

CGIAR Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform

Annual Technical Report 2023

Acronyms

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Disclaimers

This publication has been prepared as an output of the CGIAR Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform. Any views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily representative of or endorsed by the CGIAR System Organization.

Alliance	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT	
C&O	Communication and Outreach	
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	
СОР	Conference of the Parties	
СоР	Community of Practice	
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa	
GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framewor	
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agric	
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute	
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	
IWMI	International Water Management Institute	
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	
P&A	Partnership and Advocacy	
PPU	CGIAR Portfolio Performance Unit	
R&I	Research and Innovation	
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Tech	
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency	
TNC	The Nature Conservancy	
тос	Theory of change	
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertifica	
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Clima	

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CGIAR Technical Reporting 2023

CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with the <u>CGIAR Technical Reporting Arrangement</u>. This Impact Platform report is a Type 1 report and constitutes part of the broader <u>CGIAR</u> <u>Technical Report</u>. Each CGIAR Impact Platform submits an annual Type 1 report, which provides assurance on Impact Platform progress.

The CGIAR Annual Report is a comprehensive overview of CGIAR's collective achievements, impact and strategic outlook, which draws significantly from the Technical Report products above. For 2023, the Annual Report and Technical Report will be presented online as an integrated product.



The CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and Science Group Project (SGP) reports, with quality assured results reported by Initiatives, Platforms and SGPs available on the CGIAR Results Dashboard.
- The Type 3 Portfolio Performance and Project Coordination Practice Change report, which focuses on internal practice change.
- The Portfolio Narrative, which draws on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, and the CGIAR Results Dashboard, to provide a broader view on Portfolio coherence, including results, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and synergies among the Portfolio's constituent parts.

Section 1: Fact sheet and budget

Impact Platform name	Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform
Short name	Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform
Director	Cargele Masso (<u>c.masso@cgiar.org</u>)
Start – end date	January 2023 – 31 December 2024
Links to source documents /website	https://www.cgiar.org/research/cgiar-portfolio/environmental-health-biodiversity/

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CGIAR's Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform was launched in the first quarter of 2023 with the appointment of the Platform director. The first year focused largely on developing a clear strategic direction and developing partnerships, which together form a strong foundation for the Platform's work. Several activities were under way by the end of 2023, under each Platform functional area. This report summarizes the achievements of the Platform's first year of operations.

An Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area Community of Practice (CoP) was set up with stakeholders from across CGIAR. At the first CoP workshop in September 2023, priorities for contribution toward the targets for the Impact Area were agreed and a theory of change (TOC) developed for the Impact Area and Platform. The latter captures the role of the Platform to catalyze CGIAR systemwide actions toward achieving impacts.

A review was undertaken of the target indicators, set against global benchmarks, for CGIAR's Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area, one of five key Impact Areas of CGIAR. The CoP recommended revisiting the indicators related to biodiversity and genetic resource targets to enhance CGIAR's contribution to the <u>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)</u>. Recommendations have also been made to CGIAR on improving the tagging of research Initiatives to the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area, based on a review of Initiative proposals.

Most engagement events with external stakeholders were initiated in the fourth quarter of 2023, once the vision and roadmap of the Platform had been co-designed. In October, the Platform participated in the 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which included reviewing discussion documents. During the SBSTTA meeting, the Platform organized a side event on "Seeding Resilience: Nourishing the Future through Agrobiodiversity and Local Food Systems" with the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and BIOVISION. In December, the Platform organized an event at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP28) in collaboration with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, IFPRI, IWMI, and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Partner organizations including CBD, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) were part of a panel discussion on "Building socio-ecological resilience through ecosystem-based solutions to address the climate crisis and safeguard biodiversity." At COP28, the Platform contributed expertise to panel discussions organized by partner institutions including the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, the "4 per 1000" Initiative "Soils for Food Security and Climate", and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

On recommendation of the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area Community of Practice, the Platform is co-developing an offer as a key input to the future CGIAR research Portfolio from 2025 onwards. The offer includes critical environmental and biodiversity research areas to enhance the work of the CGIAR Portfolio in this transition. The offer emphasizes the need to analyze the synergies and potential trade-offs among the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of CGIAR's five Impact Areas.

	2022	2023	2024
APPROVED BUDGET ¹ »	\$1.02M	\$0.78M ²	\$0.74M ³

¹ The approved budget amounts correspond to the figures available for public access through the Financing dashboard

² This amount includes carry-over and commitments.

³ This amount is an estimation of the 2024 annual budget allocation, as of the end of March 2024.



Representatives of CGIAR Centers and Initiatives during an Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform workshop in September 2023. Credit: ILRI/Kristen Tam

Section 2: Progress against the theory of change

Impact Platform-level theory of change diagram

This is a simple, linear, and static representation of a complex, nonlinear, and dynamic reality. Feedback loops and connections between this Platform and other Inititiatives' theories of change are excluded for clarity.

РО	Primary Outcome
AA	Action Area
IA	Impact Area
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

Note: A summary of Key Functions progress ratings is provided in Section 3.



KEY FUNCTION PROGRESS RATING



Off-track

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Stay within planetary and regional environmental boundaries: consumpt water use in food production of less than 2500 km3 per year (with a focus on the most stressed basins), zero net deforestation, nitrogen application of 90 Tg per year (with redistribution towards low-input farming systems) and increased use efficiency, and phosphorus application of 10 Tg per year.

Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.





Summary of progress against the theory of change

Sections 2 and 3 of this report provide a summary of progress towards the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform theory of change. The Platform focuses on creating a conducive environment for experience and knowledge sharing as well as setting a common vision for the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area. The Impact Area theory of change, which was developed by the Impact Area CoP (see Section 2, function 1), details future work in this area by CGIAR and its partners. It will be implemented mainly by CGIAR Initiatives, with minimum oversight by the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform.

The Platform theory of change was finalized in the fourth quarter of 2023, following consultations with CGIAR stakeholders, including representatives of CGIAR Initiatives and Centers and its Partnership and Advocacy and Communication and Outreach teams. The Platform activities began earlier, however, with the appointment of the Platform director on 15 January 2023 and his staring full-time 15 March 2023. Given that the Platform was brand new, the major focus in 2023 was first to clarify roles and responsibilities and second to make effective plans to lay a strong foundation for the following years. Importantly, in 2024 the decision-making bodies (conference of the parties, or COPs) of both the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held.

The Impact Platform theory of change has been built around four functions outlined in the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy:

- 1. Function 1: Design a roadmap Foster global critical thinking, use of evidence, and appropriate metrics around the Impact Area, to identify high-impact research areas on biodiversity, land, soil. and water.
- 2. Function 2: Increase capacities Increase internal capacity across the Science Groups through strengthening and sharing common tools, standards, datasets, cutting-edge science, and knowledge management.

- 3. Function 3: Engage for impacts Amplify CGIAR's external profile and voice by engaging in and shaping global policy discourse and by leading external communications plans to influence well beyond the agriculture and food sector.
- 4. Function 4: Rethink research priorities Advise management on the identification and performance management of CGIAR Initiatives, based on lessons learned from the community of practice and feedback loops from internal and external stakeholders.

The starting point for the Platform has been the creation of the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area community of practice (CoP), with an initial focus on CGIAR stakeholders (function 1, outcome 1.1, output 1.1.1). Following a review of CGIAR Research Initiative proposals and discussions with each Initiative, those that demonstrated strong alignment to this Impact Area based on relevant activities and expected results were included in the CoP. CGIAR Centers were then engaged through their deputy directors general-research, with each Center appointing representatives to the CoP. Similarly, CGIAR's Partnership and Advocacy and Communication and Outreach teams were engaged in discussions to ensure alignment with function 3, outcome 3.1, output 3.1.1.

An Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform workshop was held 25–27 September 2023 at ILRI in Nairobi, Kenya. Its purpose was to co-design the theory of change for the Platform to catalyze CGIAR work toward achieving impacts and to co-identify key priorities for meeting CGIAR's Impact Area targets. This process involved several pre-workshop meetings, facilitated by Convene, and the development of a workshop discussion document. The major output of the workshop was development of a common ambition for the Impact Area, including a TOC, in addition to a TOC for the Impact Platform. The draft Impact Area TOC was reviewed by selected CGIAR scientists external to the CoP. Both TOCs have been captured in a draft roadmap document now under review by the CoP (function 1, outcome 1, output 1.1.2). Subsequent discussions were held with

the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) regarding the Impact Area focal area on "Reduce pollution related to food systems and enhance One Health". SIDA recommended development of an "Environmental Management System" across the whole-of-CGIAR's Portfolio and programs. As a result, a new output, "An environmental risks management strategic plan, including a risk-register", has been added to the Platform TOC to ensure regular monitoring (new: function 1, outcome 1.1, output 1.1.3).

For function 2, the focus in 2023 was on reviewing Impact Area target indicators, using global benchmarks such as the indicators applied for the targets of interest under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 6, 12, 14, 15, and 17 (function 2, outcome 2.1, output 2.1.1). Regarding the first Impact Area target related to staying within the regional and global planetary boundaries for environmental health, the Impact Area CoP found the relevant indicators in the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy to be sufficient.

For the second target related to biodiversity and genetic resources, the CoP has recommended revisiting the current indicators and building on these to enhance the CGIAR contribution to the Kunming-Montreal GBF, which

was adopted in December 2022, after completion of the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy. Additional indicators being considered are mainly related to in situ conservation (e.g., national protected areas), sustainable use of genetic resources (e.g., Agrobiodiversity Index), and cost and benefit sharing of conservation and utilization of genetic resources (e.g., number of people having to benefit from utilizing genetic resources; number of institutions contributing to cost sharing for conservation of genetic resources). Understanding the additional indicators and putting in place mechanisms to meet them will require capacity strengthening for both CGIAR and its close partners.

A draft communication plan was developed for the Platform (function 3) and an engagement plan was also developed with the support of CGIAR's Partnership and Engagement team and building on the engagement framework of CGIAR (function 3, outcome 3.1, output 3.1.1).

Most engagement events with external stakeholders were initiated in the

fourth quarter of this inception year, after co-designing the vision and roadmap for the Platform (function 3, outcome 3.1, output 3.1.2). The most significant engagements were through the CBD COP and the UNFCCC COP. At the CBD COP, the Platform participated in the SBSTTA 25 (15-19 October), for which it reviewed SBSTTA discussion documents, and then participated in the second part of the 15th meeting of the CBD COP (19-20 October). Together with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, the Platform and its partners, including IFAD and BIOVISION, organized a side-event on "Seeding Resilience: Nourishing the Future through Agrobiodiversity and Local Food Systems". The participants in this side event included national government representatives from Kenva. Nigeria and Tanzania, the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub, and other strategic partners, who showed strong interest in the Agrobiodiversity Index developed by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and partners. This Index is being demonstrated in countries by the



CGIAR Initiatives on Nature-Positive Solutions for Shifting Agrifood Systems to More Resilient and Sustainable Pathways (Nature-Positive Solutions), Transformational Agroecology Across Food, Land and Water Systems (Agroecology), and NEXUS Gains: Realizing Multiple Benefits Across Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (Nexus Gains). Since the event, the Impact Platform and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT have initiated informal discussions with selected countries, including Tanzania and Colombia, and the CBD Secretariat regarding the potential for integrating the Agrobiodiversity Index into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) and as one of the headline indicators for target 10 of the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

The Platform organized a side event at UNFCCC COP28 on "Building socio-ecological resilience through ecosystem-based solutions to address the climate crisis and safeguard biodiversity." The Platform also contributed expertise to panel discussions at COP28 organized by partner institutions such as the Organisation International de la Francophonie, the "4 per 1000" Initiative "Soils for Food Security and Climate", and IICA. This resulted in informal invitations from the secretariats of both the CBD and the UNCCD for CGIAR to organize pavilions on food systems during their 16th COPs to be held in

2024, in Colombia in October, and in Saudi Arabia in December, respectively. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also approached the Platform and CGIAR's global director for partnership and advocacy regarding partnering CGIAR in IUCN's new agricultural Portfolio.

In 2023, we built on the recommendation of the Impact Area CoP to co-develop an Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area offer for the future CGIAR research Portfolio, from 2025 onwards (function 4, outcome 4.1, output 4.1.1). The offer includes critical research areas to enhance the work of the CGIAR Portfolio on environmental health and biodiversity as a transition pathway to meeting the Impact Area targets of the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy. Importantly, the offer, summarized in the Platform Narrative document, emphasized the need to analyze the synergies and potential trade-offs among the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of CGIAR's five Impact Areas.



Key function 1 progress

The planned outcome for the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform associated with key function 1 is: "The Community of Practice and working groups convene around a shared vision and related road map leading to adoption by CGIAR Research and Innovation Initiatives, bilateral projects of CGIAR Centers, and projects and programs of strategic partners of the road map for the purpose of maintaining, enhancing, and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services." The main pillars of this function in 2023 were the set-up of the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area CoP, development of a vision and road map for implementing the Platform's four functions, and co-identifying priority environmental health and biodiversity challenges and solutions through collaboration and cooperation.

The terms of reference for the CoP were agreed upon and members identified from across all Centers and selected research Initiatives of CGIAR. Several consultative meetings were organized before the in-person platform workshop held in September 2023; this included one-on-one meetings to establish working relationships as well as group discussions to brainstorm priorities for the workshop, all under the facilitation of Convene.

The CoP group met in person for the first time in Nairobi 25–27 September 2023 to consolidate the priorities of the Impact Area and the Impact Platform based on selected benchmarks related to the UN SDGs — namely SDG15 (Life on land), SDG14 (Life below water), SDG12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals) — as well as the Kunming-Montreal GBF adopted in December 2022. The CoP recommended the following four pathways for the Impact Area for CGIAR to effectively deliver on its environmental health and biodiversity targets by 2030:

- 1. Transition to regenerative and agroecological and circular food systems to halt environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.
- 2. Protect and restore natural capital for healthy and diverse diets, improved livelihoods and climate resilience.
- 3. Reduce pollution related to food systems and enhance one health.
- 4. Address the root causes of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in food systems.

In the fourth quarter of 2023, the CoP used these pathways as the basis for developing an Impact Platform draft strategy (function 1, outcome 1.1, output 1.1.2) and narrative (function 4, outcome 4.1, output 4.1.1). Impact Platform function leads and thematic leads in biodiversity, land, soil, and water systems were identified. These leads will coordinate the activities of the various CoP working groups to implement the Impact Platform strategy. Establishment of the working groups will be completed in early 2024.

One focus area for the Platform is to clarify the interactions between the CGIAR research Initiatives tagged to the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area and the Impact Platform itself. The research Initiatives implement the Impact Area TOC through their activities, while the Impact Platform catalyzes the achievement of these impacts through its own TOC. This concept will be an important tenet in the forthcoming value proposition for the Platform. The Impact Platform has also identified critical environmental and biodiversity risks to be managed. A specific output on environmental risk management, including a risk-register, will be added to the Platform ToC (function 1, outcome 1.1, output 1.1.3

Key Function 2: Develop CGIAR and partner capacity



Key function 2 progress

The planned outcome associated with key function 2 is: "CGIAR Centers and close partners have access to skills for applying common tools, standards (metrics and key performance indicators), and knowledge management approaches to assess the state of environmental health and biodiversity and the performance of innovations to maintain, enhance, and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services and to share scientific experience and datasets for meta-analysis and comparability." This will be achieved through enhancing capabilities and capacities of CGIAR and strategic partners in the use of harmonized standard tools, metrics, indicators, and assessment frameworks. Within this function related to CGIAR and partner capacity development, the Impact Area CoP opted to focus on creating compendiums of metrics, indicators, assessment frameworks, innovations, technologies, and knowledge products, including literature reviews. The purpose of this is to assess tools used by CGIAR and partners to determine opportunities for harmonization and standardization. This exercise will also identify knowledge gaps based on selected benchmarks such as the Impact Area targets and other targets or aspirational goals of strategic partners, such as the SDGs and the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

In 2023, the focus was reviewing the Impact Area indicators and identifying how the activities of the six CGIAR Initiatives mapped to the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area - CGIAR Research Initiatives on Agroecology, Nature-Positive Solutions, Excellence in Agronomy, NEXUS Gains, Genebanks, and Plant Health and Rapid Response to Protect Food Security and Livelihoods (Plant Health) — relate to these indicators. Similarly, given that all CGIAR Initiatives were required to address selected Impact Area challenges



On track

CGIAR Centres/Alliances and close partners have access to and share scientific experience and data sets for metaanalysis and comparability to maintain, enhance, and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services.

within their 2021 proposals, in 2023 the Platform reviewed these proposals to assess how effectively this exercise was done based on the key outcomes of the Initiatives. As a result of this assessment, the Platform recommended an improvement in the tagging of outputs and activities to the Impact Area for effectiveness and efficiency. These recommendations have been shared with the CGIAR Portfolio Performance Unit (PPU) to inform all Initiatives and as an important element to consider in the development of CGIAR's future research Portfolio.

The CoP undertook a review of the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area indicators in the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy based on benchmarks from the SDGs and the Kunming-Montreal GBF. The review confirmed the completeness of indicators related to staying within planetary environmental boundaries for food, land and water systems while additions have been recommended to enhance the completeness of the indicators related to biodiversity and genetic resources.

Another component of the review was to recommend development of indicators for in situ conservation (e.g., national protected areas), sustainable use of genetic resources (e.g., Agrobiodiversity Index), and cost and benefit sharing for the conservation and use of genetic resources for all living organisms relevant to food, land, and water systems (e.g., number of people having access to the benefits of utilizing genetic resources; number of institutions contributing to cost sharing for conservation of genetic resources). The additional indicators will be developed by the Impact Area CoP in close collaboration with the PPU

Key Function 3: Amplify external profile and pathways to impact



3.1. Strategic engagement and takeholder wide campaigns and advovacy to promote sustainable scaling and scaling-ready innovations technologies and knowledge-products for the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

On track

CGIAR research results are used by development partners including among others national and sub-national governments, regional and international organizations and institutions in policy, nnovation, investment, and capacity development processes for maintaining, enhancing, and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Key Function 4: Advise Portfolio-level management strategy



Key function 3 progress

packaging of research results and informing further research priorities.

The planned outcome associated with key function 3 is: "CGIAR research results are used by development partners, including. among others, national and subnational governments, regional and international organizations and institutions in policy, innovation and capacity development processes to maintain, enhance, and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services." This will be achieved through strategic engagement and stakeholder-wide campaigns and advocacy to promote sustainable scaling and scaling-ready innovations, technologies, and knowledge products.

For this function to amplify CGIAR's external profile and pathways to impacts, events of global significance on environmental health and biodiversity represent critical opportunities. In 2023, we prioritized events of major importance to the Platform TOC. Engagement campaigns started in late 2023, after co-development of the Platform's vision and road map. In October 2023, the Platform participated in the CBD COP, during which we co-organized. a side event, "Seeding Resilience: Nourishing the Future through Agrobiodiversity and Local Food Systems", with IFAD and BIOVISION. This event included speakers from CBD and national partners, such as the Tanzania Ministry of Agriculture. Working with national partners is critical to the ability of CGIAR science to inform updates to national NBSAPs. In collaboration with the Agroecology, Nature-Positive Solutions, and NEXUS Gains Initiatives, the Platform interacted with countries about potential inclusion of the CGIAR Agrobiodiversity Index innovation in NBSAPs. Since then, the Impact Platform has also been coordinating discussions with countries such as Tanzania and Colombia, in collaboration with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and CGIAR's Nature Positive Solutions, Agroecology, and NEXUS Gains Initiatives, to sponsor submission of the Agrobiodiversity Index to COP16 of CBD as one of the headline indicators for GBF target 10. The Platform also

helped review selected discussion documents used during the CBD SBSTTA25 meeting, such as the theme of biodiversity for climate, which was discussed by the Convention Parties.

From November to December 2023, the Platform participated in COP28 of the UNFCCC and organized a side event on "Building socioecological resilience through ecosystem-based solutions to address the climate crisis and safeguard biodiversity" in collaboration with CRS and CGIAR Initiatives, including Agroecology and NEXUS Gains. Speakers included representatives from UNCCD, CBD, FARA and TNC. The Platform participated in a series of panels in various pavilions - including Food Systems, "4 per 1000" initiative, the Francophone pavilion, and the Americas' pavilion - on issues related to the importance of soil health and crop biodiversity for climate and nutrition resilience. Together with the CGIAR global director for Partnership and Advocacy, the Platform also engaged directly with UNCCD, CBD, and IUCN. The Platform echoed the message spearheaded by the Colombian and German governments, as well as the CBD, on integrating considerations of nature, climate and people when addressing the climate crisis. IUCN recognizes biodiversity and climate as "two-sides of the same coin" to effectively adapt and mitigate climate change. All the partners mentioned informally committed to collaborate with the Platform for similar events of global significance, such as the 2024 COPs of CBD and UNCCD (e.g., through joint pavilions). IUCN informally invited the Platform and CGIAR's partnership and advocacy team for further discussions in 2024 regarding potential collaboration in the context of IUCN's Portfolio.

In 2023, the Platform negotiated for CGIAR partnership in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) to enhance the science and policy interface and submitted an application.

Key function 4 progress

The planned Impact Platform outcome associated with key function 4 is: "CGIAR uses evidence generated by the Impact Platform: (i) to reshape the environment and biodiversity research priorities and related investments, and (ii) in discussions with CGIAR donors", based on feedback loops across the four functions of the Impact Platform. In 2023, the Impact Area CoP worked on rethinking research priorities, informed by the Impact Area TOC, to maximize opportunities for the Platform to support the CGIAR and partners in meeting Impact Area targets (function 4, outcome 4.1, output 4.1.1). The Impact Platform developed a narrative, which benefited from reviews by key informants across selected CGIAR Centers and initiatives, as well as from informal feedback from strategic partners, including the United Nations Environment Programme, CBD, UNCCD, TNC, CRS, IUCN, and FARA at COP28. For example, IUCN expressed strong interest in pursuing the discussion with CGIAR in 2024, to define collaboration areas and modalities for IUCN's new portfolio, while CBD welcomes CGIAR's contribution to the headline indicators for the GBF targets.

A key task for the Platform is to use the feedback loops resulting from the work of the Impact Area CoP and interactions with strategic partners to inform research priority setting and therefore ensure an outstanding contribution of CGIAR research to addressing environmental health and biodiversity challenges. It is critical to set ambitious targets that build on the comparative advantage of CGIAR. As such, the Impact Area targets, and the related indicators



On track

CGIAR uses evidence to reshape the environmental and biodiversity priority-research of the initiatives and related investments, and in the discussion with the CGIAR donors

that track performance against each target, must be informed by benchmarks of global significance and be applicable at subnational, national, and regional scales, such as the targets and indicators related to (i) SDGs 2, 6, 12, 14, 15, and 17; (ii) the Kunming-Montreal GBF; and (iii) relevant United Nations Environmental Assembly resolutions. During the Impact Platform workshop in Nairobi in 2023, the CoP developed not only a TOC for the Impact Platform but also a TOC for the CGIAR Research and Innovation Strategy Impact Area on Environmental Health and Biodiversity, progress along which will be a collective effort across the whole CGIAR and its partners. While the Platform TOC focuses on catalyzing the achievements of CGIAR to reach impact, the Impact Area TOC focuses on strengthening the research focus on Environmental Health and Biodiversity for the whole CGIAR system, as informed by relevant benchmarks.

Understanding the synergies and trade-offs across the five Impact Areas in the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy is also critical to developing effective and efficient solutions resulting from systems thinking. As such, joint (cross-Platform) special projects, such as meta-analyses using secondary data from CGIAR Initiatives and bilateral projects, have been recommended by the Platform directors to be incorporated into the design of CGIAR's 2025 research Portfolio to build in systems thinking and deliver holistic solutions. Two outputs have been included in the Platform TOC to reflect this requirement (outputs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3), which calls for adequate funding for the special projects.

Key function progress rating summary

KEY	FUNCTION	PROGRESS RATING & RATIONALE
1	Foster global critical thinking	Progress rating Progress toward achieving the planned outcome under this function has advanced well. The CoP has been established and its vision outlined in the first Platform narrative, which contains key elements of the road map to addressing priority challenges.
2	Develop CGIAR and partner capacity	Progress rating The process of building an inventory of Initiatives' relevant activities has started in line with the plan for 2023.
3	Advise portfolio-level management/strategy	Progress rating Good progress has been made, especially on the planned output "Engagement and awareness-creation campaigns of scaling-ready innovations, technologies, and knowledge- products" because of significant engagement in CBD and UNFCCC processes, with a focus on the Agrobiodiversity Index innovation.
4	Amplify external profile and pathways to impact	Progress rating Recommendations for integrating the Impact Area TOC into CGIAR's new research Portfolio have been made to the Portfolio design team in line with the plan for the new business cycle starting in 2025.

Section 4: Key results

This section provides an overview of results reported by the CGIAR Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform in 2023. These results align with the CGIAR Results Framework and the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform's theory of change. Source: Data extracted from the CGIAR Results Dashboard on 29 March 2024.

The key priority of the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform in 2023 was its establishment, followed by strategic planning, including co-designing the Platform strategy and TOC. Once the TOC was in place, the Platform began implementing activities in the final quarter of the year under all four Impact Platform functions. The Platform has reported seven completed results on the CGIAR Results Dashboard and has collaborated on four further results originating from partner Platforms and Initiatives. Many more ongoing activities will be reported as results in 2024.

Results reported by the Environment and Biodiversity impact Platform in 2023

- A functional Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area community of practice for internal stakeholders across CGIAR Centers and Initiatives was established.
- road map to address key environmental and biodiversity challenges.
- A review was conducted of CGIAR Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact indicators.
- Contributions were made to the 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 25) in October 2023.
- A side event, "Seeding Resilience: Nourishing the Future through Agrobiodiversity and Local Food Systems' was organized at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 2023.
- The Platform participated in 28th Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC, including a side event on "Building socioecological resilience through ecosystem-based solutions to address the climate crisis and safeguard biodiversity".
- CGIAR Initiatives (2025-2027).

The Impact Platform contributes to a range of SDGs. This is demonstrated in the results reported in the Platform's inception year, as depicted in the chart below.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



On track Delayed Annual progress largely aligns with Annual progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget. Plan of Results and Budget in key areas. Can include small deviations/issues/

function if not managed appropriately.

jeopardize the success of the key function

The Platform is a collaborative endeavor. Its role is to work across partners from the whole of CGIAR, which is both one of its strengths and a necessary mechanism for success. From the few results reported in the inception year of the Platform, it is already possible to understand the extent to which the Platform is working with partners across the portfolio.

The numbers in the graph represent the total count of results contributing to the SDGs.

delays/risks that do not jeopardize the

success of the key function.

• A first workshop was held of the Environmental Health and Biodiversity Platform community of practice to agree on Platform priorities and a

• The Environmental Health and Biodiversity Platform community of practice made recommendations for integration into the next phase of



3 3 3 3 3 3 More results Fewer results Genetic Innovation Systems Transformation

Collaborations where less than 3 results were reported as linkages between the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform and other initiatives were excluded, for clarity purposes. At least 1 joint result was reported with 29 other Initiatives or Platforms (Source: Data extracted from the Results Dashboard on 23 March

The above results refer to the achievements of the Impact Platform in its first year. The results reported by the entire portfolio of CGIAR Initiatives toward the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform will be summarized in the CGIAR Portfolio report. Preliminary figures show that in 2023, 2,789 results were tagged as having a "significant" contribution to this Impact Area and a further 353 results were tagged as having a "principal" contribution to this Impact Area. The Platform will continue to work with partners across CGIAR in 2024 to further catalyze meeting the targets in this Impact Area.

Section 5: Adaptive management

RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING R
Hold a "Pause and Reflect" meeting in 2024	2023 was mainly a Reflect" meeting in action plan for 202 Area priorities to be 2025 research Port retreat for this, as t meeting.
Review the budget	A review of the bud and outcomes are f match its ambition invites a review of f during the 2025 –2 that the Platform is
Improve staffing levels	The staffing of the of a platform direct thematic focal poin It is essential that t obligations and to o 2024 would be to c
Adjust the theory of change	The most significan output, 1.1.3, "An e register", which wa consideration of th systems to stay wit only in 2023, this w targets, indicators, that the TOC match available and the as
Develop a risk management framework	 The top five risks to the 2024 re-plan pr with management Centers and sci partners. Parall if not managed Selected function responsibilities The Platform pl Initiatives, Cent by these group Given that the consuming, und ability to achies

ATIONALE

year of set-up and planning, with limited activities. A "Pause and 2024 would focus on validating or amending the Impact Platform 24. It would also be an opportunity to co-identify the key Impact ring to the attention of the writing teams for the CGIAR's new tfolio, based on the Platform narrative. We plan to hold a virtual the current budget allocation does not allow for an in-person

dget assigned to the Impact Platform is essential if desired outputs to be reached. The current funding level of the Platform does not ns or the stated outputs and outcomes in the TOC. The Platform the budget as part of the discussions on resource allocation 2030 Portfolio development process. This would help to ensure adequately resourced in future.

Platform is limited. By the end of 2023, the team consisted tor, a part-time (50 percent) communication officer and four nts, each with 20 percent of their time assigned to the Platform. this staffing level be increased for the Impact Platform to meet its deliver its work effectively and efficiently. A key improvement in complete the hiring process for a Platform manager.

nt change to be made to the TOC is the inclusion of a new environmental risk management strategic plan, including a riskas included under function 1 following discussions with SIDA and he Platform narrative on "Transforming food, land, and water thin ecological limits." As the TOC for the Platform was developed will be reviewed during the 2024 re-plan process to ensure that , and wording throughout the TOC are on track. It is important hes the ambition of the Platform to the limited funding currently associated limited human resource capacity.

to the effective functioning of the Platform will be identified during process. The Platform has already identified four main areas of risk, strategies put in place to control each risk. They are:

cientists already have established collaborations with strategic llel communication from the 'new' Platform could cause confusion appropriately.

ions of the Platform may be perceived to overlap with of CGIAR experts.

lays a synthesizing role and depends on the work of others (e.g., ters, regions, other Platforms, and strategic partners). Willingness ps to share information on a voluntary basis is critical.

behavioral change the Impact Area aims for is time- and resourcencertainty over adequate funding presents a risk to the Platform's eve its targets.



Front cover photo

A cocoa agroforest in Belen de Los Andaquies, Caqueta, Colombia, which has been established and managed with an agrobiodiversity lens. Credit: Ma. Eliza J. Villarino/Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT/ International Climate Initiative-Sustainable Land-Use Systems (IKI-SLUS) project)

Back cover photo

Integrated soil fertility management and water use efficiency assessment in a CocoaSoils trial in Nigeria. Credit: Cargele Masso/CocoaSoils/Excellence in Agronomy case-study

