Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Extra
Project reference	DAREX001
Project title	Developing a Global Biodiversity Standard certification for tree-planting and restoration
Country/ies	Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Uganda
Lead Organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Project partner(s)	Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF), TRAFFIC, Ecosia, The Plan Vivo Foundation (PVF), 1t.org, Jardim Bôtanico Araribá, Huarango Nature, Auroville Botanical Gardens, Missouri Botanical Gardens Madagascar, Brackenhurst Botanic Gardens, Tooro Botanical Gardens.
Darwin Initiative grant value	£2,693,374.00
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2022 - 31/03/2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024 – March 2025 Year 3
Project Leader name	Paul Smith
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.biodiversitystandard.org/ https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-global-biodiversity-standard
Report author(s) and date	David Bartholomew & Paul Smith – 23/04/2025

1. Project summary

Governments, corporations, and civil society have pledged hundreds of millions of hectares for tree-planting, reforestation, and forest restoration, primarily to sequester carbon. The Bonn Challenge alone comprises pledges by 61 countries covering over 200mha to date, and a target of 350mha by 2030.

The massive scale and the speed at which tree-planting has gained momentum during the past few years has led to many poorly designed projects, with challenges, and failures frequently highlighted in the scientific literature (e.g., Bond et al., 2019; Lewis et al., 2019; Crane, 2020; Fagan et al., 2020; Friggens et al., 2020; Hohl et al., 2020; Holl & Brancalion, 2020; Coleman et al., 2021; Parr et al. 2024). Tree-planting brokers have also proliferated, offering companies the opportunity to offset their CO_2 emissions but without the data and expertise to ensure that biodiversity is not harmed (see WWF's Tree Planting by Businesses, Mansourian and Vallauri, 2020).

Furthermore, large-scale tree-planting efforts have continued to be promoted and celebrated often without any indication of the species planted, the large-scale use of (sometimes invasive) non-native species (e.g., Richardson & Kluge, 2008; Kull et al., 2019; Dyderski & Jagodziński, 2020), and the potential for associated deforestation of intact native forests, thus potentially causing net carbon loss instead of gain. Despite good intentions, many tree-planting efforts use a restricted palette of inappropriate but readily available tree species, with potentially negative consequences for biodiversity and for the people whose livelihoods depend on those trees – through either carbon payments, the ecosystem services they provide or their commodity value. When implemented poorly, these projects do not help alleviate poverty.

Simultaneously, BGCI's recent State of the World's Trees report, shows that 30% of the world's trees (17,500 species) are threatened with extinction. Clearly, we are missing opportunities for species recovery and positive biodiversity outcomes.

The botanical, ecological restoration and agroforestry communities have attempted to influence a wide range of large-scale tree-planting initiatives, including the IUCN Bonn Challenge Secretariat, The Nature Conservancy, 1t.org, Trillion Trees, the Global Evergreening Alliance, Ecosia, Plan Vivo and various corporate entities. However, few financial mechanisms reward positive impacts on biodiversity, and there is little incentive to incorporate native species into planting programmes. Furthermore, the imperatives to sequester carbon as fast as possible and to deliver income benefits through fast growing cash-crops means that exotic tree species are often preferred. Following discussions with corporate and NGO partners, we believe that an accessible certification recognising positive impacts on biodiversity would be highly valued, particularly if combined with mentoring to improve biodiversity and local capacity in tree-planting and reforestation initiatives.

While some current certifications incorporate biodiversity (e.g., FSC's High Conservation Value scheme), they are primarily geared to large-scale commercial tree-planting, e.g., palm oil. Our intention is to create a certification that is accessible and affordable to all, including grassroots organisations, NGOs, and government agencies. The Global Biodiversity Standard will focus on tree planting and reforestation initially before broadening it to include more ecosystems over time.

This project aims to develop a site- based Global Biodiversity Standard certification, which will provide assurances to investors, build local capacity to assess impacts on biodiversity, and mentor practitioners on planting the right trees in the right places for better biodiversity, carbon, and livelihood outcomes.
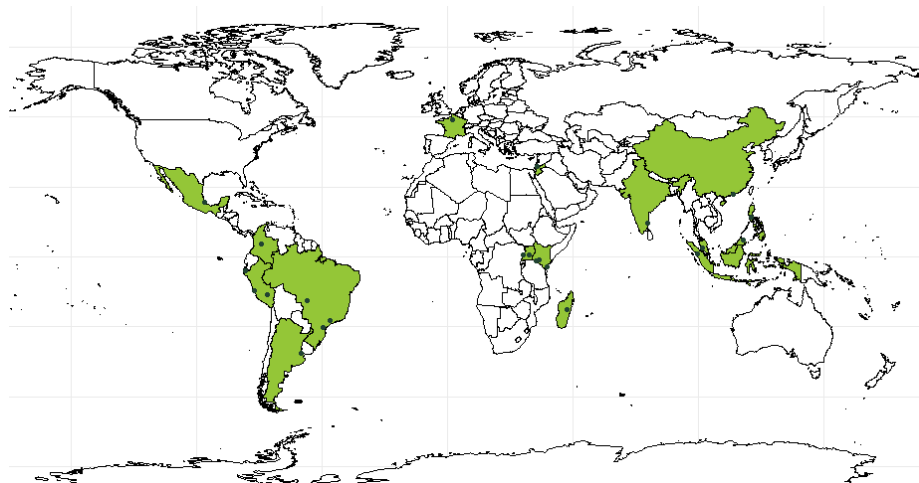

Figure 1 - The Global Biodiversity Standard operates in 15 countries.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) project is delivered through a collaboration of thirteen formal partner organisations, coordinated by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), the lead partner. BGCI provides strategic oversight, facilitates partner coordination, and leads on various components of the project including methodology development, communications, business model development, capacity building and review of assessments.

In addition to BGCI, six partner organisations provide technical input on the development of TGBS. The technical partners of the project are the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF), TRAFFIC, Ecosia, the Plan Vivo Foundation (PVF) and the World Economic Forum - 1t.org. The technical partners meet quarterly during steering committee meetings to plan project activities, monitor progress, and make decisions.

Six additional project partners help to implement TGBS across six biodiverse countries, with nine additional partners signing up across an additional nine countries during years 2 & 3 of the project. Driven by demand stemming from the host countries, these hub partners are Jardim Botânico Araribá (Brazil – Southern and Northern Brazil hubs), Huarango Nature (Peru – Dry Forest, Andean and Amazonian hubs), Auroville Botanical Gardens (India), Missouri Botanical Gardens (Madagascar), Centre for Ecological Restoration - Kenya (Kenya – Highlands, Coastal and Savanna hubs) and Tooro Botanical Gardens (Uganda – Lwamunda and Fort Portal hubs). The additional nine partners are Royal Botanic Gardens, Jordan, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (Hong Kong, China), the Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (Malaysia – Peninsular and Sabah hubs), Jardín Botánico Carlos Thays (Argentina), Jardín Botánico de Bogotá José Celestino Mutis (Colombia), Jardín Botánico Francisco Javier Clavijero (Mexico), Sumatra Rainforest Institute (Indonesia), Makiling Botanic Gardens (Philippines) and Reforest'Action (France). The hub partners meet every two months to share ideas and project updates, with BGCI coordinating these interactions. The partnerships have been strengthened during year 3 with hubs regularly meeting bilaterally to share ideas, and with regional hub networks formed. The hubs have shared expertise on a wide range of topics, including biodiversity survey techniques, remote sensing and social safeguarding. The sharing of knowledge among these partners has ensured the TGBS methodology has been rigorously tested, improved and refined over the past 3 years.

Collaboration across the thirteen partner organisations has helped to make progress with the implementation of the four outputs of the TGBS project as follows. For more details on each partner's contribution, see Annexes 4-14:

Output 1: A scientifically credible, objective, and accessible Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) and certification methodology in place and available to tree-planting and forest restoration initiatives by the end of year 2.

BGCI, SER, TRAFFIC and PVF worked together to develop the TGBS methodology. BGCI and SER worked together to develop a methodology that assesses the core biodiversity and ecosystem integrity components of the standard and co-led the writing of "The Global Biodiversity Standard: Manual for assessment and best practices", which was published in year 3 of the project. BGCI and SER have also worked collaboratively to ensure the methodology aligns with global policy frameworks and promotes best practices for ecosystem restoration. TRAFFIC and PVF worked together to lead the development of the assessment of TGBS criterion 3: "Protect, restore and manage biodiversity in consultation and partnership with local communities and other stakeholders". TRAFFIC and PVF contributed to the TGBS manual, providing guidance on assessing stakeholder engagement and social benefits. They have also worked together to develop a safeguarding risk assessment process and refinement of the TGBS exclusion list. Ecosia, PVF and 1t.org supported testing the TGBS methodology, by providing sites for testing and have shared feedback to improve the methodology. The fifteen hub organisations have worked closely with all technical partners, a range of other tree-planting/restoration organisations and local communities to test and implement the methodology across a range of locations and conditions.

Output 2: Hubs of expertise and data established to support Global Biodiversity Standard assessments and forest restoration mentorship in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

All technical partners and hub partners collaborated to develop a training module for assessors in the TGBS assessment methodology. This module was delivered as a train-the-trainer course in year 2 at Jardim Botânico Araribá, São Paulo, Brazil. This training module has since been delivered an additional 17 times by hub partners across 15 countries to train 208 assessors. In addition to development of the assessor training module, BGCI, SER and CIFOR-ICRAF have collaborated to provide data, tools and resources to support the TGBS assessment and mentoring processes. TRAFFIC and Ecosia have also collaborated on sustainable use case studies that provide a key mentoring resource on restoration best practices. All of the above-mentioned have worked closely with the fifteen hub partners to identify the data and training needed to implement the TGBS assessment process. By working together, they ensure a feedback loop is closed and appropriate data and training are provided.

Output 3: A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) to at least 10 highly biodiverse countries and a communications plan for promoting the GBS worldwide developed by the end of year 3.

BGCI, SER, CIFOR-ICRAF, TRAFFIC and PVF have worked together to support the development of a business case for TGBS. BGCI, SER, TRAFFIC and PVF have experience of certification, accreditation and standards. They have worked together to share experiences that are helping to optimise the TGBS business model. Moreover, the hub partners have worked closely with BGCI and consultants JS Global to collate costs of the testing process and to estimate demand for the TGBS, with this data feeding directly into the business model. BGCI and Ecosia have worked closely to develop a communications and PR strategy for TGBS, with consultation from all other partners through a communications working group.

BGCI has worked closely with each of the hub partners to ensure that the engagement is tailored to each region where TGBS is currently implemented.

Output 4: The Global Biodiversity Standard and certification adopted and used by policymakers, financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration managing at least 250 sites in at least 10 countries by project end.

TGBS has been applied at 8 sites so far, including those supported by Ecosia and Plan Vivo. Assessments are delivered by hubs and reviewed by BGCI, with SER providing quality assurance support. A pipeline of projects for Year 4 and beyond is being developed by all partners.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activity 1.1. Draft GBS certification assessment methodology developed by the end of year 1.

This activity was completed in year 1 of the project, with a draft version of the methodology published on the BGCI website: (i) an online application form, (ii) a remote sensing methodology, and (iii) a field survey form. This has been revised in year 3 and is now available on a [web-based application form](#) and a [mobile-based field survey app](#).

Activity 1.2. Draft methodology tested in real world conditions in at least 6 countries by the end of year 2.

This activity was completed during years 1 and 2 of the project, with the methodology tested in various iterations across 120 sites in nine countries (Brazil, Colombia, France, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Peru and Uganda). Various components of the methodology were tested including the remote sensing survey and the field survey, including plant, animal and social surveys.

Activity 1.3. Methodology refined and finalised by end of year 2.

The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) assessment methodology was finalised by the end of Year 2, as planned. Since then, several important enhancements have been made to expand its accessibility, rigour, and usability.

In Year 3, the methodology was formally published as *[The Global Biodiversity Standard: Manual for Assessment and Best Practices](#)* in English and French. Spanish and Portuguese translations have been completed and are undergoing final design edits. A detailed review of remote sensing tools was conducted by Bioflore using data from hub sites, with tailored recommendations based on ecosystem type, scale, and restoration age (see Annex 15). Their findings help ensure assessors can select the most appropriate methods for their context. Plan Vivo contributed to the finalisation of the safeguarding protocol, now available as an elective add-on to support social and environmental risk mitigation (see Annex 16). Usability improvements include the launch of a [mobile app](#) for assessors and a [web portal for applicants and reviewers](#), both developed by RadixWeb. Work has also begun to adapt the mobile app into a desktop version, enhancing accessibility for field and office-based users.

Activity 1.4 GBS application process available to tree-planting and forest restoration practitioners online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2

The application form was finalised in year 2 of the project. This form is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French at https://application.biodiversitystandard.org/.

Activity 2.1 At least 10 training hubs established in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of Q2, year 2

This activity was successfully completed in Year 2. A total of sixteen training hubs were established across nine countries, exceeding the original target. Hubs were set up in Brazil, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Peru, and Uganda—aligned with the countries outlined in the original proposal—as well as in Malaysia, Hong Kong (China), and Jordan.

Activity 2.2 Full suite of GBS training materials developed and delivered to training hubs by the end of Q2, year 2

This activity was completed in Year 2. A full suite of training materials was collaboratively developed by BGCI, SER, Plan Vivo, TRAFFIC, and CIFOR-ICRAF. Central to these is the TGBS manual (see activity 1.3) that includes a detailed assessor training module and mentoring resources. The training module offers 54 hours of content, covering theory, workshops, fieldwork, and assessment practice. To improve accessibility, the materials were expanded with recorded video lectures and delivered via Google Classroom in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Bahasa Indonesian](#). Two additional exam papers were developed this year to further strengthen the rigour of assessor evaluation.

Activity 2.3. At least 200 people from at least 10 biodiverse countries (50% women) trained in biodiversity assessment and forest restoration mentoring to improve capacity to do GBS assessments and advise on best practices by the end of year 3

This activity has been completed, with 208 individuals trained across 15 biodiverse countries by the end of Year 3, exceeding the target.

In Year 3, training scaled up, with training events held in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Uganda, Jordan, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and France. Trainings were delivered by hub partners with support from BGCI and SER. Training content covers biodiversity assessment and mentoring best practices using the TGBS methodology (see Annex 17 for example training schedule). All trainees completed written and practical exams, with 208 now certified assessors. Certification is valid for five years. Gender parity was nearly achieved, with 48% of trainees being women—an improvement from 38% in Year 2, supported by contractual targets introduced in Year 3.

Activity 2.4 Comprehensive data on spatial distribution of biodiversity, seed sources, vegetation and tree distribution, socio-economic biodiversity values etc. compiled, processed and available online for at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

This activity has been successfully completed in Year 3, with global open-access databases now covering far more than the six-country target. Led by CIFOR-ICRAF, datasets on tree distribution, environmental variables, socio-economic values, and propagation information have been consolidated and made publicly available to support biodiversity assessments and restoration planning.

Key achievements include (see Annex 3):
- **GlobalUsefulNativeTrees (GlobUNT)**: Covers 14,014 native species, with filters for climate zones, threat status, seed availability, and Excel download. In Year 3, new scoring systems and tutorials were added.
- **TreeGOER (Tree Globally Observed Environmental Ranges) and TreeGOER+:** Provide bioclimatic and soil ranges for over 48,000 tree species, now including bamboos and hybrids.
- **ClimateForecasts**: Offers current and future climate data for 15,504 stations, enhancing species-climate matching.
- **CitiesGOER**: Environmental data for 52,602 cities, aiding urban tree selection.
- **TreeGOER Global Zones Atlas**: Matches species to planting zones and supports climate-resilient seed sourcing.

All databases are archived on Zenodo with user guides, R scripts, and reproducible workflows (see Annex 3).Digital potential vegetation maps at 30 m resolution are available for [Eastern Africa](#) (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) and [Madagascar](#). Similar resources have been compiled in year 3. In Brazil, [digital vegetation maps](#) from government agencies, universities and research institutions were compiled by Jardim Botânico Araribá. In India, mapping has been implemented for over half of the 51 ecoregions (https://era-india.org/map/), with further subdivision planned for the upcoming ERA-India workshop in April 2025. In Peru, a resource library is being compiled which includes a digital potential vegetation map based on the Ministry of Environment's ecosystem maps.

Further, GBIF and BIEN species occurrence data were processed with rigorous cleaning and bias-reduction protocols, publicly available with supporting R code. Tutorials guide assessors in best practices for geospatial processing. TreeGOER databases now include geo-referenced ranges for over 53,000 species, with cross-links to GlobUNT and CitiesGOER. Sensitive data for rare species are protected while remaining functionally useful for restoration matching. (see Annex 3).

Activity 2.5 Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and other spatial seed source and tree-planting guidance tools available online by the end of year 3

This activity has been fully achieved, with a suite of climate resilience and species selection tools made accessible to restoration practitioners globally. The Climate Resilience Assessment Tool, launched by BGCI in Year 1 (https://cat.bgci.org), enables users to assess site vulnerability based on projected climate change.

Complementing this, CIFOR-ICRAF's TreeGOER database incorporates climatic and soil data for over 48,000 tree species, enabling ecologically appropriate and climate-resilient restoration planning. Together with the GlobalUsefulNativeTrees (GlobUNT) database and propagation resources, these tools are hosted on the Global Tree Knowledge Platform (https://www.worldagroforestry.org/tree-knowledge). Online tutorials, including one for GlobUNT developed in Year 3, support broader uptake.

The Agroforestry Species Switchboard, which now links data for 107,269 species, was significantly updated during 2024–2025 to improve integration with key databases such as TreeGOER and GlobUNT. These tools have been showcased at events including the 8th Global Botanic Garden Congress and are embedded in the TGBS assessor training materials.

Activity 2.6. Germination/propagation protocols available online for at least 10,000 tree species in at least 10 Darwin eligible biodiverse countries by project end.

This activity has started, with significant preparatory work completed and a structured approach established to meet the target of 10,000 species. The work is being led by BGCI with support from CIFOR-ICRAF, SER and the TGBS hubs. To support this activity, BGCI developed and published a comprehensive Propagation Protocol Manual, which outlines best practices for documenting species-specific propagation techniques.

In Year 3, BGCI developed a species selection protocol using the Global Tree Portal, generating a list of 36,118 native tree species across 14 Darwin-eligible countries where TGBS hubs operate. This "full list" includes country-level occurrence, conservation status, and whether propagation protocols already exist. A filtered "final pool" of 10,000 species is being compiled, prioritising high conservation, restoration, and cultural value species. Initial screening of existing databases identified:
- 533 species already have protocols recorded in BGCI's Global Tree Portal (GTP).
- 449 species matched to propagation records in the Agroforestree Database (AFT)
- 620 species matched to germination records in the Seed Information Database (SID) hosted by SER

Preliminary de-duplication suggests propagation or germination data is currently available for ~1,480 unique species. A reconciliation process is ongoing to remove taxonomic redundancies, with the remaining protocols to be compiled and developed via partner networks in years 4 and 5.

Activity 3.1. Business model options paper developed and published by the end of year 2.

This activity was successfully completed in Year 2. A comprehensive Business Model Options Paper was developed and published.

Activity 3.2 Business Plan finalised and published by the end of year 3

A full internal version of the TGBS Business Plan was finalised and circulated to partners by the end of Year 3, building on the Business Model Options Paper completed in Year 2 (see Activity 3.1). A modified version of the Business Plan will be prepared for external publication in the coming months.

The Business Plan outlines TGBS's delivery model, business streams (certification and mentoring), governance structure, customer segments, market strategy, and a five-year financial forecast under three growth scenarios (conservative, realistic, ambitious). It also includes a risk and sensitivity analysis and presents pathways for scaling (see Annex 18).

As part of this activity, 15 implementing partners across 15 countries have agreed to host TGBS hubs. A Memoranda of Agreement (MoA) was developed (see Annex 19) and is currently being signed by hub partners. These MoAs confirm each hub's role in certification delivery, training, mentoring, and local engagement.

The financial model was developed collaboratively using a bottom-up approach. Financial data was submitted by eight hubs (Brazil, France, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Uganda), covering

reference model development, assessor rates, fieldwork costs, overheads, remote sensing, and mentoring pricing. Delivery capacity estimates were submitted by six hubs and extended to five years using saturating growth assumptions. The model distinguishes four client categories—community organisations, small for-profits, larger corporates, and government/donor projects—with corresponding average project sizes, hub overheads, and Secretariat margins. This tiered pricing structure ensures accessibility while enabling cross-subsidisation for smaller projects.

The Secretariat's core costs, including staffing, IT infrastructure, PR and outreach, quality assurance, and overheads from the host organisation (BGCI), are included in the model. Under the realistic growth scenario, the model shows the potential for generating a cumulative surplus of over £800,000 within five years, with greater revenue potential under the ambitious scenario. The plan was developed by BGCI through consultation with partners and external stakeholders, including a 113-person survey, targeted interviews with key market actors, and collaborative analysis of client profiles and competitor offerings. This process ensured the plan reflects real-world needs, pricing expectations, and the decentralised nature of TGBS delivery.

Activity 3.3 GBS Communication and Public Relations (PR) Plan published by end of year 3.

This activity was completed in Year 3, with the finalisation and internal publication of the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) Communications Strategy (see Annex 20). The plan provides a structured approach to raising awareness, driving adoption, and positioning TGBS as a global certification scheme for biodiversity-positive restoration and land management.

The Communications Plan is structured around 14 key sections, including purpose and vision, audience targeting, content strategy, channel selection, internal and crisis communication protocols, branding, and responsibilities. It highlights three core messages: TGBS certifies positive biodiversity outcomes; is grounded in robust science and international best practices; and empowers local expertise through mentoring. It also outlines goals for 2025, a communications calendar, and a Branding Book detailing visual guidelines and new logos for the five TGBS certification tiers.

In support of the strategy, BGCI partnered with consultancy PLMR to run a global PR campaign in 2024 ahead of the TGBS launch at CBD COP16. Activities included producing digital campaign content, optimising the TGBS website with a new campaign landing page, launching digital advertising campaigns (see Annex 21), and leading an open-letter campaign that secured endorsements from over 100 individuals and organisations.

The campaign culminated in the official launch of TGBS at CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia (see Annex 22). Five key events were organised, including:

- A pre-launch networking event at the IUCN Pavilion in the Blue Zone, with presentations from BGCI and five TGBS hub representatives. This event was livestreamed on YouTube.
- A launch ceremony at Cali Botanic Garden, with keynote speeches from Dr Leonardo Tavares Salgado and Dr Gemma Harper OBE, and a panel featuring Ecosia, Huarango Nature, the World Economic Forum, and others. Three certified sites were recognised at the event. More information about the event, including the address by Dr Gemma Harper is available online.
- Two fireside chats in the Business and Finance Hub on monitoring nature-based solutions and mentoring for biodiversity outcomes;
- A panel discussion at Casa Britannica coordinated by the Sustainable Markets Initiative, where project manager, Dr David Bartholomew, discussed how businesses can leverage TGBS.
- An exhibition booth in the Blue Zone, which welcomed over 500 attendees from national delegates, NGOs, Indigenous groups, private sector, funders and media.

In total, TGBS events at COP16 were attended by approximately 300 people, providing unprecedented visibility and engagement. These events resulted in new partnership discussions, press interest, and direct project inquiries. TGBS featured in several news outlets as a consequence of the PR campaign and launch at COP-16 (see Annex 23). The successful implementation of the PR Plan and digital campaign has significantly expanded TGBS's reach, brand recognition, and credibility. It has also provided a strong communications foundation for the year ahead.

Activity 3.4 Business and Communications/PR Plans implemented in years 4-5.

Although this activity was scheduled for Years 4–5, implementation began in Year 3 with strong efforts to promote the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) among restoration practitioners, project developers, financiers, and policymakers.

The Communications Plan was actively rolled out, with BGCI maintaining a steady LinkedIn presence—posting at least weekly, often two to three times—highlighting certifications, hub activities, training sessions, and events, helping expand TGBS's visibility. TGBS was officially launched at CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, where it hosted five events (see Activity 3.3), and was promoted at the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Singapore, among other major global forums, including the Global EverGreening Alliance and the IUCN congress. Regionally, hub partners intensified efforts to engage clients, funders, and governments.

In India, Auroville Botanical Gardens met with potential partners like the British Asian Trust, participated in the Goa Urban Tree Management Workshop, and hosted a booth and workshop at the ERA-India Conference (see Annex 4). In Kenya, CER-K advocated for biodiversity metrics at the Nairobi Carbon Summit and highlighted Kenya's leadership using TGBS at a Plantlife side event at the CBD SBI-04 (see Annex 5). In Peru, Huarango Nature participated in the First Peruvian Restoration Congress and met with stakeholders in Madre de Dios, Cusco, and Ucayali (see Annex 8). Uganda's Tooro Botanical Garden held several outreach events and field mentoring sessions with Ecosia and CER-K (see Annex 13). In Madagascar, Missouri Botanical Garden presented TGBS to over 70 participants during their annual restoration workshop (see Annex 10).

CIFOR-ICRAF promoted TGBS via Forests News, included it among their "best of 2024" publications, and showcased the standard at COP16 side events (see Annex 6). Ecosia's marketing team supported PR through a media strategy, articles in Mongabay and RFI, and a YouTube video viewed over 60,000 times (see Annex 7). In partnership with JGI Uganda, Ecosia co-developed a certified site case study for TNFD. TRAFFIC supported communications through conferences (SERE 2024 and the 60th ITTO Council Session), online promotion, and stakeholder engagement (see Annex 14).

Two global webinars furthered outreach: one for the TGBS Manual launch (339 participants), and one highlighting pilot results in Kenya (38 attendees). These efforts laid the groundwork for Year 4 activities focused on converting interest into applications, expanding assessors, and strengthening financing for certification and mentoring.

Activity 3.5 Business development on the prototype for return on investment (ROI) on use of the GBS methodology with respect to socio-economic and environmental outcomes (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, rural household reached, job creation).

This activity has commenced, focusing on assessing the business case for adopting the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) from a return on investment (ROI) perspective. Plan Vivo led early discussions with voluntary carbon market resellers to evaluate interest in adding biodiversity certification to Plan Vivo-certified carbon projects (see Annex 11). While buyers were not actively seeking additional biodiversity certifications—citing Plan Vivo's existing co-benefits—there was interest in clearer messaging on the added value TGBS could offer in specific contexts.

In response, BGCI and Plan Vivo are co-developing targeted marketing materials to demonstrate the added biodiversity, social, and ecosystem service benefits of TGBS. The certified project in the Khasi Hills, India, will be used as a test case for these materials, with feedback from market actors planned in Year 4 to strengthen the ROI narrative.

Plan Vivo also prepared an initial mapping of TGBS against the Plan Vivo Carbon and Biodiversity Standards to explore synergies and clarify how the two schemes can complement each other. While the document is still in draft, it provides a foundation for coordinated messaging and alignment between certification systems. These early efforts lay the groundwork for an ROI prototype that will inform advocacy, guide investment decisions, and position TGBS as a value-adding certification for biodiversity-positive restoration and nature-based solutions.

Activity 4.1. GBS certification scheme promoted in at least 10 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 4

Although full implementation is scheduled for Year 4, early progress in Year 3 has already exceeded targets. The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) is now actively promoted in 15 countries—including 14 highly biodiverse ones—surpassing the original goal of 10.

Seven new hubs were established this year in Argentina, Colombia, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, and the Philippines, joining the previously established nine. All hubs are promoting TGBS through websites, newsletters, presentations, and outreach meetings, with expanded engagement planned for Year 4. A key outreach tool has been the TGBS Newsletter, distributed quarterly to a global audience of practitioners, researchers, and institutions. As of March 2025, it has 2,281 subscribers, with an average open rate of 50.4% and a 13.1% click-through rate. The newsletter has effectively spotlighted major developments, including the TGBS Manual launch, hub onboarding, and COP16 events, and will remain a key communication platform going forward.

Activity 4.2. GBS certification achieved by at least 250 tree-planting/forest restoration projects in at least 10 countries by project end.

This activity is planned for Years 4 and 5, with a target of certifying over 250 sites in at least 10 countries. Early progress in Year 3 has established a strong foundation, with five sites already certified in Bolivia, Colombia, and Uganda (see Annex 24). These initial certifications reflect diverse ecological and social contexts and were awarded based on biodiversity gains, stakeholder engagement, and adherence to best practices. Certified projects include SICIREC and Ecosia (Bolivia), Impulso Verde and Reforest'Action (Colombia; see Annex 25 for sample report), and the Jane Goodall Institute and Ecosia (Uganda), with the Ugandan sites receiving Advanced certification.

Additional sites have been assessed but did not meet the certification threshold, including pilot projects in Madagascar and Kenya. These projects include a site assessed as part of the mid-term review. These assessments have nonetheless provided valuable feedback, both to site implementers seeking to improve project outcomes and to the TGBS team in refining the methodology. Reassessment of some of these projects may occur in future once improvements are implemented.

New assessments are now underway in India, Hong Kong (China), and Madagascar, with several more expected to be initiated in Year 4 across the expanding hub network. These assessments in progress include projects led by Plan Vivo in Khasi Hills, India, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in Hong Kong, and Missouri Botanical Garden in Madagascar.

Activity 4.3. At least 5 governments, 20 companies and 10 NGOs/CBOs recommending or mandating the use of the Standard by project end.

This activity advanced significantly in Year 3, establishing a strong foundation for widespread endorsement and future adoption of the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) by governments, companies, and civil society. Although the formal targets are set for project end, early engagements have already generated meaningful interest. Leading up to and following the official launch at CBD COP16, partners held high-level meetings to promote integration of TGBS into policy and funding frameworks. In the UK, BGCI held meetings with Mary Creagh (Undersecretary at DEFRA) and Maggie Charnley (Head of the International Forests Unit, BEIS), who expressed strong interest and requested follow-up. Dr Gemma Harper, CEO of the JNCC, delivered the closing speech at the launch, endorsing the Standard's alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In Uganda, the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, the National Forestry Resources Research Institute, and the Jane Goodall Institute, were engaged to support national awareness and potential adoption (see Annex 13). In Madagascar, face-to-face meetings were held the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Director of Reforestation, the Director of Protected Areas, and the Partnership Coordinator within the Ministry (see Annex 10). who expressed interest in the Standard's credibility and its application in public restoration programmes. The Madagascar hub also promoted TGBS through national panel events (e.g. TANETI).

In Brazil, formal engagements with research bodies and restoration collectives were complemented by an address from Dr Leonardo Tavares Salgado on behalf of Rita Mesquita, the National Secretary of Biodiversity, at the Cali launch (see Annex 9). Follow-up meetings with ICMBio, the National Secretariat for Biodiversity, and the Environmental Education Directorate are planned to explore federal-level use of TGBS.

At the multilateral level, a dedicated TGBS session was hosted at a World Bank regional meeting in November 2024. Led by Doug Macfarlane, the session featured Tukka Castren, Acting Practice Manager at the Bank, who endorsed TGBS as a tool for credible biodiversity outcomes in climate-financed restoration. Adoption was encouraged for upcoming World Bank projects, including a $200M programme in Kenya.

TGBS has also engaged global platforms. TNFD invited a Toolbox submission, and SBTN extended a membership invitation. BGCI contributed to the NBSAP Forum to position TGBS as a GBF-aligned monitoring tool. Partners such as Ecosia and Plan Vivo are demonstrating uptake through certified projects in Bolivia, Uganda, Madagascar, and India, while promoting the value of certification across carbon and biodiversity sectors.

Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace has already given her endorsement to TGBS:
"It brings me great pride to know that our work along the Budongo and Bugoma corridor in Uganda in collaboration with JGI Uganda, JGI Austria and Ecosia, is among the first in the world to receive advanced certification under the Global Biodiversity Standard. This recognition honours our commitment to preserving life's diversity and restoring vital habitats. Guided by the scientific rigor of the Standard, the leadership of local hub partners in assessment, and the communities on the ground striving to protect their environment. The Global Biodiversity Standard reminds us of our responsibility to protect our ecosystems, not just for our own survival, but for the future of every living creature with whom we share this planet. My hope is that many more organisations will adopt the measures laid out by the Standard and ensure we regenerate the planet for future generations."

3.2   Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. A scientifically credible, objective, and accessible Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) and certification methodology in place and available to tree-planting and forest restoration initiatives by the end of year 2.

Output 1 was fully achieved in Year 2, with the publication of a scientifically robust and accessible certification methodology for the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS), now actively available to restoration initiatives (baseline: no methodology). Key deliverables included the publication of the draft methodology (presented in the year 1 report), collection of extensive feedback from assessors and site managers during pilot assessments and training sessions (presented in year 2 report), and the finalisation and online publication of the methodology. The development of a multilingual online application portal further enhanced accessibility, providing entry points for applicants in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

Output 2: Hubs of expertise and data established to support Global Biodiversity Standard assessments and forest restoration mentorship in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

By the end of Year 3, significant progress has been made toward achieving Output 2, with hubs of expertise and data established in 15 highly biodiverse countries, exceeding the original target of six (baseline: 0 hubs). These hubs serve as centres for delivering TGBS assessments and mentoring restoration practitioners, supported by trained staff and regional data resources, with 208 certified assessors (see Annex 26; Baseline 0). Training attendance records, field and classroom-based assessments, and certificate issuance (see Annex 27) demonstrate the effectiveness of the global training programme, with materials—including interactive sessions, presentations, and technical manuals—made available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French to ensure inclusivity. A set of online data tools have been made available (see Annex 3), including the Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and other species selection tools such as TreeGOER and GlobUNT. These tools are now widely accessible and being used by hubs to inform restoration planning and site evaluations. While most aspects of Output 2 have been completed, the activity to compile and make available propagation protocols for at least 10,000 tree species remains in progress and will be finalised during Years 4–5, as outlined in the project proposal. A methodology for protocol selection has been developed and a species pool identified, with work ongoing to collate and standardise data across multiple databases.

Output 3. A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the GBS to at least 10 biodiverse countries worldwide developed by the end of year 3.

By the end of Year 3, substantial progress has been made toward achieving Output 3, with a self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) across at least 15 highly biodiverse countries now developed and actively guiding implementation (Baseline: no business model). This is supported by the completion of a detailed project report and business model

options paper, which evaluated various governance and funding structures, pricing strategies, and long-term financial viability. Building on this, a full TGBS Business Plan was finalised and published internally (see Annex 18), outlining the certification and mentoring streams, growth scenarios, operational costs, and hub network development strategy. A public-facing version of the plan is currently in preparation for external dissemination in Year 4. In parallel, a comprehensive Communications and PR strategy was also completed (see Annex 20), setting out audience segmentation, core messaging, and outreach goals, supported by the production of communications materials including visual identity guidelines, tiered certification logos, social media assets, and event branding (e.g. see promotional booklet – Annex 28). These materials have been instrumental in promoting TGBS at major global events such as COP16 and the Global Botanic Gardens Congress. While most components of this output are complete, the return on investment (ROI) report is scheduled for delivery in Years 4–5, as outlined in the project proposal. This report will build on ongoing efforts—including case study development and market engagement—to articulate the added value of TGBS certification in terms of biodiversity, livelihoods, and ecosystem services. Together, these deliverables establish a robust foundation for scaling and sustaining the TGBS certification system globally.

Output 4. The Global Biodiversity Standard and certification adopted and used by policy-makers, financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration managing at least 250 sites in at least 10 countries by project end.

Steady progress has been made towards achieving Output 4, with the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) gaining visibility and early uptake across a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, financiers, and restoration practitioners. Since the public launch of the certification in Year 3, momentum has grown through international outreach, media engagement, and formal application processes. As of the end of Year 3, ten TGBS applications have been received, and seven assessments have been completed, resulting in five certificates issued across projects in Bolivia, Colombia, and Uganda (Baseline: 0 certified sites). Awareness and interest in the Standard are evidenced by >3600 downloads of the TGBS manual, >5000 enquiries received and responded to, alongside 5 formal meetings held with policymakers, funders, and implementing organisations. The standard was prominently featured at CBD COP16 generating substantial media coverage, including interviews, feature articles, and conference presentations, reaching 20 media outlets. TGBS has also been presented at World Bank regional workshops, the Global EverGreening Alliance forum, the Global Landscape Forum and the Global Botanic Gardens Congress.

Efforts to secure policy-level adoption are ongoing. Engagements with agencies such as DEFRA (UK), the Ministries of Environment in Madagascar and Brazil and the ministry for Energy and Mineral development in Uganda, and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank have all explored pathways for integration of the standard into government-supported restoration programmes and financing mechanisms.

3.3   Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: Global Biodiversity Standard certification achieved by 250 tree-planting/restoration projects, ≥200 people trained with improved capacity to do GBS assessments and 10 hubs of biodiversity assessment and restoration mentoring expertise established in 6 highly biodiverse countries by 2027.

The project is on track to achieve its intended Outcome by 2027. By the end of Year 3, major milestones have been reached. The TGBS methodology and multilingual application forms (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese) were published online as scheduled. Fifteen hubs have been established in 15 countries—exceeding the target—and 208 people have been trained, with attendance records, assessments, and certificates issued. A comprehensive suite of data tools, including the Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and TreeGOER, has been made available, while work to complete the propagation protocol database continues in line with the planned timeline for Years 4–5.

A detailed business model, options paper, and communications strategy have been completed, with the business plan now guiding delivery. Weekly LinkedIn posts, media engagement, and branded outreach materials are supporting uptake. Certification has begun, with five sites certified and ten applications submitted across multiple countries. While the 250-site target is ambitious, current momentum—bolstered by COP16 visibility and expanding global interest—makes it achievable. The indicators are appropriate for measuring progress, and no changes are needed. If necessary, additional mentoring support and targeted outreach will be used to maintain the trajectory toward successful outcome delivery.

3.4   Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: COVID-19 or other national/global disruption does not prevent the deployment of local or international expertise for site testing and methodological development (see below).
Comments: This assumption carries reduced risk now. COVID-19 disruption has reduced over the past three years as restrictions, especially related to travel, have almost totally been removed.

Assumption 2: Carrying out GBS assessments is financially viable for local entities (e.g. botanic gardens, existing certification organizations, other types of biodiversity/agroforestry/forest restoration organizations) and can compete with other income-generating priorities (see below).
Comments: This assumption still holds true. This assumption has been managed by detailing the costs of carrying out assessments and modifying the methodology accordingly, e.g., by modifying the length of field surveys to account for the financial cost. The financial viability is being managed by developing a sustainable business model that covers all of the costs, whilst maintaining competitive charging rates. Other income-generating priorities have been managed by providing funds to recruit staff dedicated to TGBS work.

Assumption 3: A cost-effective but scientifically robust methodology is affordable to a wide range of practitioners (see below).
Comments: This assumption continues to hold true. Affordability is being maintained through a tiered pricing model, and ongoing feedback from pilot sites confirms that the methodology remains both scientifically rigorous and accessible to a broad range of practitioners.

Assumption 4: Biodiversity impacts carry financial incentives either as a risk or as an opportunity and are sufficiently attractive to financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting and forest restoration to apply for certification (see below).
Comments: This assumption still holds true. There has been increased publicity over the last three years about minimising risks of failure and greenwashing in tree planting projects. This is especially true for the carbon credits market, meaning a certification scheme for restoration activities is likely to carry more incentives now than at project inception. Moreover, there is the growing need for nature-related disclosures that enhance the demand for a biodiversity certification scheme.

Assumption 5: COVID-19 or other national/global disruption does not prevent the deployment of local expertise for site testing (mitigated by wide potential selection of partner institutions/countries and the possibility of moving testing to another country).
Comments: This assumption has been met. COVID-19 did not disrupt site testing.

Assumption 6: Tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners are willing to participate in the testing phase (low risk; Ecosia, Plan Vivo and 1t.org have agreed to participate).
Comments: This assumption has been met. Ecosia and Plan Vivo contributed sites for testing over the past two years. There have also been numerous additional sites who were willing to participate in the testing phase (120 sites in total).

Assumption 7: COVID-19 or other national/global disruption doesn't prevent the deployment of international expertise to lead training and development (Mitigated by online training and a regional/national approach to face-to-face capacity building).
Comments: This assumption has been met. COVID-19 did not disrupt the deployment of experts to lead training and development.

Assumption 8: Global partners with biodiversity data and/or forest restoration information are willing to share their data and data tools (low risk: much of these data is already in the public domain).
Comments: This assumption holds true. This assumption has been managed because several of the partners, including BGCI, SER and ICRAF have well established relationships with many global partners that hold biodiversity data and/or restoration information. In addition, many datasets are increasingly becoming freely available under open access licences.

Assumption 9: Biodiversity, agroforestry, restoration, or other certification institutions/entities are willing to host training and data hubs (to a large degree this will be dependent on 3, below).
Comments: This assumption has reduced risk. Organisations across fifteen countries have already signed up to be TGBS hubs over the first three years of the project and there is already interest from other organisations to host hubs.

Assumption 10: Hosting the GBS hubs and carrying out the certification assessments is financially viable for local biodiversity institutions and can compete with other income-generating priorities (low risk; we

believe that it is possible for host entities to cover their costs and still be affordable compared to the very expensive schemes currently available).
Comments: This assumption remains valid. Business modelling based on real cost data from hub partners confirms that certification delivery is financially viable, with pricing structures allowing cost recovery while remaining competitive with existing schemes. Continued refinement of service offerings and strategic support for newer hubs will further strengthen long-term viability.

Assumption 11: Positive biodiversity impacts carry financial incentives either as a risk or as an opportunity and/or are sufficiently attractive to financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting and forest restoration to apply for certification (mitigated by working with biodiversity +ve corporate partners packaging biodiversity and carbon together in premium packages).
Comments: This assumption largely holds true, though some uncertainty remains around the maturity of biodiversity markets. Interest in biodiversity-positive certification continues to grow, particularly among actors seeking to demonstrate nature risk management or co-benefits alongside carbon. During Year 3, BGCI and technical partners continued strategic engagement through the Biodiversity Credit Alliance and World Economic Forum platforms, and held bilateral discussions with over 50 organisations—including Verra, Gold Standard, Rabobank and the World Bank. These interactions confirmed growing demand for mechanisms like TGBS that can verify positive biodiversity outcomes or reduce reputational and investment risks. While full financial incentives are still emerging, the strong alignment with TNFD and SBTN frameworks, and increasing awareness of biodiversity's role in climate and ESG reporting, position TGBS well to capture future opportunity. Ongoing outreach and piloting with corporate partners will help de-risk adoption and inform future positioning.

Assumption 12: A cost-effective but scientifically robust methodology is affordable to a wide range of practitioners. (Risk reduced by already having a strong technical network in place).
Comments: This assumption continues to hold true. While the financial costs of assessments were largely covered by the project during Years 1 and 2, Year 3 has shown promising signs of market readiness. Early adopters have been identified, including practitioners and organisations willing to pay for TGBS assessments and mentoring services. Hubs in all 15 countries report interest in the standard, reinforcing its perceived value. Provided that costs remain aligned with actual hub delivery costs—as modelled during the project—TGBS remains both scientifically credible and financially accessible to a wide range of practitioners.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction

Impact: Biodiversity impacts of tree-planting and forest restoration for carbon sequestration and livelihoods are valued by policy-makers, financiers and practitioners, and 'right tree, right place' practices lead to better biodiversity/livelihood outcomes

The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) is making strong contributions to its intended long-term impact: ensuring that the biodiversity benefits of tree planting and forest restoration are recognised and valued by policymakers, financiers, and practitioners. The standard promotes the principle of 'right tree, right place' by requiring scientifically grounded, site-specific assessments of ecological integrity and the use of native and threatened species. In Year 3, certified sites in Uganda, Bolivia, and Colombia demonstrated this in practice, while pilot assessments and mentoring in Kenya and Madagascar have supported implementers in aligning with biodiversity best practices.

TGBS is also having a measurable short-term impact on human development. 208 individuals have now been trained through the project in 15 countries. Training has expanded local technical capacity in biodiversity assessment, ecological monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and restoration planning. These skills not only improve restoration outcomes but also strengthen institutional readiness for attracting funding and managing large-scale nature-based solutions.

In the medium term, the project is helping to catalyse a biodiversity-focused restoration economy. Demand for native species and seed sources is increasing among restoration projects preparing for or pursuing TGBS certification. Case studies such as the certified Khasi Hills project in India are being developed to communicate the added value of biodiversity certification to funders and carbon credit buyers. Partnerships with Ecosia and Plan Vivo are also exploring how TGBS can be integrated into biodiversity-plus-carbon finance models.

Over the long term, the project is helping shift the global restoration narrative towards outcomes that prioritise biodiversity and community benefits. At CBD COP16, TGBS was featured during Restoration Day, where the principles of ecological integrity and biodiversity assurance were core to the agenda. More than 300 participants attended TGBS events at COP16, including government representatives, NGOs, and multilateral funders. In addition, the TGBS manual has been downloaded >3600 times since

its release, underscoring growing interest in the methodology as a tool for credible, biodiversity-positive restoration. By improving restoration design and increasing access to ecosystem services such as clean water, food, and fuelwood, TGBS contributes not only to biodiversity conservation but also to long-term poverty alleviation and climate resilience.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

During Year 3, the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) has continued to make meaningful contributions to the implementation of national policy commitments under international environmental agreements, particularly the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The TGBS methodology aligns directly with at least 13 of the 23 GBF targets, including those on ecosystem restoration (Target 2), species recovery (Target 4), sustainable harvesting (Target 5), invasive species (Target 6), climate change impacts (Target 8), sustainable production (Target 10), and biodiversity data and capacity (Targets 20 and 21). This year, TGBS was highlighted at several policy fora—including CBD COP16—as a mechanism to operationalise and measure GBF targets at the site level and was included in the GBF Target 2 resource guide. TGBS tools, including the newly launched manual and multilingual applications, have supported early integration into national biodiversity agendas and will contribute to NBSAP updates underway in several countries.

TGBS also continues to support country-level implementation of NBSAPs, NDCs and NAPs. In Uganda, the TGBS methodology responds directly to the country's NBSAP (2015–2025), which notes risks associated with the dominance of exotic species in reforestation programmes. TGBS assessments there are promoting the inclusion of medicinal and culturally important native species, contributing to biodiversity protection and public health resilience. In Kenya, TGBS supports Goal 2 of the NBSAP (2019–2030), which targets ecosystem restoration and biodiversity contributions to carbon stocks. TGBS is helping to shift restoration efforts away from monoculture plantations and toward more ecologically meaningful native forest recovery. New engagement in Peru and Madagascar is also contributing to national-level commitments under the Bonn Challenge and national adaptation planning processes, with government representatives participating in events and TGBS launch activities.

The project has also supported international policy dialogue. Government representatives from Uganda, Madagascar, Brazil and UK attended the official TGBS launch event at COP16, alongside private sector and NGO representatives. In Brazil, the TGBS hub worked closely with the Ministry of Environment and ICMBio to discuss potential integration of TGBS into national restoration audit frameworks. In Madagascar, high-level meetings with the Ministry of Environment explored TGBS as a tool to monitor donor-supported restoration, with interest in aligning certification requirements with national priorities. In Peru, TGBS was presented at the 1st Peruvian Restoration Congress, contributing to technical debates on biodiversity safeguards and native species selection in ecosystem recovery.

TGBS also contributes to the achievement of global sustainable development goals (SDGs). It supports SDG15 (Life on Land) by reducing biodiversity loss and land degradation through native species restoration. It advances SDG13 (Climate Action) by creating resilient, biodiverse ecosystems that enhance climate adaptation and mitigation. SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) is addressed through the training and employment of local assessors, with 208 individuals trained, and SDG5 (Gender Equality) is supported by efforts to achieve balanced participation in all training and certification processes. As the certification expands, the project will continue to support delivery against these global targets while contributing directly to national reporting and strategy development. Formal interaction with country convention focal points is anticipated in Year 4, building on existing engagement and growing national-level interest in TGBS adoption.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) project continues to contribute meaningfully to multidimensional poverty reduction by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, strengthening local biodiversity governance, and promoting inclusive ecosystem restoration practices. The project directly benefits two core groups: (1) the staff and institutions hosting TGBS hubs in 15 countries, and (2) the local communities involved in certified and assessed restoration projects.

At the hub level, the TGBS business model is designed to generate income for biodiversity organisations in low- and middle-income countries by equipping them to deliver assessments and mentoring services. This decentralised approach—grounded in local ecological knowledge and socioeconomic context—contrasts with carbon certification models that often rely on international consultants. By employing and training local experts, the project builds professional capacity, promotes long-term job creation, and enables in-country leadership in biodiversity-positive restoration. 208 individuals have now been trained in the TGBS methodology, with certification opening new career pathways in ecological monitoring, mentoring, and restoration planning.

At the community level, TGBS encourages restoration implementers to integrate poverty reduction into project design. Sites seeking certification must demonstrate how local people participate in and benefit from the project—whether through employment, community wellbeing, capacity building or access to ecosystem services. The methodology assesses stakeholder engagement and social co-benefits, with high scores awarded to projects that include Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and other marginalised groups. In Uganda and Colombia, for example, pilot projects have shown how involving local communities in native species selection and monitoring builds ownership and reinforces traditional ecological knowledge, while creating local economic opportunities (see Annex 25).

Indirect poverty reduction impacts are also expected over the long term. By focusing on native species and ecosystem integrity, TGBS-certified projects increase the likelihood of long-term project success and higher ecosystem service returns. These include improved water quality and quantity, local access to fuelwood and NTFPs, enhanced soil health, and increased resilience to climate impacts—all of which contribute to livelihoods and well-being. The growing market interest in biodiversity-positive certification, as seen in countries like India, Brazil, and Peru, indicates the potential for a future economy centred around native species restoration. Efforts this year position TGBS as a tool not only for biodiversity conservation, but also for building more inclusive and equitable restoration economies.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

The project takes an empowering approach to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion by embedding inclusion into both the TGBS methodology and its delivery. Criterion 3 of the Standard promotes the involvement of women, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalised groups in the planning, implementation, and benefit-sharing of restoration projects. While the methodology was developed in earlier years, in Year 3 a more robust safeguarding risk assessment protocol was introduced to better identify and mitigate risks to vulnerable stakeholders. The project continues to promote inclusive participation through local hubs, culturally appropriate community engagement, and training programmes that support capacity building among underrepresented groups. These efforts are helping to ensure that TGBS not only avoids contributing to existing inequalities but actively expands access to opportunities and decision-making in biodiversity restoration.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The Project Manager (10% of time) and Project Leader (5% of time) from BGCI lead monitoring and evaluation activities for this project. The restoration hub managers who take the leading role for monitoring and evaluation of activities within their respective countries support these staff from BGCI.

In addition, a Steering Committee for the project has been established from the technical and hub partners who meet quarterly to assess progress against the log frame and performance indicators. These meetings take place online to maximise attendance and minimise unnecessary expenditure on travel. The Steering Committee reviews progress against the project implementation timetable, compares ongoing and

completed activities against performance standards, reviews expenditure against the project budget and identifies new potential risks and mitigating measures. These meetings additionally review how the project activities and outputs are contributing towards the overall project outcome. After each Steering Committee meeting, a report is prepared to document progress, adaptive management changes to the implementation timetable (see Annex 29).

The hub partners additionally meet every 2 months to provide updates on project progress. In addition to providing monitoring and evaluation for the project, these meetings provide an opportunity for ideas and knowledge to be shared amongst the regional partners and hence builds capacity. The Project Manager writes up minutes from these meetings (see Annex 30).

Capacity building is a key aim of this project. The impact of capacity building efforts is monitored by assessing baseline knowledge and expertise related to restoration and biodiversity specifics, before and after trainees receive training and when trainees have put their skills into practice. The final measure of success here will be if trainees progress fully through the Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner programme. Currently 14 trainees have been awarded Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (5 CERP and 9 CERPIT) recognition from this project with an additional 3 working on applications (see Annex 12).

8.   Lessons learnt

Year 3 of the project provided valuable insights across implementation, communications, certification delivery, and hub engagement. A major success was the global launch of TGBS at COP16, where high visibility and participation helped catalyse new partnerships and interest. Our communications strategy proved effective, particularly through regular LinkedIn content and press engagement. However, the volume of interest also highlighted the need for better internal systems to screen and mentor early-stage applicants. In response, a pre-assessment phase and project eligibility screening tool are now being developed to manage demand and ensure applicant readiness.

From the hubs, several lessons emerged. In Kenya, CER-K found strong interest from diverse stakeholders, but challenges remain around financing certification and demonstrating added value. This highlighted the need to compile and tailor marketing materials that communicate specific benefits to different audiences (e.g., protected area managers vs. donors). In Peru, Huarango Nature flagged that tight timelines and weather disruptions affected fieldwork. More flexible scheduling and additional time for field sampling and plant identification are now being planned. In Uganda, Tooro Botanical Gardens emphasised that many restoration practitioners lack understanding of biodiversity-based restoration. As a result, TGBS mentoring will place greater emphasis on awareness-building and biodiversity literacy. Meanwhile, Missouri Botanical Garden reported the value of pre-assessment meetings with project implementers to explain procedures, gather documentation, and align expectations—now being adopted as a standard recommendation.

Plan Vivo highlighted that carbon buyers require clearer messaging on the value addition of biodiversity certification, prompting a need for refined communication strategies. Similarly, SER noted the need for more user-friendly, localised training tools and additional support for reference model development— particularly in hubs with limited prior experience. SER is now producing new training aids, and BGCI is supporting flexible, cost-effective training delivery.

Several hubs, including in Indonesia and Brazil, faced language or scheduling barriers during training. The project responded with adaptive delivery formats and enhanced translation tools. Finally, financial sustainability remains an area of active learning. Hubs are working with BGCI to determine realistic cost estimates and pricing structures for mentoring services.

No formal Change Request is required, but adaptive management will continue to guide the project's implementation.

9.   Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Following last year's review, the project strengthened its commitment to gender balance by including a 60% women trainee target in all hub grant agreements. While this was not fully achieved, it marked a significant improvement from previous years. To date, 99 women have been trained as assessors, representing 48% of the total, supporting progress toward the target of 200 assessors (100 women, 100 men).

To enhance GESI outcomes, the safeguarding risk assessment protocol was refined in Year 3, and hubs were encouraged to adopt more inclusive recruitment practices. Criterion 3 of the TGBS methodology continues to promote stakeholder inclusion, and the project now more explicitly tracks benefit-sharing

and representation. These actions strengthen our position as a GESI-empowering project. There are no Overseas Security and Justice Assistance risks or special conditions applicable

10.   Risk Management

No new risks have arisen.

11.   Scalability and durability

The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) is designed with both scalability and durability at its core. Awareness of the Standard has grown rapidly, especially following the public launch at CBD COP16, where events attracted wide participation from governments, NGOs, corporates, and funders. The visibility generated by our communications strategy—including regular LinkedIn posts, webinars, and targeted outreach—has helped explain the benefits and process of certification, and has positioned TGBS as a credible, science-based mechanism for improving biodiversity outcomes in restoration.

Evidence of demand includes ten sites initiating assessments across seven countries, with growing interest from governments and the private sector. Hubs in countries like Brazil, Kenya, and India have held high-level meetings with ministries and national authorities, and the World Bank has expressed interest in using TGBS to improve accountability in large-scale restoration projects. Certification adopters, including Ecosia and Plan Vivo, have begun sharing case studies and incorporating TGBS into their portfolios, increasing confidence among potential users. These actions demonstrate that key adopters see the benefits—such as enhanced credibility, improved ecological outcomes, and access to new financing opportunities—as outweighing the costs.

To ensure long-term engagement, the project has aligned with global frameworks such as the Global Biodiversity Framework and SDGs, and is actively contributing to national policy processes (e.g., NBSAP updates). The TGBS methodology supports government reporting needs on biodiversity, and our hub model decentralises delivery, embeds capacity in national institutions, and allows scaling through regional collaboration. Incentives for adoption have also been strengthened through development of a tiered certification model, tailored pricing based on project type, and a growing suite of tools including the Pre-Application Form and mentoring options.

Our exit plan focused on institutionalising the Standard through a self-sustaining business model, global network of trained assessors, and open-access technical tools. Progress is strong: a business plan has been finalised, 208 assessors have been trained, and the manual and application forms are available in four languages. Steps underway to ensure durability include finalising procedures for onboarding new hubs, expanding mentorship offerings, and engaging with international bodies (e.g. TNFD, SBTN) to secure recognition. TGBS now has a clear path to sustained uptake, with growing political, market and civil society interest forming a strong foundation for its long-term legacy.

12.   Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative is fully acknowledged as the main funder of the Global Biodiversity Standard on the project website https://www.biodiversitystandard.org/ . It is also credited in the Manual, social media and all presentations that have been made about the project. The project has its own LinkedIn site, which links back to the Darwin Initiative/Biodiversity Challenge social media channels.

The Darwin Initiative is recognised by all partners and in all participating countries both as a UK Government fund but also as the funder for TGBS.

13.   Safeguarding
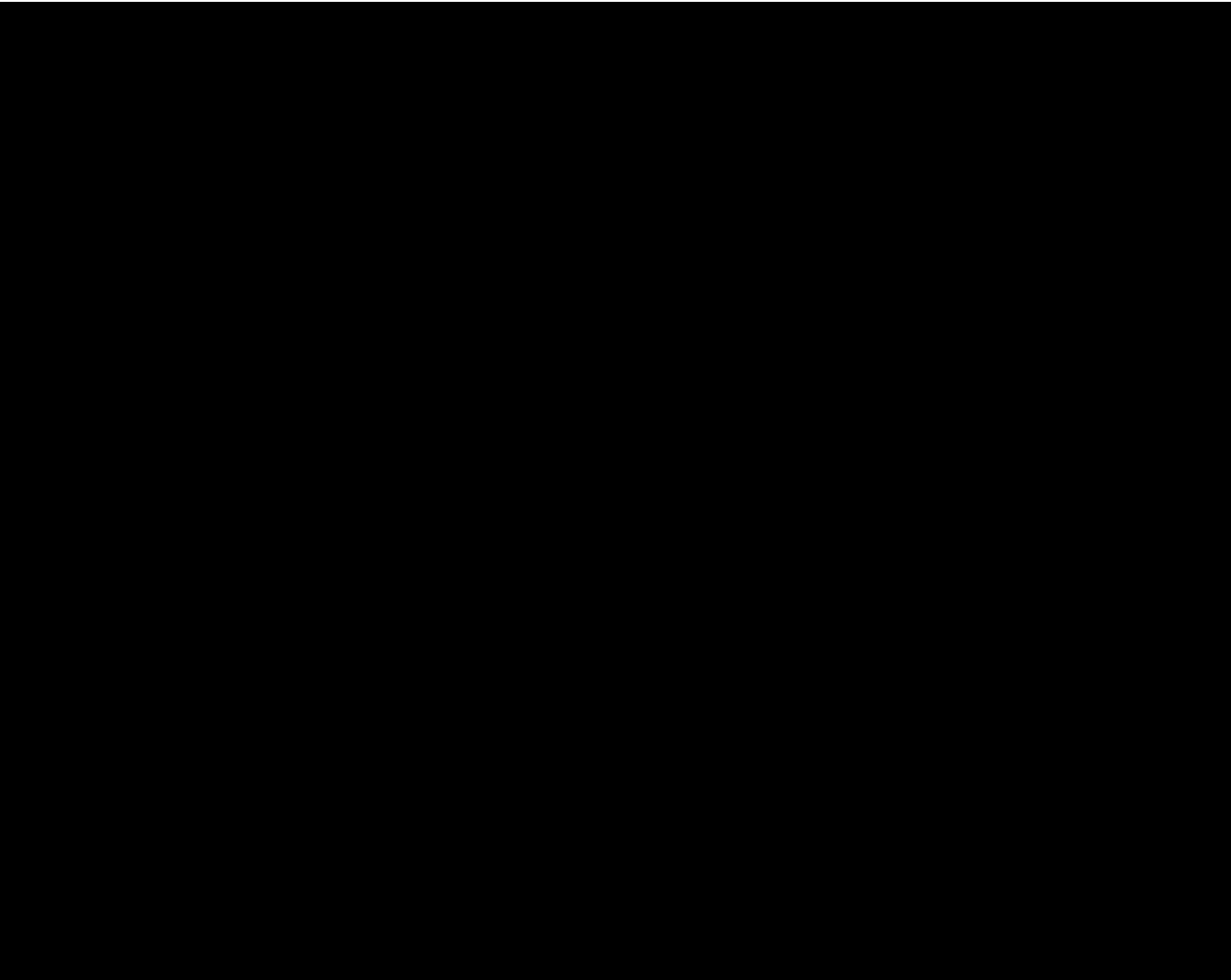
14.   Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				

TOTAL	**60965**	**61185**	

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)	███████████	███████████	In kind support from project partners.
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	███████████	███████████	Pro bono work for legal advice and business development. Additional funds from sales of TGBS assessments.

15.   Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

This year saw significant progress in the development of the mentoring component of the Global Biodiversity Standard, led by BGCI and SER. A detailed Mentoring Procedural Guide and an accompanying online portal were developed to support the delivery of mentoring services across TGBS hubs. This included the creation of a structured syllabus and modular content tailored to common challenges in biodiversity-based restoration. The mentoring programme is a key supplement to the business model, ensuring that projects not only meet certification requirements but also build the capacity to implement best practices on the ground. This development strengthens the project's long-term impact and enhances the durability and scalability of TGBS. No additional issues or concerns need to be raised with the Darwin Initiative at this time.

16.   OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

A major milestone of the Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) project this year was its **public launch at CBD COP16** in Cali, Colombia. This marked the Standard's emergence on the global stage, with a high-profile event featuring keynote speakers from government, civil society, and corporate sectors, including Dr Gemma Harper (CEO of JNCC) and senior representatives from Brazil's Ministry of the Environment. With strong interest from policymakers, funders, and practitioners, this launch significantly boosted visibility and credibility, positioning TGBS as a globally relevant tool for delivering nature-positive restoration.

Another standout achievement was the **publication of the TGBS Manual for Assessment and Best Practices**, now available in English and French, with Spanish and Portuguese editions underway. This 154-page technical guide outlines a scientifically rigorous, outcome-based methodology aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework and SDGs. It enables restoration projects worldwide to measure, improve, and certify biodiversity outcomes alongside social benefits.

Over **200 people have now been trained as assessors** through a growing network of hubs across 15 countries, with increasing gender balance and diverse regional representation. These assessors are applying the methodology across varied ecosystems, from tropical rainforests to drylands. Already, five sites have achieved certification under the TGBS system, with several others undergoing assessment.

Crucially, the project has also developed a **complementary mentoring programme** to increase adoption of best practices. A new **Mentoring Procedural Guide**, complete with an online platform and structured training modules, was developed this year by BGCI and SER. This initiative will enhance local capacity and enable practitioners to meet certification standards more effectively, reinforcing long-term impact.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Biodiversity impacts of tree-planting and forest restoration for carbon sequestration and livelihoods are valued by policy-makers, financiers and practitioners, and 'right tree, right place' practices lead to better biodiversity/livelihood outcomes		This year saw further growth in interest from financiers and practitioners, with certified sites now demonstrating how TGBS supports biodiversity and livelihoods. Adoption of native species and inclusive practices is becoming increasingly important, accelerating impact earlier than anticipated.	████████████████
Outcome Global Biodiversity Standard certification achieved by 250 tree-planting/restoration projects, ≥200 people trained and 10 hubs of biodiversity assessment and restoration mentoring expertise established in 6 highly biodiverse countries by 2027			
0.1. Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) methodology completed and applications available to tree-planting and forest restoration practitioners online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2.		0.1 Completed in Year 2. The final methodology, including the TGBS Manual and application forms, remains publicly available online in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. The mobile app and web portal to support applications were also finalised and rolled out. Evidence: Section 3.2.	0.1. Completed
0.2. At least 10 training hubs established, ≥200 people trained and comprehensive data tools and resources available in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.		0.2 Hubs have now been formalised across 15 countries, exceeding the target. A total of 208 assessors have been certified (109 men, 99 women). Training materials, data tools, and guidance are now accessible online in four languages. Evidence: Section 3.2 and Annexes 26-27. Google Classroom in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Bahasa Indonesian	0.2. finalise data collection for propagation protocols in Y4-5. Continue training assessors based on demand.
0.3. A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the GBS to at least 10 biodiverse countries worldwide developed by the end of year 3.		0.3 The business plan was finalised in Year 3 and includes a financial model with scenarios, pricing structures by client type, and sustainability strategies. A communications and PR plan was also delivered to support growth. Evidence: Section 3.2 and Annexes 18, 20 & 28.	0.3. Begin implementation of business model and initiate tailored outreach to target markets.

0.4. GBS certification applied for and achieved by at least 250 tree-planting/forest restoration projects by project end.	0.4 Certification has begun with five sites certified in Bolivia, Colombia, and Uganda. Assessments are ongoing in Madagascar, India and Hong Kong. While this target spans Years 4–5, early certification success demonstrates progress. Evidence: Section 3.2 and Annex 25.	0.4. Scale up certification assessments and expand outreach to prospective projects.

Output 1.
A scientifically credible, objective, and accessible Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) and certification methodology in place and available to tree-planting and forest restoration initiatives by the end of year 2.

1.1. Draft GBS certification assessment methodology developed by the end of year 1.	1.1 Completed in Year 1. The draft methodology was published online in four languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French). Evidence: Section 3.1 and online application and assessment forms.	1.1 Completed.
1.2. Draft methodology tested in real world conditions in at least 6 countries by the end of year 2.	1.2 Achieved in Year 2. The draft methodology was tested at 120 sites across 9 countries, with feedback collected from assessors and site managers. Evidence: Section 3.1.	1.2. Completed.
1.3. Methodology refined and finalised by end of year 2.	1.3 Completed. The final methodology was published in the Global Biodiversity Standard: Manual for Assessment and Best Practices and made publicly available online. Evidence: Section 3.1 and TGBS manual.	1.3. Continue gathering feedback from new certification assessments to inform ongoing methodological improvements. Incorporate any necessary updates into future editions of the manual based on user feedback and evolving best practices.
1.4. GBS application process available to tree-planting and forest restoration practitioners online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2.	1.4 Achieved. The online application portal is live and accessible in all four languages. Additional improvements to the mobile app and web portal were finalised in Year 3. Evidence: Section 3.1 and online application form.	1.4 Finalise design of Spanish and Portuguese manual editions; improve app and portal usability based on assessor and applicant feedback.

Output 2.
Hubs of expertise and data established to support Global Biodiversity Standard assessments and forest restoration mentorship in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

2.1. At least 10 training hubs established in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of quarter 2, year 2.	2.1 Achieved. Hubs have now been formally established across 15 countries, exceeding the target. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Figure 1.	2.1 Explore options for new hubs in under-represented regions and expand support to new hubs.

2.2. Full suite of GBS training materials developed by the end of quarter 2, year 2.	2.2 Completed. A full training module, covering theoretical and field-based components, was developed and is available in four languages. In Year 3, video-based training materials and a Google Classroom portal were also launched to support flexible delivery and materials were additionally translated into Bahasa Indonesia. Evidence: Section 3.1, TGBS manual and Google classrooms in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Bahasa Indonesian.	2.2 Update training materials with lessons from training events to date.
2.3. At least 200 people from at least 10 highly biodiverse countries (50% women) trained in biodiversity assessment and ecological restoration mentoring by the end of year 3.	2.3 Achieved. 208 assessors (109 men, 99 women) have now been trained and certified across 15 countries. All certified assessors passed both practical and written exams. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Annexes 17 & 26.	2.3 Continue assessor certification, track GESI balance, and offer refresher trainings as needed.
2.4. Comprehensive data on spatial distribution of biodiversity, seed sources, vegetation and tree distribution, socio-economic biodiversity values etc. compiled, processed and available online for at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.	2.4 Achieved. Multiple open-access databases were enhanced and published online, including TreeGOER, GlobUNT, CitiesGOER, and ClimateForecasts, supporting biodiversity planning in TGBS countries. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Annex 3, Table 2.	2.4. Maintain and integrate databases into assessor tools and guidance.
2.5. Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and other spatial seed source and tree-planting guidance tools available online by the end of year 3.	2.5. Achieved. BGCI's Climate Assessment Tool (https://cat.bgci.org) and CIFOR-ICRAF's spatial databases (e.g., TreeGOER and Agroforestry Species Switchboard) are now available via the Global Tree Knowledge Platform. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Annex 3, Table 2.	2.5 Promote greater use of these tools in site assessments and project planning.
2.6. Germination/propagation protocols available online for at least 10,000 tree species in Darwin eligible countries by project end.	2.6. In progress. Data compilation has begun, with protocols identified for approx. 1,480 species across BGCI, SER, and CIFOR-ICRAF databases. A manual for protocol development has been published, and species prioritisation is underway. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Propagation protocol manual.	2.6. Continue collaboration with hubs to collect additional protocols.

Output 3.
A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) to at least 10 highly biodiverse countries and a communications plan for promoting the GBS worldwide developed by the end of year 3.

3.1. Business model options paper developed and published by the end of year 2.	3.1 Completed. A comprehensive business model options paper was published in Year 2, detailing cost data collected from hub partners and outlining scenarios for scaling and sustainability. Evidence: Section 3.1.	3.1. Completed
3.2. Business Plan finalised and published by the end of year 3	3.2 Achieved. A full business plan was developed and published internally in Year 3, outlining certification and mentoring service structures, market positioning, pricing models, and governance. A modified version for external audiences will be published in Year 4. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Annex 18.	3.2 Publish external version and begin develop hub-level business plans.
3.3. GBS Communication and Public Relations (PR) Plan published by end of year 3.	3.3 Completed. A detailed communications strategy was developed, covering target audiences, messaging, channels, crisis response, and branding guidelines. This included the development of logos for all five tiers of certification. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Annex 20.	3.3 Continue implementation with regular content production and performance tracking across channels.
3.4 Business and Communications/PR Plans under implementation in years 4-5.	3.4 Underway. Plans are being implemented through regular LinkedIn updates (1–3 posts per week), promotional efforts at major events (e.g., COP16, 8GBGC), and direct outreach to tree-planting practitioners and financiers. TGBS is already being promoted in 15 countries. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Annexes 21-23.	3.4 Expand regional marketing, produce new case studies and videos, and implement tailored outreach for different client types.
3.5 Business development on the prototype for return on investment (ROI) on use of the GBS methodology with respect to socio-economic and environmental outcomes (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, rural household reached, job creation). (Matched funding dependent)	3.5 In progress. Initial steps include partner engagement by Plan Vivo with carbon credit buyers and the development of marketing resources to test value-add in biodiversity-focused projects. A comparative mapping of TGBS and Plan Vivo's standards has also begun. Evidence: Section 3.1.	3.5 Develop case studies (e.g., Khasi Hills) and gather feedback from potential buyers.

Output 4.
The Global Biodiversity Standard and certification adopted and used by policymakers, financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration managing at least 250 sites in at least 10 countries by
project end.

4.1. GBS certification scheme promoted in at least 10 countries by the end of year 4.	4.1 On track. TGBS scheme is already being promoted in 15 countries through hub outreach, event participation, and strategic communications. Promotion efforts included high-profile activities at CBD COP16, the Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Singapore, and regional events in India, Kenya, Peru, and Uganda. Additionally, the TGBS newsletter and social media outreach (min. 1 post/week) have expanded awareness. Evidence: Section 3.1 and TGBS Newsletter.	4.1. Deepen engagement with government stakeholders and initiate targeted campaigns in underrepresented regions.
4.2. GBS certification achieved by at least 250 tree-planting/ forest restoration projects in at least 10 countries by project end.	4.2 In progress. As of March 2025, five sites across Bolivia, Colombia, and Uganda have been certified. Several additional assessments are underway in India, Hong Kong and Madagascar, with more scheduled for Year 4. Sites in Madagascar and Kenya were assessed but did not yet meet certification thresholds. Evidence: Section 3.1 and Annex 24-25.	4.2 Support ongoing assessments and expand pipeline of candidate sites.
4.3. At least 5 governments, 20 companies and 10 NGOs/CBOs recommending or mandating the use of the Standard by project end.	4.3 In progress. Significant engagement has taken place with key government institutions in Brazil, Uganda, Madagascar, Peru, and the UK (DEFRA), and with the World Bank and TNFD. Ecosia has already certified 3 of their projects and Plan Vivo are assessing 1 of their projects, with further case studies in development. Discussions have taken place with SBTN and several corporations in the market. Evidence: Section 3.1	4.3 Submit TGBS to the TNFD toolbox. Build formal endorsements through MoUs or policy statements, develop communications tailored to business and government audiences, and follow up on leads from COP16.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Biodiversity impacts of tree-planting and forest restoration for carbon sequestration and livelihoods are valued by policy-makers, financiers and practitioners, and 'right tree, right place' practices lead to better biodiversity/livelihood outcomes (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: Global Biodiversity Standard certification achieved by 250 tree-planting/restoration projects, ≥200 people trained with improved capacity to do GBS assessments and 10 hubs of biodiversity assessment and restoration mentoring expertise established in 6 highly biodiverse countries by 2027. (Max 30 words)	0.1. Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) methodology completed and applications available to tree-planting and forest restoration practitioners online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2. 0.2. At least 10 training hubs established. At least 10 training hubs established, ≥200 people trained to improve capacity in biodiversity assessment and ecological restoration mentoring and use of comprehensive data tools and resources to carry out GBS assessments in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 3. 0.3. A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the GBS to at least 10 biodiverse countries worldwide developed by the end of year 3. 0.4. GBS certification applied for and achieved by at least 250 tree-planting/ forest restoration projects by project end.	0.1. Published methodology online and application forms available online in English, Portuguese, French and Spanish. 0.2. Project report; training attendance records; knowledge/understanding attainment confirmed via testing; certificates issued; number of GBS assessments carried out by trainees; data library online. 0.3. Project report; options paper; business plan; report on effectiveness of the model; PR and outreach strategy. 0.4. No. of applications for GBS certification; no. of GBS certificates issued.	COVID-19 or other national/global disruption does not prevent the deployment of local or international expertise for site testing and methodological development (see below). Carrying out GBS assessments is financially viable for local entities (e.g. botanic gardens, existing certification organizations, other types of biodiversity/ agroforestry/forest restoration organizations) and can compete with other income-generating priorities (see below). A cost-effective but scientifically robust methodology is affordable to a wide range of practitioners (see below). Biodiversity impacts carry financial incentives either as a risk or as an opportunity and are sufficiently attractive to financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting and forest restoration to apply for certification (see below).
Outputs: **1.** A scientifically credible, objective, and accessible Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) and certification methodology in place and available to tree-planting and	1.1. Draft GBS certification assessment methodology developed by the end of year 1.	1.1. Draft methodology published in report. 1.2. Feedback records from assessors and site-managers.	COVID-19 or other national/global disruption does not prevent the deployment of local expertise for site testing (mitigated by wide potential selection of partner institutions/countries and the

forest restoration initiatives by the end of year 2.	1.2. Draft methodology tested in real world conditions in at least 6 countries by the end of year 2. 1.3. Methodology refined and finalised by end of year 2. 1.4. GBS application process available to tree-planting and forest restoration practitioners online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2.	1.3. Final methodology published online. 1.4. Online application forms available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.	possibility of moving testing to another country). Tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners are willing to participate in the testing phase (low risk; Ecosia, Plan Vivo and 1t.org have agreed to participate).
2. Hubs of expertise and data established to support Global Biodiversity Standard assessments and forest restoration mentorship in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.	2.1. At least 10 training hubs established in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of quarter 2, year 1. 2.2. Full suite of GBS training materials developed by the end of quarter 2, year 2. 2.3. At least 200 people from at least 10 highly biodiverse countries (50% women) trained in biodiversity assessment and ecological restoration mentoring to improve capacity to do GBS assessments and advise on best practices by the end of year 3 2.4. Comprehensive data on spatial distribution of biodiversity, seed sources, vegetation and tree distribution, socio-economic biodiversity values etc. compiled, processed and available online for at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3. 2.5. Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and other spatial seed source	2.1. Project report; photos of training hubs and lists of staff at each hub. 2.2. Training materials, including webinars, powerpoints and other online materials available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. 2.3. Training attendance records; knowledge attainment documented through testing (both field and "classroom" based); certificates issued. 2.4. Data library portals online 2.5. Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and other tools available online in portals	COVID-19 or other national/global disruption doesn't prevent the deployment of international expertise to lead training and development (Mitigated by online training and a regional/national approach to face to face capacity building). Global partners with biodiversity data and/or forest restoration information are willing to share their data and data tools (low risk: much of these data is already in the public domain). Biodiversity, agroforestry, restoration, or other certification institutions/entities are willing to host training and data hubs (to a large degree this will be dependent on 3, below).

	and tree-planting guidance tools available online by the end of year 3. 2.6. Germination/propagation protocols available online for at least 10,000 tree species in Darwin eligible countries by project end.	2.6. No. of records in BGCI's propagation protocols database online	
3. A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) to at least 10 highly biodiverse countries and a communications plan for promoting the GBS worldwide developed by the end of year 3.	3.1. Business model options paper developed and published by the end of year 2. 3.2. Business Plan finalised and published by the end of year 3 3.3. GBS Communication and Public Relations (PR) Plan published by end of year 3. 3.4 Business and Communications/PR Plans under implementation in years 4-5. 3.5 Business development on the prototype for return on investment (ROI) on use of the GBS methodology with respect to socio-economic and environmental outcomes (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, rural household reached, job creation). (matched funding dependent)	3.1. Project report; options paper. 3.2. Published Business Plan. 3.3. Communication and PR plan. 3.4 Communications and PR materials. 3.5 Report published.	Hosting the GBS hubs and carrying out the certification assessments is financially viable for local biodiversity institutions and can compete with other income-generating priorities (low risk; we believe that it is possible for host entities to cover their costs and still be affordable compared to the very expensive schemes currently available).
4. The Global Biodiversity Standard and certification adopted and used by policy-makers, financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration managing at least 250 sites in at least 10 countries by project end.	4.1. GBS certification scheme promoted in at least 10 countries by the end of year 4. 4.2. GBS certification achieved by at least 250 tree-planting/ forest restoration projects in at least 10 countries by project end. 4.3. At least 5 governments, 20 companies and 10 NGOs/CBOs	4.1. Media coverage metrics; meeting records; enquiries received and responded to 4.2. No. of GBS applications; no. of GBS assessments complete and certificates issued.	Positive biodiversity impacts carry financial incentives either as a risk or as an opportunity and/or are sufficiently attractive to financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting and forest restoration to apply for certification (mitigated by working with biodiversity +ve corporate partners packaging biodiversity and carbon together in premium packages).

	recommending or mandating the use of the Standard by project end.	4.3. No. of policy documents recommending or mandating use of standard.	A cost-effective but scientifically robust methodology is affordable to a wide range of practitioners. (Risk reduced by already having a strong technical network in place).

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1.1. Draft GBS certification assessment methodology developed by the end of year 1

1.1.1. Development of GBS certification methodology components assessment methodology, including online application process, remote sensing review and ground survey methodology, sub-contracted to technical partners by the end of Q1, year 1.

1.1.2. Draft GBS certification assessment methodology developed and published in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish online by the end of Q4, year 1

Output 1.2. Draft methodology tested in real world conditions in at least 6 countries by the end of year 2

1.2.1. Agreements signed with at least 12 tree-planting/forest restoration project sites in at least 6 different biodiverse countries by the end of Q4, year 1.

1.2.2. Online application, remote sensing and ground survey methods tested with at least 12 tree-planting/forest restoration project sites in at least 6 different highly biodiverse countries by the end of Q3, year 2.

Output 1.3. Methodology refined and finalised by end of year 2.

1.3.1. Meetings held with project site practitioners and assessors, and verbal and written feedback received by the end of Q3, year 2.

1.3.2. Final methodology agreed and published online by the end of Q4, year 2.

Output 1.4. GBS application process available to tree-planting and forest restoration practitioners online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2.

1.4.1. GBS certification launched and publicised at UNFCCC COP-28 by the end of year 2

1.4.2. GBS application available online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2.

Output 2.1. At least 10 training hubs established in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of Q2, year 2

2.1.1. At least 10 GBS hub host entities in at least 6 biodiverse countries identified and equipped with computers, survey and inventory equipment by the end of Q2, year 2

2.1.2. Potential trainers in each training hub vetted and identified by the end of year 1.

Output 2.2. Full suite of GBS training materials developed and delivered to training hubs by the end of Q2, year 2

2.2.1. Data, tools and resources necessary for GBS assessments specific to each training hub collated and used in at least 10 hubs in 6 biodiverse countries by the end of Q2, year 2.

2.2.2. Training modules in GBS and ER (online and face to face) developed in English, Spanish and French by the end of Q2, year 2.

Output 2.3. At least 200 people from at least 10 biodiverse countries (50% women) trained in biodiversity assessment and forest restoration mentoring by the end of year 3.

2.3.1. At least 20 trainers trained and certified in GBS assessment by the end of year 2

2.3.2. At least a further 180 people trained and certified in GBS assessment (≥200 people total), including through either formal CERP level achievement or through a dedicated certificate, issued by the SER CERP program credentialing these people as qualified to conduct GBS audits related to tree-planting and reforestation/forest restoration by the end of year 3.

Output 2.4. Comprehensive data on spatial distribution of biodiversity, seed sources, vegetation and tree distribution, socio-economic biodiversity values etc. compiled, processed and available online for at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

2.4.1. Digital potential vegetation maps (high resolution corresponding to the resolution of biocllimatic raster data) available online providing natural habitat reference data for at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

2.4.2. Provide guidelines on compiling, cleaning and bias-reduction of geospatial data on species occurrence, including from GBIF and BIEN by end of year 2.

2.4.3 Comprehensive geo-referenced tree species digital distribution data available to GBS assessors and mentors in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3 (note that access to data on distributions of rare and threatened species will be carefully managed).

Output 2.5. Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and other spatial seed source and tree-planting guidance tools available online by the end of year 3

2.5.1. Climate Resilience Assessment Tool calibrated for native tree floras and available to tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

2.5.2. Tree planting/forest restoration practitioners have access to and are familiar with the different databases, guidelines and maps available via the Global Tree Knowledge Platform (https://www.worldagroforestry.org/tree-knowledge) by the end of year 3

Output 2.6. Germination/propagation protocols available online for at least 10,000 tree species in at least 10 Darwin eligible biodiverse countries by project end.

2.6.1. Germination protocols for native tree species in at least 10 highly biodiverse countries available digitally online and accessible to tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners through a forest restoration resource hub and tools such as SER's Restoration Resource Center, Kew's Seed Information Database (n= at least 10,000 native tree species), and the UN FAO/CIFOR-ICRAF Transformative Partnership Platform for Agroecology by project end.

2.6.2. Propagation and aftercare protocols for native species in at least 10 Darwin eligible biodiverse countries available digitally online and accessible to tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners through an ER resource hub and BGCI's PlantSearch propagation tool (n= at least 10,000 native tree species) by project end.

Output 3.1. Business model options paper developed and published by the end of year 2.

3.1.1. Data collected on costs associated with carrying out GBS assessments throughout testing phase (i.e. by end of Q3, year 2)

3.1.2. Market analysis (internet research, questionnaire and interviews) carried out to gather data on costs and cost/benefits of other certification schemes to estimate (1) demand for biodiversity certification, and (2) competitive charging rates by end of Q3, year 2

3.1.3. Business model options paper developed by the end of year 2, and shared with implementing partners.

Output 3.2. Business Plan finalised and published by the end of year 3

3.2.1. At least 15 implementing partners in at least 10 countries committed to hosting GBS hubs, and formally signed up by Q2, year 3
3.2.2. Business plan finalised and published by the end of year 3.

Output 3.3. GBS Communication and Public Relations (PR) Plan published by end of year 3.
3.3.1. GBS communication and PR plan drafted by the end of Q1, year 3
3.3.2. GBS officially launched at UNFCCC COP29 in Q3, year 3
3.3.3. GBS final communication and PR plan published by the end of year 3

Output 3.4 Business and Communications/PR Plans implemented in years 4-5.
3.4.1. Target tree planting practitioners and financiers to promote adoption of GBS certification (see output 4)

Output 3.5 Business development on the prototype for return on investment (ROI) on use of the GBS methodology with respect to socio-economic and environmental outcomes (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, rural household reached, job creation).
3.5.1. Setting up a standard, repeatable and robust framework for measuring impact of GBS methodology at the local scale by monitoring a set of socio-ecological indicators (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, rural household reached, job creation) by end of project (matched funding dependent)
3.5.2. Identify priority areas for further implementation of GBS methodology based on a set of relevant indicators (e.g. biodiversity loss, population density, land degradation, connectedness to existing natural forests) to upscale local impact to national and regional scale by project end.

Output 4.1. GBS certification scheme promoted in at least 10 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 4
4.1.1. Project partners and GBS hub organisations promote the GBS scheme in at least 10 countries via their websites and newsletters and through meetings with policymakers, financiers and practitioners of tree planting/forest restoration to encourage GBS uptake.
4.1.2. A further 4 hubs (i.e. 14 hubs in total) are identified and formalised in a further 4 countries (i.e. 10 countries in total) by the end of year 4.

Output 4.2. GBS certification achieved by at least 250 tree-planting/forest restoration projects in at least 10 countries by project end.
4.2.1. GBS assessments carried out and results certified at >250 sites in at least 10 countries during years 4 and 5.

Output 4.3. At least 5 governments, 20 companies and 10 NGOs/CBOs recommending or mandating the use of the Standard by project end.
4.3.1. Meetings arranged with governments and donor agencies, including FCDO, at or shortly after UNFCCC COP29 in Q3, year 3 coinciding with the launch of the GBS to raise awareness of the Standard and certification process.
4.3.2. BGCI, SER, CIFOR-ICRAF, and project corporate partners (Ecosia, 1t.org and Etihad) promote the adoption of the Standard and certification to their peers, including leading by example, during years 4 and 5.
4.3.3. BGCI, SER, CIFOR-ICRAF, and Plan Vivo promote the adoption of the GBS to the NGO community through our own platforms, through the Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration, and through NGO tree planting fora such as the Global Evergreening Alliance, during years 4 and 5.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1   Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

DI Indicator number	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggre-gation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
D1-A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	2.3	People	Men Women		38 26	71 73			208	200
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.	3.2	Number of organisations	None	10	16	6			22	15
DI-A05	Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.	2.3	People trained	Men Women	0	14 6	0 0			20	20
DI-A07	Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues	4.3	Government institutions	None	0	0	0			0	5
DI-C01	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.	2.6	Number	None	0	0	1480			1480	10,000
DI-C07	Number of projects contributing biodiversity conservation or poverty reduction evidence to policy/regulation/standards consultations.	4.2	Number	None	0	116	130			0	250

DI Indicator number	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-C10	Number of case studies published.		Number	Sustainable Use	0	0	0			0	2
DI-C17	Number of unique papers submitted to peer reviewed journals		Number	None	1	1				2	2
DI-C18	Number of papers published in peer reviewed journals		Number	None	0	2				2	2
DI-C19	Number of other publications produced		Number	English French Spanish Portuguese	0	1 1 1 0	0 0 0 1			4	4

Table 2　　　Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
The Global Biodiversity Standard: Manual for assessment and best practices	Best practice manual	David C. Bartholomew*, Amarizni Mosyaftiani*, Bryony Morgan, Toral Shah, Kirsty Shaw, Caroline Stillman, Kiran Baldwin, Luiz Henrique Rondina Baqueiro, Chris Birkinshaw, Elinor Breman, Guaraci Diniz Jr, Matheus Pinheiro Fereira, Cara Flowers, Andrew Gichira, Jonathan Jenkins, Roeland Kindt, Paulo Guilherme Molin, Teresiah Mungai, Mutegeki Alislam Said Musa, Narindra Ramahefamanana, Paul P. Smith, George D. Gann (2024)	Male & Female (joint)	British & Indonesian (joint)	BGCI, Richmond, UK & SER, Washington, D.C. USA	https://www.biodiversitystandard.org/our-method/
BGCI: The Understory Podcast	Podcast	Rebecca Hansell & Megan Barstow (2024)	Female	British	BGCI, Richmond, UK	https://creators.spotify.com/pod/profile/bcgi/episodes/S1-Ep3-The-Global-Biodiversity-Standard-TGBS-e2q391u
Right tree, right place: the Global Biodiversity Standard	Online video	Ecosia (2025)	Female	German	Ecosia, Berlin, Germany	https://blog.ecosia.org/tgbs/
African wood density database with matches to the taxonomic backbone data sets of World Flora	Dataset	Carsan, S., & Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Kenyan	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11543911

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Online (version 2023.12) and the World Checklist of Vascular Plants (version 11) (2024.06)						
CitiesGOER: Globally Observed Environmental Data for 52,602 Cities with a Population ≥ 5000 (2024.11)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024).	Male	Belgian	Zenodo.	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14249237
CitiesGOER: Globally Observed Environmental Data for 52,602 Cities with a Population ≥ 5000 (2024.10)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13932684
ClimateForecasts: Globally Observed Environmental Data for 15,504 Weather Station Locations (2024.11)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14249668
ClimateForecasts: Globally Observed Environmental Data for 15,504 Weather Station Locations (2024.10)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13981572
ClimateForecasts: Globally Observed Environmental Data for 15,504 Weather	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12679832

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Station Locations (2024.07)						
TreeGOER 2024 Expansion: Expansion with additional tree and bamboo species identified via the World Checklist of Vascular Plants (2024.06)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11652972
TreeGOER 2024 Expansion: Expansion with additional tree and bamboo species identified via the World Checklist of Vascular Plants (2024.05)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11208041
TreeGOER Global Zones: Global atlas for the Climatic Moisture Index (CMI), Maximum Climatological Water Deficit (MCWD) and the number of months with average temperature > 10 degrees C (Tmo10) (2024.06)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12570754
TreeGOER Holdridge Life Zone	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14020914

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Distributions: Observations for 48,129 tree species across 45 historical (1901-1920) and contemporary (1979-2013) terrestrial life zones (2024.11)						
TreeGOER Holdridge Life Zone Distributions: Observations for 48,129 tree species across 45 historical (1901-1920) and contemporary (1979-2013) terrestrial life zones (2024.10)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13913003
TreeGOER Köppen-Geiger Zone Distributions: Observations for 48,129 tree species across the 30 climate zones for 1931-1960, 1961-1990 and 1991-2020 climates (2024.11)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14211620
TreeGOER: Tree Globally Observed Environmental Ranges (2024.07)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13132613

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
TreeGOER: Tree Globally Observed Environmental Ranges (2024.06)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11652542
TreeGOER: Tree Globally Observed Environmental Ranges (2024.05)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11190286
TRY 6.0 - Species List from Taxonomic Harmonization – Matches with World Flora Online version 2023.12 (2024.10b)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13906338
TRY 6.0 - Species List from Taxonomic Harmonization – Matches with World Flora Online version 2023.12 (2024.10)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13904174
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate Suitability Maps for 381 Useful Tree Species for Burkina Faso (2025.01)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14604194
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14604550

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Suitability Maps for 351 Useful Tree Species for the Liptako Gourma Region (2025.01)						
CitiesGOER: Globally Observed Environmental Data for 52,602 Cities with a Population ≥ 5000 (2025.03)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15037379
ClimateForecasts: Globally Observed Environmental Data for 15,504 Weather Station Locations (2025.03)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15037343
Seed Information Database: taxonomic standardization of 54,856 taxa to World Flora Online or the World Checklist of Vascular Plants (2025.03)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15055069
Species documented in a global study of seed dormancy in space and time: taxonomic standardization of 12,743 species to	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15049206

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
World Flora Online (2025.03)						
TreeGOER Whittaker Terrestrial Biome Distributions: Observations for 48,129 tree species across and outside nine biome types (2025.02)	Dataset	Kindt, R. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14908944
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate Suitability Maps for 459 Useful Tree Species for Uganda (2025.01)	Dataset	Kindt, R., & Abiyu, A. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14586965
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate Suitability Maps for 484 Useful Tree Species for Kenya (2025.01)	Dataset	Kindt, R., & Friborg, K. G. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14586505
Agroforestry Species Switchboard: a synthesis of information sources to support tree research and	Dataset	Kindt, R., & John, I. N. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14991888

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
development activities (2025.03)						
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate Suitability Maps for 499 Useful Tree Species for Tanzania (2025.01)	Dataset	Kindt, R., & Pedercini, F. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14587104
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate Suitability Maps for 355 Useful Tree Species for Ethiopia (2025.01)	Dataset	Kindt, R., Abiyu, A., Lillesø, J.-P. B., & Moestrup, S. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14586848
Useful Tree Species prioritized for Climate Suitability Maps (baseline and 2050s) for Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda (2025.02)	Dataset	Kindt, R., Pedercini, F., Dawson, I., Lillesø, J.-P. B., Graudal, L., Jamnadass, R., & Nyaga, J. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14842420
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate Suitability Atlas for	Dataset	Kindt, R., Pedercini, F., Hagenimana, T., & Graudal, L. (2024)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14353109

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
290 Useful Tree Species for Rwanda (2024.12)						
Baseline and Future (Shared Socio-economic Pathways 1-2.6 and 3-7.0 for the 2050s) Climate Suitability Atlas for 291 Useful Tree Species for Rwanda (2025.01)	Dataset	Kindt, R., Pedercini, F., Hagenimana, T., & Graudal, L. (2025)	Male	Belgian	Zenodo	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14586390

Checklist for submission

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