ready to support data collection for the 7NR. In addition, the vendor's limited initial understanding of the NPBD 2022–2030 and its policy architecture contributed to slower early progress, necessitating more intensive and carefully sequenced technical briefings and trainings by BIS to ensure accurate translation of policy requirements into system design. Further challenges arose in scheduling key system milestones, including the Business Requirements Specification (BRS) as these processes had to be conducted concurrently with intensive 7NR stakeholder consultation activities. Balancing these parallel demands placed additional coordination pressure on BIS and constrained the ability to fully leverage the monitoring system during the reporting period.

d) The initiation of the NPBD baseline study was delayed due to extended discussions and multiple rounds of adjustments to the agreement between Petronas as the funder and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) as the implementing partner. These discussions were necessary to ensure alignment on scope, roles, deliverables, governance arrangements and financial modalities. While these adjustments were important to strengthen the robustness and accountability of the study, they resulted in a delayed start to baseline data collection and analysis. This delay has implications for the timing of baseline establishment in relation to NPBD implementation and GBF reporting as ideally it shall be used in the 7th NR reporting.

SESSIONS WITH YOUTH LEADERS





SESSIONS WITH ACADEMICS & RESEARCH COMMUNITY





NPBD ONLINE MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT





FEDERAL & STATE AGENCIES ENGAGEMENT





7th NATIONAL REPORT PREPARATION TO CBD








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This report was prepared by the Biodiversity Implementation Support Unit
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