Indigenous community member plants seedlings supporting Kenya Landscape Actors Platform (KenLAP) for biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.

Photo Credit: KenLAP

CGIAR

Environment and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform

Annual Technical Report 2024

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Boundaries used in the maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of CGIAR concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Borders are approximate and cover some areas for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) software ChatGPT was used to support the editing of parts of this report, specifically to improve clarity, grammar, and style. ChatGPT was not used to generate the content of the report. All edits made with AI assistance were reviewed and validated by the authors to ensure accuracy, coherence, and alignment with the original intent.

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CGIAR Technical Reporting 2024

CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with CGIAR's Technical Reporting Arrangement. This annual report ("Type 1" Report) constitutes part of the broader CGIAR Technical Report. Each CGIAR Research Initiative/Impact Platform/Science Group Project (SGP) submits an annual "Type 1" Report, which provides assurance on progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes.

As 2024 marks the final year of this CGIAR Portfolio and the 2022-24 business cycle, this Type 1 Report takes a dual approach to its analysis and reporting. Alongside highlighting key achievements for 2024, the report also provides a cumulative overview of the 2022-24 business cycle, where relevant. This perspective captures the evolution of efforts over the three-year period. By presenting both annual and multi-year insights, the report underscores the cumulative impact of CGIAR's work and sets the stage for the transition to the 2025-30 Portfolio.

The 2024 CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- **Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and SGP Reports:** These annual reports present progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes and provide quality-assured results accessible via the CGIAR Results Dashboard.
- **Type 3 CGIAR Portfolio Practice Change Report:** This report provides insights into CGIAR's progress in Performance Management and Project Coordination.
- **Portfolio Narrative:** Drawing on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, as well as data from the CGIAR Results Dashboard, the Portfolio Narrative synthesizes insights to provide an overall view of Portfolio coherence. It highlights synergies, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and collective progress.
- **Type 2 CGIAR Contributions to Impact in Agrifood Systems: evidence and learnings from 2022 to 2024:** This report offers a high-level summary of CGIAR's contributions to its impact targets and Science Group outcomes, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for the three-year business cycle.

The Portfolio Narrative informs the 2024 CGIAR Annual Report – a comprehensive summary of the organization's collective achievements, impacts, and strategic outlook.

Elements of the Type 2 report are integrated into the CGIAR Flagship Report, released in April 2025 at CGIAR Science Week. The Flagship Report synthesizes CGIAR research in an accessible format designed specifically to provide policy- and decision-makers at national, regional, and global levels with the evidence they require to formulate, develop, and negotiate evidence-based policies and investments.

The diagram below illustrates these relationships.

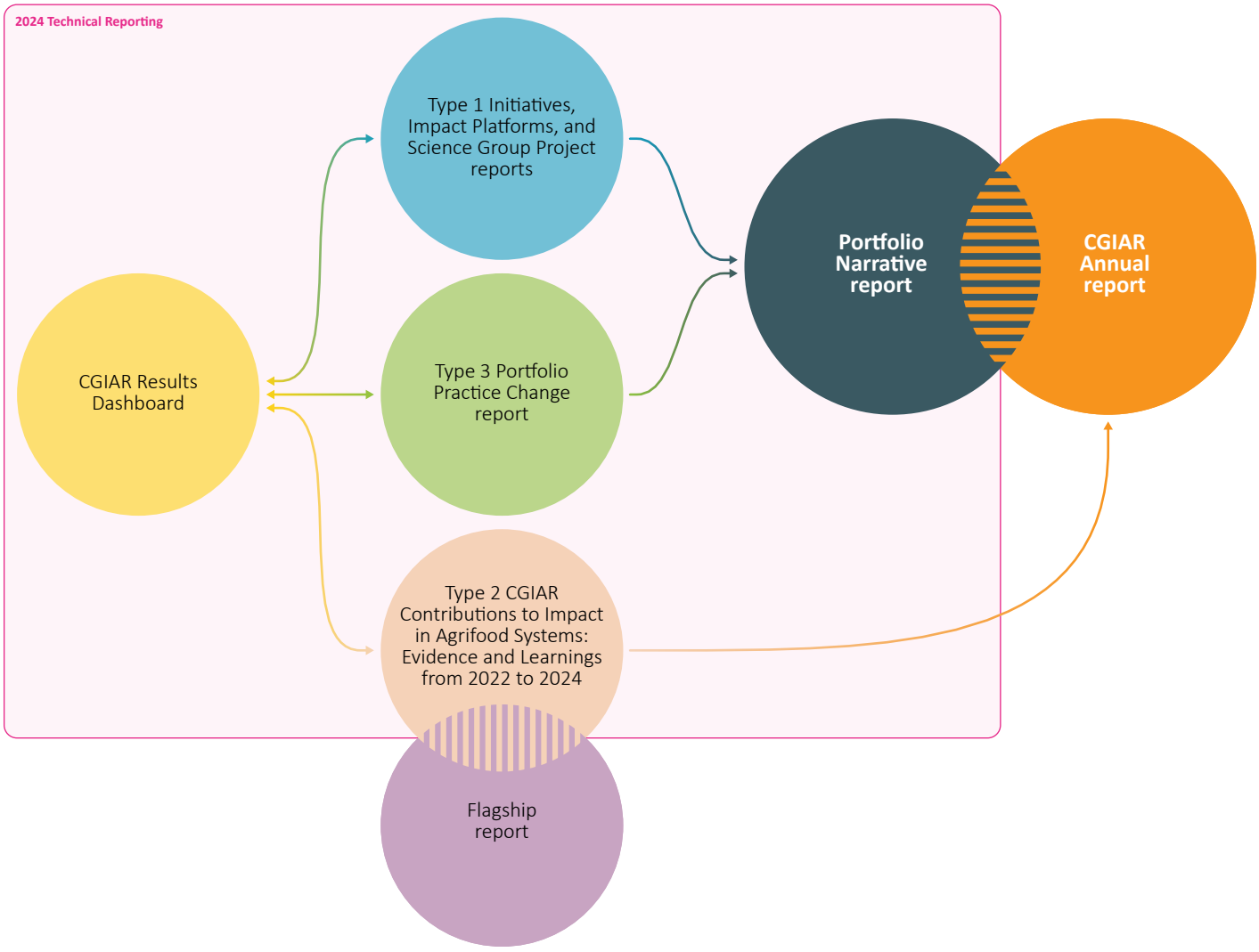


Figure 1. CGIAR's 2024 Technical Reporting components and their integration with other CGIAR reporting products.

Section 1: **Fact sheet, executive summary and budget**

Impact Platform name	Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform
Short name	Environment and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform
Director	Cargele Masso
Start – end date	01 January 2023 – 31 December 2024
Links to source documents / website	https://www.cgiar.org/research/cgiar-portfolio/environmental-health-biodiversity/

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CGIAR Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform (EHBIAP) made significant strides in 2024 in advancing environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and policy engagement. Through structured roadmaps, capacity-building initiatives, policy influence, and innovative research approaches, EHBIAP successfully strengthened CGIAR's role in shaping global environmental governance. EHBIAP also engaged with diverse stakeholders, developed standardized environmental indicators, and influenced global policy discussions, reinforcing its role as a leader in sustainable land, soil, water, and biodiversity management.

EHBIAP played a pivotal role in designing a research roadmap that aligns with global sustainability goals, ensuring CGIAR's research on biodiversity, land, soil, and water remains high impact. The establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) and targeted Working Groups (WGs) facilitated multi-stakeholder collaboration, promoting knowledge-sharing and evidence-based decision-making. The CGIAR Environmental Assessment – April 2024 systematically evaluated the Platform's impact on sustainability and climate resilience, strengthening partnerships through initiatives like the GIZ-CGIAR Matchmaking Workshop in Eastern and Southern Africa. These efforts advanced agroecological solutions and environmental policy integration, ensuring CGIAR research contributes to long-term sustainability.

EHBIAP increased internal capacities by standardizing tools, datasets, and knowledge management systems. The development of the CGIAR Bank of Indicators on Environmental Health and Biodiversity (2025-2030 Portfolio) enabled consistent monitoring and impact assessment. Cutting-edge research on soil health, biodiversity restoration, and sustainable land management was disseminated through key publications, including Native Plant Species: A Tool for Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems and Resilience in Soil Ecosystems: Healthy Soils Mean Healthy People. Additionally, the Platform prioritized gender, social inclusion, and land tenure considerations in environmental research, reinforcing CGIAR's commitment to equitable and inclusive sustainability strategies.

Events such as the Kenya Landscape Actors Platform (KeNLAP) 2024 Conference further emphasized the importance of gender-transformative and community-driven solutions.

EHBIAP played a crucial role in amplifying CGIAR's external profile through its participation in major global policy forums, including the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) COP16 in Cali, Colombia, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The Platform served as a collaboration hub at these events, facilitating dialogues on sustainable land management, biodiversity governance, and nature-based solutions. EHBIAP's strategic communications – including blogs, post-event reflections, and reports such as Notable Achievements at UNCBD COP16 have translated global negotiations into actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners, solidifying CGIAR's reputation as a thought leader in biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.

Throughout the year, EHBIAP prioritized research and innovation through working groups focused on land, soil, water, biodiversity, and rethinking research priorities. Key contributions included the development of the CGIAR Bank of Indicators on Environmental Health and Biodiversity for the 2025-2030 Portfolio, as well as reports on land tenure and sustainable nutrient management. Research on native plant species and agroecology provided insights into landscape restoration and regenerative agriculture, while CGIAR's work on multifunctional landscapes highlighted solutions for aligning agriculture with the Rio Conventions and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To enhance knowledge sharing, EHBIAP hosted a series of high-impact webinars, covering topics such as operationalizing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, integrating biodiversity into food systems, and strengthening governance in land and water tenure. These engagements brought together stakeholders from CGIAR Centers, policymakers, and environmental experts to co-develop strategies that address biodiversity loss, climate resilience, and food security. Digital tools and AI-driven analytics were employed to enhance environmental monitoring processes, such as eDNA-based soil assessments and the development of landscape finance mechanisms to support sustainable investment.

The Platform played a fundamental role in fostering scientific innovation, enhancing global partnerships, and shaping sustainability policies in 2024. By integrating landscape-based approaches into its research agenda, the Platform provided insights into ecosystem restoration, participatory governance, and sustainable agrifood systems. The Platform also advanced CGIAR's efforts in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable resource management through strategic engagements, targeted capacity-building activities, and integration of evidence-based research. As CGIAR advances towards its 2025-2030 strategic goals, EHBIAP remains a cornerstone of its environmental health and biodiversity impact strategy, ensuring that research outcomes continue to inform global sustainability efforts.

	2023	**2024**
APPROVED BUDGET [1]	$0.78M	**$0.95M** [2]

[1] The approved budget amounts correspond to the figures available for public access through the Financing Plan dashboard.
[2] These amounts include carry-over and commitments.

The panelists (from left): Mohsin Hafeez, Strategic Program Director for Water, Food and Ecosystems, IWMI; Chiyedza Heri, Founder and CEO, Ubuntu Alliance; Rachael McDonnell, Deputy Director General – Research for Development, IWMI; Mirriam Makungwe, Postdoctoral Fellow, Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture & Climate Information Services, IWMI; Mikail Haruna Daya, Founder, DINERCAB; Richard Kachungu, Co-Founder, YEFI; and Karunakara Reddy Mardi, Walk for Water.

Section 2: **Progress towards Primary outcomes**

Impact Platform-level theory of change diagram

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

SPHERE OF **CONTROL**

KEY FUNCTIONS

KEY FUNCTION 1
Design a roadmap.

KEY FUNCTION 2
Increase capacities: Tools, methods, and skills.

KEY FUNCTION 3
Engage for impacts.

KEY FUNCTION 4
Rethink research-priorities.

SPHERE O

PRIMARY OUTCOMES

1 ▶ **PRIMARY OUTCOME 1**
Adoption of the Environmental health and Biodiversity roadmap by CGIAR.

2 ▶ **PRIMARY OUTCOME 2**
CGIAR Centers and close partners apply common tools and share scientific experience, data, and knowledge products.

3 ▶ **PRIMARY OUTCOME 3**
CGIAR research results are used by development partners in their strategic plans on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

4 ▶ **PRIMARY OUTCOME 4**
CGIAR uses evidence to reshape priority research in environmental health and biodiversity.

FLUENCE

Action Area Outcomes

Systems Transformation

1 ▶ 2 ▶ 3 ▶ 4 ▶ **1** · Research institutions, government analytical units, and scaling partners in the Global South have improved knowledge, skills, access to data, capacity to develop tools, innovations, and undertake research to support transformation of food, land and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate objectives.

1 ▶ 2 ▶ 3 ▶ 4 ▶ **2** · National and sub-national government agencies use CGIAR research results to design or implement strategies, policies and programs which have the potential to transform food, land and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate resilience objectives.

Resilient Agrifood Systems

2 ▶ 3 ▶ 4 ▶ **3** · National and local multi-stakeholder platforms are strengthened to become more effective and sustainable, addressing development trade-offs and generating strategies for effective food, land, and water systems transformation.

1 ▶ 2 ▶ 3 ▶ 4 ▶ **4** · Global and regional institutions, such as funding agencies, international organizations, and coordinating bodies use CGIAR research evidence in the development of strategies, policies, and investments to drive sustainable transformation of food, land, and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate resilience objectives.

SPHERE OF **INTEREST**

Impact Areas

Environmental Health & Biodiversity

1 ▶ 2 ▶ 3 ▶ · Stay within planetary and regional environmental boundaries: consumptive 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.

The youth environment champions who attended the KenLAP conference field day at Lari Subcounty.

Summary of progress against the theory of change

The Environment and Biodiversity Platform focuses on creating a conducive environment for a shared vision and experience, and knowledge sharing. EHBIAP's theory of change (TOC) was developed by its community of practice (CoP) (see Section 2, Function 1). It was 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 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 CoP and feedback loops from internal and external stakeholders.

EHBIAP made significant strides in advancing the objectives set out in its TOC for 2023-2024. The Platform fostered a conducive environment for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy engagement while setting a clear vision for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use. This summary outlines progress across the four core functions of the TOC, leveraging key knowledge products and research initiatives undertaken during this period.

Summary of progress by key function

KEY FUNCTION 1: DESIGNING A ROADMAP

After successfully convening a CoP in 2023 – bringing together CGIAR Research Initiatives, bilateral projects, and strategic partners to align with a shared vision for environmental health and biodiversity – EHBIAP in 2024, through the CoP, harmonized methodologies, tools, and indicators to assess environmental health and biodiversity, enhancing coherence across CGIAR's Initiatives. In 2024, national, regional, and global institutions started adopting and adapting the EHBIAP vision in their sustainable development plans. Additionally, the Platform worked on refining metrics to ensure alignment with global biodiversity frameworks and international sustainability targets. These efforts support the broader CGIAR mission to stay within planetary boundaries and maintain genetic diversity while providing data-driven insights to influence research investments and policy actions. The environmental assessment systems co-developed together with the Innovative Finance and resource Mobilization team and the Swedish International Development Agency, strengthened CGIAR's commitment to action to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem gains in food, land, and water systems.

KEY FUNCTION 2: INCREASING CAPACITIES

EHBIAP significantly enhanced internal capacities within the Science Groups by developing and sharing common tools, standards, datasets, and knowledge management systems to support evidence-based decision-making. A key milestone is the CGIAR Bank of Indicators on Environmental Health and Biodiversity for the 2025-2030 Portfolio, which standardizes data collection and assessment across research initiatives. Additionally, EHBIAP advanced cutting-edge science through research on soil health, biodiversity restoration, and sustainable land management, as reflected in publications such as, ***Native Plant Species: A Tool for Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems, and Resilience in Soil Ecosystems: Healthy Soils Mean Healthy People.*** The Platform also prioritized inclusive governance by integrating gender, social inclusion, and land tenure considerations into environmental and agricultural research. Beyond technical advancements, EHBIAP fostered cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange through key reports, such as ***Bridging Productivity and Sustainability in Drylands, and Restoring Agricultural Landscapes for Land Degradation Neutrality***, as well as global engagements like the KeNLAP 2024 Conference and UNCBD COP16, which facilitated discussions on gender-transformative strategies and biodiversity conservation.

KEY FUNCTION 3: ENGAGING FOR IMPACTS

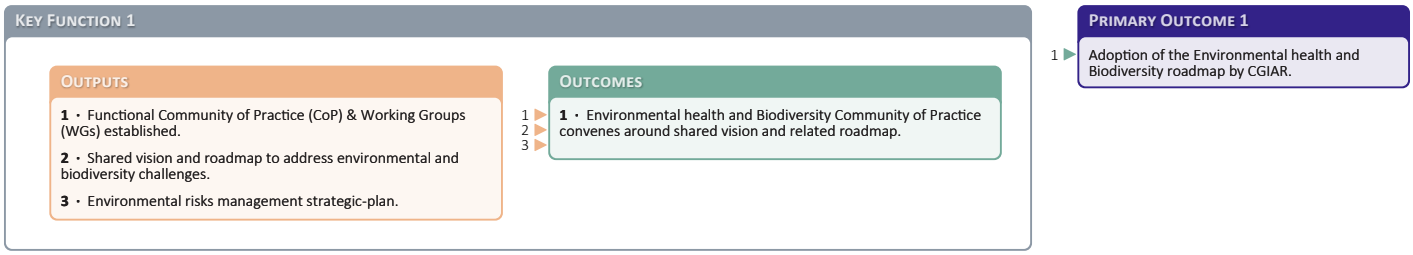
In 2024, EHBIAP was instrumental in amplifying CGIAR's external profile and shaping global policy discourse by leading strategic engagements beyond the agriculture and food sectors. Through active participation in UNCBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, and UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, CGIAR influenced global biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and sustainable agrifood systems by hosting the Food & Agriculture Pavilions, where discussions on sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, and nature-based solutions took center stage. Additionally, EHBIAP co-organized the KeNLAP 2024 Conference, reinforcing its leadership in promoting collaborative, evidence-based solutions for landscape restoration. Beyond policy engagement, EHBIAP strengthened external communications through strategic blogs, reports, webinars, and post-event reflections, ensuring that critical insights, key decisions, and negotiation outcomes are translated into actionable strategies for policymakers and practitioners. Reports such as ***Notable Achievements at UNCBD COP16, Reflections on UNCBD COP16, and Global Action for Land and People: Outcomes of UNCCD COP16*** reinforced CGIAR's leadership in biodiversity restoration, sustainable dryland management, and farmer-centered conservation efforts.

KEY FUNCTION 4: RETHINKING RESEARCH PRIORITIES

EHBIAP played a pivotal role in advising CGIAR management on research priorities and performance management, ensuring alignment with lessons learnt, stakeholder feedback, and global sustainability goals. A key achievement was the integration of landscape-based approaches into CGIAR's research agenda, as demonstrated in ***Mobilizing a Community of Actors for Integrated Landscape Management: The Case of Lari Landscape in Kiambu County of Kenya*** and the KenLAP Strategic Plan (2025-2030), which highlights how multifunctional landscapes and participatory governance models drive ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture. EHBIAP also enhanced policy development and implementation strategies, strengthening CGIAR's capacity to support climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and equitable land management, as evidenced in ***Helping Kenya and Other Countries.***

Through our core mandate on land and information systems, we ensured land use data informed National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets since land is central to climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, and halting degradation. In 2024, EHBIAP provided critical performance management insights, refining strategies for soil fertility management, nutrient efficiency, and sustainable input use in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly through Revisiting the 2006 Abuja Fertiliser Declaration with Nutrient Use Efficiency (NUE) and Yield-Gap Lenses and Upscaling Sustainable Fertiliser Use in Africa. EHBIAP also emphasized gender intersectionality in landscape interventions, reinforcing the need for inclusive policies in ecosystem restoration and land governance, as seen in ***Intersectionality of Gender*** in KenLAP Interventions. The various feedback loops were instrumental in strengthening the environmental health and biodiversity ambition of the CGIAR Science Program on Multifunctional Landscapes and beyond through feedback from the various CGIAR Programs and Accelerators.

Key Function 1: Foster global critical thinking

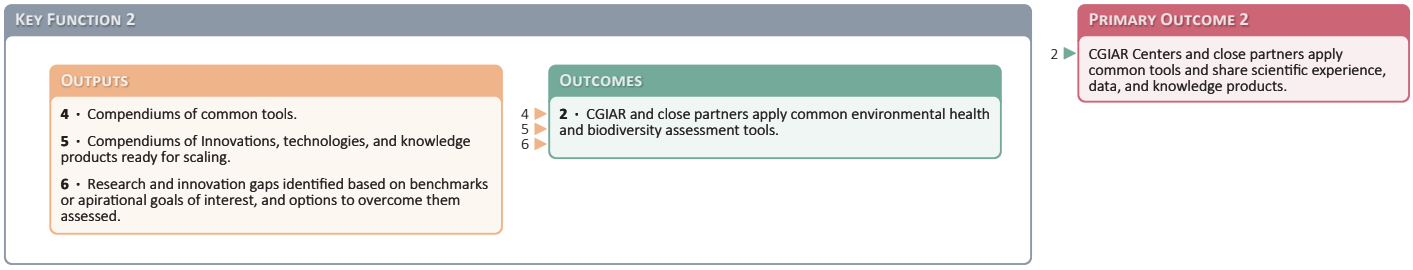


EHBIAP made significant progress on its first core function by co-developing, alongside a global CoP, a unified vision and strategic roadmap for environmental health and biodiversity in food, land, and water systems (i.e., the Platform narrative). This CoP, comprising CGIAR Centers, bilateral projects, and strategic partners, led a harmonized effort to align CGIAR's work with global biodiversity targets (e.g., the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). The CoP finalized co-designed transition pathways that were adopted by multiple CGIAR Initiatives and shaped national and regional strategies for restoring biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem services, and improving socio-ecological resilience.

Key outcomes included the adoption of the CoP roadmap by several global and regional institutions, with demonstrated integration into national sustainability frameworks, for example, its incorporation into Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to guide ecosystem restoration priorities. There was also a marked increase in institutions aligning their policies and programming with EHBIAP goals, especially in biodiversity restoration, ecosystem services, and land degradation neutrality. These results affirm that the TOC assumptions largely held – in particular that inclusive and evidence-driven communities can effectively shape global policy discourse and catalyze innovation uptake.

EHBIAP contributed to measurable improvements in CGIAR's visibility and influence within environmental governance processes. Platform-developed tools were applied in the formulation of NBSAPs and LDN targets – for instance, the use of CGIAR's landscape assessment tool informed target-setting in Ethiopia's revised NBSAP. Additionally, the Platform's environmental risk mitigation (i.e., environmental assessment system) strategy ensured minimal trade-offs in research designs, with many projects adopting nature-based solutions and metrics to assess biodiversity and ecosystem gains. These advances support CGIAR's broader targets, including staying within planetary boundaries and maintaining genetic diversity through soundly managed gene banks. Overall, Key Function 1 laid the groundwork for systemic, scaled responses to global environmental challenges through the promotion of the Platform narrative into global fora such as the COPs to CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC.

Key Function 2: Develop CGIAR and partner capacity



EHBIAP significantly strengthened internal capacities across Science Groups by developing and disseminating standardized tools, methodologies, and datasets. A critical milestone was the establishment of the CGIAR Bank of Indicators on Environmental Health and Biodiversity, structured around measurable indicators such as improved land management, consumptive water use efficiency, reduction in deforested land and increase in tree land-cover, nutrient use efficiency, and plant genetic resource management. These indicators provide a comprehensive framework to monitor progress toward enhanced environmental sustainability and agricultural resilience.

EHBIAP initiatives like the Resilient Soils Program and the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) expanded the area under sustainable management, directly improving soil health and fertility. Additionally, advanced monitoring tools and data-driven insights enabled significant improvements in water use efficiency, addressing water scarcity in intensive agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture systems, as highlighted in the Innovative Solutions to Water Scarcity report. Moreover, community-led ecosystem restoration and innovative agroforestry projects successfully reduced deforestation rates, gaining international recognition at forums such as UNCCD COP16 and CBD COP16.

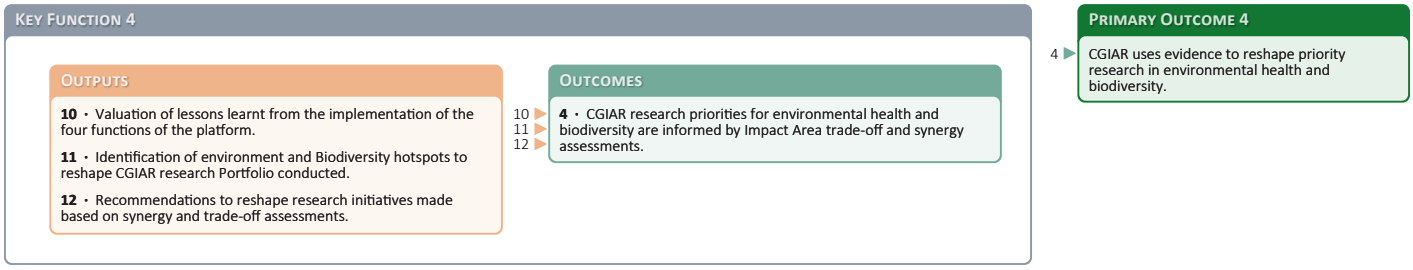
Through targeted partnerships, knowledge exchange, and strategic engagement at global events like the KeNLAP 2024 Conference, EHBIAP emphasized gender-transformative approaches and inclusive stakeholder participation. Reports including Bridging Productivity and Sustainability in Drylands offered evidence-based solutions for scalable resource management. Overall, EHBIAP solidified CGIAR's leadership in aligning measurable outcomes with global sustainability goals, such as the SDGs, thereby fostering biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable land management.

Key Function 3: Amplify external profile and pathways to impact

EHBIAP significantly amplified CGIAR's external profile by actively engaging in global policy dialogues and leading external communications efforts that extend beyond the agriculture and food sector. Through its participation in high-profile international events such as CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, and UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, EHBIAP played a critical role in shaping policy discourse on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and climate resilience. The Platform served as a hub for collaboration and capacity-building, informing policies, investment decisions, and research priorities to drive sustainable transformation. Notable contributions include CGIAR's leadership in the Food and Agriculture Pavilions at both COP16 events (i.e., CBD and UNCCD), where it facilitated multi-stakeholder engagements on sustainable agrifood systems, land restoration, and biodiversity governance, contributed to informing negotiations like the access and benefit-sharing related to digital sequencing information on genetic resources, and initiating partnerships with strategic partners like International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Commonland, United Nations University, Eco-Agriculture, and the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People among others. The KeNLAP 2024 Conference further reinforced CGIAR's advocacy for sustainable landscapes and gender-inclusive governance, positioning the Platform as a thought leader in global sustainability discussions.

Beyond convening policy discussions, EHBIAP strengthened its communications through blogs, reports, and post-event reflections that captured lessons, achievements, and calls to action from these global forums. Insights from ***Notable Achievements at UNCBD COP16, Reflections on UNCBD COP16: Key Contributions, Experiences, and Lessons, and Global Action for Land and People: Outcomes of the Negotiations of UNCCD COP16*** helped translate policy discussions into actionable strategies. Similarly, blogs such as ***CGIAR's Statement to UNCCD COP16*** Gathering and Responsible Governance Through Engaging with Farmers reinforced CGIAR's commitment to inclusive, science-driven approaches to land and biodiversity management. By leveraging its external voice and strategic communications, EHBIAP not only positioned CGIAR at the forefront of global environmental policymaking but also ensured that its research and innovations inform international frameworks, agreements, and governance structures, ultimately influencing global sustainability agendas well beyond the agricultural sector.

Key Function 3: Advise Portfolio-level management strategy



EHBIAP advanced research prioritization by integrating lessons learned, stakeholder feedback, and performance management frameworks into CGIAR's Initiatives. A key focus was the adoption of integrated landscape management (ILM) strategies, as demonstrated in ***Mobilizing a Community of Actors for Integrated Landscape Management: The Case of Lari Landscape in Kiambu County of Kenya*** and the KeNLAP Strategic Plan (2025-2030). These initiatives highlight the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder collaborations, gender-responsive approaches, and ecosystem restoration models in promoting sustainable agricultural and conservation practices. Additionally, policy-driven research on nutrient management, food security, and climate-smart agriculture was instrumental in refining CGIAR's research agenda. Reports such as ***Nutrient Management, Food Security, and Environmental Sustainability: A CGIAR Perspective and Upscaling Sustainable Fertilizer Use in Africa*** emphasize the need for precision agriculture, organic amendments, and climate-adaptive soil management practices to improve food security while reducing environmental degradation.

Beyond agricultural sustainability, EHBIAP informed CGIAR's performance management strategies by providing data-driven evaluations of fertilizer efficiency, soil health, and landscape restoration approaches. The reassessment of the 2006 Abuja Fertiliser Declaration, detailed in ***Revisiting the 2006 Abuja Fertiliser Declaration with NUE and Yield-Gap Lenses,*** led to refinements in NUE and site-specific soil fertility recommendations. Additionally, reports such as ***Exploring Opportunities and Enablers of Landscape Restoration as a Pathway to Peace*** reinforce the role of sustainable land management in fostering social stability and resilience in conflict-affected regions. Through our core mandate on land and information systems, we ensured land use data informs NBSAPs and LDN targets since land is central to climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, and halting degradation, which showcases efforts to align land and ecosystem restoration with global climate commitments. By continuously reassessing research priorities and integrating feedback from global dialogues and local interventions, EHBIAP ensured that CGIAR's Initiatives remained strategically relevant, scalable, and impact driven. The feedback loops were considered in the design of the CGIAR Science Program on Multifunctional Landscapes, and the insights were also shared with other CGIAR Programs and Accelerators.

Key function progress rating summary

KEY FUNCTION	PROGRESS RATING & RATIONALE
1 Foster global critical thinking	On track The CoP fostered integration across multidisciplinary stakeholders, promoting cross-sector collaboration in biodiversity, land, soil, and water research. Through the co-design of a shared vision and roadmap and the strategic input of thematic working groups, CGIAR research strategies were aligned with global sustainability targets. Notably, the CoP's inputs directly informed the African Union's Green Recovery Action Plan by contributing guidance on ecosystem restoration priorities. The Platform's focus on policy influence and monitoring frameworks also supported data-driven decision-making and improved environmental integration across partner initiatives.
2 Develop CGIAR and partner capacity	On track The establishment of the CGIAR Bank of Indicators for Environmental Health and Biodiversity for the 2025-2030 Portfolio provided a standardized monitoring framework aligned with global sustainability targets, ensuring data-driven decision-making and agricultural resilience. Additionally, technical innovations such as the Resilient Soils Program and Land Degradation Surveillance Framework have strengthened CGIAR's role in land restoration and sustainable soil management. Beyond technical advancements, global partnerships and stakeholder engagement through KeNLAP 2024, CBD COP16, and UNCCD COP16 have reinforced gender-transformative strategies and inclusive governance in biodiversity and land restoration.
3 Advise portfolio-level management/strategy	On track Performance management insights from reports like ***Revisiting the 2006 Abuja Fertiliser Declaration*** have refined soil fertility management and sustainable resource use in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the Platform was invited to review all CGIAR Science Programs and Accelerators to ensure adequate consideration of environmental health and biodiversity as applicable and, importantly, contribute to the Multifunctional Landscapes Science Program to ensure a strong focus on biodiversity and ecosystem gains.
4 Amplify external profile and pathways to impact	On track Through active participation in high-level international forums – including CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, and UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – EHBIAP significantly contributed to shaping global policy discourse on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and climate resilience. Additionally, the Platform's influence was evident in regional engagements such as the KenLAP dialogue and partner-led side events at UNCCD COP16, where EHBIAP-supported tools and insights informed national and regional restoration priorities.

Definitions

On track

- Progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget.
- Can include small deviations/issues/delays/risks that do not jeopardize success of the key function.

Delayed

- Progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget in key areas.
- Deviations/issues/delays/risks could jeopardize success of the key function if not managed appropriately.

Off track

- Progress clearly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget in most/all areas.
- Deviations/issues/delays/risks do jeopardize success of the key function.

Communities in various landscapes may not know each other, but their actions or inactions have an impact on each other. A community field activity during the KeNLAP Conference 2024.

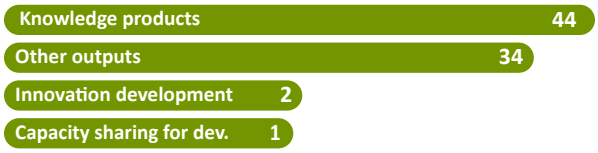
Section 4: **Quantitative overview of key results**

This section provides an overview of results reported and contributed to, by the CGIAR Initiative on Environment and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform from 2022 to 2024. These results align with the CGIAR Results Framework and Environment and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform's theory of change. Further information on these results is available through the CGIAR Results Dashboard.

The data used to create the graphics in this section were sourced from the CGIAR Results Dashboard on 04 April 2025. These results are accurate as of this date and may differ from information in previous Technical Reports. Such differences may be due to data updates throughout the reporting year, revisions to previously reported results, or updates to the theory of change.

Overview of results per category

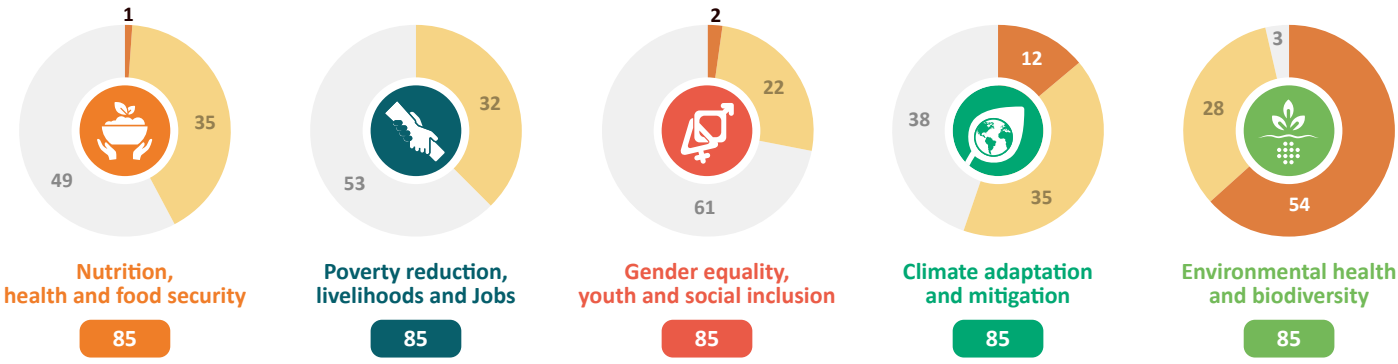
Outputs



Outcomes

Over the past two years (2023 and 2024), EHBIAP reported 85 results, demonstrating significant contributions towards all 17 SDGs. The Platform produced 44 knowledge products and developed 2 innovations, with 34 additional outputs highlighting its comprehensive impact. This balanced performance reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen biodiversity resilience and environmental sustainability.

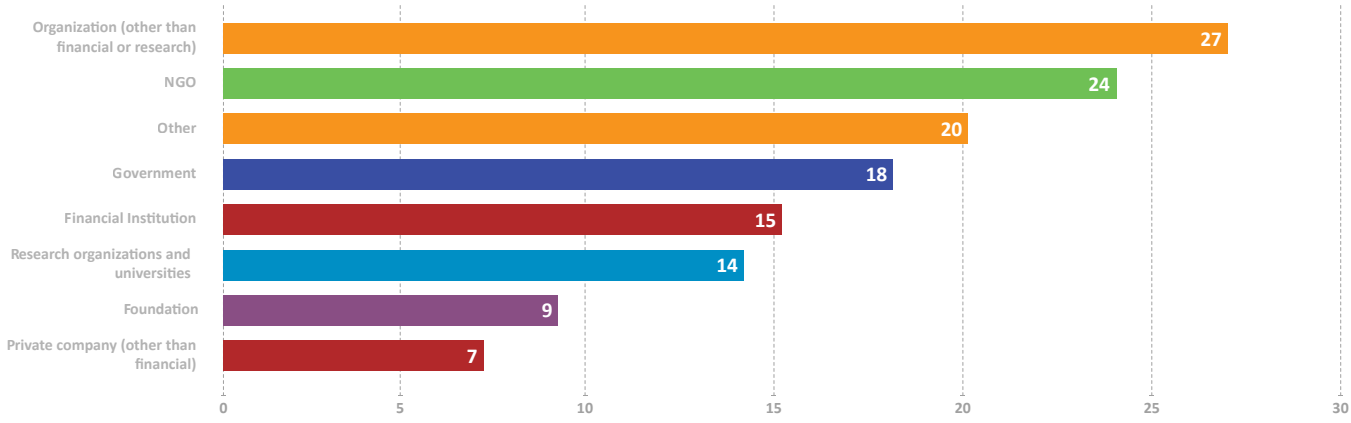
Number of results by Impact Area contribution



- **2 = Principal:** Contributing to one or more aspects of the Impact Area is the principal objective of the result. The Impact Area is fundamental to the design of the activity leading to the result; the activity would not have been undertaken without this objective.
- **1 = Significant:** The result directly contributes to one or more aspects of the Impact Area. However, contributing to the Impact Area is not the principal objective of the result.
- **0 = Not targeted:** The result has been screened against the Impact Area, but it has not been found to directly contribute to any aspect of the Impact Area as it is outlined in the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation strategy.
- **Not applicable:** Pertains to 2022 reported results when only information on Gender and Climate impact area tagging was available.

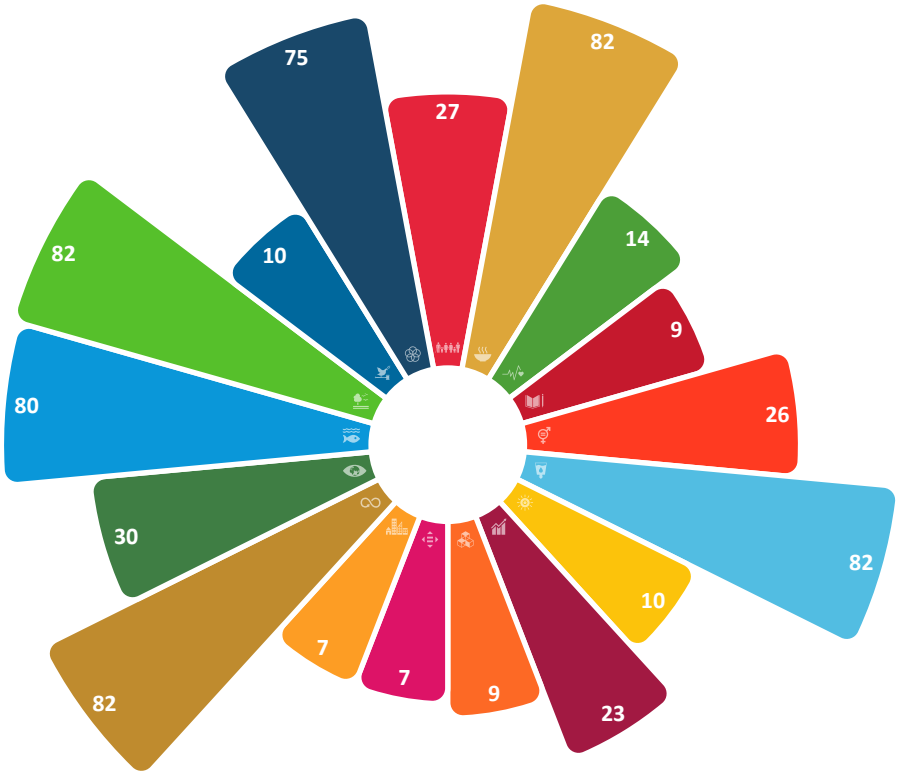
The Platform demonstrated a strong focus on environmental outcomes, with 64 percent of results significantly addressing environment and biodiversity goals, and 3 percent of results having these as a principal focus. Notably, 41 percent of activities targeted climate change significantly, while gender equality and poverty reduction were integrated into 28 percent and 38 percent of efforts, respectively. This comprehensive approach underscores a commitment to the intersecting challenges of sustainability, gender equity, and poverty alleviation.

Partner Type



Over the past two years, the Platform delivered the highest number of results in collaboration with national research organizations and universities, which contributed to eight results. Other significant contributors included international and national organizations across various sectors – such as financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations – each associated with four to six results. The diversity of the partnership network reflected the Platform's commitment to drawing on multi-sectoral expertise to deliver impactful environmental outcomes.

Contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



1	No Poverty	27
2	Zero Hunger	82
3	Good Health and Well-Being	14
4	Quality Education	9
5	Gender Equality	26
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	82
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	10
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	23
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9
10	Reduced Inequalities	7
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	7
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	82
13	Climate Action	30
14	Life Below Water	80
15	Life on Land	82
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	10
17	Partnership for the Goals	75

In 2024, EBHIAP made substantial contributions to the SDGs, with notable progress in SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 15 (Life on land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), each achieving a score of 72. Efforts also significantly addressed SDG 14 (Life below water) with a score of 70, and SDG 13 (Climate action) at 23. This diverse impact reflects a holistic commitment to sustainability and multi-sectoral collaboration.

Section 5: **Key result story**

CGIAR's journey as a supporting partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

CGIAR advances integrated, science-based solutions for restoring ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and strengthening climate-resilient, inclusive food systems globally.

Group photo of participants and panelists from different partner organizations during the UNCCD conference 2024.
Credit: David Mugo, ILRI

Primary Impact Area

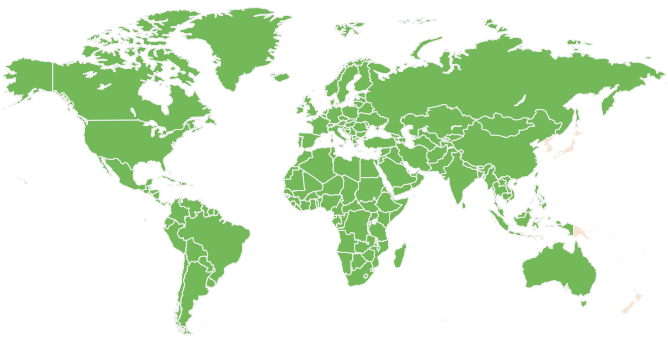
Contributing Impact Platform

Environment and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform

Contributing Centers

ILRI · IFPRI · ICARDA · CIAT

Geographic scope



Regions: Global

Countries: Global

In 2024, CGIAR was recognized as a supporting partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, affirming its global leadership in science-driven, inclusive solutions for biodiversity, land restoration, and climate-resilient food systems. Through the Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform (EHBIAP), CGIAR advanced integrated research, shaped global policy, and strengthened stakeholder capacities – bridging science, policy, and practice to restore ecosystems and support sustainable development across vulnerable landscapes.

Biodiversity loss, land degradation, and climate change pose mounting threats to global food systems, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities. Despite commitments under the Rio Conventions – the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – implementation gaps and siloed efforts persist, leading to fragmented land-use priorities and diminishing the capacity of ecosystems to support livelihoods, biodiversity, and climate resilience. In response, CGIAR has strengthened its role as a knowledge broker and innovation catalyst, aligning science with policy to promote integrated approaches for ecosystem restoration.

In 2024, CGIAR marked a milestone by being formally recognized as a supporting partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This acknowledgement reflects CGIAR's growing leadership in promoting science-based solutions for biodiversity conservation, sustainable land, soil and water management, and food system transformation. At the heart of this effort is EHBIAP, which has advanced knowledge systems, strategic partnerships, and governance reforms that bridge research and real-world impact.

CGIAR's engagement at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh and UNCBD COP16 in Cali was instrumental in shaping global policy discourse. As host of the Food and Agriculture Pavilions, CGIAR convened multi-stakeholder dialogues on nature-positive agriculture, land restoration, and climate-smart innovations. It spotlighted solutions such as low-emission forages, biodiversity-enhancing cropping systems, and participatory rangeland management, highlighting their potential to restore degraded landscapes while sustaining food production. The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus approach, and satellite-based monitoring tools showcased the value of integrated, data-driven decision-making in fragile ecosystems.

CGIAR's engagement in the UNCCD and UNCBD COP16 processes demonstrated its integrated approach to science, policy influence, and partnership building by showcasing technical and social innovations that bridge biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture.

At UNCCD COP16, CGIAR highlighted advancements in climate-resilient crops, water-efficient irrigation, and participatory rangeland management. The Smart-Valleys approach, developed by AfricaRice (a CGIAR center), is a participatory and sustainable method to develop inland valleys for rice-based systems in West Africa. Implemented in countries like Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo, the initiative has led to significant increases in rice yields and improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers.

At UNCBD COP16, CGIAR underscored the importance of biodiversity-driven agriculture, agroecological intensification, and gene bank conservation, reaffirming its dedication to nature-positive solutions. The EHBIAP platform provided scientific inputs that shaped policy negotiations, notably on issues like access and benefit-sharing for digital sequencing information of genetic resources, in collaboration with key partners such as IUCN, Commonland, UNU, Eco-Agriculture, and 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People. These efforts significantly influenced high-level discussions around drought resilience, biodiversity financing, and sustainable food systems. At UNCCD COP16, CGIAR's work on the Global Drought Agenda and gender-responsive land restoration strategies strongly impacted policy directions, while at UNCBD COP16, its active participation in negotiating the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework enhanced global commitments toward integrating biodiversity into agricultural practices.

At UNCCD COP16, CGIAR's contributions to the Global Drought Agenda and gender-responsive land restoration strategies were instrumental in influencing policy directions.

Meanwhile, at UNCBD COP16, CGIAR's engagement in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations bolstered global commitments to integrate biodiversity into food systems.

In addition to shaping policies, CGIAR catalyzed impactful partnerships to drive ecosystem restoration. Through strategic collaborations with governments, indigenous communities, and research institutions, CGIAR facilitated cross-sectoral cooperation. At UNCCD COP16, partnerships in drought resilience and rangeland management were strengthened, while at UNCBD COP16, CGIAR contributed to the operationalization of the "Cali Fund" to support equitable biodiversity benefit-sharing.

These efforts underscore CGIAR's leadership in fostering science-driven, policy-informed, and partnership-based solutions for ecosystem restoration.

> By contributing CGIAR's scientific expertise to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Land Degradation Neutrality, we are addressing challenges related to food and nutrition security, poverty reduction, and improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers, while enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem gains in a climate crisis. Our participatory research proves that nature-positive agriculture, sustainable land management, and social inclusion are the foundation for socio-ecological resilience.
>
> Dr. Cargele Masso, Director, CGIAR Environment and Biodiversity Impact Platform

CGIAR

Community members actively engage in mangrove restoration, promoting biodiversity and climate resilience under Kenya's KENLAP initiative.

Credit: KenLAP