



BIODIVERSITY FINANCE

Massive Open Online Course

September 2018

Biodiversity Finance

About the course: *Biodiversity Finance* is a six-week facilitated Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The course will run from **17 September through 28 October 2018**. By taking this course, participants will gain an overview of key issues related to biodiversity finance, and will have a chance to interact with experts in national biodiversity finance from the more than a dozen countries, and from the United Nations Development Programme.

This FREE course is facilitated in English, Spanish, French and Russian. It is aimed at conservation planning and biodiversity finance practitioners and policymakers, but is open to everyone. The course is offered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), in partnership with the UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development, the NBSAP Forum, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Financial support is provided by the governments of the European Union, Flanders, Norway, Germany and Switzerland, and the GEF. After you complete the required coursework, you will receive a certificate of completion from all course partners.

The course will cover the following topics:

- *Week 1: Introduction to biodiversity and sustainable development*
- *Week 2: Introduction to biodiversity finance*
- *Week 3: Biodiversity Policy and institutional review*
- *Week 4: Biodiversity expenditure review*
- *Week 5: Biodiversity financial needs assessment*
- *Week 6: Biodiversity finance plan*

General Course Information



This project is co-funded by the European Union



Flanders
State of the Art



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Languages: The course will be available in English, Spanish, French and Russian.

Requirements for enrollment: Participants should be able to access the Internet, even if only periodically, in order to access the course materials, post discussion threads, engage in weekly webinars, and submit assignments.

Requirements for completion: In order to receive the certificate of course completion, participants must complete six weekly quizzes with a score of 70% or higher, the final course quiz and the course survey. These are the ONLY requirements to receive the certificate.

Course structure: Each week, the course facilitators will guide you to take the online lessons and to attend webinars with experts in the field. Course facilitators will also direct a discussion forum where you can connect with other course participants about the topics covered in the course and to create regional and thematic discussion groups. We will also provide supplemental reading materials, videos and case studies to enrich your learning. You can keep these valuable resources after the course is completed.

The course components are classified as required, recommended, or optional:

- **Required:** The only requirement to obtain the certificate of course completion is to complete six weekly quizzes with a score of 70% or higher, the final course quiz, and the course survey. The quizzes are based on the six online lessons, which form the core of the MOOC. Please prioritize these quizzes each week.
- **Recommended:** Webinars are hosted each week. We will facilitate live presentations and discussions with world-renowned experts. Webinars are offered in English, French, Spanish and Russian. You can view them live or watch a recording. Webinars are typically 90 minutes long, and begin with a 15 to 30-minute presentation, which is followed by a 45 to 60-minute facilitated discussion with the speaker(s). Our webinar sessions offer a unique opportunity to engage with experts, the course facilitators, and other students.
- **Recommended:** Homework assignments provide you with the opportunity to apply the concepts introduced in the online course lessons. Each week, you can choose from homework assignment options based on the skills you wish to develop. These assignments are not graded but provide a mechanism for engagement with other students and facilitators. We recommend that you complete at least one weekly assignment.
- **Recommended:** Biodiversity finance solutions are ways of using one or more finance mechanism or instrument in a particular context, targeting results that improve the sustainable management of biodiversity. The course will feature a variety of finance solutions, which will allow participants to take a deep dive into the weekly theme.
- **Optional:** The course discussion forum will run throughout the course, providing a dynamic opportunity for you to meet other course participants, discuss and reflect on the week's content, and to form regional and thematic communities of practice. We recommend that you contribute to at least one discussion thread per week.
- **Optional:** Reading assignments provide you with resources to more deeply explore the themes introduced in each online lesson. You can keep these valuable resources and read them after the course is completed, or following along with the readings during each week's lesson.

WEEK 1: Introduction to biodiversity and sustainable development

In Week 1, participants will gain an overview of biodiversity in the context of sustainable development. The course materials will focus on the main element of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the primary national policy vehicle for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Sustainable Development Goals which depend upon biodiversity.

E-Learning Module (Compulsory: Quiz 1 based on Lesson 1)	Recommended: Webinar	Recommended: Homework assignment	Recommended: Finance solutions	Optional: Questions for discussion	Optional: Readings and resources
<p>Lesson 1: Introduction to Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (1 hour)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the aims and targets of each of the SDGs; Explain how biodiversity underpins our ability to achieve the SDGs Understand key terms and concepts associated with biodiversity Describe major trends in biodiversity and ecosystems Understand the aims and goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity Identify key national plans on biodiversity and understand why they are important for finance 	<p>English: Introduction to biodiversity and the sustainable development goals</p> <p>Spanish: Introduction to biodiversity and the sustainable development goals</p> <p>French: Introduction to biodiversity and the sustainable development goals</p> <p>Russian: Introduction to biodiversity and the sustainable development goals</p>	<p>OPTION 1: National biodiversity and the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the latest National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the latest National Report on Biodiversity for your country (or the country of your choice). Develop an infographic that explains major trends in biodiversity in your country, and the impact these trends might have on different sustainable development goals. <p>OPTION 2: Local biodiversity and the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose an area relevant to your context. Identify the 3 SDGs and their targets that are most dependent upon biodiversity in your context. Create an infographic, draw a picture or write a 300 word essay describing these connections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecolabels Bioprospecting Biodiversity offsets Greening subsidies <hr/> <p>Learn more about solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional pre-recorded webinar: Biodiversity Offsets 	<p>National biodiversity status and trends and the SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the status of, and the major trends in, biodiversity in your country? How do these trends affect different economic sectors within your country? How do they affect the ability of your country to achieve the SDGs? <p>Weekly finance solutions</p> <p>What is the feasibility of the finance solutions included in this week’s lesson in your own country? To what extent do they already exist, and what are the barriers to implementing them?</p>	<p>Status and trends in biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4, available in English, Spanish and French here. <p>Sustainable development goals and biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda NBSAPS as Catalysts for Sustainable Development

WEEK 2: Introduction to biodiversity finance

In Week 2, the lesson provides an overview of biodiversity finance and economics, biodiversity status and trends globally, and UNDP’s Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), contains a summary of steps required to get started, and introduces the concept of finance solutions, providing several examples.

E-Learning Module (Compulsory: Quiz 2 based on Lesson 2)	Recommended: Webinar	Recommended: Homework assignment	Recommended: Finance solutions	Optional: Questions for discussion	Optional: Readings and resources
<p>Lesson 2: Introduction to Biodiversity Finance (1 hour)</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define key terms and concepts associated with biodiversity finance Describe why biodiversity is important to economies and human wellbeing Describe a framework for biodiversity finance, and different approaches for mobilizing resources Explain the steps involved in mobilizing resources for biodiversity and in getting started Explain basic principles and prerequisites of the process before getting started Understand and explain what the BIOFIN approach is, and describe how it is related to other initiatives 	<p>English: Introduction to biodiversity finance – perspectives from the Philippines</p> <p>Spanish: Introduction to biodiversity finance – perspectives from Costa Rica</p> <p>French: Introduction to biodiversity finance – perspectives from Seychelles</p> <p>Russian: Introduction to biodiversity finance – perspectives from Kazakhstan</p>	<p>OPTION 1: Getting started – stakeholder engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of key stakeholders who would need to be engaged in a BIOFIN process in your country. Then develop a 2-page plan for engaging with these stakeholders. Be as specific as possible. <p>OPTION 2: Advocacy campaign for investing in biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a 2-page outline for an advocacy campaign for investing in biodiversity in your country. Who are the main decision makers? What are the key messages? What are the most suitable types of media? Be as specific as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philanthropy Debt-for-nature swap Impact investment funds <p>Learn more about solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional pre-recorded webinar: Impact investment funds 	<p>Introduction to biodiversity finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are the key stakeholders with whom you would need to engage in order to get started in a BIOFIN process in your country? How would you need to engage them? <p>Weekly finance solutions</p> <p>What is the feasibility of the finance solutions included in this week’s lesson in your own country? To what extent do they already exist, and what are the barriers to implementing them?</p>	<p>BIOFIN Workbook: Mobilizing Resources for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1: Introduction to Biodiversity Finance and Economics. Available in English (here), Spanish (here), French (here), and Russian (here) Chapter 2: The Biodiversity Finance Initiative – BIOFIN. Available in English (here), Spanish (here), French (here), and Russian (here) Chapter 3: The BIOFIN Process. Available in English (here), Spanish (here), French (here), and Russian (here)

WEEK 3: Biodiversity finance policy and institutional review

In Week 3, the lesson provides an overview of the policy and institutional review and guidance and examples on each of the five steps in conducting this review. Participants will be able to read real-life examples and case studies from a variety of countries, and gain experience in practicing each of the steps.

E-Learning Module (Compulsory: Quiz 3 based on Lesson 3)	Recommended: Webinar	Recommended: Homework assignment	Recommended: Finance solutions	Optional: Questions for discussion	Optional: Readings and resources
<p>Lesson 3: Policy and Institutional Review for Biodiversity Finance (1 hour)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the 5 steps in a policy an institutional review Describe how the PIR process is related to other elements of the BIOFIN process Understand steps involved in preparing for the PIR Describe how to review national visions and strategies Understand how to identify economic and policy drivers of change Understand steps involved in reviewing existing finance solutions Describe how to conduct an institutional analysis 	<p>English: Policy and Institutional Review results from The Philippines</p> <p>Spanish: Policy and Institutional Review results from Chile</p> <p>French: Policy and Institutional Review results from Seychelles</p> <p>Russian: Policy and Institutional Review results from Kazakhstan</p>	<p>OPTION 1: Forming a PIR team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a context that you are familiar with. Develop a list of potential PIR team members. Describe who they are, and why they would be important for this review, given the existing trends, visions and strategies within your context. <p>OPTION 2: Economic and policy drivers of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an infographic or short essay describing the economic and policy drivers of change in your context, and the impact that these drivers have on biodiversity. <p>OPTION 3: Advocacy campaign for investing in biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the 12 most important institutions that should be included in an institutional review in your context. Describe why each is important for the Policy and Institutional review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lotteries Philanthropy Conservation license plates <p>Learn more about solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional pre-recorded webinar: philanthropy 	<p>National teams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kinds of stakeholders are essential to have on a PIR team? Why? <p>Economic and policy drivers of change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the most important economic and policy drivers of change in your context? Why do you consider them to be important? How do they influence biodiversity? <p>Institutional analysis</p> <p>Using the criteria described in Lesson 3, how would you prioritize the stakeholders and decision makers within an institutional analysis in your context?</p>	<p>BIOFIN Workbook: Mobilizing Resources for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development:</p> <p>Chapter 4: Biodiversity Finance Policy and Institutional Review. Available in English (here), Spanish (here), French (here), and Russian (here)</p> <p>Policy and Institutional Review – choose one report from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines (Eng) Fiji (Eng) Costa Rica (Spa) Chile (Spa) Seychelles (Fre) Kazakhstan (Rus)

WEEK 4: Biodiversity expenditure review

In Week 4, course materials provide an overview of the policy and institutional review and guidance and examples on each of the five steps in conducting this review. Participants will be able to read real-life examples and case studies from a variety of countries, and gain experience in practicing each of the steps.

E-Learning Module (Compulsory: Quiz 4 based on Lesson 4)	Recommended: Webinar	Recommended: Homework assignment	Recommended: Finance solutions	Optional: Questions for discussion	Optional: Readings and resources
<p>Lesson 4: Biodiversity Expenditure Review (1 hour)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess who spends money on biodiversity, how much, and on what elements Establish a 'business as usual' scenario for biodiversity finance, and future funding patterns Develop categories of expenditures based upon strategies and actions within the NBSAP Understand strategies for aligning government policies and priorities Assess patterns of effectiveness and delivery in biodiversity expenditures Identify potential sources and solutions for finance based on improved efficiency Develop a business case for a range of biodiversity finance solutions 	<p>English: Biodiversity Expenditure Review results from the Philippines, Uganda</p> <p>Spanish: Biodiversity Expenditure Review results from Chile, Costa Rica</p> <p>French: Biodiversity Expenditure Review results from Seychelles</p> <p>Russian: Biodiversity Expenditure Review results from Kazakhstan</p>	<p>OPTION 1: Categorizing expenditures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find an annual report or budget from any key stakeholder in your context. For at least 15 expenditures, identify the category and biodiversity relevance for each. <p>OPTION 2: Getting started – stakeholder engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify at least 12 main stakeholders who should be involved in a biodiversity expenditure review in your context. Search online for any information related to annual budgets and expenditures. <p>OPTION 3: Aligning government policies and priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking of your own context, identify 5 government policies and priorities that need to be better aligned with their biodiversity vision. Create an infographic or write a short essay describing these. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green bonds Enterprise challenge and innovation funds Wildlife impact bonds <p>Learn more about solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional pre-recorded webinar: Green bonds 	<p>Tagging expenditures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How easy is it to tag expenditures according to category and relevancy? Using specific examples, describe some challenges to conducting this step. <p>Aligning government policies and practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are some of the challenges, barriers and opportunities in aligning government policies and priorities with their national visions? 	<p>BIOFIN Workbook: Mobilizing Resources for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development:</p> <p>Chapter 5: Biodiversity Expenditure Review. Available in English (here), Spanish (here), French (here), and Russian (here)</p> <p>Biodiversity Expenditure Review reports from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uganda, South Africa, Philippines (Eng) Costa Rica, Chile (Spa) Seychelles (Fre) Kazakhstan (Rus)

WEEK 5: Biodiversity financial needs assessment

In Week 5, participants will conduct a financial needs assessment for implementing key actions within the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan, as well as other key biodiversity-related actions.

E-Learning Module (Compulsory: Quiz 5 based on Lesson 5)	Recommended: Webinar	Recommended: Homework assignment	Recommended: Finance solutions	Optional: Questions for discussion	Optional: Readings and resources
<p>Lesson 5: Biodiversity Financial Needs Assessment (1 hour)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate the findings of the FNA results with national budgeting and planning processes Clarify strategies and actions in NBSAPs to identify whether the actions can be assigned costs Produce a budget for each action by defining unit costs and quantities over time Use these detailed budgets to link to specific results and outcomes Prioritize biodiversity strategies and actions based on various criteria Link the FNA results to the Biodiversity Expenditure Review by tagging key expenditures and costs 	<p>English: Financial Needs Assessment</p> <p>Spanish: Financial Needs Assessment</p> <p>French: Financial Needs Assessment</p> <p>Russian: Financial Needs Assessment</p>	<p>OPTION 1: Assessing actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a country that has completed its NBSAP. Identify 30 specific actions in the NBSAP. Using the criteria in this lesson, identify the extent to which each action is costable and actionable. <p>OPTION 2: Developing costable actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify from any NBSAP at least 15 actions that are not easily assigned costs. Modify them so that they are able to be accurately costed. <p>OPTION 3: Developing costable actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In your context, identify 15 actions that would be needed on biodiversity or ecosystems. Develop a cost calculation for each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment for Ecosystem Services: Water Landing Fee Ecological fiscal transfers <p>Learn more about solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional pre-recorded webinar: Payments for ecosystem services 	<p>Costing NBSAP actions</p> <p>Budgets, actions and costing :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many actions within NBSAPs are not designed to be costed or budgeted. Using examples from an NBSAP that you are familiar with, discuss possible reasons for this, and describe what steps should be taken to address this problem. <p>Costs versus investments</p> <p>We often think of biodiversity expenditures as a cost, rather than an investment. Using specific examples from an NBSAP that you are familiar with, what kinds of arguments could you make (for example to a ministry of finance) that these expenditures are societal investments?</p>	<p>BIOFIN Workbook: Mobilizing Resources for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: Biodiversity Financial needs assessment. Available in English (here), Spanish (here), French (here), and Russian (here) <p>Biodiversity Financial Needs Assessment reports from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial needs assessment – Philippines, Uganda, South Africa (Eng) Financial needs assessment - Chile, Costa Rica (Spa) Financial needs assessment- Seychelles (Fre) Financial needs assessment - Kazakhstan (Rus)

WEEK 6: Biodiversity finance plan

In Week 6, the lesson explores the steps involved in developing a biodiversity finance plan. Participants will learn about the steps involved in developing a biodiversity finance plan, and in making the business case for its adoption by decision makers. Participants will review real life examples of biodiversity finance plans, and will gain experience in conducting each of the steps involved in developing this plan.

E-Learning Module (Compulsory: Quiz 5 based on Lesson 5)	Recommended: Webinar	Recommended: Homework assignment	Recommended: Finance solutions	Optional: Questions for discussion	Optional: Readings and resources
<p>Lesson 5: Biodiversity Finance Plan (1 hour)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the overall process of developing a biodiversity finance plan Describe the steps involved in preparing for the biodiversity finance planning process Understand the wide range of existing finance solutions, and the strengths and weaknesses of each Assess and prioritize different finance solutions within a given national or sub-national context Formulate technical proposals for selected finance solutions and to be able to make a business case for each Formulate a business case and to make a persuasive argument for the adoption of the overall finance plan 	<p>English: Biodiversity Finance Plan – Philippines, Uganda</p> <p>Spanish: Biodiversity Finance Plan - Costa Rica, Colombia</p> <p>French: Biodiversity Finance Plan - Seychelles</p> <p>Russian: Biodiversity Finance Plan - Kazakhstan</p>	<p>OPTION 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In your own context, identify 15 potential finance solutions that could apply. Using the screening criteria in this lesson, rank the feasibility for each solution. <p>OPTION 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In your own context, select the 5 most viable finance solutions. Describe the steps you would take to promote these finance solutions to key audiences. <p>OPTION 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an infographic describing each of the steps you would take to complete a biodiversity finance plan in your context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing future expenditures related to invasive alien species Incentives for public budget execution Habitat banking <p>Learn more about solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional pre-recorded webinar: Incentives 	<p>Screening finance solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In screening the various potential finance solutions in your context, which solutions emerged as most relevant and viable? Why? <p>Making the case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using specific examples and numbers, describe how you might make a persuasive business case to decision makers for a specific finance solution in your context. What arguments might be the most persuasive and why? <p>Weekly</p> <p>What are some of the barriers and opportunities for decision makers to adopt the biodiversity finance plan in your context? What strategies could you use to reduce these barriers and take advantage of the opportunities?</p>	<p>BIOFIN Workbook: Mobilizing Resources for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Biodiversity Finance Plan. Available in English (here), Spanish (here), French (here), and Russian (here) <p>Biodiversity Finance Plan reports from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines, Uganda, South Africa (Eng) Costa Rica, Chile (Spa) Seychelles (Fre) Kazakhstan (Rus)

