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Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 11:23 AM
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Cc: Jorge Aguilar <jorge.aguilar@thegroupdc.com>; Thomas, Ben <Ben.Thomas@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Government of Guyana In-Person Meeting Request

Sid & Rodrigo,

I hope you are well. Thank you again for taking the time to meet with the Embassy of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana last week. As a follow-up, please see the attached background documents. Take care and talk with you soon.

Best,

Sudafi

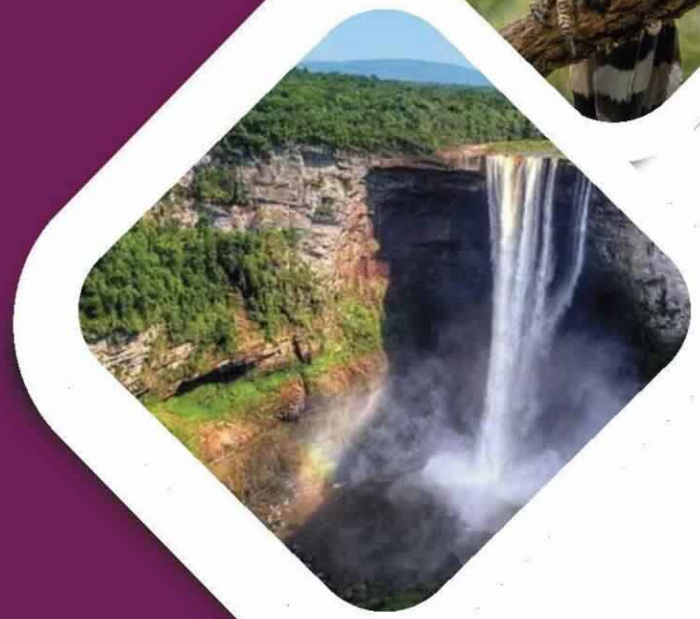
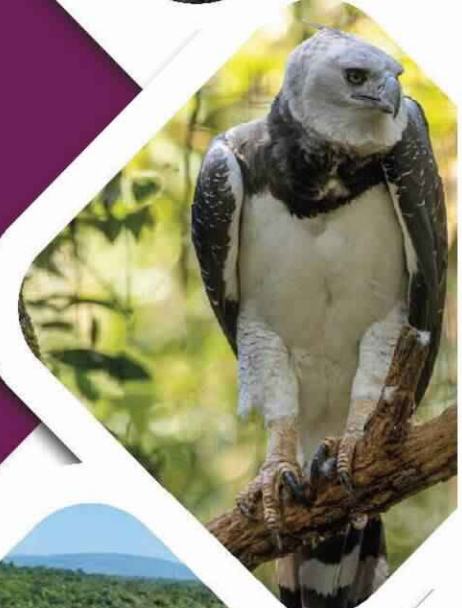
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**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
ALLIANCE**



2030 Action Plan



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GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

Executive Summary

This Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA) Action Plan sets out an ambitious roadmap to 2030 and frames a transformative agenda to reposition biodiversity as a foundational pillar of global development, economic resilience, and climate stability. This is not just an environmental strategy, it is a blueprint for sustainable governance, fiscal innovation, and inclusive growth.

The global biodiversity financing gap far exceeds US\$500 billion annually with current resource mobilization only around US\$200 billion, leaving a shortfall of US\$300 billion. The GBA therefore offers a pragmatic pathway to close this shortfall through a diversified portfolio of innovative financial instruments. These include biodiversity credits aligned with “Nature Positive” standards, green and sustainable bonds backed by robust taxonomies, green and sustainable bonds backed by clear taxonomies as pioneered by Colombia, with successful examples such as the Dominican Republic's sovereign green bond or Uruguay's sustainability bonds and underutilized but high-potential mechanisms such as debt-for-nature swaps, a powerful tool with the potential to unlock up to US\$100 billion for ecosystem restoration. The creation of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), to be launched at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP30 in Belém, exemplifies this ambition—mobilizing up to US\$4 billion annually in results-based financing for tropical forest conservation.

The roadmap also calls for the institutionalization of public-private partnerships, recognizing that voluntary action alone is insufficient to drive systemic change. Through the establishment of multi-stakeholder working groups, the GBA aims to align investment with measurable outcomes, supported by enabling policy environments and regulatory clarity. Frameworks like the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) will be instrumental in integrating nature-related risks into financial and corporate decision-making, ensuring that biodiversity is treated as a material asset in economic planning.

To demonstrate proof of concept, the GBA will be investing in regional pilot projects across the Amazon, Caribbean, and Andes—regions of immense ecological and geopolitical significance. These initiatives are designed to be replicable models of nature-based solutions, sustainable livelihoods, and climate adaptation.

For instance:

- In the Amazon, with 40% of the planet's tropical forests, 20% of the world's freshwater and 10% of the world's biodiversity, ecosystem services are valued at US\$985 billion annually but face potential losses of US\$10 billion each year due to deforestation. The focus here will be on sustainable and inclusive bioeconomy models that counteract deforestation.
- The Caribbean, highly vulnerable to climate change, is leveraging the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), a trust fund that supports long-term conservation, integrating green, blue and orange economies to promote climate resilience.
- In the Andes, countries like Colombia are expanding marine protected areas from 14% to 38% and establishing transboundary ecological corridors such as the Beata Corridor with the Dominican Republic.



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

- Guyana, with 85% forest cover intact and a pioneering Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, exemplifies how conservation can be harmonized with economic development and Indigenous empowerment.

Crucially, the Roadmap elevates the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as both custodians and beneficiaries of biodiversity finance. Their ancestral knowledge, territorial stewardship, and participation in mechanisms such as carbon markets and ecotourism are central to the GBA's inclusive approach.

To support evidence-based decision-making and ensure accountability, the GBA encourages the use of a suite of emerging metrics and methodologies to assess biodiversity outcomes. Among these are the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) monitoring framework and indicators, the Global Biodiversity Product (GBP) and the Gross Biodiversity Power Index (GBPI) all offering promising approaches to quantify natural wealth and its economic relevance. These tools are designed to complement other national and international frameworks, enabling decisionmakers to track progress in ecosystem restoration, species recovery, and the delivery of ecosystem services.

Recognizing the diversity of contexts and capacities across countries, the GBA promotes flexibility in the adoption of measurement systems, encouraging alignment with existing monitoring frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), national biodiversity strategies, and regionally appropriate indicators. Countries like Guyana are already demonstrating leadership in this space, integrating satellite-based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, integrating satellite data, eDNA and community-driven monitoring to inform jurisdictional REDD+ programs, biodiversity and national planning. By fostering an evolving ecosystem of tools and frameworks, the GBA aims to build a robust, transparent, and adaptable measurement ecosystem that supports continuous learning, comparability, and innovation across scales.

In parallel, the GBA recognizes the importance of raising public and political awareness of the biodiversity crisis. This includes promoting biodiversity's deep interconnections with climate, food, and energy security, and leveraging a diverse ecosystem of communication tools, metrics, and cultural narratives to elevate its urgency on the global agenda.

Finally, the Roadmap outlines a clear trajectory toward COP30, positioning the GBA as a results-driven platform rather than a forum for dialogue alone. Moreover, the Alliance will maintain continuous oversight of progress toward the 30x30 target, protecting 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030 through real-time data, financial tracking, and policy feedback loops.



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2030 ACTION PLAN

1. Introduction and Strategic Framework

Global Biodiversity Alliance

The Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA) is an open, voluntary international platform that unites governments, businesses, indigenous and traditional peoples, local communities, academia, intergovernmental, multilateral institutions, civil society actors, women and youth networks committed to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity as a strategic global asset.

Rather than serving as a regulatory or binding mechanism, the Alliance provides an inclusive, flexible platform for cooperation, enabling stakeholders to align visions, share solutions, mobilize resources, and promote measurable actions for biodiversity.

Its flexible, non-binding nature enables progressive engagement from a diverse range of stakeholders, taking a rights-based approach and encouraging participation based on each actor's context, capacity, and priorities. The Alliance does not replace existing efforts, but aims to amplify, connect, and enhance them - creating synergies and increasing their global visibility.

The vision is to mobilize and coordinate global action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss through inclusive, science-based, and justice-driven collaboration – especially among highly biodiverse, climate-vulnerable nations.

The mission is to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), foster knowledge exchange, unlock finance, and strengthen national and regional biodiversity strategies aligned with equity, Indigenous leadership, and economies that prioritise the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

1.1 Formation of the Alliance

The Alliance was officially launched on July 23, 2025, in Georgetown, Co-operative Republic of Guyana, during the inaugural Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit, convened and led by H. E. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali. This high-level gathering brought together Heads of State and Government, representatives of multilateral organizations, Indigenous leaders, researchers, civil society organizations, media, youth representatives and private sector actors committed to advancing global biodiversity action, following a process of multi-stakeholder consultation and engagement.

The foundational milestone of the Alliance was the adoption of the Georgetown Declaration - a joint statement articulating the shared vision, principles, and strategic objectives of this global effort, and marking the beginning of a common roadmap to 2030. The Summit marked a historic turning point—from vision to action—anchoring the Alliance's commitment to halting biodiversity loss through inclusive stewardship and bold implementation.



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1.2 Founding Members

The following diverse coalition of leaders and institutions signed the Georgetown Declaration:

Heads of State and Government:

1. President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Co-operative Republic of Guyana
2. President Luis Abinader, Dominican Republic
3. Prime Minister Mia Mottley, Barbados
4. Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
5. Vice President María José Pinto, Republic of Ecuador
6. Former President Iván Duque Márquez, Colombia

Multilateral, Academia, and Conservation Institutions

7. Dr. M. Sanjayan, Conservation International
8. Dr. Christof Schenck, Frankfurt Zoological Society
9. Dr. Erin Hagen, Field Museum
10. Dr. Alexander Killion, Yale Center for Biodiversity and Global Change
11. Mr. Brian O'Donnell, Campaign for Nature

Indigenous Organizations

12. Mr. Derrick John, National Toshias Council
13. Mr. Leroy Ignacio, South Rupununi Conservation Society

Private Sector

14. Mr. James Cooper – Silvania

Finance Organisation

15. Mr. Sergio Diaz-Granados - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

This broad and diverse group of founding members reflects the essence of the Alliance: a cross-regional, multi-sectoral initiative that recognizes biodiversity protection as a shared global responsibility – one that demands science-based, inclusive, and collaborative solutions.

1.3 Elements of the Georgetown Declaration

The Georgetown Declaration provides the political and ethical foundation of the Alliance. In the Declaration, founding members:

1. Acknowledge that biodiversity is inherently linked to planetary health, human well-being, food and water security, climate resilience, and economic stability.
2. Warn of the risk of irreversible tipping points, such as the degradation of critical ecosystems like the Amazon biome.
3. Reaffirm their support for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the global target of conserving at least 30% of the planet by 2030 (30x30).



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

4. Call for urgent, coordinated action through ambitious public policies, innovation, inclusive participation, and sustainable financing mechanisms.
5. Commit to working collaboratively on a voluntary, transparent, and evolving basis, grounded in mutual respect, equity, and shared stewardship.

The Declaration was initially endorsed by a group of founding members representing multiple regions and sectors, who laid the groundwork for this global initiative. Since its launch, the Alliance has remained open to the progressive inclusion of new actors and actively invites additional governments, international organizations, private sector leaders, academic institutions, Indigenous and local communities, and civil society networks to join and contribute to the common agenda.

Stakeholders may express their commitment by endorsing the Declaration, submitting voluntary contributions or pilot initiatives aligned with its principles, or participating in the implementation of the 2030 Action Plan.

1.4 Coordination and Governance of the Alliance

The Alliance is coordinated from the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, under the leadership of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who serves as Chair of the Alliance and host of the inaugural Summit.

Implementation of the Action Plan will be led by a Technical Secretariat based in Guyana and operating out of the Office of the President, with support from international organizations with proven experience in biodiversity, monitoring, and multi-stakeholder facilitation. The Secretariat, endorsed by the founding members, will be responsible for enabling coordination, convening actors, providing technical guidance, monitoring and international coordination of the process, and supporting transparency and accountability throughout the implementation of the roadmap.

2. 2030 Action Plan & Roadmap

The 2030 Action Plan is the Alliance's core strategic instrument. It is a dynamic and evolving framework designed to enable adaptive responses, rather than a list of projects. It serves as a collective roadmap for the 2025–2030 period, guiding collaborative action, tracking progress, and facilitating technical and political engagement across sectors and regions.

2.1 Purpose and Guiding Principles of the Action Plan & Roadmap

The purpose of the 2030 Action Plan and roadmap is to guide, align, and consolidate the efforts of the Global Biodiversity Alliance in support of biodiversity. It brings together voluntary contributions, knowledge, financial resources, and initiatives from a diverse range of actors into a unified strategic framework. At its core, the 2030 Action Plan serves as a structured platform for collaboration - enabling each stakeholder to maintain autonomy while contributing to the shared goal of halting and reversing biodiversity loss.



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The roadmap translates the vision of the Georgetown Declaration into action by:

1. Aligning voluntary actions under shared goals and principles.
2. Facilitating coordination among governments, the private sector, academia, communities, and civil society, including women environmental and human rights defenders.
3. Mobilizing resources and capacities to deliver measurable impact.
4. Showcasing and promoting good practices, pilot projects, and replicable models.
5. Developing tools for collective learning and accountability.

The implementation of the roadmap is guided by the following principles:

1. **Voluntary and Open Participation:** Participation in the Alliance is free, non-binding, and evolves over time. Each stakeholder determines their own level and form of engagement.
2. **Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement:** Biodiversity action depends on inclusive engagement across governments, intergovernmental organisations, businesses, Indigenous & Traditional Peoples and local Communities, scientific communities, women, youths and civil society and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity.
3. **Respect for Contexts and Knowledge Systems:** both scientific and traditional ecological knowledge are equally respected, with recognition of cultural and territorial diversity and intellectual property rights.
4. **Complementarity and Non-Duplication:** The Action Plan complements and connects existing efforts, avoiding duplication and reinforcing ongoing initiatives.
5. **Transparency and Measurability:** All actions should deliver measurable outcomes and be supported by transparent, credible monitoring systems.
6. **Territorial and Local Focus:** Locally led, context-specific solutions are central to success, with emphasis on ground up approaches, local leadership and adaptation.
7. **Shared Responsibility and Distributed Leadership:** The Alliance fosters shared responsibility and inclusive governance, with leadership distributed across sectors based on capacity and expertise.

2.2 Strategic Actions

This roadmap serves as the Alliance's primary operational framework, structured around four interlinked categories of strategic action—Foundations, Enabling Mechanisms, Implementation Pathways, and Accountability Systems—each reflecting key outcomes of the Georgetown Declaration and Summit, aligned with the KMGBF.

1. **Strategic Foundations:** Articulates the vision, principles, and commitments that guide the Alliance's work, embodied in the Joint Declaration as a shared foundation and platform for voluntary commitment.
2. **Enabling Mechanisms:** Provides the means and resources to implement the Declaration, including the mobilization and alignment of financial resources through instruments and partnerships that link investment to biodiversity outcomes. It also encompasses a global collaboration network that facilitates the exchange of tools, methodologies, and knowledge across sectors and regions.



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3. **Implementation Pathways:** Focuses on action and delivery through pilot initiatives that demonstrate scalable and measurable results on the ground, while also integrating approaches that have already shown effectiveness in similar contexts.
4. **Accountability and Learning:** Ensures transparency, progress tracking, and adaptive learning through Monitoring and Accountability Systems based on available metrics and methodologies including the KMGBF monitoring framework and indicators, the Global Biodiversity Product (GBP) and the Gross Biodiversity Power Index (GBPI).

Each of these strategic actions will be further developed and elaborated in the Global Biodiversity Alliance Pillars for the 2030 roadmap, enabling stakeholders to contribute according to their capacities and priorities, and supporting collective progress toward the Alliance's shared vision. A workplan outlining timelines and milestones will support the implementation of the 2030 Action Plan.

2.3 Global Biodiversity Alliance Pillars

The Georgetown Declaration outlines three aims for the GBA. These are to:

1. Raise global awareness of the biodiversity crisis and its interlinkages with other global challenges, such as climate change;
2. Increase ambition at every scale to address global biodiversity loss; and
3. Increase access to and availability of financing, through a menu of options, to address the biodiversity crisis.

These aims will be realised through actions across six pillars:

1. **Advance Actions on the implementation of the 23 Targets of the KMGBF, in particular Target 3:** Enable the conservation of at least 30% of lands and oceans by 2030.
2. **Integrate Biodiversity into Planning and Decision-making:** Embed biodiversity into national and corporate planning processes, supported by measurable indicators and clear accountability mechanisms.
3. **Unlock innovative Financing Mechanisms:** Scale up tools such as biodiversity credits, green bonds, and debt-for-nature swaps to mobilize sustainable finance and develop a menu of options to mobilize sustainable finance. In addition, consider complementary mechanisms such as protected area and conservation trust funds, which leverage a combination of funding streams – including endowment and sinking funds – to provide flexible, annual and multi-year financing for biodiversity conservation. These approaches can enhance financial sustainability and resilience while supporting long-term conservation outcomes and include the involvement of all stakeholders in their design, implementation and governance.
4. **Centre Leadership by Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Local Communities:** Recognise and support the leadership of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and local communities as historical stewards of nature.
5. **Monitor Biodiversity Actions and Results:** Establish robust systems to track progress, measure impact, and inform adaptive management.
6. **Raise Awareness of the Biodiversity Crisis:** Highlight the urgency of biodiversity loss, its links



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

to other global crises, and the actions needed to address them.

PILLAR 1: Advance Action on the implementation of the 23 Targets of the KMGBF, in particular

Target 3. *Enable by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, are effectively conserved and managed.*

1. Promote broader endorsement of the Georgetown Declaration by countries and stakeholders and collaborate with intergovernmental coalition like the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People to foster high-level political commitment to the 30x30 target and alignment around a shared implementation roadmap.
2. Drive implementation of Target 3 through strategic partnerships that support the designation, effective governance and long-term financing of terrestrial, freshwater and marine protected and conserved areas.
3. Support international cooperation to strengthen governance and conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction and accelerate the designation of regional priority marine protected areas. Advancing protection in these zones is essential to achieving global ocean targets, including the 30x30 goal.
4. Strengthen effective and equitable conservation governance and management capacity by supporting legal and institutional frameworks, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous and traditional peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories, improving enforcement mechanisms, and investing in the technical and operational capacities of local and national authorities, and community-based organizations.
5. Support the conservation and restoration of key ecosystems of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services - such as mangroves, rainforests, coral reefs, and savannahs – while addressing emerging threats like sargassum and invasive species, through strengthened institutional capacity and locally led management.
6. Enhance sustainable value chains linked to conserved territories by promoting data driven adaptative management of nature-positive economic activities such as ecotourism, bioeconomy, regenerative agriculture, and circular economy models, while reinforcing local governance structures and stewardship.
7. Advance science, research, knowledge management and innovation through the operationalization of the Government of Guyana led International Center for Biodiversity Research, the partnership between the Government of Guyana and the Yale Center for Biodiversity and Global Change on scientific collaboration and the co-development of Guyana's National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS)—a digital backbone to support the country's new National Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy, and the launch of the Caribbean Sargassum Innovation Initiative.
8. Formalise the International Centre for Biodiversity Research and agree on a joint research agenda on ecosystems baselines.
9. Commission rapid inventories and predictive models for priority taxa and key social dynamics to provide data support for adaptative conservation decision-making.



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

PILLAR 2: Integrate Biodiversity into Planning and Decision-making. *Embed biodiversity considerations into national and corporate planning processes across all sectors, supported by measurable indicators and clear accountability mechanisms, aligned with existing monitoring framework(s) under the KMGBF. This includes integrating spatial planning tools such as zoning for varied land uses, and clearly defining the type and level of use permitted under different protection schemes. These measures help ensure that biodiversity is systematically accounted for in development decisions, while promoting sustainable land management and conservation outcomes.*

1. Encourage the integration of biodiversity into development plans and corporate strategies across all sectors by establishing specific indicators, measurable targets, and dedicated budgets to track dependencies and impacts on biodiversity and drive implementation. Indicators and targets that reflect the meaningful inclusion and participation of women, youth, Indigenous and Traditional Peoples, and other marginalized groups will be included, ensuring that biodiversity actions are equitable, socially inclusive, and responsive to diverse community needs.
2. Recognise and integrate local indigenous and traditional ecological knowledge (LEK/TEK) into biodiversity decision-making frameworks. Consideration could be given to optimizing national Red Lists; documenting species distributions in protected and conserved areas through participatory mapping with Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs); demonstrating measurable conservation impacts of new areas using LEK/TEK-informed indicators; species assessments and monitoring progress toward KMGBF targets.
3. Promote the adoption of green taxonomies that direct public and private investments towards activities aligned with biodiversity conservation and climate resilience, ensuring consistency and transparency in sustainable finance.
4. Support countries in developing and applying biodiversity-related key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor progress, inform policy decisions, and align financial reporting with nature-positive outcomes.
5. Position biodiversity as essential life infrastructure by embedding its value into economic, social and environmental decision-making processes, recognizing its role in planetary health, human well-being, food and water security, climate resilience and economic stability.
6. Foster inclusive, multilevel governance frameworks that connect science, public policy, the private sector, and local communities, including women and youth, to enable coordinated, evidence-based planning and decision-making for biodiversity.
7. Operationalise the Global Biodiversity Alliance Secretariat in Georgetown and secure core Secretariat team and first-year budget under H.E. Dr. Mohamad Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana's chairmanship.



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

PILLAR 3: Unlock Innovative Financing Mechanisms. *Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards.*

1. Explore and encouraged a menu of innovative financial options and instruments, including biodiversity credits, green bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services schemes, sustainable taxonomies that align sustainable investment with measurable outcomes in conservation, restoration, and ecosystem-based climate action, and facilities like the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).
2. Promote capital mobilization through green bonds, biodiversity bonds, and impact bonds focused on measurable and verifiable conservation outcomes.
3. Support the design and implementation of debt-for-nature swaps -- both bilateral and multilateral -- linked to transparent, results-based frameworks.
4. Encourage the development of biodiversity and carbon credit markets that uphold high standards of integrity, traceability and alignment with tangible on-the-ground conservation impacts.
5. Link financial resources to key environmental performance indicators, establishing performance-based financing mechanisms that reward measurable progress.
6. Support new public-private partnerships designed to provide long-term funding for protected and conserved areas, welcoming models like the Legacy Landscapes Fund and the US Foundation for International Conservation.
7. Ensure long-term financing by leveraging guarantees from multilateral institutions, creating more favourable investment conditions for countries committed to biodiversity goals.
8. Promote smart and blended finance instruments, including solutions such as Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), cross-guarantees, and direct financing mechanisms that enable involvement of local communities.
9. Host a High-Level Roundtable on carbon-biodiversity pricing at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 30 in Belém to secure anchor commitments.
10. Design a USD 7 Billion Global Biodiversity Finance Facility, including a biodiversity-credit window co-led by Bank of Latin America & Caribbean (CAF) and Guyana, along with other partners.
11. Establish a transparent Global Biodiversity Alliance Trust-Fund contribution registry.

PILLAR 4: Center Leadership by Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Local Communities. *Recognise and support the leadership of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and local communities as historical stewards of nature.*

1. Promote Indigenous, Traditional and Community leadership at the core of governance systems, recognizing their historical stewardship and traditional knowledge as essential to effective biodiversity solutions.
2. Drive direct access to financing for Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Local Communities through mechanism that are agile, equitable, and transparent, ensuring a fair share of new biodiversity finance reaches communities.
3. Promote co-management of protected and conserved areas by strengthening shared



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

governance models and frameworks for joint responsibility including recognized intellectual property and/or data sovereignty of indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Local Communities.

4. Culturally recognize Indigenous and Traditional Peoples as custodians of natural heritage, upholding their rights, spiritual practices, and territorial identities in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Convention on Biological Diversity.
5. Encourage local bio economy models rooted in ancestral knowledge and territorial sustainability, fostering inclusive and resilient value chains.
6. Support dignified livelihoods in conserved territories through policies that link conservation with tangible opportunities for well-being, income generation, and access to essential services.

PILLAR 5: Monitor Biodiversity Actions and Results. *Establish robust systems in keeping with the monitoring framework for the KMGBF and executed through National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plans (NBSAPs) to track progress, measure impact, and inform adaptive management.*

1. Promote the adoption of robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms including available tools, metrics and methodologies such as the KMGBF monitoring framework, the Global Biodiversity Product (GBP) and the Gross Biodiversity Power Index (GBPI) to track progress and impact.
2. Promote open, interoperable, science-based data platforms such as Map of Life and the National Biodiversity Information System, open community scientific platforms (e.g. iNaturalist) that support transparent and accessible biodiversity monitoring.
3. Integrate data collection efforts across agencies into a unified national and/or regional database and establish formal agreements to enhance data sharing among participating entities.
4. Document and disseminate lessons within the Alliance to foster continuous improvement and prevent duplication of efforts.
5. Support the establishment of research and conservation training centers, as well as free field stations in high biodiversity areas, that integrate biological and social scientific research, education, and public policy to strengthen capacity for biodiversity management.
6. Support strengthening of national and international institutions that make possible the effective documentation and monitoring of biodiversity.
7. Define core indicators, methodologies and inter-operatable data standards.
8. Establish a task force and produce an Alliance-wide MRV framework aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES).
9. Develop a KPI dashboard tracking 30 × 30, carbon neutrality progress and biodiversity-blue credit issuance.

PILLAR 6: Raise Awareness of the Biodiversity Crisis. *Highlight the urgency of biodiversity loss, its links to other global crises, and the actions needed to address them.*

1. Highlight the interconnectedness of biodiversity with climate, energy, and food security as a compelling rationale for prioritizing conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in national and international policy agendas.
2. Promote replicable pilot projects with regional scalability, led by governments, communities, public-



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

private alliances, or civil society as demonstrable pathways for achieving conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

3. Accelerate environmental education and cultivate conservation leadership by embedding biodiversity into formal education systems and leadership development programs across political, business, and community levels.
4. Launch targeted public awareness campaigns using mass media, digital platforms, and storytelling to communicate the urgency of biodiversity loss, addressing the drivers of biodiversity crisis and inspire action across all sectors of society.
5. Engage youth networks and student movements as active participants in biodiversity advocacy, policy dialogue, and community-based conservation initiatives.
6. Frame biodiversity loss as a global emergency, using compelling narratives and evidence to elevate its visibility and urgency alongside climate change and other global crises.
7. Leverage the cultural and creative sectors—such as art, music, and literature—to promote biodiversity values, foster emotional connection, and broaden public engagement.
8. Promote the establishment and nomination of internationally recognized designations for biodiversity and nature conservation such as IUCN Green List, Key Biodiversity Areas etc.

3. Specific Actions and Next Steps

1. UNFCCC 30th Session of Conference of Parties (COP 30) and Tropical Forest Forever Facility

Building on the spirit and ambition of the Georgetown Declaration, the urgent need for enhanced engagement by developed countries in mobilizing substantial, predictable, and long-term financial resources for the conservation of tropical forests has been underscored. In this context, the expansion of jurisdictional approaches to forest financing, including carbon markets and the planned launch of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) at COP30 is welcomed. Carbon markets and the TFFF are complementary parts of a menu of options for forest financing. To this end, the expansion of high integrity markets for jurisdictional approaches is supported and potential investor countries are also encouraged to announce ambitious contributions to the TFFF. Further, private investors, international organizations, NGOs, and civil society are encouraged to support the TFFF worldwide. Tropical forest countries are encouraged to join the initiative and seize the opportunity to advance sustainable development pathways that protect standing tropical forests, strengthen national ownership, engage Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and contribute meaningfully to global biodiversity and climate goals.

2. Operationalizing a nationally led Biodiversity Monitoring System

A landmark agreement was reached to operationalize a fully standardized, national biodiversity monitoring system in Guyana by 2030—the first of its kind globally. Central to this effort is the development of the National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS), which will serve as the digital backbone for conservation, finance, and policy building on existing systems applicable to national circumstances and involving all stakeholder groups in its design, implementation and governance.

Guyana will launch a National Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy to implement border-to-border biodiversity monitoring. This groundbreaking initiative, catalyzed by the inaugural Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit,



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

will establish a new global benchmark for national-scale biodiversity accountability and aligned with the monitoring framework of KMGBF. Building on Guyana's leadership in carbon finance, the country is now entering the era of biodiversity finance—anchored in transparency, science, and sovereignty.

At the heart of this strategy is the NBIS and this robust digital infrastructure will unify biodiversity data collection, analysis, and decision-making across the country. The strategy will be developed and led by an interagency coalition of government agencies, Indigenous and local communities, academic institutions, and NGOs—building on decades of locally-led scalable models that combine traditional knowledge, environmental education, and scientific research in conservation.

This initiative will enable Guyana to meet—and exceed—its 30x30 targets, embedding biodiversity stewardship into national development. As a model for other countries, the tools, systems, and lessons from this approach will be shared through the Alliance to support adaptation in other national contexts. It also incorporates the establishment of an international biodiversity research consortium anchored in Guyana and the endorsement of community-driven monitoring and data sovereignty.

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Question and Answers (Internal Document)

Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA)

1. What is the Global Biodiversity Alliance?

The Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA) is a **voluntary, country-led platform** that brings together governments, the private sector, academic institutions, Indigenous peoples and local communities, and non-governmental partners to **support implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.

The Alliance is designed to facilitate **practical cooperation, capacity exchange, and investment alignment** in support of national biodiversity and sustainable development priorities. It operates as an open, adaptive, and non-binding platform for voluntary action by diverse actors, without financial and legal obligations.

2. What is the purpose of the Global Biodiversity Alliance?

The purpose of the GBA is to:

1. Raise global awareness of the biodiversity crisis and its links to other challenges, including climate change;
2. Increase ambition at all levels to effectively address biodiversity loss; and
3. Expand access to financing through diverse options to support targeted responses.

It does this by:

- Supporting countries in **translating global biodiversity commitments into national action**
- Creating space for **countries to share experience, lessons, and good practice**





- Strengthening **technical, institutional, and investment capacity** for biodiversity outcomes
- Engaging the private sector in **nature-positive development**, aligned with national priorities
- Complementing existing CBD mechanisms by focusing on **implementation and delivery**

The Alliance is not a negotiating forum and does not replace existing multilateral processes.

3. How does the Alliance support the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)?

The GBA supports GBF implementation by:

- Facilitating peer learning on **national pathways to achieving GBF targets**
- Supporting biodiversity **mainstreaming across economic sectors**
- Strengthening **data, monitoring, valuation, and reporting capacity**
- Mobilising **public and private finance** aligned with GBF objectives
- Supporting innovation and scaling of **nature-based solutions**

The Alliance acts as a **support platform**, not a compliance or reporting mechanism.

4. How is the Alliance aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?

The Alliance operates fully in line with CBD principles, including:

- **National sovereignty** over biological resources
- **Country-driven strategies and priorities**
- Respect for **Indigenous Peoples and local communities**
- Equity, inclusion, and **fair and equitable benefit-sharing**

Participation in the Alliance does not create new CBD obligations or alter existing commitments.





5. Do participating countries retain their national biodiversity programmes?

Yes.

All countries participating in the Alliance **retain full ownership of their national biodiversity policies, programmes, and institutions**, including:

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
- National Development Strategies
- Sectoral policies and regulatory frameworks

The Alliance **does not establish parallel national programmes**. Instead, it provides a space where countries can **bring their national experience and priorities**, and in turn receive **technical support, capacity, and partnerships**.

6. What does the Alliance offer participating countries?

Participating countries may benefit from:

- A platform to **share national experience and leadership**
- Access to **technical expertise and institutional capacity**
- Support for biodiversity valuation and natural capital accounting
- Opportunities to engage the **private sector and innovative finance** for biodiversity and nature
- Enhanced visibility for country-led biodiversity solutions

Engagement is flexible and tailored to national interests.





7. What is the added value of the Global Biodiversity Alliance?

The Alliance adds value by:

- Bridging **global commitments and national implementation**
- Integrating biodiversity into **economic and development decision-making**
- Engaging the private sector in a **structured, country-aligned way**
- Facilitating **South–South and peer-to-peer cooperation**
- Focusing on **delivery, scale, and practical outcomes**
- Facilitating amplification of results, outcomes and models

It complements, rather than duplicates, existing CBD and multilateral initiatives.

8. Are there any financial obligations associated with participation?

No.

Participation in the Global Biodiversity Alliance does **not require mandatory financial contributions** from governments.

Any engagement in specific initiatives or projects is:

- Voluntary
- Subject to national decision-making processes
- Agreed on a case-by-case basis





9. Are there any legal or binding commitments?

No.

The Global Biodiversity Alliance is **not a legally binding arrangement** and does not create new international legal obligations.

Participation does not:

- Affect national sovereignty
- Override national laws or policies
- Create enforceable commitments

10. How does the Alliance address gender equality and human rights?

The Alliance recognises that **effective biodiversity outcomes depend on inclusive and equitable approaches**.

It promotes:

- Gender-responsive planning and implementation
- Respect for human rights and customary tenure
- Inclusion of women, Indigenous Peoples, tribal and local communities
- Safeguards and equitable benefit-sharing

These approaches are consistent with CBD guidance and international standards.





11. How are Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and local communities engaged?

Engagement is guided by:

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Respect for traditional governance systems and knowledge
- Community-led conservation and sustainable livelihoods
- Transparent and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms

National frameworks and laws remain the primary reference.

12. What role does the private sector play in the Alliance?

The private sector is a key group that makes up the Alliance and contributes through:

- Nature-positive investment
- Innovation, data, and technology
- Development of biodiversity-aligned business models
- Public–private partnerships consistent with national priorities

Private sector engagement is **aligned with government-defined objectives**.





13. How does the Alliance support biodiversity finance and valuation?

The Alliance supports:

- Biodiversity valuation and natural capital accounting
- Development of investment-ready projects
- Blended finance and results-based approaches
- Improved metrics and monitoring aligned with GBF targets

14. Does participation affect national development priorities?

No.

The Alliance supports **sustainable and balanced development**, recognising the need for economic growth, infrastructure, and energy security, while promoting **nature-positive pathways**.

15. How can countries engage with the Global Biodiversity Alliance?

Countries may engage by:

- Participating in technical dialogues and knowledge exchange
- Sharing national experience and priorities
- Exploring capacity-building and pilot initiatives
- Engaging with partners and the private sector

All engagement remains **voluntary and country-driven**.





GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

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Main Message

The Global Biodiversity Alliance provides a **voluntary, non-binding platform** through which countries can **share experience, strengthen capacity, and support implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD**, while fully maintaining national ownership of biodiversity programmes and development priorities.

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**PRESS STATEMENT
SIXTY YEARS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT**

The Government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana today commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreement of 17th February 1966, a treaty of immense legal and diplomatic significance in that it established the framework for the peaceful resolution of the controversy arising from Venezuela’s contention regarding the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award, which fixed the boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela. Signed by the United Kingdom and Venezuela, and subsequently acceded to by the independent State of Guyana on 26 May 1966, the Geneva Agreement is a binding international instrument deposited with the United Nations and grounded firmly in the principles of the United Nations Charter and the rule of international law.

The Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 definitively established the land boundary between what is now Guyana and Venezuela. The Award was accepted and implemented by both parties for more than six decades, including through the demarcation of the boundary in 1905. The Geneva Agreement was a response to Venezuela’s change of position in 1962 when, after 60 years of recognizing the validity of the 1899 Award and the international boundary it established, it suddenly adopted a contrary position claiming the Award was invalid. Great Britain and British Guiana rejected Venezuela’s abrupt turnabout, holding fast to their firm position on the legal validity and binding nature of the Award. Negotiations led to an agreement at Geneva on a peaceful procedure for resolving the controversy over the validity of the Award.

Pursuant to Articles I to IV of the Geneva Agreement, successive mechanisms put in place, until a final resolution was achieved. The included diplomatic negotiation by a Mixed Commission for four years, followed by recourse to the Secretary General of the United Nations to choose the next means of dispute settlement. The Secretary-General initially chose mediation under his “good offices”, which endured from 1990 to 2017 without progress toward a resolution. In January 2018, the Secretary-General concluded that the “good offices” approach had failed to resolve the controversy and, in accordance with Article IV (2) of the Geneva Agreement, he chose adjudication by the International Court of Justice and the next, and final, means of resolution. Both Guyana and Venezuela were bound by his decision.

Guyana accordingly instituted proceedings before the ICJ in March 2018, seeking a final and binding determination that the 1899 Arbitral Award is valid and that the land boundary established thereby remains legally binding on both Guyana and Venezuela. Venezuela immediately objected to the Court’s jurisdiction. In its Judgment of 18 December 2020, the Court rejected Venezuela’s objection and affirmed that it has jurisdiction to entertain the case, finding that by conferring on the Secretary General the authority to choose the means of settlement, the Parties had consented to judicial resolution by the Court. The Court subsequently reaffirmed its competence to resolve the controversy in its 2023 Judgment on preliminary objections raised by Venezuela and has continued to exercise its judicial function in accordance with international law and the requisite rules of the Court.

Guyana reiterates its unwavering commitment to the judicial process before the ICJ and to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law. At Guyana's request, the Court has twice ordered provisional measures to preserve the status quo and ensure that neither party undertakes actions which might aggravate or extend the dispute pending its final judgment. Guyana has consistently complied with these orders and has called upon Venezuela to do likewise, in strict observance of its international obligations.

In this context, Guyana firmly rejects assertions and misrepresentations emanating from official Venezuelan pronouncements which seek to distort the purpose and legal effect of the Geneva Agreement, deny the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, or assert unfounded claims to Guyana's sovereign territory. The Geneva Agreement does not extinguish the 1899 Arbitral Award, nor does it confer upon Venezuela the right to unilaterally determine the status of Guyana's Essequibo region. Rather, it provides a clear and lawful pathway, before the International Court of Justice, for the definitive resolution of the controversy.

Equally untenable are Venezuela's claims that the judicial process before the ICJ is inconsistent with the Geneva Agreement. On the contrary, as the Court expressly determined in rejecting Venezuela's arguments, recourse to the Court flows directly from the express provisions of Article IV (2) of the said Agreement and from the decision of the United Nations Secretary General acting within the authority conferred upon him by both Parties pursuant to the provisions of that Agreement. The Court has thus found that it is the proper and lawful forum for the settlement of the controversy, and its eventual judgment will be final and binding upon both Parties under international law.

Guyana remains steadfast in its adherence to the principles of international law, the sanctity of treaties, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. For nearly six decades, Guyana has acted in good faith, respecting both the letter and spirit of the Geneva Agreement, while maintaining full compliance with its international obligations. Guyana will continue to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity through lawful and peaceful means and with full confidence in the impartial adjudication of the International Court of Justice.

As we mark this historic milestone, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana calls upon the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to recommit itself to the rule of international law, to respect the ongoing judicial process before the International Court of Justice, and to refrain from actions or statements which may undermine peace and stability in the region. The Government of Guyana reaffirms its enduring commitment to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect among nations, and the definitive judicial resolution of this controversy by the International Court of Justice in accordance with the 1966 Geneva Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Georgetown, Guyana
17th February 2026

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