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Assessment Agency

From global ambition to national targets: learning from and responding to collective ambition under the GBF

CBD COP17 side event Dutch Pavillion

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From global ambition to national targets: learning from and responding to collective ambition under the GBF



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PLAY THE LONG GAME

Aligning national and international policies for nature and people with the long-term goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework



FROM GLOBAL AMBITION TO NATIONAL COMMITMENTS: NATIONAL TARGET SETTING UNDER THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

A contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Review

Roos Immerzeel, Marcel Kok, Stefan Troost, Christoph Krüger
22 July 2026

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How can we learn from translating the GBF to the national level to enhance future implementation efforts?

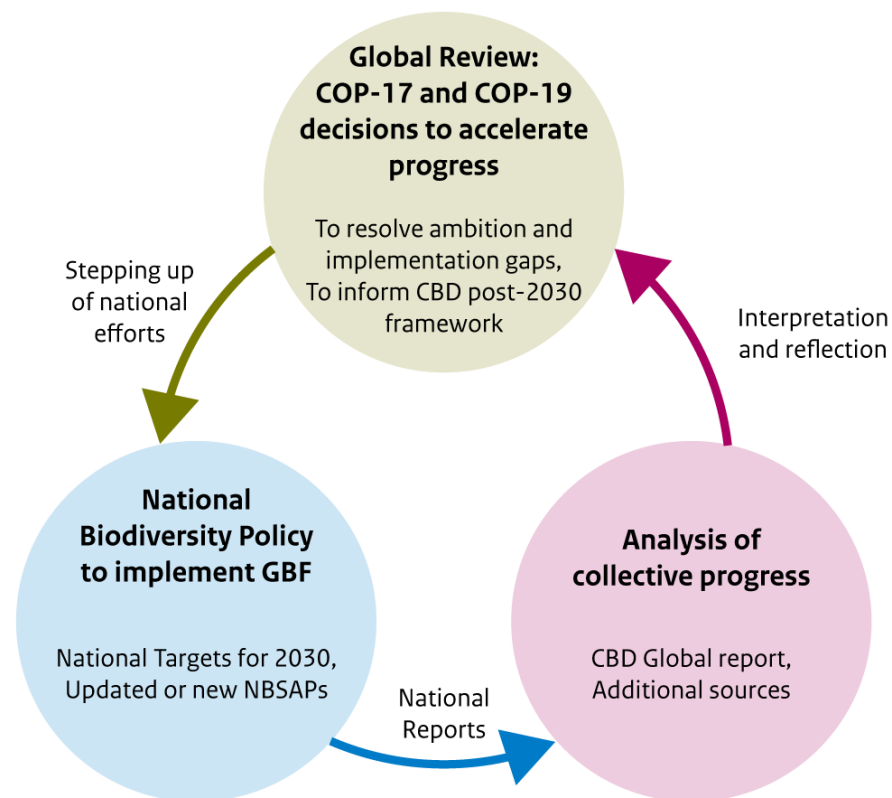
Roos Immerzeel

Researcher international biodiversity policy
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Global Review of progress towards implementation of the GBF

- › Parties determine their national contributions in NBSAPs and/or national targets
- › All Parties must work on all GBF targets, but how, and how much, they contribute is to be determined at the national level
- › The Global Review looks at global collective progress
- › To inform the 'stepping up of efforts' at the national level

Ambition and Implementation Cycle for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

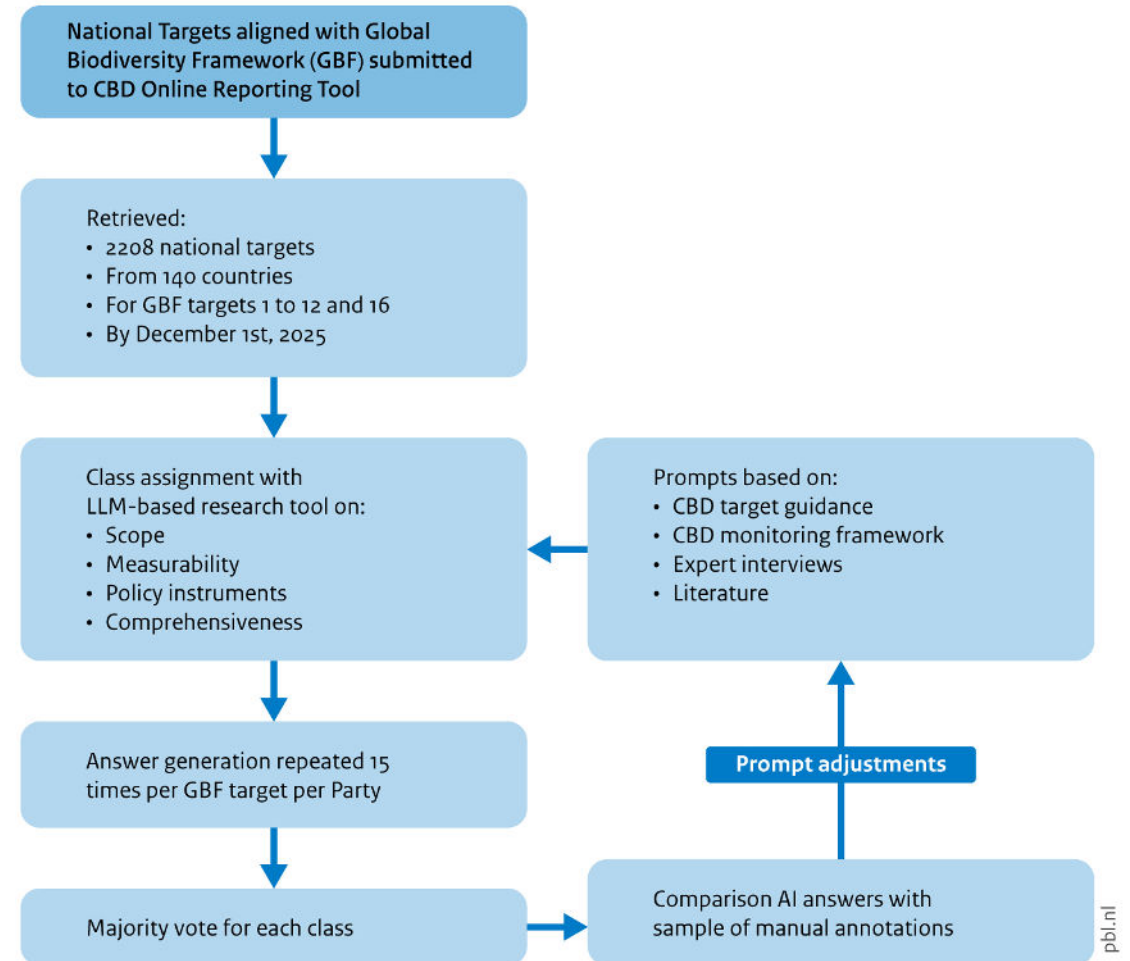


Source: PBL

Comprehensive analysis of national ambition

- > How is the GBF translated to the national level and what are focus, gaps, challenges and best practices in the collective effort towards its targets?
 - *Scope and quantified commitments*: are national targets following GBF targets?
 - *Instruments and comprehensiveness*: what commitments to implementation are specified?
- > Analysis of national targets aligned with GBF targets 1 to 12 and 16
- > 2,208 national targets provided by 140 Parties in CBD Online Reporting Tool

Overview of the analysis of national targets





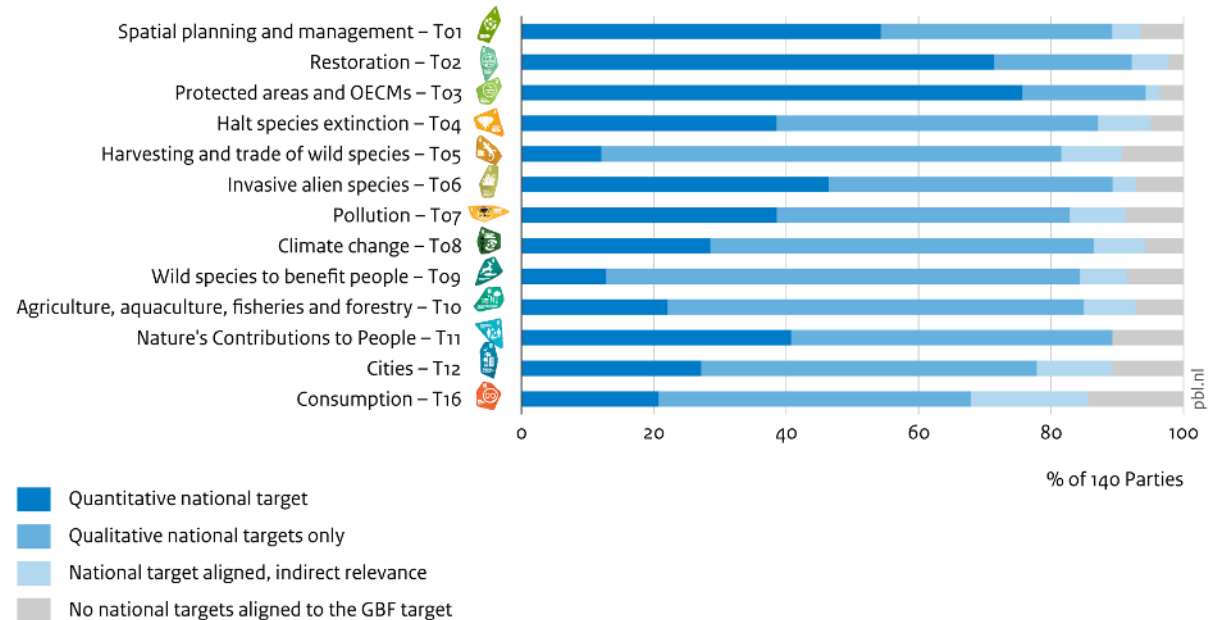
Aim of this study

- › Supporting accountability
 - What is the level of ambition reflected in national targets?
 - Do the collective commitments of Parties add up to the ambition of the 2030 action-targets and provide a credible pathway towards realizing the 2050 Goals?
- › Providing a basis for next steps in accelerating global progress
 - How do Parties intend to implement their national targets?
 - Will they realize their national targets with this?
- › Learning from national targets as a basis for future improvements
 - How is the GBF translated to the national level?
 - What are gaps, challenges and best practices in domestication of global targets?
 - How can we learn from translating the GBF to the national level to enhance future implementation efforts?

Patterns throughout the GBF targets:

- Most (specific) attention goes to conservation and land-use targets, followed by species targets and NCPs.
- Targets for (in)direct drivers receive least attention
- More attention given to ecological than to human target elements
- Collective ambition is not matching GBF ambition
- Most attention to legal and regulatory instruments, least to rights-based and customary norms

National target response under GBF targets directly relevant to GBF Goals A and B



Source: CBD ORT, 1 december 2025

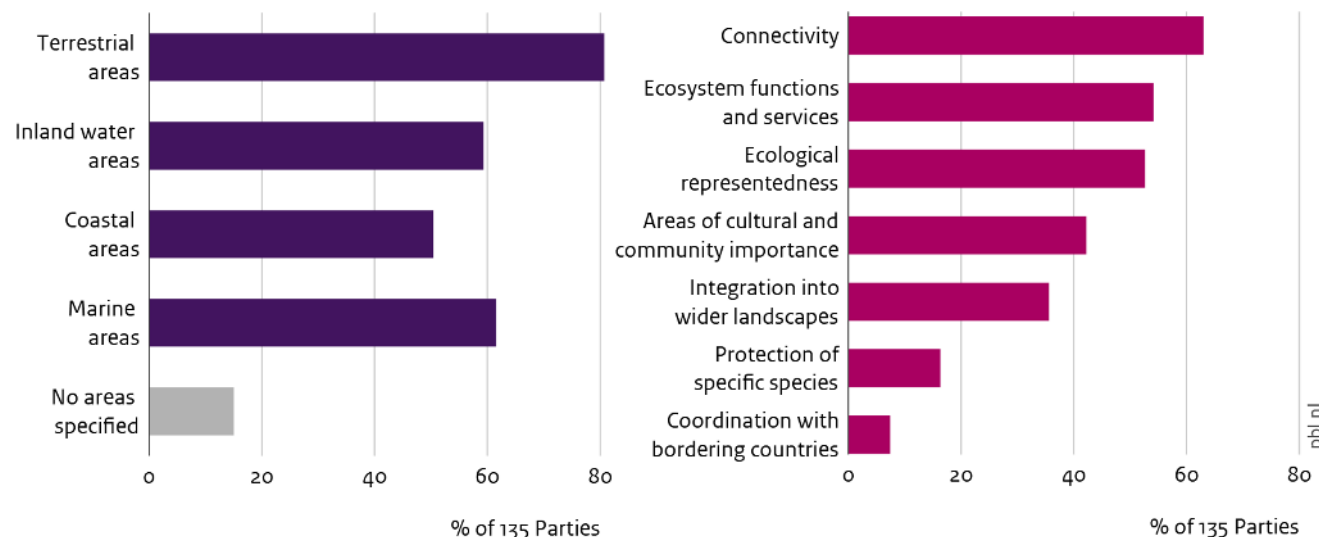


Conserve 30% Of Land, Waters and Seas

- > Most often translated to the national level
- > Relatively high number of quantified target, made specific to the national level
- > Qualitative target elements, such as effective management and recognizing and respecting the rights of IPLCs, receive less attention

Coverage and quantification of GBF To3 in national targets

a) Areas specified to be under conservation through PAs or OECMs b) Conservation effectiveness considerations described



Historic, current and proposed percentages of terrestrial Protected Areas and OECMs

Region	2010 (%)	2020 (%)	Commitments 2030 (%; based on 1 April 2026 data)	Growth realised 2010-2020 (%pt)	Growth committed 2020-2030 (%pt; based on 1 April 2026 data)	Growth required from 2020 to reach 30% (%pt)
Global	13.4	15.7	27.5	2.3	11.8	14.3
Africa	16.9	19.2	26.4	2.3	7.2	10.8
Americas	18.9	21.6	39.0	2.7	17.4	8.4
Asia and the Pacific	9.7	13.2	26.8	3.5	13.6	16.8
Europe and Central Asia	13.4	15.3	16.2	1.9	0.9	14.7

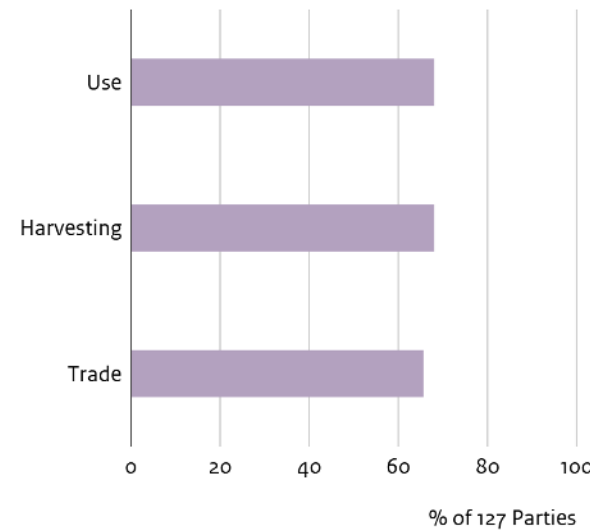
(Immerzeel et al., 2026)

Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

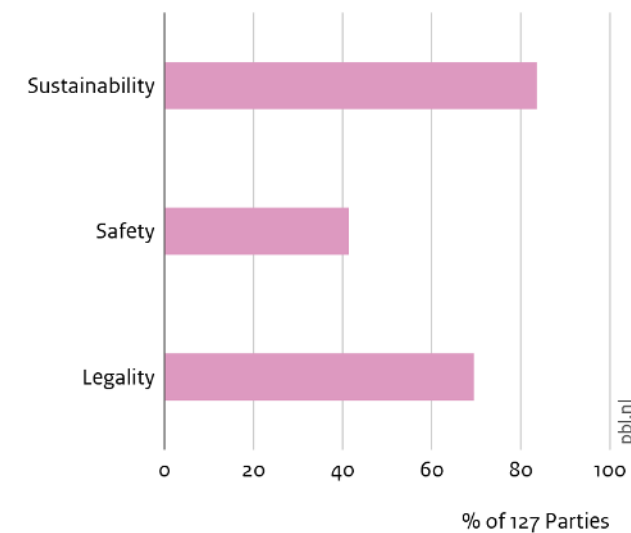
- > The many elements of the GBF target are generally mentioned in national targets
- > Safety and customary sustainable use by IPLCs receiving relatively little attention
- > Precise and country-specific target setting seems to be lacking
- > 34% specifies which (groups of) species are targeted, 18% describes how ecosystem approaches will be applied, 12% submitted quantified targets

Coverage and quantification of GBF To5 in national targets

a) Focus in national targets on use, harvesting and trade of wild species



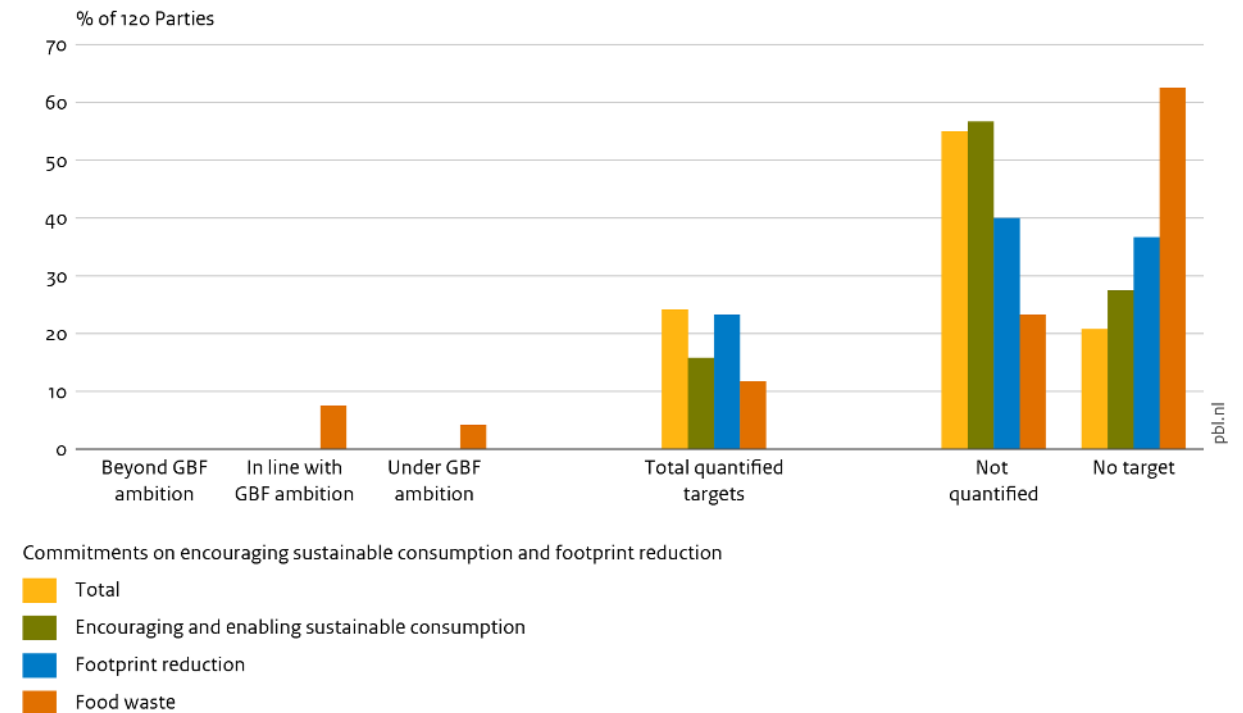
b) Focus in national targets on sustainability, safety and legality in relation to wild species



Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption

- Receives the least attention out of targets analyzed
- Despite quantified GBF target element (reduce food waste by 50%), little quantified national targets
- Parties report that it is difficult to determine impact of efforts on consumption patterns (no headline indicator)
- Little explicit reference to country's external footprint and fair shares in footprint reduction

c) Measurability



Source: CBD ORT, 1 december 2025

GBF targets signposting transition pathways?

- › The GBF intends to guide the necessary transitions for biodiversity to meet its long-term goals
- › GBF targets do not stand on their own, they are interconnected
- › In national target setting, some target clusters already appear, often thematically but not around transition pathways

Nature-friendly and sustainable agriculture and food systems

88% of Parties have submitted national targets in alignment with T10.

Reduction of harmful incentives (T18), is referred to by 20% of Parties under GBF target 10.

60% refer to pesticides and hazardous chemicals, and 51% to nutrients and fertilizers under T7.

Under T11, 32% refers to soil health, 30% to water regulation, and 22% to pollination as an NCP

14% addresses agriculture as a cause of land-use change under T1



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Monitoring the sustainability of wild species use - who is measuring what under the Global Biodiversity Framework?

Henry Lethbridge and Dilys Roe

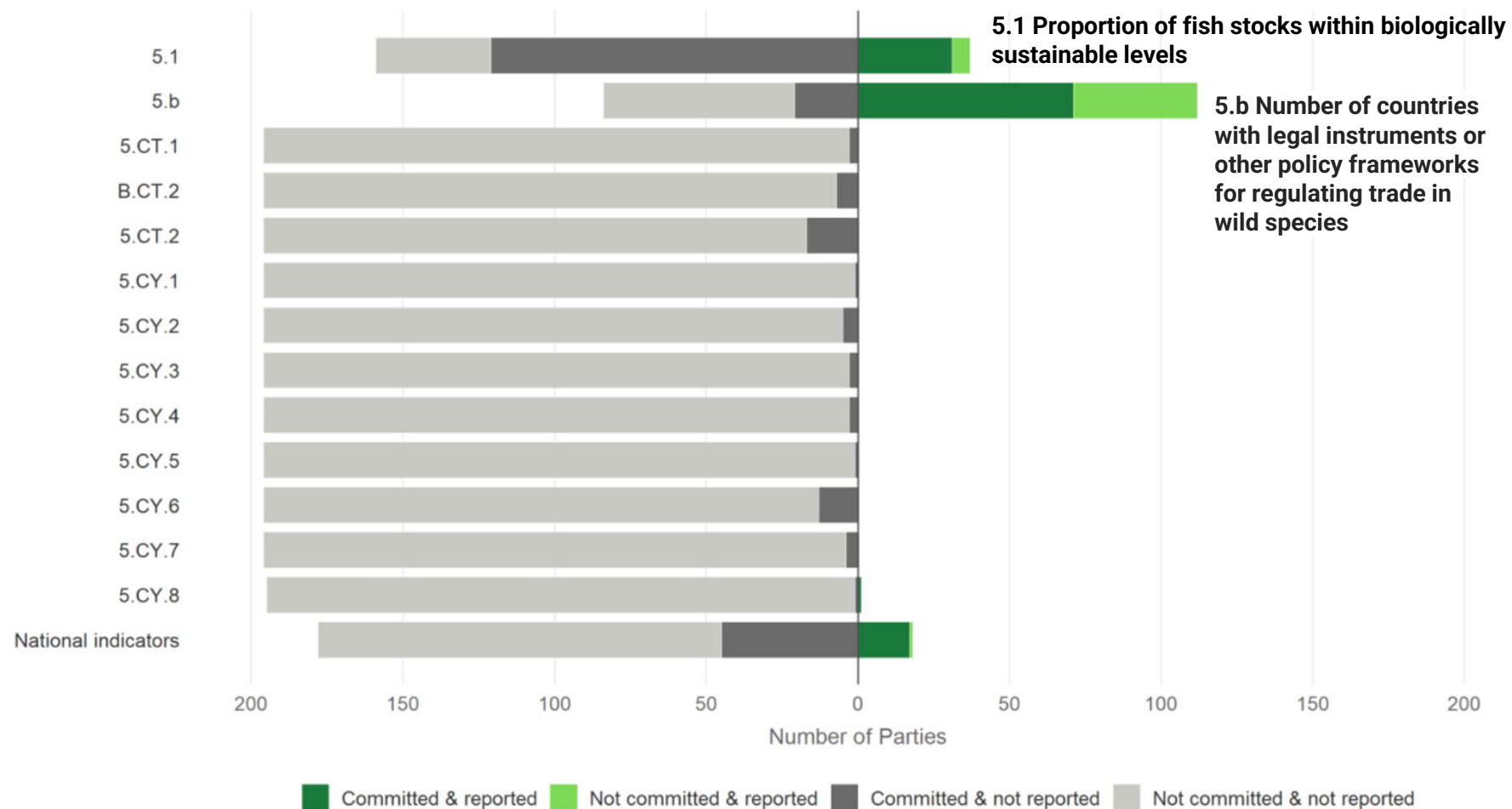
July 2026

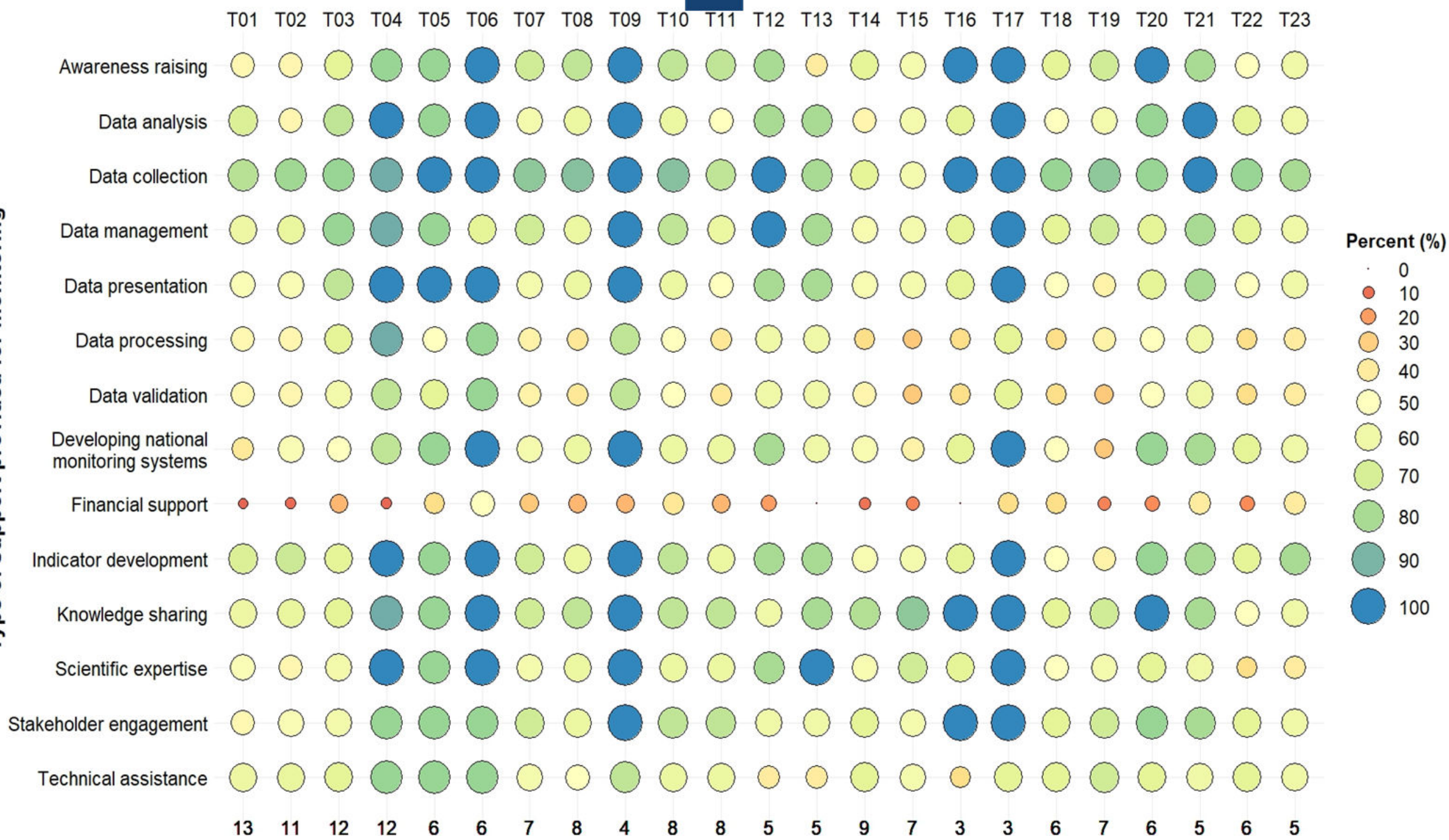


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Target 5: Sustainable, safe and legal use of wild species

7th National Reports — number of CBD Parties (of 196) by reporting status







TARGET 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

Organization	Type of support	Data collection	Data analysis	Data processing	Data validation	Data management	Data visualization	Indicator development	Develop national monitoring systems	Scientific expertise	Awareness raising	Knowledge sharing	Stakeholder engagement	Capacity development	Financial Support
Carbone Guinée															
CDP															
CSIRO															
GEO BON															
Global Ecosystems Atlas															
IUCN															
KBA Secretariat															
NIES															
SANBI															
UNEP-WCMC															



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Question for discussion

- › What can we learn from translating the GBF targets to the national level?
- › What requires attention towards 2030?
- › How to play the long game? What requires attention now to meet long-term biodiversity goals?
 - Synergies
 - Social dimensions
 - Transition pathways



Thank you for your attention

› Tomorrow (18:00 – 19:00):

'Are we on a credible pathway towards meeting the 2050 goals of the GBF? Towards just and effective implementation'

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Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) review process working towards the 2050 goals

