



IFAD's contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework

Introduction

IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub. The fund is the only specialized global development organization exclusively focused on and dedicated to **transforming agriculture, rural economies, and food systems to make them more inclusive, productive, resilient, and sustainable**. It targets the millions of people who are most at risk of being left behind: poor, small-scale food producers, women, young people, and other vulnerable groups living in rural areas.

IFAD promotes agricultural growth that is environmentally sustainable and integrated into ecosystems. IFAD works with partners to build climate resilience by managing competing land-use systems while reducing poverty, enhancing biodiversity, increasing yields, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. It especially recognises the role that small farms play in harbouring greater crop and non-crop biodiversity than larger farms to support the production of diverse, nutritious food and help communities adapt to climate change. In this vein, IFAD helps smallholder farmers make the transition to agroecology, with around 60 per cent of all projects completed between 2018 and 2023 [implementing agroecological practices](#). IFAD is committed to further integrating biodiversity in its investments. It has recently adopted its **first Biodiversity Strategy** and is dedicating 40% of its total investments towards climate action, of which **30% is targeting nature-based solutions (NbS) for people and planet**.

How we do it?

IFAD provides loans and grants based on a country strategic programme agreed with governments after broad country-level consultations. As a UN agency, IFAD also seeks to coordinate with other UN agencies through the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and various partnership at country and global level.

As an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and an accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF), **IFAD also assembles different sources of finances**. It also has a specific fund to support smallholder farmers' climate adaptation, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), as well as a dedicated private sector strategies to leverage private funding and foster public-private partnerships.

IFAD comparative advantage to contribute to the GBF targets

The GBF provides unprecedented emphasis on land-use, agriculture and forests contribution to biodiversity loss and their role in restoration and conservation. It also applies an increased emphasis on the custodians of biodiversity, as around 80 per cent of the planet's remaining biodiversity and 40% of protected areas are located in communal and Indigenous Peoples' lands. To successfully implement the GBF, a "whole of society approach" needs to be adopted, ensuring that local communities are empowered and benefit from conserving and managing biodiversity and adopting more sustainable agricultural systems.

Through its mandate to invest in sustainable rural development and food production, its strong environmental targets and recent adoption of its first Biodiversity Strategy, **IFAD is uniquely positioned to support a holistic and people driven GBF**:

- 100% of IFAD projects include safeguards that mitigate biodiversity and pollution risks, based on an updated safeguard framework. 70% of IFAD projects have activities that contribute to biodiversity restoration or conservation, with recognized strengths in implementing holistic approaches to transform farm and food systems, combining farms, landscapes, markets and agroecology, as encouraged in target 10
- **IFAD investments in biodiversity strengthen the incentives for people** to engage in biodiversity as they also contribute to climate, nutrition, and livelihoods (i.e. jobs, new income sources etc). Among projects with biodiversity activities, 98% strengthen climate resilience and 60% improve nutrition diversity (against 31% of projects without biodiversity).
- IFAD puts **people and marginalized communities at the heart of its investments** through strong targeting, compulsory gender mainstreaming, social safeguards including free and prior informed consent and investment in community institutions and empowerment. 30% of IFAD's portfolio supports community-driven development. IFAD has a unique partnership with Farmers' Organizations, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), youth and women's organizations and hosts an IPs and a Farmers' forum to consult with these constituencies.
- As both a UN agency and IFI, IFAD can help **mobilize public-private partnerships and finance for biodiversity** in rural areas. IFAD has been highly recognized as an efficient assembler of public-private finance, mobilizing green finance (e.g. GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund and ASAP), private sector strategies and partnerships for greener rural finance and value chains. IFAD also engages in policy and partnerships that are core to achieving wider impact (e.g. Great Green Wall, One UN, Environmental Management Group, UN Decade on Restoration, Agroecology Coalition).



How IFAD can support the GBF and governments

GBF target	IFAD's offer
<p>Target 1, 2 3 & 10:</p> <p>Promoting participatory integrated landscape management that supports conservation, restoration & sustainable agriculture that respect people right and food security</p>	<p>IFAD uses GIS tools, including a specific geospatial indicator on biodiversity which supports spatial planning and monitoring, determines the interventions that have the most impact on biodiversity and quantifies nature's contribution to people.</p> <p>IFAD's Social and Environmental Safeguards ensure that the definition of intervention and land use does not harm biodiversity nor people involved, requiring Free Prior and Informed Consent and Biodiversity Action Plans where required.</p> <p>IFAD adopts a community-driven approach to development, which also empowers communities, strengthens women's voice and decision-making, and enhanced social cohesion and values, enhancing participation in land-use and landscape management.</p>
<p>Target 1, 2, 5, 9, 19, 21, 22, 23:</p> <p>Including indigenous people and local community in decision-making through knowledge, FPIC and local governance mechanisms</p>	<p>IFAD has a unique mandate to smallholder farmers, supported through community-driven development and partnership with Indigenous People (IPs) organizations. It provides key insights into local actors on the ground, their role and challenges and the solutions they offer; and helps ensure equitable access to resources and benefit-sharing, contribution to decision-making, free-prior and informed consent, and overall fair delivery of the GBF.</p> <p>IFAD also dedicates a share of its investments to mainstreaming themes on indigenous people, youth, gender, climate and nutrition. These incentivise a people-centred approach, delivering interventions that leverage the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate, and nutrition; and that recognises the specific vulnerabilities and role of youth, women, and indigenous people.</p>
<p>Target 12; 16:</p> <p>Adopting a One Health principle along the food system</p>	<p>IFAD has committed to improving the nutrition of 13,2 million people by 2025, including through agrobiodiversity, nutrition dense neglected and underutilised species (NUS), sustainable use of wild food. IFAD is also strengthening market incentives for biodiversity by promoting local markets for agrobiodiverse products, rolling out biodiversity standards in food systems value chains and creating income opportunities in the process. Practices like community seed banks and nurseries, school feeding or geomapping have supported the implementation of this agenda.</p> <p>IFAD also leads the GEF's Food Systems Integrated Program, with the goal to "transform our agrifood systems to supply more people with healthier and nutritious food, while conserving and restoring our ecosystems and natural resources"</p>
<p>Target 8, 11, 19:</p> <p>Leveraging synergies with climate</p>	<p>IFAD committed that 30% of climate finance needs to be delivered through nature-based solutions by 2030 and adopted an associated finance tracking mechanism.</p> <p>With this, IFAD incentivises biodiversity conservation and restoration in its intervention, provides recommendations in public and private sector's discussions on biodiversity tracking mechanisms, and encourages synergies between biodiversity and climate mitigation interventions. By leveraging ecosystem benefits of nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, IFAD also increases the level of finance mobilisation for biodiversity</p>
<p>Targets 20, 21, 22:</p> <p>Developing and sharing knowledge, including traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<p>IFAD's knowledge management system and monitoring and evaluation framework provide information on the role and state of biodiversity in rural area; smallholders' dependencies to it; impact of biodiversity loss on production; food security and nutrition; best practices to sustainably manage natural resources and restore biodiversity; factors that provide negative incentives for biodiversity conservation, restoration and management, and those that are conducive to damages along the agricultural value chain. Information can inform institutional capacity-building activities and recommendations for policies and regulations.</p>



International Fund for Agricultural Development
 Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy
 Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463
 Email: ifad@ifad.org
www.ifad.org

facebook.com/ifad
instagram.com/ifadnews
linkedin.com/company/ifad
twitter.com/ifad
youtube.com/user/ifadTV