

Brussels, 5th June 2024

Dear EU Ambassadors,
Dear EU Heads of Cooperation,

We as Members of the European Parliament are writing to urge you to increase biodiversity-related expenditures in order to fulfil EU commitments, and to integrate biodiversity considerations across sectors as an urgent priority.

The EU is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the comprehensive and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), through the Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030. In particular, the European Commission earmarked 7.5 % of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to achieving biodiversity objectives by 2024, increasing to 10 % in 2026 and 2027. In addition, in 2021 European Commission President von der Leyen pledged to double the EU's international funding for biodiversity.¹

However, the 2024 Statement of Estimates of the Commission shows that the current trajectory of planned biodiversity spending under the MFF and Global Europe for 2025-2027 falls short of meeting the target on biodiversity finance.² And the increased focus on large-scale infrastructure programmes can further divert funds away from environmental spending.

Nature lies at the heart of global efforts to combat climate change, and insufficient biodiversity financing will have far-reaching repercussions on the global capacity to fulfill climate commitments. Failure to address such issues holistically thereby risks undermining the benefits of development cooperation and EU partnerships in multiple areas such as food and nutrition, health and sanitation, economic development, jobs and sustainable livelihoods, social well-being and resilience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and peace and human security. Healthy ecosystems and a sustainably managed natural resource base are essential to achieving the objectives of the EU Green Deal and the Global Gateway.

We earnestly seek your support to step up efforts and increase biodiversity finance for the period 2024 to 2027, and ultimately to speed up the implementation of the Green Deal. This includes the financing of ambitious initiatives that protect key biodiversity and high-integrity ecosystems, such as the NaturAfrica initiative³, the Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica initiative⁴, the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security⁵, and the Kiwa Initiative to Strengthen Climate Resilience in the Pacific Region⁶, and to ensure the integration of biodiversity in all relevant sectors (e.g. agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, and value chains), in the implementation of the multiannual indicative programmes (MIPs) and the deployment of the Global Gateway. To align with the green and clean oath of the Global Gateway, it is critical to implement high social and environmental standards, going beyond the 'do no harm' principle to positively contributing to nature, for example, through nature-based solutions.

EU Delegations worldwide stand at the forefront and play a pivotal role in ensuring the realisation of these biodiversity spending objectives, in line with the European Commission's commitments and with the needs of the partner countries.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/financing_en.htm

² <https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/DB2024-Statement-of-Estimates.pdf>

³ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/programming/programmes/naturafrika_en

⁴ https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/desira/info/5gf_en

⁵ <https://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/>

⁶ <https://kiwainitiative.org/en/about-kiwa-initiative>

It is also imperative that biodiversity funding is directed towards groups operating at the field level, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, local authorities and civil society organisations, and is not solely directed towards implementation by UN agencies and EU Member State agencies, to maintain the EU's credibility with partner countries and ensure long term ownership.

Your sustained leadership on biodiversity finance is critical for the benefit of people and the planet.

Yours sincerely,

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