The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2026

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2026

Note: This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2026. 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 2026 text due to the timing of the submission and the subsequent updates received upon finalizing the Report.

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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

Earth's forest cover continues to decline, as severe forest loss in some regions outpaces gains in others

In 2025, forests covered 31.8% of Earth's land area (4.14 billion hectares), down from 32.1% (4.18 billion hectares) in 2015, 32.5% (4.24 billion hectares) in 2000, and 33.3% (4.34 billion hectares) in 1990.

Since 1990, the world's forest area declined by 4.7%, a net loss of 203.1 million hectares, including 41.0 million hectares since 2015. Despite international commitments, forest loss remains significant.

Regional trends vary widely. Forest area expanded in Eastern Asia (+33.2%, 69.8 million hectares), in Central Asia and Southern Asia (+10.5%, 10.7 million hectares), and in Northern America and Europe (+3.4%, 55.7 million hectares). In Oceania, forest area decreased by 1.8% from 1990 to 2010 but has since partially recovered to 0.3% below its 1990 level.

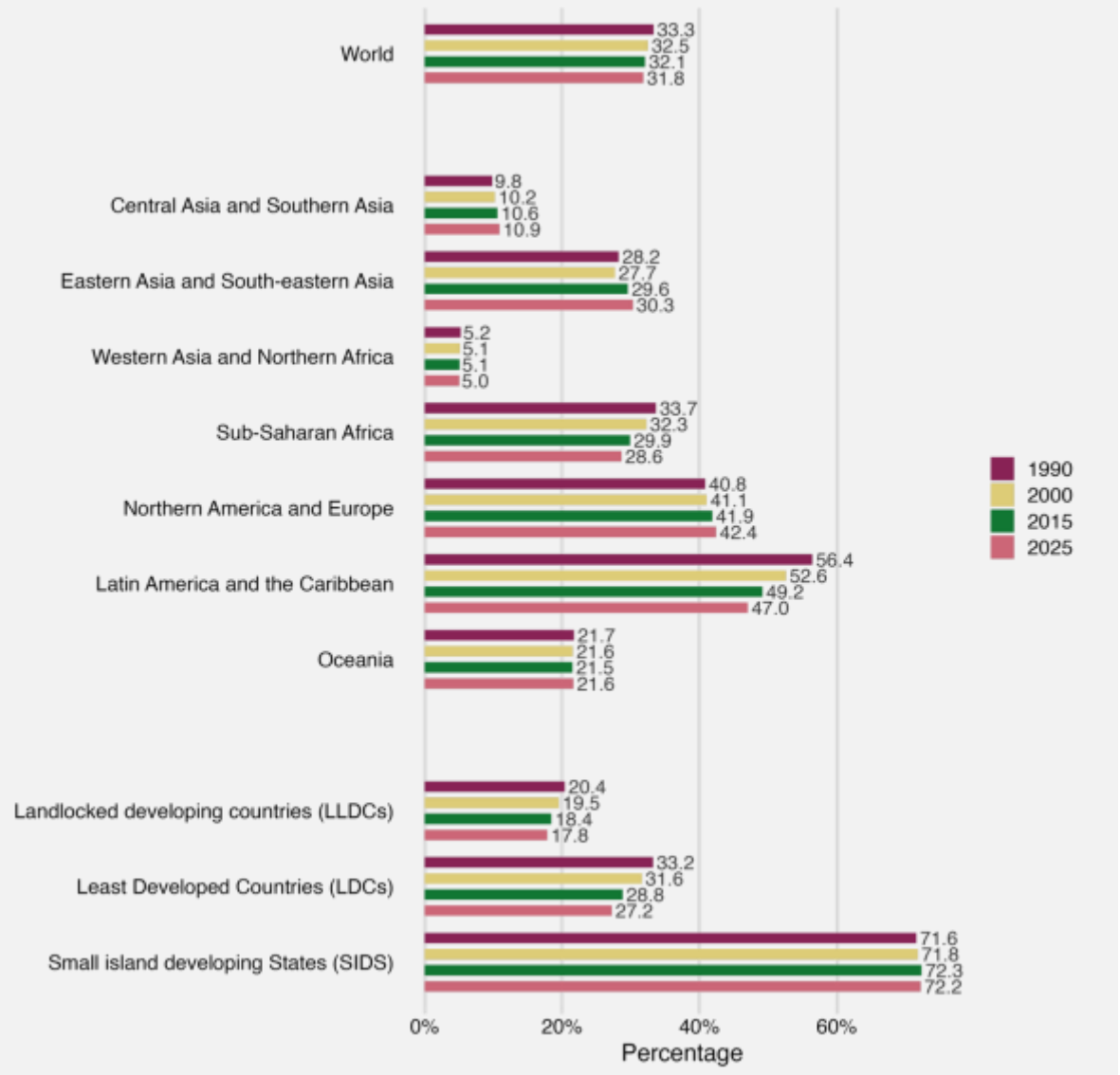
In contrast, forest area fell sharply in several regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean (–16.7%, 189.4 million hectares), Sub-Saharan Africa (–14.9%, 110.7 million hectares), South-Eastern Asia (–14.9%, 35.8 million ha), and Northern Africa (–16.7%, 6.2 million hectares) since 1990. These declines account for much of the global net loss. Long-term trends in forest area indicate that losses have not slowed materially since 2000 in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, or South-Eastern Asia. In these regions, the rate of loss per year during 2015-2025 remains comparable to, or marginally higher than, the rates observed during 2000-2015.

At the national level, more than 140 countries and territories experienced forest area change of at least 5% since 1990. Thirteen lost over 40% of their forest area, while 14 increased theirs by more than 40%. About 90% of the countries and territories in Northern America and Europe gained forest area between 1990 and 2025, as did most countries and territories in Central Asia and Southern Asia, Oceania, and Western Asia. Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia's overall increase in forest area reflects forest expansion in a few large countries with high forest area in Eastern Asia, while 10 of 11 countries in South-eastern Asia reported net losses. Latin America and the Caribbean show mixed patterns, with roughly half of countries and territories gaining and half losing forest area. Around three-quarters of Sub-Saharan Africa countries and territories experienced net forest area loss. Eight of the ten largest forest area declines since 1990, in percentage, occurred in this region, and four countries and territories have lost more than half of their 1990 forest area.

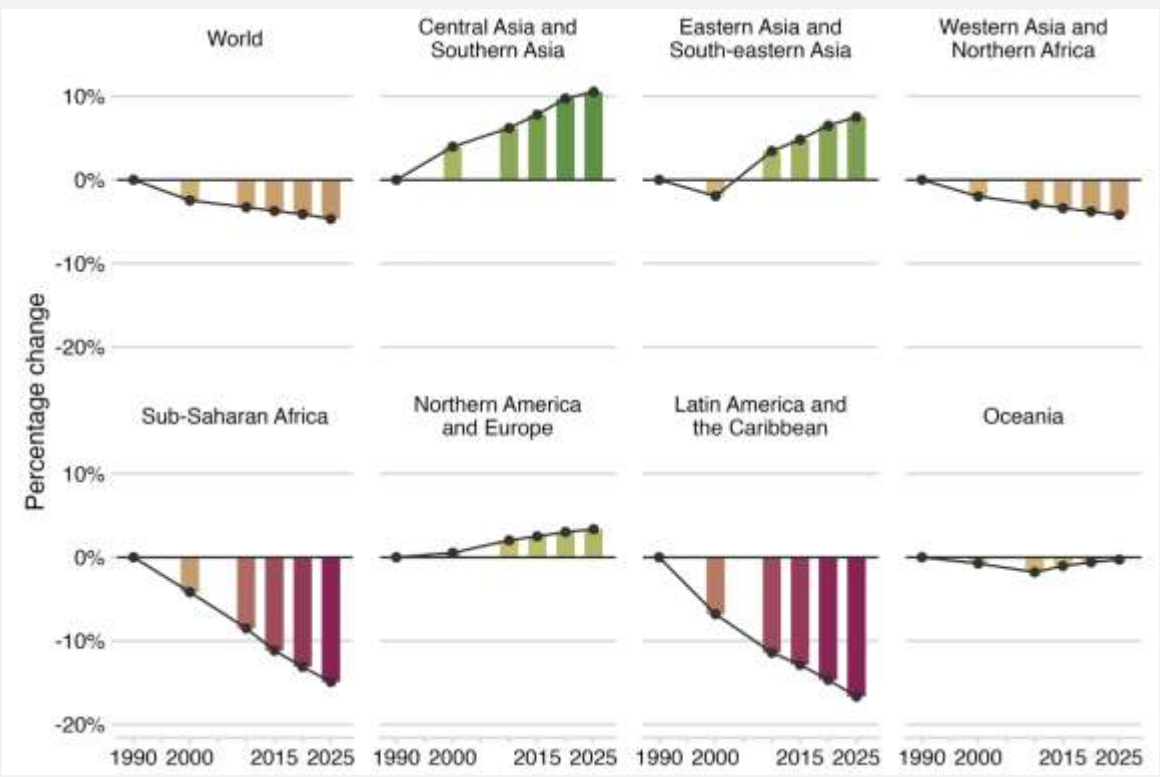
Changes in forest area are a result of two opposing forces: gains from afforestation (including through restoration) and natural expansion, and losses from deforestation. Agricultural expansion drives nearly 90% of global deforestation. Within this, cropland expansion accounts for half of losses from deforestation (49.6%), followed by livestock grazing (38.5%). Oil palm cultivation alone represented 7% of global deforestation from 2000 to 2018. Underlying factors such as poverty, livelihood and weaknesses of the current agricultural production systems also play a key role, as most of the conversion of forest to agricultural lands is associated with small-scale farming.

Forests are vital for livelihoods and well-being. They regulate water cycles, mitigate climate change, and sustain most terrestrial biodiversity. Gains in forest area in some regions cannot offset heavy losses in others. Stabilizing forest cover everywhere is critical to protect biodiversity, economies, cultures, indigenous communities, and regional climate dynamics. Strengthening sustainable forest management and improving agricultural production systems and livelihoods, especially in the tropics and least developed countries, is essential to halting forest loss.

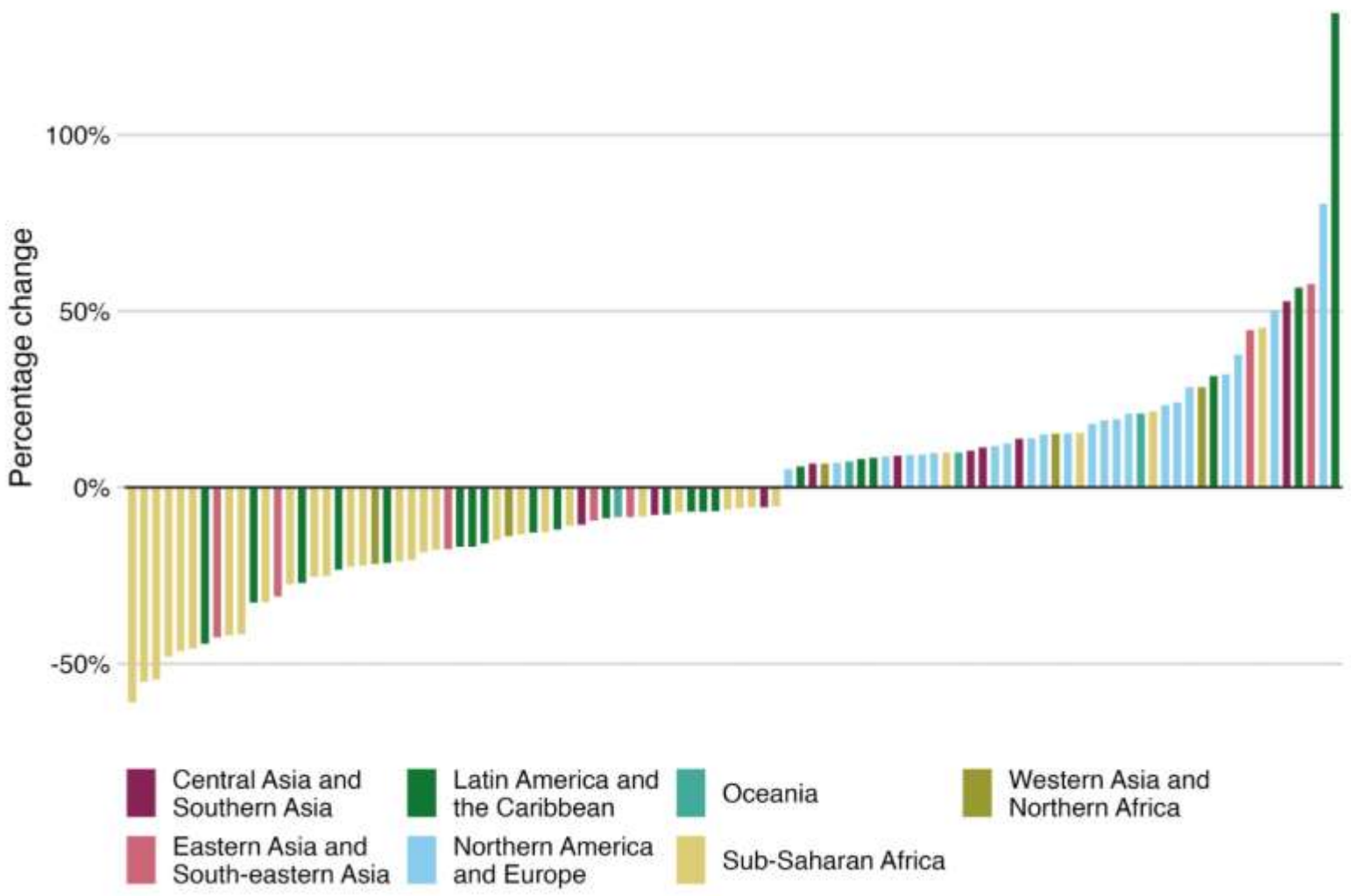
Forest area as a percentage of land area, by region and other country groupings



Percentage change in forest area relative to 1990 levels, by region



Distribution of the 100 countries and territories with the largest forest area in 2025 by percentage change in forest area relative to 1990 levels (excluding those with less than <±5% change)



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- FAO. 2025. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025*. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6709en
- FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment website http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/
- FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment platform https://fra-data.fao.org/assessments/fra/2025
- FAO press release. 2025. *Global deforestation slows, but forests remain under pressure, FAO report shows.* https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/global-deforestation-slows--but-forests-remain-under-pressure--fao-report-shows/en
- FAO. 2022. *FRA 2020 Remote Sensing Survey.* FAO Forestry Paper, No. 186. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9970en
- Branthomme, A., Merle, C., Kindgard, A., Lourenço, A., Ng, W.-T., D'Annunzio, R. & Shapiro, A. 2023. *How much do large-scale and small-scale farming contribute to global deforestation? Results from a remote sensing pilot approach.* Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5723en

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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

On average, 55% of each of the world's >16,500 Key Biodiversity Areas remains to be safeguarded, despite this proportion having dropped from 75% in 2000

Biodiversity, and threats to it, are distributed highly unevenly over the surface of the planet. This means that it is possible to identify discrete sites of global significance for the persistence of biodiversity. More than 16,500 such Key Biodiversity Areas have been identified through bottom-up processes in all of the world's countries. Safeguarding these, through protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures, is therefore the cornerstone of nature conservation.

Recognising this, average coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas by protected and conserved areas is therefore an indicator for three SDG targets – for SDG 14.5 (for the oceans), SDG 15.1 (for land and freshwater), and SDG 15.4 (for mountains) – as well as for Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Strategic Objective 4 under the UN Convention on Combatting Desertification.

Since 2000, important positive progress has been made towards these targets, with average protection of each Key Biodiversity Area increasing from 25% up to 45% by 2025. This overall progress masks important regional differences, with coverage now having increased above 60% in Northern America and Europe, but still below 25% in Oceania, for example. There is rather little variation between the biomes, with coverage now reaching 47% in the oceans, 45% on land, 44% for freshwater, and 42% in mountains.

On average, more than half of each Key Biodiversity Area remains to be protected. The world's governments and communities face a crucial challenge to close this gap in safeguarding. Compounding the need to increase coverage of existing recognised Key Biodiversity Areas is the recent finding that on average countries are likely missing about half of these sites, because the Key Biodiversity Area criteria have not been comprehensively applied across species and ecosystems. There is an urgent need for all countries to update their Key Biodiversity Area networks by 2030 as part of their planning for the KMGBF. However, around the world, efforts to establish such safeguard are underway. In 2025 the Philippines and Canada came close to completing comprehensive assessments of their Key Biodiversity Area networks, with national processes ongoing in Oman, Malawi, Honduras, Fiji, Spain, Italy and Palau. This builds on the work of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa and United Arab Emirates which have completed such assessments. In terms of protected and conserved areas, most countries and territories have reported up-to-date data to the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas. In 2025, Mauritania completed its first national update in 30 years and Ukraine completed its first update in over 25 years, while Ecuador, Ukraine and two Regional Fisheries Management Organizations reported other effective area-based conservation measures for the first time.

Around the world, there are thousands of examples of governments, non-governmental organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the private sector contributing towards the safeguard of terrestrial and freshwater, marine, and mountain Key Biodiversity Areas. New examples which have stood out over 2025 include the establishment of protected areas on land to safeguard Usala Gorilla Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Palma-Quirimbas Environmental Protection Area (Mozambique), and Gunung Sahendaruman (Indonesia), as well as mountain sites like Páramo del Duende Natural Regional Park (Colombia) and Champará Regional Conservation Area (Peru). Meanwhile, new marine protected areas safeguarding KBAs in 2025 include the Patagonia Azul Provincial Park (Argentina), Gitdisdzu Lugyeks, Kitasu Bay (Canada), Tainui Atea Marine Protected Area (French Polynesia), and North Eastern North Island (New Zealand).

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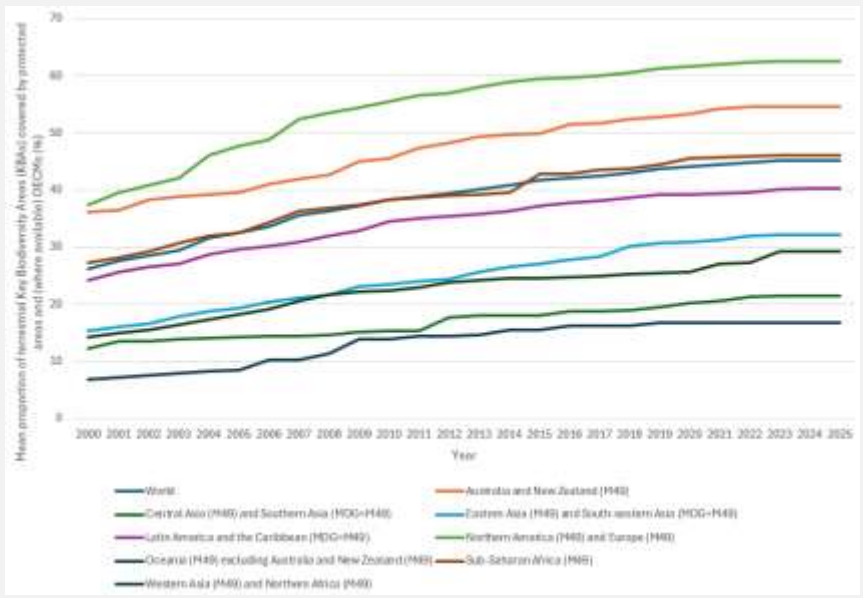

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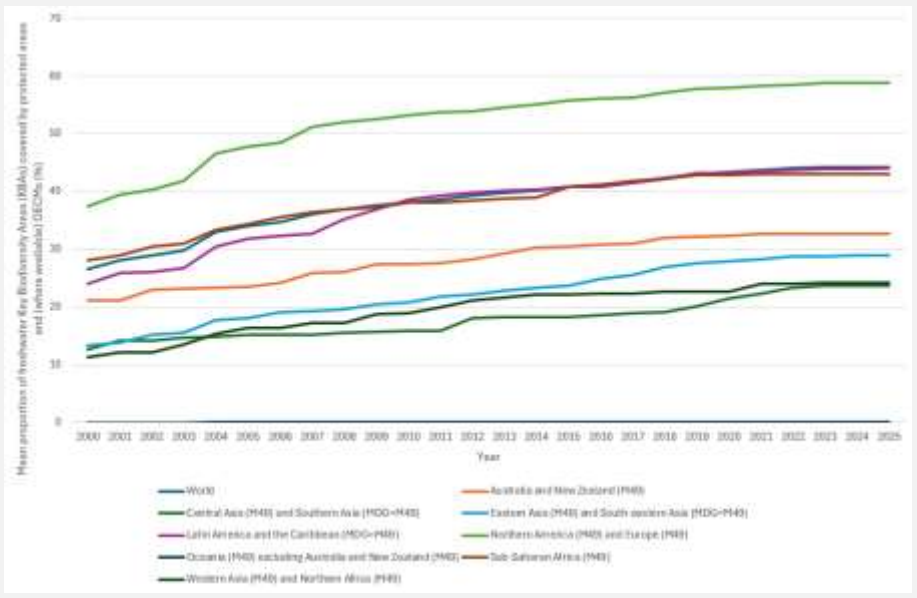

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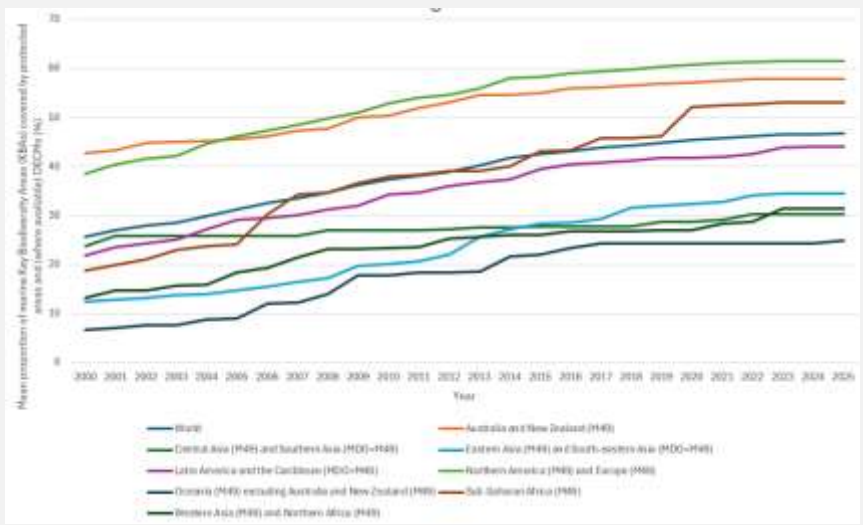
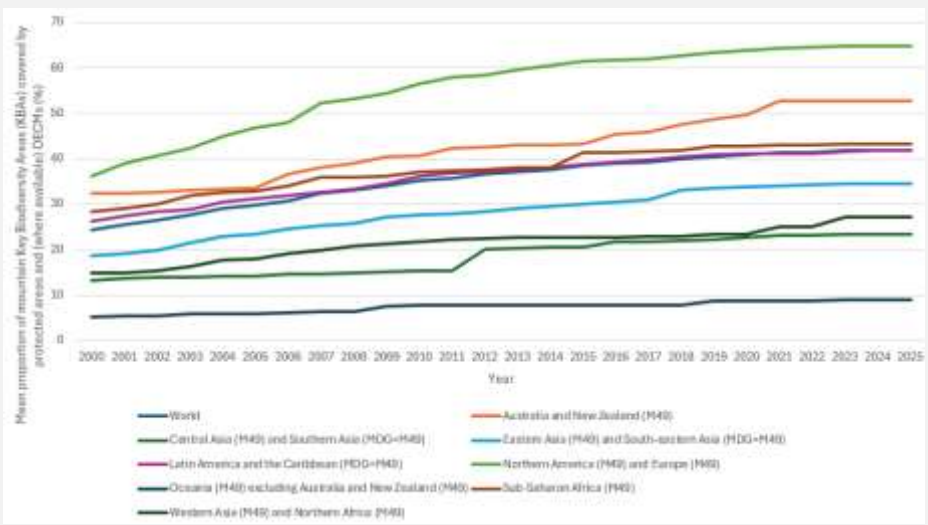


119-15.4.1-2838-ER_PTD_MTN-5654_Figure (Mountain)



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, 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
- Changes in Key Biodiversity Area networks following national comprehensive assessments https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cobi.70151
- World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/
- Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA), December 2025 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2025) https://www.protectedplanet.net/en
- Protected Planet Report 2024 https://digitalreport.protectedplanet.net
- The world's largest marine protected area has been established in French Polynesia https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/news/worlds-largest-marine-protected-area-french-polynesia

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Thomas Brooks, IUCN; Stuart Butchart, BirdLife International; Emily Howland, UNEP-WCMC; Andrew Plumptre, KBA Secretariat; Tom Scott, BirdLife International; Wendy Elliott, WWF; Erin McCreless, Rainforest Trust; Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, WCS; Andrew Snyder, re:wild; Gautam Surya, WCS; Lillian Fougere, WWF-NZ

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

Progress in the protection and planned management of the world's forests, but loss rates remain stubbornly high in some regions

The latest data show continued progress in some components of sustainable forest management. The share of global forest area with a long-term management plan increased from 54.4% in 2015 to 56.5% in 2025, while the proportion within legally protected areas rose from 18.2% to 19.3% over the same period.

Regional differences remain substantial. In 2025, the percentage of forest with long-term management plans ranged from 17.6% in Latin America and the Caribbean to 83.8% in Northern America and Europe. The proportion of forest within protected areas had a much tighter range between regions, from 15.3% in Latin America and the Caribbean to 25.9% in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia. Most regions recorded steady increases in both indicators. Notably, the proportion of forest under long-term management plan in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia nearly doubled, from 34.1% in 1990 to 64.7% in 2025. Another promising highlight is an accelerated increase in the long-term management percentage in Sub-Saharan Africa after 2010, rising from 17.1% in 2010 to 27.3% in 2025.

Forest certification has also expanded over time. In 2024, 397 million hectares of forest were certified, marking a 15.5% increase (53 million hectares) since 2010. Forest under a certification scheme grew by 7.6 million hectares between 2023 and 2024, recovering from a sharp decline the previous year primarily linked to certificate conflict-related suspensions in Europe. Northern America and Europe account for 78% percent of certified forest area in 2024.

Global above-ground biomass in forests also increased. It reached 123 tons per hectare in 2025, after increasing steadily from 121 tons per hectare in 2015 and 116 tons per hectare in 1990. This indicates a positive global balance in forests between biomass gains from growth versus losses from wood removals and natural hazards.

At the global scale, forest loss has slowed compared with the 1990s. The annual forest area change rate, considering both deforestation and forest expansion, has softened from -0.25% per year in the 1990s to -0.09% between 2000 and 2015. However, net losses were slightly higher between 2015 and 2025, with a rate of -0.10% per year despite further progress in reducing deforestation, as gains in forest area from expansion were lower than before.

The greatest annual net loss rates between 2015 and 2025 (negative annual change rate) were recorded in Northern Africa (-0.56% per year), Latin America and the Caribbean (-0.44% per year) and Sub-Saharan Africa (-0.43% per year). The rate of loss has worsened in Northern Africa and has not materially improved in Sub-Saharan relative to the long-term context (-0.43% per year in 1990-2000, -0.50% in 2000-2015). In Latin America and the Caribbean, the speed of losses has decreased significantly from the 1990s (-0.70%) to the period 2000-2015 (-0.45%) but has since plateaued. In contrast, Oceania, and Eastern and South-eastern Asia reversed their negative trends in the 1990s, achieving net forest area gains in 2015-2025, driven in part by large afforestation programmes in Eastern Asia.

Net forest area change is determined by the balance between increases from afforestation and natural expansion and decreases from deforestation. Continued progress in reducing deforestation demonstrates advances towards achieving a zero global forest area. However, sustainable forest management cannot be achieved at the global level while some regions continue losing nearly half a percent of their forest area every year. Achieving sustainable forest management requires scaling up global efforts to reduce significantly deforestation while maintaining strong efforts in afforestation, including through restoration.

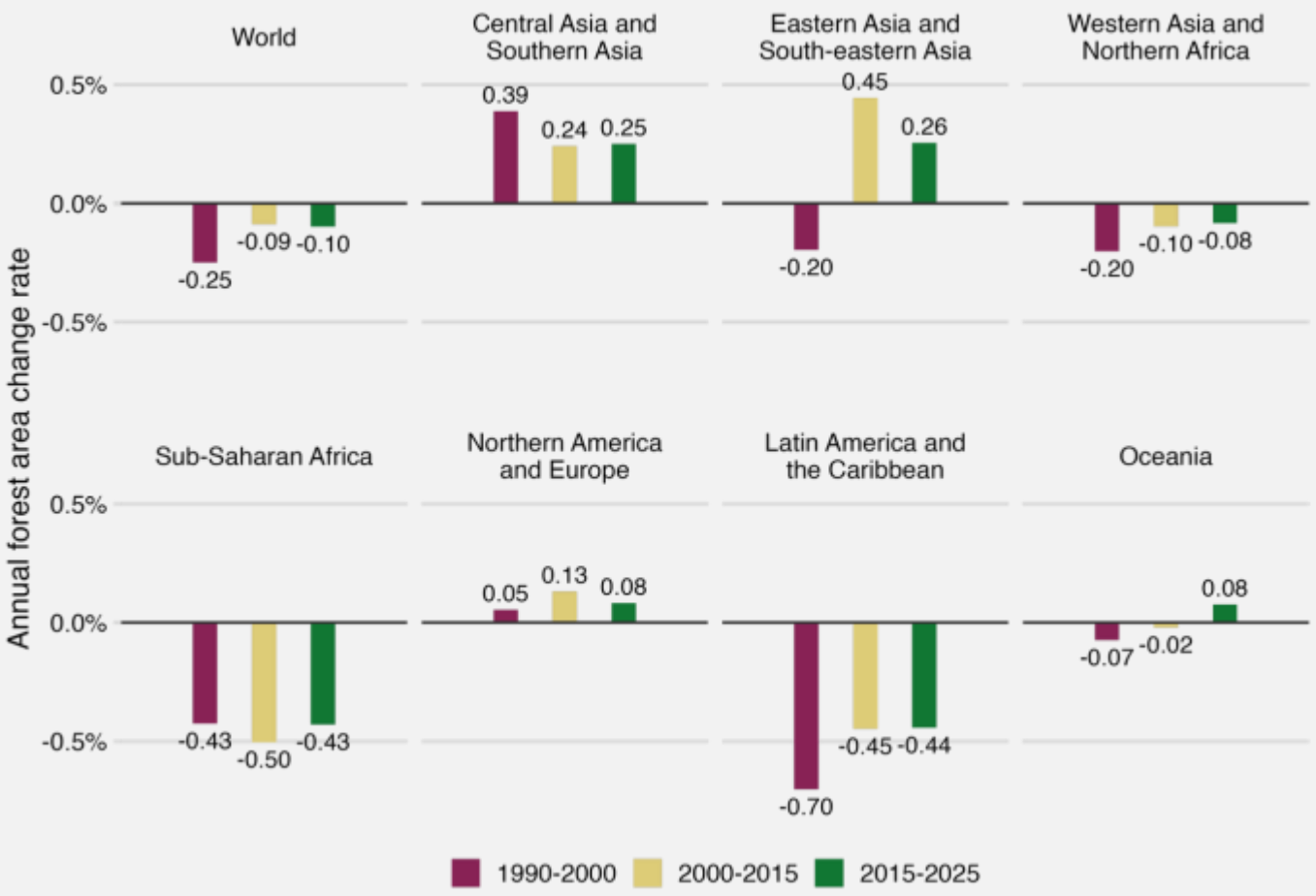
Progress toward sustainable forest management, at regional and global level - Dashboard

SDG Region	Progress between 2000-2015 and 2015-2025	Progress between 2015 and 2025			Progress between 2015 and 2024	Progress between 2023 and 2024
	Annual forest area change rate [1]	Above-ground biomass stock in forest (t/ha)	Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas	Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan	Forest area certified (2015-2024)	Forest area certified (2023-2024)
World	🔴	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡	🟢
Central and Southern Asia	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🔴	🟢
Central Asia	🟢	🔴	🟢	🟢		
Southern Asia	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡	🔴	🟢
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢
Eastern Asia	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡	🟢
South-Eastern Asia	🔴	🟢	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢
Western Asia and Northern Africa	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢
Northern Africa	🔴	🟢	🟡	🟢		
Western Asia	🟢	🟡	🟢	🟡	🟢	🟢
Sub-Saharan Africa	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🔴
Northern America and Europe	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡	🔴	🟢
Europe	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡	🔴	🔴
Northern America	🔴	🟢	🟢	🟡	🟡	🟢
Latin America and the Caribbean	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢
Oceania	🟢	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟢	🔴
Oceania (exc. Australia and New Zealand)	🔴	🟡	🟡	🟡	🔴	🟡
Australia and New Zealand	🟢	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟢	🔴
Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)	🟡	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢	🔴
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢	🔴	🔴
Small island developing States (SIDS)	🔴	🟡	🟢	🟡	🟢	🔴

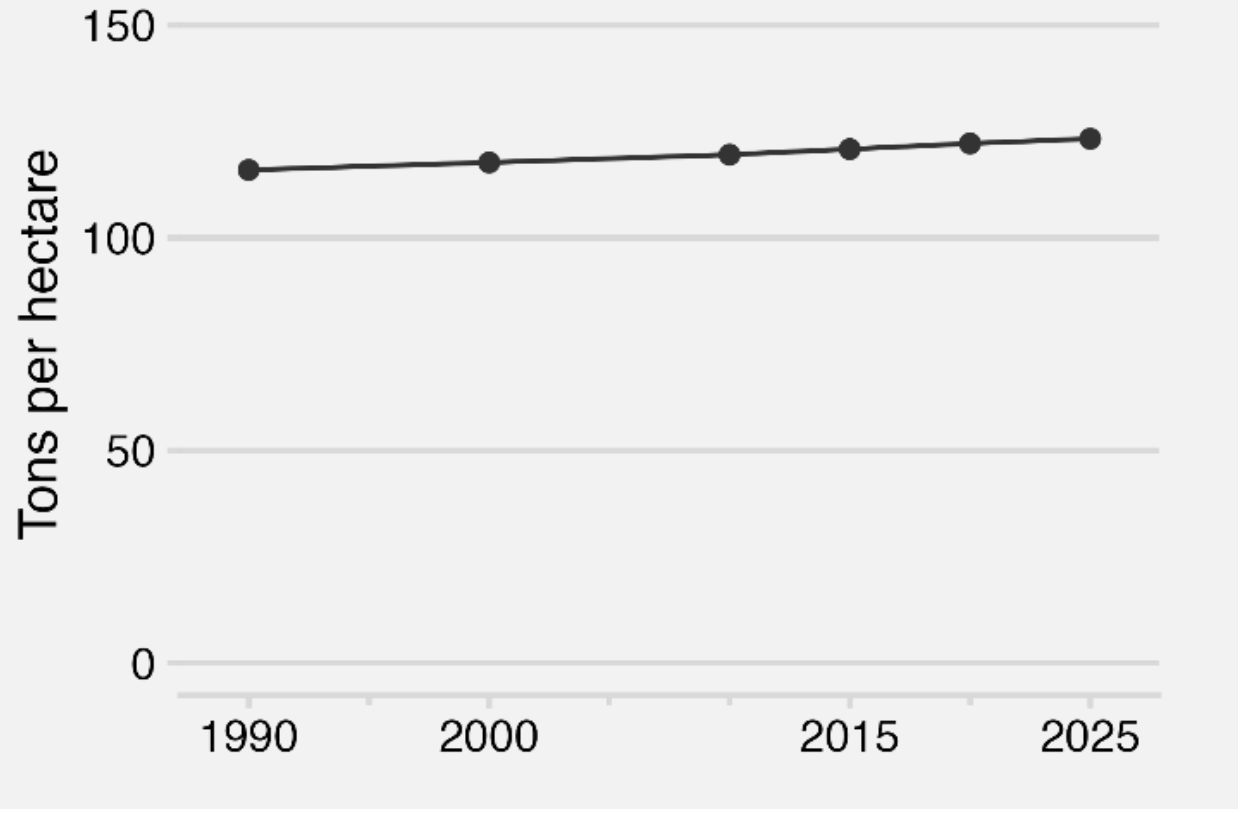
[1] The annual forest area change rate is calculated using compound interest formula.

🟢	Positive change
🟡	No/small change
🔴	Negative change
	No certified forest area

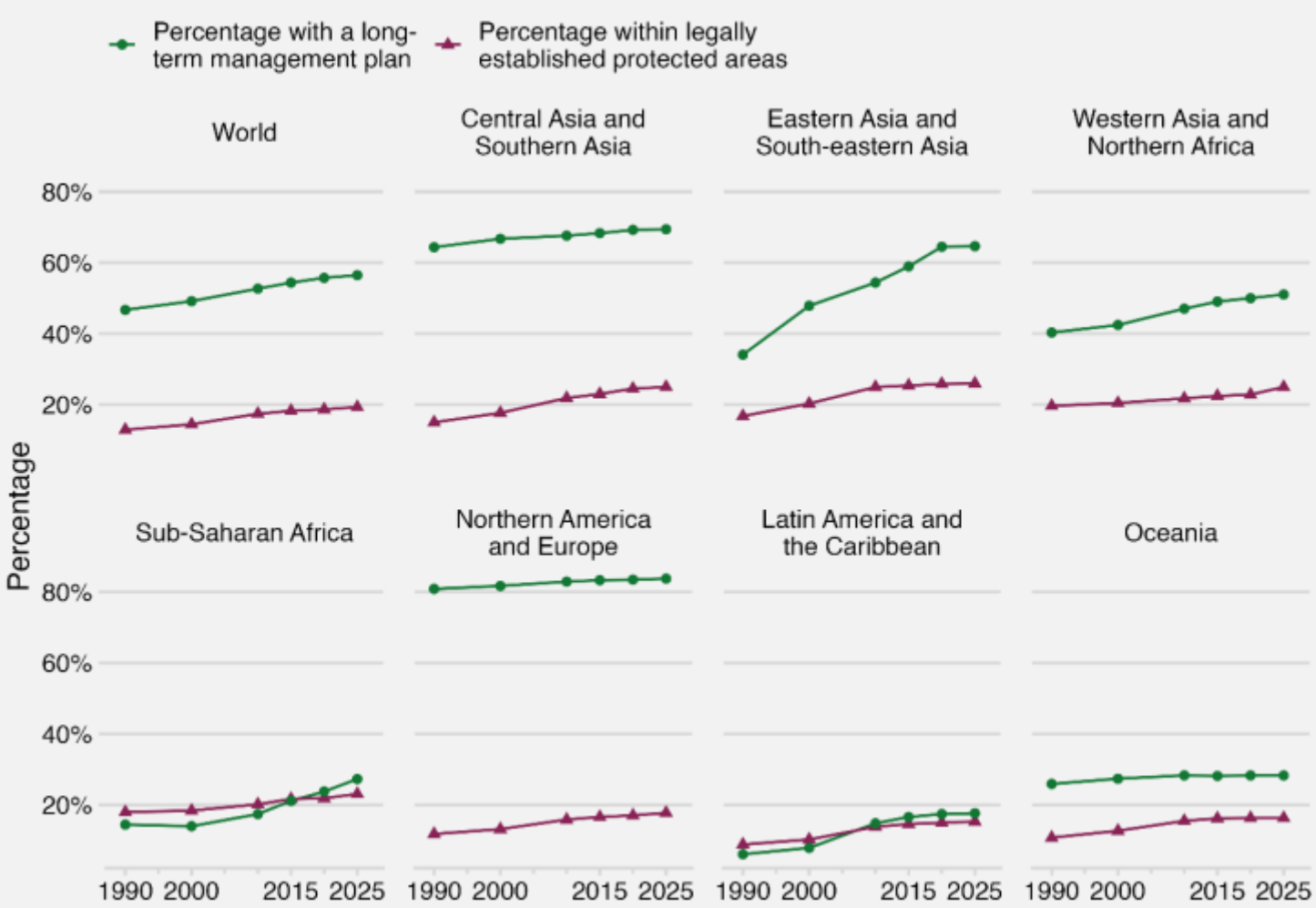
Annual forest area change rate across different time periods, by region



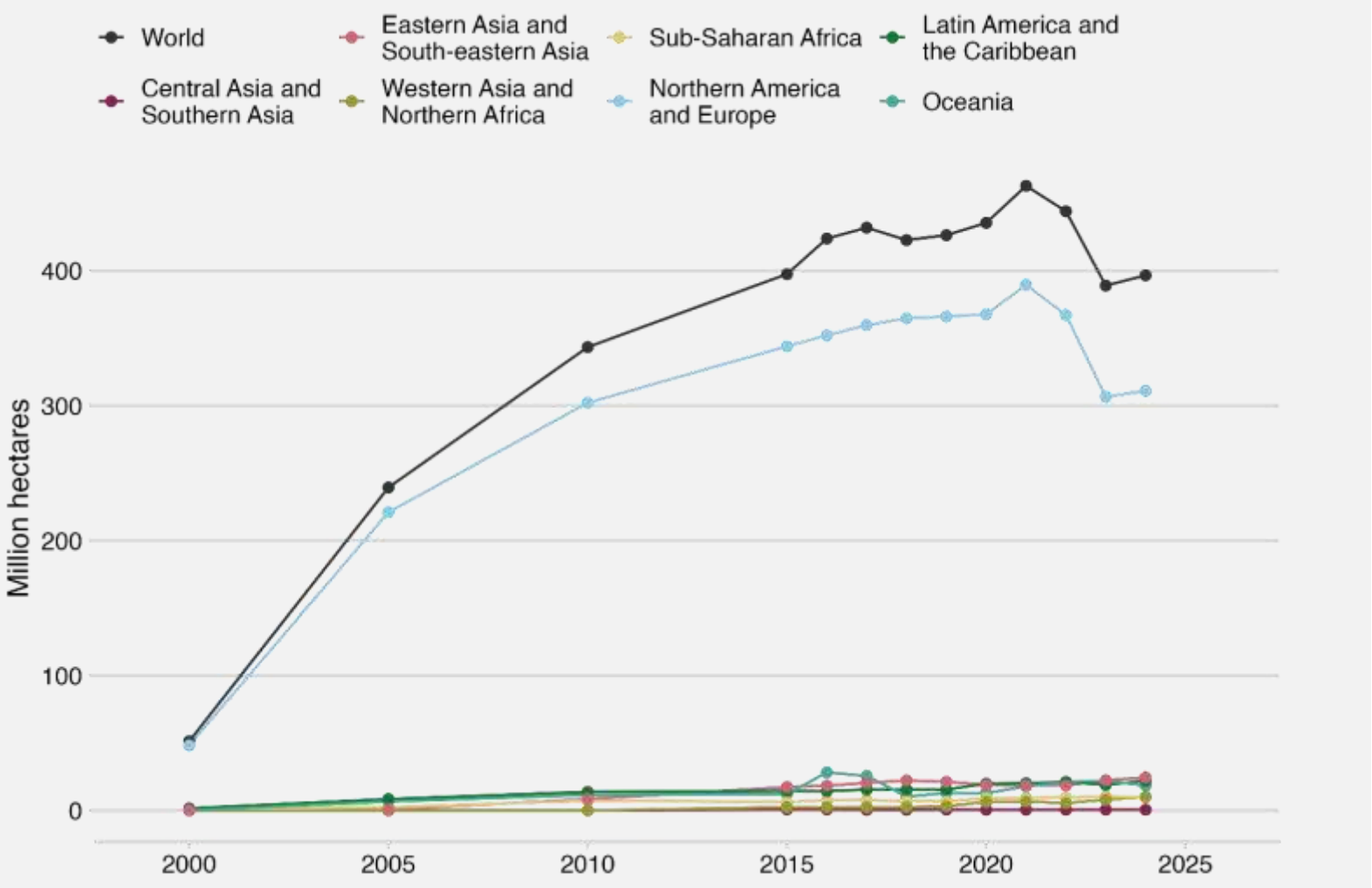
Global above-ground biomass in forests, per hectare of forest



Proportion of forest area under a long-term management plan and proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas, by region



Forest area under an independently verified certification scheme, by region



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- This annual update of indicator 15.2.1 is based on the latest updated report from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025, which is based on the best available country data.
- FAO. 2025. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6709en
- FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment website http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/
- FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment platform https://fra-data.fao.org/assessments/fra/2025
- FAO press release. 2025. Global deforestation slows, but forests remain under pressure, FAO report shows. https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/global-deforestation-slows--but-forests-remain-under-pressure--fao-report-shows/en

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Anne Branthomme, FAO; Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO; Oliver Stoner, FAO

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

On average, 55% of each of the world's >16,500 Key Biodiversity Areas remains to be safeguarded, despite this proportion having dropped from 75% in 2000

Biodiversity, and threats to it, are distributed highly unevenly over the surface of the planet. This means that it is possible to identify discrete sites of global significance for the persistence of biodiversity. More than 16,500 such Key Biodiversity Areas have been identified through bottom-up processes in all of the world's countries. Safeguarding these, through protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures, is therefore the cornerstone of nature conservation.

Recognising this, average coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas by protected and conserved areas is therefore an indicator for three SDG targets – for SDG 14.5 (for the oceans), SDG 15.1 (for land and freshwater), and SDG 15.4 (for mountains) – as well as for Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Strategic Objective 4 under the UN Convention on Combatting Desertification.

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On average, more than half of each Key Biodiversity Area remains to be protected. The world's governments and communities face a crucial challenge to close this gap in safeguarding. Compounding the need to increase coverage of existing recognised Key Biodiversity Areas is the recent finding that on average countries are likely missing about half of these sites, because the Key Biodiversity Area criteria have not been comprehensively applied across species and ecosystems. There is an urgent need for all countries to update their Key Biodiversity Area networks by 2030 as part of their planning for the KMGBF. However, around the world, efforts to establish such safeguard are underway. In 2025 the Philippines and Canada came close to completing comprehensive assessments of their Key Biodiversity Area networks, with national processes ongoing in Oman, Malawi, Honduras, Fiji, Spain, Italy and Palau. This builds on the work of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa and United Arab Emirates which have completed such assessments. In terms of protected and conserved areas, most countries and territories have reported up-to-date data to the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas. In 2025, Mauritania completed its first national update in 30 years and Ukraine completed its first update in over 25 years, while Ecuador, Ukraine and two Regional Fisheries Management Organizations reported other effective area-based conservation measures for the first time.

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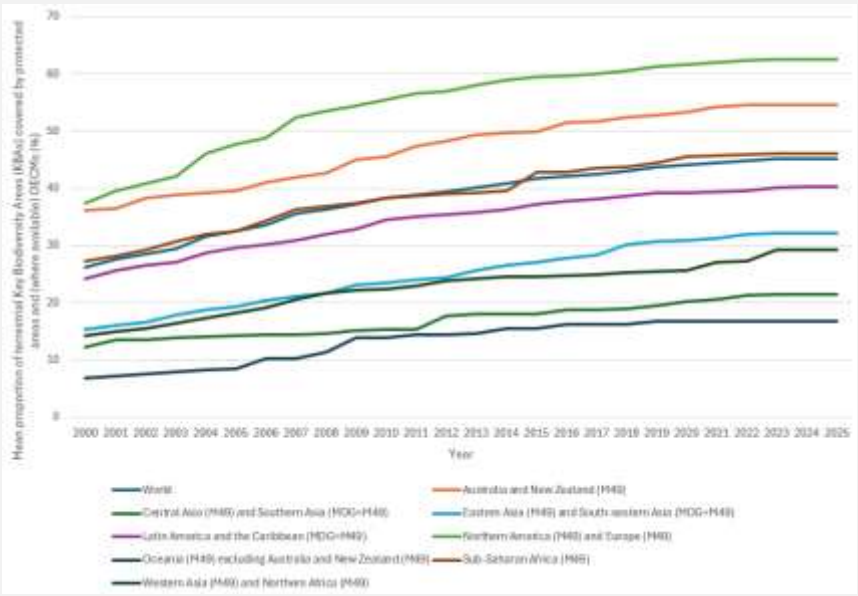
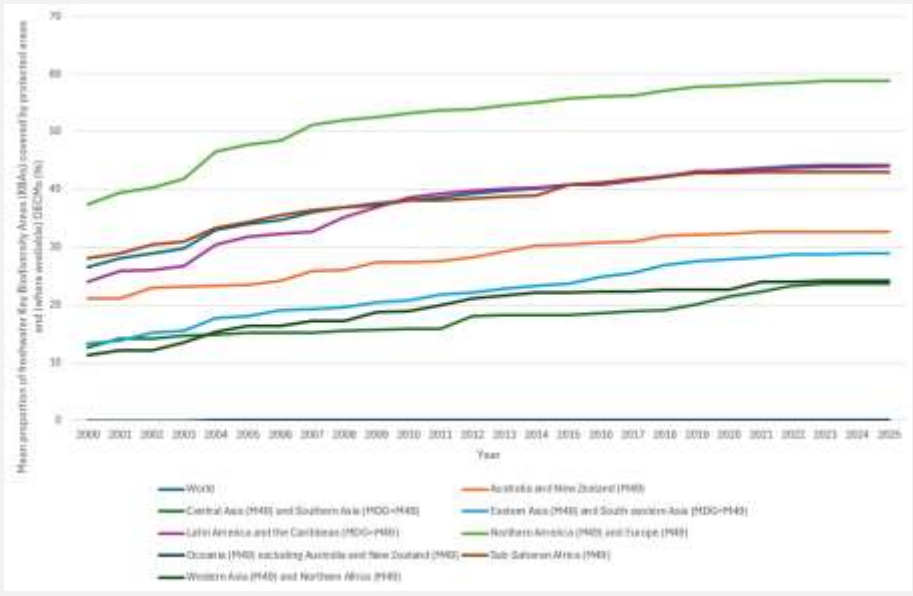
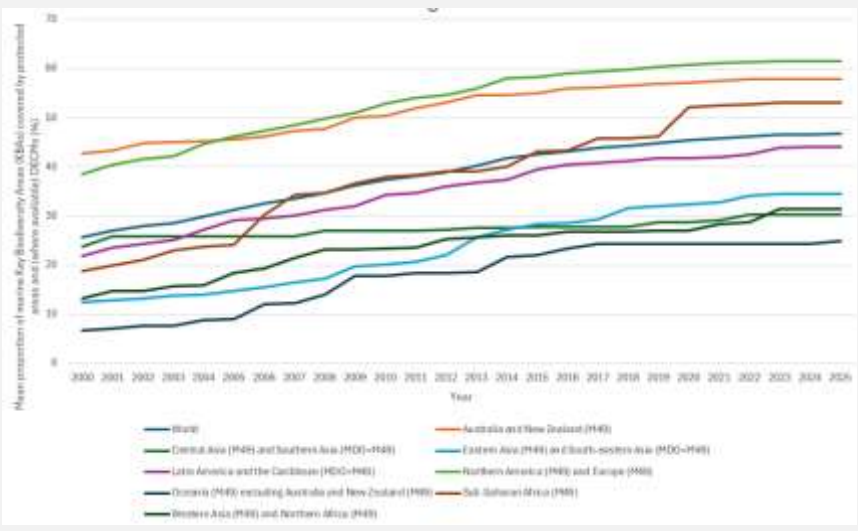


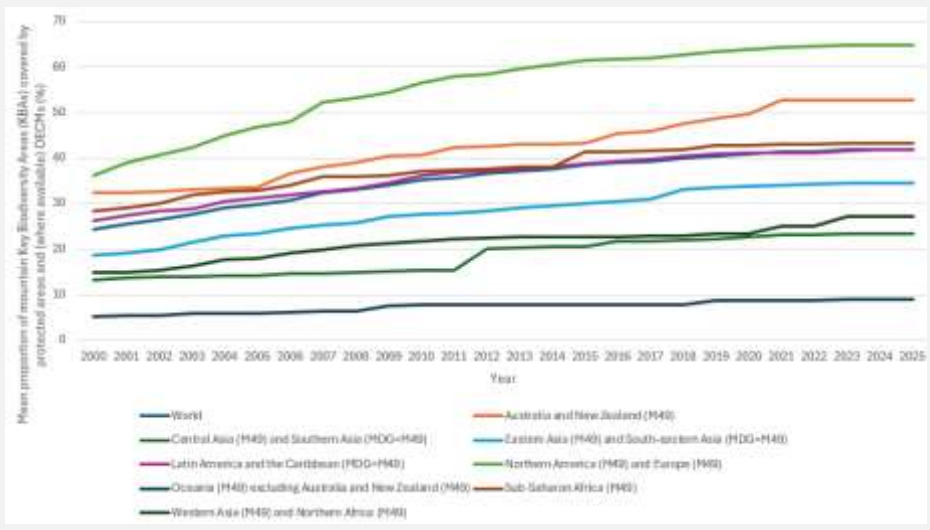
119-15.1.2-2837-ER_PTD_FRHWRT-5654_Figure (Freshwater)



119-14.5.1-2999-ER_MRN_MPA-4532_Figure (Marine)



119-15.4.1-2838-ER_PTD_MTN-5654_Figure (Mountain)



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, 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
- Changes in Key Biodiversity Area networks following national comprehensive assessments https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cobi.70151
- World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/
- Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA), December 2025 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2025) https://www.protectedplanet.net/en
- Protected Planet Report 2024 https://digitalreport.protectedplanet.net
- The world's largest marine protected area has been established in French Polynesia https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/news/worlds-largest-marine-protected-area-french-polynesia

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Thomas Brooks, IUCN; Stuart Butchart, BirdLife International; Emily Howland, UNEP-WCMC; Andrew Plumptre, KBA Secretariat; Tom Scott, BirdLife International; Wendy Elliott, WWF; Erin McCreless, Rainforest Trust; Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, WCS; Andrew Snyder, re:wild; Gautam Surya, WCS; Lillian Fougere, WWF-NZ

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

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

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

Target 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

Indicator 15.5.1 Red List Index

The Red List Index shows continuing increases in species extinction risk, with deteriorations particularly severe for coral species, due to climate change and cumulative local and global pressures

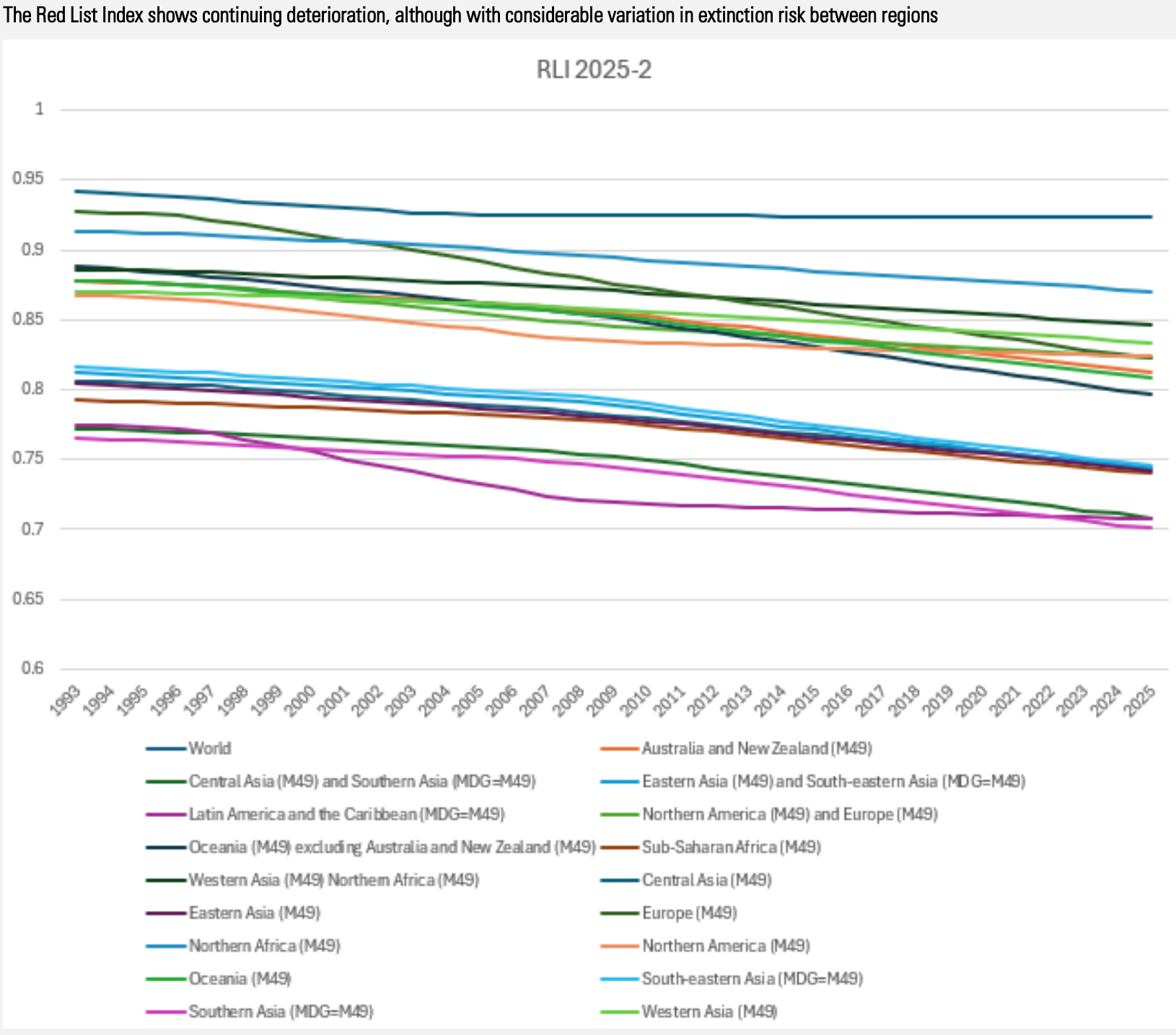
Species extinction is a fundamental and irreversible human impact on the environment. The Red List Index tracks changes in aggregate species extinction risk. It is the official indicator for SDG 15.5 and a headline indicator for all three Rio Conventions – specifically for Goal A of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, for Strategic Objective 4 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and, as adopted in 2025, as one of the Belém Adaptation Indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – as well as for many other international and national goals.

The Red List Index measures genuine changes in species extinction risk in comprehensively assessed species groups (cycads, corals, amphibians, birds, and mammals). The Red List Index equals 1 if no species in these groups are assessed as having a high risk of extinction in the medium-term, and falls to 0 if all species in these groups have been driven extinct.

Globally, and across all species groups, deteriorations in the Red List Index are continuing, with the value of more than 0.80 in 1993 now dropped below 0.75 in 2025. There is considerable regional variation in the Red List Index, with the index still exceeding 0.85 in some regions, notably Central Asia and Northern Africa, while Southern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean have suffered particularly serious declines and now have Red List Indices approaching 0.70. These geographic patterns are caused by a combination of uneven human impacts, uneven capacity and resources for conservation response, and uneven underlying biogeography.

The severity of the extinction crisis facing warm-water, reef-building coral species was underscored in 2025. Already when first comprehensively assessed in 2008, the IUCN Red List revealed around a third of coral species to face high extinction risk. Re-assessment now reveals that this prevalence of extinction risk is now at 44%, due to growing threats from climate change and cumulative local and global pressures (such as pollution, agricultural runoff, disease, and unsustainable fishing, compounded by trade, export and tourism markets, and other global economic drivers). As such, coral species show the most rapid deteriorations of any species group, with dire implications for the biodiversity of coral reef ecosystems and the many local livelihoods and coastal economies which depend on them for fisheries, coastal protection, tourism income, and cultural significance.

The Red List Index shows continuing deterioration, although with considerable variation in extinction risk between regions



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- IUCN Red List https://www.iucnredlist.org/
- Red List Index https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/red-list-index
- Over 40% of coral species face extinction https://iucn.org/press-release/202411/over-40-coral-species-face-extinction-iucn-red-list

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Thomas Brooks, Craig Hilton-Taylor, Richard Jenkins, Simon Tarr, IUCN; David Obura, CORDIO and IUCN SSC Coral Specialist Group

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

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework continues to draw renewed attention to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

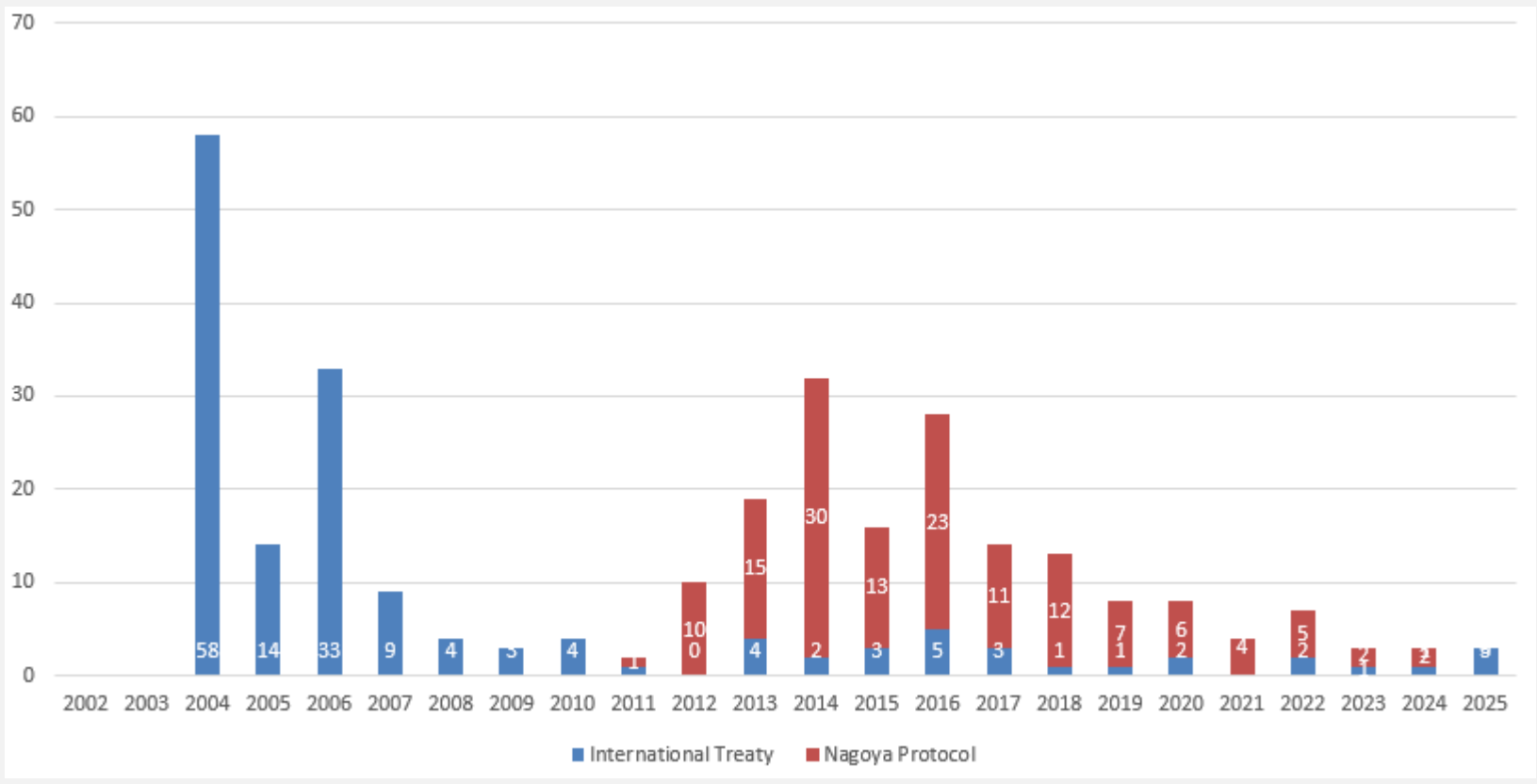
Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity celebrated the 10 years since its adoption, and the number of its Parties nearly doubled. At the end of 2025, 142 countries and the European Union had ratified the Protocol – representing 72% of all Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. There were no new Parties that joined the Protocol in 2025. However, countries are advancing on establishing 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 and granting access to genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge. At the end of 2025, 84 countries had published at least one measure to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and 32 countries had issued 6202 internationally recognized certificates of compliance 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 its Contracting Parties has reached 154 at the end of 2025, including the European Union. By the end of 2025, 98 countries have submitted their national report to inform about their implementation of International Treaty's provisions, including on access and benefit-sharing measures. The number of SMTA has been continuously increasing, reached 117 298 by 148 countries as at 31 December 2025, indicating many users have benefited from accessing plant genetic resources for research and breeding.

The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) is the operational mechanism to share benefits arising from the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the International Treaty. To date the BSF has reached more than 1 million people directly and indirectly in 78 developing countries, including small-scale farmers, researchers, breeders.

Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through the revision and update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and national reports, has brought renewed attention and impetus to the implementation of access and benefit-sharing frameworks and goals to the forefront of the national biodiversity agendas. 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 (World)



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, 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 author(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 15.7.1/15.c.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

Globally, invasive alien species response is increasing, with nearly all countries now having national legislation, regulations and decrees related to invasive alien species both as focused legislation and across relevant sectors. Alignment of national to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6 currently stands at 139 countries of the 195 countries considered. A wide variation exists in the allocation of resources within national budgets for these responses

The 2023 IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment found that the threat of biological invasions cause extensive negative impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems. The assessment found that the "global economic cost of invasive alien species exceeded $423 billion annually in 2019, with costs having at least quadrupled every decade since 1970".

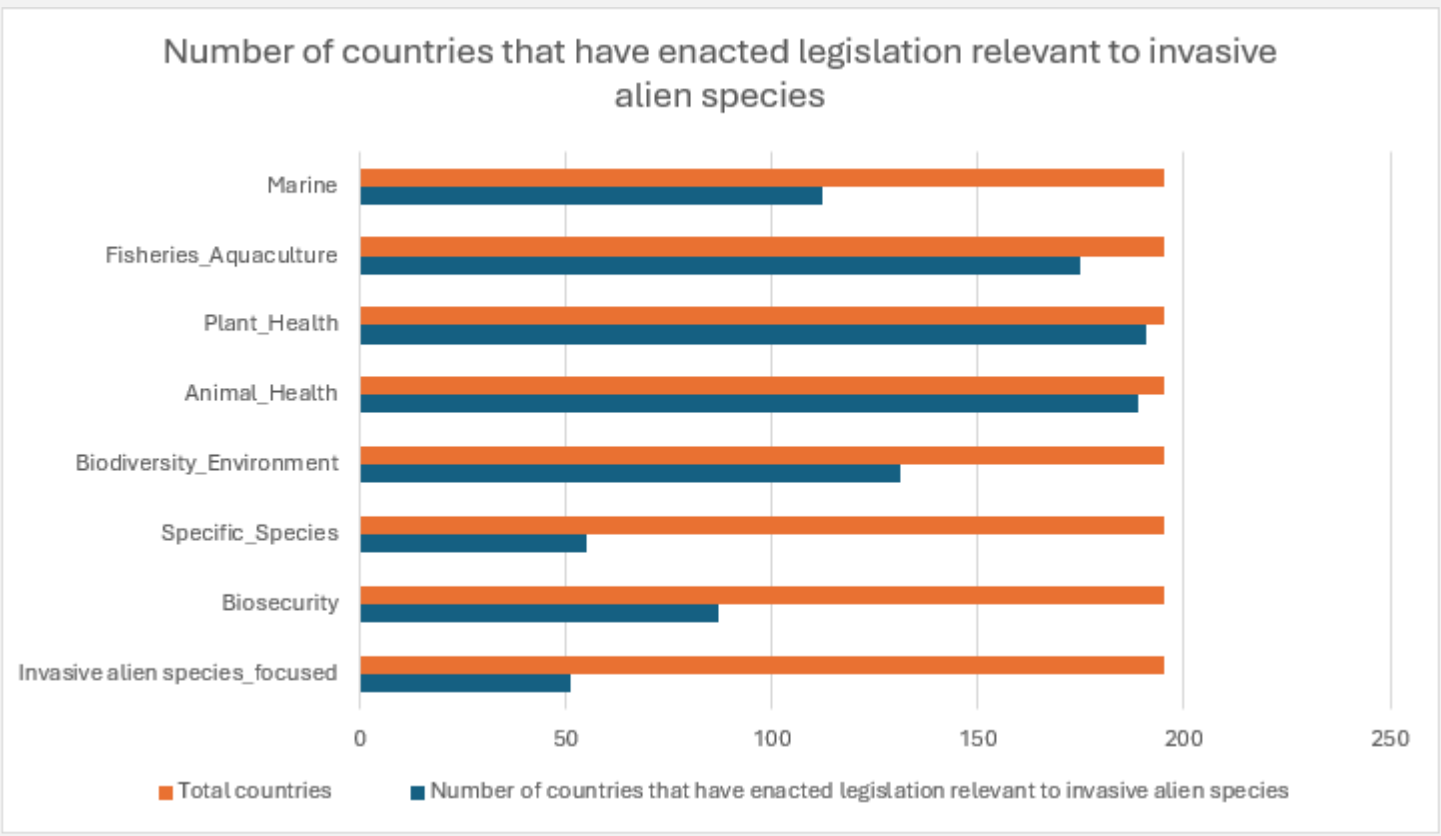
The IPBES report highlights the need for political will (legislation and strategy), sufficient resources and a long-term commitment to prevent and control invasive alien species.

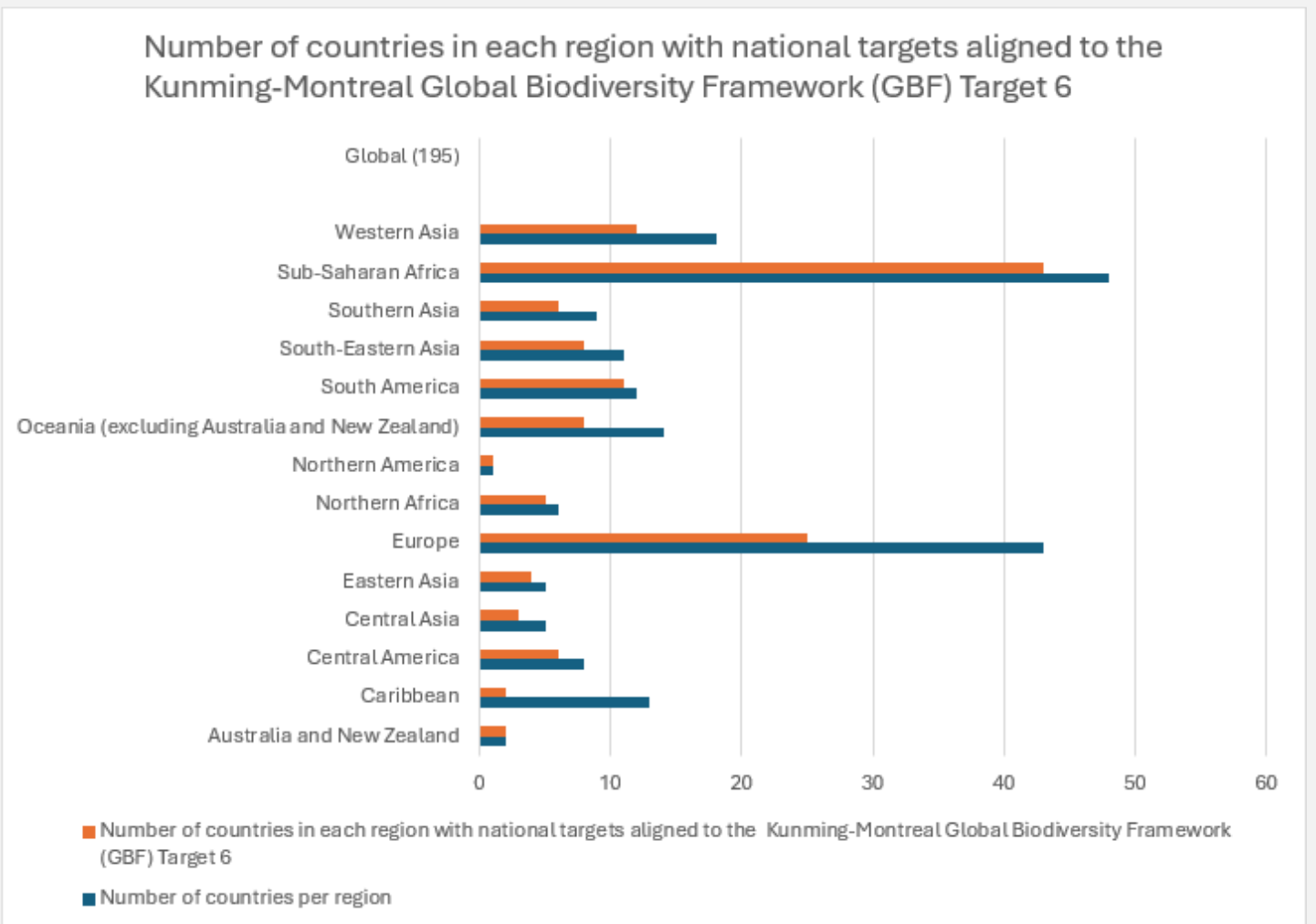
Governments enact laws including legislations, regulations, decrees etc. relevant to the prevention or control of alien and invasive alien species. The alien and invasive alien species components in majority of the cases are embedded within laws pertaining to key cross-cutting sectors such as plant health (98%), animal health (97%), fisheries and aquaculture (90%). However, 26% of countries have enacted laws focused on invasive alien species and on biosecurity related to the prevention of introduction of alien species.

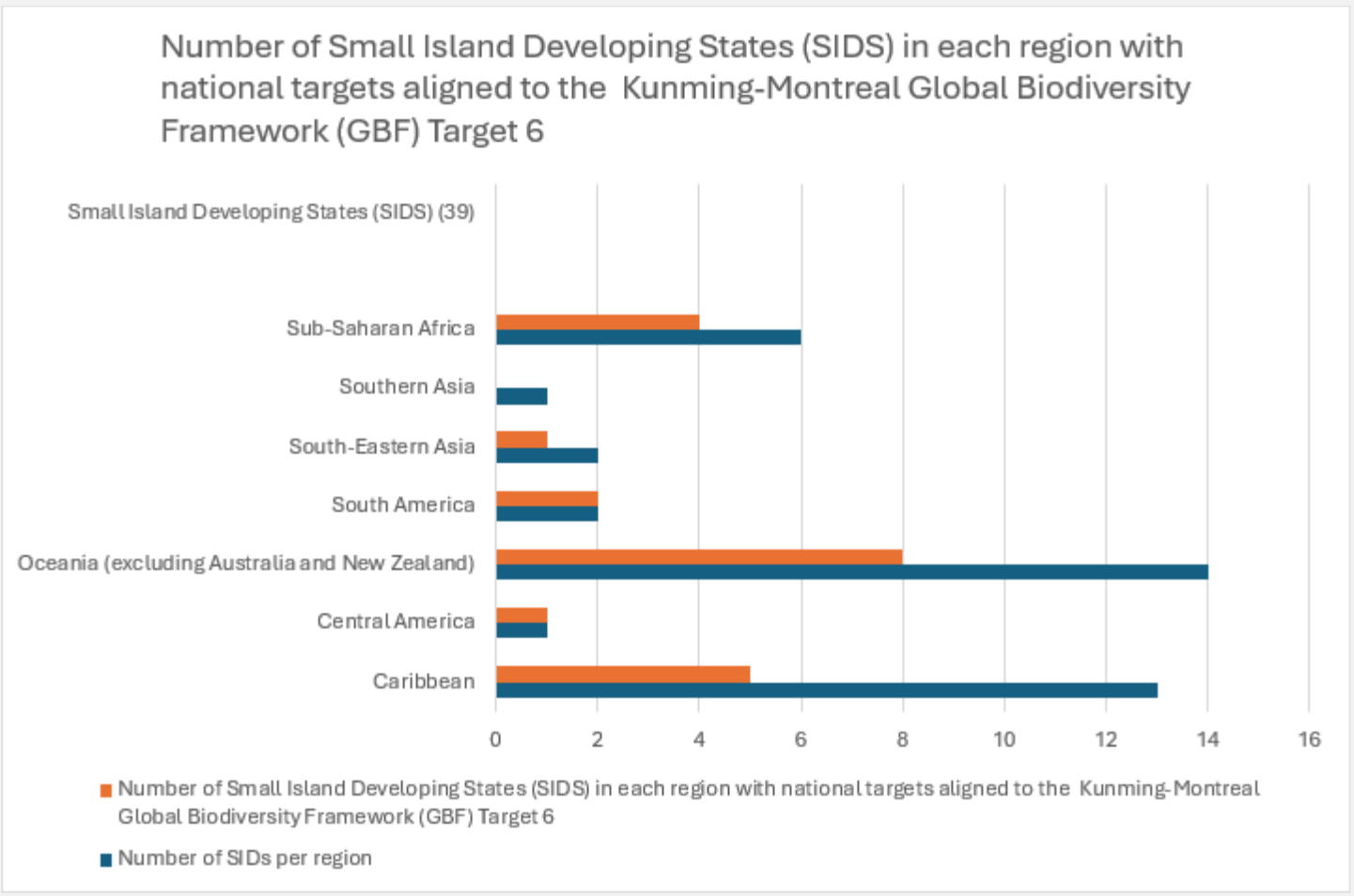
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted in 2022. It established 23 targets for 2030, including Target 6 (a successor to Aichi target 9) that aims to "Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands". National governments must align their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) with these global targets. As of early 2026, national targets of 139 parties of the 195 were aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6.

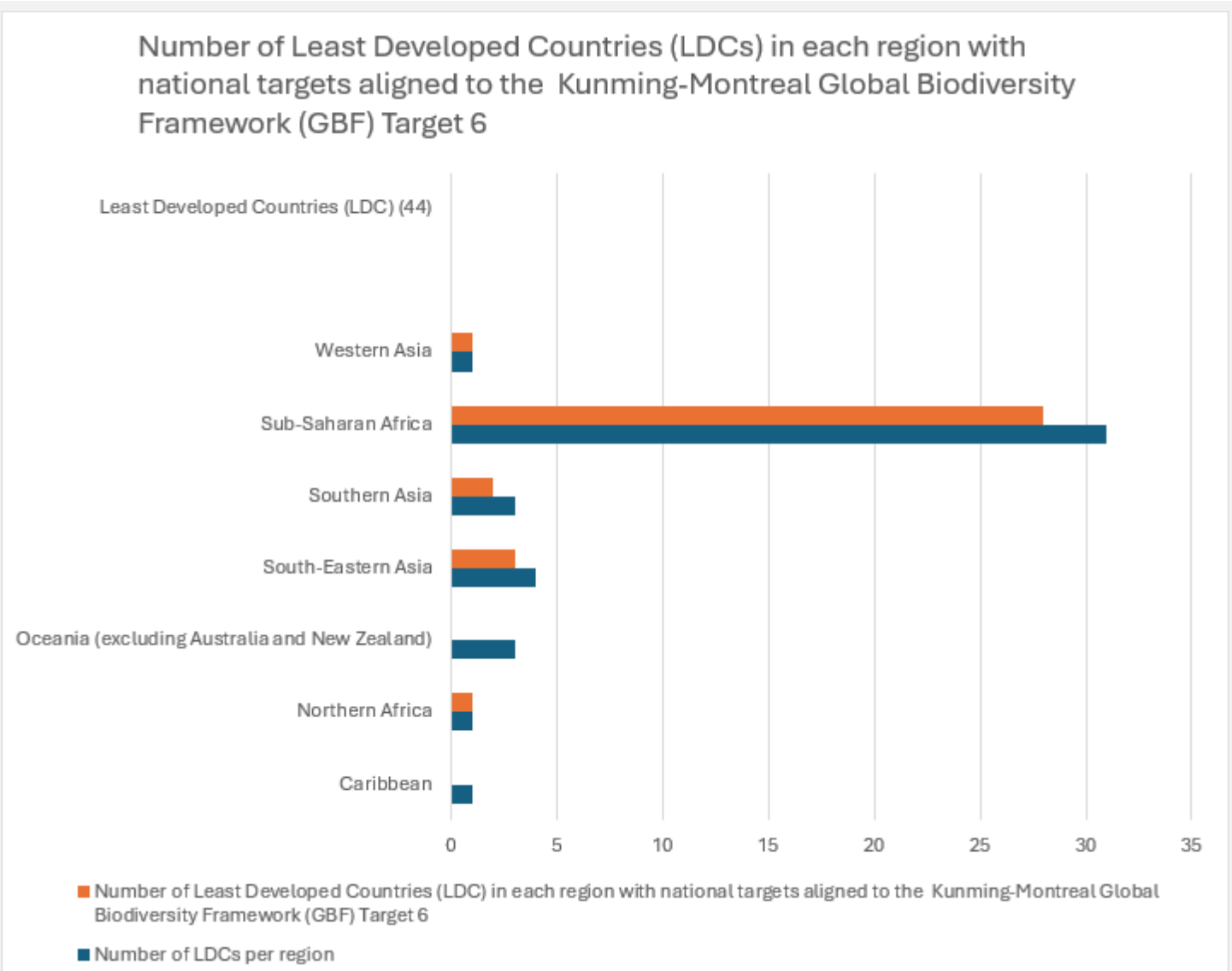
Sufficient resourcing is crucial to enable effective invasive alien species response. Comprehensive evaluation of "adequacy" requires robust budgeting of national invasive species strategies and action plans, which has not yet been completed in many countries. However, some insight into the resourcing of invasive alien species responses is provided by national reporting of the sources of funding allocations through the survey response.

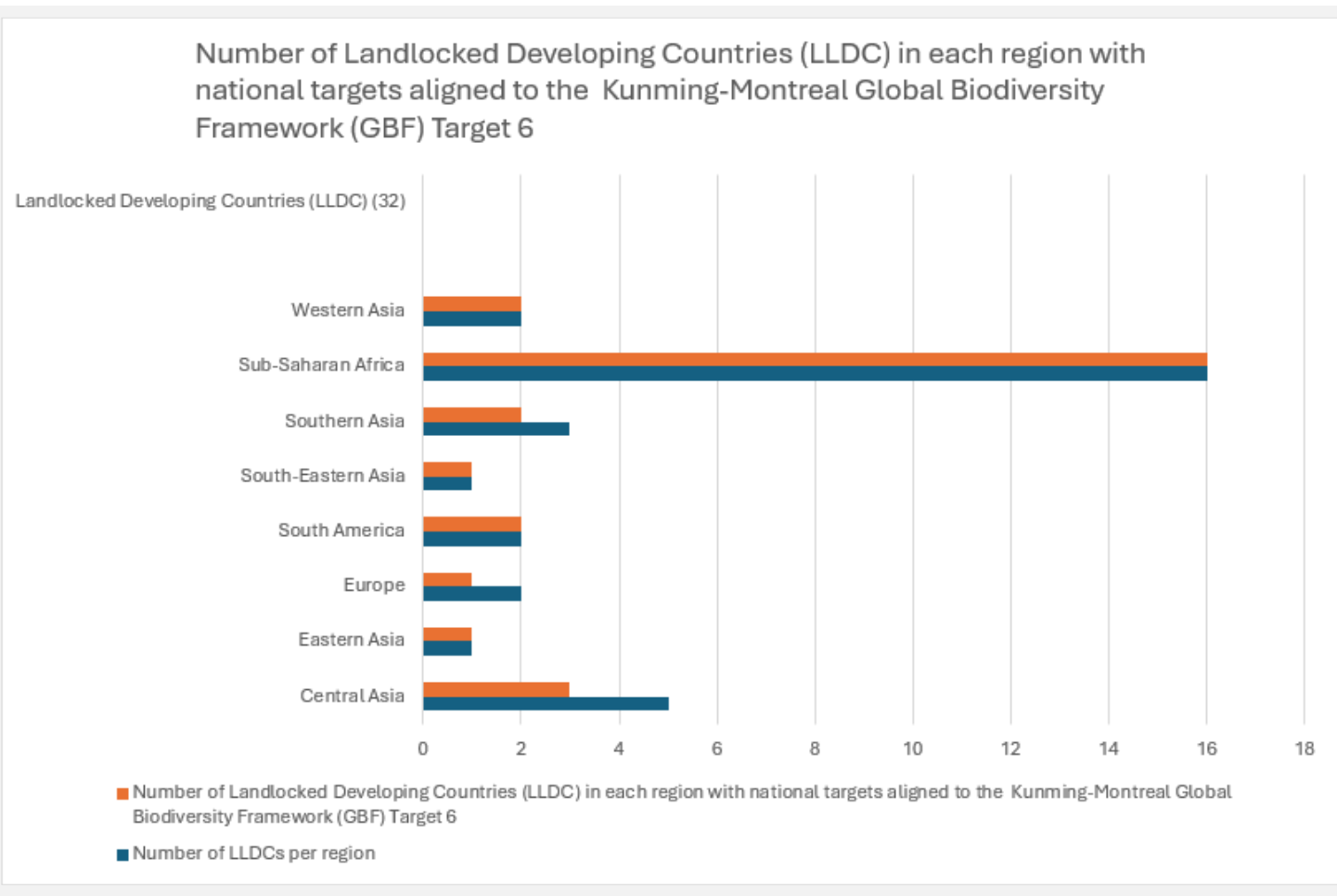
The survey response of 52 countries out of 92 results qualified for inclusion in this measurement. Regional representation of the total of 52 national respondents was highly variable: the three highest being Europe 26 countries, South America and Western Asia seven each. countries. 67% of the 52 countries report allocations from their national budgets for the management of invasive alien species; this included 50% of the 6 SIDs respondants; 33% of respondents report that they have accessed global financial mechanisms to implement invasive alien species projects, including 83% of the 6 SIDs respondants.

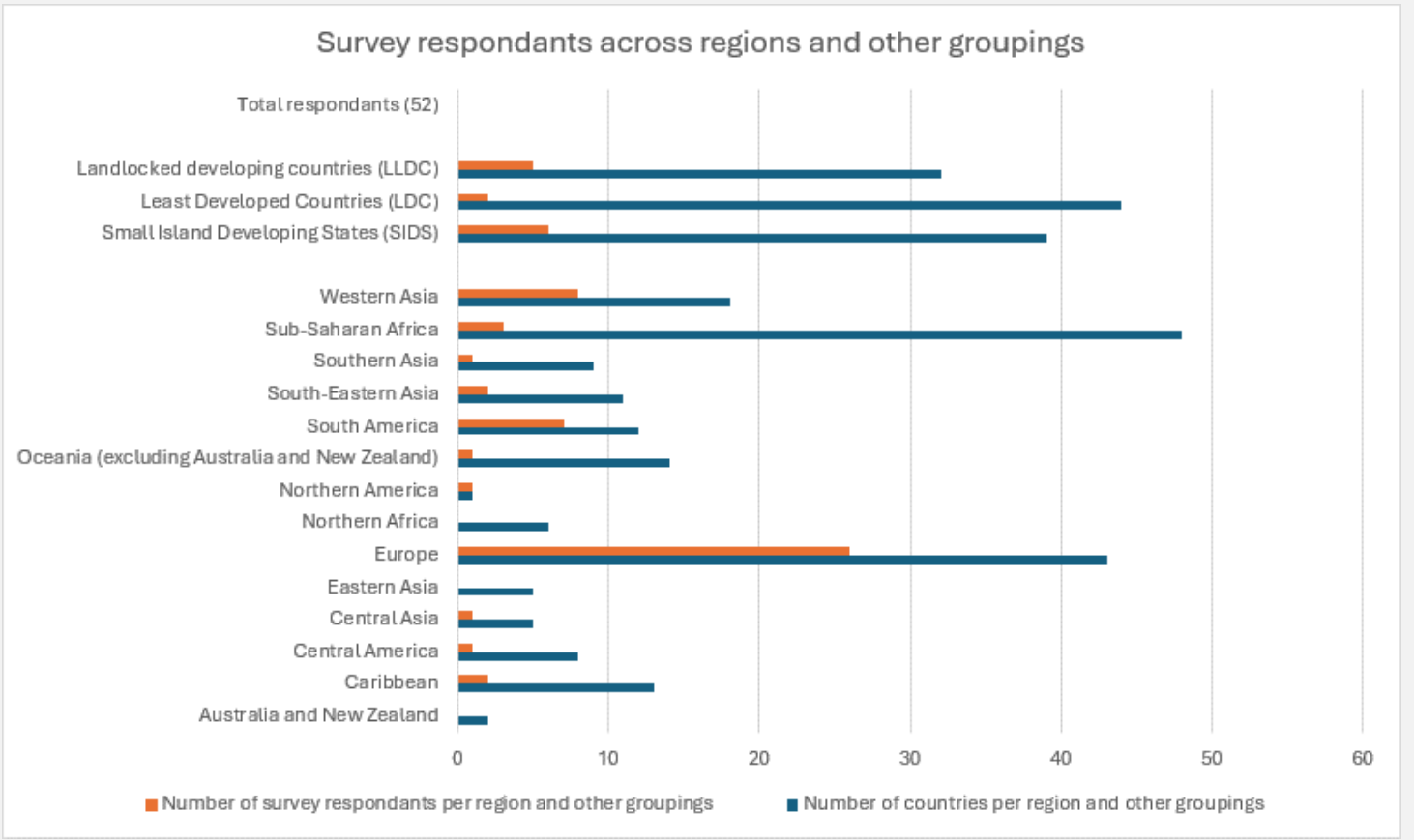


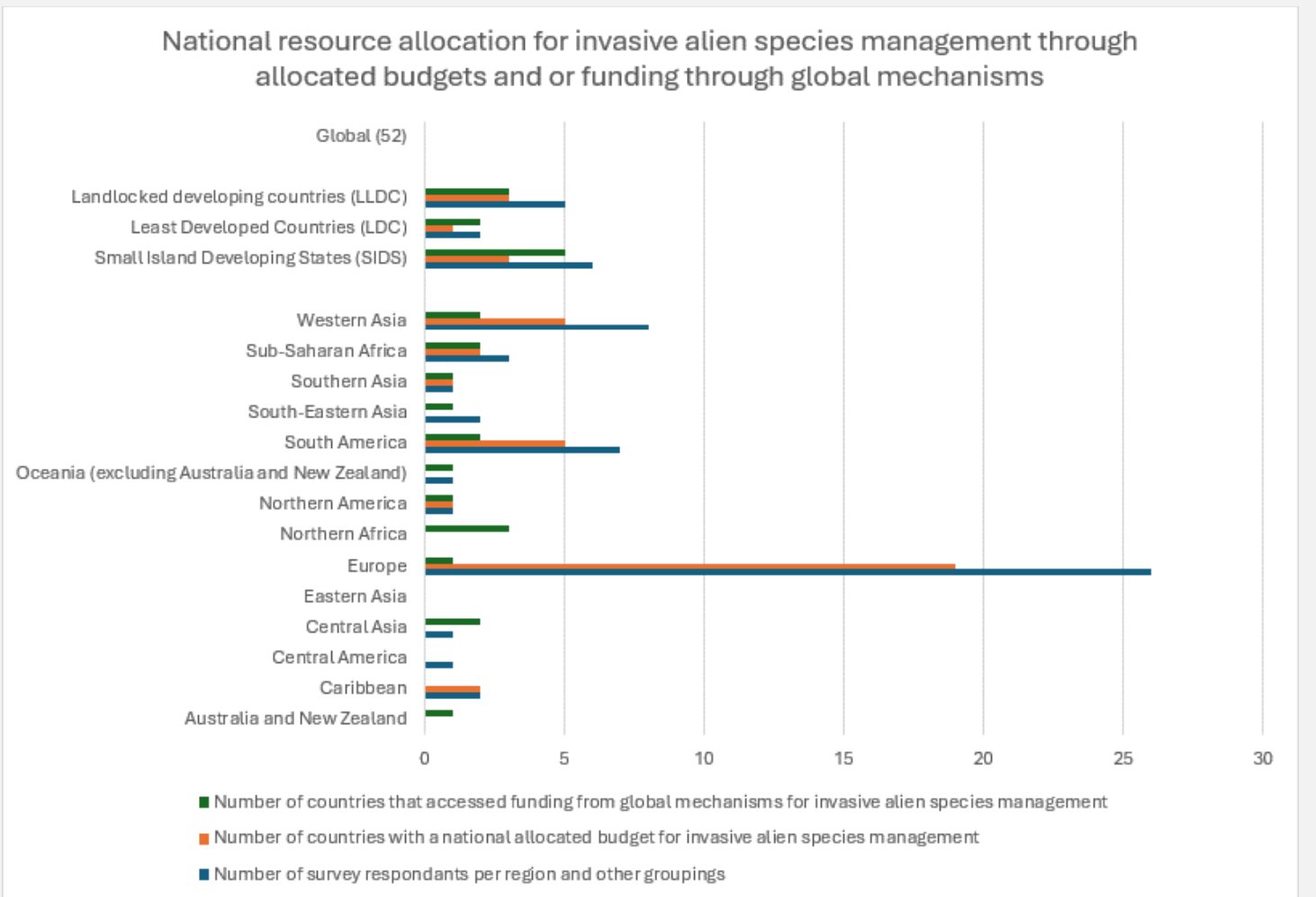


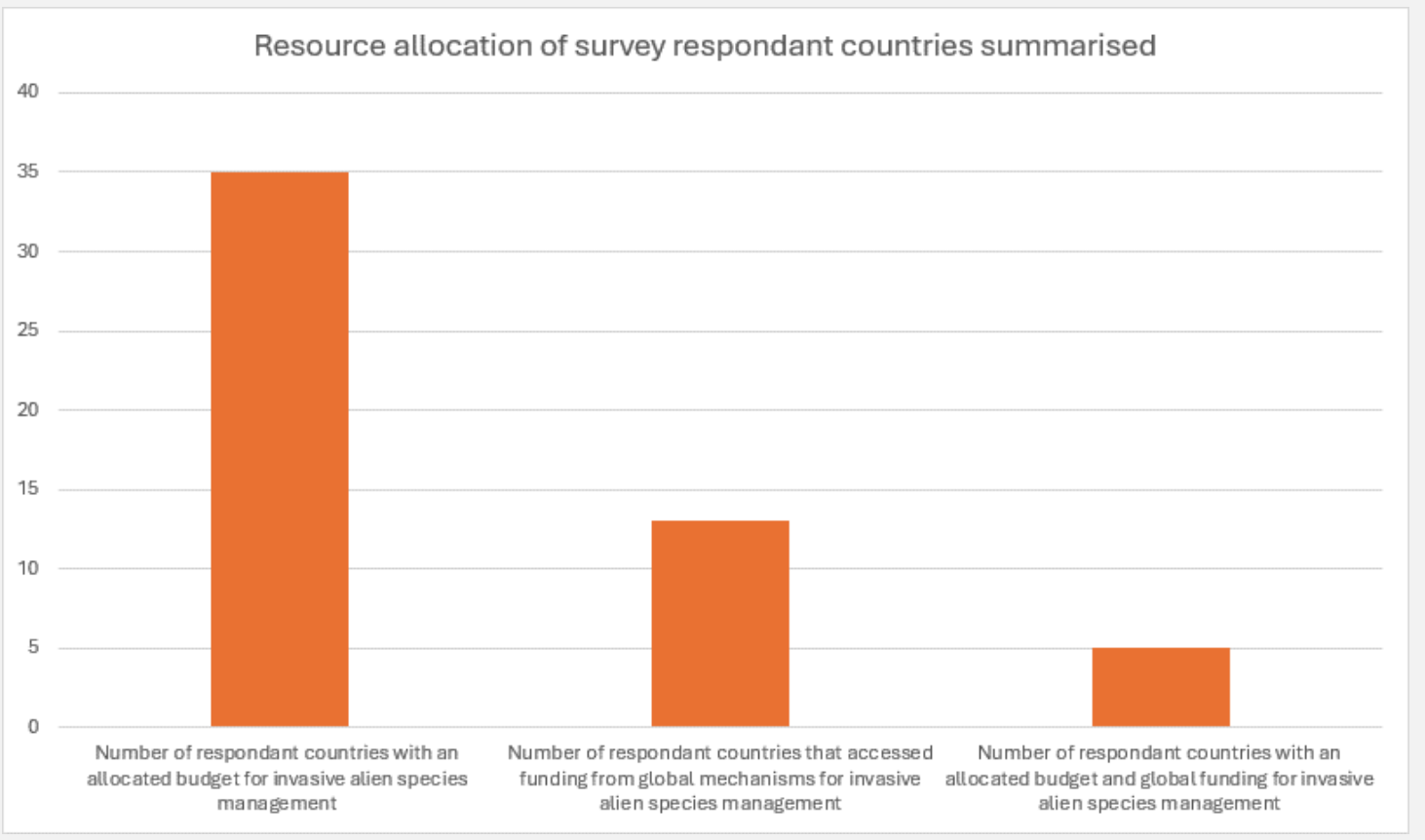

Number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in each region with national targets aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 6
Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (39)
Sub-Saharan Africa
Southern Asia
South-Eastern Asia
South America
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)
Central America
Caribbean
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
Number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in each region with national targets aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 6
Number of SIDs per region


Number of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in each region with national targets aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 6
Least Developed Countries (LDC) (44)
Western Asia
Sub-Saharan Africa
Southern Asia
South-Eastern Asia
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)
Northern Africa
Caribbean
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
Number of Least Developed Countries (LDC) in each region with national targets aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 6
Number of LDCs per region


Number of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) in each region with national targets aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 6
Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) (32)
Western Asia
Sub-Saharan Africa
Southern Asia
South-Eastern Asia
South America
Europe
Eastern Asia
Central Asia
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
Number of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) in each region with national targets aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 6
Number of LLDCs per region







Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- IPBES (2023).Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Roy, H. E., Pauchard, A., Stoett, P., and RenardTruong,T. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7430682
- Online ReportingTool of the CBD https://ort.cbd.int/national-targets

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Shyama Pagad, International Union for Conservation of Nature - Species Survival Cmmission – Invasive Species Specialist Group

Custodian agency(ies): IUCN

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

Indicator 15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity FrameworkTarget 14 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targe

Progress being made towards the integration of the multiple values of biodiversity into decision making across all sectors

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity provides a global roadmap for action to bring about a world living in harmony with nature. Consequently it supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and conversely achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable development in environmental, social, and economic aspects is crucial to meet the Framework's goals and targets.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and has 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. One of these targets, target 14, call for the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

In decision XV/4, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, urged Parties to develop national and regional targets, using the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. 155 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have developed at least one national target related to target 14 of the Framework. Parties are now in the process of reporting on the progress they have made towards the implementation of these targets through their national reports. 123 Parties have reported on progress towards their national targets. 21% of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have adopted national targets and report that they are on track to achieve them or that they have already been achieved. 36% of Parties report that they have set targets and that they are making progress towards them but not at a rate that will allow them to be met by 2030 or that no significant change has occured. 20% of Parties have set national targets but the progress towards the attainment of these is currently unknown. 20% of Parties have not yet set a target related to target 14 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- https://ort.cbd.int/
- https://www.cbd.int/article/2026-NationalReports

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

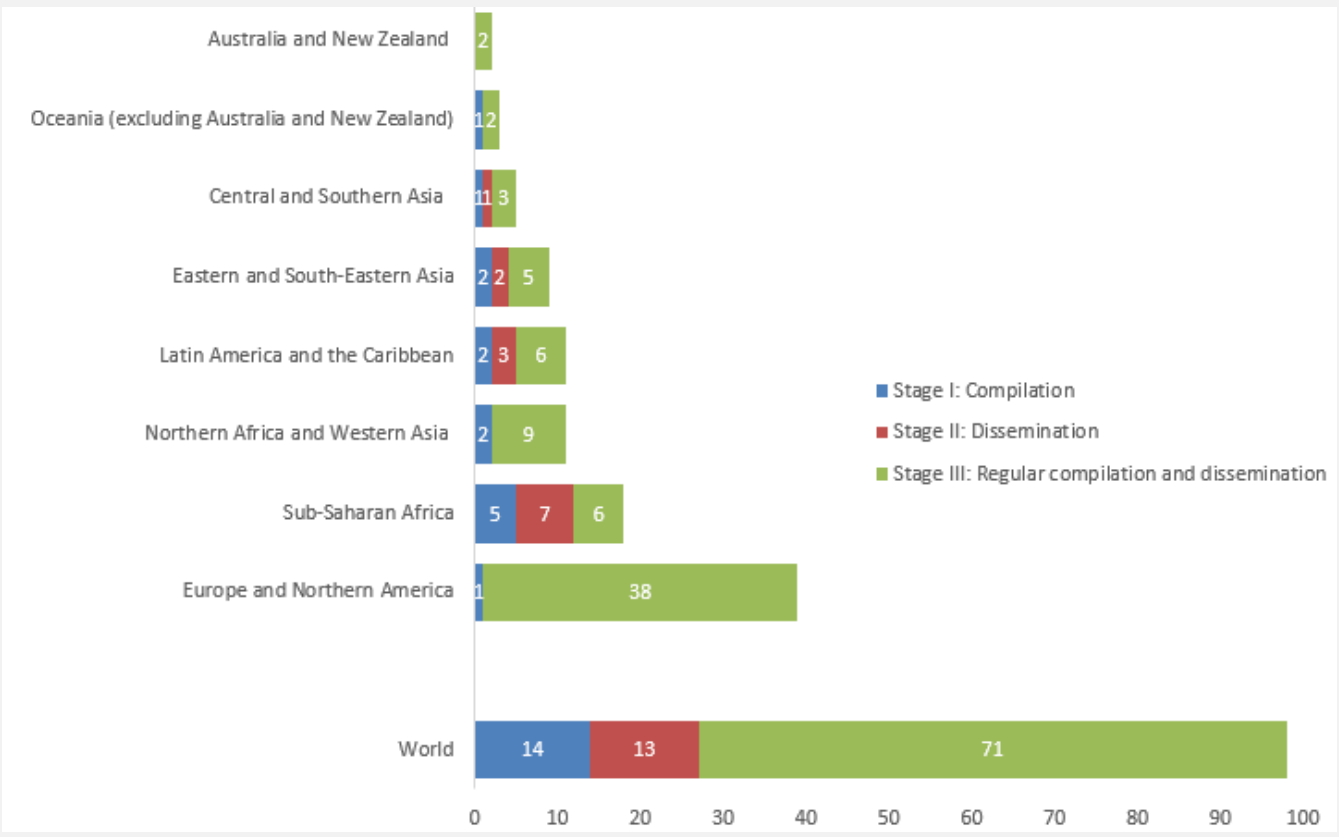
Custodian agency(ies): CBD-Secretariat, UNEP

Coordinated global action shows more countries building integrated accounting for biodiversity and a sustainable future

As the world approaches the deadline of the 2030 Agenda, countries are increasingly recognizing the need for comprehensive, coherent and integrated data on the environment and the economy to inform sustainable development pathways. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, requires trasnformative and coordinated actions, including improved accounting for the environment, ecosystems and biodiversity. The country implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), the international standard for natural capital accounting, represents a pivotal step towards the integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems. Given the central role that biodiversity plays towards a sustainable future, human well-being and economic prosperity, the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodviersity Framework (KMGBF) and its monitoring framework, has further reinforced the relevance of the implementation of the SEEA. In particular, the SEEA provides the methodological basis for some of the headline indicators of the monitoring framework of the KMGBF, strengthening the use of the SEEA for biodiversity multi-lateral commitments.

The expanding global implementation of the SEEA reflects a tranformative shift in how development is measured, with an innovative integration of environmental and economic data . By 2025, 98 countries were implementing the SEEA, which represents an increase of 42 per cent since 2017. This growth indicates that more countries are integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into their national accounting and reporting systems through the implementation of the SEEA. Recent growth in implementation has been observed in Africa, Asia, Oceania and Western Asia, while other regions have maintained high and stable levels of implementation demonstrating a global uptake. Moreover, the number of countries regularly compiling and disseminating the SEEA accounts has been steadily increasing, indicating that countries continue to make progress in mainstreaming and institutionalizing the environmental-economic accounts into policy and decision-making processes.

Number of countries implementing the SEEA by region and by stage of implementation as of 2025



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- Results of the 2025 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics available at https://seea.un.org/content/global-assessment-environmental-economic-accounting

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Elsa Begne, UNSD; Ilaria Di Matteo, UNSD

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.1/15.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

Biodiversity Finance Is Growing, but More Targeted Investment Is Needed

OECD analysis finds that total development finance for biodiversity from a range of sources has been increasing over 2015-24, 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 13.5 billion in 2023, marking a 42% increase over this time frame - and mostly explained by official development assistance (ODA), representing 96% 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 2015-24. This share has remained relatively stable, even in the context of increasing pressures on development budgets and changes in geopolitical priorities. This trend is accompanied by growing efforts to mainstream biodiversity considerations 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 (or mainstreamed) – decreased between 2015 and 2024 by 15% (from USD 4.6 billion to USD 3.5 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.

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 15.7.1/15.c.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC,CITES