

# **BIOFIN – NIGER PROPOSAL**

Development and initial implementation of a national Biodiversity Finance Plan in Niger.

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June, 2021



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## Summary

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BIOFIN Phase II (2021 – 2025) is supporting countries to **implement Biodiversity Finance Plans and finance solutions** to achieve tangible finance results (reduce or redirect resources causing harm to biodiversity, generate additional resources and enhance the effectiveness of resource). The intervention is tailored to accelerate the implementation of the emerging CBD Post-2020 Framework and deal with the impacts of COVID-19, reducing the risk of similar pandemics.

This proposal aims to integrate **Niger** into the community of practices of 40 countries currently implementing BIOFIN methodology around the world and national Biodiversity Finance Plans, as officially requested by the **National Environment Council for Sustainable Development (CNEDD)** in Niger.

Building on the available suite of BIOFIN tools, the BIOFIN Workbook, Catalogue of Biodiversity Finance Solutions, the e-learning module and the technical support provided by the BIOFIN Global team, Niger will be able to, not only design its National Biodiversity Finance Plan, but start to implement as well, the most prioritized Finance solutions in order to reduce its financial needs and lack of investments hampering the achievement of the national biodiversity targets.

Niger will identify specific solutions that respond to increased needs or opportunities related to COVID-19 and its specific national context. Other overarching priorities include demonstrating positive gender impacts in biodiversity finance solutions, integrating climate change considerations, and further engaging the private sector in the BIOFIN Process.

Through this programme, Niger will receive dedicated support to fulfill its core obligations under the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, such as undertaking baseline biodiversity expenditure measurements, calculating financial needs, submit related reporting under the CBD Financial Reporting Framework, and building the national Biodiversity Finance Plan.

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### The main components of BIOFIN Niger

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The participation of Niger in the BIOFIN initiative could take the form of the 2 following components:

- **Design of a national Biodiversity Finance plan:** Applying the BIOFIN Methodology in Niger to create a national Biodiversity Finance Plan, an inventory of existing financing mechanisms, measure past biodiversity expenditures and calculate the present financial needs.
- **Implementing finance solutions:** Implementing selected priorities of the biodiversity finance plans through concrete financing solutions.

## 1) Background

The 2019 IPBES<sup>1</sup> global assessment alerted the world how in the past 50 years the rate of global loss of nature was unprecedented in human history. The main drivers of biodiversity loss include: Changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution; and invasive species. IPBES recommends five main levers to reverse this: (1) developing incentives and widespread capacity for environmental responsibility, eliminating perverse incentives; (2) reforming sectoral and segmented decision-making; (3) taking pre-emptive actions in regulatory and management institutions; (4) managing for resilient social and ecological systems; and (5) strengthening environmental laws and policies<sup>2</sup>. This loss is propelled by the large number of investments estimated to have a negative impact on biodiversity, exceeding US\$ 500 billion per annum, while, biodiversity positive investments merely reach US\$ 120 billion yearly (OECD, UNDP 2020). Any financing strategy thus needs to address both the reducing, redirecting, or greening of 'negative' biodiversity expenditures, help catalyse positive investments and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use. The COVID-19 pandemic put the world's nature further under strain, reducing governing capacities and tourism revenues, and putting biodiversity budgets under pressure due to the need for budget re-alignments for the response. It also increases poverty, risking further unsustainable uses of natural resources.

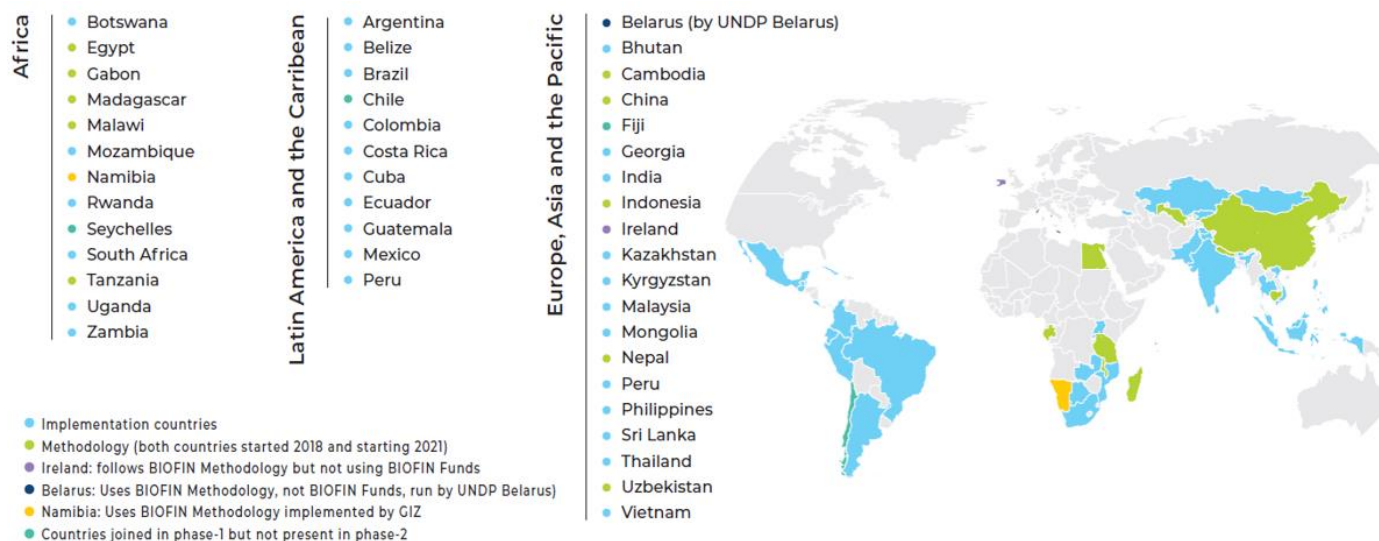
The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) supports countries to develop evidence-based Biodiversity Finance Plans, enabling them to increase resources and reduce needs by greening sectoral budgets, and identify areas where available resources can be used more effectively. It supports countries to implement finance solutions to reach their national biodiversity targets. BIOFIN is supported, up to now, by the European Union, the Government of Flanders, Germany, Norway, and Switzerland. Further contributions at the county and global level were provided by France, AFD, SIDA, UNDP, the GEF, and private sector entities.

The initiative is managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Forty countries joined to date (see map below), while more expressed interest. BIOFIN promotes national platforms, regional and global dialogues, enabling countries to accelerate the reduction of their financial needs to the point where the systemic lack of investment no longer hampers the achievement of biodiversity targets.

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<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

<sup>2</sup> IPBES (2019): Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, J. Settele, E. S. Brondizio E.S., H. T. Ngo, M. Guèze, J. Agard, A. Arneth, P. Balvanera, K. A. Brauman, S. H. M. Butchart, K. M. A. Chan, L. A. Garibaldi, K. Ichii, J. Liu, S. M. Subramanian, G. F. Midgley, P. Miloslavich, Z. Molnár, D. Obura, A. Pfaff, S. Polasky, A. Purvis, J. Razzaque, B. Reyers, R. Roy Chowdhury, Y. J. Shin, I. J. Visseren-Hamakers, K. J. Willis, and C. N. Zayas (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 56 pages.



#### a) BIOFIN Phase I (2013 – 2019)

The original objective of BIOFIN was to develop and pilot a new methodological framework – the BIOFIN Workbook – to help countries mobilise sufficient resources to implement their national biodiversity policies. The fully updated methodology released [in 2018](#) integrates lessons from implementation and practical examples. The key characteristics are:

1. Its **theoretical framework**, recognising 4 finance results: (i) mobilising new resources; (ii) delivering existing resources better; (iii) avoiding future expenditures; (iv) re-aligning available finance.
2. Detailed **guidance to conduct the BIOFIN process in countries**, based on broad stakeholder engagement with a strong lead role by Finance Ministries, articulating capacity development results and modalities to engage in national policy development.
3. Step-by-step descriptions to conduct the main BIOFIN studies: (i) **Biodiversity Finance Policy and Institutional Review** to identify the most relevant stakeholders, map subsidies harmful to biodiversity, identify barriers in the national budgeting process and produce an inventory of existing finance solutions; (ii) **Biodiversity Expenditure Review** to assess the biodiversity relevance of major programmes and organisations, provide guidance to determine accurate attribution levels, and identify challenges for financial delivery; (iii) **Financial Needs Assessment** to establish which policies define the national biodiversity needs, prioritise and cost their activities; (iv) The **Biodiversity Finance Plan**, the flagship output carrying forward all findings and recommendations of previous assessments, identifying the optimal mix of prioritised finance solutions and elaborating a business case for adopting them, and; (v) **implementing the Biodiversity Finance Plan and its solutions**, supporting national stakeholders to adopt effective budgets, new and improved fiscal and market instruments, and pilot innovative financing mechanisms.

The [BIOFIN Catalogue of Biodiversity Finance Solutions](#), based on a global mapping of existing financing solutions, demonstrating over 160 individual options countries could pursue. It is used as a central tool in the BIOFIN process (to identify, design and implement finance solutions). In 2018 BIOFIN converted the Catalogue into a 'wall of finance solutions', demonstrating the breadth of options visually (see photo).

Knowledge management and South-South experience sharing are core concepts for BIOFIN. Countries can now access several knowledge sharing platforms: 1) the [BIOFIN Website](#) – country stories, news and methodological tools; 2) UNDP's [Financing Solutions for Sustainable Development Platform](#) – descriptions of 20+ finance solutions; 3) the [BIOFIN public webinar series](#); 4) the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network - [BES-net](#), and 5) the [NBSAP Forum](#). (>500 resources jointly). BIOFIN actively communicates with a growing global audience through [Twitter](#) (3200+ followers), [Facebook](#) (2200+), [YouTube](#) (103 videos) and LinkedIn. Since 2019, over 4300 people enrolled in the self-paced [e-learning module](#) (en, fr, es, ru) explaining the full BIOFIN Methodology.

Multiple evaluations found the initiative useful to address biodiversity finance challenges and opportunities, granting the highest ratings for sustainability, efficiency and impact. One of the most powerful early impacts was improved collaboration among environmental and finance ministries. An example is Costa Rica, with 3 Ministers (Finance, Planning and Environment) represented in the Steering Committee.

Under the **CBD Framework** BIOFIN became widely recognised as a critical platform to achieve national level resource mobilisation. The High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources recognised the importance to implement the BIOFIN Methodology.<sup>3</sup> National governments voiced universal endorsement of BIOFIN during the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, resulting in formal recommendations to apply the methodology, and a specific call to finance the second phase<sup>4</sup>. The recent (2020) CBD Expert panel reports built strongly on BIOFIN learning. Their proposed concept is much inspired by the BIOFIN methodology of pursuing a comprehensive vision on financing to tackle both negative and positive expenditures under a single framework. BIOFIN teams are often invited to advise COP delegations and as such participate in CBD meetings.



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/financial/hlp/doc/CBD-HLP-FullReport-EN.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> In total 21 countries and the European Commission mentioned BIOFIN in plenary statements, including South-Africa speaking on behalf of all African countries. WWF included a similar suggestion in their official position towards the COP.

## b) BIOFIN Phase II (2018 – 2022)

The very promising initial results and global momentum generated under the first Phase are consolidated and expanded to further move towards a true global and national paradigm shift in the thinking and practise of biodiversity finance. As most finance solutions require engagement in long-term policy processes (the establishment of common finance mechanisms such as conservation trust funds, biodiversity offsets or payment for ecosystem services commonly take between 2-5 years), the follow up phase was designed to ensure the required support is provided to develop and adopt the necessary legislative frameworks and have adequate implementation mechanisms in place. Further support was needed to institutionalise results already achieved. Additional countries starting the process from the beginning benefit from an elaborate and updated methodology and implementation package, numerous experience-sharing opportunities and an experienced global team. Phase II includes innovation in research, data collection and implementation.

Knowledge sharing platforms and detailed implementation are regularly expanded - in particular geared towards the implementation stage (dedicated attention is provided to complete the BIOFIN Methodology with additional tools, including a new publication titled [Moving Mountains – Unlocking Private Capital for Biodiversity and Ecosystems](#)) and co-developing the [Little Book for Investing in Nature](#).

**National level implementation is at various stages in the 40<sup>5</sup> participating countries. Several teams successfully moved biodiversity finance towards the forefront of national policy and fiscal agendas.** In the **Philippines**, BIOFIN helped fill a gap in protected area legislation (2018) and supported the formulation of a US\$ 40 million budget proposal for protected areas, adopted late 2019 for the 2020 budget. A new app ‘GCash Forest’ was launched with payment platform GCash/Alipay, combining incentives for sustainable behaviour with payments for tree planting, raising over US\$ 500,000 in a year. New legislation was formally adopted on multiple finance solutions in **Kazakhstan** in 2017, including a definition for ecosystem services and natural capital, first time legislation on biodiversity offsets and payment for ecosystem services, and an improved law on protected areas<sup>6</sup>. In **Georgia**, the Environment Ministry saw a budget increase for biodiversity conservation from US\$30,000 to US\$270,000 after making a better investment case. In **Guatemala** five coastal municipalities increased the funds available for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation and management by over 50% from 2018 to 2019 using results-based budgeting.

**Mexico** successfully re-designed two major environmental funds: (1) a national climate fund (previously not operational and not focusing on biodiversity) that since saw a turnover exceeding US\$ 3 Million, with US\$ 2 million directed to nature-based solutions for ecosystem resilience, and; (2) a green fund of Mexico City, resulting in a saving of US\$ 3 million per year through efficiencies identified by BIOFIN and a more articulated focus on biodiversity. **Sri Lanka** adopted a sustainable finance sector policy and sustainable tourism certification in 2019. **Zambia** enacted a national framework for green bonds early 2020.

The **Seychelles** parliament formally adopted all of the finance solutions and launched the first ever Biodiversity Finance Unit in 2019. **Belize** started a Biodiversity Unit in April 2020. **Sri Lanka** and **Cuba**

<sup>5</sup> This number does not include the GIZ implemented programme following the BIOFIN Methodology in Namibia

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/news-and-media/new-laws-pave-way-innovative-finance-protect-biodiversity-kazakhstan>

are implementing Payments for Ecosystem Services for the first time. **Kyrgyzstan** became the first country to set an official reform agenda to revisit agriculture subsidies with a negative impact on biodiversity. **Indonesia** helped secure a US\$ 2.7 million investment for a bird conservation centre in the Maluku Islands from *Sukuk* finance (type of Islamic bond). **Ireland** became the first West-European country to implement the BIOFIN methodology, completing the Biodiversity Expenditure Review and Policy and Institutional Review.

c) Recent needs at the global level: Adapt to COVID-19 and accelerate the implementation of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework (2021-30)

BIOFIN countries developed or are developing their Biodiversity Finance Plans through a participatory process, consulting the BIOFIN Catalogue of Biodiversity Finance Solutions for options and including emerging ideas from all the earlier steps in the BIOFIN process. In the Policy and Institutional Review, existing mechanisms and harmful subsidies were examined, creating an initial inventory of mechanisms with the potential to scale up, improve their efficiency and effectiveness or reduce negative impact on nature. The Biodiversity Expenditure Review highlighted areas where financial delivery is limited and revealed how major economic sectors finance conservation. The Financial Needs Assessments clarified which priorities were most underfunded, requiring more financing. A national consultation and review of these and other potential finance solutions then resulted in the Biodiversity Finance Plan, based on three primary selection criteria (1) How much real positive impact on biodiversity can we expect from the mechanism? (2) How much finance could it generate/re-align/deliver better? (3) How feasible is the solution? Further socio-economic, gender, and risk analysis were carried out to shape up the final version, including an implementation agenda, budget, and finance target for each solution. The plan usually outlines between 5-15 biodiversity finance solutions.

The proposed BIOFIN Niger programme will allow the government of Niger to undertake all the steps of the methodology to design the Biodiversity Plan and will allow as well the implementation of the identified and prioritized finance solutions that have the potential to adapt to the new reality caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and better align to the new CBD Global Biodiversity Finance framework. For each proposed finance solution, Niger will submit a specific finance solution proposal that is vetted by experts. It includes activities, budget, timelines, and M&E.



## 2) National Context and opportunities of collaboration

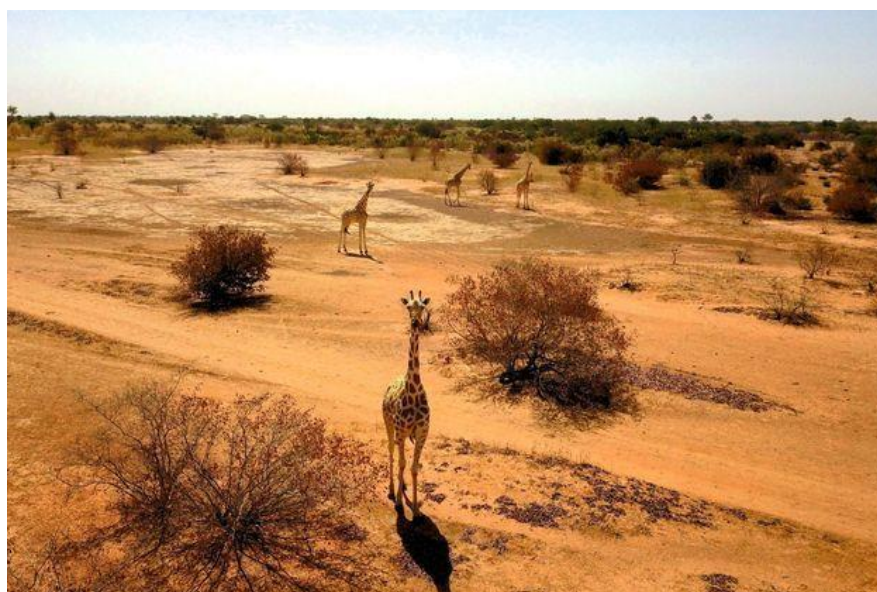
Discussions between the National Environment Council for Sustainable Development (CNEDD) and UNDP-BIOFIN started in 2019 at a Regional Workshop on Biodiversity Finance organized by the CBD in collaboration with BIOFIN. The BIOFIN approach received strong interest from Niger since this date.

The National Environment Council for Sustainable Development (CNEDD), supported by the Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development programme (CEBioS) of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), submitted early 2021 a first proposal to the Embassy of Belgium in Niamey in order to mobilize funding for the launch of the first activities of the BIOFIN methodology.

Considering the relevance of a national financing plan for Niger due to the multiple challenges the country is facing CNEDD and the Embassy of Belgium suggested to broaden the scope of this initial proposal. This new proposal aims to integrate Niger as a full member of the BIOFIN community, to support the design of a national biodiversity finance plan and the implementation of the first prioritized Finance Solutions.

### National Context

Niger is located in sub-Saharan West Africa, a region facing significant development challenges stemming from population growth, climate change, and environmental degradation. The country is ranked in the 10 least developed countries in terms of the Human Development Index. In a country facing food insecurity episodes and where approximately 84% of the population relies on the agricultural sector for employment and subsistence, biodiversity conservation can play a key role in this fragile context.



*Souleymane Ag Anara / AFP*

The major ecosystems of the country are the South Saharan Steppe and Woodlands, Sahelian Acacia Savanna, and West Sudanian Savanna. The West Saharan Montane Xeric Woodland is also found in Niger.



Niger abounds of significant biological resources according to the inventory carried out in 1998<sup>7</sup>, including significant ecosystems and the inter and intraspecific diversity of flora and fauna. Study<sup>8</sup> reports that the plant diversity increased by 21% (487 species) from 1998 to 2013. In terms of associated biodiversity, Niger has many species: viruses (24), bacteria (38), fungi (71), insects (2,021), mollusks (237), birds (512), reptiles and amphibians (150), algae (1,034), pteridophytes (14) and bryophytes (10). This biodiversity includes all known components including ecosystems, species, varieties, and the cultural aspect.

Due to strong trends of environmental degradation and deterioration from human and natural factors, WWF indicates that the status of the major ecotypes ranges from 'Vulnerable' to 'Critical/Endangered'. Although the West Saharan Montane Xeric Woodland is considered stable, the small portion contained in Niger is on the List of World Heritage Sites as being in Danger.

Niger also shares the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) transboundary biosphere reserve with Benin and Burkina Faso, an invaluable ecosystem that supports a plethora of large mammals (as, among others, the last giraffes of the peralta species of West Africa), hundreds of bird species, and fish, but the biosphere is increasingly under pressure. In Niger, biodiversity loss accelerated over the past three decades due to repeated droughts and human impacts, including habitat degradation or destruction, overexploitation, reduction of protected areas, poor management of protected areas, and the limited role of local communities in natural resource management. Many species of fauna, in particular the Sahelosharian antelopes, are endangered (cases of *Addax nasomaculatus* and *Gazela dama*). Some other species like Scimitar-horned Oryx, unfortunately no longer exist in Niger.



*Noé conservation*

Despite the efforts made in the field of sustainable management of biodiversity, the national objectives adopted in the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity (SNPA/DB) are far from being achieved. This has been confirmed by the 6<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Report (2018-2019) which indicates that the progress made is too slow and that the targets of the strategy could only be achieved after 2020. Achieving these objectives will require new funding that could be identified through the design and implementation of the national biodiversity finance plan.

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<sup>7</sup> Saadou, 1998, "Plants diversity in niger: state of the present studies" and Alzouma I., 1998. Inventaire de la Diversité Biologique animale

<sup>8</sup> Djima Idrissou Tahirou., 2013. Les algues du fleuve Niger et des milieux humides connexes de l'ouest du Niger, Université Abdou Moumouni. Niamey Niger

## Key partners

This proposal has been initiated by and drafted in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of the National Environment Council for Sustainable Development (CNEDD) and the CEBioS programme of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS).

The implementation arrangement is developed in section 4 of this proposal and a short presentation of these key partners is made below.

### **The Executive Secretariat of the National Environment Council for Sustainable Development (CNEDD)**

Created in 1996, in accordance with the recommendations of the Rio de Janeiro Conference (1992) on the environment and sustainable development, the CNEDD is placed under the supervision of the Office of the Prime Minister and is made up in particular of representatives of the State and Civil society.

It is responsible for ensuring the coordination and monitoring of the national policy on the environment and sustainable development; to "design and promote the establishment of an adequate institutional framework and mechanisms, ensuring the coordination and harmonization of the activities of all stakeholders in the National environmental plan for sustainable development (PNEDD), adopted on April 2000 by the Government of Niger.

It has an Executive Secretariat (SE / CNEDD) which is the national focal point for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the post-Rio conventions. He is also the Focal Point of the Nagoya Protocol.

He is responsible for:

- Monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the associated environmental protocols and agreements to which Niger has subscribed.
- Ensure the conservation of biological diversity in Niger and ensure the sustainable use of its constituent elements to create the conditions for a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from its exploitation.
- Develop the Biodiversity Management Program as well as the related national strategies and action plans and monitor their implementation.
- Promote the integration and regular monitoring of their development, aspects relating to biological diversity in economic and social development strategies, plans, programs, and projects.
- Mobilize financial resources for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

### **The CEBioS programme of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)**

CEBioS is a programme of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), where it belongs to the Operational Directorate 'Nature'. CEBioS is part of the 'BIOPOLS' group and is closely associated with the Belgian Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The CEBioS programme carries out capacity building for partners of the Belgian cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management linked to poverty eradication. It works in the framework of the international obligations of Belgium under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Belgian biodiversity strategy 2020.

The CEBioS programme is financed by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD) through a protocol of cooperation between the Ministry of development cooperation and the Ministry of science policy.

In Niger, CbioS actions are declined under the following components:

- Strengthening scientific and technical cooperation
- Implementing activities within the framework of capacity building of the national biodiversity information system;
- Conducting studies on biodiversity knowledge
- Developing biodiversity information clearinghouse;
- Training on biodiversity management tools;
- Funding of public awareness workshops on biodiversity
- Ensure Niger's participation in international meetings (Cop, SBSTA, SBI)

### **Other partners**

UNDP-BIOFIN and the government of Niger could also benefit from and support existing programmes as for example:

- The Niger Basin and Aquifer System Project
- Niger River Pollution Control Project
- Project to support planning and budgeting of the Niger's National Adaptation Plan Process
- Supporting the sustainable management of biodiversity and protected areas
- Supporting the national sustainable land management program by strengthening the resilience of ecosystems
- Strengthen the capacities of national structures and coordination bodies of the Economic and Social Development Plan and the SDGs
- Involvement of women in the management of natural resources for conflict reduction
- Effective National Implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge Regime in Niger in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol
- Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Production and Conservation of Key Biodiversity Species through Land Restoration and Efficient Use of Ecosystems in the Dallol Bosso and Surrounding Areas
- Integrated Management of Oasis Ecosystems of Northern Niger



BIOFIN would also benefit from the strong relationship built between the UNDP-Country Office and the CNEDD as underlined by the following current collaborations:

- Preparation and presentation of Niger's fourth national communication on climate change to the COP at the UNFCCC
- Supporting Planning and financing adaptation in Niger at national and local levels
- Supporting national institutions and actors to create favorable conditions for better integration of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in planning documents.

Institutional capacity building to improve the resilience of vulnerable households and communities, particularly women and youth, to natural hazards and disasters

### **Synergies with national processes**

BIOFIN will support directly the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National **Economic and Social Development Plan** (PDES 2017-2021) which targets sustainable management of land, water, and biological diversity, by helping to define costable-targets, prioritising and costing actions and strengthening the results framework where relevant.

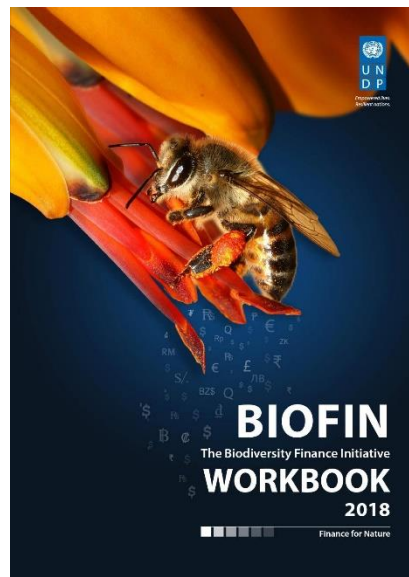
Since biodiversity plays a key role in agricultural production, a Biodiversity Finance Plan could be a crucial tool to reach some of the **3N (Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens) initiative's** targets as the preservation and increase of the production potential of forest formations, the protection, and restoration of ecosystems, in situ conservation of biological diversity, creation of protected areas and wildlife reserves, etc.

The Biodiversity Finance plan and the implementation of finance solutions could benefit several other strategies as underlined in the NBSAP as the **Great Green Wall Initiative, National Environment Plan for Sustainable Development**, sectorial development strategies, etc.

### 3) Proposed activities: Design a National Biodiversity Finance Plan in Niger and implementation of priority solutions

The BIOFIN Workbook outlines the BIOFIN methodology as a series of interconnected steps (see the 2018 BIOFIN Workbook):

- (1) **Establish the national BIOFIN Process (Chapter 2)** – BIOFIN's Theoretical Framework acknowledges the need for national biodiversity finance baseline data to deploy effective financing strategies. It introduces four types of finance results: (1) Generating revenue; (2) Improving delivery and effectiveness of available finance; (3) Re-aligning existing financial resources towards biodiversity objectives; and (4) Preventing future costs (of restoration etc.). The BIOFIN process initiates a national platform for improved coordination between line ministries, most notably Ministries of Finance and Environment. Only with a strong involvement of Finance Ministries can BIOFIN achieve the expected results - being the primary decision maker on the budgeting process and overseeing the full fiscal cycle in a country. The second primary axis of partnerships to strengthen is with the private sector. BIOFIN propagates a multi-dimensional approach to working with the private sector, including to facilitate investments with a positive biodiversity impact, generate further funds for biodiversity conservation through Corporate Social Responsibility, deploy effective offsetting mechanisms and develop green finance policies that reduce the negative impacts of existing investments.
- (2) **Undertake a Policy and Institutional Review (2022)** – The analysis is based on a clear sequence to: (1) Identify the major drivers of biodiversity change; (2) Relate these to existing policies; (3) Map responsible institutes for those policies and use them as the starting point for further analysis. A second chain of analysis creates a full inventory of all existing financing mechanisms/solutions in the country, highlighting opportunities for improvements. The Budgetary process and subsidies harmful to biodiversity are examined more in depth.
- (3) **Carry out a national Biodiversity Expenditure Review (2022-2023)** – All biodiversity related budget and expenditure data of the country are collected (public and private). For these expenditures the biodiversity relevance is determined through a system of co-efficients, thus including indirect expenditures (when biodiversity is not the primary objective). Provides insight into the extent of mainstreaming biodiversity, identifies issues of delivery and highlights the role of various public agencies in biodiversity management.



- (4) **Measuring national financial needs (2022-2023)** – Revisits a country's national Biodiversity Action Plan to calculate how much finance is required to achieve all biodiversity goals. Helps prioritising activities from the perspective of cost-effectiveness and includes the further articulation of targets and activities in order to make the full plan 'costable.' As most biodiversity plans have a limited range of activities, the scope can be expanded to include additional policies such as national development plans and sectoral plans.
- (5) **Developing the Biodiversity Finance Plan (2022-2023)** – Outlines a range of financing options considered to have the strongest finance potential, feasibility and biodiversity impact. All solutions are 'homegrown' and supported by a unique business case and operational plan. Focuses on long term sustainable financing, based on all possible sources (public & private, national & international, traditional and innovative).
- (6) **Implementing the Biodiversity Finance Plan (2023-2025)** – Provides a framework for Niger to collaborate among key stakeholders on multiple financing solutions, resulting in tangible finance results (e.g. increased budget allocations, new revenue from taxes, new or improved subsidies etc). Suggests options for institutionalization, such as creating new biodiversity finance units in government, adopting inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, budget tagging and including biodiversity finance as a theme in curricula of academic and civil service training institutes. This process can be started and would require further funding to be carried out in full.

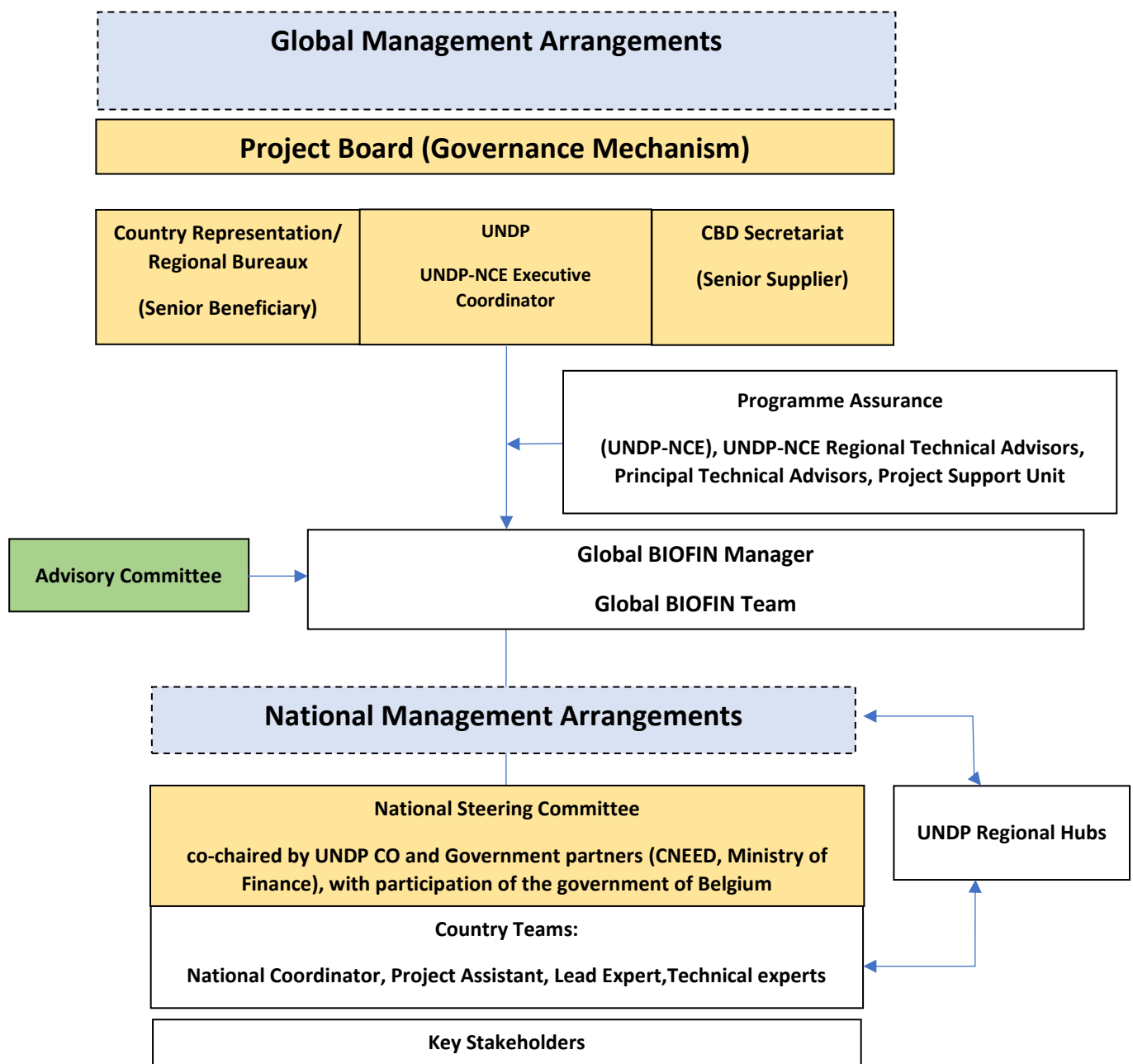
In the past years, BIOFIN received verbal and written expressions of interest from around 40 more countries, engaging them through the Regional Nodes Mechanism, side events and the Biodiversity Finance MOOC. Niger can benefit from the rich network of experience BIOFIN has created to date at regional and global levels.



#### 4) Implementation Arrangements

BIOFIN is implemented by UNDP, as the Implementing Partner, in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures through a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). UNDP's financial governance provides the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition.

BIOFIN is overseen by the UNDP-NCE's (Nature, Climate and Energy) Ecosystems and Biodiversity Team as part of the Bureau for Programme and Policy Development (BPPS). The Global BIOFIN team continues to oversee the development of global and national work. The main team consists of the Global Manager, two Programme Associates, a Programme Officer, a Communications Specialist, five technical advisors, and a Knowledge Management Expert.



Technical experts will be hired to provide specialised expertise and services following UNDP's procurement and responsible party rules and procedures. As a multi-donor and multi-year initiative, BIOFIN teams are in place in most target countries providing management and technical services to ensure a fast start and implementation of the project with a focus on results. Multi-Year Annual Work Plans are fully developed at global and country levels linking results, activities and inputs through a result – based and participatory process.

The governance and management structures are active at two levels. Globally, the Project Board will consist of representatives from the senior supplier (CBD), beneficiary countries and UNDP Senior Management, meeting at a minimum once a year. Additionally, an Advisory Group will provide strategic guidance and advice to the global management team. At national level, a Steering Committee is usually complemented by a Technical Committee. The former is the formal national decision-making body, overseeing planning and results of the project including at the policy level. The latter Committee provides in-depth technical inputs into the work and include partners from relevant government agencies, academia, CSOs, and other technical experts. In countries with ongoing implementation, the composition may be re-calibrated to fit emerging strategic priorities.



*BIOFIN Lead Expert for Bhutan is former Finance and former Planning State Secretary DASHO LAM DORJI*

At the national level UNDP Country Offices are the direct implementation counterparts leading and monitoring the implementation of the country activities at national and local levels under the Direct Implementation Modality.

## **Key roles at the Global Level:**

### **The Project Board**

The Project Board will hold project reviews to assess the performance of the project and provide continuous guidance to steer the path of the project towards the achievement of the results. The Board will meet at a minimum once a year to assess the progress report prepared by the team and the plans for the forthcoming period. In the Programme's final year, the Programme Board will hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to highlight project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. This final review meeting will also discuss the findings outlined in the project terminal evaluation report and the management response.

### **The Programme Manager**

The Programme Manager (Global BIOFIN Manager) is responsible for day-to-day project management and regular monitoring of global results and risks, including social and environmental risks. The Manager will ensure all programme staff maintain a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in implementation, M&E and reporting results. The Manager will inform the Programme

Board of any delays or difficulties as they arise during implementation so that appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted.

### **Advisory Committee**

The Programme Manager will report twice a year to the Advisory Committee to collect advice on potential strategic partnerships and coordination opportunities. The meetings will also be used to provide updates on project progress and apprise donors of emerging technical assistance needs and gaps.

The **project assurance** role will be provided by the UNDP's Nature, Climate and Energy Team, including oversight and monitoring. Additional quality assurance will be provided by the UNDP Regional Technical Advisors as needed.

### **Key Roles at National Level**

#### **National Steering Committees (NSC)**

At the national level, a National Steering Committee will be established and co-chaired by the UNDP Country Office and Government partners with participation of the government of Belgium. The NSC will hold project reviews to assess the performance of the project and provide continuous guidance to steer the path of the project towards the achievement of the results at country level. The NSC will meet at minimum once a year to assess the progress report prepared by the country team and the work plans for the forthcoming period. In the Project's final year, the NSC will hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and highlight project results with relevant audiences.

As indicated in the section 2 of this document, the CNEDD initiated this proposal and will lead, as an active member of the NSC, the launch of the process at the national level. With the support of the CeBios programme, the CNEDD will be one of the main focal point from the government and will play a key role by providing strategic guidance to the BIOFIN Process, facilitating both the alignment with, and feeding into national policy processes. As member of the NSC, the CNEDD will formally endorse workplans and validates reports from national teams. It will debate the specific national objectives and targets the country pursues through BIOFIN. Since BIOFIN requires a thorough review of expenditure priorities and the collection of voluminous data sets, some of which may be proprietary, the CNEDD can facilitate access to the information and provide subsequent guidance on its use (both generated data and source information).



As part of the implementation of the convention on Biological Diversity, a National Technical Commission on Biological Diversity has been set up within the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment for Sustainable Development (SE / CNEDD) by decree No.053/pm/se/CNEDD of July 21, 1997 . It is composed of several national structures playing a key role in biodiversity management (Ministries, Technical Services, Research Institutes, Academic Institutes, private sector, Civil Society, NGOs, etc.). The list of entities part of this commission is annexed to this proposal.

The possibility to have this Commission playing the role of the steering committee will be reviewed as well as its representativeness at the inception of the project in consultation with all national partners.

### **UNDP Country Offices (CO)**

The UNDP CO act as the main Implementing Party at the country level. They coordinate the work for the implementation and supervise National Teams. The UNDP CO co-leads the National Steering Committee along with the Government Counterparts. The UNDP CO will be responsible for project level administration, progress reporting, budget maintenance, and country-level communication and outreach. UNDP Country Offices are responsible for complying with all UNDP national project-level M&E requirements as outlined in the UNDP rules and procedures. The Country Offices will also support efforts to ensure donor visibility, encourage donor participation in national project events, and ensure that donors are updated regularly on national project progress.

### **National Project Coordinators**

The National Project Coordinator will be responsible for the overall management of in-country activities, ensuring a proper workplan and budget is in place and implemented within set timelines, with an effective national team and strong partnerships. The Coordinator will ensure implementation mechanisms such as a National Steering Committee and technical working groups are established and meet regularly, that all planned workshops, technical studies and other activities are organized in a timely manner, and that they meet expected quality standards.

## 5) Sustainability

BIOFIN is governed through a participatory, results-based and adaptive management approach. The following aspects will continue to ensure the sustainability of the action:

- **Stakeholder engagement:** All countries have functioning Steering Committee's leading work at the country level. The Committees enjoy high level participation, with meetings ranging from once a month in some countries to twice a year in others. Technical Committees have been active including experts and representatives from the private sector, academia, civil society organizations and technical experts from relevant government agencies. As needed, the project engaged with representatives of indigenous groups, youth and women organizations through participatory planning and decision-making processes.

The CeBios programme, as well as the Embassy of Belgium in Niger, will be fully integrated in these technical committees. It will allow to provide substantial inputs to the BIOFIN process and strengthen priority thematic of Belgium as health, environment and resources, gender, conflict prevention, governance, and private sector development. Indeed, by its cross sectorial impacts (agriculture, food security, one-health, fight human-wildlife conflicts, etc.), Biodiversity protection will enhance the existing priority focus of ENABEL, the Belgium cooperation agency, in the country: Strengthening food security, Support to the health system, Support Capacity Building of livestock actors.

- **National ownership of results:** BIOFIN is implemented through the participation and representation of high-level Government representatives at different events presenting the BIOFIN findings and recommendations, use of the reports and endorsement/signature of the country Biodiversity Finance Plans (BFP). All BIOFIN national assessments have been cleared or endorsed by the national governments and work will continue in cooperation for the implementation of the prioritized finance solutions.
- **Focus on results:** Development of the BIOFIN methodology, completion of the three country assessments and development of the country BFP in the member countries focused on enabling countries to achieve biodiversity results. The planning process is conducted at country level through a participatory approach where country strategies and work plan templates follow a results-based planning approach for the entire BIOFIN process. For the implementation stage each finance solution will have its dedicated sustainability or exit strategy, tailored to the context.

- **Learning and capacity development:** Capacity building and promotion of innovation, exchange of experiences and leveraged partnerships through technical/regional workshops, biennial conferences, and strategic events will continue to ensure the lessons learned, new knowledge and enhanced skills are transmitted to national stakeholders (including further countries)
- **Replication and upscaling:** Networking, close cooperation, and showcasing of results and good practices will continue to help institutionalise several processes by governments in different countries. Similar examples such as the establishment of Biodiversity Finance Offices in the Seychelles, Belize; replication of the BIOFIN methodology process at local level; integration of the BIOFIN methodology in periodic expenditure reviews as done in Cuba and Costa Rica.

The BIOFIN Methodology and additional guidance materials produced by the initiative will continue to support the work at global and national level contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, with a focus on poverty reduction, gender equality and climate change.

## 6) Results Framework

EXPECTED OUTCOMES / OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
<b>Output 1 BIOFIN assessment and planning process implemented at the national level in Niger</b>	<p>5.1 Number of completed Policy and Institutional Reviews (PIRs),</p> <p>5.2 Number of completed Biodiversity Expenditure Reviews, (BERs)</p> <p>5.3 Number of completed Financial Needs Assessments, (FNAs)</p> <p>5.4 Number of completed Biodiversity Finance Plans (BFPs)</p>		<p>Baseline:</p> <p>0 PIR</p> <p>0 BER</p> <p>0 FNA</p> <p>0 BFP</p>	<p>- Inception and planning phases completed in Niger</p> <p>- PIR: Report completed and validated</p> <p>- BERs: Data collection phase</p> <p>- FNA: Data collection phase</p> <p>- BFP: 0</p>	<p>1 PIR</p> <p>1 BER</p> <p>1 FNA</p> <p>1 BFP</p>			<p><b>Data collection:</b> bi-annual reporting framework</p> <p><b>Risk:</b> Translation of technical concepts (Low); low capacity resulting in delays of the initiation of the implementation process in new countries.</p>

EXPECTED OUTCOMES / OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
<b>Output 2 Prioritised biodiversity finance solutions implemented at national level</b>	4.1 a) Number of new and improved finance mechanisms in place and/or operational (improved mechanisms) with b) increased finance aligned towards biodiversity	BIOFIN quarterly reports, global team BTORs			Biodiversity Finance solutions are developed		<b>4.1 a)</b> at least 3 finance mechanisms are under implementation stage – precise targets are to be defined in the methodology phase	<b>Data collection:</b> be-annual reporting framework, published government policies  <b>Risk:</b> Confidentiality of policy discussions (Low)  <b>Risk:</b> Overall fiscal and investment climate may further deteriorate (Low/medium)
	4.2 Number of policy proposals influenced by new data on biodiversity finance, economic valuation and natural capital accounting		0 0 0	Biodiversity Finance solutions are in development	At least three BIOFIN Finance solutions are prioritized for implementation phase.		<b>4.2</b> Policy/legal proposals developed, Fund establishment/Reviewed, Developed guidelines, regulations, Strategies, Technical reports, technical tools for BD finance, Advocacy tools, etc. : targets are to be defined in the methodology phase	
	4.3 At least one finance solution contributing to gender equality (As per the ProDoc)						<b>4.3</b> at least one finance solution contributing to gender equality - precise targets are to be defined in the methodology phase	



## 7) Budget

### In \$US:

Budget Estimation		Proposed Funds EUR	Methodology Phase		Implementation Phase		Total USD
			2022 Plan USD	2023 Plan USD	2024 Plan USD	2025 Plan USD	
I.	Country Funds (Niger)	EUR 371,700.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 450,000.00
II.	Travel and Workshops	EUR 6,921.19	\$ 2,179.17	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 8,379.17
Sub Total (programmable):		EUR 378,621.19	\$ 152,179.17	\$ 152,200.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 458,379.17
III.	General Management Services (8%)	EUR 30,289.70	\$ 12,174.33	\$ 12,176.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 36,670.33
Subl Total Contribution		EUR 408,910.89	\$ 152,179.17	\$ 152,200.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 495,049.50
IV.	UN Levy ( 1%)	EUR 4,089.11	\$ 4,950.50				\$ 4,950.50
Total Grant :		EUR 413,000.00	\$ 169,304.00	\$ 164,376.00	\$ 83,160.00	\$ 83,160.00	\$ 500,000.00

\* Gms Rate is determined as 8% according FRM Cost Recovery (attached in the mail)

\*\* EURO-USD exchange rate (May 2021)

- I. Fund will be transferred to Niger CO
- II. Attendance of Niger National team to Biofin events.
- III. General management services
- IV. UN Levy (%1)

### In Euros (€) :

Budget Estimation		Methodology Phase		Implementation Phase		Total Eur
		2022 Plan Eur	2023 Plan Eur	2024 Plan Eur	2025 Plan Eur	
I.	Country Funds (Niger)	€ 123,900.00	€ 123,900.00	€ 61,950.00	€ 61,950.00	€ 371,700.00
II.	Travel and Workshops	€ 1,799.99	€ 1,817.20	€ 1,652.00	€ 1,652.00	€ 6,921.19
Sub Total (programmable):		€ 125,699.99	€ 125,717.20	€ 63,602.00	€ 63,602.00	€ 378,621.19
III.	General Management Services (8%)	€ 10,056.00	€ 10,057.38	€ 5,088.16	€ 5,088.16	€ 30,289.70
Subl Total Contribution		€ 135,755.99	€ 135,774.58	€ 68,690.16	€ 68,690.16	€ 408,910.89
III.	UN Levy ( 1%)	€ 4,089.11				€ 4,089.11
Total:		€ 139,845.10	€ 135,774.58	€ 68,690.16	€ 68,690.16	€ 413,000.00

## 8) Annexe: Composition of the Technical Commission on Biological Diversity

By the resolution PM/SE/CNEDD, Modifying and supplementing the resolution N°053/PM/SE/CNEDD (21 July 1997), establishing the Technical Commission on Biological Diversity, this Commission is composed by the following:

- Presidency: Directorate General for the Environment
- 1st Vice-Presidency: General Directorate of the National Institute of Agronomic Research of Niger.
- 2nd Vice-Presidency: One (1) Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) working in the field (CNCOD);
- 2 Rapporteurs: CNEDD, DPN
- And 49 members:
  - 1. Haut-Commissariat à l'Aménagement de la Vallée du Fleuve Niger (HCAVN);
  - 2. Haut-Commissariat à la Modernisation de l'Etat (Département de la Décentralisation);
  - 3. Secrétariat Exécutif du CNEDD ;
  - 4. Direction chargée des Forêts ;
  - 5. Direction chargée de la Pêche et de la Pisciculture ;
  - 6. Direction chargée des ressources halieutiques ;
  - 7. Direction chargée des Aires Protégées ;
  - 8. Direction chargée des Ressources en Eaux ;
  - 9. Bureau des Evaluations E environnementales et des Etudes d'Impact (BEEEI) ;
  - 10. Direction chargée de la Recherche e et de la Technologie ;
  - 11. Direction chargée de l'Agriculture ;
  - 12. Direction chargée de la Protection des végétaux ;
  - 13. Institut National de Recherche Agronomique du Niger(INRAN)
  - 14. Secrétariat Permanent du Stratégie du Développement Rural;
  - 15. Direction chargée des Programmes Sectoriels, du Ministère des Finances ;
  - 16. Faculté des Sciences de l'Université Abdou Moumuni de Niamey (UAM) ;
  - 17. Faculté d'Agronomie de l'UAM ;
  - 18. Centre National de Surveillance Ecologique et Environnementale(CNSEE) ;
  - 19. Cellule pour la Généralisation et la Pérennisation de l'Education Environnementale(CGPE) ;
  - 20. Direction chargée des Ressources Animales ;
  - 21. Direction chargée de l'hygiène Publique et de l'Education pour la Santé ;
  - 22. Chambre de Commerce, de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat du Niger ;
  - 23. L e Réseau des Chambres d'Agriculture du Niger ;

- 24. Direction chargée de la Culture ;
- 25. Direction chargée de la Promotion de la Femme ;
- 26. Direction chargée du Tourisme ;
- 27. Direction chargée de la Communication ;
- 28. Confédération CONACOOOP;
- 29. Représentant du groupement féminin KASSAI,
- 30. Confédération Générale des Femmes du Niger (CONGAFEN) ;
- 31. Coordination Nationale des Organisations de Développement (CNCOD) ;
- 32. Réseau de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable (REDD) ;
- 33. Groupement des Aides Privés (GAP);
- 34. Associations Nationales des Exploitants de Bois ;
- 35. Associations Nationale des Pêcheurs ;
- 36. Collectif des Associations Pastorales du Niger (CAPAN) ;
- 37. Association pour la Redynamisation de l'Élevage au Niger (AREN) ;
- 38. Associations des Tradi Praticiens du Niger (ATPN);
- 39. Coalition pour la Protection des Patrimoines Génétiques du Niger (COPAGEN);
- 40. Associations des distributeurs des produits phytosanitaires (ADIPHYTO) ;
- 41. LANSPEX
- 42. Réseau des Journalistes en Biodiversité (RJB) ;
- 43. Réseau des Journalistes en Environnement (RJE) ;
- 44. Ministère des Finances ;
- 45. Commission Développement Rural (Assemblée Nationale) ;
- 46. Conseil National de la Jeunesse ;
- 47. La Communauté Urbaine ;
- 48. Musée National Boubou Hama ;
- 49. Société de Transformation Agroalimentaire(STA) ;

➤ One Technical Secretariat composed by :

- 1. Représentant de la Direction chargée des Forêts ;
- 2. Direction chargée des Aires protégées;
- 3. Représentant de la Direction chargée des Ressources Animales
- 4. Représentant de la Direction chargée de l'Agriculture
- 5. Direction chargée de la protection des végétaux
- 6. Représentant du Bureau des Evaluations Environnementales et Etudes d'Impact(BEEEI) ;
- 7. Représentant de la Faculté des Sciences (UAM)
- 8. Direction chargée des Programmes sectoriels, su Ministère des Finances ;
- 9. Un représentant de la cellule Biosécurité ;
- 10. Représentant de Secrétariat Exécutif du CNEDD
- 11. Représentant de la Direction Générale de l'INRAN
- 12. Représentant du groupement féminin KASSAI,
- 13. Un représentant de la Confédération Générale des Femmes du Niger (CONGAFEN)
- 14. Représentant de Secrétariat Exécutif de la SDR ;
- 15. Représentant de la direction chargée des Forêts, Pêche et Aires protégées ; Biosécurité ;