The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2025

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2025

Note: This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2025. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information for further information. The 'Extended Report' aims to provide the public with additional information regarding the SDG indicators and is compiled by the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Storylines presented in this document may slightly differ from figures cited in the SDG Report 2025 text due to the timing of the submission and the subsequent updates received upon finalizing the Report.

Contents

Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area 2

Indicator 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type 3

Indicator 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management 4

Indicator 15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area 4

Indicator 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity 5

Indicator 15.4.2 (a) Mountain Green Cover Index and (b) proportion of degraded mountain land 7

Indicator 15.5.1 Red List Index 9

Indicator 15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits 10

Indicator 15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked 11

Indicator 15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species 11

Indicator 15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress r 11

Indicator 15.a.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments 13

Indicator 15.b.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments 13

Indicator 15.c.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked 13

Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

Indicator 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

Globally, average protection of Key Biodiversity Areas has increased from ~25 to 44% over the last quarter century – but more than half of each site remains to be protected

Safeguarding globally significant sites is one of the most important and impactful conservation approaches. Over the last quarter-century, the world has made substantial progress towards protecting such Key Biodiversity Areas, making important contributions towards both SDG14 (for the oceans) and SDG15 (for land, freshwater, and mountains). Specifically, the mean coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas by protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures has increased from ~25% to ~44% worldwide. However, this indicator tells a story of a glass half-empty as well as one half-full, in revealing that on average, more than half of the area of each Key Biodiversity Area remains unprotected. The world has a long way to go to meet SDG Targets 14.5, 15.1, and 15.4, and hence Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The specifics of the indicator are remarkably consistent across different biomes. In the marine environment, mean coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas has increased from 25.8% in 2000 to 46.0% in 2024, as tracked by SDG Indicator 14.5.1. Meanwhile, SDG Indicator 15.1.2 reveals similar progress on land (26.7% to 44.6%) and in freshwater (27.1% to 43.7%), and SDG Indicator 15.4.1 shows similar progress for mountains (25.1% to 41.4%). While mean coverage is similar between biomes, there are substantial differences between regions. Northern America and Europe are the regions showing the greatest mean protected and conserved area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas, increasing for all three indicators from ~40% in 2000 to ~60% in 2024. By contrast, slowest progress has been achieved in Oceania, where mean protected and conserved area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas has only increased from 5.8% to 22.6% in the marine biome, 6.3% to 15.8% on land, and 5.3% to 8.7% in mountains. For freshwater, progress has been most challenging in Central Asia and Southern Asia, and in Western Asia and Northern Africa, where mean coverage has risen from around 12% to 22%.

These aggregate statistics encompass many thousands of stories of success in safeguarding individual sites. Examples include restoration efforts in REGUA reserve close to Rio de Janeiro, and the work of the Wildlife Conservation Society – Mozambique in safeguarding Chimanimani National Park, the only home to many threatened amphibian and plant species. Other successful KBA conservation efforts are being led by Nature Kenya on Mount Kenya and in the Lower Tana River Forests, while further examples of restoration success come from the work of a consortium of partners (Department of Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, the Environmental Awareness Group, Fauna & Flora, and Re:wild) on Redondo Island, and that of Udzungwa Corridor Limited and Reforest Africa in the Udzungwa Mountain Range.

The rationale underpinning SDG Indicators 14.5.1, 15.1.2, and 15.4.1 is that the distribution of biodiversity is extremely uneven around the world: Key Biodiversity Areas are identified through national processes applying a global standard to identify sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. Countries are establishing KBA National Coordination Groups, working collectively to identify, re-assess, monitor and promote conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas. Where relatively comprehensive assessments have been made by these groups, the results show that as many as half of these sites are being missed from current conservation planning. Key Biodiversity Areas safeguard can be achieved either through formal protected area establishment, or through "other effective area-based conservation measures" where conservation is not necessarily the primary purpose of management, but where management activities are nevertheless sufficient to allow retention of the species and ecosystems for which a given site has been identified as significant.

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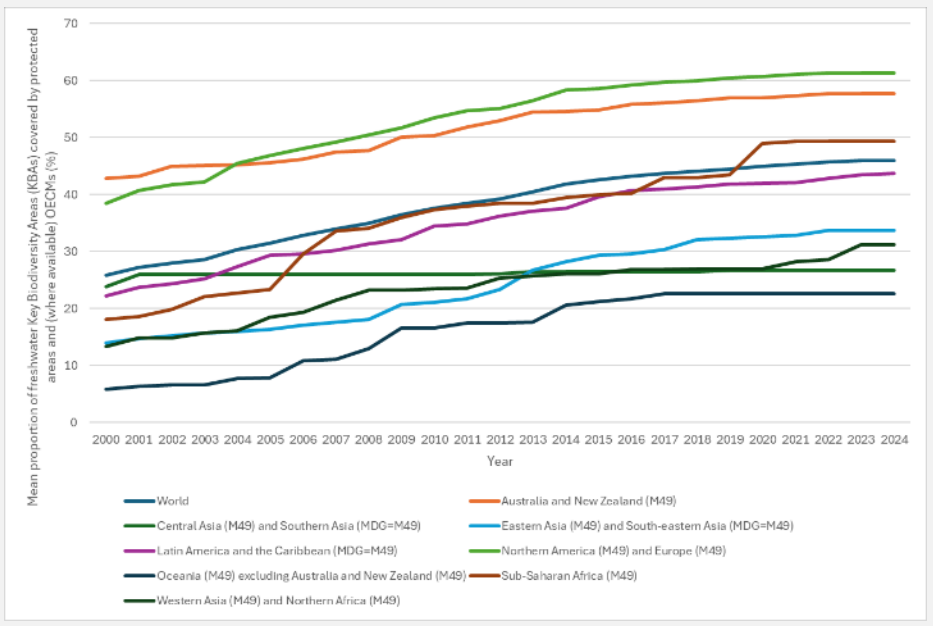

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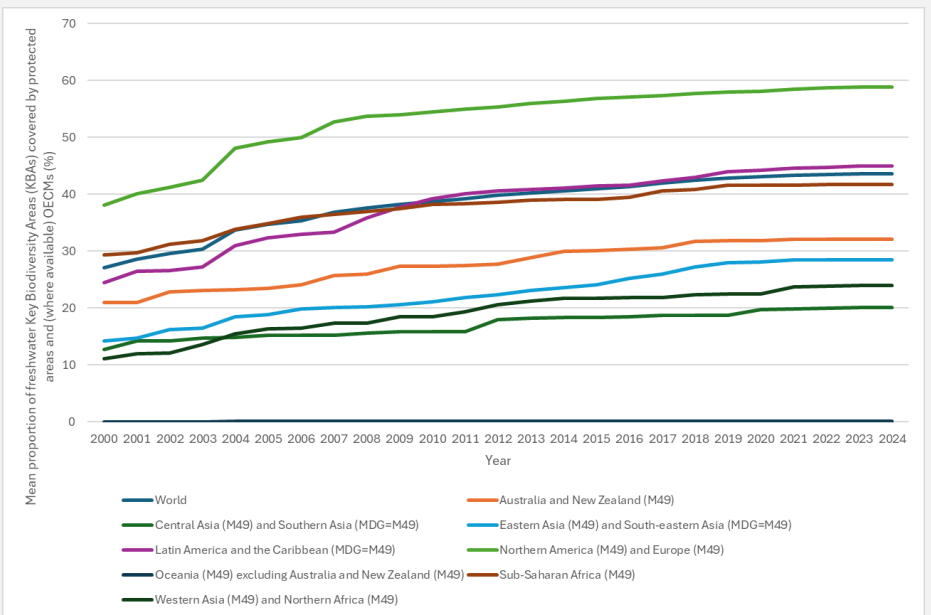

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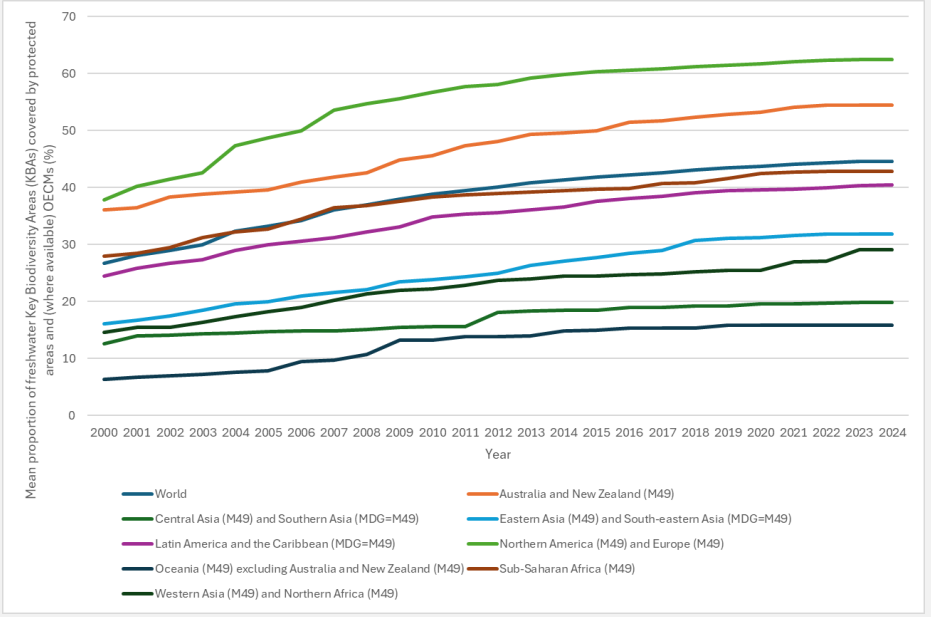

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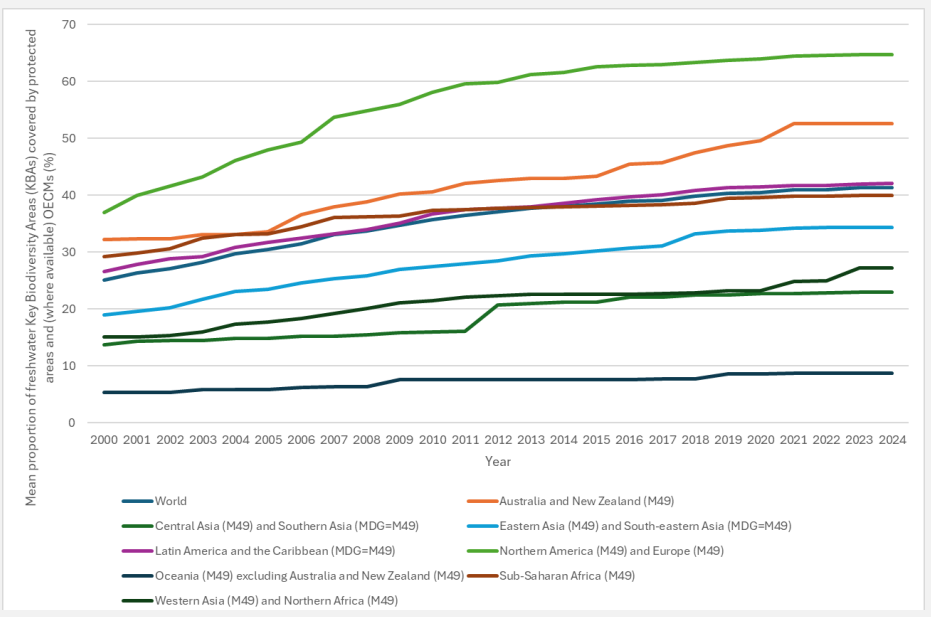

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Targeting site conservation to increase the effectiveness of new global biodiversity targets https://www.cell.com/one-earth/fulltext/S2590-3322(23)00563-8
- World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/
- Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM), November 2024 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2024) https://www.protectedplanet.net/en
- Protected Planet Report 2024 https://digitalreport.protectedplanet.net
- REGUA https://www.regua.org.br/en
- Região Serrana do Rio de Janeiro KBA https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/20213
- Rejuvenated Caribbean 'moonscape' island granted protected area status https://www.rewild.org/press/rejuvenated-caribbean-moonscape-island-granted-protected-area-status
- Redonda KBA https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/19939
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- Lower Tana River Fotrests KBA https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6413

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Thomas Brooks, IUCN; Stuart Butchart, BirdLife International; Emily Howland, UNEP-WCMC; Andrew Plumptre, KBA Secretariat; Tom Scott, BirdLife International

Custodian agency(ies): UNEP-WCMC, UNEP, IUCN

Target 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

Indicator 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

Target 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

Indicator 15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

Custodian agency(ies): UNCCD

Target 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

Indicator 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity

Globally, average protection of Key Biodiversity Areas has increased from ~25 to 44% over the last quarter century – but more than half of each site remains to be protected

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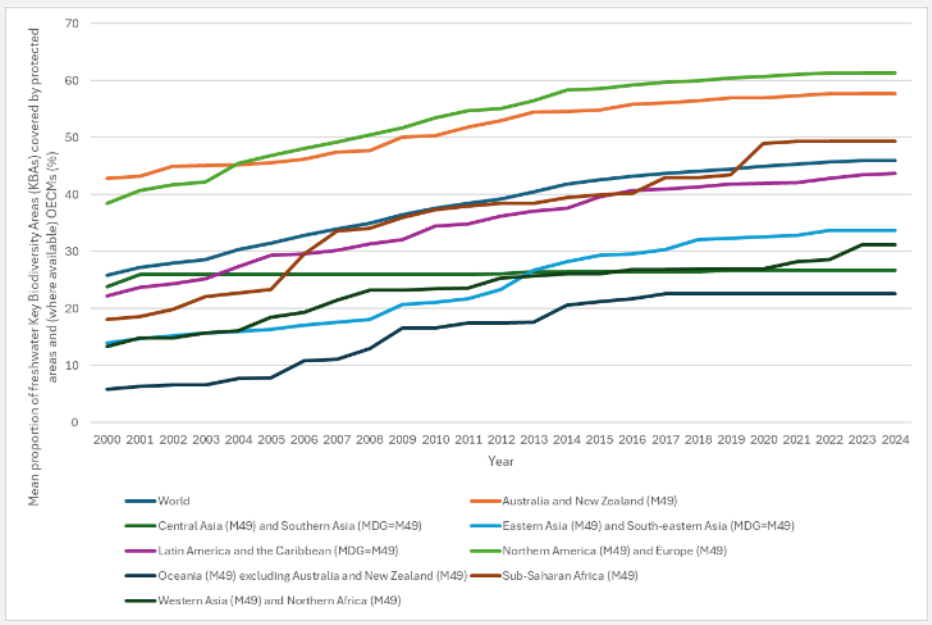

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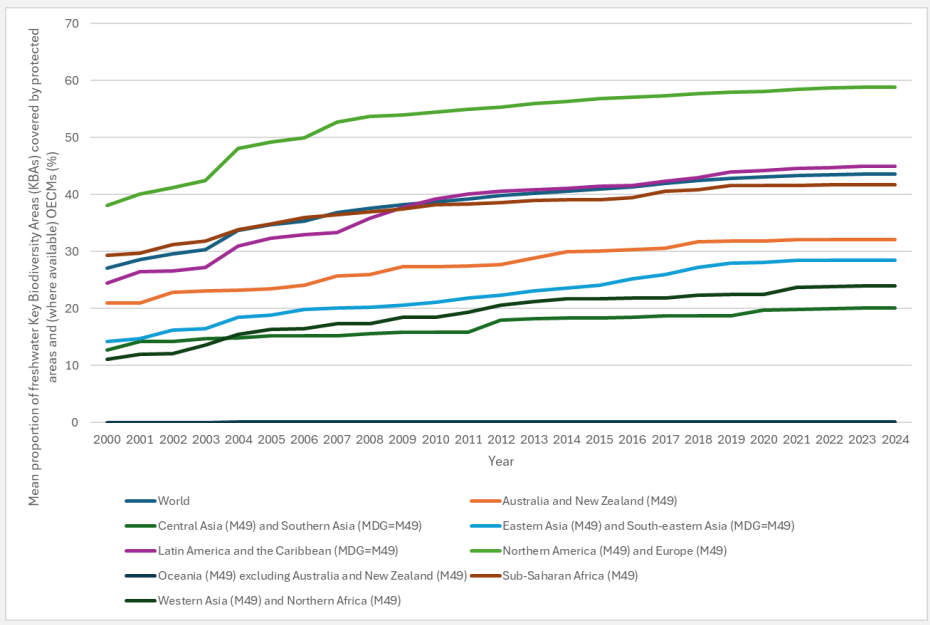

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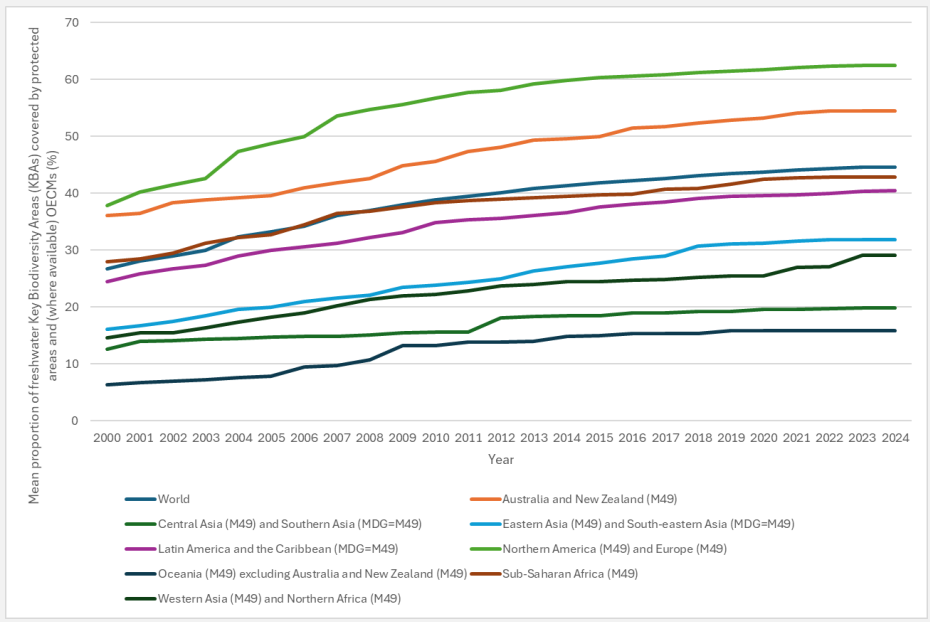

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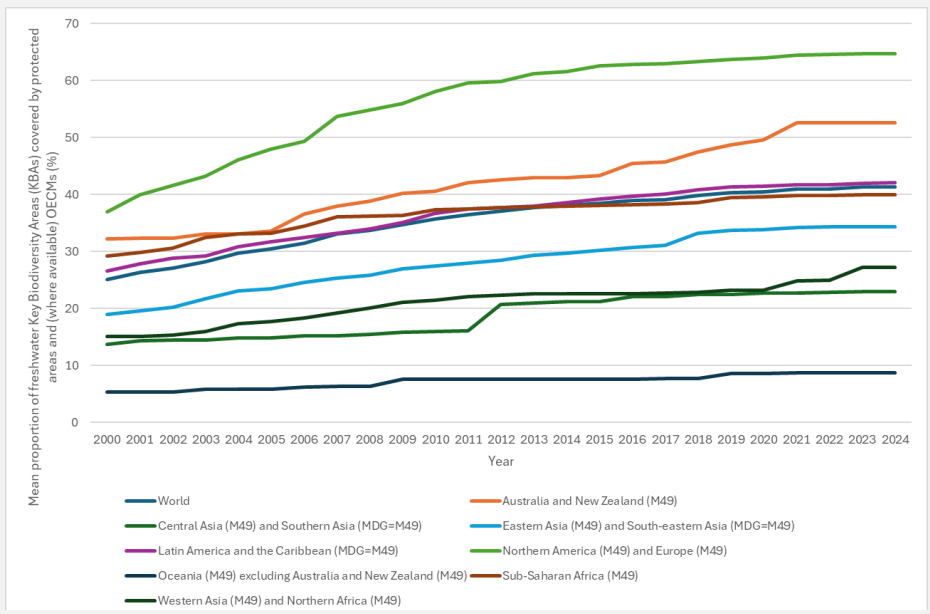

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Targeting site conservation to increase the effectiveness of new global biodiversity targets https://www.cell.com/one-earth/fulltext/S2590-3322(23)00563-8
- World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/
- Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM), November 2024 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2024) https://www.protectedplanet.net/en
- Protected Planet Report 2024 https://digitalreport.protectedplanet.net
- REGUA https://www.regua.org.br/en
- Região Serrana do Rio de Janeiro KBA https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/20213
- Rejuvenated Caribbean 'moonscape' island granted protected area status https://www.rewild.org/press/rejuvenated-caribbean-moonscape-island-granted-protected-area-status
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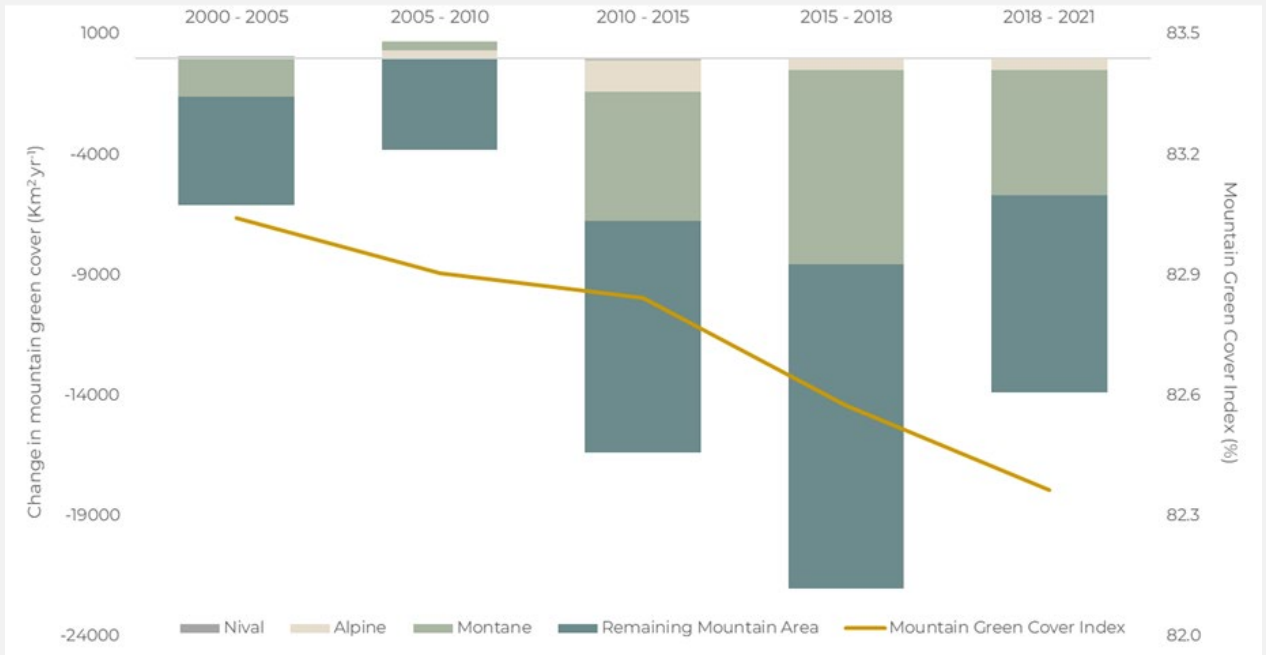
Custodian agency(ies): UNEP-WCMC, UNEP, IUCN

Indicator 15.4.2 (a) Mountain Green Cover Index and (b) proportion of degraded mountain land

Mountain land degradation has accelerated globally, driven by agricultural expansion and urban and infrastructure development.

Mountain green cover decreased from 83.0% to 82.2% in the 2000 - 2021 period. This reduction primarily occurred in areas below the mountain tree line (montane belt and lower remaining mountain areas) and was progressively less significant with increasing altitude (Figure 1). However, 2018-2021 marks a change in the rate of green cover loss compared to the two preceding reporting periods.

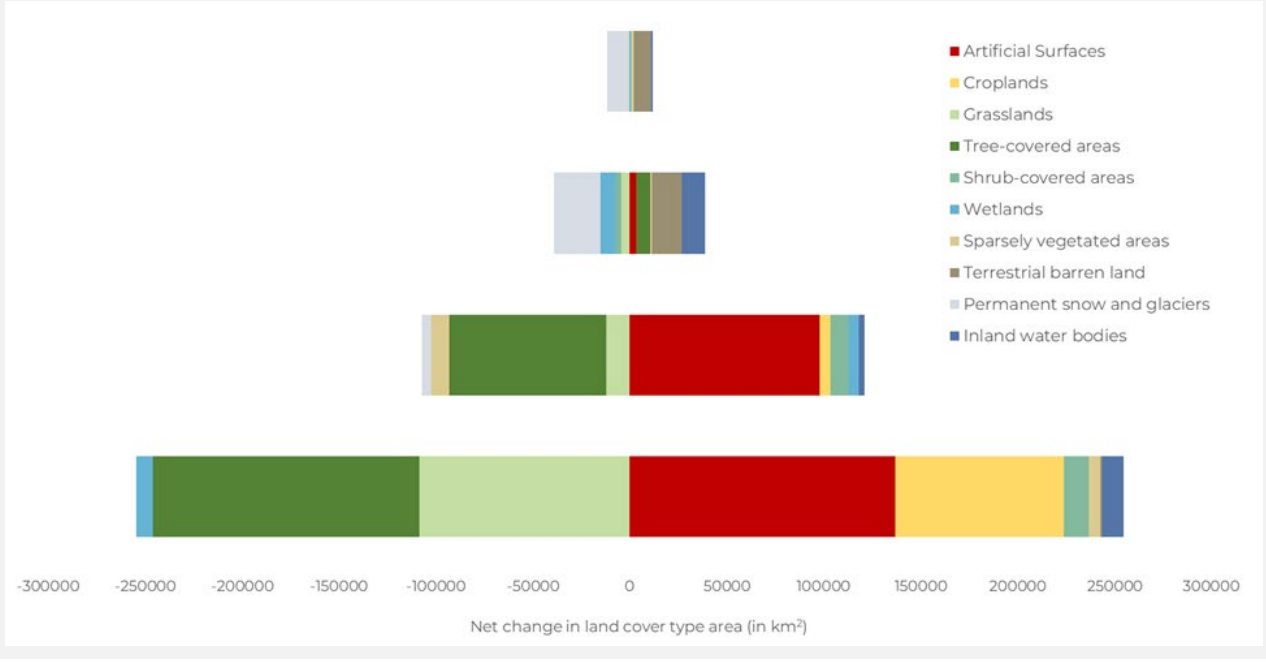
Figure 1 Right axis, bar chart: Changes in green cover area (in km²/year) by bioclimatic belt and reporting period. Left axis, orange line chart: Changes in mountain green cover index (%) by reporting period.



Disaggregation of the indicator by land cover types provides additional insights on how climate and land use changes are shaping the world's mountains. Changes in mountain landscapes above the tree line (nival and alpine belts) are driven by climate change and are characterized by significant declines in permanent snow and ice. This reduction has resulted in increases in both terrestrial barren lands and water bodies (Figure 2).

Conversely, changes in lower mountain areas are driven by the conversion of areas of natural vegetation (forests, grasslands and to a lesser extent, wetlands) into croplands and artificial surfaces (Figure 2). The conversion of natural vegetation into artificial surfaces is the main driver of the reduction in mountain green cover.

Figure 2. Net changes in land cover type area (in km²) by bioclimatic belt during the 2000 – 2021 period.

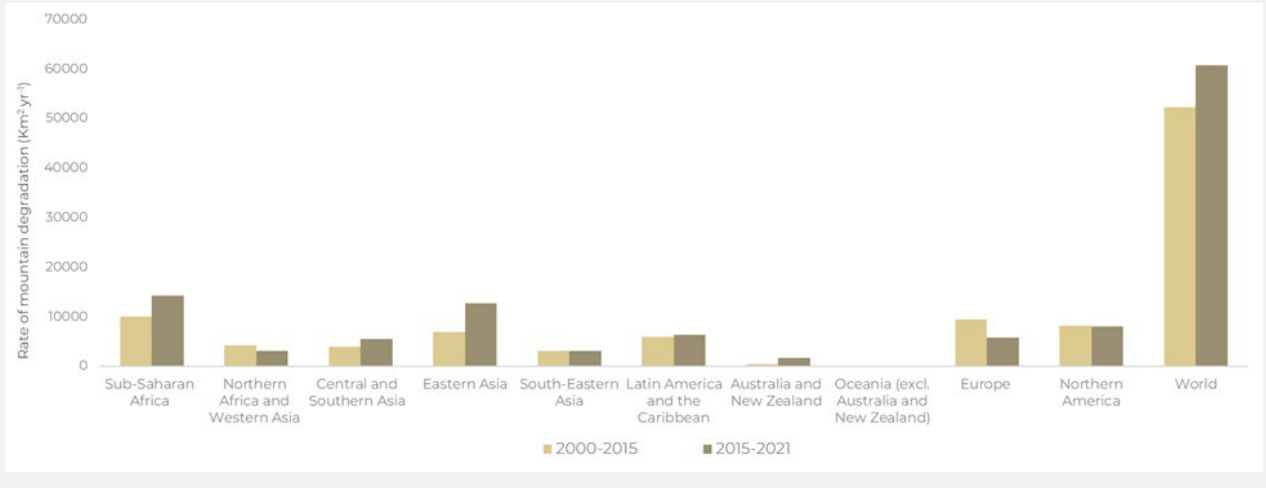


Detrimental changes in land cover and land use are major contributors to terrestrial biodiversity loss, including in mountain ecosystems. Sub-indicator B (Proportion of degraded mountain land) measures this by quantifying land cover transitions that indicate a decline or loss of biodiversity and mountain ecosystem functions of services.

Results of this sub-indicator suggest that, between 2000 and 2021, approximately 3.5% of the world's mountain area experienced detrimental land cover changes. Regions with the highest proportions of degraded mountain land are Sub-Saharan Africa (6.8%), Northern Africa and Western Asia, Australia and New Zealand (4.1% each), Northern America (4.0%) and South-Eastern Asia (3.9%). Oceania's mountains (excluding Australia and New Zealand) are least affected, at 0.6%,

The rate of mountain degradation, measured in km² per year, increased globally in 2015-2021 period compared to the 2000-2015 baseline, driven by detrimental land cover changes occurring in Eastern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Rate of mountain land degradation (in km²/year) per SDG reporting region and period.



An analysis of net changes in the different land cover types allows us to identify the main drivers behind mountain land degradation in each region. Agricultural expansion is the main driver in Sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast, urban and infrastructure development is proportionally more significant in Eastern Asia along with Latin America and the Caribbean. The main hotspots of permanent snow and ice loss are in Northern America, Central and Southern Asia, and Eastern Asia (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Changes in land cover type during 2000 – 2021 in each SDG region.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- SDG Indicator 15.4.2 Metadata: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-15-04-02.pdf

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Xavier De Lamo, FAO; Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

Indicator 15.5.1 Red List Index

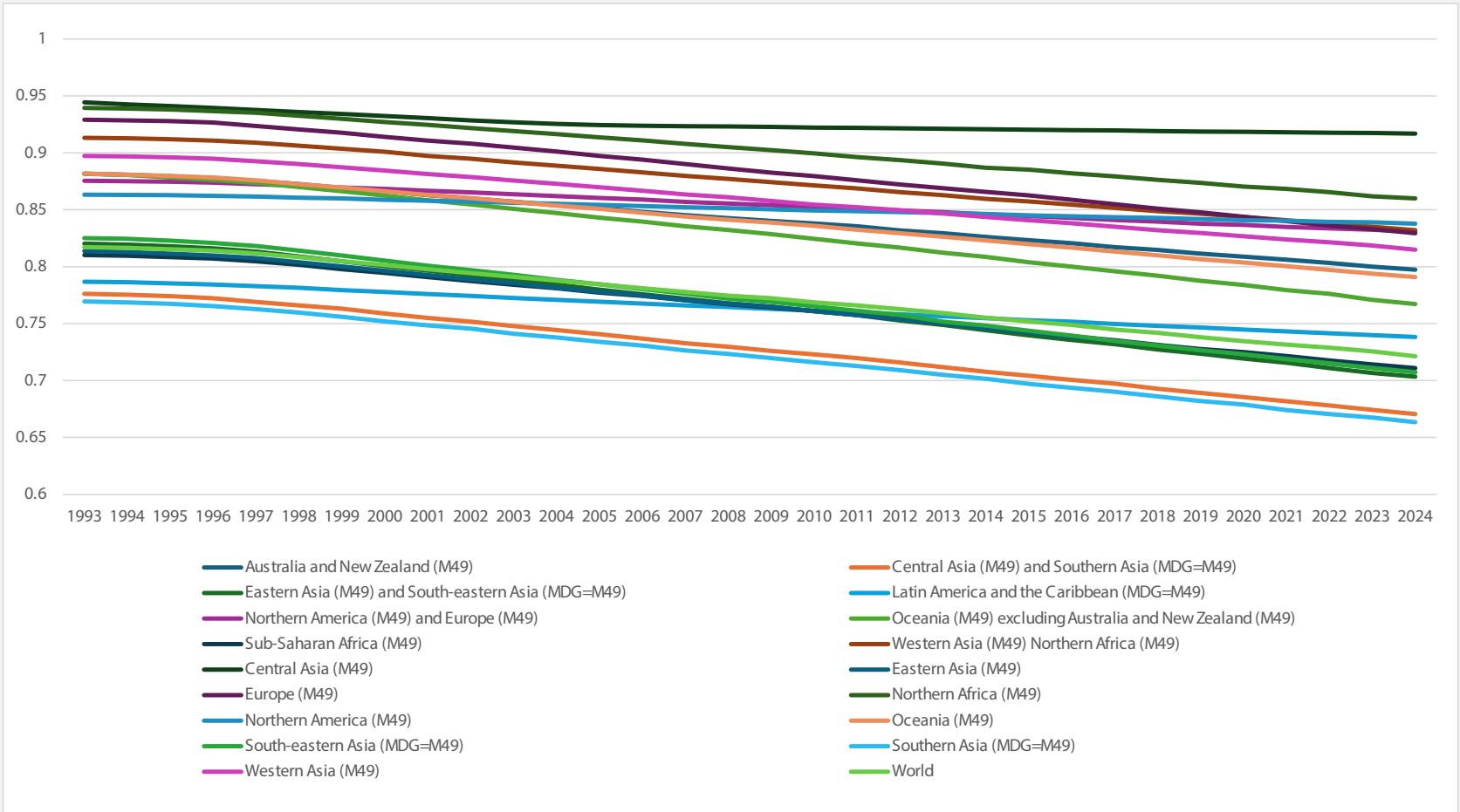
Extinction risk continues to increase, with aggregate deterioriations in the Red List Index now more than 12% over 1993–2024

Extinction is forever, representing a permanent loss of our planetary heritage with severely negative implications for human well-being. As such, changes in aggregate species extinction risk form the basis for SDG indicator 15.5.1, and also headline indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's Goal A under the Convention on Biological Diversity, for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and many other international and national indicators. These are measured using the IUCN Red List Index, which is calculated based on genuine changes in species extinction risk over time from within comprehensively assessed species groups (cycads, corals, amphibians, birds, and mammals). The Index reaches 1 if no species in these groups have a high risk of extinction in the medium-term, and drops to 0 if all species in these groups are driven extinct.

2024 did not reveal any changes in trends in species extinction risk, with aggregate deterioriations in the Red List Index now exceeding 12% over 1993–2024. The geographic unevenness of these patterns continued to be apparent, as well. Across regions, deterioriations have been most serious in Southern Asia and in Eastern and South-eastern Asia, while they have been least severe in Northern America and Central Asia. Explanations for this spatial heterogeneity likely relate to a combination of factors, including telecoupling of impacts (eg with consumption in the Global North "outsourcing" extinction to the Global South), greater availability of funding, capacity, and stable governance in support of conservation in the Global North (eg through policies like Natura 2000 in the European Commission), and underlying biogeographic history (eg with many tropical species in the Global South vulnerable to human impacts due to their small range sizes).

However, one major change over 2024 was a great expansion of the evidence underpinning documentation of species extinction risk, including with the publication of comprehensive IUCN Red List assessments across freshwater groups (fishes, dragonflies and damselflies, and crabs, crayfish, and shrimp) and of all tree species. The freshwater assessments include 23,496 species, finding that one-quarter are threatened with extinction. Prevalent threats include pollution, dams and water extraction, agriculture, invasive species, and overharvesting. The tree assessments include 47,282 species, finding 38% to be threatened by a cocktail of threats including deforestation for urban development and agriculture, invasive alien species, and climate change. The IUCN Red List also shows that the loss of trees is a major threat to the thousands of other plants, fungi, and animals which depend on them, and also to people, given that over 5,000 tree species are used for timber in construction, and over 2,000 species for medicines, food, and fuel. There are some encouraging signs of hope, however, with habitat protection and restoration, as well as ex situ conservation, provding critical contributions towards freshwater and tree species conservation.

Red List Index of Species Survival, aggregated across all taxonomic groups included, for the World and regional disaggregations.



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- IUCN Red List https://www.iucnredlist.org/
- Red List Index https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/red-list-index
- One-quarter of freshwater fauna threatened with extinction https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-024-08375-z
- Global Tree Assessment https://www.bgci.org/our-work/networks/gta/
- More than one in three tree species worldwide faces extinction https://iucn.org/press-release/202410/more-one-three-tree-species-worldwide-faces-extinction-iucn-red-list

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Thomas Brooks, Craig Hilton-Taylor, Richard Jenkins, Catherine Sayer, Simon Tarr, IUCN

Custodian agency(ies): IUCN

Target 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

Indicator 15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits

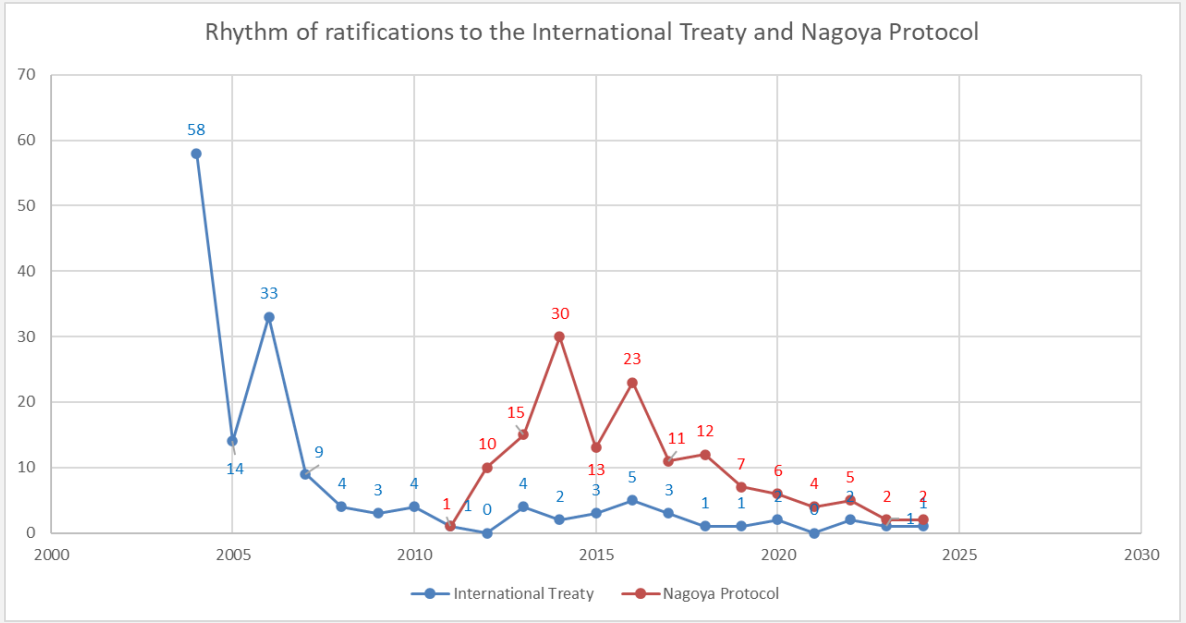
The new biodiversity deal draws renewed attention to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

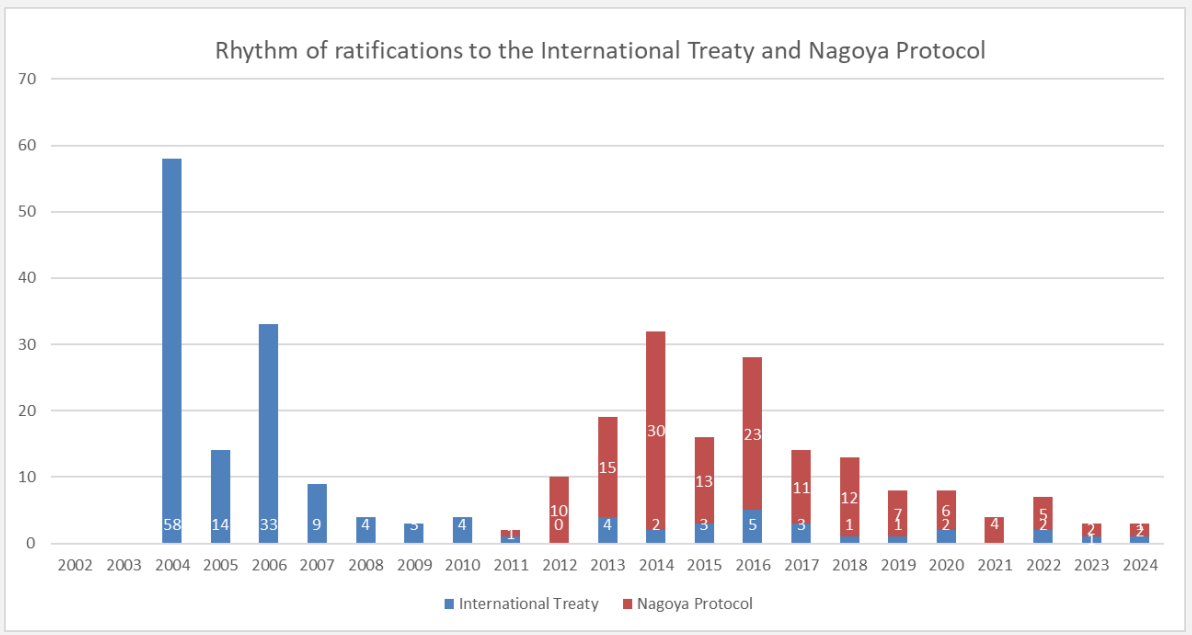
Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the number of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity has not stop increasing. At the end of 2024, 141 countries and the European Union had ratified the Protocol – representing 72% of all Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Two new Parties joined the Protocol in 2024. However many countries have yet to establish the necessary legislative, administrative or policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. At the end of 2024, 76 countries had published at least one measure to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and 29 countries had issued 5,455 internationally recognized certificates of compliance (an increase of 390) as proof that prior informed consent was granted, and mutually agreed terms were established for access.

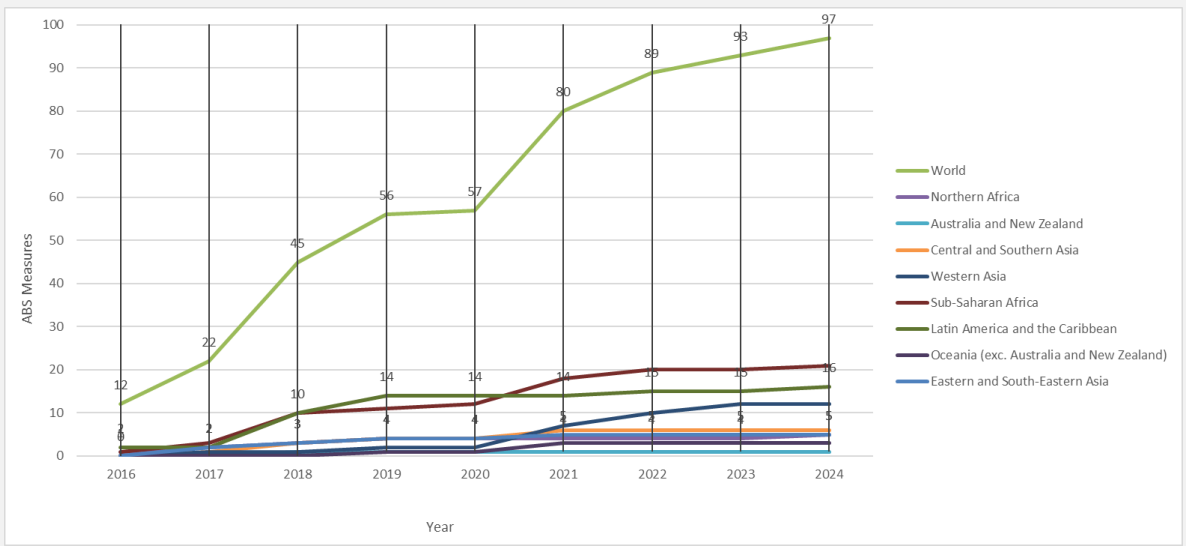
With regard to the International Treaty, the number of Contracting Parties has reached 152 at the end of 2024, including the European Union. By the end of 2024, 97 countries have submitted their national report to inform about their implementation of International Treaty's provisions, including on access and benefit-sharing measures. It has increased by 4 countries during 2024, while some Contracting Parties submitted an updated report since the start of the reporting mechanism in 2016. The number of SMTA has reached 110,538, distributing PGRFA from 66 countries as of 31 December 2024. Users around the world, including in those countries that are not Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, are benefiting from accessing PGRFA for research, training and breeding.

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022 in Montreal has brought renewed attention and impetus to the implementation of access and benefit-sharing frameworks. The development of access and benefit-sharing measures in accordance with the Convention, the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty is at the core of Goal C and Target 13 of the Framework. This provides an important opportunity to further improve data collection and analysis on the benefits shared from utilization of genetic resources, to accelerate global efforts to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources, as well as to enhance the mutually supportive implementation of access and benefit-sharing instruments.

Rhythm of ratifications to the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty (World)







Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House: https://absch.cbd.int/
- The Online Reporting System on Compliance of the International Treaty on PGRFA: http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/
- The Easy-SMTA of the International Treaty on PGRFA: https://mls.planttreaty.org/itt/
- The Benefit-sharing Fund: https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/benefit-sharing-fund/landingbsf/en/

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Beatriz Gomez, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Aya Idemitsu, Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Custodian agency(ies): CBD-Secretariat

Target 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

Indicator 15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC, CITES

Target 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

Indicator 15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species

Custodian agency(ies): IUCN

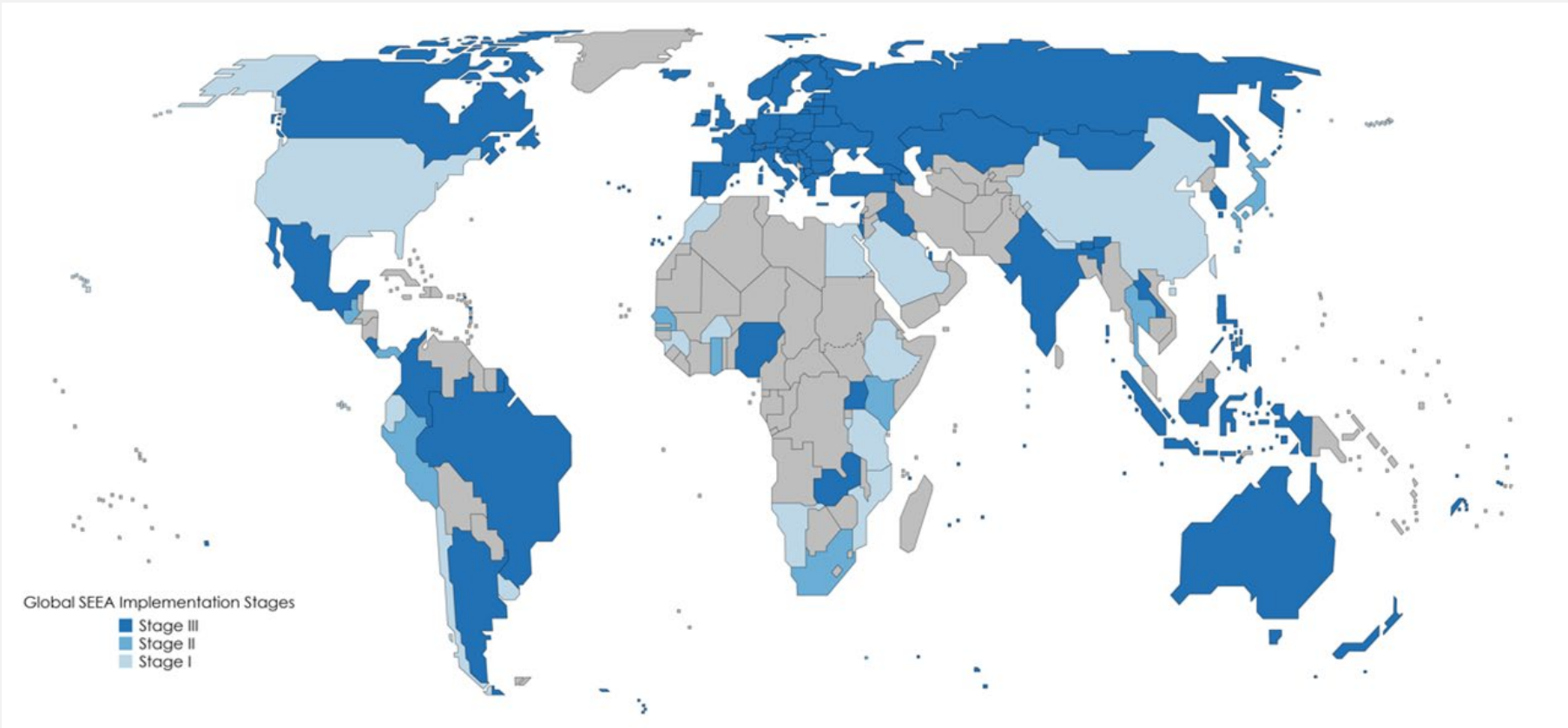
Target 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Indicator 15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress r

Growing efforts to build integrated information systems for biodiversity

As the world approaches the deadline of the 2030 Agenda, the urgency of addressing biodiversity and climate change crises has intensified. Countries are increasingly recognizing the need for comprehensive, integrated data on the relationship between the environment and the economy to tackle poverty while safeguarding biodiversity and climate stability. To achieve this goal, countries are moving towards integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into their national accounting and reporting systems. A pivotal step in this direction is country implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), the international statistical standard for natural capital accounting. The compilation of SEEA accounts provides a way for countries to build integrated information systems which mainstream biodiversity and enviornmental conisderations into decision-making processes. At present, 94 countries have integrated biodiversity values into their national accounting and reporting systems through implementation of the SEEA. This is part of an overall upwards trend in SEEA implementation and represents an increase of 36 per cent from 2017. In addition, the number of countries regularly compiling and disseminating the accounts has been steady, indicating that countries are making progress in mainstreaming and institutionalizing the accounts into policy and decision making. At the same time, it is expected that the number of countries compiling the SEEA will increase in the future as the SEEA provides the methodological basis for multiple headline indicators of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This is expected to provide further impetus to countries to develop SEEA accounts, particularly SEEA Ecosystem Accounts.

2024 Global SEEA Implementation



Map Disclaimer (2024): The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South-Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon the parties. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Chart 1: Number of countries implementing SEEA by region, 2024

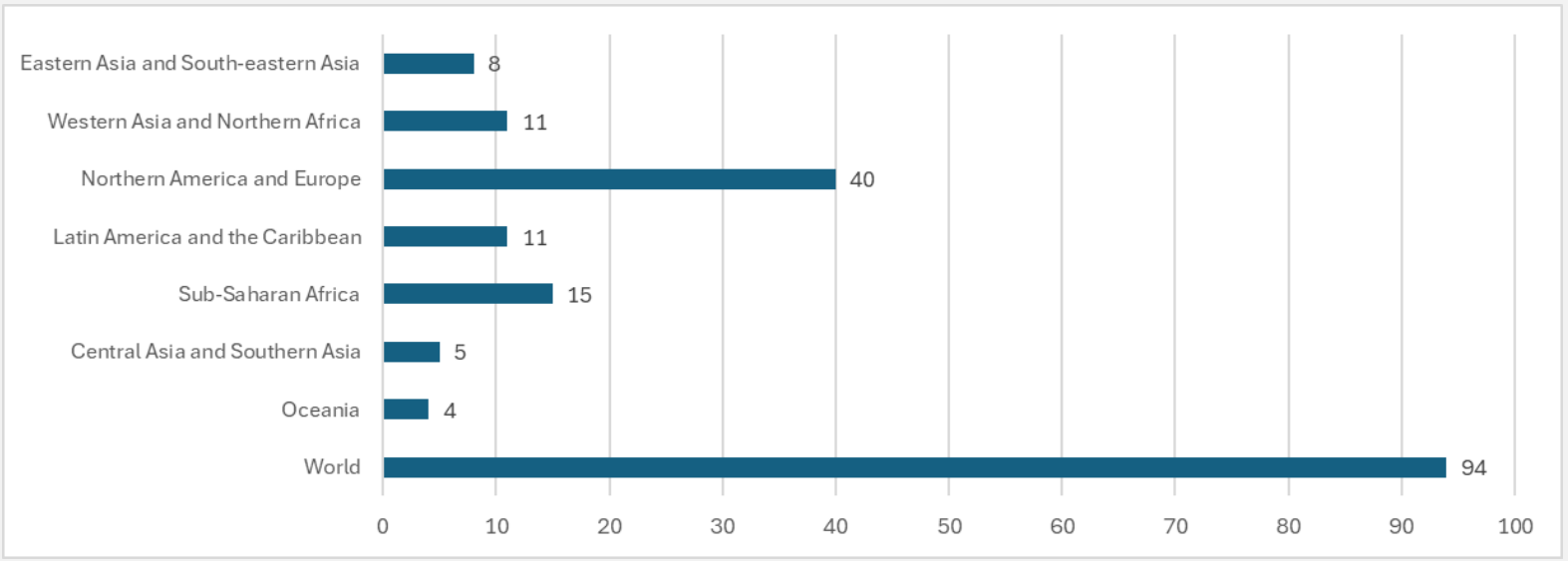
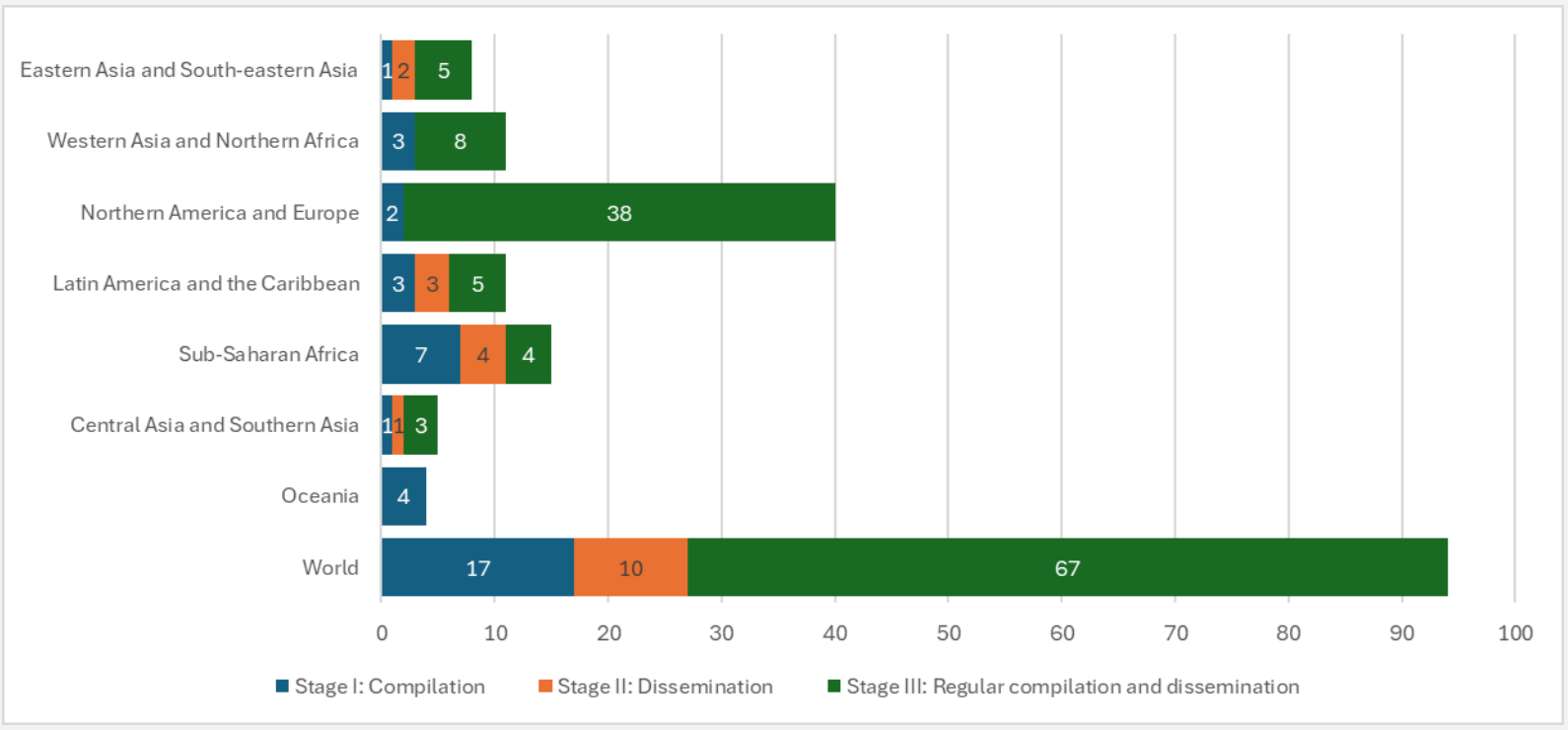


Chart 2: Number of countries implementing SEEA by region and by stage of implementation, 2024



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Results of the 2024 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics : https://seea.un.org/content/global-assessment-environmental-economic-accounting
- Implementation Strategy for the SEEA EA: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3l-implementation-strategy-for-the-SEEA-ecosystem-accounting-E.pdf
- SEEA website: seea.un.org

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Custodian agency(ies): CBD-Secretariat, UNEP

Target 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

Target 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

Indicator 15.a.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

Indicator 15.b.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

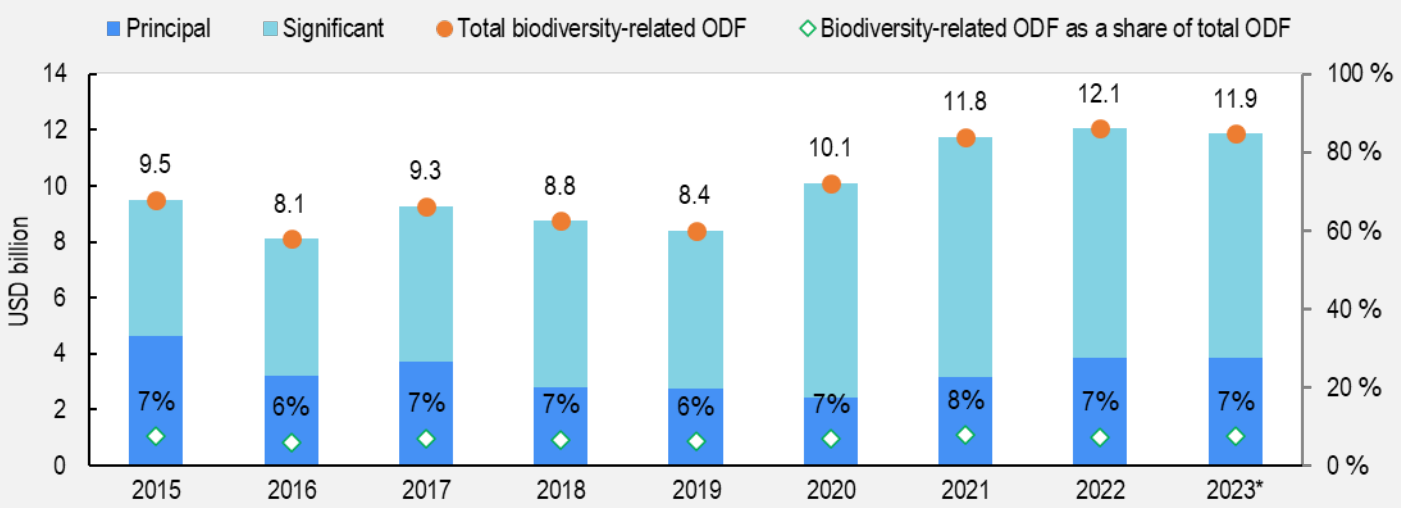
Official development finance (ODF) for biodiversity shows a positive trend between 2015 and 2023

OECD analysis finds that total development finance for biodiversity from a range of sources significantly increased over 2015-23, including contributions from OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members, but also from other bilateral and South-South co-operation providers, multilateral development banks, environmental funds, private philanthropies, and private finance mobilised through public finance, demonstrating that achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Biodiversity-related development finance from DAC members increased from USD 9.5 billion in 2015 to USD 11.9 billion in 2023, marking a 25% increase over this time frame - and mostly explained by official development assistance (ODA), representing 97% of total flows for biodiversity on average over the period. However, development finance flows for biodiversity represented 7% of total development finance on average over 2015-23. This share has remained relatively stable, yet donors could consider raising their efforts to mainstream biodiversity considerations further across activities, in particular across nature-dependent sectors. In effect, despite the overall growth, the portion that targeted activities with biodiversity as a principal objective –as opposed to significant– decreased between 2015 and 2023 by 17% (from USD 4.6 billion to USD 3.8 billion, respectively). To ensure the long-term sustainability of the effects of biodiversity-related activities it will be crucial to maintain and increase development finance for biodiversity as a core objective.

In particular, private finance mobilised with public finance has more than doubled, from USD 748 million in 2021 to USD 1.8 billion in 2022, and preliminary estimates reaching almost USD 4 billion in 2023. However, these amounts are still far from those achieved in other policy areas, such as climate change (USD 16.1 billion on average over 2017-22), and meeting Target 19 of the KMGBF requires greater mobilisation of private flows.

Figure 1. Bilateral DAC members' official development finance for biodiversity



Source: OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System database; 2015-23, USD billion, preliminary figures

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- OECD (2024), Biodiversity and Development Finance 2015-2022: Contributing to Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/d26526ad-en.
- OECD (2024), DAC members hit a new record on development finance for biodiversity in 2022, Press Release

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Dominique Blaquier, OECD; Juan Casado-Asensio, OECD

Custodian agency(ies): OECD, UNEP, World Bank

Target 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

Indicator 15.c.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC, CITES