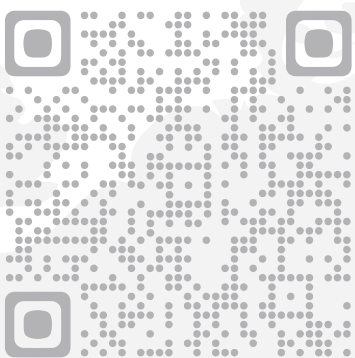
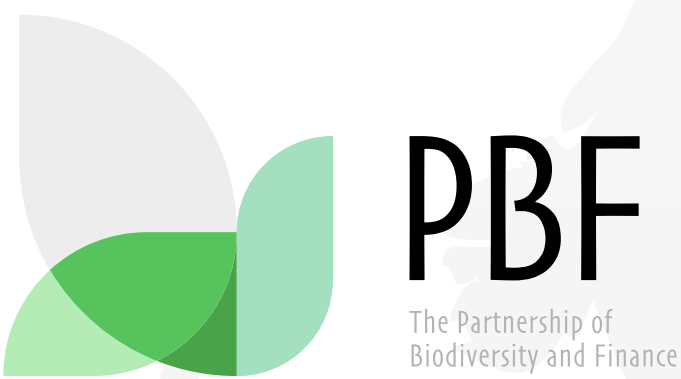


EP08 23June 2025

Quarterly Newsletter



The Partnership of Biodiversity and Finance (PBF)

Quarterly Newsletter EP08

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Dear Members and Supporters,

The months following COP16 have witnessed a surge of innovative financing solutions that underscore the growing recognition of biodiversity as both an environmental imperative and an economic opportunity. From the landmark launch of the Cali Fund for Digital Sequence Information benefit-sharing to record-breaking biodiversity bonds and the establishment of dedicated natural capital funds, the financial sector is embracing its critical role in nature conservation with renewed vigor and sophistication.

This edition highlights the dynamic evolution of biodiversity finance, featuring initiatives from PBF members and partners worldwide. We observe how multilateral development banks are scaling up their nature-positive investments, how governments are implementing comprehensive biodiversity finance strategies, and how private sector engagement is deepening through enhanced frameworks and target-setting mechanisms. The integration of biodiversity considerations into mainstream financial decision-making is no longer aspirational—it is becoming an operational reality.

We invite our readers to explore these developments that collectively represent a new chapter in biodiversity finance. As the global community moves from commitment to implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, these early 2025 initiatives demonstrate that the financial architecture needed to achieve our 2030 biodiversity goals is rapidly taking shape. Together, we are building an economic system that not only recognizes but actively invests in the fundamental value of nature.

PBF Secretariat

UPDATES FROM PBF MEMBERS

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WRI & World Bank Release Landmark Africa NBS Report

On February 19, 2025, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Bank unveiled a comprehensive assessment of nature-based solutions (NBS) in Africa. The report analyzes nearly 300 projects across the continent over the past decade, finding NBS uptake has grown ~15% annually since 2012, though funding remains far below the ~\$100 billion annual infrastructure financing gap needed in Africa.

Goldman Sachs Launches Biodiversity Bond Fund

On February 27, 2025, Goldman Sachs Asset Management introduced one of the first dedicated biodiversity-focused bond funds. The Goldman Sachs Biodiversity Bond Fund will invest primarily in investment-grade corporate bonds that finance biodiversity conservation or are issued by companies with pro-nature business activities, aligning with U.N. Sustainable Development Goals 6, 12, 14, and 15.



Photo by Bernd Dittrich

AIIB Report Links Infrastructure to 'Planetary Health'

On February 28, 2025, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) launched its Asian Infrastructure Finance 2025 report, calling for infrastructure development that prioritizes health, climate, and nature. The report proposes three investment themes: resilient health infrastructure, green energy/transport, and nature-based solutions integrated into projects.

Uzbekistan Finalizes Biodiversity Finance Plan

On March 10, 2025, Uzbekistan approved its first comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) as part of the UNDP-led BIOFIN initiative. Developed with the Ministry of Ecology, the plan identifies financing solutions including green bonds, environmental fees, and public budget realignment to mobilize funds for protected areas, forest restoration, and sustainable agriculture.

ADB Issues Record-Breaking Panda Bond

On March 17, 2025, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) successfully issued an 8.3 billion yuan (~US\$1.15 billion) three-year panda bond with a coupon rate of 1.81%. This issuance represents ADB's largest-ever panda bond and largest local currency bond to date, raising substantial funds to support development projects for both sovereign and private sector borrowers.

Brazil and IFC Launch First Biodiversity Bond

On March 20, 2025, IFC and IDB Invest partnered with Brazil's Itaú Unibanco to launch a BRL 1.4 billion (~US\$250 million) "biodiversity & social" bond—Brazil's first with a dedicated biodiversity focus. The three-year bond includes \$75 million earmarked for biodiversity conservation projects and \$175 million for expanding credit to small businesses, with proceeds funding initiatives like the Reverte Program to restore 1 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

ADB Invests in Wetland Restoration in China

On March 22, 2025, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$150 million loan to support the South Dongting Lake Wetland Restoration and Sustainable Development Project in China's Hunan Province. Co-financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), this project will rehabilitate lakeshores and improve water management in the Dongting Lake wetlands—an important East Asian migratory bird habitat.



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Photo by Shamprakash

World Economic Forum Unveils Nature-Positive Investment Indicators

On April 22, 2025, the World Economic Forum released a "Nature Positive" finance guide providing 11 practical indicators for banks and investors to assess companies' biodiversity performance. Developed with Oliver Wyman, the guide helps financial institutions integrate nature considerations into portfolio decisions despite current data gaps, covering areas like habitat impact, resource dependency, and conservation investments.

ADB Launches \$150 Million Natural Capital Fund

On May 4, 2025, at the 58th ADB Annual Meeting in Milan, Italy, Asian Development Bank President Masato Kanda announced the launch of a \$150 million Natural Capital Fund. Backed by the Global Environment Facility with expected support from other partners, the fund will drive investments that protect and restore nature as a foundation for food security and sustainable development.

Global Biodiversity Finance Conference (BIOFIN)

From May 6–8, 2025, over 130 countries convened at the 6th Global Conference on Biodiversity Finance in Santiago, Chile, to accelerate innovative financing for nature. Organized by UNDP's BIOFIN initiative, it was the largest-ever gathering of the biodiversity finance community, with key themes including developing national Biodiversity Finance Plans and scaling up funding via international mechanisms.

AIIB and Gavi Partner to Advance Sustainable Health and Immunization Financing

On May 13, 2025, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, signed a landmark partnership agreement to enhance sustainable financing for health and immunization systems in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. This collaboration aims to strengthen health infrastructure, ensuring resilience against climate change and biodiversity loss, while promoting equitable access to vaccines and healthcare services.

CAREC Institute Hosts Central Asia Climate Change Conference

From May 13–15, 2025, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute organized the 7th Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC 2025), bringing together stakeholders to discuss regional climate priorities. Key topics included climate financing, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), aiming to align regional efforts with global climate agendas set forth by UNFCCC COP29 and COP30.

Bangladesh Launches BIOFIN Umbrella Programme

On May 18, 2025, Bangladesh officially launched an "Umbrella Programme to Develop Biodiversity Finance Plans," marking its entry into UNDP's global BIOFIN network. Supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Canada, this initiative will help Bangladesh design a national Biodiversity Finance Plan and implement finance solutions for conservation, including ecosystem service payments, green bonds, and community-based ecotourism.

WEF Releases Global Cooperation Barometer 2025

The World Economic Forum published the second edition of "The Global Cooperation Barometer 2025," revealing that global cooperation is at a crossroads. While overall collaboration has stagnated due to heightened geopolitical tensions, the report identifies positive momentum in climate and nature, innovation and technology, and health and wellness areas. The comprehensive assessment analyzes 41 indicators across five pillars: trade and capital, innovation and technology, climate and natural capital, health and wellness, and peace and security, highlighting the urgency for innovative partnership approaches in addressing shared global challenges.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIODIVERSITY FINANCE NETWORK

click each title below for more information

Global Fund Launched for Genetic Data Benefits

On February 25, 2025, the "Cali Fund" for Fair and Equitable Benefit-Sharing of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) was officially launched at the resumed UN Biodiversity COP16 in Rome. The fund will collect voluntary contributions from companies using genetic sequence data—targeting 1% of profits or 0.1% of revenue—and channel them into global biodiversity conservation. At least half of the fund's resources are earmarked for supporting Indigenous peoples and local communities as stewards of biodiversity.

Global Biodiversity Finance Strategy Adopted

On February 27, 2025, governments agreed on the first global strategy to finance biodiversity at resumed UN Biodiversity COP16 negotiations in Rome. The strategy calls for mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030 from all sources, including increasing international biodiversity aid to \$20 billion/year by 2025 and \$30 billion by 2030, while phasing out \$500 billion in harmful subsidies.

UN Calls for Swift Ratification of High Seas Treaty

On March 4, 2025, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution urging countries to rapidly ratify the new High Seas Biodiversity Treaty so it can enter into force. The "BBNJ" agreement will enable the creation of marine protected areas on the high seas and requires 60 ratifications to become effective, with over 70 nations having signed or ratified as of March 2025.



Photo by Bernd Dittrich

World Wildlife Day Highlights Conservation Finance Gap

On March 17, 2025, World Wildlife Day 2025 put a spotlight on "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet." At the UN's event in Geneva, leaders highlighted that only \$143 billion is spent on global biodiversity conservation annually, far short of the estimated \$824 billion needed per year, showcasing new financing mechanisms from wildlife conservation bonds to biodiversity credits.

ICMM Releases Biodiversity No Net Loss Guide

On March 20, 2025, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) published "Achieving Biodiversity No Net Loss or Net Gain: A Good Practice Guide" to help mining and metals companies protect and restore biodiversity for a nature-friendly future. The guide outlines a seven-step process applicable throughout the mining lifecycle from project design to closure and production.

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Photo by Sreenivas

Brazil Launches Amazon Restoration Calls

On March 21, 2025, Brazil's government initiated a sweeping Amazon reforestation program as the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, together with BNDES, issued three calls for proposals to restore degraded lands. The "Restore Amazon" initiative targets recovering 6 million hectares by 2030, backed by an initial R\$150 million (~US\$26 million) from the Amazon Fund.

UK Plans 20 Million Trees in 'Western Forest'

On March 25, 2025, the UK government announced plans to plant 20 million trees by 2050 across four counties in Southwest England. The "Western Forest" project will create at least 2,500 hectares of new woodland in Bristol, Somerset, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire, led by the Forest of Avon Trust and expected to create 4,500 green jobs.

IDB Invest & TNC Partner on Amazon Nature Solutions

On March 27, 2025, IDB Invest signed an MoU with The Nature Conservancy to scale up nature-based solutions (NBS) in the Amazon Basin. The partnership will co-develop and fund projects promoting reforestation, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable bioeconomy models across Amazon countries, providing technical assistance and blended financing for NBS opportunities.

Indigenous-Led Conservation Project in Brazil

In March 2025, a new initiative was launched to strengthen protection of Indigenous lands across 6 million hectares in Brazil's diverse biomes. Titled "Ywy Ipuranguete," the project is coordinated by Brazil's Ministry of Indigenous Peoples with a US\$9 million grant from the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), supporting Indigenous communities in the Amazon, Atlantic Forest, Cerrado, Caatinga, and Pantanal.

Pacific Nations Launch Initiatives for Ocean Biodiversity

On April 9, 2025, Western Pacific countries agreed on a joint push to protect ocean biodiversity, announcing four new science initiatives and a regional task force. Meeting in Japan under UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, ministers committed to collaborate on marine research, climate resilience, and conservation in international waters.

Pilot Markets for Biodiversity Credits Launched

On April 23, 2025, innovative biodiversity credit markets kicked off as pilot schemes in Côte d'Ivoire and France were announced. An international consortium led by the Organization for Biodiversity Certificates (OBC) launched a pilot market to incentivize tree-planting and habitat restoration, with a parallel pilot rolled out in France the following day with support from the French Ministry of Environment.

AfDB & Tunisia Launch \$24M Forest Restoration Project

On April 23, 2025, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Government of Tunisia rolled out a \$24 million forest restoration and rural development project. Funded by AfDB and Tunisian counterpart funds, the initiative will restore degraded forest landscapes in three governorates and is expected to create 4,500 green jobs while restoring 33,000 hectares of eroded land.

EU Moves to Integrate High Seas Treaty into Law

On April 24, 2025, the European Commission proposed a directive to integrate the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty into EU law. The proposed law will enable the EU to establish large marine protected areas in international waters, require environmental impact assessments before high-seas industrial activities, and ensure fair sharing of marine genetic resources.

Hunan Province Releases Biodiversity Protection Strategy and Action Plan

On May 13, 2025, approved by the Hunan Provincial People's Government, the Hunan Provincial Department of Ecology and Environment released the "Hunan Province Biodiversity Protection Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2030)." The action plan outlines the guiding ideology, basic principles, and strategic positioning for biodiversity protection in Hunan.

China-Netherlands Biodiversity Symposium

On May 16, 2025, the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in China jointly hosted the "China-Netherlands Biodiversity Symposium" in Beijing. The meeting, themed "Conservation Practices and Action Outlook Post-COP16," brought together nearly 60 participants from government representatives, research institutions, business leaders, and international organizations from both countries.

China Announces 20 Exemplary Industrial Biodiversity Protection Cases

On June 5, 2025, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment Publicity and Education Center announced 20 typical cases of industrial and commercial biodiversity protection following a nationwide collection campaign. The initiative, conducted to implement the "Beautiful China, I Am an Actor" series activities work plan jointly issued by nine ministries, aims to promote Beautiful China construction , support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

UPCOMING EVENTS

click each title below for more information

UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3)

Organizer: UN, France, Costa Rica

Date: **9-13 June 2025**

Venue: **Nice, France**

Seminar on Nature-Related Disclosure for Business: Tools, Cases and Actions

Organizer: WWF, Greenovation Hub, Institute of Finance and Sustainability

Date: **June 16, 2025, 14:00-18:00 (UTC+8)**

Venue: **Hybrid format (online and offline simultaneously)**

Biodiversity and Green Finance: Building a Sustainable Future Together

Organizer: Beijing Forestry University Thinktank for Eco-civilization, China International Economic Consultants, Economic Information Daily, The Investment Association of China.

Date: **28 June 2025**

Venue: **Xijiao Hotel, Beijing, China**

2025 Hainan Blue Carbon Forum Thematic Sub-forum "Opportunities and Challenges of Blue Carbon Finance and Industrial Development"

Organizer: Hainan International Blue Carbon Research Center

Date: **19 July 2025**

Venue: **Lingshui City, Hainan Province**

30th Session of the International Seabed Authority (Part II)

Organizer: ISA

Date: **7-25 July 2025**

Venue: **Kingston, Jamaica**

World Water Week 2025

Organizer: Stockholm International Water Institute

Date: **24-28 August 2025**

Venue: **Stockholm, Sweden**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Xiaotian FU Focal Point of Interim Secretariat

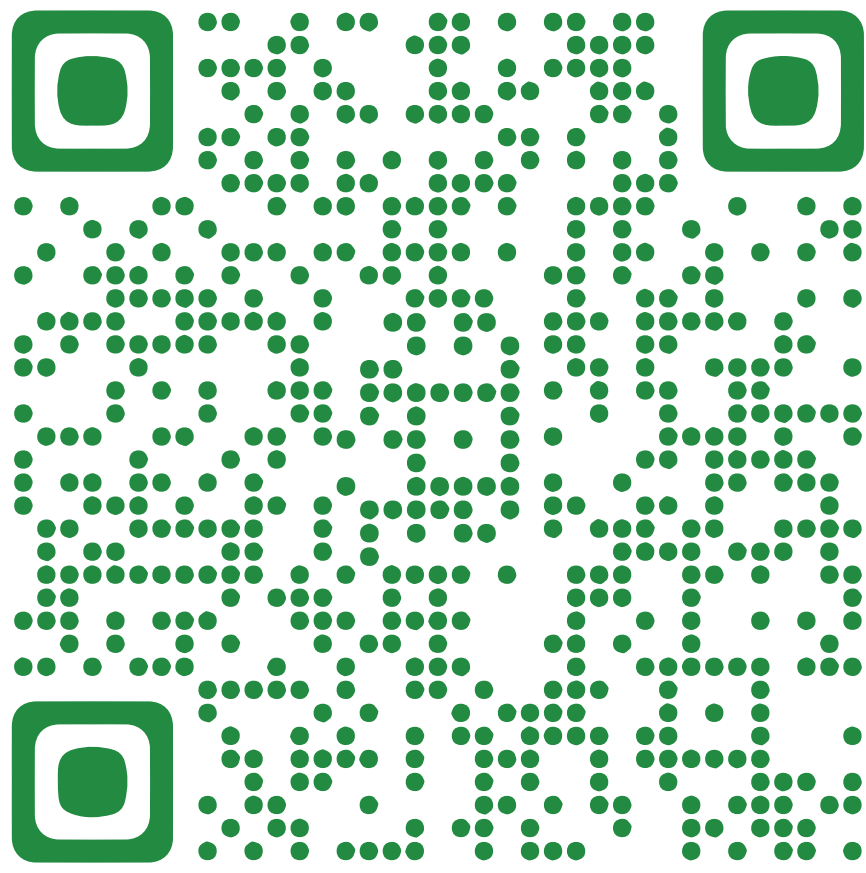
Email: Xiaotian.fu@wri.org

Partnership of Biodiversity and Finance (PBF)

Rm K-M, 7/F, Tower A, The East Gate Plaza, #9 Dongzhong Street, Beijing, China

Global Joint Initiative on the Partnership of Biodiversity and Finance (PBF), calling for close collaboration between biodiversity conservation and financing, particularly in addressing urgent needs on this front. The PBF is comprised by a mixed group of international and Chinese stakeholders from financial institutions, private sector, academic institutions, international development agencies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) with representation from both developed and developing countries from various continents in particular from emerging regions. Currently, over 50 multilateral organizations joined PBF, such as **World Bank, AIIB, EBRD, ADB, EIB, AFD, MCDF, IFC and UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, IFAD, WRI, WWF, IISD, Paulson Institute, NRDC, Goldman Sachs, IFF, IGES, WCS, HKGFA, IFS, Greenovation Hub** as well as a number of **global enterprises**. The Interim Secretariat of PBF has been established in WRI China.

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The Partnership of Biodiversity and Finance (PBF)

