

Executive Summary

Introduction

Cambodia's biodiversity and ecosystems underpin national development objectives, food and nutrition security, livelihoods, public health, cultural values, and climate resilience. Forest landscapes, the Mekong and Tonle Sap system, floodplains, wetlands, and coastal and marine ecosystems provide fisheries productivity, water regulation, soil fertility, pollination, timber and non-timber products, natural hazard buffering, and tourism potential. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation therefore create direct risks to economic performance, human well-being, and long-term resilience.

This National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2026-2030 is the national framework for halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, while strengthening nature's contributions to people. It aligns national priorities with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), and it is designed to be implementation-ready. The NBSAP combines a national results framework with a consolidated Implementation Action Plan that links targets to strategic actions, responsible institutions, monitoring indicators, and delivery milestones. It is intended to guide spatial planning, Protected Area (PA) and landscape management, restoration, sustainable use, pollution control, climate action, incentive reform, biodiversity finance, business accountability, knowledge systems, and inclusive governance.

Biodiversity Status, Trends and Threats

Cambodia's Biodiversity

Cambodia is a biodiversity-rich country within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, spanning major forest types, the Mekong river and floodplain system, the Tonle Sap wetlands and coastal mangroves. This ecological diversity underpins critical ecosystem services, including fisheries, water regulation, timber and non-timber forest products, traditional medicines and rural livelihoods. Flora includes more than 3,000 recorded plant species and fauna includes more than 600 bird species and around 160 mammal species, alongside diverse reptiles, amphibians and fish. Cambodia supports at least 274 globally threatened species and remains a high conservation priority because it retains some of the most viable remaining populations of several wide-ranging species, especially those associated with deciduous dipterocarp forests and plains wetlands. Freshwater biodiversity is particularly significant, with the Mekong and Tonle Sap supporting high-concern species and migratory fish that are essential for food security.

Threats to Biodiversity

Cambodia's biodiversity is under intense pressure from ecosystem conversion, illegal and unsustainable logging and hunting, overfishing, illegal wildlife trade, expanding infrastructure, and limited enforcement capacity and financing. The most severe threats include plantation agriculture, dams and hydropower, wetland drainage and conversion, sand mining, and coastal development.

Agricultural expansion, encroachment and land grabbing continue to drive habitat loss and fragmentation, including around PAs, while forest fires, particularly in deciduous dipterocarp forests, further degrade habitats. Roads increase access to remote areas, thereby accelerating illegal logging, hunting, and settlement, fragmenting corridors, and reducing connectivity. Large mammals such as Asian Elephant, Gaur and Banteng are declining due to habitat loss and poaching, while widespread snaring and hunting for household use affect many smaller mammal species.

Wetlands and river systems are degraded by drainage, conversion, sand mining and water infrastructure that alters flows and disrupts migration, compounded by overfishing and pollution that threaten high-concern aquatic species including the Irrawaddy Dolphin and the Mekong Giant Catfish. Coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs, face pressure from unregulated fishing,

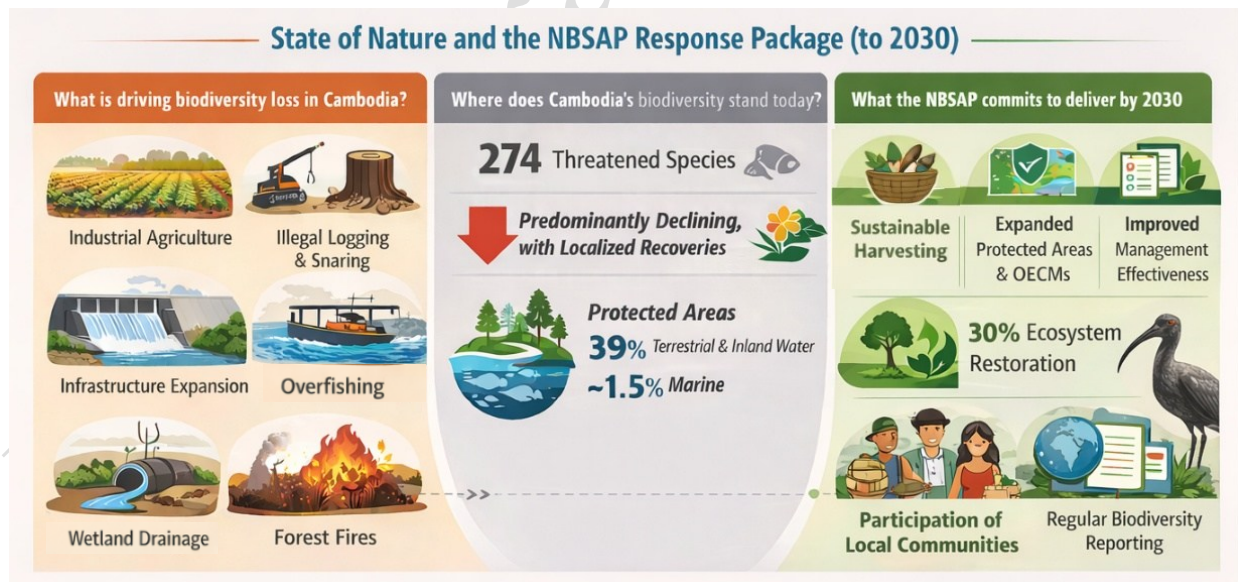
reclamation, tourism, aquaculture, and shipping, with climate change intensifying these impacts. Underlying these pressures are governance weaknesses, limited accountability and insufficient mainstreaming of biodiversity into land-use and investment decisions, with climate variability and extremes amplifying overall risk.

Biodiversity Trends

Reflecting global and regional trends, recent evidence indicates Cambodia’s biodiversity is on a predominantly negative trajectory across ecosystems and species groups. Spatial analyses and stakeholder consultations report that major ecosystem types, forests, grasslands, wetlands, coastal zones and marine areas, are widely perceived to be degrading, consistent with ongoing tree cover loss and fragmentation in key forest types along agricultural, concession and infrastructure frontiers. Declines are also reported in Tonle Sap and Mekong seasonally inundated systems due to conversion for rice and aquaculture, and in coastal and mangrove systems under pressure from aquaculture, tourism and urban expansion.

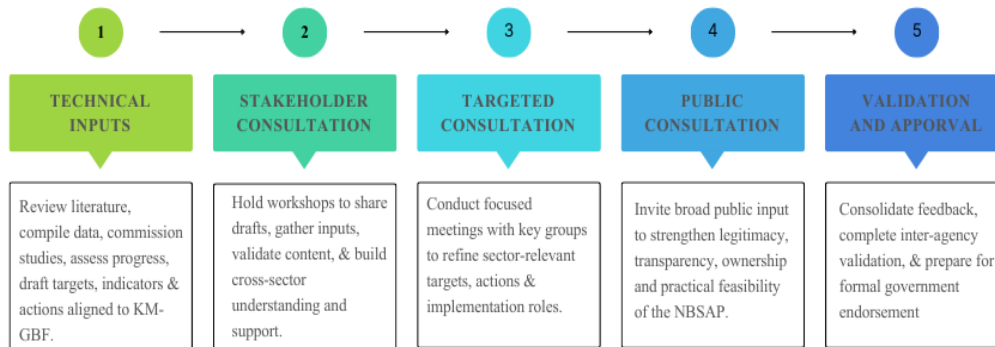
Across taxa, stakeholders perceive widespread population declines in mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, freshwater fish and marine species, with few stable trends and only isolated improvements. Mammals are described as sharply declining, especially large-bodied species affected by snaring, poaching and habitat loss. Birds show mixed outcomes with some local stability in well-managed sites, but overall declines dominate. Freshwater fish in Tonle Sap and Mekong are reported to be in serious decline linked to hydropower, overfishing and ecosystem degradation, while marine trends are inferred from limited monitoring.

Site-based monitoring shows targeted, sustained conservation can stabilize or improve some species, including select waterbirds and Siamese crocodile in protected and actively managed sites. However, positive trends remain localized, and the prevailing national pattern is continued ecosystem degradation and increasing pressure on species populations.



NBSAP Development Process and Stakeholder Engagement

The 2026 NBSAP was developed through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, implemented across five major phases. These phases were designed to ensure that biodiversity priorities are informed by scientific evidence, aligned with sectoral policies, and shaped by the knowledge and perspectives of all relevant stakeholders.



Technical inputs involved 2016 NBSAP targets being mapped to the KM-GBF and updated into the 2026 NBSAP through commissioned studies, policy reviews and expert consultations to refine targets, indicators and actions. Stakeholder and public consultation involved a total of 17 stakeholder and public meetings. Seven stakeholder consultation meetings were conducted to further draft targets, indicators, and actions were discussed and refined. Targeted stakeholder consultations were then conducted with line ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) groups. Public consultation aimed at the equitable inclusion of all groups. A public channel was set up on social media with over 250 participants, and there were 10 public consultations undertaken across the country.

Guiding Principles and Cross-Cutting Commitments

Cambodia's 2026 NBSAP is grounded in a set of guiding principles and cross-cutting commitments that underpin all strategy elements. The 2026 NBSAP integrates an ecosystem approach, a human-rights-based approach, gender equality, respect for Traditional Knowledge (TK), One Health and biodiversity–health linkages, and science-based decision-making. These principles reflect Cambodia's commitment to inclusive, equitable, and evidence-based biodiversity governance, engaging the whole of society and honoring inter-generational equity. They are also fully aligned with the Royal Government of Cambodia's Pentagonal Strategy Phase I (2023–2028), which places environmental sustainability, human capital, technological innovation, and social inclusion at the core of national development.

Progress and Lessons from 2016 NBSAP

Cambodia's 2016 NBSAP aligned national priorities with global biodiversity goals through four strategic objectives and 20 Aichi-aligned targets, supported by sectoral action plans and partial mainstreaming into national development and climate frameworks. A major achievement was rapid PA expansion, reaching about 41 percent of national territory by 2018 through new sites and corridors, complemented by ecosystem-specific policies and early Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) pilots that linked conservation with community benefits. However, mainstreaming across high-impact sectors remained uneven, with continued habitat loss driven by agriculture, infrastructure, and mining, and limited cross-sector coordination and accountability.

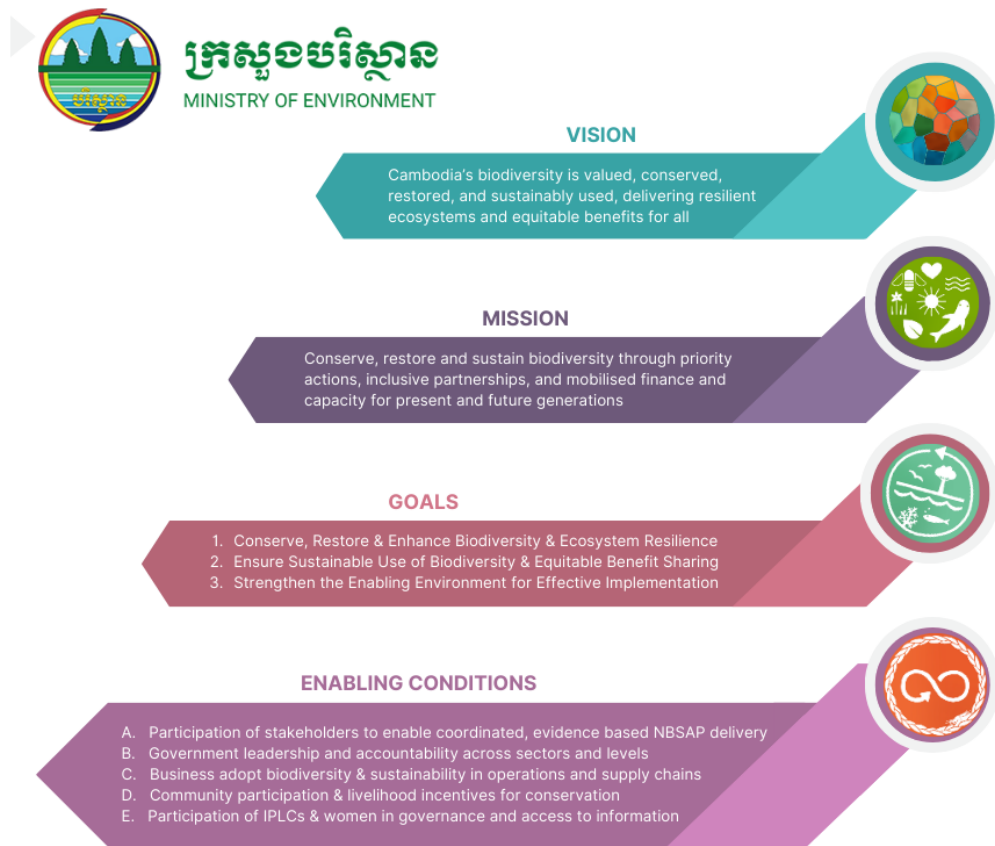
Implementation expanded community-based conservation and stakeholder engagement through an inclusive inter-ministerial process and growth in Community Forests, Community Protected Area, and

Community Fisheries mechanisms, supported by civil society partnerships and increasing recognition of IPLCs as essential partners. Results were mixed due to resource and capacity constraints, unclear tenure in some areas, persistent illegal activities, and participation that was sometimes consultative rather than decision-influencing. Public awareness and education increased through communication, education and public awareness, and stronger integration into training and curricula, alongside efforts to strengthen biodiversity information through the Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) and development of Cambodia Environmental Management Information System (CEMIS), but impacts were not consistently measured, and data remained fragmented, with CHM inactive and CEMIS not yet fully operational. Across the cycle, weak monitoring, enforcement, and accountability limited results, and inclusion remained insufficient in practice, underscoring the need for clear mandates, durable financing, stronger coordination, operational M&E systems, and explicit equity measures in the 2026–2030 NBSAP.

Strategic Framework (Vision, Mission, Goals, and Enabling Conditions)

Cambodia’s Vision to be realized through the implementation of the 2026 NBSAP:

By 2050, Cambodia’s biodiversity and ecosystems are valued, conserved, restored, and sustainably used, sustaining essential ecosystem services, supporting a healthy and resilient environment, and delivering equitable benefits that enhance the well-being, cultural heritage, and sustainable development of all Cambodians.



Over the next 5 years, Cambodia will take priority actions to conserve, restore, and expand natural habitats and strengthen resilience; ensure sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits; engage government, business, and underrepresented groups including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs); and mobilize the means of implementation to safeguard nature for present and future generations.

NBSAP structure

The NBSAP is organized around three Goals, five Enabling Conditions, and six Key Result Areas that cluster the 23 Targets and their actions for planning, delivery, and reporting.

Goals

Goal 1: Conserve, Restore and Enhance Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience. This Goal aims to secure priority species, ecosystems, and ecological processes; restore degraded areas; and maintain ecological connectivity and ecosystem services, with an emphasis on critical habitats and Key Biodiversity Areas, the recovery of threatened species, and genetic diversity.

Goal 2: Ensure Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Equitable Benefit Sharing for Communities and the National Economy. This Goal aims to manage the use of wild species, agricultural biodiversity, forests, inland waters, and marine and coastal resources within safe ecological limits so that benefits are stable over the long term for communities and the wider economy, supported by sustainable production landscapes and seascapes, biodiversity-positive value chains, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity and genetic resources.

Goal 3: Strengthen the Enabling Environment for Effective NBSAP Implementation. This goal aims to strengthen laws and policies, institutions, finance, science–policy linkages, rights-based and gender-responsive governance, and biodiversity information systems, including mainstreaming biodiversity into national planning and finance, strengthening capacity and partnerships, and improving incentives and accountability mechanisms so that public and private decisions align with NBSAP targets.

Enabling Conditions

The five Enabling Conditions below strengthen the systems, institutions, and partnerships needed to implement the Key Result Areas and Targets, align them with national priorities, and support Cambodia’s commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). Each Enabling Condition is supported by a set of enabling actions that translate the framework into practical steps, with indicative lead institutions for implementation.

A. Participation of all stakeholders to enable coordinated, evidence-informed 2026 NBSAP delivery. This enabling condition strengthens coordination and adaptive management by further institutionalizing the Biodiversity Technical Working Group (BTWG), maintaining an integrated implementation action plan, supporting national learning and stocktaking, sustaining public awareness and behaviour change, and enabling structured alignment of NGO initiatives with national priorities.

B. Government leadership and accountability across sectors and levels. This enabling condition reinforces multi-level governance by establishing sub-national mechanisms aligned to the BTWG model, providing targeted capacity development for planning and reporting, operationalizing environmental financing mechanisms under the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Code (2023), strengthening data integration and use through the Cambodia Environmental Management Information System (CEMIS), and institutionalising a science–policy interface.

C. Business adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices. This enabling condition supports the private-sector mainstreaming of biodiversity through applied evidence and case studies, a national business-biodiversity platform for public–private dialogue, practical sector guidance and training, transparency tools such as a registry of biodiversity-friendly businesses, and capacity building for business associations.

D. Community participation and livelihood incentives for conservation and sustainable use. This enabling condition links conservation to improved livelihoods by establishing gender-responsive livelihood baselines, providing vocational training and enterprise support, strengthening biodiversity-friendly value chains and market access, supporting TK consistent with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Article 8(j), enabling accessible community finance mechanisms, and promoting participatory monitoring.

E. Participation of IPLCs and women in biodiversity governance and access to information. This enabling condition strengthens inclusion and accountability by maintaining a regularly updated IPLC database, compiling gender-disaggregated leadership and participation data, implementing practical reforms to address systemic exclusion, providing targeted capacity development for effective participation, and improving access to biodiversity information and data to support transparent, informed decision-making.



National Biodiversity Action Plan

For delivery to 2030, the 2026 NBSAP is structured around 23 national Targets—closely aligned with the KM-GBF Targets—organized into six Key Result Areas that cluster indicators and actions for planning, coordination, implementation, and reporting. Together, these provide a coherent pathway to achieving national biodiversity outcomes while fulfilling Cambodia’s commitments under the KM-GBF.

Key Result Area 1 – Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration

This Key Result Area aims to ensure that Cambodia’s terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems are planned and managed to avoid habitat loss, restore at least 30% of degraded terrestrial and at least 10% of degraded marine and coastal areas, and secure effective and equitable protection through PAs and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

Target 1: Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss

By 2030, ensure that all areas of high biodiversity importance are identified and brought under participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and management processes, with effective and equitable management addressing key drivers of land-use and sea-use change, and with natural habitat loss brought close to zero.

Background and context: Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning is critical for reducing habitat loss and fragmentation as agriculture, infrastructure, and urban expansion continue to reshape forests, wetlands, and marine and coastal areas. Recent consultations indicate widespread ecosystem degradation and uneven monitoring, which limits timely, evidence-based planning decisions.

Policy frameworks: Cambodia has a strong base of planning and environmental instruments, including national spatial planning policy, land and urban planning laws, and environmental requirements for impact assessment and public participation under the ENR Code (2023). Sectoral frameworks for PAs, forestry, fisheries, and water resources provide additional entry points for zoning and management.

Gaps and challenges: Biodiversity values and ecosystem services are not consistently integrated into spatial plans, and overlapping mandates and fragmented processes undermine accountability at both national and subnational levels. Data remain dispersed and inconsistently shared, and subnational capacity for geospatial analysis and enforcement is often limited.

Opportunities: Delivery can be accelerated by making biodiversity-sensitive zoning and avoidance of high-value areas standard in national and subnational plans, supported by consistent geospatial prioritization and stronger PA and Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA) zoning and corridor planning. Operational CEMIS-linked data governance, combined with participatory planning that incorporates IPLC and gender considerations, can improve transparency, uptake, and investment screening.

Target 2: Restore up to 30% of degraded ecosystems

By 2030, at least 30% of the total area of degraded terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems will be defined, mapped, prioritized and under restoration to enhance biodiversity, connectivity, and ecosystem functions and services.

Background and context: Ecosystem restoration has become a national priority in Cambodia, which has experienced a long-term decline in forest cover and increasing degradation across forests, floodplains, wetlands, and coastal and marine ecosystems. Recent large-scale initiatives, including the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program in the Tonle Sap Basin and the Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project in the Cardamom Mountains–Tonle Sap landscape, demonstrate how restoration is linked to livelihoods, watershed protection, and ecotourism at meaningful scales.

Policy frameworks: Cambodia has a solid restoration policy base, including the Law on Forestry (2002), the community forestry (CF) framework, the Zoning Guideline for PAs (2017), and fisheries legislation that support the rehabilitation of forests, coastal, and marine ecosystems. More recent whole-of-government frameworks, including the ENR Code (2023), the Circular Strategy on Environment (2023–2028; CSE), National PA Strategic Management Plan (2017–2031), and climate commitments under the Long-Term

Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (2021) and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 (2025), provide stronger mandates and program entry points for nature-based restoration.

Gaps and challenges: Restoration is constrained by continuing drivers of degradation, including deforestation, land conversion, infrastructure expansion, and unsustainable extraction, with freshwater and coastal systems under additional pressure from altered hydrology, sand mining, overfishing, aquaculture, and coastal development. Evidence cited highlights severe stress in the Tonle Sap and Mekong systems, substantial losses of mangrove and seagrass, persistent forest fragmentation along development frontiers, and weaker monitoring of marine trends, all of which complicate prioritization and performance tracking.

Opportunities: Practical delivery can scale quickly by building on recent experience, using remote sensing and spatial planning tools to define, map, and prioritize degraded ecosystems, and by embedding restoration targets into national and subnational plans. Financing prospects are also improving through alignment with climate and green investment agendas, including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and blue carbon, phased expansion of PES, and emerging biodiversity and sustainable finance instruments, provided safeguards and credible measurement are in place.

Target 3: Effectively manage PAs and establish OECM sites

By 2030, at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and at least 10% of marine and coastal areas are conserved by the PA system and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), with effective management in place to ensure the 2050 vision, while ensuring equitable participation with inclusive processes and outcomes, and recognizing the roles of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth.

Background and context: Cambodia's PA network has expanded rapidly and now covers a large share of the national territory, but ecological representativeness and management effectiveness are uneven, particularly for marine, coastal, wetland, grassland, karst, and riparian systems.

Policy frameworks: PAs are supported by a mature legal and planning framework, including PA classification and zoning provisions, PA system planning, and site-level management planning, with a clear basis to recognize OECMs where governance outside the PA system can deliver durable biodiversity outcomes.

Gaps and challenges: Persistent illegal logging, land conversion, poaching, and unsustainable resource use continue in and around many sites, compounded by underfunding, staffing constraints, incomplete zoning and management plans, and overlapping mandates that weaken enforcement and coordinated decision-making.

Opportunities: The fastest gains will come from completing zoning and management plans, targeting enforcement and financing to the most threatened sites, and using a national OECM framework to recognize effective community, customary, and private stewardship that secures underrepresented ecosystems and improves equity outcomes.

Key Result Area 2 – Species and Genetic Conservation, Threat Reduction and Climate Resilience

This Key Result Area aims to halt species extinction and conserve genetic diversity, preventing and managing Invasive Alien Species (IAS), reducing pollution to levels harmful to biodiversity, and integrating climate resilience and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into policies, planning and implementation.

Target 4: Halt Species Extinction and Protect Genetic Diversity

By 2030, halt the human-induced extinction of threatened species, reduce extinction risks and ensure the restoration of genetic diversity in wild and domesticated populations through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management.

Background and context: Cambodia supports significant concentrations of globally threatened species and has demonstrated that focused interventions can stabilize or recover select taxa through *in situ* protection, conflict reduction, and targeted *ex situ* support.

Policy frameworks: Species and genetic conservation are anchored in PA and natural resource laws, species-focused planning instruments, community-based management mechanisms, and international commitments on biodiversity and wildlife trade that reinforce domestic regulation and compliance.

Gaps and challenges: Extinction risk remains driven by habitat loss and degradation, overexploitation and illegal trade, hydrological alteration, and escalating climate impacts, while baseline data, systematic trend monitoring, and coordinated recovery planning remain incomplete for many taxa and landscapes.

Opportunities: Scaling proven recovery models, strengthening national threat listings and enforcement systems, building a practical national species and genetic monitoring index, and expanding incentive-based community stewardship can deliver measurable reductions in extinction risk and support coexistence.

Target 6: Control and manage Invasive Alien Species

By 2030, major invasive alien species (IAS) and their pathways have been identified, prioritized and controlling measures determined and implemented to reduce and minimize rate of invasion and their impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Background and context: IAS are a growing cross-sector threat to Cambodia's wetlands, rivers, agriculture, and fisheries, with established invasives already degrading habitats and ecosystem services.

Policy frameworks: Cambodia has a policy basis for IAS prevention and control through national biodiversity planning, shared mandates across environment and agriculture agencies, border and quarantine functions, and an existing communications approach intended to shift behavior in high-risk pathways.

Gaps and challenges: Practical control is constrained by limited funding and technical capacity, fragmented distribution and impact data, uneven enforcement across pathways such as trade and aquaculture, and inconsistent coordination and public awareness at national and subnational levels.

Opportunities: Developing a prioritized national IAS list, strengthening pathway controls and inspections, establishing an early-detection and rapid-response system linked to community reporting, and targeting control efforts in high-value ecosystems and PAs can shift effort from reactive projects toward a durable national program.

Target 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels that are not Harmful to Biodiversity

By 2030, pollutant pressures on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are substantially reduced to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity, with effective measures in place to mitigate cumulative effects of pollution (nutrients, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals), and plastic pollution.

Background and context: Pollution pressures are increasing from agricultural intensification, urban waste leakage, industrial and mining discharges, and river basin disturbance, with nutrient loading, plastics, and localized heavy metals affecting freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Policy frameworks: Cambodia has established a layered pollution control framework through environmental quality standards, water pollution and solid waste regulations, pesticide and fertilizer management provisions, urban waste policies, and the ratification of international conventions that support national enforcement of chemicals and waste regulations.

Gaps and challenges: Diffuse pollution is difficult to monitor and regulate, enforcement capacity and inter-agency coordination remain limited, waste collection and recycling systems lag behind consumption growth, and climate extremes amplify risks to runoff and pollutant concentrations.

Opportunities: Tightening priority controls under the circular economy agenda, strengthening practical monitoring and public reporting, scaling safer, more efficient nutrient and pesticide management in key catchments, and mobilizing private-sector participation in waste reduction can reduce loads to ecologically safer levels.

Target 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

By 2030, the impacts of climate change on biodiversity are reduced and minimized, through nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, climate mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction strategies.

Background and context: Climate hazards are already affecting ecosystems and livelihoods through droughts, floods, heat, and coastal salinity intrusion, and projected warming and increased rainfall variability will further stress freshwater, forest, coastal, and marine systems.

Policy frameworks: Climate resilience for biodiversity is supported by national climate commitments and adaptation planning, Disaster Risk Reduction frameworks, and cross-sector strategies that increasingly position NbS as core delivery mechanisms.

Gaps and challenges: Climate impacts interact with existing pressures, including altered hydrology, habitat fragmentation, and coastal degradation, while climate risk is not yet consistently embedded in conservation planning, site management, and investment screening across all sectors and provinces.

Opportunities: Prioritizing Ecosystem-based Adaptation and restoration in floodplains, watersheds, mangroves, and seagrass systems, linking biodiversity and climate Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) through CEMIS, and aligning safeguards and finance with national climate frameworks can scale resilient conservation with community co-benefits.

Key Result Area 3 – Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Government and Society

This Key Result Area aims to mainstream biodiversity across government and society by embedding biodiversity values in decision-making, reforming harmful and scaling up positive incentives, mobilizing sustainable finance, strengthening capacity and technology, and improving biodiversity knowledge systems to guide action.

Target 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level

By 2030, biodiversity values are integrated into national, sub-national, local and private sector policies, regulations, planning and decision-making processes,

ensuring that key public and private activities, fiscal policies and financial flows are progressively aligned with Cambodia's sustainable development goals and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Background and context: Biodiversity and ecosystem service values are increasingly recognized in national planning, and practical pilots in natural capital accounting and ecosystem service mapping are beginning to influence land-use and investment decisions. Integration at the subnational level is emerging through alignment of community-based resource management with commune planning and public investment processes.

Policy frameworks: The ENR Code (2023) strengthens requirements to integrate biodiversity into decisions and reinforces Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as mainstreaming tools. Earlier spatial planning and land management laws, plus sectoral frameworks in forestry, fisheries, and PAs, provide additional entry points to embed biodiversity in plans, budgets, and approvals.

Gaps and challenges: Biodiversity integration remains uneven beyond the environmental sector because valuation tools, technical guidance, and routine screening remain limited. SEA is rarely applied in practice, and biodiversity accounts and datasets remain project-based, fragmented, and not yet institutionalized in core planning and statistics systems.

Opportunities: Cambodia can scale integration by expanding System of Environmental-Economic Accounting-style accounting, strengthening SEA application in priority sectors, and requiring consistent biodiversity risk and dependency screening in public investment and major private projects. Scaling proven approaches for embedding Community Protected Areas (CPAs), CFs, MFMA, and Community Fisheries (CFi) into commune and provincial plans, alongside clear Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes where relevant, can make biodiversity mainstreaming routine at the local level.

Target 18: Reduce Harmful Incentives and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity

By 2030, the elimination, phasing out, or reform of incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful to biodiversity and the scaling up of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Background and context: Past incentive structures have often favored land and commodity expansion, short-term timber extraction, and unsustainable harvesting, contributing to habitat conversion and ecosystem decline. In practice, harmful incentives also arise from regulatory gaps and weak enforcement that implicitly reward overexploitation.

Policy frameworks: The 2016 NBSAP established a policy basis to reform harmful incentives and expand positive instruments such as eco-taxes and PES. The ENR Code (2023), the CSE (2023–2028), and broader development strategies provide stronger mandates to operationalize economic instruments and align fiscal policy with biodiversity objectives.

Gaps and challenges: Progress has been limited because entrenched sector incentives are difficult to unwind, and positive mechanisms remain small-scale and often donor-dependent. Weak inter-ministerial coordination, limited integration of biodiversity criteria into budgeting and investment rules, and the need for equitable safeguards for IPLCs constrain reform.

Opportunities: Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) methods can be used to quantify harmful incentives, build a practical phase-out pathway, and redirect spending toward biodiversity-positive

measures with clear social safeguards. Scalable options include targeted PES expansion, tax and fee incentives for certified production, community conservation grants, and carefully governed green finance instruments that mobilize private capital.

Target 19: Mobilize funding from all sources to support NBSAP implementation

By 2030, Cambodia will mobilize funds for the development and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan through increased national budget, innovative financing, public-private/NGOs partnerships and international support.

Background and context: Biodiversity finance has relied on a mix of government budgets and substantial donor and NGO funding, with early growth in innovative mechanisms such as PES, REDD+, and biodiversity-friendly enterprises. Expenditure is spread across many ministries, which reinforces the need for whole-of-government finance tracking and alignment with 2026 NBSAP priorities.

Policy frameworks: The NBSAP remains the central financing framework, now reinforced by the ENR Code (2023), which includes provisions for environmental funds and incentive-based mechanisms. The CSE (2023–2028) and national development strategies, combined with BIOFIN diagnostics and finance planning, provide a coherent platform for diversifying and stabilizing funding sources.

Gaps and challenges: Cambodia remains dependent on external finance, and financing gaps persist when needs are compared to available resources using full-cost estimates. Some priority themes, including restoration, biosafety, and threatened species, have historically received low shares, and subnational allocations remain relatively limited as local service delivery responsibilities grow.

Opportunities: A quantified finance plan can shift the system from budget-growth reporting to results-based gap-closing and guide reforms such as budget tagging, efficiency gains, and stronger alignment of donor portfolios with national priorities. Scaling trust funds, PES, results-based payments, and carefully designed green instruments, alongside replication of proven business-community models, can progressively close gaps and secure long-term site financing.

Target 20: - Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer and Scientific/Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity

By 2030, build national capacities for biodiversity conservation, promote technology and scientific transfer, foster joint technology development and joint scientific research among international, regional, national and IPLC organizations to implement the NBSAP.

Background and context: Capacity constraints in institutions, provinces, and communities have long limited biodiversity monitoring, enforcement, and evidence-based planning, even as foundations have improved through PA monitoring and REDD+ systems. Training needs extend beyond government to IPLCs, especially on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), FPIC, and practical conservation and negotiation skills.

Policy frameworks: Successive NBSAPs position capacity building and technology transfer as cross-cutting priorities, and the ENR Code (2023) strengthens mandates for research, databases, and transparent, evidence-based decision-making. The Pentagonal Strategy Phase I (2023–2028) and the CSE (2023–2028)

reinforce digital transformation, human capital development, and institutional strengthening as national priorities.

Gaps and challenges: Limited budgets, outdated equipment, and shortages of trained staff continue to restrict implementation, with weaker capacity at subnational levels. Progress is still heavily project-funded, and knowledge of ABS, biosafety, and biodiversity information systems remains uneven, which undermines continuity and scale.

Opportunities: Cambodia can consolidate gains by adopting multi-year training programs linked to practical tools such as Geographic Information System (GIS), remote sensing, biodiversity databases, and modern field methods, and by embedding these into core budgets and mandates. A national center of excellence, built with universities, the Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity, and NGO partners, can strengthen the science-policy interface and support joint research that integrates TK with applied conservation.

Target 21: Share Biodiversity Knowledge to Inform Decision Making and Guide Action

By 2030, a user-friendly information system containing data and information on biodiversity (including its associated ecosystem services, values, functions, status, trends, threats and the consequences of its loss) has been established and maintained and is widely shared among stakeholders and the public.

Background and context: Biodiversity data collection is active but uneven, and information remains fragmented across ministries, universities, and NGOs, limiting the development of national baselines and trend assessments. Existing platforms such as CHM and the CEMIS provide a foundation for consolidating and sharing validated datasets in Khmer and in user-friendly formats.

Policy frameworks: NBSAP commitments on inventories and information exchange are reinforced by the ENR Code (2023), which requires biodiversity information to be collected, updated, and made available to support evidence-based decisions. Digital transformation priorities under the Pentagonal Strategy Phase I (2023–2028) and the CSE (2023–2028) strengthen the mandate to operationalize national data systems for routine use in planning and reporting.

Gaps and challenges: Data remain scattered, inconsistent, and often non-interoperable, and Cambodia lacks a dedicated, enforceable biodiversity data-sharing policy that sets standards, roles, and safeguards. Many subnational users and community groups also lack data literacy and support, and long-term sustainability of the system remains at risk without stable staffing and budgets.

Opportunities: Rapid progress is possible by making CEMIS the central, interoperable national repository with clear metadata standards, deposit requirements for publicly funded work, and links to regional and global platforms such as GBIF. Dashboards, maps, and a practical helpdesk, combined with clear rules on consent and ownership for IPLC-generated knowledge, can turn data availability into routine use in planning, EIAs, monitoring, and adaptive management.

Key Result Area 4 – Community-Based Management and Benefits

This Key Result Area focuses on empowering IPLCs and local communities to manage and use wild species sustainably, transition productive landscapes and fisheries toward biodiversity-friendly practices, enhance nature’s contributions to people (including risk reduction), expand green and blue spaces in urban areas, and ensure gender-responsive, fair and equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources and TK.

Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People

By 2030, the management and use of wild species is sustainable for the benefit of people, ensuring social, economic and environmental benefits while enabling sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Background and context: Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is already widespread, with CFs, CPAs, CFis, and community ecotourism providing formal entry points for customary use of fish, wild foods, and non-timber forest products that remain central to rural livelihoods and food security.

Policy frameworks: Sustainable use is supported by the PA zoning system; the Law on Forestry (2002) and community forestry regulations; the Law on Fisheries (2025) and community fisheries framework; and the ENR Code (2023), which reinforces customary-use provisions and links sustainable livelihoods to national environmental planning.

Gaps and challenges: Co-management outcomes remain uneven because local rules, zoning, and management plans are not consistently updated, codified, or enforced, and monitoring systems that would enable adaptive adjustments to seasons, quotas, or access remain patchy.

Opportunities: Cambodia can consolidate results by strengthening and regularly updating CBNRM plans with participatory zoning, community monitoring, and gender-responsive governance, while scaling proven livelihood models such as sustainable value chains, ecotourism, and incentive programs that reward compliance and stewardship.

Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries and Forestry

By 2030, the areas used for agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including environmental-friendly practices such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to food security, restoring and conserving biodiversity, and maintaining nature's contributions to social and economic good, including ecosystem functions and services.

Background and context: Cambodia's production landscapes are extensive and diverse, with large areas under rice, cassava, and perennial crops, growing aquaculture and coastal fisheries, and continued dependence on surrounding forests for household energy and materials, alongside established biodiversity-friendly practices such as Integrated Pest Management, System of Rice Intensification, rice–fish systems, community fish refuges, Cambodian Good Agricultural Practices, CF, and reduced-impact logging.

Policy frameworks: The ENR Code (2023), CSE (2023–2028), and NDC 3.0 (2025) provide an enabling backbone for nature-positive production, complemented by input management law and standards, fisheries co-management instruments and sectoral strategies, and forestry law and community forestry provisions aligned with PA planning and zoning guidance.

Gaps and challenges: Key constraints include unsafe and inefficient pesticide use, uneven extension services, gaps in aquaculture biosecurity and effluent control, fisheries habitat loss and variable enforcement capacity, and continued forest loss and fragmentation driven by land conversion, weak incentives, and limited oversight.

Opportunities: Scaling verified good practices through stronger extension, producer organization, and finance, paired with certification and deforestation-free supply chain approaches, can expand sustainable management across agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry while maintaining food security and ecosystem functions.

Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature’s Contributions to People

By 2030, nature’s contributions to people are restored, maintained and enhanced, including ecosystem functions and services, reduction in disease risk, and protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

Background and context: NbS are already delivering tangible benefits through community-led forest protection and restoration, community fish refuges that strengthen aquatic productivity, and coastal mangrove and seagrass restoration linked to livelihoods and emerging blue carbon opportunities.

Policy frameworks: Community restoration and ecosystem service protection are enabled through forestry, PA, and fisheries frameworks for CF, CPA, and CFIs, reinforced by the ENR Code (2023), the CSE (2023–2028), National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (2017–2031), and climate commitments that prioritize ecosystem-based adaptation and watershed protection.

Gaps and challenges: Continuing land conversion and illegal activities erode gains, and fragmented responsibilities, limited long-term finance, and weak data systems make it difficult to coordinate, measure, and sustain restoration outcomes across upland, floodplain, and coastal settings.

Opportunities: Cambodia can scale ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and public health co-benefits by prioritizing critical catchments and coastal buffers, linking incentives and results-based payments to verified service outcomes, and embedding NbS delivery through existing community institutions and planning systems.

Target 12: Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity

By 2030, biodiversity-inclusive urban planning is promoted and substantially implemented to significantly increase the area, quality, connectivity and public access to green and blue spaces in cities and other densely populated areas, enhancing natural landscapes, native biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human health and well-being.

Background and context: Urban biodiversity and green-blue infrastructure are becoming more important as cities expand, heat island effects intensify, and wetlands and waterways are increasingly pressured by infill and real estate development, with Phnom Penh and secondary cities already piloting green city strategies.

Policy frameworks: Urban greening is supported by land management and urban planning law, the Phnom Penh Land Use Master Plan (2035), and national strategies that promote climate resilience, nature-based cooling, and biodiversity mainstreaming in urban and regional planning, including NDC 3.0 (2025).

Gaps and challenges: Implementation remains uneven due to weak enforcement, fragmented mandates across agencies, limited municipal budgets and technical capacity, and the absence of updated ecological inventories and connectivity maps to guide practical zoning and design standards.

Opportunities: Updating city plans to protect remaining wetlands and corridors, setting workable green space and water-sensitive design standards, using GIS and climate-risk overlays to target investments, and mobilizing community-led greening and citizen science can deliver rapid co-benefits for health, flood risk, and urban biodiversity.

Target 13: Increase benefit-sharing with communities

By 2030, Cambodia initiates the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources and traditional knowledge, contributing to national benefits while protecting rights and raising awareness.

Background and context: Cambodia's genetic resources and associated TK have clear research and commercial relevance, including crop diversity, medicinal plants, and pathogen strains, while the growing role of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) increases the urgency of ensuring benefits flow back to provider communities.

Policy frameworks: Cambodia has moved from preparatory steps under the Nagoya Protocol to an operational legal foundation through the ENR Code (2023) and Sub-Decree No. 104 on ABS, with designated authorities and procedures for FPIC and Mutually Agreed Terms.

Gaps and challenges: Implementation capacity and practical guidance are still developing, protection and enforcement mechanisms for TK remain limited, and DSI is not yet explicitly addressed in national instruments, creating a risk of missed benefits.

Opportunities: Cambodia can shift quickly to practice by piloting streamlined permitting and standard contracts in priority research partnerships, developing community protocols and training for FPIC and benefit-sharing, and updating tools to address DSI so benefits are transparent, enforceable, and locally realized.

Key Result Area 5 – Securing Biodiversity-Positive Business and Sustainable Consumption

This Key Result Area focuses on ensuring that wildlife use and trade are sustainable and legal, that businesses and financial institutions assess, disclose, and reduce their biodiversity impacts, and that consumption patterns and waste shift toward circular, sustainable models. It also strengthens biosafety and biotechnology governance so that benefits are fairly shared while risks to people and nature are minimised.

Target 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

By 2030, ensure that the use, harvesting, and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe, and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover.

Background and context: Wildlife harvest and trade, both legal and illegal, has been a persistent driver of biodiversity loss in Cambodia, shaped by domestic consumption, cross-border trafficking, and strong

regional demand. Use remains significant in some landscapes due to cultural preferences and food security needs, even where PA rules apply.

Policy frameworks: Cambodia has an established legal and institutional framework to regulate harvest, transport, and trade in wild species through forestry and PA legislation, reinforced by the ENR Code (2023) and international obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Operationally, MOE and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) work with enforcement partners and NGOs through mechanisms such as species action planning and specialized wildlife crime responses, with regional coordination as needed.

Gaps and challenges: Illegal take and trade remain widespread across multiple taxa, and enforcement is challenged by high-value markets, complex supply chains, and inconsistent compliance, including risks of laundering wild-caught animals through legal facilities. Data and monitoring are uneven for many traded groups, especially plants, invertebrates, and lesser-known species, which limits timely risk-based controls and adaptive management.

Opportunities: Intelligence-led enforcement, stronger chain-of-custody controls, and targeted action on priority taxa can build on existing capacity and partnerships to disrupt trade networks more effectively. Scaling community-based mechanisms and incentives, including livelihood alternatives, payments, and wildlife-friendly products, combined with Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)-style monitoring and a Cambodia Species Index, can reduce offtake while improving accountability, and closer integration with One Health surveillance can simultaneously reduce spillover risk along trade chains.

Target 15: Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts

By 2030, the negative impacts of business on biodiversity are reduced through measures that require monitoring, assessment and disclosure of biodiversity risks and impacts across operations and supply chains, promote compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations, and encourage sustainable production and consumption practices that increase positive contributions to nature.

Background and context: Large-scale investments in agriculture, hydropower, infrastructure, and mining have been major direct and indirect drivers of habitat conversion, fragmentation, disruption of aquatic ecosystems, and localized pollution, with financing decisions often insufficiently screened for biodiversity risk.

Policy frameworks: The ENR Code (2023) provides a stronger legal basis for impact assessment, public participation, and access to environmental information, while emerging sustainable finance instruments, including the Cambodian Sustainable Finance Principles and Securities and Exchange Regulator of Cambodia guidance for green, social, and sustainable bonds, create entry points to integrate biodiversity safeguards into lending and capital markets.

Gaps and challenges: Compliance and enforcement remain uneven, especially at the subnational level, and financial sector standards are largely voluntary, resulting in inconsistent biodiversity risk screening and weak transparency of cumulative impacts.

Opportunities: Operational guidance on “no go” zones, mitigation hierarchy, SEA application, and transparent disclosure can be paired with finance-sector risk screening and incentives to progressively link access to capital to deforestation-free supply chains, ABS compliance, measurable impact reduction, and investable restoration partnerships.

Target 16: Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices to Reduce Waste and Overconsumption

By 2030, reduce overconsumption and waste generation by at least 30% by promoting sustainable consumption choices.

Background and context: Cambodia's waste stream is increasingly dominated by organic waste, plastics, and packaging, with large shares still dumped or burned, contributing to pollution pressures on urban, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems.

Policy frameworks: The Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (4Rs) agenda and plastic bag management measures provide a solid foundation, strengthened by the ENR Code (2023) and moves towards a circular economy, which enables source separation, levies or restrictions on problematic plastics, and extended producer responsibility approaches.

Gaps and challenges: Separation at source remains rare, composting and recycling have not scaled, enforcement is uneven outside major cities, and volumes of difficult-to-recycle packaging such as multilayer materials continue to grow.

Opportunities: Rapid gains are feasible through mandatory separation in priority urban areas, scaled composting and biogas for organics, accelerated Extended Producer Responsibility and packaging redesign, and targeted fiscal and procurement measures that reward refill, reuse, and low-waste business models while reducing leakage to waterways.

Target 17: Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology

By 2030, biosafety legislation and administrative measures and tools are developed and functioning, including addressing participation in biotechnology research and the distribution of benefits from biotechnology.

Background and context: Cambodia maintains a precautionary approach to living modified organisms, prioritizing preparedness and public confidence as biotechnology expands across the region through trade, food systems, and research collaboration.

Policy frameworks: The Law on Biosafety (2008) and the ENR Code (2023) establish the regulatory and institutional basis for risk assessment and oversight, while the ABS framework, including Sub-Decree 104, strengthens pathways to ensure fair benefit sharing from biotechnology linked to Cambodian genetic resources and associated knowledge.

Gaps and challenges: Technical capacity for risk assessment, detection, laboratory analysis, and border control remains limited, and public understanding is still low, constraining informed participation and consistent implementation.

Opportunities: Clear technical guidelines, standard operating procedures, targeted training, and strategic laboratory investment can operationalize biosafety in practice, while aligning biosafety processes with ABS and TK protections ensure biotechnology research delivers tangible benefits to IPLCs and national institutions.

Key Result Area 6 – Inclusive Governance and Participation

This Key Result Area focuses on ensuring that biodiversity governance is equitable, participatory and gender-responsive, by securing meaningful involvement and rights of IPLCs, women, youth and other marginalized groups, strengthening access to information, justice and benefit-sharing, and transforming

institutions so that women and girls have equal voice, leadership opportunities, and access to land and natural resources in all biodiversity-related decisions.

Target 22: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all

By 2030, ensure equitable, inclusive and gender-responsive participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups in biodiversity decision-making, in relation to their rights to lands, resources and traditional knowledge, as well as access to justice and information.

Background and context: Community-based regimes such as CPAs, CFs, and CFIs, among others, provide important platforms for participation and benefit pathways, but vulnerable groups can still be excluded when large-scale investments proceed without effective consultation and safeguards.

Policy frameworks: The ENR Code (2023), the CSE (2023–2028), and national equity commitments strengthen participation, access to information, and grievance principles, complemented by community-based resource governance mechanisms and Nagoya Protocol obligations.

Gaps and challenges: Tenure insecurity, overlapping claims, uneven benefit sharing, and barriers to meaningful influence, including legal literacy, language, and gender norms, continue to limit fair participation and access to remedies, particularly in remote biodiversity landscapes.

Opportunities: Strengthening community institutions with minimum representation expectations, standardized FPIC and grievance procedures, and routine disclosure through CEMIS, combined with targeted leadership and negotiation support and equity indicators in monitoring, can shift participation from consultative to decision-influencing.

Target 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

By 2030, gender equality in biodiversity conservation and NBSAP implementation is achieved and valued, assuring equal rights and access to land and natural resources, and equitable opportunities for meaningful participation and leadership at all levels, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from biodiversity and natural resources.

Background and context: Cambodia has strengthened gender institutions and increased women's representation in parts of government and society, yet biodiversity governance remains male-dominated, and women's roles and knowledge are still underrepresented in conservation decision-making and benefit pathways.

Policy frameworks: National gender strategies and policies, led by Ministry of Women's Affairs and reinforced through sector gender action plans, provide a robust basis to embed gender equality and gender-responsive implementation across biodiversity agencies and community governance structures.

Gaps and challenges: Persistent social norms, weak practical quotas, limited budget clarity for gender mainstreaming, and low representation of women in environment leadership and field roles constrain progress, with intersectional gaps including very limited inclusion of Indigenous women.

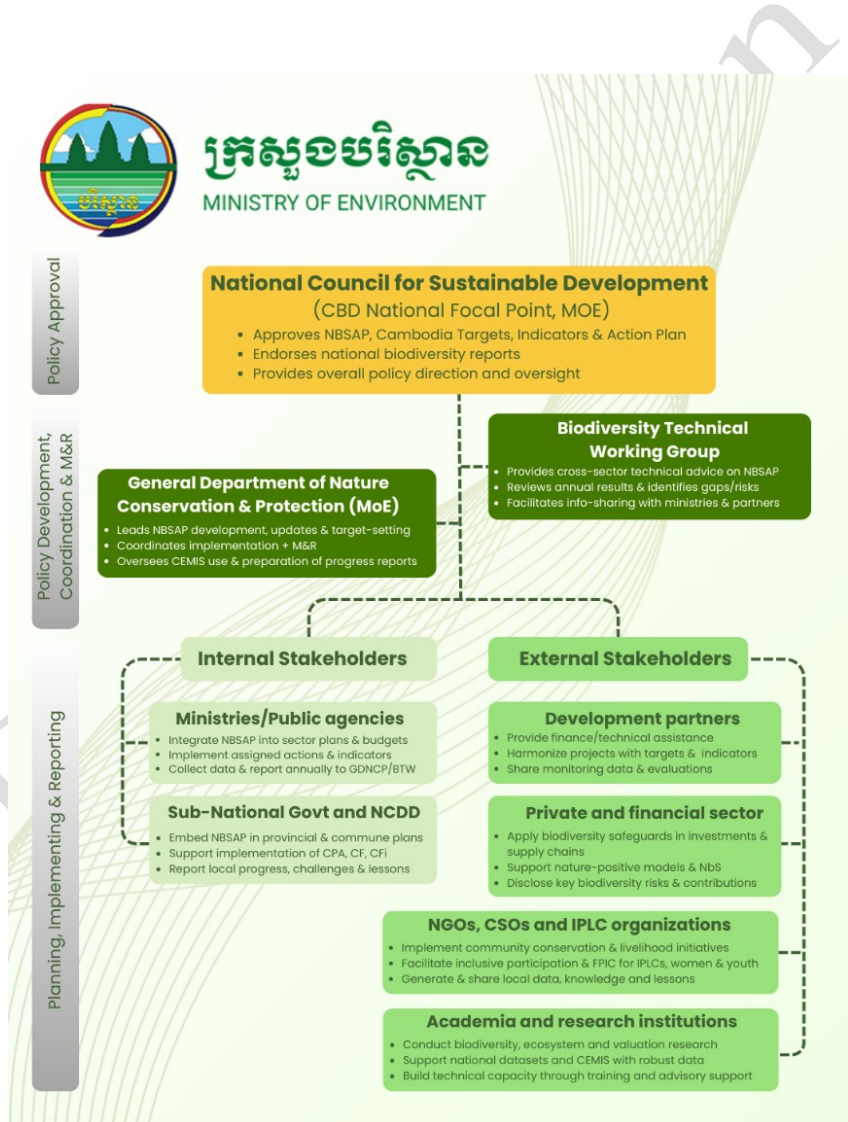
Opportunities: Time-bound representation targets, mandatory gender analysis and sex-disaggregated indicators, ringfenced implementation budgets, leadership development, and institutional culture change can be paired with support for women-led conservation enterprises and strengthened tenure and benefit rights to deliver genuinely gender-transformative outcomes.

Implementation Framework

Implementation will be delivered through a strengthened coordination framework led by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) for high-level oversight and cross-sector alignment, with the MOE, through its General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, serving as the national biodiversity focal agency responsible for day-to-day coordination, policy guidance, monitoring and data systems including CEMIS. Inter-ministerial coordination and technical validation will be supported through the BTWG, which will meet regularly to review progress, resolve bottlenecks, and ensure follow-through by line ministries. It will also strengthen links to sub-national institutions so national targets are translated into local planning and implementation with clearer mandates, reporting lines, and reduced duplication.

Sectoral ministries and agencies will mainstream 2026 NBSAP targets into their

sector plans, policies and budgets, with clear lead and co-lead responsibilities set out in the implementation plan. MAFF will lead actions related to sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and agrobiodiversity, the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) will integrate biodiversity into land-use planning, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) will oversee wetland and water ecosystem conservation, and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) will advance biodiversity education and awareness. MOE will provide technical guidance and standard tools to support consistent integration across sectors, while line ministries will report progress and contribute data through CHM and CEMIS for consolidated monitoring.



Sub-national authorities will be central to delivery, as most biodiversity actions occur on the ground, supported by decentralization reforms led by the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development. These reforms transfer environmental management functions and resources to provincial administrations. Provincial Departments of Environment and relevant provincial line departments will implement and enforce actions, including PA management, land-use compliance and wildlife protection. MOE will support provinces and commune councils in using Commune Investment Plans as the main vehicle for local biodiversity actions, backed by capacity development, strengthened provincial and community committees, and structured feedback from community initiatives into national reporting.

Stakeholder engagement will be institutionalized through multi-stakeholder platforms that continue the consultative approach used during 2026 NBSAP preparation. The BTWG can draw on additional expert members as needed, while regular national biodiversity forums and consultation workshops will be used to review progress, address constraints, and strengthen collaboration across government, NGOs, IPLCs, women's organizations, youth, and the business community. A stakeholder engagement plan will strengthen the representation of IPLCs, women and youth, and CEMIS will support transparency and two-way information exchange.

Civil society organizations and NGOs will remain essential implementation partners because of their field presence, technical expertise and community engagement capacity. Their roles include outreach, piloting scalable conservation models, supporting research and training, and strengthening inclusiveness and accountability by helping bridge policy intent and on-the-ground delivery. Formal partnerships will support priority actions such as PA co-management, development of OECMs, environmental education and species monitoring, alongside coordinated engagement of development partners through established government-donor mechanisms.

Private-sector engagement will be expanded to reduce biodiversity impacts and mobilize additional resources and innovation through biodiversity-integrated corporate practices, public-private partnerships and green investment. Priority pathways include biodiversity-friendly standards in sectors such as agribusiness and tourism, sustainable supply chains, and financial products that support biodiversity-positive activities. MOE and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) will explore enabling measures and incentives, including fiscal and market instruments and stronger requirements for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments to address biodiversity impacts and, where appropriate, apply offsets and conservation investments within a robust safeguards framework.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will be positioned as frontline stewards and active partners in implementation through participatory approaches and community-based mechanisms, such as MFMA, CPAs, CF, CFIs, and other OECMs. Institutional arrangements will formalize IPLC roles through community management committees that interface with MOE and line ministries. The IPLC support mechanism will be anchored in the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) to coordinate recognition, cultural protection and engagement. Line ministries will coordinate with MRD when developing PA management plans and agrobiodiversity initiatives and will be complemented by capacity support to strengthen community leadership, livelihood outcomes, and respect for cultural heritage.

The 2026 NBSAP will be embedded within national development, climate and sectoral frameworks, so biodiversity is treated as a core development asset rather than a standalone environmental agenda. Alignment with the Pentagonal Strategy Phase I (2023–2028), the National Strategic Development Plan (2019-2023), relevant sectoral strategies and the NDC 3.0 (2025) is intended to enable joint planning and reporting. It will also allow the integration of biodiversity indicators into MRV and sustainable development monitoring systems, and unlock climate finance for nature-based actions with biodiversity co-benefits. NCSD will act as the bridging platform for coherence across agendas, MEF will coordinate the resource mobilization strategy within national budget and investment processes, and legal and institutional reforms under the NBSAP will be harmonized with broader reforms so development policies do not undermine biodiversity objectives.

Resource Mobilization and Finance Plan (2026–2030)

This Resource Mobilization and Finance Plan sets out how Cambodia will finance implementation of the 2026 NBSAP across all targets, with particular emphasis on Target 19 and on mobilizing resources from national budgets, international partners, the private sector and appropriate innovative instruments. It translates strategic commitments into a coherent financing architecture for 2026–2030 and aligns biodiversity spending with the National Environment Strategy and Action Plan (2016–2023) and the priorities of NDC 3.0 (2025). Furthermore, it establishes a pathway to scale both public and private investment in nature through a whole-of-government approach that mainstreams biodiversity values in fiscal policy and public investment decisions while enabling market-compatible incentives for conservation and sustainable use.

Resource mobilization will be guided by four principles:

- **Additionality**, new finance should expand the total envelope for biodiversity while preventing simple re-labeling of existing lines.
- **Alignment**: financial flows should progressively align with biodiversity objectives by integrating nature into budget planning, public investment management and state-owned enterprise decisions, consistent with Target 14.
- **Equity**: mechanisms must deliver fair outcomes for IPLCs, including secure benefit-sharing and FPIC, where applicable, reinforcing Targets 22 and 23.
- **Effectiveness**: resources will be prioritized to interventions with the highest, measurable biodiversity returns, using evidence from national monitoring (including the Cambodia Species Index under Target 4), PA management effectiveness, and threat abatement metrics.

National public finance

Domestic budgets are the backbone of biodiversity finance, and Cambodia will increase biodiversity-tagged funding over 2026–2030. Budget execution will improve through program budgeting and stronger public financial management. In 2026, MEF may explore a biodiversity budget tagging pilot across MOE, MAFF, and selected sub-national administrations. Tagging will clarify baseline spending and support credible annual increases. Cambodia may also assess a trajectory to raise biodiversity-tagged spending by 2030, reflected in Medium-Term Expenditure Framework ceilings. Public investment management will strengthen biodiversity safeguards and improve screening. Major public projects will disclose biodiversity impacts and fund mitigation under the mitigation hierarchy. Offsets may be considered for residual impacts within a national framework, prioritizing like-for-like restoration in priority corridors.

International public finance will be sequenced to catalyze domestic and private capital through climate–nature investment windows. The Global Environment Facility will support reforms, transboundary conservation, species recovery systems, and biodiversity monitoring architecture. The Green Climate Fund will target EbA, resilient PA management, livelihood transitions, and blue-carbon opportunities. World Bank and Asian Development Bank programs will finance natural-capital investments in watersheds and coasts, including NbS for disaster risk reduction and water security. Bilateral partners and UN agencies will support priority landscapes, restoration, invasive species control, and biosafety, and co-finance reforms to shift harmful incentives toward positive ones. Development partners will use harmonized safeguards and report disbursements via biodiversity budget tagging.

Private sector engagement and green investment

Private finance will be mobilised through clear rules, risk-sharing instruments, and investable project pipelines. MEF, the Council for the Development of Cambodia, the National Bank of Cambodia, and MOE will explore aligning biodiversity investment screening and disclosure with the national Sustainable Finance Roadmap. Over time, sustainable finance guidelines can integrate biodiversity risks, mitigation hierarchy application, and nature-related reporting. This approach is anchored in government-

led processes and links biodiversity to broader finance reforms. It also aligns with national visions and provides a realistic integration timeline.

Blended finance can help de-risk restoration, sustainable agriculture, and ecotourism investments that support priority targets. Performance-based incentives and results-based mechanisms can attract banks and impact investors where returns are emerging. Corporate offsetting may be considered only for residual, hard-to-avoid impacts under a transparent national framework. Offsets should prioritise in-country, like-for-like restoration linked to priority corridors and PAs. Biodiversity safeguards and positive incentives can also be strengthened in concessions and public–private partnerships. MOE will work with Council for the Development of Cambodia and regulators to improve safeguards in higher-risk sectors.

Innovative and blended finance mechanisms

Innovative and blended finance can complement public and donor funding and attract new partners to invest in biodiversity. These approaches support Target 19 and help deliver restoration, PA management, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods. Cambodia will frame innovative finance as mobilising resources from all sources and aligning financial flows with the 2026 NBSAP and the 2050 Vision. This will combine budget reforms, results-based mechanisms, and private-sector instruments, supported by safeguards to prevent perverse outcomes.

PES can be expanded gradually, building on pilots. Expansion should be phased because PES is not yet legally formalised. Cambodia can also scale up results-based mechanisms, including REDD+ and blue-carbon programs, in which verified outcomes generate performance-linked payments. To strengthen integrity and investor confidence, Cambodia will implement the National REDD+ Strategy using a nested approach. Nesting links project activities with national accounting and reduces double-counting risks. Key enabling elements include a forest reference level, a national forest monitoring system and MRV, a safeguards information system, and a transparent registry.

In the medium term, Cambodia may explore additional instruments as policy priorities, market conditions, and capacity allow. Options include green or sustainability-linked bonds to support restoration, PA infrastructure, urban greening, and pollution reduction. Cambodia may also pilot biodiversity credits under a government-endorsed framework with clear methods, safeguards, and verification. Early pilots should focus on measurable restoration outcomes and complement regulation. Registry functions would be integrated into CEMIS to support transparency and interoperability.

Cambodia and partners may assess a Nature and Climate Fund or similar platform to coordinate blended finance. This could include endowment, sinking, and revolving windows to channel performance-based resources to PAs and OECMs, and priority restoration programs. BIOFIN has already mapped public funds and revenue streams and identified gaps, including the non-operational PA fund foreseen under the Law on PAs (2008).

National Biodiversity Finance Plan (NBFP) and quantified needs

Cambodia's NBFP provides a quantified baseline for spending, estimated needs, and priority finance solutions. The BIOFIN Biodiversity Expenditure Review estimated biodiversity-related expenditure in 2018 at USD 112 million. This was about 2 percent of the national budget and 0.5 percent of GDP. The BIOFIN Finance Needs Assessment estimated a 2018 requirement of about USD 305 million. This implies a financing gap of about USD 195 million. The NBFP projected rising annual needs through 2022 and prioritized solutions such as PES, stronger REDD+ biodiversity outcomes, sustainable ecotourism, improved agricultural practices, and strengthened institutional capability for finance review. These estimates underpin the 2026–2030 Resource Mobilization and Finance Plan and should be updated to match the revised targets, actions, and indicators.

An updated NBFP aligned to the 2026 NBSAP will be prepared in 2026. It will publish target-level cost envelopes and consolidated 2026–2030 financing scenarios. These will include a domestic-led pathway that

increases biodiversity-tagged spending within fiscal constraints. Scenarios will also include a co-financing pathway that uses international public finance for enabling reforms and early capital costs. A leveraged pathway will add private and innovative finance to close remaining gaps. Each scenario will show the expected mix of finance sources. The updated NBSAP will also quantify harmful incentives for reform under Target 18 and propose practical phase-out timelines. It will identify compensatory measures to protect vulnerable households. Positive incentives, such as tax deductions for certified biodiversity-friendly production, can be costed and aligned with the MEF tax policy calendar.

Capacity-Building, Technology and Knowledge Management

The NBSAP adopts a systemic capacity-building, technology and knowledge management approach. This will address persistent constraints in enforcement, data handling, cross-sector coordination and support to community-led initiatives, aligning with KM-GBF Target 20 and national priorities including NDC 3.0 (2025). It prioritizes needs-based training and institutional strengthening across MOE, MAFF and sub-national administrations, including improved inter-ministerial coordination, upgraded PA management and law enforcement skills, and practical tools such as SMART and geospatial applications. Furthermore, IPLC capacity will be strengthened through structured support to CPAs, MFMA, CFs, Cfis, and other OECMs, including governance, benefit-sharing, financial literacy, and participatory monitoring. The NBSAP also strengthens the science-policy interface through partnerships and a proposed national biodiversity research and training center, alongside a strong focus on data governance through CEMIS training, standardization and open-data practices, with regional cooperation through ASEAN, BIOFIN and the NBSAP Accelerator. Capacity to evaluate conservation effectiveness and socio-economic and cultural outcomes will also be strengthened so that 2026 NBSAP delivery improves over time.

Technology and knowledge management for 2026–2030 will strengthen evidence-based implementation. It will do this by establishing a national biodiversity monitoring and data-governance framework, standardizing indicators and protocols, and operationalizing CEMIS as the central platform for biodiversity and environmental information. This will reduce fragmentation, improve transparency, and support target tracking through dashboards and regular status reporting. The approach promotes open, interoperable data with clear mandates and data-sharing agreements. It links national systems to regional and global platforms such as Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the CBD CHM. It also aims to increase uptake through user-focused improvements, sustained staffing, and requirements to deposit publicly funded biodiversity data. Modern tools, including remote sensing, GIS, SMART-enabled patrols, mobile applications, drones and emerging methods such as environmental DNA and acoustic monitoring, will strengthen planning, enforcement and restoration. These will be complemented by citizen science and community monitoring those feeds into national reporting. TK will be documented and applied through participatory processes with consent, safeguards and benefit sharing.

Communication and Education

The 2026 NBSAP strengthens communication and education. This will help ensure the strategy is used routinely in planning and decision-making, not treated as a reference document. It builds on existing mandates in the 2016 NBSAP, National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (2016–2023) and NDC 3.0 (2025). MOE will lead an expanded Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) approach aligned to Targets 20–23. It will link outreach and guidance to the operationalization of CEMIS. This will allow audiences to access practical products such as maps, indicators, datasets, technical notes and case studies. These products will make targets and progress visible and easier to integrate into policies, plans, budgets, and monitoring.

Activities will be tailored to government decision-makers and technical institutions. They will also target IPLCs in and around PAs, MFMA, CFs, Cfis, and other OECMs, the education sector and youth, and the private sector and media. Materials will be accessible and culturally appropriate and provided in Khmer. Delivery will use inclusive channels that reach women, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Delivery will combine formal curriculum integration and teacher support with non-

formal outreach through media and community events. It will also promote participatory knowledge generation and citizen science to connect awareness with monitoring. Performance will be tracked through the 2026 NBSAP indicator framework. This will include Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices surveys and CEPA program delivery under Target 20. It will also include CEMIS functionality and dataset sharing under Target 21. Measures of IPLC and women’s participation under Targets 22 and 23 will also be tracked. Periodic review will be used to improve effectiveness over time.

Implementation Action Plan

The Implementation Action Plan is the NBSAP’s main operational tool, translating the 23 national Targets into a practical work program by linking each target to agreed indicators, a focused set of priority actions, and clearly assigned lead and supporting institutions. It aligns with the KM-GBF planning and review logic, makes explicit how ministries, sub-national administrations and partners contribute to delivery, and addresses a key lesson from the 2016 NBSAP by improving traceability of responsibilities and performance monitoring. Organized by agency, it helps institutions integrate biodiversity commitments into annual workplans, budgets and performance frameworks, and it can be updated over time as plans, partnerships and data systems evolve, providing a living bridge between national strategy and day-to-day implementation

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluation are designed to make the 2026 NBSAP an operational, results-based instrument, using a single national framework of 23 Targets and associated Indicators. This will be supported by the Results Framework aligned with KM-GBF indicators and relevant national indicators including NDC 3.0 (2025) to reduce duplication across reporting obligations. The system tracks both implementation performance indicators, such as budgets, capacity, plans and areas restored, and outcome indicators that measure changes in species, ecosystems, ecosystem services and equity. There is also clear institutional ownership for each Indicator and annual reporting through a standard template. CEMIS will function as the national clearinghouse for datasets and indicator reporting, with annual national progress reports, contributions to international reporting and built-in adaptive management through regular reviews and a mid-term assessment to support course correction.

