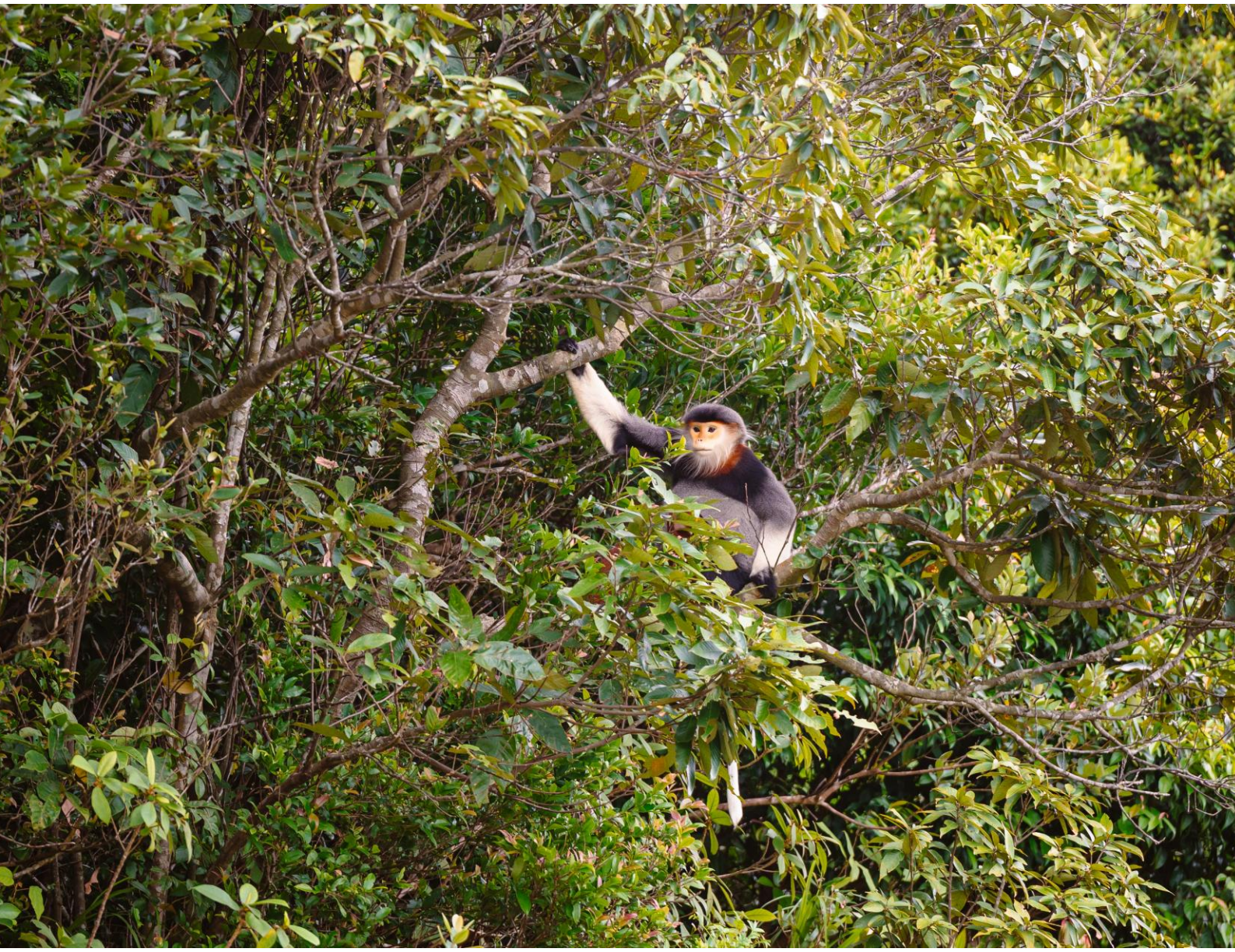
3. M&E during reporting

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

Country Results Report

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (**BIOFIN**) programme in **VIET NAM**
REPORTING PERIOD: January to December 2025

19 December 2025



BIOFIN COUNTRY PROGRAMME

W: https://www.biofin.org/index.php/viet-nam

BIOFIN
The Biodiversity Finance Initiative

BIOFIN COUNTRY PROGRAMME PROFILE
Country: Viet Nam

Geographic coverage[1]: country-wide, with site-specific projects in the following sub-national geographic areas: Lam Dong, Dak Lak province.

Programme period (as funded by Phase II/Phase II Extended funds): Jan 2021 – Dec 2030

Budget (from Phase II/Phase II Extended funds): 750,000 USD (GER – until Dec 2030) and newly allocated fund of 450,000 USD from NORAD (2024-2026). **Total: 1,200,000 USD**.

Alignment with UNDP country programme strategic outcomes: Outcome 2 of UNDP Country Programme Document for Viet Nam 2022-2026 – People in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience building; promotion of circular economy; provision of clean and renewable energy; and sustainable management of natural resources.

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) programme team in Viet Nam would like to thank our partners for their support in making the implementation of BIOFIN in Viet Nam possible.

This report is collaboratively authored by members of the programme team, with support from the BIOFIN global programme management team.

Photo credits

Cover: A Red-shanked douc langur seen during the BIOFIN's Eurasia and Pacific Dialogue on Biodiversity Financing field trip, held in Viet Nam, in September 2025.

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[1] *Note: In mid-2025, Viet Nam undertook a broad institutional restructuring aimed at streamlining government functions and reducing overlaps. Key changes included the merger of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to form the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), the consolidation of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) under a unified MOF, among other ministries' mergers. In parallel, a major administrative reform reduced the number of provinces from 63 to 34, effective 1 July 2025, through a series of mergers. This CRR adopts the new arrangements of ministries, provincial authorities, and others with former structures indicated in brackets for clarity*

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Executive summary

Progress toward targeted results

Validated BFP (following the validation of a PIR, BER, and FNA)

Viet Nam's Biodiversity Finance Plan was validated on 11 June 2019.

An updated Financial Needs Assessment (FNA) for the implementation of the new NBSAP 2021 - 2030 was conducted during 2024 and finalized in early 2025. Notably from the report, the total financial need to deliver 7/14[2] Targets of the NBSAP by 2030 is **USD 4.4 billion**, while the **financial shortfall** is **USD 3.99 billion**, calculated as the difference between needs and projected funding for biodiversity.

BIOFIN also supported the development of a Resource Mobilization Plan for the NBSAP 2030 during 2024-2025. The Report highlights key opportunities like government commitment, growing private sector awareness, and international financial initiatives (e.g., green bonds, carbon credits). Challenges include limited financial mechanisms, competition for resources, and lack of transparent monitoring systems. The RMP proposes integrating private sector investments, green finance, and community engagement to bridge the financial gap. It emphasizes public-private partnerships, eco-tourism, and expanding payments for ecosystem services (PES) as solutions.

Finance Solution 1: Renovation of the Nature Museum at the Cuc Phuong National Park to improve visitor experiences and generate more visitors' fees for conservation.

BIOFIN II, following the Biodiversity Finance Plan's recommendations, proposed a strategic initiative for Cuc Phuong National Park. This involved implementing a visitor fee collection scheme by upgrading the Nature Museum and securing funds for renovations. The "Refurbishment plan" aimed to enhance visitor experiences and services. Post-upgrades, the park has been receiving 120,000 annual visitors, with a significant quarter exploring the Nature Museum, praised for its design.

Key achievements include securing 2.296 billion VND (about 94,000 USD) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) (previously the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

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[2] *The FNA 2024 reflects the estimated financial need from the state budget to achieve 7 out of 14 monitoring and evaluation targets of NBSAP 2030 over 2024-2030, covering targets on Area of terrestrial PAs; Area of marine & coastal PAs; Number of Ramsar sites; Number of Biosphere Reserves; Number of ASEAN Heritage Parks; Forest coverage rate; Number of collected/stored genetic resources & germplasm samples. The other targets are considered to serve as intermediate targets for the other "higher-level" targets (meaning that once the higher-level targets are achieved, these intermediate targets will naturally be met). Typically, the budget required to achieve these intermediate targets is already integrated into the budget allocated for achieving the higher-level targets. In addition, the estimation does not cover the achievement of other objectives set out in the NBSAP 2012-2030 that do not have corresponding monitoring and evaluation indicators.*

Development – MARD for this solution) for the museum's 2019–2020 renovation. The initiative also influenced policy, leading to the drafting of a circular on charge rates and mechanisms for fee collection at Forest resource museums tourism.

In the coming time, BIOFIN will explore the opportunity to work with Cuc Phuong NP and its affiliates to promote sustainable and user-friendly eco-tourism products/experience.

Finance Solution 2: Tourism fee system for Hon Cau Marine Protected Area, Lam Dong province (previously Binh Thuan)

The tourism fee system in Hon Cau MPA serves as a model for wider implementation across the Protected Area (PA) system, generating revenue for conservation and community-based ecotourism. Success in Hon Cau MPA could set a precedent for other MPAs, with future steps involving collaborative efforts for scheme approval, coupled with initiatives to boost PA visibility and tourist visitations.

With the support of BIOFIN, the Hon Cau tourism fee scheme was developed, submitted, and cleared by Binh Thuan Provincial People's Committee in 2021. The fee scheme is still subject to approval by now Lam Dong People's Council before it can be adopted.

During 2025, due to the administrative rearrangement in Vietnam, the review and promotion of the tourism fee for Hon Cau was stagnated. In 2026, BIOFIN plans to resume active discussion with local stakeholders to define more concrete way forward and support.

Finance Solution 3: Financial mechanism for sustainable co-management for fishery resources protection in Ham Thuan Nam, Lam Dong province (previously Binh Thuan)

This solution involves collaborating with community co-management groups in Ham Thuan Nam, Binh Thuan (now Lam Dong province), to boost revenues for conservation and support fishermen communities. During BIOFIN II, consultants engaged closely with local co-management groups, providing training in work and budget plan development. Notable achievements include mobilizing 69,825 USD for interventions like artificial reef installation, sustaining annual contributions of about 5,000 USD in three communes. Improved patrolling reduced illegal fishing, contributing to increased fisheries resources.

Going forward, BIOFIN will support a Provincial Scheme on Scaling up Co-management for Fishery Resource Protection in the now Lam Dong province.

During 2025, due to the administrative rearrangement in Vietnam, the review and promotion of provincial co-management plan for now Lam Dong province was stagnated. In 2026, BIOFIN plans to resume active discussion with local stakeholders to define more concrete way forward and support.

Finance Solution 4: New user fee system for coral protection in Hon Yen, Dak Lak province (previously Phu Yen province)

This solution involves collaborating with the Yen Island Tourism Cooperative in Phu Yen (now Dak Lak), Women's Unions in Phu Yen and An Hoa Hai to assess tourism capacity and propose a conservation-focused tourism fee and management mechanism. Since June 2022, seven community-based tours have showcased the island's coral reefs, fishing culture, and natural beauty, attracting thousands of visitors by 2025 via the Eco-Coop. This initiative has provided sustainable livelihoods for 80 locals, including former fishers, and established the Hon Yen Service and Ecology Cooperative, which achieved 3-star OCOP recognition for its quality and sustainability. By design, 15% of the tourism revenue is allocated to the cooperative fund for coral reef protection and community-led patrolling. Conservation efforts include patrolling, beach cleanups, and waste management, supported by a women-led club.

In 2026, BIOFIN seeks to secure the approval from the global team for the extension of the solution together with the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), the up-coming support by BIOFIN aims to enhance cooperative governance, build capacity, and consolidate the mechanism of 15% of tourism revenue to coral conservation while improving facilities and implementing targeted conservation measures.

Finance solution 5: Fishery Resource Protection Fee

The solution aims to establish a financing mechanism, directing fishing-related fees toward conservation. MARD (now MAE) has been tasked with formalizing the fishery resource protection fee scheme, aligning it with fisheries and financial management laws. Key outcomes involve a feasibility study and designing a mechanism, estimated to mobilize $12.7 million annually from fee revenues. The funds will support habitat rehabilitation, fisheries stock replenishment, monitoring, and community initiatives, ensuring well-funded conservation for marine ecosystem protection.

BIOFIN has finalized the preparation and is ready to present the fee proposal to the Ministry of Finance for review and issuance of a Circular on the fee. In 2025, the final review of the fee policy within the new MAE has been delayed. Further progress will be reported in the upcoming period.

Finance solution 6: Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Cu Lao Cham MPA

BIOFIN's support for a PES scheme in the Cu Lao Cham MPA ensures a robust, sustainable financing mechanism aligned with proven national policy frameworks under the LEP 2020 and Decree 08, following the successes of the policy on Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES). This will help address critical funding shortfalls for marine biodiversity

conservation. This PES model is expected to foster sustainable livelihoods through eco-tourism and tourism-related services, enhance enforcement, and fill recurring financing gaps—anchoring marine conservation in both ecological success and socioeconomic equity.

Finance Solution 7: Nature and Community-based Urban Eco-tourism on the Red River Bank

In collaboration with Think Playgrounds and Hanoi Architects Association, the solution introduces a structured eco-tourism model that reinvests revenue into local conservation and livelihoods. A phased benefit-sharing mechanism is designed to ensure equitable revenue distribution, with 70% - 90% of future earnings reinvested locally. Targeted training programs engage women, youth, and informal workers in ecotourism operation and biodiversity monitoring. This solution also informs policy development on green urban planning through collaboration with HealthBridge and the Ministry of Construction.

Other Results and Looking Ahead

The 11th EAPAC Regional Dialogues on Biodiversity Finance in Da Nang, Vietnam

Viet Nam's hosting of the 11th EAPAC Regional Dialogue on Biodiversity Finance in Da Nang in September 2025 under the BIOFIN framework convened 131 delegates from 46 BIOFIN countries, including ministers, senior officials, technical experts, and global partners, making it the largest convening of biodiversity finance practitioners in Europe, Asia, and the Pacific to date.

Importantly, cross-country examples highlighted the need to integrate biodiversity outcomes into mainstream public expenditures, including infrastructure, education, agriculture, and poverty reduction, alongside increased transparency and cooperation with the private sector.

Private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation

In 2025, UNDP/BIOFIN has actively promoted private sector engagement for biodiversity conservation through contributing to two major national-level platforms. At the Panel Discussion on Promoting Private Sector Engagement on Environment and Biodiversity Conservation to Advance ESG Compliance in Ha Noi, co-organised by IUCN and VBCSD/VCCI and the Vietnam Conservation Summit 2025 hosted by the Conservation Vietnam Fund. The events convened financial institutions, corporates, NGOs and government leaders to discuss strategic investment models, blended finance, biodiversity credits, digital crowdfunding and trust-fund mechanisms to mobilise domestic private finance for nature, reinforcing the shift from CSR to long-term, measurable biodiversity investments aligned with ESG commitments and national priorities.

New interventions in the making…

1. **Mobile Nature Education Centre – Nature on Wheels (NOW)**: BIOFIN is exploring to collaborate with Save Vietnam Wildlife (SVW) in developing a sustainable financing mechanism for the Mobile Nature Education Centre to ensure its long-term operation and replication. This includes establishing and running a social enterprise aimed at generating stable financial resources to be reinvested into conservation education. The enterprise will design, produce, and distribute innovative products linked to various nature educational campaigns such as the "Silent Forest" (colab between SVW and celebrity singer Ha Anh Tuan). Moreover, BIOFIN's engagement will help build an ecosystem of fundraising communication products and gifts, alongside launching media campaigns and fundraising events that attract broad societal participation. By securing diverse and resilient funding sources, this approach directly contributes to closing the biodiversity finance gap, supports Vietnam's efforts to curb illegal wildlife consumption through transformative education, and aligns with the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework. This FS will replace the Vietnam Green Passport (VGP), which due to the change in priorities by the Department of Forestry has been put on hold for the time being. Proposed timeline: 2025-2027

2. **Continue to promote biodiversity conservation awareness and support among the private sector and ESG adoption in Vietnam:** In 2026, BIOFIN will continue to work with key partners including VCCI/VBCSD, IUCN, conservation NGOs and Green Transition to support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to strengthen biodiversity conservation as a practical pillar of ESG adoption in Viet Nam. Recognising SMEs as frontline actors whose operations directly interact with natural ecosystems, BIOFIN plans to provide tailored training/dialogues and sector-specific guidance to help SMEs integrate biodiversity risks, impacts and compliance requirements into daily business practices. The programme will promote nature-positive business models, facilitate SME participation in, for example, PES and community conservation schemes, and connect enterprises to green finance opportunities—supporting NBSAP implementation while mobilising private sector contributions to GBF Target 19.

3. **Role of non-public actors in MPA management**

   In 2026, BIOFIN will work with the Department of Fisheries and Surveillance under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment to continue advancing public–private and community partnership models for marine biodiversity conservation, in particular, engaging non-public actors in Marine Protected Area (MPA) management. Through policy dialogue, technical inputs and stakeholder platforms, BIOFIN aims to support pilot co-management and PPP approaches, mobilise private finance for marine

conservation, and strengthen community participation. This work will contribute to addressing long-standing capacity and financing gaps in MPAs, support the Government's target to expand protected marine areas to at least 6 percent of national waters by 2030, and advance implementation of Viet Nam's NBSAP and GBF Target 19 on resource mobilization.

A. Country factsheet: the country's biodiversity finance profile and the programming approach

A.1. Biodiversity finance profile

Being ranked among the most biodiverse countries in the world, Viet Nam contains about 10% of the world's species while covering less than 1% of its land area. However, all are under extreme stress due to unsustainable use of natural resources, the depletion of water and biological resources, urbanization, and the impacts of climate change.

Protecting biodiversity is of paramount importance to the achievement of Viet Nam's national sustainable development strategy and social economic development strategy and plans. Viet Nam became a party of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994. The National Biodiversity Action Plan of Viet Nam was first approved by the Prime Minister in 1995. The latest National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy to 2030, vision to 2050 was recently approved in early 2022 in line with the global post-2020 biodiversity framework.

Acknowledging the significance of biodiversity, the Vietnamese government has dedicated substantial endeavors to conserve, protect, and enhance it. While there have been some accomplishments in biodiversity conservation, various obstacles hinder the attainment of significant and sustainable progress in meeting established goals. A prominent challenge is the inadequate availability of financial resources, as the current overall funding falls short for the comprehensive, efficient, and effective implementation of biodiversity conservation targets.

According to BER report, between 2011 and 2015, Viet Nam spent a total of 22,910,016 million VND **(1.818 billion USD**) on biodiversity related outcomes, equal to an annual average of VND 4,582,003 million **(203.65 million USD**). These figures are most likely an underestimation of the total expenditure. Public sector spending accounted for **76.7%**, implying a great dependency on the government to protect Viet Nam's biodiversity resource. In recent years distinct changes are noted in the contribution to biodiversity finance by different sectors, with public spending decreasing, social spending increasing, and private spending remaining constant. With future biodiversity expenditure forecasted to increase, it's assumed relative contribution from public sources will continue to decline between **1-2%** annually by 2030 and that of private sources will on average increase by **1%.**

BIOFIN conducted the latest FNA in 2023 for assessing the financial needs for the implementation of the NBSAP 2022-2030, vision 2050. Vietnam's NBSAP has 14 targets for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), among which the FNA focuses on 7[3] targets that are

[3] *(1) Ratio of terrestrial PA area over total national land (9%); (2) Ratio of marine PA area over total national waters (3-5%); (3) Number of new Ramsar sites established and recognized (6 sites); (4) Number of new Biosphere Reserves established and recognized (4 sites); (5) Number of new Asean Heritage Sites established and recognized (5 sites); (6) Forest coverage (42-43%); and (7) Number of genes and seedling samples for gene groups collected and stored (minimum 100,000)*

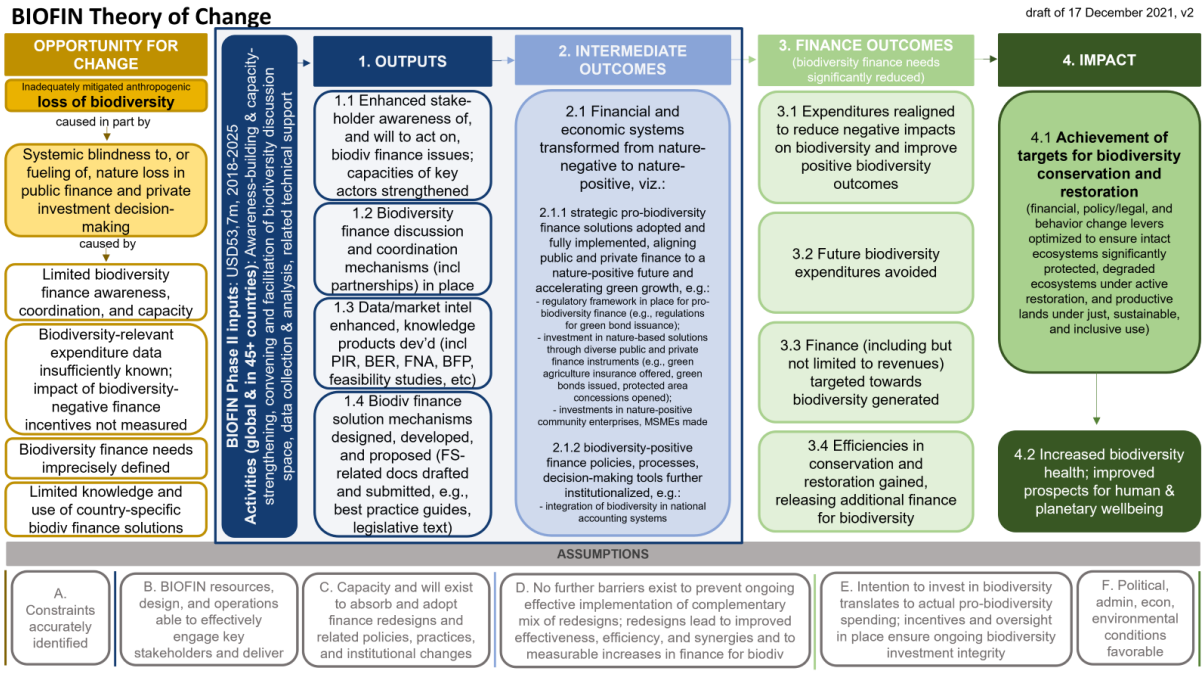
considered most feasible for financial needs calculation. The FNA results show that total (minimum) financial need for achieving these 07 targets is 114,718.3 billion VND (**4.4 billion USD**), an average of 16,388.3 billion VND/year (**645 mil USD**), equivalent to 0,17% of the country's 2023 GDP. The total financial need to deliver 7/14[4] Targets of the NBSAP by 2030 is **USD 4.4 billion**, while the **financial shortfall** is **USD 3.99 billion**, calculated as the difference between needs and projected funding for biodiversity. This financial gap does not fully reflect the gap in achieving all 14 monitoring and evaluation targets of the NBSAP, not to mention that these 14 targets alone do not reflect the achievement of the ambitious objectives set out in the NBSAP itself. Therefore, the actual financial gap for biodiversity conservation targets in Vietnam should be much higher.

A.2. National implementation context

BIOFIN Viet Nam implements solutions that would effectively contribute to the implementation of the National Strategy on Biodiversity until 2030, with a vision towards 2050, aligning with targets outlined in relevant policies and strategies pertaining to forest and marine conservation. These finance solutions encompass strategies to increase revenues, minimize future biodiversity expenditures, and enhance the efficient utilization of financial resources. These finance solutions are well-suited to the Vietnamese context.

Given the constraints of the state budget for conservation and the diminishing international Official Development Assistance (ODA), BIOFIN Viet Nam is actively seeking innovative financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation. The introduction of new financial approaches plays a crucial role in preserving biodiversity and curbing biodiversity loss within the country.

[4] *The FNA 2024 reflects the estimated financial need from the state budget to achieve 7 out of 14 monitoring and evaluation targets of NBSAP 2030 over 2024-2030, covering targets on Area of terrestrial PAs; Area of marine & coastal PAs; Number of Ramsar sites; Number of Biosphere Reserves; Number of ASEAN Heritage Parks; Forest coverage rate; Number of collected/stored genetic resources & germplasm samples. The other targets are considered to serve as intermediate targets for the other "higher-level" targets (meaning that once the higher-level targets are achieved, these intermediate targets will naturally be met). Typically, the budget required to achieve these intermediate targets is already integrated into the budget allocated for achieving the higher-level targets. In addition, the estimation does not cover the achievement of other objectives set out in the NBSAP 2012-2030 that do not have corresponding monitoring and evaluation indicators.*



B. Overview of key results

B.1. PIR>BER>FNA>BFP

[This sub-section is for 'methodology' countries only.]

[*list the programme's main stakeholders, then* ***describe the country programme's activities and results related to achieving a validated BFP****.*

Ensure that the discussion includes elements of social inclusion, where relevant

Also, be sure to note whether, in all the efforts related to this output area, the EU was mentioned as a funding source for the BIOFIN country programme.

To end, a short mention should be made of key activities planned for the upcoming period.]

[insert content (text, images, tables, graphs, etc.) in line with the guidance provided above]

B.2. Implementation of Finance Solutions

[this sub-section is for 'implementation' countries only.

[***Provide a short introduction to the objective of the FS*** *and a list of the finance solution's key stakeholders. Please explain progress to achieve results including finance, policy, institutional and biodiversity results.*

Ensure that the discussion includes elements of social inclusion, where relevant

Also, be sure to note whether, in all the efforts related to this output area, the EU was mentioned as a funding source for the BIOFIN country programme.

To end, a short mention should be made of key activities planned for the upcoming period.]

Finance Solution 1: Renovation of the Nature Museum at the Cuc Phuong National Park to improve visitor experiences and generate more visitors' fees for conservation.

No updates. Refer to CRR Report December 2024 for details.

Finance Solution 2: Establishment of a tourism fee system for Hon Cau Marine Protected Area, Lam Dong province (previously Binh Thuan province)

The tourism fee system in Hon Cau MPA serves as a model for wider implementation across the Protected Area (PA) system, generating revenue for conservation and community-based ecotourism. Success in Hon Cau MPA could set a precedent for other MPAs, with future steps involving collaborative efforts for scheme approval, coupled with initiatives to boost PA visibility and tourist visitations.

With the support of BIOFIN, the Hon Cau tourism fee scheme was developed, submitted, and cleared by Binh Thuan's Provincial People Committee in 2021. The fee scheme was still subject to approval by the then Binh Thuan People's Council before it can be adopted. However, since then, coupled with the delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the approval of the scheme has been facing a number of administrative hurdles, despite the efforts made by the project and Hon Cau MPA in fulfilling additional requirements that arose, one of which is the successful submission for Hon Cau to be recognized as a provincial "scenic beauty" as one of the basis for the application of the tourism fee (Decision No. 2332/QD-UBND by Binh Thuan PPC on recognition of Hon Cau as a Scenic Beauty). Decision 2332 also dictates that Hon Cau – as a scenic beauty – is assigned to Tuy Phong district and Dept. of Culture, Sports, and Tourism (DOCST) for state management. Therefore, the mandate for management of tourism activities and issuance of the tourism fee in Hon Cau was yet to be decided by the then Binh Thuan PPC.

Up to date, due to the provincial administrative rearrangements nationwide in 2025, BIOFIN expects to resume the discussion with the (new) provincial authority on promoting the issuance of the tourism fee for Hon Cau MPA in 2026.



Hon Cau MPA

Finance Solution 3: Identification of a financial mechanism for sustainable community-based management (co-management) of fishery resources in Ham Thuan Nam, Binh Thuan province (now Lam Dong province)

The solution entailed working with the co-management models in Ham Thuan Nam, Binh Thuan province to find ways to increase the revenues for the co-management funds and to promote their use to effectively foster conservation measures, therefore emphasizing conservation as an important agenda of the co-management model. Critical stakeholders encompassed the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (now MAE) and Binh Thuan's Fishermen Association. This was seen as an important solution to ensuring the sustainability of the co-management model that is enabled and promoted through the vested interests of local fishery communities in conserving coastal fishery resources.

The financial solution in Ham Thuan Nam, Binh Thuan entailed exhausting all measures of maintaining the co-management funds used for the protection of fishery resources whether it's i) *monetary contributions from member of the co-management groups, ii) indirect return of the currently developed livelihood models, iii) financial mobilization from private sector, iv) advocacy for more state-allocated budget to co-management, and v) the fishery protection fee scheme as finance solution 6 in BIOFIN*.



Engagement with local fishermen in Ham Thuan Nam, Lam Dong

From the work in Ham Thuan Nam district, BIOFIN had gauged the initial interests and readiness for developing the Provincial Co-management Plan to expand co-management across the then Binh Thuan's coastal region. Additionally, BIOFIN has planned to create and implement a national training program on co-management to provide policymakers and practitioners with the necessary knowledge to maintain and further enhance co-management efforts.

Before the administrative merger during 2025, the Provincial Fisheries Co-management Plan had been drafted for Binh Thuan. However, up to date, Binh Thuan has been merged with Lam Dong and Dak Nong to become new Lam Dong province. Therefore, the draft Plan shall be updated against the new administrative context in 2026. BIOFIN will discuss with the new provincial administration to agree on the way forward for this support.

Finance Solution 4: New user fee system for coral protection in Hon Yen, Dak Lak province (previously Phu Yen)

The solution entailed working with the coral local community cooperative in Hon Yen Island, Phu Yen (now Dak Lak) province in evaluating the capacity of the island in receiving tourists, in proposing a tourism fee and a mechanism for managing the received tourism fee for conservation. The former Women Union of Phu Yen province and the Women Union of An Hoa Hai commune had been the initiative's most dedicated advocate since day one, together with the local Yen Island Tourism Cooperative.



Coral Reefs in Hon Yen Island, Dak Lak

Since June 2022, seven community-based tours have been launched, highlighting the coral reefs, local fishing culture, and natural beauty of Hon Yen. Up to date, these tours collectively attracted thousands of visitors by 2025 via Eco-Coop, generating steady income for 80 local participants, many of whom are former fishers transitioning to sustainable ecotourism. Hon Yen Service and Ecology Cooperative, officially established in 2024, earned a 3-star OCOP (One Commune One Product) recognition for quality and sustainability, hosting at least 45 regular members.



Some organized tours/activities for tourists by local communities

Up to date, BIOFIN has been in discussion on the 2nd phase of support in Hon Yen to improve the cooperative's operational capacity by strengthening governance structures, expanding capacity-building programs for its members, and ensuring 15% of tourism revenue supports coral reef conservation. Minor infrastructure upgrades, including parking facilities, an operations center, and informational signage, will enhance visitor experience while promoting ecological safety. Conservation initiatives will prioritize coral monitoring, zoning restricted

areas with buoys, and implementing a visitor service payment. A comprehensive communication campaign will empower cooperative members to advocate for sustainable tourism and ensure that conservation messages reach all visitors effectively.

The draft new project proposal has been developed and consulted at the provincial level, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) to jointly fund and implement these upgrades to Hon Yen's ecotourism landscape. The proposal will be submitted to the global team for approval in Q1/2026.

Finance Solution 5: Fishery Resource Protection Fee

The solution aims to establish a viable financing mechanism directing fishing-related fees towards conservation. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) – now MAE - is tasked with formalizing and implementing the fishery resource protection fee scheme. Key outcomes involve conducting a feasibility study and designing a financing mechanism aligned with fisheries and financial management laws.

Specific results were: (1) to conduct a feasibility study on fishery resource protection fees (rate, collection regime, payment management and usage) in accordance with provisions of the laws and regulations on fisheries and financial management; (2) to design and implement a new financing mechanism for the fisheries resource protection and development activities at marine protected areas, local fisheries communities, fisheries administration, and authorities.

BIOFIN has finalized all the necessary materials in support of the draft Dossier for the fishery resource protection fees scheme. Up to date, MAE/DFISH is reviewing the document to submit to MOF for review. This process has been prolonged due to the recent Ministry/Department merging which lasted until May 2025.

Finance Solution 6: Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Cu Lao Cham MPA

BIOFIN's support for a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme in the Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area (MPA) aims to establish a robust and sustainable financing mechanism that would be fully aligned with Viet Nam's national policy frameworks under the Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) 2020 and Decree 08. Building on the demonstrated success of the national Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) policy, this marine-focused PES model represents a strategic extension of an already proven approach, adapted to the unique ecological and socioeconomic dynamics of marine and coastal environments. The scheme is designed to help address persistent funding shortfalls for marine biodiversity protection and long-term MPA management, ensuring that conservation objectives are not constrained by unpredictable or insufficient public budgets.

Beyond its financial function, the PES model is expected to catalyze sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities by strengthening nature-based tourism, eco-tourism services, and tourism-linked value chains. By establishing clear benefit-sharing mechanisms,

the model reinforces community participation in conservation, enhances compliance and enforcement, and creates predictable revenue streams to fill recurring gaps in operational financing. This positions marine conservation not only as an ecological priority but also as a source of equitable socioeconomic benefits for dependent communities.

A designated team of experts from the Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment (RIFEE) has been engaged since Q3/2025 to lead the technical development and implementation of the PMES scheme in Cu Lao Cham. In early December 2025, an inception workshop was convened with national and local stakeholders to validate the conceptual approach, gather feedback, and outline the roadmap for piloting the PES scheme in the MPA. Beyond the development of the PES scheme, RIFEE will design a detailed guideline on delegation of responsibilities among NBCA, Da Nang PPC, provincial departments, providers and users of marine ES to support the roll-out and implementation of the PMES scheme.





Finance Solution 7: Nature and Community-based Urban Eco-tourism on the Red River Bank

This FS aims to formalize and scale up community-led ecological restoration and sustainable tourism along the Red River bank in Hanoi. In collaboration with Think Playgrounds and Hanoi Architects Association, the solution introduces a structured eco-tourism model that reinvests revenue into local conservation and livelihoods. Key interventions include the construction of a new community garden, trail entrance, bamboo bridges, nature-based wastewater treatment systems, information boards and signage, outdoor learning spaces, piloting new tours, and capacity building for local communities. These will further transform the once neglected riverside into an increasingly biodiverse ecological urban corridor. A phased benefit-sharing mechanism is designed to ensure equitable revenue distribution, with 70% - 90% of future earnings reinvested locally. Targeted training programs engage women, youth, and informal workers in ecotourism operation and biodiversity monitoring. This solution also informs policy development on green urban planning through collaboration with HealthBridge and the Ministry of Construction. This solution is an evidence-based story that informs long-term urban planning, setting up a replicable model for nature-based urban development in Viet Nam.

Procurement is undergoing. Several procurement packages will be launched in early 2026 to secure the necessary service providers for the implementation of this solution in 2026-2027.









The 11th EAPAC Regional Dialogues on Biodiversity Finance in Da Nang, Vietnam

Viet Nam's hosting of the 11th EAPAC Regional Dialogue on Biodiversity Finance in Da Nang in September 2025 under the BIOFIN framework convened 131 delegates from 46 BIOFIN countries, including ministers, senior officials, technical experts, and global partners, making it the largest convening of biodiversity finance practitioners in Europe, Asia, and the Pacific to date.

Over three days, countries collectively moved the global agenda from planning to implementation, demonstrating how Biodiversity Finance Plans are becoming fully integrated components of national development strategies, public financial management, and climate-nature policy alignment, rather than isolated conservation frameworks. Viet Nam's hosting role allowed the country to showcase its emerging leadership in nature finance while gaining

direct exposure to a suite of innovative instruments: ecological fiscal transfers (Malaysia), biodiversity budget tagging (Indonesia, India), repurposing environmentally harmful subsidies (Philippines, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, India), nature insurance products for reefs and mangroves, and blended finance tools such as blue/green bonds and conservation trust funds designed to unlock private capital.

Importantly, cross-country examples highlighted the need to integrate biodiversity outcomes into mainstream public expenditures, including infrastructure, education, agriculture, and poverty reduction, alongside increased transparency and cooperation with the private sector. The dialogue also emphasized gender-responsive and community-based finance models, reinforcing Viet Nam's existing strengths in community tourism (e.g., Hon Yen) while encouraging the systematic integration of women and vulnerable groups in decision-making and benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Discussions on marine finance, especially within the Coral Triangle context, provided a roadmap for Viet Nam to accelerate national blue finance strategies, mobilize investment for coral reef and fisheries protection, and structure regional cooperation on marine resource management.

For the Government of Viet Nam, key takeaways include:

(1) **institutionalizing biodiversity budget tagging** across central and provincial levels to improve expenditure visibility and accountability;

(2) **developing a national framework for repurposing harmful subsidies** aligned with CBD Target 18 and BIOFIN's global Nature of Subsidies guidance;

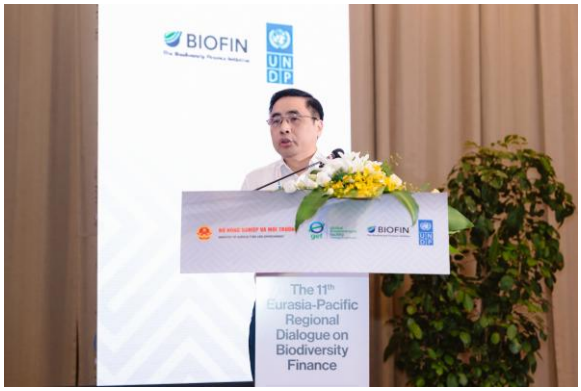
(3) **expanding ecological fiscal transfers and nature-positive incentive schemes** to encourage provincial compliance with conservation targets;

(4) **piloting nature insurance instruments** for high-value ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and Ramsar sites;

(5) **strengthening cross-ministerial coordination**, especially between MAE, Ministry of Finance, State Bank of Viet Nam, and provincial authorities, to prepare enabling policies for green and blue bonds;

(7) **building a national communication strategy on nature finance**, positioning Viet Nam as a regional leader in the narrative shift toward nature-positive economic development









Private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation

In 2025, UNDP/BIOFIN has actively promoted private sector engagement for biodiversity conservation through contributing to two major national-level platforms. At the Panel Discussion on Promoting Private Sector Engagement on Environment and Biodiversity Conservation to Advance ESG Compliance in Ha Noi, co-organised by IUCN and VBCSD/VCCI, BIOFIN facilitated a dialogue between representative of corporates including Coca-Cola, TH Group, and environmental NGOs to raise awareness on biodiversity as a critical but under-prioritised ESG pillar, showcasing concrete business–NGO partnership models, and identifying pathways for private investment into conservation activities.

UNDP/BIOFIN also participated in a panel discussion in the Vietnam Conservation Summit 2025 at Cat Tien National Park, where financial institutions, corporates, NGOs and government leaders discussed strategic investment models, blended finance, biodiversity credits, digital crowdfunding and trust-fund mechanisms to mobilise domestic private finance for nature, reinforcing the shift from CSR to long-term, measurable biodiversity investments aligned with ESG commitments and national priorities. The panel highlighted complementary roles of government, NGOs and businesses in biodiversity conservation, stressed a shift from short-term CSR to strategic ESG-aligned investment, and underscored the importance of transparency, community and youth engagement, and Vietnam-led solutions to mobilise domestic finance and deliver lasting conservation impact.





B.2.1. Implementation of activities under the “Enabling and Scaling up Nature-related Financial Disclosures” (IKI-TNFD) project [if applicable]

If your country has received separate funding under the “Enabling and Scaling up Nature-related Financial Disclosures” (IKI-TNFD) project for the implementation of the activities related to the market adoption of the TNFD, please provide a brief summary of progress to achieve results, as well as stakeholder engaged in the process, and any relevant national market updated related to TNFD.

Please provide description of progress in line with the project components (Component 2: Capacity Building, Component 4: Regulatory Incentives).

C. Social inclusion stories

[*This section of the CRR should provide a short, over-arching perspective from a social inclusion angle, including gender-related considerations as well as considerations related to youth, the poor, indigenous groups, ethnic minorities, and other marginalized and/or historically disadvantaged groups. Mention should be made of how the country programme is directly investigating and tackling impacts on the lives of people in these groups, or how the country programme is planning to do so in the upcoming period.*

Recognizing the vital link between ecosystem protection, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of local communities dependent on these resources for food and income, BIOFIN Vietnam has been actively engaged in policy enhancement and on-the-ground initiatives. Specifically focusing on Finance Solutions #3, 4, 5, BIOFIN collaborates directly with local communities, including marginalized groups like the fishers and women in these fishing households, to develop solutions that enhance livelihoods while promoting ecosystem sustainability. Moving forward, BIOFIN will prioritize social inclusion and sustainable development, aiming to achieve impactful outcomes across all 6 existing finance solutions and 3 upcoming ones.

This commitment is exemplified in the story of Mrs. Huynh Thi Kim On, a woman in Hon Yen Island, who transitioned from traditional fishing to leading community-based ecotourism initiatives. Her efforts have not only provided sustainable income for her family but also contributed to coral reef conservation. Additionally, a UNDP BIOFIN video highlights how ecotourism in Hon Yen supports local communities and protects coral reefs, with 15% of

tourism revenue allocated to coral reef protection and community-led patrolling. These narratives underscore BIOFIN's dedication to social inclusion and sustainable development, aiming for impactful outcomes across existing and forthcoming finance solutions.

Associated links:

Cô On and Hòn Yến Fishing Village's Shift to Green Tourism by UNDP Viet Nam - Exposure

Cô On và sự vươn mình của làng chài Hòn Yến tới Du lich Xanh by UNDP Viet Nam - Exposure

UNDP BIOFIN Enhances Ecotourism in Vietnam to Support Local Communities and Protect Coral Reefs | BIOFIN

D. Lessons learned and adaptive measures:

[*The key lessons and related recommendations and current or planned country programme adaptations (whether technical or operational) should be reported here.*

- ***The lessons and related adaptations should be game-changing in nature*** *– that is, they are not about working around everyday delays and challenges; rather, they are about changes in strategy and approach to achieve the intended results*
- *Related plans for the upcoming period should be outlined.*]

[insert content (text, images, tables, graphs, etc.) in line with the guidance provided above]

E. Risks

[*This section of the CRR provides an update on the country programme's risk log/risk register, on the one hand, and the social and environmental risks posed by the programme, on the other. Note that these two types of risks are different and are presented in two separate sub-sections, as reflected below.*]

E.1. Programmatic risks (risks *to* the programme)

[*This sub-section should list the risks faced by the programme. Before listing the risks, provide a brief (one to two sentences should suffice) overview of the overall risk status and highlight any major changes from the previous report Then list the risks (**'implementation' countries, consider listing FS-specific risks**), using your existing risk register or adopting the template provided below (feel free to submit the risk register as a separate additional annex, if you wish.*]

[insert content in line with the guidance provided in the paragraph above]

Table 1: Risk register for BIOFIN Vietnam

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
	Enter a brief description of the risk	*When was the risk first identified?*	*Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other (In Atlas, select from list)*	*Describe the potential effect on the project if this risk were to occur Enter probability on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) P = Enter impact on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) I =*	*What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk?*	*Who has been appointed to keep an eye on this risk?*	*Who submitted the risk?*	*When was the status of the risk last checked?*	*For example: no longer relevant (i.e., P and/or I would = 0, if 0 was an option), reducing, increasing, no change*
1	Time-consuming and convoluted bureaucratic processes	2020	Regulatory	P=5, I=5	Keen contact with stakeholders for 5 finance solutions	UNDP Program Analyst	UNDP Program Analyst	*Dec 2025*	On-going
2	Limited capacity of local partners and communities	2021	Operational	P=4, I=3	Further empower communities and local partners with capacity building and engagement	UNDP Program Analyst	UNDP Program Analyst	*Dec 2025*	On-going
3	Government policy challenges: existing regulations do not allow fee collection, resource mobilization or adoption of new financial initiative	2021	Regulatory	P=3, I=5	Careful design of next steps to move forward with the finance solution while ensuring no breaking of the law	UNDP Program Analyst	UNDP Program Analyst	Dec 2025	On-going

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E.2. Social and environmental risks (*of* the programme)

[*This sub-section should report on social and environmental risks of the programme). Proposed text has already been inserted, and there is no need to edit or add more, unless the proposed text does not apply to your country programme or you wish to add more detail.*]

The BIOFIN country programme does not generate additional social and environmental risks. Indeed, the programme works to mitigate existing risks by integrating UNDP's programming principles for strengthening social and environmental sustainability (SESP), and the programme is directly aligned with Standard 1 of the project-level standards therein, viz., Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management.

List of annexes and related notes

The following annexes are included in this report:

Annex 1: Indicator Tracking Table (in Excel)

[use the text inserted alongside, no need to edit/add anything further unless the text is not applicable to your country programme or you wish to add details] The Indicator Tracking

Table provides an up-to-date snapshot (subject to the availability of related data) of progress made towards the BIOFIN country programme's M&E indicator targets.

Annex 2: [insert annex heading]

[*Add any additional annexes that you find to be necessary to supplement the content provided in the CRR.*]

[insert a description of the additional annex(es)]


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