KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Supreme Council
for Environment

BIOFIN
The Biodiversity Finance Initiative

UNDP



The Kingdom of BAHRAIN

BIOFIN FACT SHEET

Mangrove forest in Tubli Bay, courtesy of SCE

The Kingdom of Bahrain enjoys rich biodiversity, ranging from terrestrial to marine ecosystems, to a wide variety of distinctive native species. As part of its strategic environmental efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain has designated **eight natural reserves**, covering more than **22%** of its total **marine** area and **7%** of its total **land** area. These include the **Hawar Islands Reserve** and **Tubli Bay Reserve**, both listed as **Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance**. Bahrain has also enacted legislation prohibiting overfishing and activities that potentially harm biodiversity.



Oyster bed, courtesy of SCE

What is BIOFIN?

The **Biodiversity Finance Initiative** (BIOFIN) is a global UNDP initiative, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), helping governments identify practical finance solutions for nature. Since 2018, BIOFIN has mobilized over $3.3 billion for biodiversity across **138 countries**—including Bahrain—working toward the Targets 18 and 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's finance targets.



Arabian sand gazelle, courtesy of SCE

- US **$3.3** billion+ mobilized for nature since 2018
- **200+** biodiverstiy finance solutions implemented worldwide
- **90+** policy results achieved worldwide since 2018
- US **$10 billion+** target to unlock for nature by 2030

BIOFIN in the **Kingdom of Bahrain**

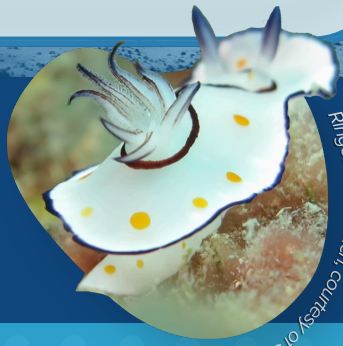


Arabian oryx at MBZ Nature Reserve, courtesy of SCE

GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART AND TECHINCAL LEAD:
Supreme Council for Environment (SCE)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Bahrain

PROJECT DURATION:
December 2025 - December 2027



Ringed nudibranch, courtesy of SCE

BIOFIN Methodology

BIOFIN follows **five key steps** to help countries direct more funding toward protecting nature and improving biodiversity outcomes:

How much is spent for biodiveristy in Bahrain?

2 **Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER)**

What are the **drivers**, **policies**, **actors** and existing **mechanisms** that influence biodiversity finance?

1 **Policy and Institutional Review (PIR)**

3 **Financial Needs Assessment (FNA)**

How much is **needed** to reach the national biodiversity targets?

4 **Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP)**

Which of BIOFIN's 150+ **finance solutions** are optimal for Bahrain? And **why** should Bahrain adopt them?

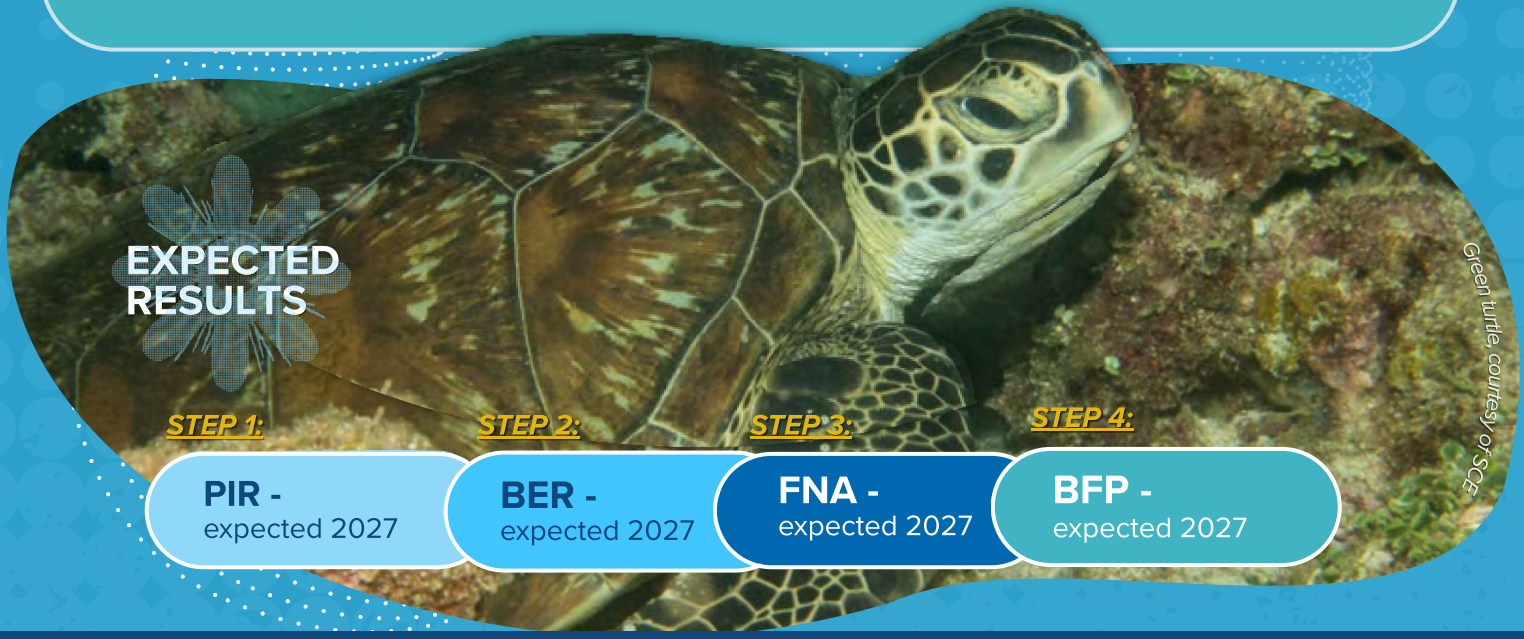
What are the final steps that operationalize the **finance solutions** identifed in the BFP? How does each finance solution become a 'project', with targets, activities and outputs?

5 **Implementation**

Project Objectives and **Expected Results**

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the **biodiversity financing landscape.**
- Identify Bahrain's national **biodiversity gaps** and design innovative **finance solutions.**
- Develop the Kingdom's first **Biodiversity Finance Plan**, and integrate the proposed biodiversity **finance solutions** into national planning and budgeting.



Green turtle, courtesy of SCE

EXPECTED RESULTS

STEP 1: **PIR -** expected 2027

STEP 2: **BER -** expected 2027

STEP 3: **FNA -** expected 2027

STEP 4: **BFP -** expected 2027

Current Activities (2026)

BIOFIN Bahrain is currently in its design phase and has established the foundations for its National Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) through:

Strengthening Bahrain's **evidence base on fiscal incentives and subsidies**, and identifying practical options to enhance their contribution to biodiversity objectives through evidence-based policy and financing options.

Conducting a **national assessment** and **inventory of subsidies** and **fiscal incentives** that negatively effect Bahrain's biodiversity.

Engaging **key government stakeholders** on subsidy reform options, and conducting **stakeholder consultations** and **validation interviews** on the harmful subsidies assessment.

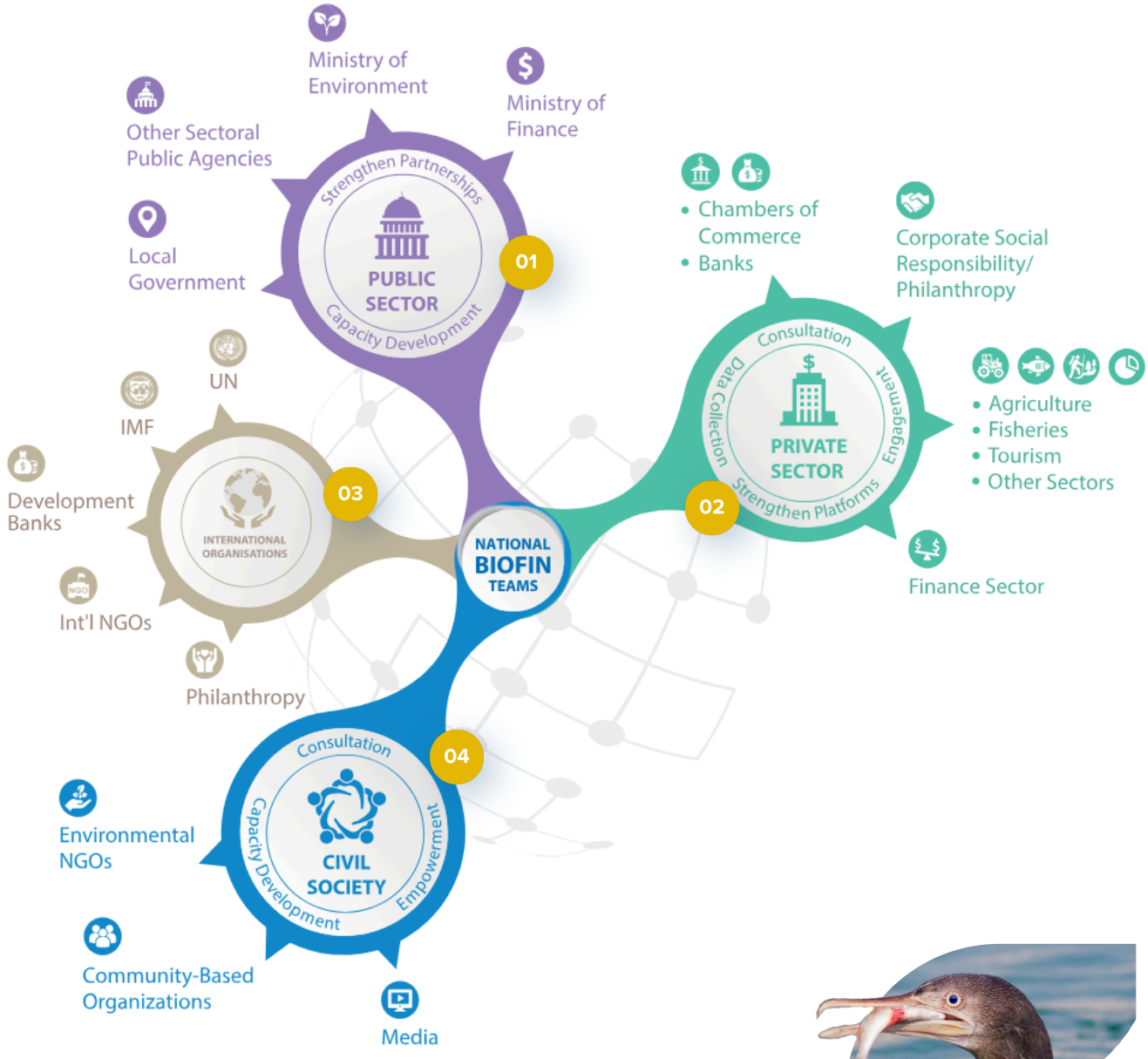
Recruiting local and international technical experts to lead the **Policy and Institutional Review**, **Biodiversity Expenditure Review**, and **Financial Needs Assessment** activities.

Flamingos on the Sitra mudflats, courtesy of SCE

The **BIOFIN Partnerships Strategy** at a National Level

Biodiversity finance relates to a large universe of stakeholders. Engaging these actors helps to: 1) build a **shared understanding** and **vision** among all key stakeholders; 2) understand **capacity gaps** and respond accordingly; and 3) coordinate all related initiatives and **lead technical debates**.

To engage stakeholders in this process, BIOFIN National Teams build on four primary engagement axes:



Source: The BIOFIN Workbook 2024: Finance for Nature



Socotra cormorant, courtesy of SCE