Concept Note: COP16 Event Proposal

Title: The $200 Billion Opportunity: Unlocking Private Finance for NBSAPs to Meet Target 19

Partners: UNEP FI and UNEP-WCMC (event co-organisers), UNDP BIOFIN, Green Finance Institute, Environmental Policy Innovation Center, Financial Services Task Force of the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI)

Date: COP16 Finance Day

Location: COP16 official venue (blue zone) to accommodate around min 100 pax, including government representatives, financial institutions, conservation organizations, and private sector investors.

Overview:

In a global race to meet the ambitious $200 billion annual target for biodiversity by 2030, as outlined in Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), nations are crafting national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). These plans set out how countries will implement the GBF at the national level and contribute to its global goals and targets.

Policymakers are increasingly focused on unlocking this potential, both domestically and internationally. To achieve this, there is an opportunity to explore how best to integrate and leverage private finance for the implementation of NBSAPs, in a manner that aligns with domestic priorities. This can involve both market-based approaches, such as reducing risk, enhancing returns, improving liquidity, or increasing disclosure to support nature-positive investments, as well as non-market approaches aimed at improving regulations that incentivize the scaling of investment, while also redirecting private nature-negative finance in favor of nature-positive outcomes. Private finance can play a vital role by enabling the implementation of measures contained in NBSAPs through scaling up finance that supports the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Objectives:

This session will discuss strategies for making NBSAPs, and associated national biodiversity finance plans, more attractive to private finance. Practical recommendations, examples of emerging best practice, and replicable case studies will be unveiled during the event, offering a roadmap for unlocking the critical private sector support needed to successfully achieve Target 19. We'll give examples from the process of revision and/or update of NBSAP currently underway, and explore how regulatory frameworks could be adjusted to incentivize not just spending, but long-term private finance for biodiversity. The session will also deep dive into innovative nature-based revenue models that can generate substantial private funding for conservation and restoration projects. The event will highlight potential synergies between private finance considerations in the climate and biodiversity agendas in the lead-up to UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil.