

BioSTAR: Landscape of international and transnational cooperative initiatives for biodiversity

Mapping international and transnational cooperative initiatives for biodiversity

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Glossary

Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity” 1992).

BioSTAR project

The BioSTAR-project (Global Biodiversity Governance Beyond 2020: The Role of International Cooperative Initiatives), a collaboration between the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) and PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency .

Governance

Processes, systems and actors involved in addressing collective problems and guiding society towards socially desirable collective outcomes.

Governance architecture

An overarching system of public and private institutions that are valid or active in a particular issue area. It includes the array of governing institutions, regimes and other forms of principles, norms, regulations, and procedures that govern the issue at hand.

Governance triangle

A heuristic framework developed by Abbott and Snidal, to structure and analyse governance of different issue areas (Abbott and Snidal 2009a; 2009b; Abbott 2012). Within the triangle, institutions are placed based on their governing members (public, firm and CSO). Furthermore, the governance triangle is divided into seven zones, which represent the potential combinations of actor types (public, private and hybrid). Finally, the triangle highlights the governance institutions’ role (standards & commitments, operational activities, information & networking and/or financing).

Institutions

Structures of rights, rules, norms, agreements and decision-making procedures that induce social practice or social order. Institutions assign roles to participants in that social practice or order and guide interactions among occupants of these roles.

International and transnational cooperative initiative

Initiatives that are: ‘(i) international and transnational institutions, which not only have the (ii) intention to guide policy and the behaviour of their members or a broader community, but also explicitly mention the (iii) common governance goal, accomplishable by (iv) significant governance functions’ (Widerberg, Pattberg, and Kristensen 2016). Cooperative initiatives consist of companies, civil society organisations, and national, regional or local governments.

Members

Actors involved in governing an institution, i.e. holding a formal position to influence the rules, norms, operations or performance of the institution.

Transnational

Operating across different levels, which could imply across country borders, among different organisations with different constituencies (public, private and/or subnational). In the case of this paper, transnational refers primarily to institutions that govern or engage members beyond the state level and include actors from two or more countries.

List of abbreviations

CBD	Convention for Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
ITCI(s)	International and transnational cooperative initiative(s)
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations

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Summary

National governments have largely failed to halt biodiversity loss. Despite ambitious goals and targets set in the intergovernmental process under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the state of biodiversity continues to deteriorate (Díaz *et al.* 2019). However, an emerging landscape of cooperative biodiversity initiatives outside the formal structure of the CBD suggests that thousands of additional actors such as cities, regions, indigenous peoples and local communities, companies, and civil society organisations – also referred to as “non-state” and “sub-national” actors – are already taking action to reduce biodiversity loss.

This report presents an overview of the landscape of international and transnational cooperative initiatives (ITCIs) for biodiversity, examining the distribution of actors, temporal dynamics of the initiatives and their governance functions. Furthermore, it focuses on the thematic scope of the initiatives addressing CBD objectives, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Aichi Targets, addressed industry sectors, and addressed biodiversity threats. The report also provides an overview of geographic coverage of ITCIs.

Through an analysis of existing databases with the focus on biodiversity, climate, forest, fish, energy, we have identified a subset of 331 inter- or transnational initiatives with a clear focus on biodiversity, policy and governance functions¹. The selection process involved semi-automated keyword analysis and expert reviews.

This report finds that public, private and civil society actors interact in a number of initiatives for biodiversity. 33% of the initiatives involve only public actors, e.g. national governments and regional or municipal authorities. Hybrid initiatives (including public, private and civil society actors) constitute 21% of the sample. The remaining 28% are private initiatives.

Initiatives engage nearly 10,000 non-state (e.g. companies and non-governmental organisations) and sub-national (e.g. cities and regions) actors, in various biodiversity-related policy fields such as energy, fisheries, agriculture, and forestry.

The report further finds initiatives to be well aligned with the strategic goals for biodiversity governance, such as conservation and sustainable use. They mostly address SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG 14 (Life below water), and specialize in the Aichi Targets related to causes and direct pressures on the biodiversity. ITCIs for biodiversity focus mainly on information sharing and networking (60%), activities on the ground (33%) and setting standards and commitments (26%). They are active in sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The geographical coverage is wide, with the main focus on Europe and Northern Africa.

¹ After finishing this report, the dataset was changed to 330 initiatives.

1 Introduction

Global governance for biodiversity has expanded substantially beyond the multilateral negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In 2018, at the COP-14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, governments launched the Action Agenda for Nature and People to mobilise activities of various stakeholders before COP-15 in 2020. Aiming at three main objectives – 1) to raise public awareness about the urgent need to stem biodiversity loss and restore areas that may have suffered from human impact, 2) to benefit the health of all living species, including humanity, and rebalance our global ecological system; to inspire and implement nature-based solutions to meet critical global challenges, and 3) to catalyse cooperative initiatives in support of global biodiversity goals – the Agenda primarily targets non-state and sub-national actors and encourages voluntary commitments for CBD goals and post-2020 biodiversity framework. In a previous report, (Pattberg, Kristensen, and Widerberg 2017) scholars have identified 108 existing international and transnational cooperative initiatives (referred to in this report as ITCIs) with relevance for biodiversity. This report constitutes an updated and extended version of the 2017 study, scrutinising how initiatives with a primary focus on biodiversity create an increasingly complex institutional landscape of governing for biodiversity. It aims at mapping the existing institutional landscape for biodiversity governance beyond the CBD to support debates and decision-making processes in the run-up to COP-15.

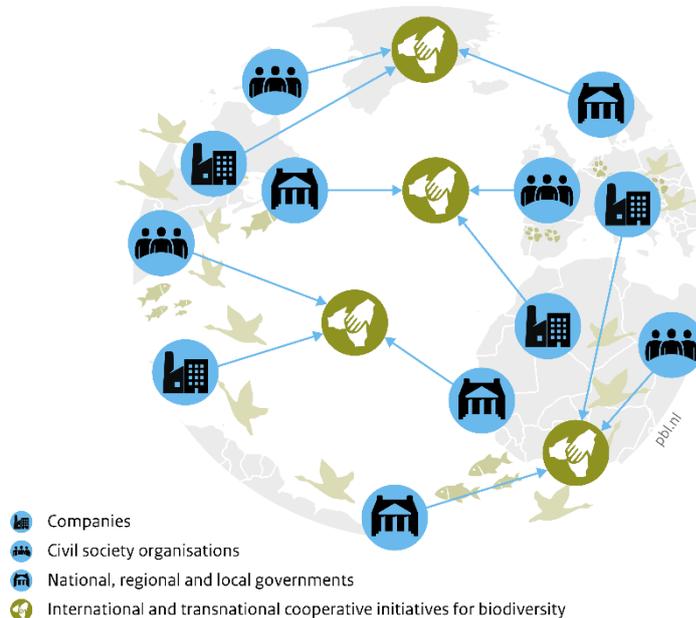
In more detail, the report maps and explores ITCIs² in biodiversity governance using a generalizable methodology that can be applied for conducting holistic studies of environmental governance of any given issue area. The analysis is guided by four questions:

1. What institutions occupy the institutional landscape of governing for biodiversity internationally and transnationally?
2. What functions do institutions in the institutional landscape of governing for biodiversity perform?
3. What themes do institutions in the institutional landscape of governing for biodiversity focus on?
4. What is the geographic focus of international and transnational cooperative initiatives?

The report identifies a set of 331 cooperative initiatives. It provides an overview of the institutional landscape that orders the collection of institutions by types of actors and by the functions they employ to reach their biodiversity governance objectives (Figure 1). Second, descriptive statistics and graphs show who is involved in the different institutions, when they were initiated and where they operate from.

² The concepts institutions and initiatives are to some degree used interchangeably throughout the report. In the context of the database, institutions can be perceived as a broader definition that encompasses initiatives, projects, intergovernmental agreements and protocols.

International and transnational cooperative initiatives for biodiversity



Source: Kok et al., 2019

Figure 1 Connections among ITCIs for biodiversity

The results show a rather dense institutional landscape of biodiversity governance characterised by multiple actors and institutions. The broader governance landscape has developed from including primarily public institutions in the early years to including more diverse initiatives today. Furthermore, the report illustrates that initiatives tend to have primarily indirect influences on biodiversity by distributing information and networking rather than directive influences via on-the-ground activities. Finally, we find that current cooperative initiatives focus on three broad policy fields related to biodiversity governance: agriculture, forests, and oceans. This report provides a robust foundation, relevant to practitioners, policymakers, and scholars interested in further assessing the institutions and the actions taken in the name of governing biodiversity. It also provides the background to a PBL/IVM policy brief 'Opportunities for the Action Agenda for Nature and People (Kok *et al.* 2019).

2 Methodology

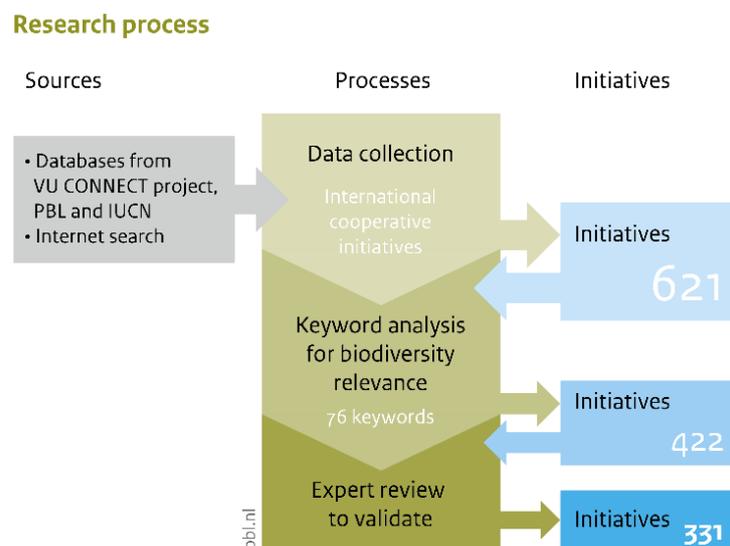
This section describes the methodology for mapping the institutional landscape of governing for biodiversity. The goal of the methodology was to create and analyse a dataset of ITCIs focusing on biodiversity.

2.1 Definition of international and transnational cooperative initiatives

For creating the database, we used the definition of ITCIs by Widerberg, Pattberg, and Kristensen (2016: pp 13). The initiatives included in our dataset should be “(i) international and transnational institutions, which not only have the (ii) intentionality to steer policy and the behaviour of their members or a broader community but also explicitly mention the (iii) common governance goal, accomplishable by (iv) significant governance functions”.

2.2 Selection of the initiatives

Subsequently, the database was created through the following process (see Figure 2):



Source: Kok et al., 2019

Figure 2 Selection process for creating database

This process can be described in the following steps:

1. **Collecting potential database entries:** initiatives for the final dataset were identified by integrating datasets from the BioSTAR and CONNECT-projects³ focusing on five biodiversity-relevant sectors: agriculture, climate change, energy, fisheries, and forestry (see Leadley *et al.* 2014).

We identified a set of search areas and keywords relevant to biodiversity governance through workshops and expert consultations (see Annex A: Statement search keywords for an overview of the chosen words). Keywords were entered into the Google search engine (see Annex B: Internet search keywords for an overview of the chosen words). The first 10 pages of the search results were scanned for institutions and added to the dataset.

We also collected institutions' self-formulated governance statements downloaded from the institutions' websites. The type of statements included are:

"Mission/Vision", "About", "Strategy", "What we do", "Objectives", "Function", "Operation", "Background", "Work Areas", "Guiding Principles" and "Charters".

2. **Data pre-processing:** Statements and keywords were cleaned to ensure matching formats. All special characters were removed, all letters were changed to lower case, lists and bullet-points were dissolved and double-spacing removed. For words where several forms of the word exist, e.g. conservation, conserving, conserve, the roots of the words, e.g. "conserv", were included. In cases where different combinations exist, e.g. "manage sustainably", "sustainably manage" and "sustainable management", all were added.
3. **Categorizing:** The keywords, identified through workshops and expert consultations, were divided into three groups: Tier 1 – including "biodivers*" word stem; Tier 2 – keywords with a strong link to the biodiversity; Tier 3 – keywords with a weak link to biodiversity⁴. A direct biodiversity link (Tier 1) was represented by including "biodivers*". Tier 2 keywords included, for example, "ecosystem", "forest*", "genetic diversity. Including a strong keyword in the initiative's statement increases the probability of governing biodiversity. Further, Tier 3 keywords, such as "sustainable use", "use sustainably", "integrated landscape management" were selected. Inclusion of a Tier 3 keyword may also indicate a link to biodiversity, however, they may also belong to other sustainability governance areas.
4. **Selection round 1 – semi-automated analysis:** The statements were scanned for keywords. If a statement included a direct link, i.e. "biodiverse*", the corresponding initiative was added directly to the final database. 154 initiatives were classified in this group. If a statement mentioned at least one of the strong or weak keywords, it was reviewed manually before potentially adding the corresponding institution to the database. In this process, 268 institutions were selected for the second round screening.

³ For more information see the project homepage: <http://fragmentation.eu/>

⁴ Strong link to biodiversity is defined as a large probability of a keyword to be used in biodiversity-related context or being a synonym, e.g. biological diversity. Weak link is defined as a possibility of a keyword to be used in biodiversity-related context or sustainability related field, e.g. ecosystem service*.

5. **Selection round 2 – expert review:** In round 2, the initiatives selected for a review were forwarded to a group of eight biodiversity experts who reviewed and identified potential institutions for inclusion, screening 268 institutions of potential relevance.
6. **Selection round 3 – final screening:** The 177 institutions from selection round 2 were checked in detail by the IVM research team and compared to the initial criteria for inclusion, including analysis of potential mergers and take-overs among initiatives. The final database mapping the institutional landscape for governing biodiversity consists of 331 institutions (see Annex C: List of initiatives).

Finally, the experts suggested initiatives to be included in the final dataset. The experts' suggestions were carefully examined by the research team with regards to their link with biodiversity. The final dataset includes 331 initiatives.

2.3 Analysis

We collected descriptive data for all 331 initiatives in the final dataset on the distribution of the ITCIs in the overall governance landscape, their functions, year of initiation, actor-types, primary focus, number of governing members, as well as, addressing CBD programmes, selected Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi targets, sectoral and cross-sectoral threats. Additionally, we looked at their place of implementation. Maintaining some variables from the previous report enables comparison between the editions. Several new variables provide new insights into the landscape of biodiversity governance initiatives.

Table 1 Types of variables collected

Variable	Example of database entry
Zone of governance triangle	6 (CSO-Company)
Year of foundation	2004
Time target approach	Yes
Number of members	15
Type of actors	CSO-Company
Function of the initiative	Standards & Commitments
Main goal according to CBD	Sustainable use
The Netherlands involved	Yes
Location of the headquarters of the initiative	Rome
Geographic coverage of the initiatives' actions	Nepal, India, Pakistan
Selected Sustainable Development Goals addressed by the initiatives	15.5, 2.4
Aichi Targets addressed by the initiatives	1,4,7
CBD Programmes addressed by the initiatives	Agricultural Biodiversity
Targeted sector and cross-sector challenges from IUCN sectors' report	Smallholder Agriculture
Explicit commitment to CBD goal	Yes

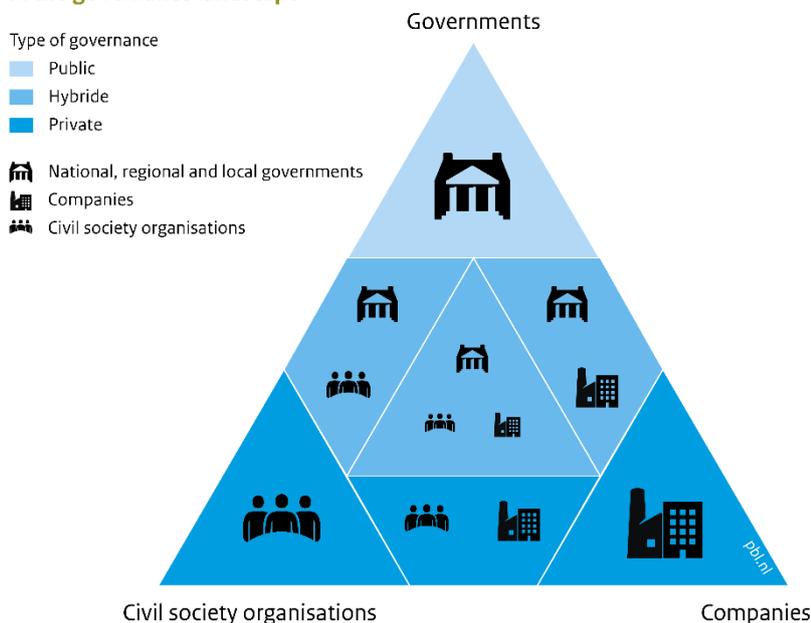
Table 1 shows the types of variables included in the database. For most of the variables, data were available on the initiatives' websites or in the annual reports. For some, the required information was present in the press articles or on third-party websites.

Finally, in some cases, the information presented was not explicit and required deeper analysis.

Data availability differs among the variables. For example, obtaining information on governing members often requires an in-depth analysis of initiative management and structure. Tracking connections among partners of an initiative and their role in its organisational structure are not always possible. Therefore, data quality was classified as moderate. Limited data quality occurs in case of pledges (commitments announced by initiative on its website or elsewhere in media). These statements require further analysis. The second variable with limited availability is budget for biodiversity. Most often, budgets are disclosed in annual reports. Due to various years and currencies, as well as diversified categorisation across reports and years, this variable is not very reliable and consequently offers only limited possibility for comparison.

Zone – refers to the zone of the governance triangle. The triangle is divided into seven zones (see Figure 3) representing the potential combinations of actor types. Institutions in zones 1-3 are dominated by a single type of actor (see above). Those in zones 4-6 involve two actor types, and those in the central 7th zone involve all three types of actors. Additionally, the triangle is divided into three ‘tiers’, the public tier where public actors are dominant, the private tier where firms and CSO are dominant and the hybrid tier where government bodies share governance with firms and/or CSO in public-private partnerships.

Distribution of international and transnational cooperative initiatives in the governance landscape



Source: Kok et al., 2019

Figure 3 Distribution of initiatives in the biodiversity governance landscape

Year of foundation - refers to a year when the initiative was established, or if not available, when it began its operations. In case of conventions and protocols, it is a year when it was signed.

Time target approach – shows whether an initiative has declared a time-bounded target or strategy on its website.

Number of members – refers to governing members understood as the actors involved in a governance institution holding a formal position to influence the rules, norms, operations or performance of the institution. The variable was created by calculating the number of governing members stated on the initiative website. If it was not explicit, the role of the members was cross-checked with their governance documents.

Type of actors - refers to a categorization of governance institutions, which can be public, private or hybrid. Determining the type of an institution is based on the constituent members, which can be public actors (e.g. state governments, international organisations, cities, and regions), private actors (e.g. firms, banks or business associations), or CSOs (e.g. NOGs and research institutes).

Function of the initiative - refers to the governance function of an institution. It is based on the primary activity, or two primary activities, by which the institution pursues its governance goal. Primary functions include 'standards & commitments', 'operational activities', 'information & networking' and 'financing'.

Main goal according to CBD – refers to the type of goal that the initiative addresses. Three main goals of the convention include the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity), the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. Initiatives were categorized to one or more goals based on their mission, vision and similar descriptions.

The Netherlands involved – describes whether a Dutch actor is involved in the initiative.

Location of the **headquarters** of the initiative – refers to the city where the headquarters of the initiative are located. Often it is a location of secretariat. Some initiatives have virtual offices or do not disclose the location of their office.

Geographic coverage of the initiatives' actions – refers to the area (country, region) targeted by the initiatives' actions.

Selected **Sustainable Development Goals** addressed by the initiatives – refers to SDG's addressed by initiatives stated directly on their websites or identified based on the description of their actions.

Aichi Targets addressed by the initiatives - refers to Aichi Targets addressed by initiatives stated directly on their websites or identified based on the description of their actions.

CBD Programmes addressed by the initiatives - refers to CBD Programmes addressed by initiatives identified based on the description of their actions.

Targeted sector and cross-sector challenges from IUCN classification schemes (IUCN 2018) - refers to sectors and cross-sector challenges addressed by initiatives identified based on the information provided on their websites.

Explicit **commitment** to CBD goal - refers to commitment or pledge to biodiversity conservation or reducing negative biodiversity footprint based on the information provided on their websites. The variable was created by searching "name of initiative" plus "commit/pledge" plus "biodiversity/CBD".

3 Results

This section presents results of our mapping of the institutional landscape of governing for biodiversity. It starts with presenting a generic overview of actors involved in biodiversity governance. Further, it shows temporal changes in the broader landscape. It continues with functions and CBD's goals fulfilled by initiatives. Then it shows a thematic categorisation of initiatives according to CBD programmes, the SDGs, the Aichi Targets, sectors and cross-sectoral threats. The section concludes with an overview of the geographic coverage of ITCIs.

3.1 Distribution of international and transnational cooperative initiatives in the governance landscape

For mapping the institutional architecture, the report uses a 'governance triangle' (see Figure 3), a framework developed by Abbot and Snidal (Abbott and Snidal 2009a; 2009b). Institutions' positions in the triangle are determined by the types of governing members (public, private or civil society organisations) and other participants essential to the institutional operation of rules and norms, i.e. their actors⁵.

Governance triangle is a heuristic tool used to sort initiatives in the biodiversity governance landscape according to the type of governance they engage in, i.e. public, private or hybrid. The tool was developed by Abbott and Snidal (2009a; 2009b). Figure 4 presents the percentage of initiatives belonging to each zone.

⁵ We used the following groupings: Public: Individual states, collection of states, cities, regions, international organisations (IOs). Companies: businesses, investors, industry associations. Civil Society Organisations: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Other CSOs, CSO networks and coalitions.

Percentage of international and transnational cooperative initiatives in each zone

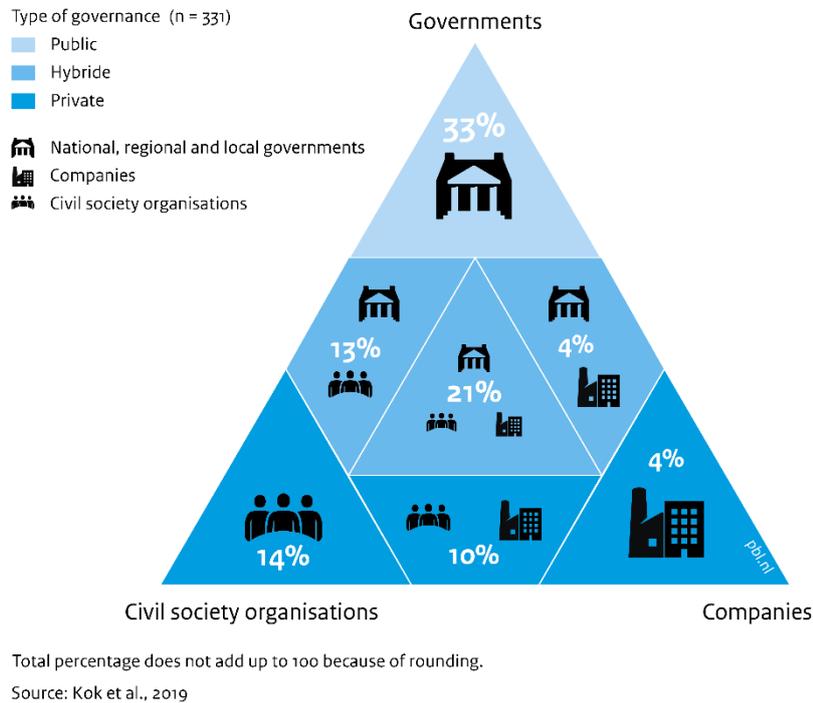


Figure 4 Percentage of ITCIs in each zone

Hybrid initiatives, including both private and public actors, dominate the landscape with 48% of initiatives. 21% of the hybrid initiatives involve stakeholders from all three groups, including governments, companies and civil society organisations.

The single largest type of governance remains public actors (33%). However, it should be noted that this category also includes local and regional authorities, such as cities. This figure is lower compared to the 2017 report, where 48% of all the initiatives consist solely of public actors (Pattberg, Kristensen, and Widerberg 2017). Public actors are involved in 71% of initiatives in 2020, which indicates a similar trend as indicated in the IVM report from 2017 (70%).

Business-led initiatives constitute only 4% of the total sample. This amount has decreased compared to the 2017 results. However, companies often cooperate with other stakeholders. They create mixed types of governance with CSOs (10% of the initiatives), public institutions (4% of the initiatives), and both social and public partners (21% of the initiatives). These stakeholders give credibility and expertise for their activities by collaborating with the organisation directly involved with biodiversity activities.

The number of involved governing members differs among initiatives. Governing members are actors holding a formal position to influence the rules, norms, operations or performance of the institution. 40% of the initiatives have less than 10 governing members, 31% have between 11 and 50 members, and in the remaining 17%, more than 101 members are involved (with a few outliers having more than a thousand members, mostly cities and region networks, such as ICLEI).

3.2 Historical development of international and transnational cooperative initiatives

This section reports on the year of initiation and the broader trends in the governance landscape over time. For some initiatives, the year of initiation coincides with the time when they started their operations. For others, especially international agreements, there is a different date for entering into force. Early initiatives starting before 1950 were not included in the figure.

Figure 5 presents years of initiation of the initiatives. We show the initiation years by the type of governance. At first, starting in 1950, public initiatives were and constituted more than 70% of the total. Later this proportion developed and hybrid and private actors become more and more dominant. At the end of the 2010s, the proportion between different types of initiatives is rather even.

International and transnational cooperative initiatives, by type of governance and year of initiation

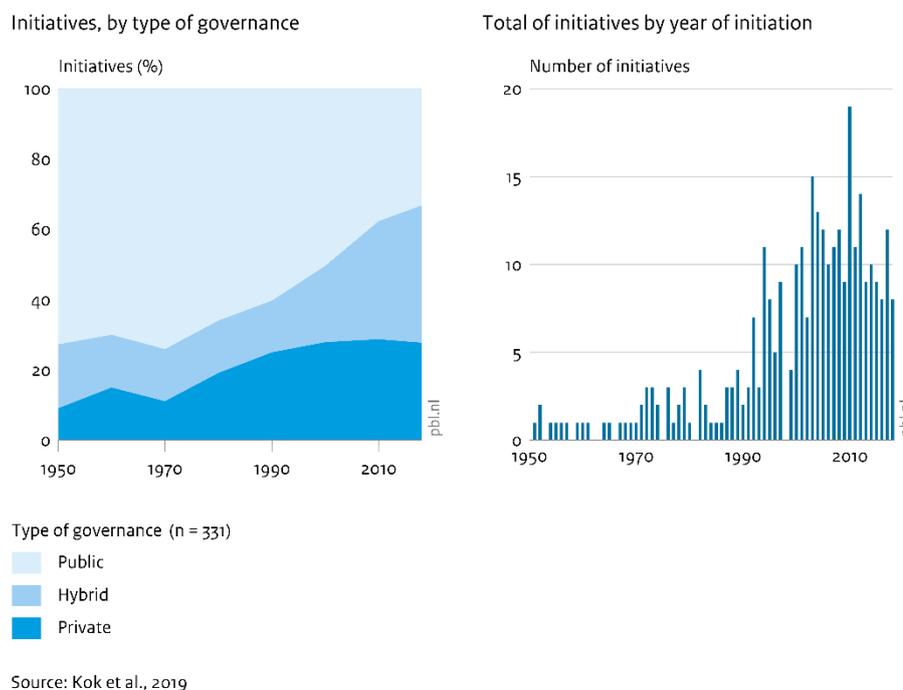


Figure 5 Initiatives by type of governance and year of initiation

The second part of Figure 5 shows the number of initiatives founded each year. The peak years occur in the 2010s, with 19 being founded in 2010, 15 in 2003, and several in the years of 2012, 2003, 2004 and 2008. These dates may come after the large sustainability events important for biodiversity as well, such as Earth Summit and follow up conferences (1992, 2002, and 2012).

3.3 Functions of initiatives

Initiatives fulfil several governance functions, including standards and commitments (red), operational activities (orange), information & networking (green) and financing (blue)⁶. These roles are not necessarily employed on an either/or basis; some institutions engage through several. Institutions under standards & commitments use functions such as rulemaking and implementation, mandatory compliance, standards for measurement and disclosure of activities, certification schemes and voluntary and private standards and commitments. Operational institutions employ, for example, technology research and development, (pilot) project implementation, demonstration and deployment of activities, skills enhancement, and best practice dissemination. Financing institutions primarily finance operational activities. Finally, institutions facilitating information-sharing and networking (information & networking) provide technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government (Widerberg, Pattberg, and Kristensen 2016).

Figure 6 presents specific functions fulfilled by ITCIs. The largest group of initiatives (60%) is involved in information and networking activities, e.g. WEF NVA Grow Asia, World Cocoa Foundation or World Ocean Council. These are rather indirect actions. Around 35% of initiatives, such as WorldWide Opportunities on Organic Farms or The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, conduct operational activities. Standards and commitments are the primary activity of around 25% of the initiatives included in the database, for example, The Gold Standard, Sustainable Rice Platform or Sustainable Rice Platform. Finally, only around 15% of initiatives work with financing biodiversity, e.g. Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development.

International and transnational cooperative initiatives for biodiversity that fulfil specific function

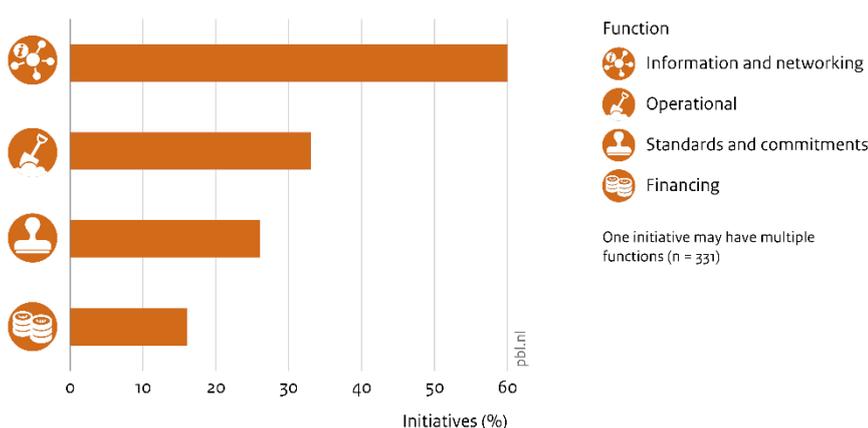


Figure 6 Initiatives by functions

⁶ The role of an institution is based on its primary activity, or two primary activities related to the way they pursue their primary governance goal (i.e. the goal related to either agriculture, climate change, energy, fishery, forestry or a combination of one or more of these).

The initiatives often have combined functions. Operational and information & networking are functions of 17% of the initiatives, including Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency or Peace Parks Foundation. 5% of initiatives, for example, the African Development Bank or Programme on Forests, merge information & networking and Financing. Only two institutions conduct activities in both standards & commitments and Financing functions, the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. I

Table 2 Initiatives grouped by zones and functions

Zone/function	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Standards & commitments	17	1	9	3	4	16	8	58
Operational	9	2	3	2	2	2	7	27
Information & networking	29	6	18	5	17	8	26	109
Financing	8	1	1	3	4	1	5	23
Standards & commitments + operational	3	1	3	1	1		3	12
Operational + information & networking	26	2	6		10	1	11	56
Information & networking + financing	4	1	2		4	1	5	17
Standards & commitments + information & networking	8					1	2	11
Standards & commitments + financing					1		1	2
Operational + financing	4		3		1	1	1	10
Other combinations	2		1			2	1	6
Grand Total	110	14	46	14	44	33	70	331

In Table 2, we present functions performed by initiatives in different zones. Information & networking is a key function for both private and public initiatives. Standards & commitments are prevailing in case of public institutions (as international agreements) or CSO – company cooperation (certification bodies). Public institutions and hybrid initiatives conduct operational activities and financing.

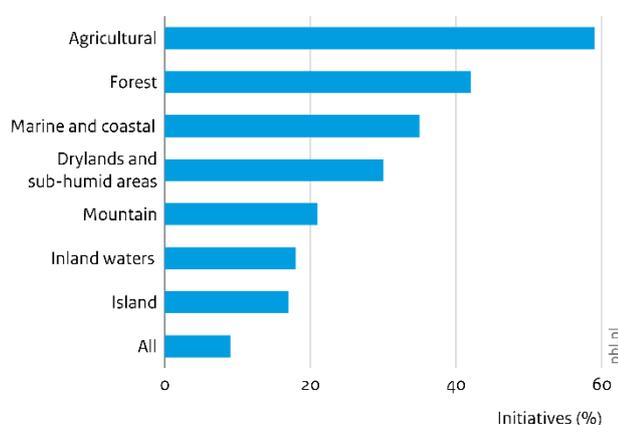
3.4 Addressing CBD's goals and programmes

Initiatives fulfil various goals mentioned by CBD. Three main goals of the convention include the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity), the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. The most initiatives focus on sustainable use, with 73% of initiatives listing it on their websites. Further, 66% of the initiatives mention conservation. Only 30% of initiatives mentioned access and benefit-sharing. Aiming at these goals is often combined by the initiatives.

Next, we have collected data on variables regarding the initiatives' thematic focus. The CBD's Conference of the Parties (COP) has established seven thematic programmes (CBD 2020), covering some of the major biomes on the planet, which are the following:

- Agricultural Biodiversity
- Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity
- Forest Biodiversity
- Inland Waters Biodiversity
- Island Biodiversity
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- Mountain Biodiversity

International and transnational cooperative initiatives addressing CBD programmes



One initiative may address multiple CBD programmes (n = 331)

Source: Kok et al., 2019

Figure 7 Initiatives addressing CBD programmes

All initiatives in the database were categorized according to the programmes they address. Figure 7 presents a percentage of initiatives covering subjects related to the programmes. The most common topic is Agricultural Biodiversity representing 59 % of initiatives (e.g. 4 Pour 1000 or Agroecology Learning alliance in South East Asia). It involves various types of farming industry and small farmers' support as well. The second-largest topic relates to forests with 42% of all initiatives (e.g. African Forest Forum or Bonobo Conservation Initiative). This category includes initiatives dealing with forests from all climate zones and coastal types of forests, such as mangroves. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity is the third-largest theme with 35% of initiatives working on it. These vary from pelagic fishing (EU Pelagic Advisory Council), through coastal ecosystem protection (Global Mangrove Alliance) to animal-specific initiatives (FAO Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna).

Table 3 Initiatives grouped by zones and CBD goals

CBD Goal/Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
Sustainable use	14	6	7	7	7	12	14	67
Conservation	13	1	15	1	13	3	14	60
Access and benefit-sharing	3		1	1	1		1	7
Conservation + access and benefit-sharing	7		2		4			13
Conservation + sustainable use	51	3	13	2	5	6	16	96
Sustainable use + access and benefit-sharing	3	4	2		3	7	9	28
All	18		5	2	8	4	14	51
Other	1		1	1	3	1	2	9
Grand Total	110	14	46	14	44	33	70	331

A categorization of CBD goals by zones presented in Table 3. We observe that public institutions most often connect goals of conservation with sustainable use. Companies focus on sustainable use. CSO prefer conservation objective, although a substantial number of links with sustainable use. Access and benefit-sharing are rarely chosen and limited to mainly public institutions.

3.5 Addressing selected Sustainable Development Goals

Further, we examined initiatives addressing Sustainable Development Goals. As the UN states: “the Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030”⁷. Some of the SDGs relate directly to biodiversity. Stockholm Resilience Centre named SDGs: Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14(Life below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land) as most related to the biodiversity. Our analysis identified two more goals: two (Zero Hunger) and 12 (Responsible consumption and production) which are closely related to nature conservation.

⁷ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

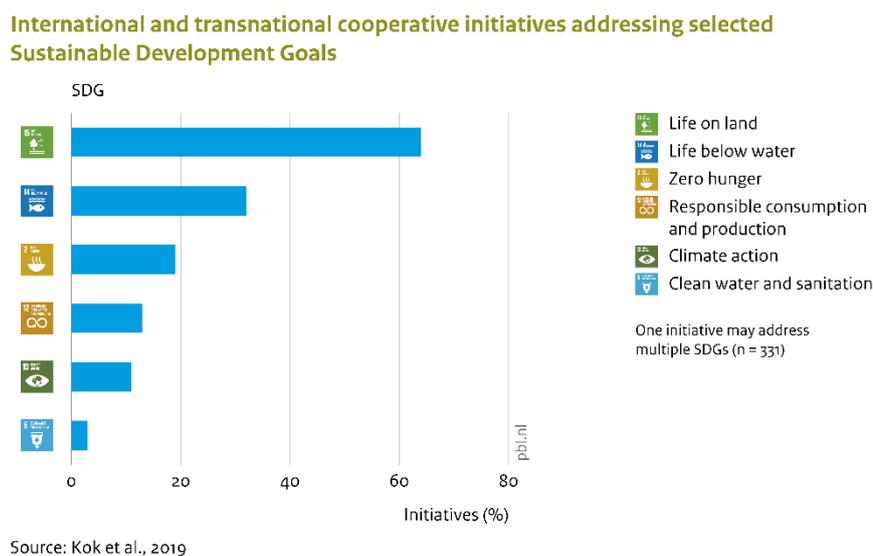


Figure 8 Initiatives addressing selected Sustainable Development Goals

Figure 8 depicts the percentage of initiatives addressing SDGs. 64% of initiatives relate to Goal 15, i.e. terrestrial biodiversity. Some examples include CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation or Ecological Organic Agriculture. Further, 32% are involved in actions related to marine biodiversity (Goal 14), e.g. Deep Sea Conservation Coalition or FAO Committee on Fisheries - Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. Although Goal 2 may seem less related to the nature, target 2.4 reads: “2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding, and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality”. Therefore, 19% of initiatives, mainly involved in agriculture, ecosystem and land use action, relate to it. Exemplary initiatives addressing this goal are EU Pollinators Initiative or Fairtrade International.

Further, Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production is linked to sustainable use and therefore 13% of initiatives (e.g. European Business and Biodiversity Campaign, Forest Stewardship Council). Climate change influences biodiversity through, e.g. the appearance of invasive species. As a result, 11% of initiatives refer to it (e.g. Global Covenant of Mayors, Global Environment Facility). The least addressed SGD from the analysed set was Goal 6 (only 3%), including for example Global Reporting Initiative Gold Community or International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance.

Table 4 Initiatives grouped by zones and selected SDGs

SDG/Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
SDG15	60	7	35	6	34	19	50	211
SDG14	54	5	13	1	11	5	16	105
SDG2	7	3	14	2	9	11	18	64
SDG12	2	5	8	5	4	11	8	43
SDG13	8	2	7	2	7	2	10	38
SDG6	2	2		3	1	1	2	11

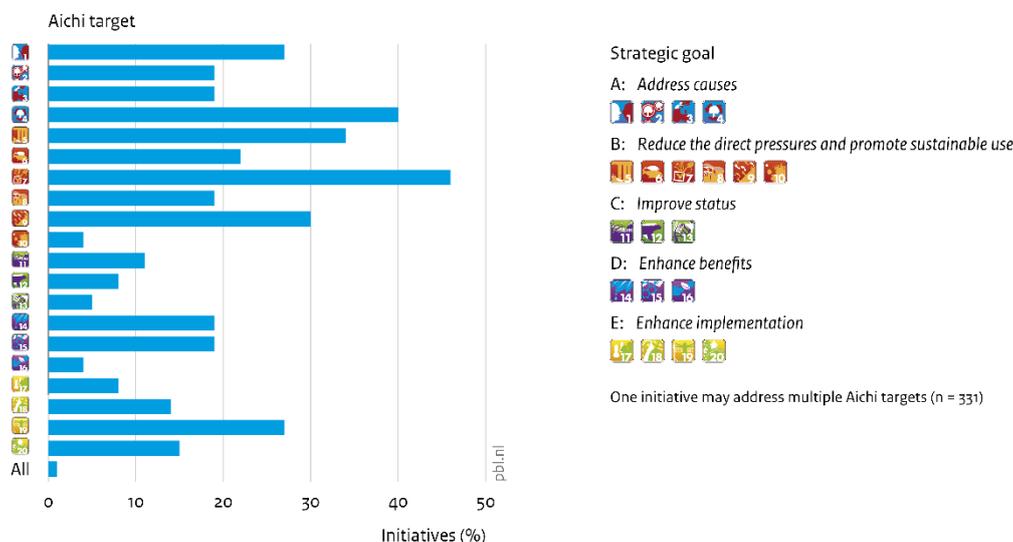
Closer analysis of initiatives within zones shows that public initiatives choose marine and terrestrial biodiversity equally often, whereas CSO and hybrid initiatives focus rather on terrestrial ecosystems (see Table 4). Among SDGs related to sustainable agriculture, production, and consumption, food production is more often addressed by public, CSO and hybrid initiatives. Hybrid initiatives most often include climate change related to biodiversity. Finally, water security is mentioned by ITICs of governments and companies.

3.6 Addressing selected the Aichi targets

The next analysed indicator was addressing the Aichi targets. The targets were agreed in 2010 and should be reached by 2020 on global, regional, national and sub-national levels. They are grouped into five categories naming strategic goals:

- Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.
- Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.
- Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.
- Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

International and transnational cooperative initiatives addressing the Aichi targets



Source: Kok et al., 2019

Figure 9 Initiatives addressing the Aichi targets

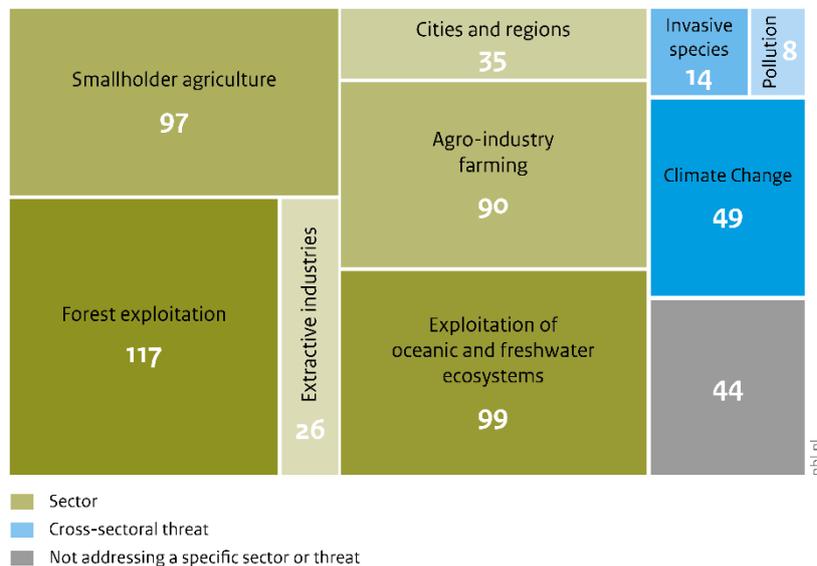
For description of each target please see [Aichi Biodiversity Targets website](#).

In Figure 9, we present a percentage of initiatives addressing each target. Reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use is the most addressed strategic goal by the initiatives in the database. Specifically, 46% of the initiatives choose Target 7 “By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity” (e.g. Better Cotton Initiative, Bonsucro). Another widely addressed Target 4 “By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits” chosen by 40% of the initiatives concerns sustainable production and consumption (e.g. Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies Principles or Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative). Target 16 “By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation” was one of the least addressed topics with only 4% of the initiatives, including e.g. Batumi Initiative on Green Economy or Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee.

3.7 Addressing selected sectoral and cross-sectoral challenges

Another topic we looked at was the share of sectoral and cross-sectoral challenges, which appears in the biodiversity governance landscape. We have selected the based on the IUCN key sectors driving pressures on biodiversity. As a result, six sectors driving threats to species were selected: Cities & Regions, Smallholder Agriculture, Forest exploitation, Agro-industry farming, and Extractive industries, Exploitation of oceanic & freshwater ecosystems, followed by three cross-sectoral threats, which are invasive species, pollution, and climate change.

**International and transnational cooperative initiatives,
per sector and cross-sectoral threats**



One initiative may address multiple sectors or cross-sectoral threats (n=331)

Source: Kok et al., 2019

Figure 10 Initiatives addressing sector and cross-sectoral threats

Sectoral and cross-sectoral challenges related to agriculture visible in Figure 10 are divided into smallholder agriculture and agro-industry farming according to IUCN classification schemes (IUCN 2018). They are represented by initiatives such as the Global Coffee Platform. A similar number of initiatives for both options show that the initiatives often address them simultaneously, e.g. Global Agri-business Alliance. Forest exploitation is named by as many as 117 initiatives, e.g. Forest Investment Program. Ocean and freshwater ecosystems are a matter of concern for 99 initiatives like the Forest Investment Program. This categorisation also shows that there are 35 initiatives that involve and address cities and regions such as Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance or EUROPARC Federation.

3.8 Geographic coverage

The final section describes the geographic distribution of the ITCIs for biodiversity. We examine which countries and regions the initiatives address with their activities⁸.

Countries where international and transnational cooperative initiatives are implemented

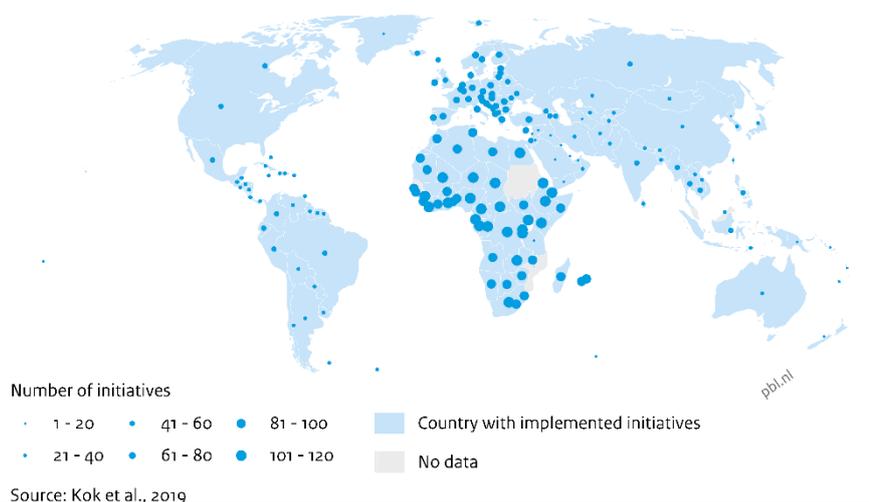


Figure 11 Countries where Initiatives are implemented

Most of the areas addressed by our set of 331 initiatives are located in Africa, followed by Europe (see Figure 11). The highest number of the initiatives focuses on Central African countries, as well as South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Ethiopia. In the North Africa, Egypt and Morocco are targeted by a large number of the initiatives. In Europe, the initiatives' actions are conducted mostly in the EU countries, such as France or Spain. Biodiversity-rich regions and countries, including Latin America and China are not that well covered, but a considerable number of initiatives is present in Indonesia, India, Colombia and Mexico.

Headquarters of initiatives are primarily located in European and US cities, including London, Washington, Bonn, and Rome. This distribution may be a result of the tendency of large international organisations to host secretariats of some of the initiatives.

A similar map can be drawn for oceans and seas. In this case, the largest number of initiatives target the Atlantic Ocean (7% of the initiatives). Further, 5% of the initiatives focus on the Pacific Ocean and 3% on the Indian Ocean respectively.

⁸ We encountered large differences in data coding. Some initiatives addressed whole continents, other World Bank's regions. Many initiatives refer to countries, regions or nature areas of specific interest. Therefore, we used a few different coding systems to bring them to a common denominator, which is countries of implementation of initiatives.

4 Conclusions

This report describes the institutional landscape of governance for biodiversity. Main findings of the report are the following:

- Most ITCIs in the governance landscape are collaboration among various public and private actors summing up to 48% of the analysed initiatives.
- Business initiatives constitute only 4% of the entries. However, they often cooperate with CSO and governmental institutions. The companies are involved in 39% of initiatives in total.
- Information sharing and networking is the key function of initiatives with 60% of the total number. It is followed by more direct operational activities represented by 33% of the initiatives and standards and commitments with 26% of the initiatives.
- 73% of the initiatives address the CBD goal of sustainable use, followed by 66% supporting conservation. Only 30% of initiatives mentioned access and benefit-sharing.
- 64% of initiatives are involved in governing terrestrial biodiversity. 32% are involved in actions related to marine biodiversity. The three most common topics are agriculture, forests, and oceans, however sustainable production, and consumption, as well as interrelations with climate, are often mentioned.
- The majority of initiatives focus on African and European countries, leaving many developing countries in Asia and South America uncovered. The most addressed marine biodiversity area is the Atlantic Ocean.

Regarding methodological caveats, the report focuses on initiatives with websites in English which may influence the results, especially concerning South American, African and Asian initiatives. Second, the study excludes country-specific initiatives, including many local programmes. Furthermore, the study is based on information disclosed and made available by initiatives in 2018 and 2019. Finally, in the last two years we observed considerable fluctuations in the number of initiatives due to mergers or changes in names and partners. If this process continues, it may have an impact on the comparison of data sets in the future.

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Annex A Statement search keywords

These are the search terms that were used for filling the database:

Direct biodiversity link	Biodivers*
Strong keywords	Conservation of biodiversity, conservation of biological diversity, biological diversity, convention on biological diversity, cbd, protected area, Aichi, benefit-sharing, benefit sharing, sharing of benefits, conserv*, ecosystem, forest*, genetic diversity, genetic resources, habitat, species, natural capital, nature based solutions, nature protection, nature, restoration, rewilding, zero extinction, ipbes, nature-based, biocultural, extinction, wildlife, red list, fish*, marine protection, flora, fauna, invasive
Weak keywords	Ecosystem service*, biological resources, earth stewardship, ecological, nagoya protocol, safeguard*, stewardship, sustainable management, sustainable use, use sustainably, integrated landscape management, natural heritage, land degradation, natural assets, redd, ecotourism, sacred natural sites, seed, mangrove, natural resource management, degradation, biomes, genomes, illegal trade, hunting, monoculture, GMO, palm oil, permaculture, biodynamic, esg, agriculture, earth, planet, soy, cocoa, cotton, livestock, desertification, unccd

* To search for multiple forms of this word.

Annex B Internet search keywords

New search areas considered	Business & biodiversity, Cancun pledge, community based forest management, community conservation, conservation of cultural landscapes, eco-agriculture partners, ecosystem restoration camps, euroregions (transnational), green citizen initiatives, ICCA registry, WDCI, indigenous people, indigenous communities, integrated landscape management, nature inclusive agriculture, organic agriculture – agro-ecology, permaculture – agroforestry, pollination movements, private parks, rewilding, seed banks, slow food, sustainable value chains of NTFPs
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Annex C List of initiatives

Acronym	Name
1_G	&Green Fund
4P1000	4 Pour 1000
AR	A Rocha
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFF	African Forest Forum
AP	African Parks
APW	African People and Wildlife
ASEAN_Ag	Agreement Between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation
ACFS	Agreement on Cooperation in the Forest Sector Between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus
ALiSEA	Agroecology Learning alliance in South East Asia
ALLFISH	ALLFISH
AZE	Alliance for Zero Extinction
ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
ASOC	Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
ASEAN	ASEAN Agreement On The C Of Nature And Natural Resources
AKECOP	ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project
AFP	Asia Forest Partnership
APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
ALARM	Assessing Large Scale Risks for Biodiversity with Tested Methods
AFRP	Atlantic Forest Restoration Pact
BIGE	Batumi Initiative on Green Economy
BCI	Better Cotton Initiative
BERA	BiodivERsa
BESNet	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network
BfFN	Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition
BiGC	Biodiversity in Good Company
BIP	Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
BI	Biodiversity International
BIOTA	Biota Africa
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
BLIP	BirdLife International Partnership
BCI	Blue Carbon Initiative
BV	Blue Ventures
BM	BLUEMED
BC	Bonn Challenge
BCI	Bonobo C Initiative

Acronym	Name
BS	Bonsucro
BGCI	Botanic Gardens C International
BENDS	Both ENDS
BBOP	Business and Biodiversity Offsets Program
CoCa	C Capital
CFA	C Finance Alliance
CIBHP	C International BHP Alliance
CCI	Cambridge C Initiative
CEBioS	Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
CC	Carpathian Convention
CartagenaP	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention On Biological Diversity
GSPC	CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
CEEW	CEEweb
WLE	CGIAR Water, Land and Ecosystems research programme
CCFLA	Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance
Climate_Alliance	Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples
CLUA	Climate and Land Use Alliance
CCBA	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCB Standard)
CERES	Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies Principles
CPIC	Coalition For Private Investment In C
CfRN	Coalition for Rainforest Nations
CWP	Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
COMIFAC	Commission of Central African Forests
CCOA	Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance
CSB	Community Seed Banks
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
CPA	Convention Concerning The Protection Of The Alps
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora
CCEWNH	Convention on The C Of European Wildlife And Natural Habitats
CCAMLR	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands Of International Importance Especially As Waterfowl Habitat
UNCCD	Convention To Combat Desertification In Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought And/Or Desertification, Particularly In Africa
CE	Cool Earth
CMiA	Cotton Made in Africa
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CSBI	Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative
DSCC	Deep Sea C Coalition
EBP	Earth BioGenome Project

Acronym	Name
TFT	Earthworm Foundation
EcoFish	EcoFish/Henry & Lisa's
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
EfD	Environment for Development Initiative
EI	Equator Initiative
EMAS	EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
FLEGT	EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan
P RAC	EU Pelagic Advisory Council
EUPI	EU Pollinators Initiative
SWWAC	EU Southern Western Waters Regional Advisory Council
EUROPARC	EUROPARC Federation
EBBC	European Business and Biodiversity Campaign
EGB	European Green Belt
EISA	European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture
RwE	European Rewilding Network
FI	Fairtrade International
AFWC	FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
ATO	FAO African Timber Organization
APFIC	FAO Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission
APFC	FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
CRFM	FAO Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CACFAC	FAO Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
COPESCAALC	FAO Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America and the Caribbean
CCSBT	FAO Commission for the C of Southern Bluefin Tuna
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries - Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
COFO	FAO Committee on Forestry
EFC	FAO European Forestry Commission
EIFAAC	FAO European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission
CECAF	FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
COREP	FAO Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FFF	FAO Forest & Farm Facility
GFCM	FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
FishCode	FAO Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries (FishCode Programme)
IOTC	FAO Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
ICCAT	FAO International Commission For The C Of Atlantic Tunas
IPHC	FAO International Pacific Halibut Commission
LVFO	FAO Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
LACFC	FAO Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission
OLDEPESCA	FAO Latin American Organization For Fisheries Development
NFPF	FAO National Forest Programme Facility
NEFRC	FAO Near East Forestry and Range Commission
NAFC	FAO North American Forest Commission

Acronym	Name
NPAFC	FAO North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
NEAFC	FAO Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission
CPPS	FAO Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
RECOFI	FAO Regional Commission for Fisheries
SWIOFC	FAO Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
SFRC	FAO Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
WCPFC	FAO Western and Central Pacific Ocean Fisheries Commission
WECAFC	FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
FtF	Feed the Future
OECD	OECD Fisheries Committee of the Organisation for Co-operation and Economic Development
FS	Fondation Segré
FOLU	Food and Land Use Coalition
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
ANSAB	Forest Connect by Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLI	Forest Legality Initiative
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FOS	Friend of the Sea
GDSA	Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa
GEFSGP	GEF Small Grants Programme
GAA	Global Agri-business Alliance
GABV	Global Alliance for Banking on Values
GACSCA	Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
GAFF	Global Alliance for the Future of Food
GC	Global Canopy
GCP	Global Coffee Platform
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
CoM	Global Covenant of Mayors
GEN	Global Ecolabeling Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFC	Global Forest Coalition
GFW	Global Forest Watch 2.0
GGAP	Global G.A.P
GGGI	Global Ghost Gear Initiative
GMA	Global Mangrove Alliance
IPIECA	Global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues
GPO	Global Partnership for Oceans
GPNM	Global Partnership on Nutrient Management
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative Gold Community
GSBI	Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative
GSTC	Global Sustainable Tourism Council
GLOBE	GLOBE International

Acronym	Name
GovCF	Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force
GANECA	Guyanas and Amazon North Eastern C Alliance
HSA	High Seas Alliance
ICCA	ICCA Consortium
RC	ICCA Responsible Care
ICLEI	ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
CWN	ICLEI Cities With Nature
IDDRI	IDDRI Biodiversity and ecosystems programme
IDH	IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative
IFCPS6	IFC performance standard 6
IFOAM	IFOAM - Organics International
ICA	Indigenous Climate Action
IPACC	Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee
I2020	Initiative 20x20
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
IRI	Interfaith Rainforest Initiative
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IAFN	International Analog Forest Network
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
IKI	International Climate Initiative
ICFA	International Coalition of Fisheries Associations
ICES	International Council For The Exploration Of The Sea
ICMM	International Council on Mining and Metals
IDFC	International Development Finance Club
ILC	International Land Coalition
INSR	International network for seed-based restoration
IOAS	International Organic Accreditation Service
IPSI	International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
ISEAL	International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance
ISCC	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUFRO	International Union Of Forest Research Organizations
IUNCBD	International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IWGIA	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
IMED	Interreg MED
ISO	ISO/TC 234 Fisheries and Aquaculture
ISO14	ISO14 International Organization for Standardization 14001 environmental management standard 1996
BSI	IUCN Blue Solutions Initiative

Acronym	Name
IUNCNPAP	IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme
PSHP	IUCN Panorama Solutions
IRLE	IUCN Red List of Ecosystems
SOS	IUCN SOS Save Our Species
IUCNSSC	IUCN Species Survival Commission
TRI	IUCN The Restoration Initiative
WCPA	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
BEST	IUCN's EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme
FACCE-JPI	Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change
LCCN	Landscape C Cooperative Network
LPFN	Landscapes for People, Food and Nature
LG	Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development
LAB	Local Action for Biodiversity
LD RAC	Long Distance Fleet Regional Advisory Council
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MRC	Mekong River Commission
MICCA	Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture programme
MESA	Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture
NagoyaP	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity
NatCapC	Natural Capital Coalition
N4Cts	Nature 4 Cities
N4C	Nature 4 Climate
Naturland	Naturland - Association for Organic Agriculture
NEPAD	NEPAD
NEPC	NEPCon
NPC	Nespresso AAA Sustainability Quality - The Postive Cup
nrg4SD	Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
Forest Principles	Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, C and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests
NTFPEP	Non-timber Forest Products Exchange Program
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon C Organization
NSAC	North Sea Advisory Council
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NoWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
NYDF	NY Declarations on Forests
OECD	OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises - Environment policy 2005
OSPAR	OSPAR Commission
PILN	Pacific Invasives Learning Network
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

Acronym	Name
POIG	Palm Oil Innovation Group
PEMSEA	Partnerships in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PPF	Peace Parks Foundation
PARTNERS	People and Reforestation in the Tropics
PB	Plan Bleu
PlanVivo	Plan Vivo
PCLG	Poverty and C Learning Group
COLOSS	Prevention of honey bee COLony LOSSes
PEFC	Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PROFOR	Program on Forests
CPA_2	Protocol For The Implementation Of The Alpine Convention Concerning Mountain Forests
PBLFCC	Protocol on C and SU of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
PFCC	Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
RAC	Rainforest Alliance Certified
RT	Rainforest Trust
ReNF	reNature Foundation
RAFT	Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade
RPP	Responsibly Produced Peat
RTRS	Round Table Responsible Soy
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
RUAF	RUAF
SNAPP	Science for Nature and People Partnership
SAR	Seas at Risk
SEED	SEED
SSC	Seeds, Soil, and Culture
SFFB	Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity
SFI	Slow Food International
SC	SOCIALCARBON
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
SPC	SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems
STEP	Status and Trends of European Pollinators
SUPER_B	SUPER_B
SAI	Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform
SAN	Sustainable Agriculture Network
SFI	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
SRP	Sustainable Rice Platform
SBIO	SwedBIO Collaborative Programme
SFSA	Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture
AIE	The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

Acronym	Name
ACSAA	The Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance
BSAC	The Baltic Sea Advisory Council
BIOFIN	The Biodiversity Finance Initiative
CCAFS	The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CCRI	The Community C Resilience Initiative
CGF	The Consumer Goods Forum
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TELP	The Endangered Landscapes Programme
FERI	The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative
GOBI	The Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative
GPFLR	The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration
GS	The Gold Standard
LFTF	The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility
KG	The Katoomba Group (Forest Trends)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TNOC	The Nature of Cities
TNLC	The Network for Landscape C
OSSI	The Open Source Seed Initiative
PCT	The Pew Charitable Trust Projects
TPP	The Pollination Project
RRI	The Rights and Resources Initiative
RSB	The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB Standard)
TRAFFIC	TRAFFIC
TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
UNFF	UN Forum on Forests
UNGC	UN Global Compact
C4C	UN Global Compact Caring for Climate
NLBI	UN Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests
COFFI	UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
UNEPFINCD	UNEP FI and Natural Capital Declaration
UNEP-FI	UNEP Finance Initiative
UNREDD	UN-REDD Programme
URBIO	Urban Biodiversity and Design
VCA	Verified Conservation Areas
ISFL	WB BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes
WBCSD	WBCSD Food and Nature
WASI	We Are Still In
NVA	WEF New Vision for Agriculture
GAsP	WEF NVA Grow Asia
SDIP	WEF Sustainable Development Investment Partnership
WI	Wetlands International
PROFISH	World Bank Global Program on Fisheries
IFC	World Bank Sustainable Development Bonds

Acronym	Name
WCF	World Cocoa Foundation
WOC	World Ocean Council
WRL	World Rural Landscapes
WWOOF	WorldWide Opportunities on Organic Farms
GFTN	WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network