



Convention on Biological Diversity



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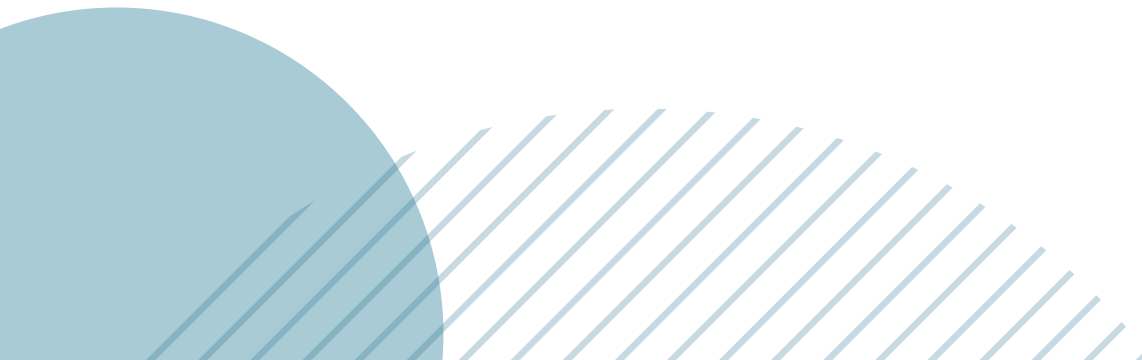
Flanders State of the Art

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE BIODIVERSITY FINANCE



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary and evaluation of the free Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Biodiversity Finance, which took place from 15 April to 31 May 2019.

This course was 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 was provided by the governments of the European Union, Flanders, Norway, Germany and Switzerland, and the GEF. The seven-week MOOC, offered simultaneously in English, French, Spanish and Russian, was aimed at conservation planning and biodiversity finance practitioners and policymakers, but was open to everyone.

The course provided an introduction to biodiversity finance, and equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to assess the policy, institutional, and economic context for biodiversity finance, conduct a financial needs assessment to achieve a country's biodiversity goals, and develop a biodiversity finance plan for most suitable finance solutions. BIOFIN national teams in Mexico, Kazakhstan, Guatemala, Colombia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Thailand, Philippines, Costa Rica, Madagascar, Kyrgyzstan, Belize, Zambia, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Georgia, and Peru shared their expertise and the lessons learnt from implementing the BIOFIN methodology with the course participants.

The Biodiversity Finance MOOC attracted more than **3,371 participants from 170 countries**. Participants represented diverse regions including sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Central and Western Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States and Canada. Participants were highly engaged in the course, resulting in **a completion rate of 19% (two times the industry average)** and more than **4,000 engagements** on the Learning for Nature course forums.

"The MOOC course on BIOFIN is a must free online course that every leaders of today should take up. This course delivers how important the natural biodiversity is for the country, region and the world at large.

Further, the course gives us ample solutions for the investment in conservation and preservation of biodiversity."

Sonam Tobgay
Ministry of Finance, Bhutan



Weekly webinars, offered in English, French, Spanish and Russian, were largely popular among participants, with 585 unique attendees joining from the webinar platforms ClickMeeting and Zoom. The webinars featured experts from UNDP BIOFIN, Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development, BirdLife South Africa, UNDP GEF, Conservation Finance Alliance, University of Exeter, among other prominent institutions. **Twenty-eight webinar recordings with over 33 hours of footage** were uploaded to the [Learning for Nature YouTube Channel](#), garnering more than **5,830 views** as of June 2019. The 28 webinars received **12,238 total views** on all the channels combined (Youtube, Facebook, ClickMeeting, and Zoom) as of July 2019. The Learning for Nature membership increased to over 9,000 after the MOOC.



"The MOOC has an incredible value. Indeed, it plays an important role in building the capacity of the actors involved in managing issues that affect all aspects of sustainable development that concerns us all. From what we gain to what we lose by losing biodiversity, there is a time of individual and collective reflection. This is where this course finds its place. The popularization of this information contributes to this awareness. In addition, it contributes to the improvement of the knowledge and the way of living that is absolutely necessary to preserve biodiversity without which life on earth would be impossible. "

Ndiaga DIOP

Expert of the Engineering Council for International Development, Senegal

(Translated from French)

The MOOC was able to reach and influence key target groups; the evaluation of the course shows that **55% of participants are able to influence policy in their job**, and **94% of those participants will use concepts** from the course to influence policy in the future. Testimonials further demonstrate the impact of the course on linchpin actors. Over **270 testimonials** from participants show that the MOOC provided them with practical tools to develop financially sound and politically feasible solutions to conservation and development challenges.

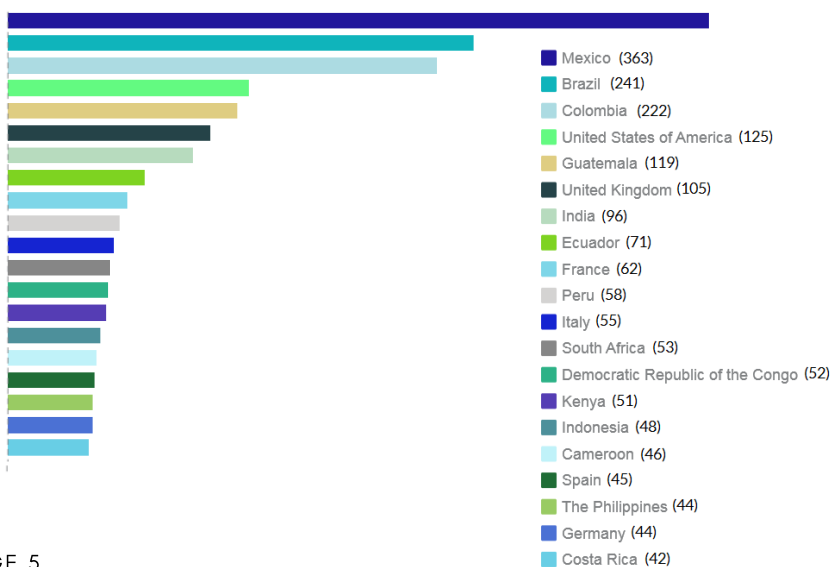
Survey results reveal participants' satisfaction with the course content, their interaction with the MOOC team, and with other participants. **96% of all the participants were satisfied or highly satisfied** with their experience. Based on the ranking of the level of understanding of different concepts, the course has reached its objectives. In all the four languages, participants have significantly increased their understanding of biodiversity finance after taking the course.

MOOC PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

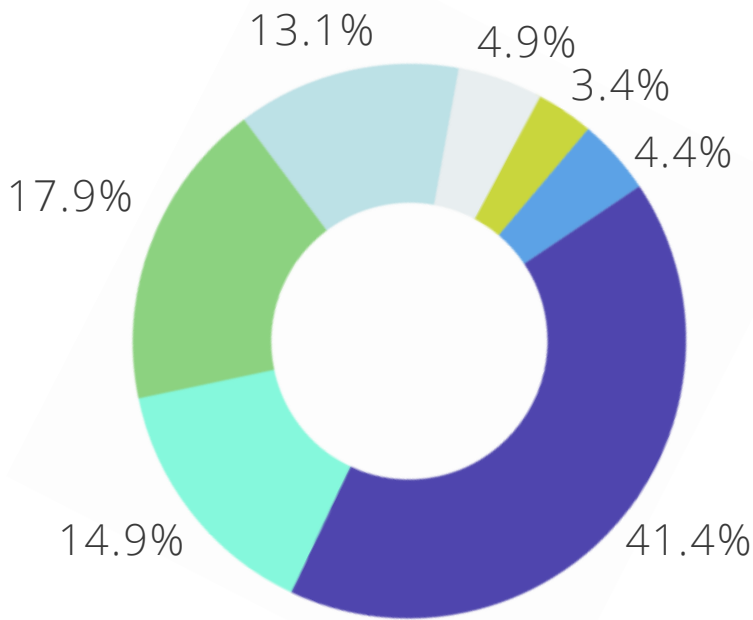


The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Biodiversity Finance engaged 3,371 participants from 170 countries. The map above shows a detailed geographical distribution for the MOOC.

Top 20 countries ranked by participation



The highest number of participants came from Mexico (363), Brazil (241), Colombia (222), and the United States of America (125). Participants represented diverse world regions including Africa, Europe, Asia, South America, Pacific, Mesoamerica, Caribbean, Eurasia, Middle East, North America, and Oceania.



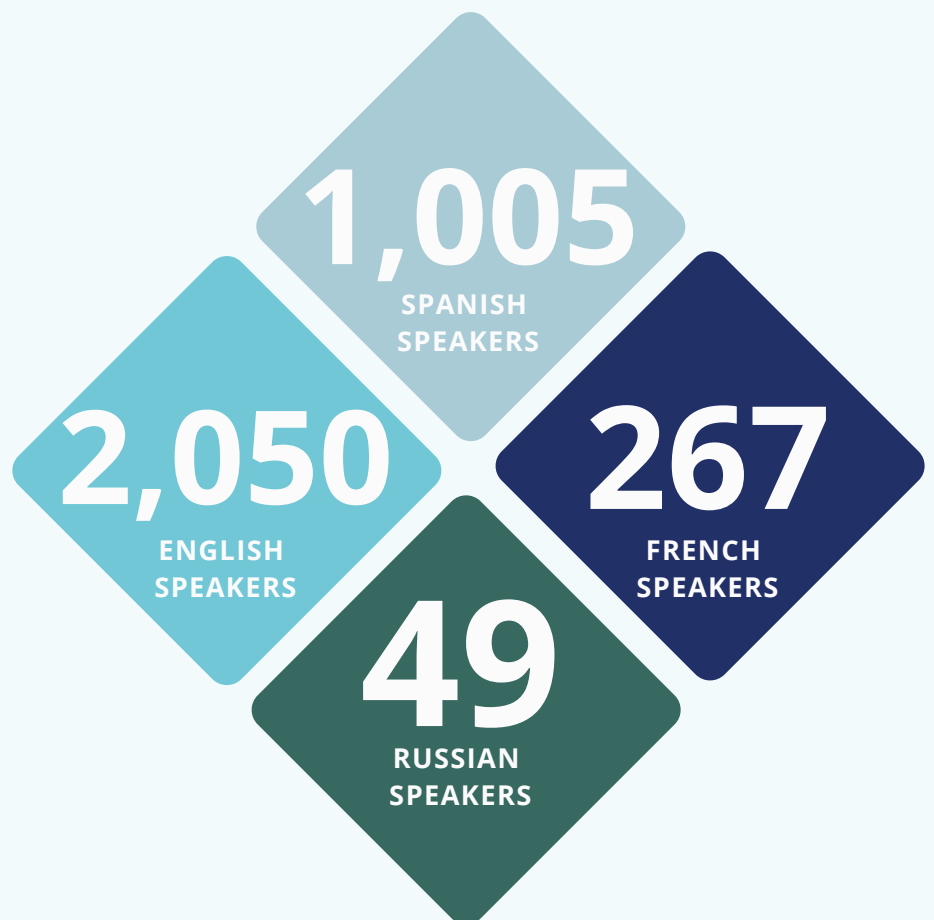
- Latin America & the Caribbean (1392)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (604)
- Asia & the Pacific (502)
- Central & Western Europe (440)
- United States & Canada (164)
- Eastern Europe & Central Asia (149)
- Middle East & North Africa (114)

Regional distribution

Language distribution

"This course has enhanced my level for self-confidence in engaging national and regional biodiversity related issues. Not only that, BIOFIN has also provided me with an opportunity to integrate Biodiversity, Climate and SDG priorities aimed at achieving resilience"

About Jumbe
Department of Environment,
Zanzibar, Tanzania



"The course is innovative in the sense that it is being offered in an open manner to different actors and is available in different languages for a better understanding. It is also extremely important to know the realities of other countries."

Fernando Begazo
Reforestación Perú SAC
(Translated from Spanish)



Percentage of participants with the ability to influence policy who will use their learnings from the course to influence policy in the future



Total course satisfaction rate



**Completion rate*
(2x industry standard)**

*The percentage of enrolled participants who completed all the course requirements by the end of the course and received the course certificate



WEEKLY SUMMARIES

"Excellent course to deepen the understanding of the BIOFIN methodology, its components and its successful application in diverse environments! I loved the list of financial solutions and their application as well as the exchange with other professionals in the field of biodiversity finance."

Monica Navas
BIOFIN Ecuador
(Translated from Spanish)

Each week of the course focused on a specific topic that contributed to shaping participants' understanding of the BIOFIN methodology. Required online lessons provided essential information about the week's topic. Participants were given the option to engage with experts in the field through webinars, as well as to enrich their learning through a discussion forum with their peers. Homework assignments provided an opportunity to apply the concepts introduced in the lessons. A variety of finance solutions allowed to explore finance mechanisms or instruments in a particular context, and optional reading assignments provided valuable supplementary resources for participants who wanted to dive deeper into specific topics.

ORIENTATION WEEK

The Orientation week, which took place on 8-14 April, provided an opportunity for participants to learn how to take the course and oriented them to the activities offered each week. The participants used this time to review the information on the course requirements and the optional components of the course. During this week, the participants viewed the instructional videos where the course team walked them through the course room, and met the course facilitators through the welcome videos in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

Click on the images **to view content.**



Facilitators' welcome



1,964 views on Youtube as of June 2019

WEEK ONE

Introduction to biodiversity and sustainable development

The first week of the course provided **an overview of biodiversity in the context of sustainable development**. The course materials focused on the main elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the primary policy vehicle for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Sustainable Development Goals which depend upon biodiversity.

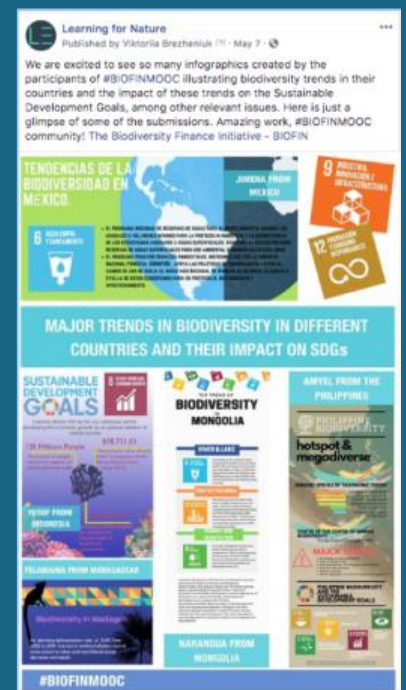
The Week 1 webinar in English was presented by Midori Paxton (UNDP Ecosystem and Biodiversity Programme), Jamison Ervin (UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development) and Ngawang Gyelthsen (BIOFIN Bhutan), and facilitated by Andrew Seidl (BIOFIN). Presentations in French were delivered by Marco Arlaud (BIOFIN), Hervé Barois (BIOFIN) and Uvicka Bristol with the support of Kelly Hoareau from James Michel Institut de recherche de l'économie bleue (Blue Economy Research Institute). The speakers in the Spanish webinar were Mariana Bellot (BIOFIN), John Bejarano (BIOFIN Colombia), and Gerardo Arroyo (UNDP Mexico). The Russian language section of the course featured presentations by Meruyert Sarsembayeva (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Talgat Kerteshev (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Maxim Vergeichik (UNDP GEF), and Ainur Shalakhanova (BIOFIN Kazakhstan).

During Week 1, the **homework assignments** section invited participants to review the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the latest National Report on Biodiversity for their country, and to develop an infographic that explains major trends in biodiversity, and the impact these trends might have on different Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, participants chose a geographic area relevant to their context, identified the three SDGs and their targets that are most dependent upon biodiversity in their context, and shared an essay describing the connections between these SDGs and biodiversity with other participants and course facilitators.

In **the Biodiversity finance solutions** section, participants were encouraged to learn more about greening subsidies in agriculture and lotteries.

Finally, **the discussions** during Week 1 revolved around the status and trends in biodiversity and ecosystems in participants' countries, and the feasibility of implementing select finance solutions in their context.

Click on the images to **view content**.



WEEK TWO

Introduction to biodiversity finance

The second week of the course aimed to build participants' **understanding of biodiversity finance, biodiversity status and trends** both nationally and globally. The course materials introduced UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), the steps to start implementing BIOFIN's methodology, and the concept of finance solutions.

The Week 2 webinar in English was presented by Annabelle Trinidad, (BIOFIN), Niran Nirannoot (BIOFIN Thailand), and Anabelle Plantilla (BIOFIN Philippines). Presentations in French were delivered by Jennifer Jasmin (Ministry of Finance, Trade Investment and Economic Planning in the Seychelles), Sophie Nyirabakwiye (BIOFIN Madagascar), and Hervé Barois (BIOFIN). The speakers in the Spanish webinar were Mariana Bellot (BIOFIN), Kifah Sasa (BIOFIN Costa Rica), and Esteban Delgado (BIOFIN Chile). The Russian language section of the course featured presentations by Meruyert Sarsembayeva (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Talgat Kerteshev (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Lira Zholdubaeva (BIOFIN Kyrgyzstan), and Ainur Shalakhanova (BIOFIN Kazakhstan).

During Week 2, the **homework assignments** section invited participants to develop a list of key stakeholders who would need to be engaged in a BIOFIN process in their country, as well as an outline for an advocacy campaign that would incentivize stakeholders to invest in biodiversity. In addition, participants developed an infographic on the specific value of biodiversity and ecosystems to key economic sectors within their region, and shared their work with other participants and course facilitators.

In the **Biodiversity finance solutions** section, participants were encouraged to learn more about green bonds and conservation license plates.

Finally, **the discussions** during Week 2 revolved around the questions of stakeholder engagement in the evaluation of biodiversity finance in participants' countries and the feasibility of implementing select finance solutions in participants' context.

Click on the images to **view content**.



A vertical infographic with a green header that reads "APA CARSTE DE LAGOA SANTA - BRASIL". The main title is "VALOR ESPECÍFICO DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD Y LOS ECOSISTEMAS DE APA CARSTE DE LAGOA SANTA/MINAS GERAIS - BRASIL". The text describes the area as a biodiversity hotspot and discusses its value, stakeholders, and environmental valuation. It includes icons for a hand holding a leaf, a handshake, and a lightbulb.

A slide titled "BIODIVERSITY FINANCE MOOC" and "Solution 2 | Green bonds". The text explains that green bonds can mobilize resources for climate change adaptation, renewable energy, and other environment-friendly projects. It notes that green bonds have primarily been in the energy theme in Latin America. An example is given: "Green bonds issuance in Latin America is relatively small (US\$4.4 billion) but growing. Recent bonds include a US\$500m bond from Costa Rica's Banco nacional in April 2016." At the bottom, there is a photograph of a river with logs and rocks.

WEEK THREE

Biodiversity finance policy and institutional review

The third week of the course focused on **the biodiversity finance policy and institutional review**, including related guidance and examples on each of the five steps in conducting this review. Participants analyzed real-life examples and case studies from a variety of countries, and gained experience implementing each of the steps.

The Week 3 webinar in English was presented by Hannah St. Luce Martinez (BIOFIN Belize), Bruno Mweemba (BIOFIN Zambia), and Andrew Seidl (BIOFIN). Presentations in French were delivered by Aline Mailbangar (UNDP GEF), David Meyers (Conservation Finance Alliance), and Hervé Barois (BIOFIN). The speakers in the Spanish webinar were Mariana Bellot (BIOFIN), Mayra Casas (BIOFIN Cuba), and Susan Seehusen (BIOFIN Brazil). The Russian language section of the course featured presentations by Meruyert Sarsembayeva (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Lira Zholdubaeva (BIOFIN Kyrgyzstan), and Ainur Shalakhanova (BIOFIN Kazakhstan).

During Week 3, the **homework assignments** section invited participants to develop an initial list of the finance solutions/mechanisms that exist in their country or hold promise for the future, and to describe the economic and policy drivers of biodiversity change in their country and the impact that these drivers have on biodiversity.

In **the Biodiversity finance solutions** section, participants were encouraged to learn more about philanthropy and payment for ecosystem services.

Finally, **the discussions** during Week 3 revolved around building a national PIR team, the most important economic and policy drivers of change in participants' contexts, and the prioritization of stakeholders and decision-makers within an institutional analysis.

Click on the images to **view content**.



WEEK FOUR

Biodiversity expenditure review

The fourth week introduced the second step in identifying finance solutions for biodiversity – **the Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER)**. Course materials provided guidance and examples on each of the steps involved in the BER process.

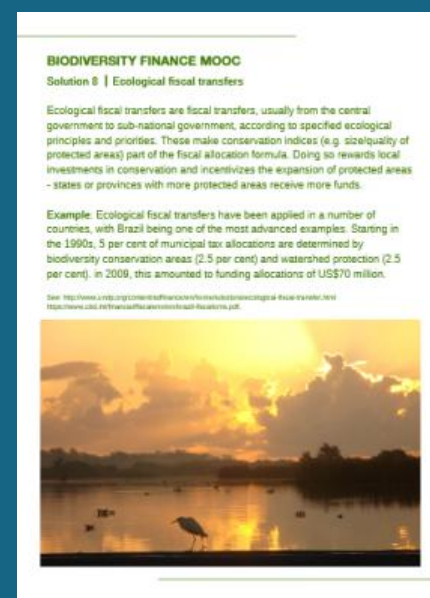
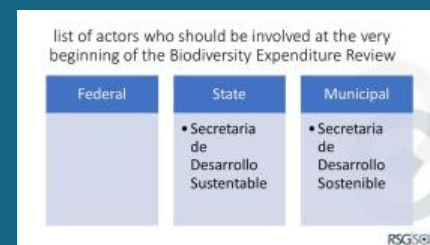
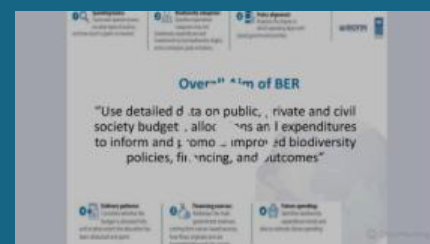
The Week 4 webinars were presented in English by Ngawang Gyelthsen, (BIOFIN Bhutan), Rachel Morrison (University of Exeter), and Jessica Alvsilver (BIOFIN). Presentations in French were delivered by Marco Arlaud and Hervé Barois (BIOFIN). The speakers in the Spanish webinar were Mariana Bellot (BIOFIN), Alonso Martinez (BIOFIN Mexico), and Esteban Delgado (BIOFIN Chile). The Russian language section of the course featured presentations by Meruyert Sarsembayeva (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Temir Burzhubaev (BIOFIN Kyrgyzstan) and Ainur Shalakhonova (BIOFIN Kazakhstan).

During Week 4, the **homework assignments section** invited participants to identify actors who should be involved at the very beginning of the Biodiversity Expenditure Review, describe their role and why they would be important to the process. In addition, participants identified government economic or development policies and priorities that need to be better aligned with biodiversity vision in their context, and shared their findings with others on the forum.

In **the Biodiversity finance solutions section**, participants were encouraged to learn more about philanthropy and payment for ecosystem services.

Finally, **the discussions** during Week 4 revolved around the questions of the challenges and opportunities in getting institutions to reveal their expenditures, tagging expenditures according to category and relevancy, and challenges, barriers and opportunities for aligning and/or integrating government policies and priorities with a national vision.

Click on the images to **view content**.



WEEK FIVE

Biodiversity financial needs assessment

Week 5 guided participants through **the Financial Needs Assessment (FNA) process**. Participants explored real-life examples and case studies from a variety of countries, and gained experience in practicing each of the steps involved, including assessing the financial needs required to implement key actions within the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan, as well as other key biodiversity-related strategies and actions.

The Week 5 webinar in English was presented by Annabelle Trinidad (BIOFIN), Ramitha Wijethunga (BIOFIN Sri Lanka), and Anabelle Plantilla (BIOFIN Philippines). Presentations in French were delivered by Marco Arlaud and Hervé Barois (BIOFIN). The speakers in the Spanish webinar were Mariana Bellot (BIOFIN), Fernando García (BIOFIN Guatemala), and Frida Arriaga (BIOFIN Mexico). The Russian language section of the course featured presentations by Meruyert Sarsembayeva (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Temir Burzhubaev (BIOFIN Kyrgyzstan), and Ainur Shalakhonova (BIOFIN Kazakhstan).

During Week 5, the **homework assignments** section invited participants to identify a country with a recently completed NBSAP, select specific actions in the NBSAP, and identify the extent to which each action is costable and actionable. In addition, participants identified key desired results for biodiversity or ecosystems from their NBSAP, specific actions to achieve those results, and conducted a cost calculation for each.

In **the Biodiversity finance solutions** section, participants were encouraged to learn more about incentives for public budget execution and habitat banking.

Finally, **the discussions** during Week 5 revolved around estimating the cost of implementation of NBSAP actions and aligning and/or integrating government policies and priorities with national visions.

Click on the images to **view content**.



Costable	Actionable	Modify
x	x	Realizar investigación sobre las sustentables (pesquerías, sistemas y su comercialización, a fin de las cadenas de valor en ese campo)



WEEK SIX

Biodiversity finance plan

In Week 6, course materials explored the steps involved in **developing a Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP)**. Participants learnt about the steps involved in developing a BFP, and in making the business case for its adoption by decision-makers. They reviewed real life examples of biodiversity finance plans, and gained experience in conducting each of the steps involved in developing this plan.

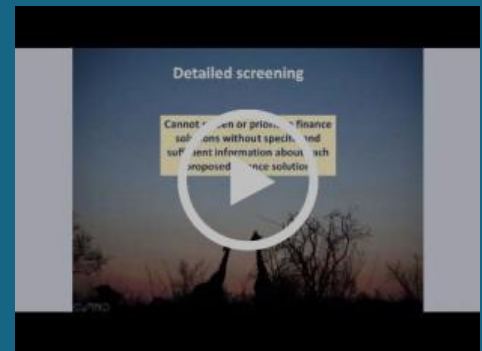
The Week 6 webinar in English was presented by Tracey Cumming (BIOFIN), Flora Mokgohloa (BIOFIN South Africa), and Tornike Phulariani (BIOFIN Georgia). Presentations in French were delivered by Marco Arlaud (BIOFIN), Hervé Barois (BIOFIN) and Bertrand Rassool (Lead Consultant, BIOFIN Seychelles). The speakers in the Spanish webinar were Daniela Torres (BIOFIN Mexico), John Bejarano (BIOFIN Colombia), and Carlos Hernandez (BIOFIN Peru). The Russian language section of the course featured presentations by Meruyert Sarsembayeva (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Temir Burzhubaev (BIOFIN Kyrgyzstan) and Ainur Shalakhanova (BIOFIN Kazakhstan).

During Week 6, the **homework assignments** section invited participants to identify potential finance solutions that could apply in their context and to rank the feasibility and impact for each solution. In addition, participants identified the most viable finance solutions and described how they might make a business case to decision-makers for one of these solutions.

In **the Biodiversity finance solutions** section, participants were encouraged to learn more about debt for nature swaps and wildlife impact bonds.

Finally, **the discussions** during Week 6 revolved around screening finance solutions and making a business case for a specific finance solution or the adoption of the finance plan as a whole.

Click on the images to **view content**.



Criteria	Low	Medium	High
Conservation incentives: Check incentives to businesses for addressing conservation solutions (i.e. free water used, higher ground cover)	Medium Will take to reduce resources used	Medium Will be low expense if it goes to people	Medium Likely participants already use free so it's not exactly a new change
Collaboration: Obtaining funds for conservation through a lottery	Low Funds won't change perceptions in business	High Really good way to fundraise	Medium Also funds are generated, there will still need to be spent on conservation
Conservation easements: Tax breaks for non-use protected areas	High Will encourage establishment of National Reserves	Medium Will encourage higher ground cover and more conservation	High Establishing standards and process may be difficult
Lower land interest rates for greener and high-quality land profiles	Medium Will encourage higher ground cover and more conservation	Medium Will probably not be too financially beneficial for farmers due to banks setting rates	High Should be seen as a win-win even if only a small proportion of farmers participate
Performance/Grading fees to lease condition agriculture areas	Medium Will encourage higher ground cover and clean conservation	Medium Will produce income for conservation projects	Low Will not be as suitable initially, especially if government levy
Payments for Ecosystem Services (i.e. wildlife relocation)	High Should be a win-win for farmers and the govt	Low Should be very expensive to set up	Medium Should be very difficult to establish payment schedules and standards for each property
Soil banks for sustainable agriculture	Medium Will encourage higher ground cover and more conservation	Medium Will probably not be too financially beneficial for farmers due to market setting rates	Low Should be seen as a win-win even if only a small proportion of farmers participate
Sustainability or Carbon Offset Market	Medium Will take to reduce resources used	Medium Will be low expense if it goes to people	High Likely participants are already more responsible so it's not exactly a new change
Subsidies for sustainable agriculture	Low Funds won't directly impact biodiversity but may in the long run	High A very low cost option for the potential benefits it could have	Medium Success in terms of biodiversity conservation is getting low but could contribute to greater productivity
Extension Training & Education for sustainable agriculture	Low	High	Medium

BIODIVERSITY FINANCE MOOC

Solution 11 | Debt for nature swaps

This is a mechanism that can help reduce national debt levels, while raising funds for conservation at the same time. Debt restructuring enables governments to write off a proportion of their foreign held debt and instead direct payments into funds to support domestic conservation. Since 1987, debt-for-nature-swaps have generated over US\$1 billion for conservation in 47 developing countries.

Example: In 1988, WWF purchased an initial US\$300,000 of Philippine debt at a discounted cost of US\$200,000 (51 per cent of face value). One of uses of the funds was the establishment of the El Nido Marine Reserve (1991) on Palawan, now a major tourist destination.

See more in www.cbd.int/financetools/11/11solution11-nature-solutions.pdf.

WEEK SEVEN

Implementing the biodiversity finance plan

Week 7 explored **lessons from around the world in implementing BFPs** and individual finance solutions. Participants engaged with key professionals during webinars, and learnt about some of the challenges, barriers and opportunities in implementing a BFP.

The Week 7 webinar in English was presented by Candice Stevens (BirdLife South Africa), Niran Nirannoot (BIOFIN Thailand) and Ramitha Wijethunga (BIOFIN Sri Lanka), and facilitated by Onno van den Heuvel (BIOFIN). Presentations in French were delivered by Marco Arlaud (BIOFIN), Angeliqve Pouponneau (Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust), and Hervé Barois (BIOFIN). The speakers in the Spanish webinar were Mariana Bellot (BIOFIN), Roy Gonzalez (BIOFIN Costa Rica), and Fernando Garcia (BIOFIN Guatemala). The Russian language section of the course featured presentations by Meruyert Sarsembayeva (BIOFIN Kazakhstan), Nurida Baizakova (Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic), Gulira Borubaeva (BIOFIN Kyrgyzstan) and Ainur Shalakhonova (BIOFIN Kazakhstan).

Unlike Weeks 1-6, Week 7 did not contain homework assignments. Instead, participants were invited to complete **the course survey** to share feedback about their learning experience. In addition, participants were able to assess the knowledge they gained throughout the entire course by completing **the final test**.

Once participants completed the course requirements, they were able to download their **course completion certificates** signed by the course partners: Abdoulaye Mar Dieye (Assistant Secretary-General, Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme), Markus Lehmann (Senior Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity) and Anthony Cox (Deputy Director, Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Click on the images to **view content**.





"Taking the Biodiversity Finance course was a unique opportunity that gave me new ideas about the place that biodiversity should occupy. I have taken note of the importance of intersectorality on issues related to biodiversity, including its financing. I will certainly take every opportunity to inform my country's policy-makers of the importance of better integrating biodiversity into budget planning and of considering protected areas as development tools. "

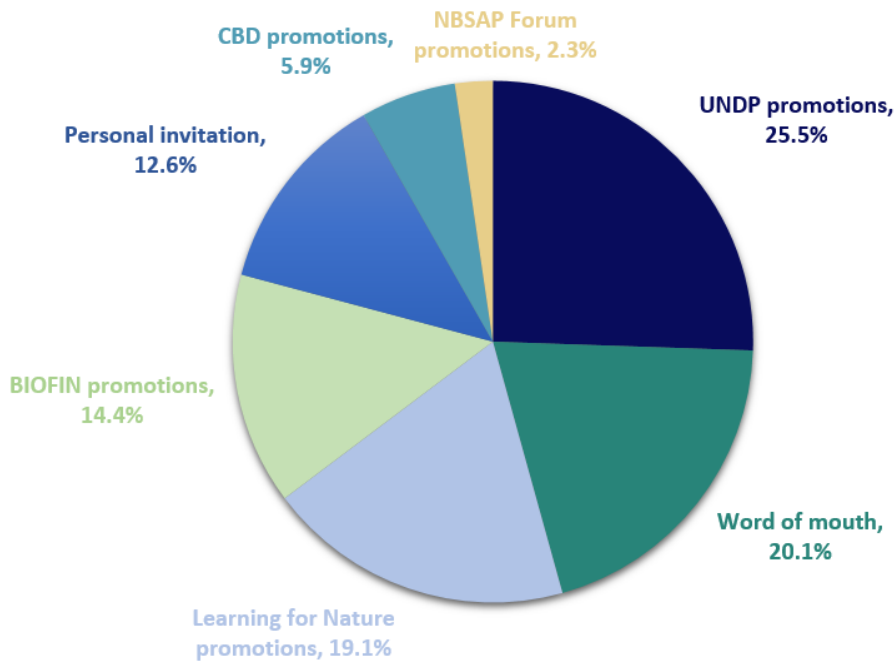
Siméon Abe Eyebe
UNDP Cameroon
(Translated from French)

SURVEY RESULTS

Overall, 652 participants completed the course survey. An overwhelming majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with their learning experience. On average across the four languages, **96% of participants were satisfied or highly satisfied with the course**. Survey results illustrate that the course was able to reach key target groups: **more than half (55%) have the ability to directly influence policy in their job** and an average of 94.6% of the respondents who have this ability indicate that they **will use what they learned during the MOOC to influence future policy decisions**.

Slightly more men than women responded to the survey (55% vs 45%). Notably, the gender distribution differed across languages: the Spanish and Russian sections of the course received more responses from female participants, with 56.4% and 66.7% of responses submitted by women, respectively.

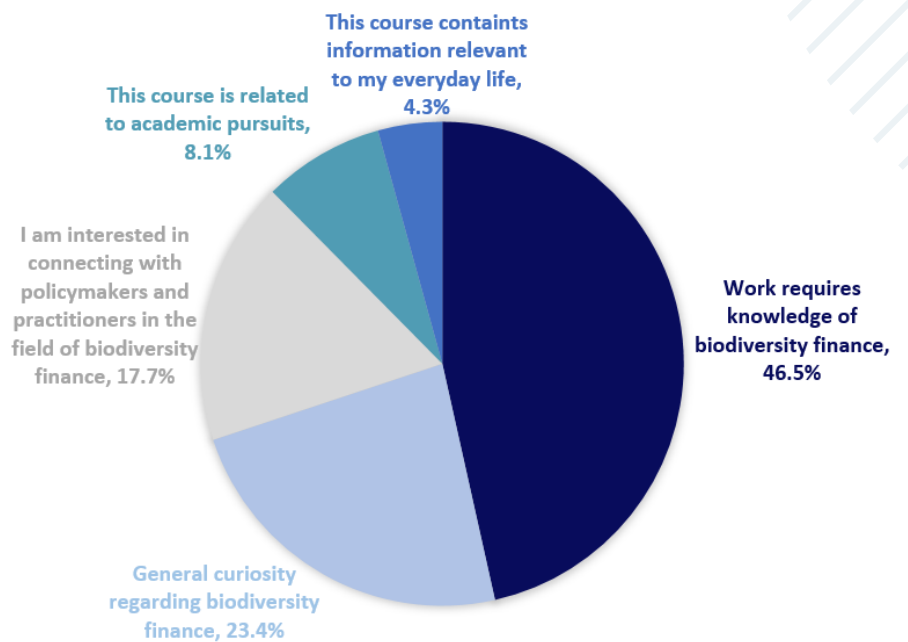
Sources of information about course registration



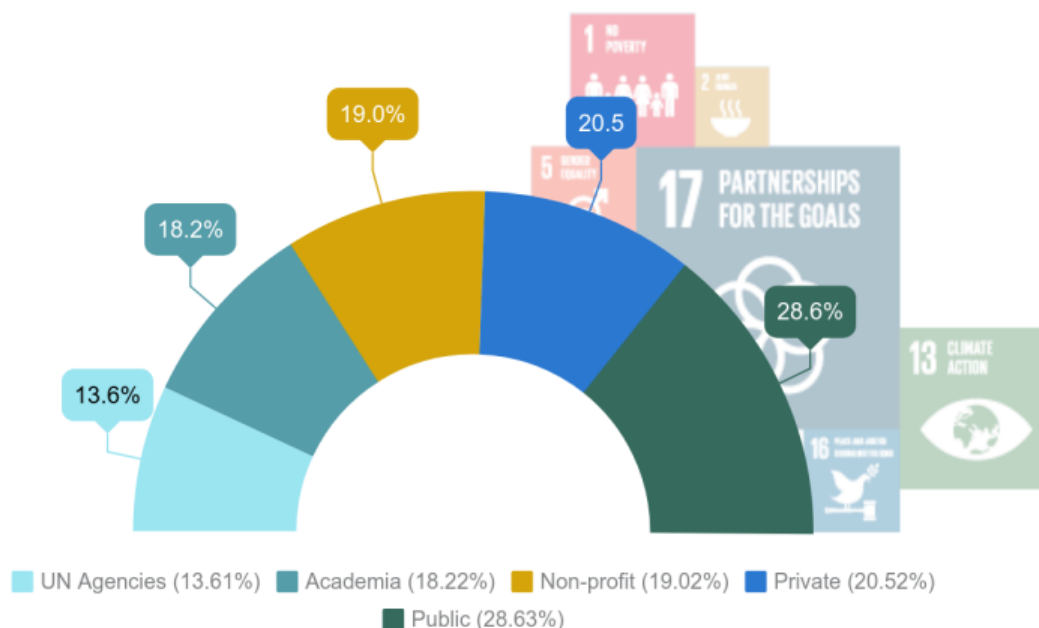
"The course was important and beneficial. It enlightened me on many issues in Biodiversity that I previously did not know about. I will henceforth be more critical in analyzing my national governments' budget and policy formulations processes with regards to biodiversity expenditures and also endeavour to contribute to public discourses regarding biodiversity issues."

Prince Oppong
UNDP Ghana

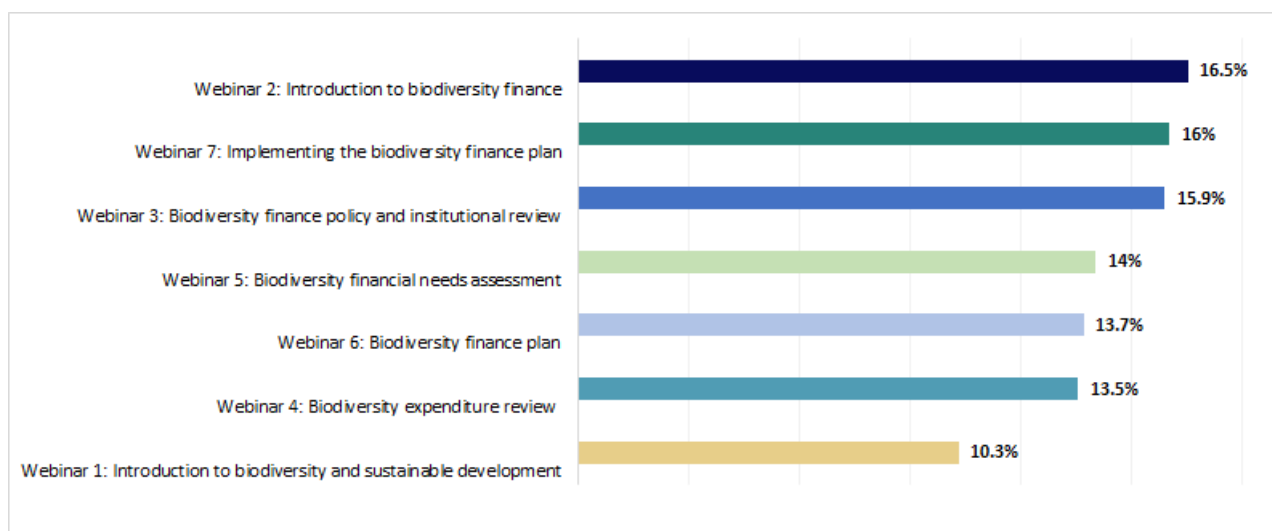
Motivation for enrolling in the course



Course participants represented **diverse professional backgrounds**, with the majority working in the public sector, followed by the private sector, non-profit sector, academia, and finally those working within United Nation agencies or intergovernmental organizations. This cross-sectoral reach supports SDG achievement through promoting partnerships and knowledge-sharing.



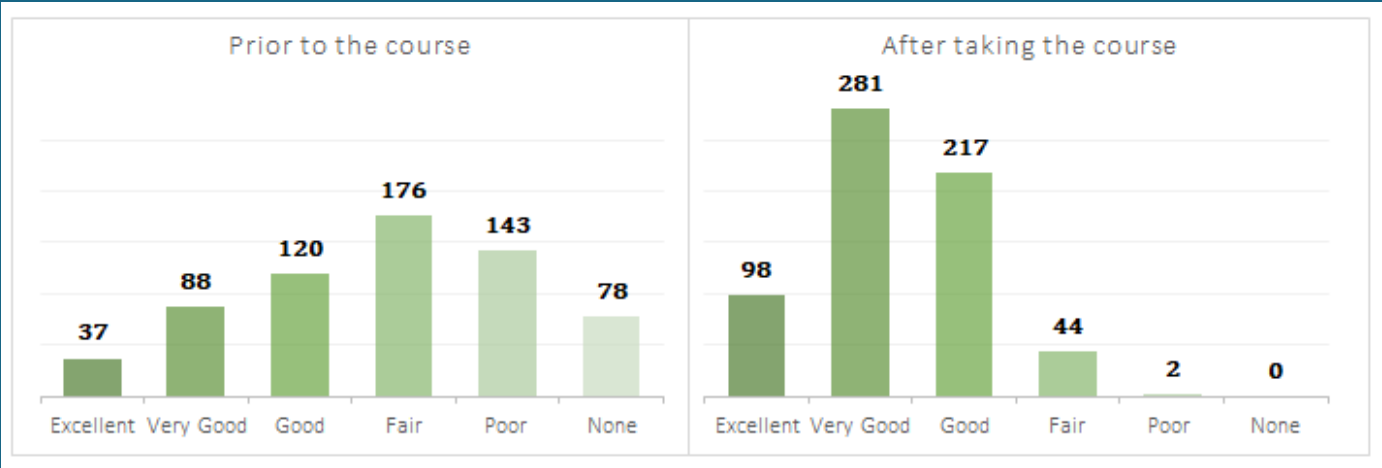
The majority of participants (67,5%) rated the course workload and the course difficulty as **“just right”**. Many noted that the materials were well-designed and that the lessons included highly useful information and were presented in a professional manner. The graph below shows the webinar topics ranked by participants according to their relevance across the four languages:



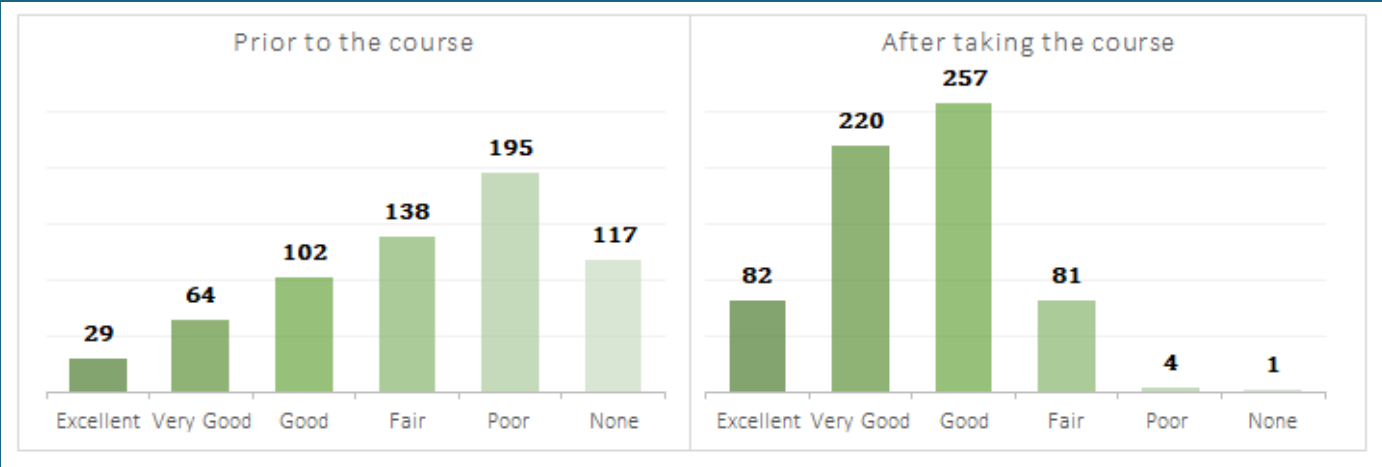
The majority of participants (94,9%) felt either **“engaged”** or **“highly engaged”** throughout the course. Similarly, the majority of respondents (72,5%) indicated their satisfaction with their level of interaction with other course participants. Further, the majority of respondents (81%) were "very likely" or "likely" to **take another course** offered on Learning for Nature, and (83%) were "very likely" or "likely" to **recommend future courses** offered on Learning for Nature to others.

Based on the ranking of the level of understanding of different concepts, the course has reached, and often surpassed, its objectives. In all the four languages, participants have significantly increased their understanding of biodiversity finance after taking the course. The subsequent tables provide detailed information about the learning outcomes of the course (on average across the four languages).

Ability to assess the policy, institutional, and economic context for biodiversity finance



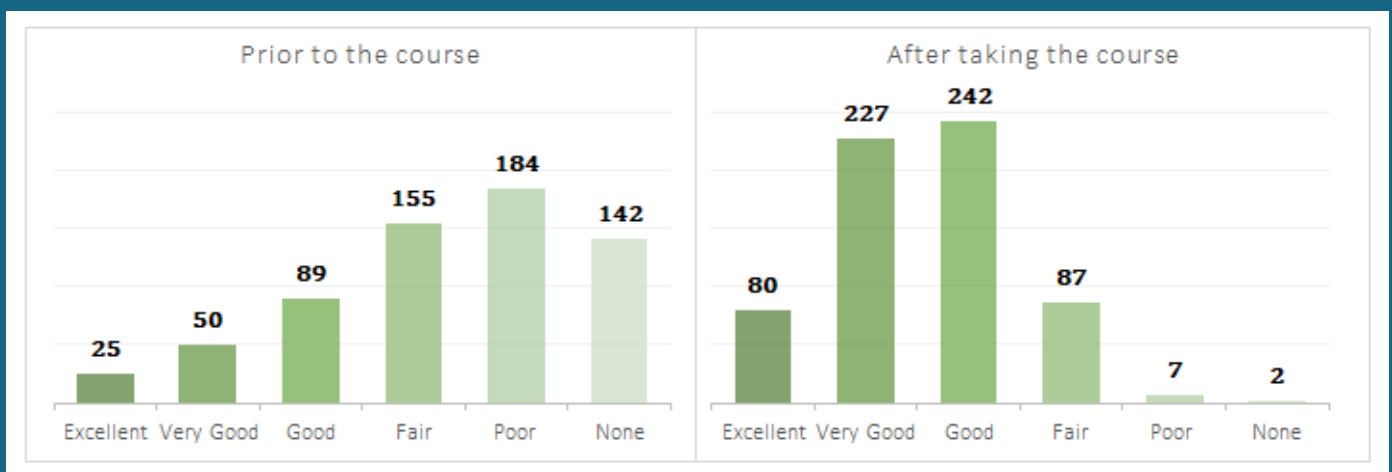
Ability to conduct a financial needs assessment to achieve a country's biodiversity goals



Ability to develop a biodiversity finance plan for most suitable finance solutions



Ability to measure biodiversity expenditures



OUTREACH STRATEGY

“The MOOC course on BIOFIN is a must free online course that every leaders of today should take up. This course delivers how important the natural biodiversity is for the country, region and the world at large. Further, the course gives us ample of solutions for the investment in conservation and preservation of biodiversity.”

Sonam Tobgay
Ministry of Finance, Bhutan

The outreach strategy for the Biodiversity Finance MOOC engaged five major social media tools in order to optimally engage participants:

- 1 ClickMeeting / Zoom
- 2 Facebook
- 3 Twitter
- 4 MailChimp
- 5 YouTube

Click to view
the Trello
board

Webinars were conducted via ClickMeeting and Zoom webinar platforms, and attracted a total of **585 unique attendees**. Webinar sessions in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) featured **46 speakers during 28 online sessions**. Webinar speakers were experts in the field of biodiversity finance, and hailed from UNDP BIOFIN, Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development, BirdLife South Africa, UNDP GEF, Conservation Finance Alliance, University of Exeter, the Ministry of Finance, Trade Investment and Economic Planning in Seychelles, and the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic (see Annex for a complete list of webinar speakers). Following the webinar, these sessions were made available on the Learning for Nature YouTube Channel for all participants. As of June 2019, these webinars -- **nearly 33 hours of footage** in total -- had been viewed **5,830 times**. All webinar presentations and recordings are available [here](#).

Notably, the course was able to bring together a stellar group of course champions. The course champions addressed the participants via video messages and expressed their support for the BIOFIN MOOC, inviting participants to enroll in the course. Learn more about the course champions below. **Click on the photos to view the course champions' video messages.**



PORNCHAI CHUTHAMAS

Head of the Office of the Plant Genetic Conservation Project, Thailand

Pornchai Chuthamas is an agricultural scientist who serves as Head of the Office of the Plant Genetic Conservation Project under the Royal Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (RSPG) in Thailand. Mr. Chuthamas aims to set up a central biodiversity database of plant genetics in Thailand. Due to his efforts, the network of the plant genetic conservation project has been strengthened nationwide through 200 public and private agencies, 4000 members under the School Botanical Garden Programme, 2000 local administrative offices working on collecting information on local natural resources, and biodiversity database registration. In 2015 Mr. Chuthamas was appointed as member of the national steering committee of BIOFIN Thailand. Mr. Chuthamas initiated the first BIOFIN Day in Thailand.



ABDOULAYE MAR DIEYE

Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), UNDP, New York

M. Dieye was appointed as the United Nations Assistant Secretary General (ASG); Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York in March 2018. Prior to his new appointment, he was the United Nations Assistant Secretary General (ASG); Assistant Administrator and Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) of UNDP, in New York (2013-2018). M. Dieye was previously Chief of Staff of the UNDP Administrator; and Director of UNDP's Executive Office, in New York (2009-2013). M. Dieye, from Senegal, is a development expert and a macroeconomist; with an academic background in mathematics, statistics, econometrics, economic policy and planning; he has exercised increasing leadership responsibilities in managing complex development portfolios.



DASHO LAM DORJI

Lead Expert for BIOFIN, Bhutan

Dasho Lam Dorji is the Lead Expert for BIOFIN in Bhutan and formerly the Secretary of Finance of the Royal Government of Bhutan. Prior to his appointment as the Finance Secretary, he served as the Secretary for Planning Commission for four years. He was the Director of the Department of National Budget. Prior to this position, he headed various divisions in the Ministry of Finance and served as Chief Budget Officer, Deputy Director, Senior Budget Officer, Assistant Director and Assistant Budget Officer. Dasho Lam is a chartered management accountant with Master's of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Wales, United Kingdom.



ROMAN KIM
Member of Parliament, Kazakhstan

Roman Kim is a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and a member of the Committee on Agrarian Issues. Within the competence of the Mazhilis, he works to improve legislation in the field of the wildlife, vegetation and the agro-industrial complex. Over the years Mr. Kim has held senior positions in both state and private spheres. He has extensive experience and knowledge on the issues of public administration, business development, and public-private partnership. Mr. Kim is committed to cooperation and innovation for the advancement of sustainable development in Kazakhstan.



LADAWAN KUMPA
Head of the National Steering Committee of Biodiversity Finance Initiative, Thailand

Ladawan Kumpa has occupied leading positions in the National Reform Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the National Strategy Drafting Committee on Sustainable Development and Growth of Thailand. With her profound knowledge of Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Plans, she is leading the major tasks on drafting of the 5-year National Reform Plan on natural resources and environment (2018-2023) and the 20-year National Strategy Plan on Sustainable Development and Growth (2018-2037). She is a member of the Executive Board of the Highland Research and Development Institute of Thailand. In 2014 Ms. Kumpa was appointed to lead the National Steering Committee of Biodiversity Finance Initiative in Thailand. Her academic credentials include a Master's degree in Agricultural Development Economics from Australian National University, an Advanced Certificate in Public Economics Management for Executives from King Prajadhipok's Institute of Thailand, and the training in Developing Strategy for Value Creation from London Business School.



MARKUS LEHMANN
Senior Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Markus Lehmann is a senior programme management officer with UN Environment, heading the Economic Policy Unit of the Biodiversity Convention Secretariat. He was part of the core team preparing the report for national and international policymakers under the global initiative on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), and was the coordinating lead author of Chapter 6 of this report, on subsidy reform. Prior to joining the United Nations, he held various research and teaching positions in economics in Germany, including with Free University Berlin, the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. He published extensively on various aspects of environmental and resource economics. He holds a doctorate in economics (Dr. rer. pol.) from Free University Berlin.



CHULARAT NIRATISAYAKUL
Director General and CEO of the Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office, Thailand

Chularat Niratisayakul is a scientist working at the forefront of policy development in Thailand. Her professional portfolio includes positions at the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and the Pacific Intercommunication Co., where she worked as a journalist and broadcasted TV and radio programs dedicated to agricultural development for 16 years. Subsequently, she joined the Agricultural Policy Center and served as an advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for 5 years. After her advisory role, Ms. Niratisayakul served as an Acting Secretary General of the Office of Farmers' Rehabilitation and Development Fund for 3 years, helping groups of farmers become self-reliant and effectively address debt issues. In her current position of Director General and CEO of the Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office, Ms. Niratisayakul collaborates with BIOFIN to initiate policies for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity-based businesses in Thailand.



CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ
Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez is the Minister of Environment and Energy for Costa Rica, a post he previously held from 2002-2006 and through which he played a pivotal role in developing the country's payment for ecosystem services. Mr. Rodriguez was most recently Vice President, Global Policy at Conservation International, and formerly Director of Costa Rica's National Parks Service.



JOSEPHINE RAMIREZ SATO
Member of the Philippine congress representing Occidental Mindoro, Philippines

Congresswoman Josephine Ramirez Sato is a member of the Philippine Congress representing Occidental Mindoro. Prior to joining Congress, Ms. Sato served as Vice-governor and subsequently Governor of the province of Occidental Mindoro. She has sponsored bills related to protected areas and sustainable financing in the Philippine Congress. She is a member of the Commission on Appointments as well the Committees on economic affairs, ecology, and energy in Congress. Congresswoman Sato is a lawyer by occupation.

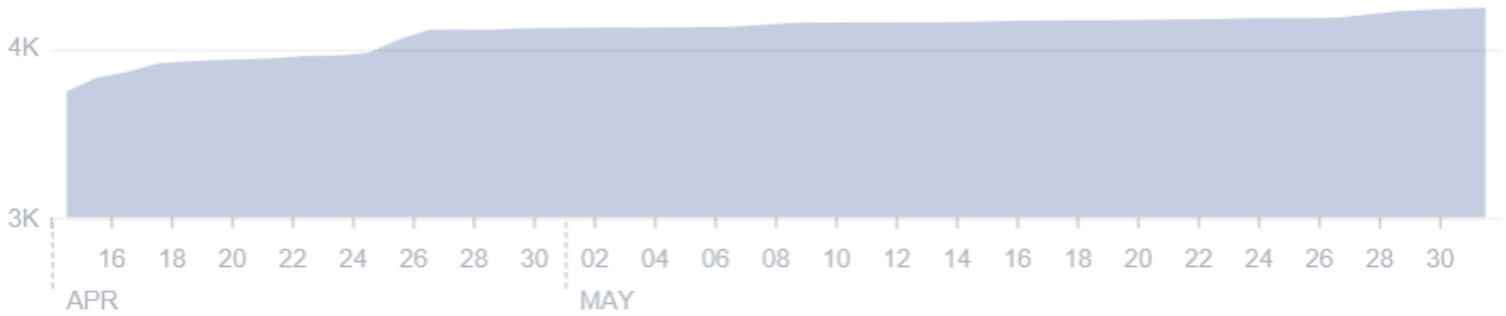
FACEBOOK

>33K
users reached

>5.8K
live stream views

>4K
followers

Followers



The Learning for Nature Facebook page reached more than 4,000 followers during the Biodiversity Finance MOOC.

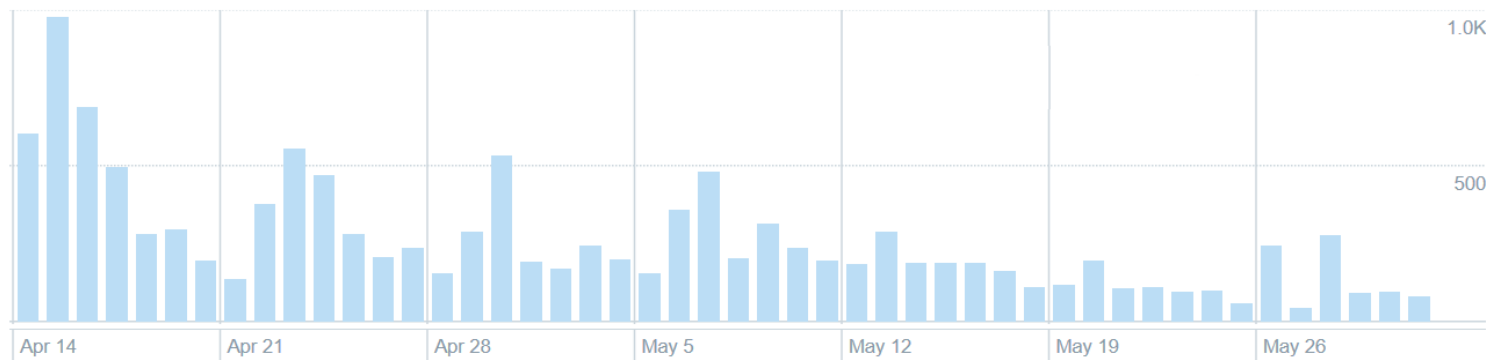
TWITTER

143
engagements

12.4K
impressions

average
+1
new followers
a day

Impressions

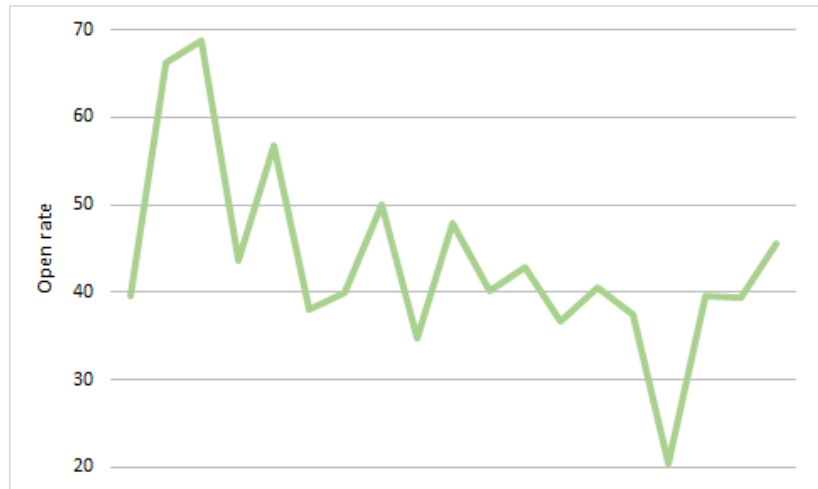


Each burst of engagement on this graph depicting Learning for Nature Twitter impressions correlates to the opening of each week of the Biodiversity Finance MOOC.

MAIL CHIMP

The introductory "Orientation" email and final "Thank You" email had the highest open rates, at 66% and 46%, respectively. In general, The "Welcome to the Week" blasts sent out each Monday of the course were opened more often than the emails with webinar recordings sent out each Thursday.

Open rate



76

email blasts
sent in 4
languages

43.6%

open rate
(2x the average
MailChimp open
rate)

6,094

link clicks to
course
materials

CLICKMEETING/ ZOOM

585

unique
attendees

456
web

40
mobile
(video)

1
mobile
(audio)

United States (298)
Colombia (60)
Kazakhstan (57)
Mexico (48)
Brazil (31)

Technology used by
participants to join
webinars

Top participating
countries

YOU TUBE

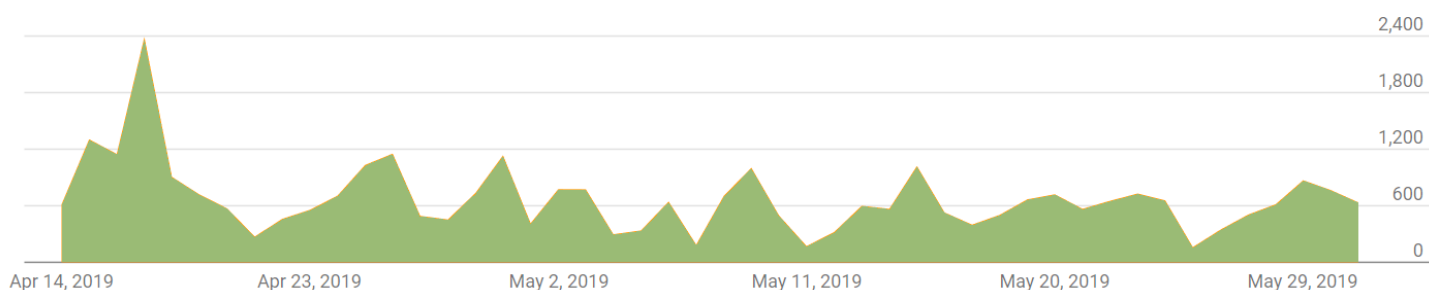
+209
subscribers

32.3K
impressions

>104K
minutes of
watch time

>3K
unique
viewers

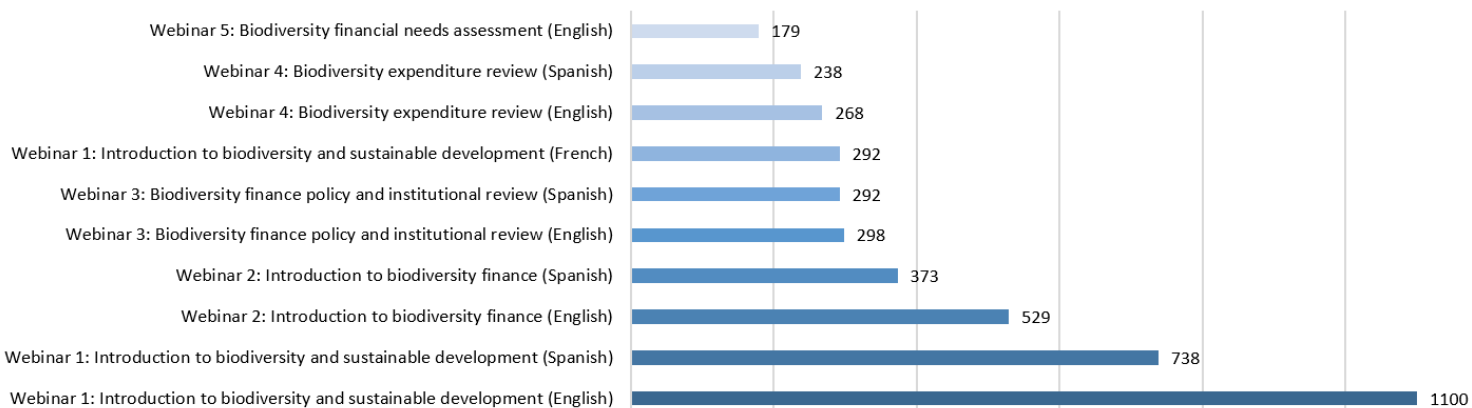
Overall Reach



During the course, 45 videos were uploaded to the [Learning for Nature Youtube channel](#): 28 webinar recordings, 4 welcome videos from the course facilitators, 4 course room instructional videos, 8 video messages from the course champions, and the course trailer. As of July 2019, these videos on the Learning for Nature Youtube playlist for the course received **10,181 views**. In addition, promotional and course champion videos shared via the [BIOFIN Youtube channel](#) received over 4,000 views.

During each week of the course, the peak in reach occurred 1-2 days after that week's webinars were uploaded. The highest peak refers to the first webinar, Introduction to sustainable development. Reach plummeted only during the weekends.

Views for top performing videos



As expected, webinars uploaded on Youtube earlier receive a higher number of views. Each week, webinars in English received the highest number of views, followed by the ones in Spanish, which correlates with the language distribution for the course overall.

TESTIMONIALS

Testimonials from course participants provide qualitative data illustrating the impact of the MOOC as well as data demonstrating its ability to impact linchpin actors. We received a total of 273 testimonials. Select testimonials are provided below.

"This course bridged academic knowledge with policy development in the context of understanding finance. As an academic that is involved with Civil Society groups, understanding the vocabulary of finance is very important. This course offered that facility."

Dr. Ryan S. Mohammed
Acting Curator, The University
of the West Indies Zoology
Museum

"This MOOC on Biodiversity Finance was a very rewarding experience for me. The acquired knowledge will enable me to improve my tools for mobilizing funding for biodiversity in the professional context, and also to support the public and private institutions working in our country, on issues related to biodiversity."

Mohamed-Awali OURO-DJERI
DJOBO
Association of Environmental
Scientists for Integrated
Development
(Translated from French)

"This course was an important learning and leveling opportunity of the current and effective achievements in the field of biodiversity conservation. The practical examples of the course are inspiring to improve our local jobs. "

Angélica Beatriz Corrêa
Gonçalves
Nature Institute of Tocantins,
State of Tocantins, Brazil
(Translated from Spanish)

"I would like to thank the UNDP for organising this free online course. I am so fortunate to access these valuable information which I believe in the future will be an asset to my organisation. I guess I am the only one participant from my sector and the knowledge and skills gained will be much valuable and will benefit the tourism sector."

Joseph Mamau
Ministry of Culture and Tourism,
Solomon Islands

"Being a member of a community based group, the MOOC experience will have a great impact to me as I will be able to shed insight during policy making in the organization thus help the organization employ sound finance decisions in its practices and give it a voice in government budget allocation expenditures that is biodiversity related."

Mary
Cranes Conservation Volunteers

"It is a very enriching course, which allows to clearly understand biodiversity finance. Without a doubt, it is a tool of great value for anyone who seeks to have a convincing impact on public policy for the preservation of biodiversity. "

Santiago Machado
Natural Spaces and Sustainable
Development A.C. (Espacios
Naturales y Desarrollo
Sustentable A.C.)
(Translated from Spanish)

MEET THE EXPERTS

SPEAKERS



NURIDA BAIZAKOVA

Director of the Department of Public Procurement, Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic

Nurida Baizakova has been working in the Ministry of Finance system since 2000. She currently serves as Director of Public Procurement at the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Nurida developed the existing program budgeting guidance materials. Nurida has extensive experience in organizing and conducting program budgeting training events. She graduated from the Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture with a degree in International Economic Relations in 1999. In 2016, she received a Master's degree from Doshisha University in Japan, having defended her thesis on the topic "Implementation of program budgeting in the Kyrgyz Republic: problems and prospects".



GIOVANNI FERNANDO GARCIA BARRIOS

Team Leader, BIOFIN Guatemala

Fernando is the team leader of BIOFIN Guatemala. He belongs to the UNDP country office team. Previously he worked with the Protected Areas and Biodiversity National Authority in Guatemala (CONAP) leading the National Biodiversity Commission (CONADIBIO) for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and UN Convention on Biological Diversity. His 20 years' experience is on agribusiness, biodiversity management, and green economies with global and national academic, multilateral organisations and private entities. He holds PhD in environmental management and forest carbon business from Lincoln University, New Zealand, Master Degree in formulation and evaluation of Environmental Projects, and Bachelor in Agronomy from San Carlos University in Guatemala.



JOHN BEJARANO

Team Leader, BIOFIN Colombia

John currently works at the manager, designer and evaluator of plans, policies, programs and projects of public and private investment associated with the management of sustainable development and competitiveness. John has 23 years of experience in this field. He has held positions of an environmental policy advisor for the National Planning Department, Biocomercio Fund Manager and Deputy Director of Finance of the Cooperation Fund for Biodiversity and Protected Areas, and a university professor of finance related to development and public policy environment. John currently serves as the BIOFIN Team Lead in Colombia. John has a professional degree in Finance and International Affairs with postgraduate studies in environmental law and environment and development.



GULIRA BORUBAEVA

Expert on environmental expenditures, BIOFIN in the Kyrgyz Republic

Gulira has 20 years of experience in public finance management (PFM). Working in the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic and on various projects for international organizations, she participated in the analysis and evaluation of the PFM system of Kyrgyzstan, the development and implementation of proposals and the implementation of the budget reform, and in the preparation of the budget (both the national budget and the one of several ministries). She has financial and economic expertise in the field of property management, taxation, economics, international relations, and regulatory impact analysis. Gulira graduated from the Kyrgyz National University with a degree in Economics.



TEMIR BURZHUBAEV

Team Leader and Financial Expert, BIOFIN Kyrgyzstan

Temir has over 20 years of expertise in governance-related fields. He was a key expert for strategic planning in the World Bank, ADB, EC, UN and GIZ projects, and participated in the development of national and sectoral development strategies. Mr. Burzhubaev has strong experience in personal financial management and public expenditure issues. Working on these issues, he served as Head of Division of the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic (2001-2004), and was a key expert in the official development assistance projects. Since 2016 Mr. Burzhubaev has served as a Team leader and financial expert of BIOFIN-Kyrgyzstan.



UVICKA BRISTOL

James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute

Uvicka joined the University of Seychelles in September 2015 as a research officer with BERI. She assists researchers with various BERI research projects. From 2015 to 2017, as one of the leads on an IORA project, she focused on developing a managed network of environmental research in the Western Indian Ocean. She continues to maintain this network while working on other BERI research projects. She also coordinates BERI's grant portfolio. Uvicka holds a BSc in Environmental Science (Honours), specialising in Climate Change Resilience, obtained from the University of Seychelles.



FRIDA ARRIAGA CINTA

Systematization Analyst, BIOFIN Mexico

For the past two years Frida has worked in BIOFIN, overseeing such areas as the financial needs assessment, the Mexican Alliance on Biodiversity and Businesses, monitoring and evaluation, and communications. Additionally, she is involved in the implementation of finance solutions for biodiversity, particularly in impact investment, mainstreaming and greening the bank by including biodiversity criteria into the eligibility process for credits. She holds an M.A. in International Politics with a focus on Sustainable Development from the University of Manchester, and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Tecnológico de Monterrey, CCM.



ESTEBAN DELGADO
Planning and Biodiversity Advisor, UNDP

Esteban is a geographer with a postgraduate degree in Environmental Management and Planning. Since 2002, he has worked on environmental issues at the local, subnational and national scale. During this time, he has obtained a wide knowledge of the challenges related to technical, legal, financial and political dimensions of environmental topics in Chile. Currently, he works for the Country Office of UNDP (Chile), as a Planning and Biodiversity Advisor, supporting the national implementation of the BIOFIN Project, with a focus on the improvements of national biodiversity finances through the policy development, outcomes-oriented planning, and optimization of national biodiversity finance mechanism.



ROY GONZALEZ
Economic Advisor, BIOFIN Costa Rica

Roy is an economist with strong knowledge on the operation of financial markets and institutions and extensive experience in the renewable energy sector in the Central American region. His professional background includes positions such as Market Development Director of the National Securities Exchange, investment banking manager and general manager of brokerage firms and risk and investment management advisor to several pensions funds in Costa Rica. He also served as Deputy Minister of Finance on two occasions and as General Manager of the Central Bank of Costa Rica between May 2004 and October 2010. He is currently responsible for the coordination of the BIOFIN Initiative activities in Costa Rica.



NGAWANG GYELTSHEN
National BIOFIN Coordinator, Bhutan

Ngawang Gyeltshen is the National BIOFIN Coordinator for Bhutan. Ngawang crafted the first integrated methodology to the BIOFIN-CPEIR approach. Prior to joining UNDP, he worked for the Department of Forests and Park Services under the Royal Government of Bhutan. A forester by training, he has over a decade of experience in Bhutan's natural resource management, protected areas, environmental policy development, conservation finance and community-based projects. Ngawang studied forestry in India and holds Master's degrees in Mountain Forestry from Boku University in Austria and in Conservation Leadership from Cambridge University in England. He is a Kinship Conservation Fellow.



CARLOS ABEL HERNANDEZ
Governance and Territorial Development Specialist, BIOFIN Peru

Carlos is a specialist in governance and territorial development of the UNDP Environmental Sustainability Program in Peru, and he is in charge of the coordination of the BIOFIN Initiative. Carlos has a degree in Social Communication and professional experience related to the promotion of development for more than 30 years. Carlos has worked on projects of innovation and reform of public management and the establishment of public-private partnerships, specifically in the sectors of health and biodiversity conservation, particularly in relation to management models and financing of Natural Protected Areas.



JENNIFER JASMIN
Director General, Ministry of Finance in Seychelles

Jennifer Jasmin is the Director General of the Economic Planning Department in the Ministry of Finance, Trade Investment and Economic Planning in Seychelles.



TALGAT KERTESHEV
Project Manager, BIOFIN Kazakhstan

Talgat is a biodiversity project manager of the United Nations Development Programme in Kazakhstan. He has more than 20 years of experience in the forest industry and over 15 years of experience in international biodiversity and PA projects. While working at the Kazakh National Agrarian University, he educated many young forestry specialists. He is also an Associate Professor of Forestry. He is the author of the Forestry Development Project including nine forest hunting institutions of the republic, and the Concept for Development of Protected Areas of Kazakhstan 2030. He has published seven study guides, three monographs and more than 20 articles in the field of forestry and PAs.



ALINE MALIBANGAR
Regional Coordinator of the UNDP / GEF Regional Project "Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity: Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas of the Congo Basin in Cameroon"

Aline Malibangar has been the regional coordinator of the UNDP / GEF Regional Project "Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity: Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas of the Congo Basin in Cameroon" since 2006. From 2003 to 2009, Aline assumed the roles of the Technical Advisor to the Minister of the Environment and the National Coordinator of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Central Africa. In 2009, she first joined UNDP Central African Republic as Program Manager Environment - Energy, then from late 2011 she held the position of Head of Environment Unit - Energy and Climate Change and finally held the position as Program Manager, Recovery and Stabilization, and Team Leader of the Recovery / Stabilization Unit. She then joined the UNDP DRC in 2015 as Technical Specialist Early Recovery / Resilience Building, based in North Kivu where she accumulates with the function of Provincial Coordinator of the Pillar 2 of the UNDP-DRC, and Coordinator of the Joint Project of support to the stabilization of eastern DRC through the reintegration of ex-children affiliated with the Armed Forces and Groups, the last position she held at UNDP DRC before joining UNDP-Cameroon, as Regional Coordinator.



ALONSO MARTINEZ
Environmental Economics and Finance Advisor, BIOFIN Mexico

Alonso Martinez works as Environmental Economics and Finance Advisor for the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (UNDP) in Mexico. He started his career at the Mexican National Commission for Natural Protected Areas, where he contributed to the publication of the first ecosystem services valuation studies, the implementation of the SEEA methodology related to protected areas, as well as the update and upgrade of the Commissions financial gap database. He holds a Master's degree in Economics and Policy of Energy and the Environment from the University College London, and a Bachelor's degree in economics from ITESM-Mexico City.



DAVID MEYERS
Executive Director, Conservation Finance Alliance

David Meyers is an environmental finance expert and entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in sustainability, business strategy and management, environmental economics, international conservation and development, environmental impact assessment, training, education and research in ecology and evolution. From 2012 until 2018, David was a Senior Technical Advisor for the BIOFIN/UNDP project. David has launched and managed various companies including a financial services company providing online marketplaces for impact investing and environmental assets, a triple-bottom-line bamboo-flooring manufacturer in Madagascar, and a technology incubator. David has spent well over a decade in Madagascar and has worked in 46 countries. In Madagascar, he helped the country plan and execute a tripling of the area under conservation, including establishing the Makira Natural Park 370,000 hectare protected area using REDD+ financing. He holds a Doctorate in Biological Anthropology and Anatomy from Duke University and an MBA from the Yale School of Management.



FLORA MOKGOHLOA
Project Leader, BIOFIN

Flora Mokgohloa is the Project Lead for the Biodiversity Finance Initiative. She has over 20 years of experience in national, provincial and local government in South Africa. More than half of her career was spent as Director for Environmental Management and later as Executive Director (Head of Department). This is where she led and developed a suite of environmental management policies and strategies supported by sectoral policies in biodiversity, water resource management, climate change, and energy and waste management. She has worked in high profile positions in the Presidency of South Africa, where she was responsible for government-wide environmental management, Office of the Premier, where she was responsible for mainstreaming environmental management in provincial development strategy, and the Private Office of the Executive Mayor as Advisor for City Sustainability. Flora holds a Master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of Pretoria and an Honors degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Fort Hare.



RACHEL MORRISON
Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Exeter

Rachel is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the University of Exeter, working on the development of a Biodiversity Net Gain system for Cornwall, and researching innovative opportunities for investment in natural capital for the South West of England. She developed and implemented the first National Biodiversity Expenditure Review for Ireland, in partnership with the Irish National Parks and Wildlife Service and Dr Craig Bullock at University College Dublin. She holds a Ph.D. in Planning and Environmental Management and Masters in Environmental Impacts from the University of Manchester.



BRUNO MWEEMBA
Country Team Leader, BIOFIN Zambia

Bruno Mweemba has over 15 years of experience in development finance working across the public and private sectors in Zambia. He is currently the Country Team Leader for UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) in Zambia, for which he coordinates across 11 ministries and 18 government departments and works with the financial sector to increase the flow of green finance into Zambia. He has a Master of Philosophy in Development Finance (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa) and a MBA in Financial Services (University of East London, United Kingdom). He is also a Certified Expert in Climate and Renewable Energy Finance (Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Germany), Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA) and an Infrastructure Project Finance Expert (Middlesex University, UK). He is currently finalising his Ph.D. in Development Finance at the University of Bolton, UK. Bruno is well-versed in the nuances of development finance with expertise in climate financing, biodiversity financing, renewable energy and infrastructure project finance and PPPs.



SOPHIE NYIRABAKWIYE
Technical Specialist, BIOFIN Madagascar

Sophie has been a Technical Specialist at UNDP in Madagascar since March 2018. Sophie joined the UN family in 2005, initially as an environmental specialist at UNDP, where she coordinated the project of decentralization and management of environment at the provincial level (2005-2006). In 2010, she held the position as Energy and Environment Specialist for UNDP in Niger for three years before becoming Team Leader of Poverty and Environment for UNDP Rwanda (October 2013- February 2018). Sophie holds a Masters degree in Environmental Management Philosophy from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. In South Africa, Sophie worked for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as a researcher in the Less Polluting Production Technologies program.



NIRAN NIRANNOOT
National Team Leader, BIOFIN Thailand

Niran Nirannoot worked for the Federation of Thai Industries where she created policy dialogues on Free Trade Agreements through various economic forums. She joined the UNOPS-UNICEF Tsunami recovery programme in the Maldives in the capacity of Monitoring, Reporting and Knowledge Management. She served the UNFAO in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific by managing regional projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar on Integrated Cross-border Value Chains Development and Organic Certification System. Niran has keen experiences working for corporations and international organizations in Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia and the Middle East.



GERARDO ARROYO O'GRADY
Director of the Sustainable Development Program, UNDP

Born in Mexico City, Gerardo Arroyo is a Physical anthropologist by training (ENAH) and maintains a M.S. from the University of Oxford in the area of environmental policy. Since 2014, he has been the Director of the Sustainable Development Program in UNDP Mexico, where his responsibilities include the management of the program in the field of sustainable development, climate and energy, leading formulation, management and evaluation of program activities. Previously, he worked at the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change, the British Embassy in Mexico and other national and international scientific organizations as well as in private consultancies.



MIDORI PAXTON
Head of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Programme, UNDP

Midori is the UNDP Head of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Programme based in New York. She is responsible for a large portfolio of biodiversity projects, comprising approximately 320 projects in 130 countries, as well as global projects including the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and the Nature for Development Programme. Previously, she worked as a Bangkok-based Regional Technical Adviser. Between 2000 and 2010, she worked in Namibia; much of the time working under the Directorate of Parks and Wildlife Management, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, coordinating the project to strengthen the national protected area system. Midori holds a Master's degree in Environment and Development from University of Cambridge, and is the author of six books and hundreds of published photos and articles.



TORNIKE PHULARIANI
BIOFIN National Coordinator, Georgia

Tornike Phulariani is a BIOFIN National Coordinator for Georgia. He has worked with UNDP since 2013. Previously he has successfully managed and completed a 4-year EU funded project on Climate Change and Pasture Management. Tornike has over 10 years of experience in the environment sector. Before joining UNDP, he held various positions at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, where, among other responsibilities, he coordinated the preparation of the National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia 2012-2016.



ANABELLE PLANTILLA
Project Manager, BIOFIN Philippines

Anabelle Plantilla is the Philippines Project Manager of BIOFIN, a project of the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Ms. Plantilla is a licensed environmental planner with a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of the Philippines and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Planning from Maryknoll College (now Miriam College). Her professional career spans several government positions, stints with the private sector and academia, and a long affiliation with Haribon Foundation as former Chief Operating Officer.



ANGELIQUE POUPONNEAU
Chief Executive Officer of the Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust

Angelique has always had a passion for advancing the sustainable use and conservation of our oceans. She was born and grew up in a fishing district, Bel Ombre, in Seychelles where she gained a firsthand perspective on the critical importance to preserve marine resources. Angelique is a lawyer (Seychelles and UK) and holds an LLM in Environmental law specializing in the law of the sea and natural resources law. Also, Angelique is a trained climate change negotiator under the AOSIS Climate Change Fellowship Programme at the United Nations. Angelique has worked in different countries in the Caribbean, Pacific and the Indian Ocean on a wide-range of projects relating sustainable fisheries, sustainable management of marine biodiversity within and beyond national jurisdiction, and climate change, in particular, climate adaptation and climate finance. Further, she served as a legal expert of the African Group of Sixth Committee in works of oceans and law of the sea at the United Nations. Moreover, Angelique has experience working with civil society as a co-founder for a not-for-profit organization in Seychelles and a Board member of a Commonwealth-wide youth-led organization.



BERTRAND RASSOOL
Lead consultant, BIOFIN Seychelles

Bertrand is an economist with extensive experience in finance and economic planning. He was the High Commissioner of the Republic of the Seychelles to the UK and Non-Resident Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation until 2004. In 2005 Bertrand joined British American Investment Group, first as a Non Executive Director and subsequently as Group Deputy CEO. From 2005 to 2011 he also served as Non Executive Director of Trading Emissions PLC (TEP) listed on the London Alternative Investment Market. In 2012 he was appointed as a Director of the Board of the Central Bank of Seychelles for six years. In 2011, Bertrand established a consultancy company, Ace Corporate Services Ltd, providing investment advisory services to investors in Seychelles and Mauritius. His recent assignments include UNECA consultancy to carry out Seychelles Economic Planning Study; AfDB Consultancy on Seychelles Political Economy and UNDP Lead Consultant for Seychelles Biodiversity Financing (BIOFIN) Initiative.



KIFAH SASA
Programme Officer, UNDP

Kifah Sasa is the Sustainable Development and Resilience Programme Officer UNDP in Costa Rica, and has 19 years of professional experience as an international expert on natural resource management. He served as first global coordinator for UNDPs Green Commodities Programme, working to improve the environmental performance of agricultural and fisheries commodity supply chains, and is currently the Senior Advisor to this global initiative. Kifah has worked as principal advisor to the Secretary for Social Integration of Central America with the responsibility of providing technical advisory services to three Central American Councils of Ministers. He began his professional career founding and directing two NGOs building capacity of grassroots organizations, women's cooperatives and artisanal fishermen associations in rural communities of Latin America. He holds a Master's degree in Development in Practice from Middlesex University and a postgraduate degree on Natural Resource Conflict Management from the Institute of Social Studies.



SUSAN EDDA SEEHUSEN
Advisor, BIOFIN Brazil

Susan Edda Seehusen is a passionate conservationist who believes in the need of economic development and social distribution for a better and sustainable world. As an economist with a Master's degree in Forest Sciences, along her career she has been specializing in the use of economic strategies for nature conservation, as project manager, specialist, and as a trainer. From 2013 through 2016 she led the work of Conservation Strategy Fund in Brazil, NGO focused in sustaining natural ecosystems and human communities by strategies powered by conservation economics. Previously, she worked for the GIZ Atlantic Forest Protection Project, which funded the implementation of 14 PES pilot projects in Brazil. Currently, she is advising Brazil's BIOFIN Project to support with leveraging funding for biodiversity in Brazil.



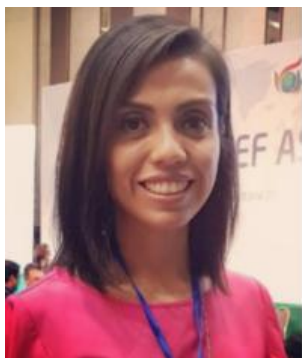
CANDICE STEVENS
Fiscal Benefits Project Manager and Tax Specialist, Bird Life South Africa

Candice Stevens is a biodiversity finance expert and niche tax specialist who works at creating innovative finance solutions for landscape conservation. Candice introduced the first effective biodiversity tax incentive into the South African protected areas network and, together with the Government of South Africa, received the Pathfinder Award Special Commendation for this global innovation. She heads up the Innovative Conservation Finance Unit, housed within Wilderness Foundation Africa, where she works extensively with multiple stakeholders and industry leaders across different sectors to ultimately plug South Africa's biodiversity finance gap.



HANNAH ST. LUCE-MARTINEZ
National Coordinator, BIOFIN Belize

Hannah St. Luce-Martinez has held tenure within the Public Service of Belize for the past 12 years. She has served as a Senior Forest Officer at the Forest Department, responsible primarily for Protected Areas Management and subsequently for the Biodiversity Management Portfolios. Mrs. Martinez hold a Master's degree in Tropical Forest and Biodiversity Management and Conservation from the Tropical Agricultural Research and Education Center (CATIE) in Costa Rica. To date her achievements include the management and coordination of medium to large size biodiversity projects. Mrs. Martinez continues to represent the Government of Belize at multiple local, regional and international fora as well as serve on technical committees. She has served as the focal point for the RAMSAR Convention, the Protected Areas Technical Committee-Central American Commission for the Environment and Development and as the Protected Areas System Administrator for Belize. She currently focuses her work on promoting sustainable financing, advocacy and improved sectoral coordination and planning to advance biodiversity management and conservation at the local, regional and global level.



DANIELA TORRES
National Coordinator, BIOFIN Mexico

Daniela has over 10 years of experience working on public policy, multilateral financing and structuring public projects in the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico with international financial institutions. Daniela was also advisor of the Global Environment Facility's focal point and council member as well as the Green Climate Fund's National Designated Authority and board member. During that time Daniela participated in the design of policies for the green funds and in several negotiation processes of climate change and environmental issues. Daniela holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management and International Business and Master's Degree in International Finance from the Universidad Panamericana.



MAXIM VERGEICHIK
Regional Technical Advisor, Global Environmental Finance Unit, UNDP

Since 2007, Maxim has worked with country Governments, NGOs and UNDP country offices in Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States to develop and implement projects on biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land and forest management. His current portfolio has over 30 projects focused on protected area strengthening, integration of biodiversity principles into agriculture and spatial planning, and sustainable management of marine, peatland, forest, dryland, desert and grassland ecosystems. Prior to this, he served as Manager of GEF's Global Project on Protected Areas which covered 35 countries, primarily Small Island Development States and Least Developed Countries. He also worked at UNDP country offices in Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1999 and 2004.



MAYRA CASAS VILARDELL
Specialist, BIOFIN Cuba

Mayra has taught postgraduate courses in Cuba, Latin America and Europe, and coordinated national and international projects. She has researched and taught macroeconomics, environmental economics, sustainable development and environmental training. She holds both Master's and Doctorate degrees. She has been the Coordinator of the Economics and Vice Dean at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Pinar del Rio (UPR), and Director of the Center for Environmental Studies and Natural Resources (CEMARNA) of the university. Mayra has publications in national and international magazines and books. She has participated in multiple national and international events. She is President of the Scientific Council of Environment and member of the Scientific Councils of Economy and of the UPR. She is also Academic Holder of the Academy of Sciences of Cuba. Since 2017, Mayra has worked at the UNDP Office in Havana, as a specialist of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative.



RAMITHA WIJETHUNGA
National Project Coordinator, BIOFIN Sri Lanka

Ramitha Wijethunga is the National Project Coordinator for BIOFIN in Sri Lanka. Ramitha has worked for UNDP since 2007. He has managed several Disaster Risk Management and environment-related projects of UNDP. Before joining UNDP, he worked for Practical Action as a Regional Project Manager for the South Asia region. He holds two Master's degrees in sociology and business management and a Bachelor's degree in agricultural economics.

PRODUCTION TEAM



JAMISON ERVIN
Manager, UNDP's Global Programme on Nature for Development

Jamison Ervin is manager of the Global Programme on Nature for Development. She has worked with UNDP since 2008. Previously she worked with The Nature Conservancy, World Wide Fund for Nature, and the Forest Stewardship Council. She holds a Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Vermont, a master's degree in international administration from the School for International Training, and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Bates College.



ONNO VAN DEN HEUVEL
Global Manager, BIOFIN

Onno is the global Manager for BIOFIN – based at UNDP's Istanbul Regional Hub. He leads the BIOFIN team, responsible for all global and national activities, programme development, resource mobilisation and partnerships. His prior work includes a 4 year tenure as UNDP's Biodiversity Programme Officer/Environment Team leader in Mongolia, responsible for protected area finance, community based conservation and environmental governance. He also worked in Mongolia as a policy expert for the establishment of a Clean Air Fund and for 4 years in Kenya at UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Africa and Arab States. Onno holds a Masters Degree in Economic Geography from the University of Utrecht.



MARCO ARLAUD
Environmental Finance Expert, BIOFIN

Marco is a member of the BIOFIN management and the technical team, working on the programme's resource mobilization and communication, supporting the development of the BIOFIN Methodology and leading the BIOFIN Webinar series. Before joining the UNDP, Marco worked in the banking sector and changed his specialization to work on Environmental Finance. He holds three Masters degrees in Finance, Quantitative Economics and Environmental, Energy and Sustainable Development Economics.



CHRISTINA SUPPLES
Global NBSAP Support Program Manager

Christina Supples manages the 'Global Support to NBSAPs Partnership'. Through this GEF funded project, UNDP works closely with the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Environment, through its World Conservation Monitoring Centre, to support developing and middle income countries, and small island nations, to develop and implement effective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Christina works closely with national teams to build their capacity to improve NBSAP quality by more closely aligning NBSAPs with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. She is also responsible for providing a technical peer review of draft NBSAPS to ensure that each document is Aichi-target aligned and implementable, and for moderating the NBSAP Forum. Christina obtained a Masters in Environmental Management from Duke University. She has 18 years of conservation planning experience, with a special focus on conservation planning and measures, national reporting, capacity building, spatial planning, protected areas, management effectiveness and rural poverty alleviation. Prior to working for UNDP, she focused on developing effective conservation measures and protected areas mapping frameworks for The Nature Conservancy and the Conservation Biology Institute.



ANNABELLE TRINIDAD
Senior Technical Adviser, BIOFIN

Ms. Annabelle "Abbie" Trinidad is Senior Technical Advisor for BIOFIN handling the Philippines, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and Zambia. She has more than two decades of work experience in environment economics, sustainable financing, and policy and institutional analysis, mainly in the fisheries and coastal sectors. Abbie has written a number of papers on fisheries policy and economics, including peer-reviewed materials and co-authored a book entitled "Values of Philippine Coastal Resources: Why Protection and Management are Critical". She has worked with major donor agencies Abbie has an undergraduate degree in Statistics and a masteral degree in Applied Business Economics.



ANDREW SEIDL
Senior Technical Adviser, BIOFIN

Andy's role in BIOFIN includes national technical support to Belize, Brazil, Fiji, Indonesia and Malaysia, and global technical support in economic valuation, finance and policy analysis. He has been Professor & Public Policy Specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University since 1997. From 2009-12, he was Head, Global Economics Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), based in Switzerland. Dr. Seidl holds a B.A. in Economics and International Relations from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida, USA.



BLERINA GJEKA
Project Management Associate and Gender Focal Point, BIOFIN

Blerina is providing support to financial management of the project as well as the gender mainstreaming. She brings more than 10 years of experience in programme management involving multi-donor, multi-country and multi-agency initiatives at national, regional and global levels. She joined UNDP in 2007 and before worked as Project Coordinator for several NGOs and Foundations in Albania including projects funded by the EU, Council of Europe, CEI, CORDAID, etc. Before joining UNDP-GEF New York in 2011 she worked with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Albania at the position of Coordination Analyst for Non-Resident UN Agencies. She is co/author of three national publications of UNDP, UNV, and with the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Youth and Sports. Blerina holds a Master's Degree in Sustainable Development from the University of London.



TRACEY CUMMING
Technical Adviser, BIOFIN

Tracey focusses on the African Region as Technical Advisor for BIOFIN. Hailing from South Africa, she was the BIOFIN Project Leader for South Africa for over two years before joining the global team. Tracey has over fifteen years' experience in biodiversity policy and biodiversity finance, with particular experience in mainstreaming biodiversity into national development agendas, privately protected areas and fiscal incentives. Tracey has an undergraduate degree in Economics and Environmental Science, and a Master's degree in Environmental Science.



MARIANA BELLOT
Technical Advisor, BIOFIN Mexico

Mariana is a BIOFIN Technical Adviser providing support to Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Cuba, Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Mexico. She has over 18 years of experience working on biodiversity policy and finance issues. She was formerly National Coordinator for BIOFIN Mexico and worked for several environmental agencies in the Mexican Government. She has extensive experience on a wide range of issues related to biodiversity conservation, protected area finance, ecosystem services, ecosystem-based adaptation, and has closely worked with international organisations such as UNDP, WB, GEF, GIZ, KfW and AFD. Mariana holds a Master's Degree on Environmental Policy and Development Studies from the University of Sussex. She is based in Mexico City.



HERVE BAROIS
Regional Node Adviser for Africa, Central Asia and Europe, BIOFIN

Hervé is responsible to provide technical support to the CBD Parties not participating in BIOFIN's core programme. He is a senior consultant in environmental finance with more than 20 years of professional experiences in the Eastern Southern African, Indian Ocean and South East Asia region in the field of sustainable resources management, biodiversity conservation and climate change (mitigation and adaptation). In Addition, he has project identification and formulation working experiences with different organisations such as Global Environment Facility, European Union, Global Mechanism, UNDP, UNCDF, Global Climate Change Alliance, Green Climate Fund.



JAMES MAIDEN
Global Communications Specialist, BIOFIN

James is responsible for the implementation of the BIOFIN's communication strategies. James is passionate communicator and a keen environmentalist with a particular interest in climate change and sustainable development. Based in Tasmania, Australia, James joined BIOFIN moving from Timor-Leste, where he led communications for a large, Australian funded, multi-country private sector development program called the Market Development Facility (MDF). He spent 5 years in Indonesia working with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and with AusAID on REDD+ programs. He has a master's in Science Communications (Natural History Filmmaking) and a degree in film and media.



JESSICA ALVSILVER
Regional Node Adviser for Asia-Pacific, BIOFIN

Jessica is responsible to provide technical support to the CBD Parties not participating in BIOFIN's core programme in Asia and the Pacific. She has more than twenty years of experience in environmental economics, in research, national policy making and in mainstreaming environment in international collaborations. She has four years of experience working at the donor agency Sida. Before joining BIOFIN she worked for seven years at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency providing policy advice to the Government. She holds a Ph.D in development and environmental economics from the University of Gothenburg, specializing in valuation and welfare distribution of international tourism.



ANNIE VORNIG
Project Manager, UNDP

Annie is an experienced environmental professional working at the intersection of research, policy, and practice to facilitate delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. Annie coordinates the production of a wide range of capacity building tools across subjects including biodiversity conservation, environmental management, local sustainable development, resilience, and sustainable consumption and production. She is responsible for liaising with a diverse team of subject matter experts, partners and clients. She holds a double B.A. in Biology & Local and Global Social Change from Macalester College and an M. Phil in Ethnobotany from the CUNY Graduate Center and The New York Botanical Garden.



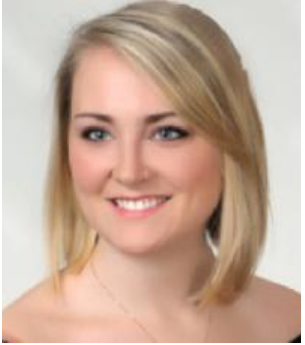
DANIEL PÉREZ
Website Specialist, UNDP

Daniel is a web specialist responsible for responding to the web requirements of the Global Programme on Nature for Development. He develops Information Management Systems by defining and assessing the team's needs, always implementing best practices to assure the highest IT standards. Daniel has been working with UNDP since 2010, and his experience, both in country offices and HQ, makes him better understand how to use information and communication technologies to create innovative solutions that help accelerate sustainable development.



VIKTORIAA BREZHENIUK
E-learning and Capacity-Building Analyst, UNDP

Viktoriaa is an international development professional experienced in community mobilization for sustainable development. Viktoriaa combines her graduate-level academic training in comparative and international education and international political economy and development with professional experience in the NGO sphere, private sector and Permanent Mission of a UN member-state, to facilitate partnerships between various stakeholders for the advancement of social, political and environmental components of sustainable development.



JENNA INGRAM
Programme Assistant, UNDP

Jenna is a Programme Assistant to the Global Programme on Nature for Development team. She is a graduate of SUNY Geneseo with a degree in Anthropology, and is currently a Master's student in Sustainable International Development at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. She supports the creation and promotion of educational materials for the e-learning team.



MARION MARIGO
Global Support to NBSAPs Consultant

Marion is a Junior Consultant working on the Global Support to NBSAP Project. She focuses on determining the extent to which gender is incorporated into national policy through National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs). Using external literature and case studies, Marion is producing an e-learning courses on how to systematically mainstreaming gender into biodiversity conservation and how to empower women in this area. Marion is also supporting the production of courses and is in charge of its promotion on social media.



GAMZE AKARSU
Environmental Finance Associate, BIOFIN

Gamze is a UN Volunteer with the BIOFIN Global team. She works closely with BIOFIN countries focusing on knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation activities. In addition, Gamze supports the implementation of the BIOFIN communication strategy. Prior to her role in the UNDP, she was based in Malawi to support biodiversity and agricultural practices. Gamze has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Engineering and holds double degree in Master's of Management and Engineering in Environment and Energy.



MELISSA SØVIK
Programme Assistant, UNDP

Melissa Søvik is a Programme Assistant to the Global Programme on Nature for Development team. She holds a Bachelor's degree in economics from Université de Toulouse in France, and a Master's degree in international studies from the University of San Francisco. She supports content creation, outreach and communication for the e-learning team.



PATRICK FERNANDEZ
Programme Assistant, UNDP

Patrick is a Programme Assistant for the Global Programme on Nature for Development Team. He currently assists the team on its web-related programs and services. Prior to joining UNDP, he has worked on education and livelihood projects in rural Philippines as part of a non-profit organization. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Political Economy and Development at Fordham University. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila University.

FACILITATION TEAM



JAMISON ERVIN
Manager, UNDP's Global Programme on Nature for Development

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MARIANA BELLOT
Technical Advisor, BIOFIN Mexico

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HERVE BAROIS

Regional Node Adviser for Africa, Central Asia and Europe, BIOFIN

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MERUYERT SARSEMBAYEVA

Team leader, BIOFIN Kazakhstan

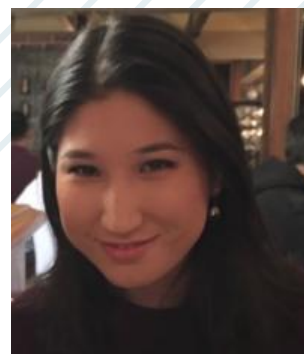
Meruyert Sarsembayeva is the team leader of the BIOFIN in Kazakhstan and is responsible for promoting legislative issues, strengthening cooperation with key ministries, agencies, and the business community in order to successfully implement finance solutions. Prior to UNDP, she worked for government organizations and coordinated the issues of budget and strategic planning, government procurement, and financial planning training. She is the author of the work on the economic valuation of the six ecosystem services of the Karkaraly National Park. Meruyert holds a Master's degree in Economics.



JESSICA ALVSILVER

Regional Node Adviser for Asia-Pacific, BIOFIN

Jessica is responsible to provide technical support to the CBD Parties not participating in BIOFIN's core programme in Asia and the Pacific. She has more than twenty years of experience in environmental economics, in research, national policy making and in mainstreaming environment in international collaborations. She has four years of experience working at the donor agency Sida. Before joining BIOFIN she worked for seven years at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency providing policy advice to the Government. She holds a Ph.D in development and environmental economics from the University of Gothenburg, specializing in valuation and welfare distribution of international tourism.



AINUR SHALAKHANOVA

Expert on budget planning, BIOFIN Kazakhstan

Ainur Shalakhanova is a member of the BIOFIN Kazakhstan team, working on the resource mobilization and implementation of finance solutions. Ainur has analyzed the public and private expenditures on biodiversity in Kazakhstan, estimated the financial needs for implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and took a part in development of Finance Plan. She also was responsible for preparation of Kazakhstani 6th National Report on Biodiversity. Ainur holds a Bachelor's degree in Hydrogeology at the Kazakh National Technical University and Master's degree in Finance and Investment at University of Essex.



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