



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

# Biological diversity – our common responsibility

## Germany supports a transformative change

An intact natural environment is the basis for our lives. Nature's ecosystems give us clean water, pure air, healthy food and so much more. Conserving biological diversity is a question of survival. Roughly 80 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals to which the international community committed itself in adopting the 2030 Agenda can only be achieved by conserving global biodiversity.

In recent decades, the loss of species and habitats has accelerated dramatically. Around one million animal and plant species from an estimated total of eight million are in acute danger of extinction, ecosystem performance is experiencing massive decline. Genetic resources and possibilities for making use of them are in the process of being irrevocably lost. All in all, 75 per cent of terrestrial ecosystems and 40 per cent of marine ecosystems have already been altered by human intervention.

*Eudafano women's cooperative in northern Namibia*



[bmz.de](https://www.bmz.de)



*Managing wetlands for biodiversity and climate action in Tamil Nadu, India*

Major causes of the continuing loss of biodiversity are the over-exploitation of natural resources, environmental pollution on land and in the oceans, the displacement of endemic animals and plants by invasive species, and climate change. In order to halt the loss of biodiversity, a transformative change is needed.

The German government is supporting this new course towards effective measures for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. With this aim in mind, it will be advocating for an ambitious and implementation-oriented global framework for biological diversity in the period beyond 2020 at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 2021 and probably in the spring of 2022.

# Germany's contribution to international biodiversity financing

In order to realise international goals, the German government has continuously increased its financial contribution for the global conservation of biodiversity in recent years: from an average of 194 million euros between 2006 and 2010, it rose to an average of 527 million euros between 2011 and 2015 and then increased further between 2016 and 2020 to an average of 633 million euros. This means that Germany is surpassing its international obligations to date: at the 12th CBD Conference of the Parties in 2014, the contracting parties had agreed to double international financial flows by 2015 at the latest against a baseline of average contributions between 2006 and 2010, and to continue increasing them by at least the same amount until 2020. Germany's funding contribution to international biodiversity financing is split between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which provides about 80 per cent, and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), which contributes about 20 per cent.

In 2020, the BMZ and BMU supported the international conservation of biodiversity through contributions amounting to 796 million euros in total. The BMZ, with its orientation towards development cooperation, focuses on measures for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in developing countries and emerging economies, including fair access and benefit sharing. Apart from that, topics like "Restoring degraded ecosystems" and "Healthy nature – Healthy people" are becoming more important. Since 2008, the BMU has been supporting partner countries in their implementation of binding agreements under international law on climate protection and conserving biodiversity via its International Climate Initiative (IKI). This support



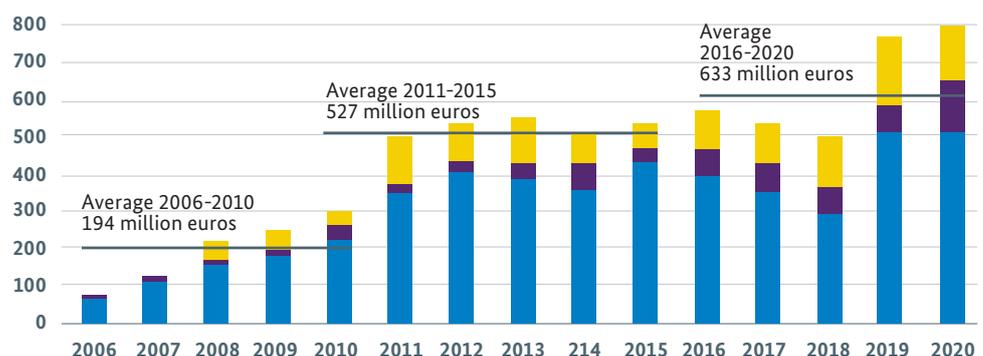
Rangers at work in Cameroon

combines climate action and biodiversity conservation. The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of the partner countries and their strategies for mobilising resources are the basis for the support provided by the BMZ and BMU.

In addition to providing partner countries with bilateral support, Germany also supports various multilateral organisations that are geared towards conserving biodiversity, for example the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Roughly one third of GEF funds are being used to assist selected CBD contracting states in meeting their international commitments for the conservation of biodiversity. Since the GEF was founded, Germany has contributed on average between 11 and 13% of its overall budget, making Germany its third-biggest donor. Moreover, Germany supports various other organisations that likewise promote measures for conserving biodiversity, for example the international Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the multi-donor PROGREEN Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes, the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) and the initiative for territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs).

## Annual contributions for international biodiversity conservation (in million euros)<sup>1</sup>

- BMZ bilateral contributions
- BMZ multilateral contributions
- BMU contributions



<sup>1</sup> In 2019, BMU launched the new funding programme Marine Debris Framework Regional Hubs around the Globe (Marine:DeFRAG). Biodiversity-relevant support under this programme is included in the table in the BMU contributions after 2019.

## Ambitious targets and effective implementation

Germany will continue to make a committed contribution to conserving biodiversity and is working within the EU and globally to make the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD a resounding success. We need an ambitious biodiversity framework up to 2030, with strong targets and goals as well as effective implementation mechanisms. This includes amongst others:

- Closing the global funding gap and increasing global resources for biodiversity conservation: through greater individual efforts by all countries, by dismantling harmful subsidies, by getting the private sector and civil society even more involved, and by using international cooperation funds for biodiversity.
- Placing 30 per cent of the world's land and 30 per cent of its oceans under protection by 2030, and ensuring effective management of protected areas. The intention is also to focus more attention on the health of the oceans.
- Respecting human rights and in particular the rights of indigenous peoples in the context of nature conservation measures, and making the principle of free prior informed consent mandatory.
- Addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry, shifting our consumption patterns towards more sustainability and making global supply chains sustainable.
- Ensuring that, from 2030 onwards, all trade in and use of wildlife on land, in freshwater habitats and in the oceans is exclusively pursued in ways that are legal and sustainable.
- Integrating biodiversity goals into sector policies, sector planning and financing instruments for consistent public and private sector action, and stronger integration of natural threats into financial management.

- Developing and using synergies between climate protection and adaptation to climate change, and the conservation of biodiversity, above all through nature-based solutions. Restoring degraded ecosystems and thus contributing to climate action and adaptation to climate change.
- Enshrining the One Health approach systematically in the biodiversity framework and in its implementation at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.
- Significantly reducing emissions and the discharge of harmful substances like pesticides and plastic waste into the environment.
- Contributing towards ensuring that the benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge are shared equitably and fairly.
- Revising or drafting new National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that allow the goals of the new biodiversity framework to be implemented effectively.
- Establishing efficient mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and review, so that the implementation of the biodiversity framework can be followed up and adjusted as possible.



*Growing organic coffee in Peru*

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## Flagships and highlights



Expanding, connecting and managing protected areas

- The **Legacy Landscapes Fund** launched by Germany together with international partners and philanthropists has the aim of securing long-term funding for protected areas that are particularly rich in biodiversity. A special innovation of the Fund is how private funding is leveraged with public funds.
- In the **Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KaZa)**, the world's biggest cross-border terrestrial protected area, Germany is supporting its partner countries Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe in their efforts to combine their national protected areas and establish wildlife corridors.
- In order to contribute to the protection of the world's oceans, Germany founded – in 2016 – the **Blue Action Fund (BAF)**, to which Sweden, France and the international Green Climate Fund are contributors. Its aim is to strengthen marine and coastal protection and thus reduce the loss of biodiversity in the oceans.



Fighting poaching

- With its global Partnership against **Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa and Asia**, Germany is pursuing a holistic and intercontinental approach along the entire supply chain for illegal wildlife products – from countries of origin and transit countries in Africa and Asia all the way to consumer countries.



## Flagships and highlights



### Restoring ecosystems

- With its **African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)**, Germany is supporting the efforts of its partner countries to restore productive forest landscapes and reduce the pressure to utilise remaining areas of primary forests. Under the framework of this initiative, at least 100 million hectares of forests or tree-rich African landscapes are to be restored by 2030.
- In Guatemala, Germany is supporting a project for **business models for a socially compatible restoration of natural, biodiverse forests** in cooperation with the private sector. Forest land has been restored through biodiverse agro-forestry systems. More than 900 hectares of restored land is being used for sustainable value chains for cocoa, honey and breadnut trees, creating income opportunities for the local population.



### Sustainable use

- The **global project Sustainability and Value Added in Agricultural Supply Chains** is working with partner countries to make supply chains fair, sustainable and deforestation-free, thus ensuring better living conditions and biodiversity conservation on the ground. Global measures range from the introduction of digital training formats for producers to climate-smart, biodiversity-friendly production systems.
- In Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, Germany is funding a project for **mainstreaming biodiversity in supply chains for food crops**. On 79 plantations for pineapples and bananas, with a total area of 18,885 hectares, biodiversity protection is being improved. In Costa Rica, the development of a green label has been agreed upon with the environmental protection agency. The label will be awarded to operations where production meets high biodiversity-friendly standards.



### Environmental protection and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC)

- Via the project to **support territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs)**, Germany is supporting indigenous peoples and local communities in 45 countries, assisting them in preserving their traditional living environments and lifestyles, and in conserving biodiversity on some 8 million hectares of land, including by supporting up to 600 small-scale projects. The goal is for indigenous and local knowledge, and the ICCAs to be taken into account and recognised in urban planning processes.



### Biodiversity and health

- With the new **International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade**, Germany is contributing to working with government organisations, civil society and research institutions to mitigate the risks to environmental, human and animal health in the wildlife trade sector. The guiding principle is the One Health approach. Zoonoses can thus be warded off better while conserving biological diversity at the same time.



### Climate and biodiversity

- With the **REDD Programme for Early Movers**, Germany and other donors have so far contributed in Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador not just to saving 74 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, but also to biodiversity conservation by preserving forests.
- In 2015, Germany participated in founding the **Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)**, which was set up to support policies for forest protection and climate action in the Congo Basin. Forest protection means for CAFI above all poverty alleviation. CAFI fosters measures like: agroforestry, improved farming practices, participatory land use planning, family planning and good governance reforms.
- Via the **Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project** in five Indo-Pacific countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste), Germany is nurturing the habitat of many animals and supporting the preservation of an important carbon sink. Through participatory approaches and sustainable business models, the project is fostering local involvement and investments in nature protection.



### Access and benefit sharing

- With the international **ABS Initiative** (Access and Benefit Sharing) and the initiative **BioInnovation Africa**, Germany is promoting fair conditions in Africa for the sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources. We are building European-African business partnerships for fair and sustainable value chains for products made from natural ingredients.

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