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Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 5.2 of the Provisional Agenda

Twentieth Regular Session

Rome, 24–28 March 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2021, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Eighteenth Regular Session,¹ and, subsequently, the Council, at its 168th Session,² endorsed the *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (FA BFA).³ The FA BFA was negotiated over a three-year period by the Members of the Commission as a response to the gaps and needs identified in the country-driven report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*,⁴ launched by FAO in 2019. It contains a globally agreed set of priorities and over 50 individual actions to address the loss of the biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture and ensure its sustainable use.

2. The Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, noted with satisfaction the high degree of mutual supportiveness of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) and the Commission's FA BFA and Global Plans of Action⁵ (GPAs). The Commission invited Members to implement the FA BFA and the GPAs in harmony with the KM GBF and requested the Secretariat to support countries in this regard, including by assisting in mobilizing the necessary resources.⁶ It also encouraged Members to make use of financial and other support available for the implementation of the two frameworks and the GPAs.⁷

3. The Commission recommended that FAO contribute to the development of tools facilitating the implementation of the FA BFA, the GPAs and the KM GBF in a mutually supportive, coherent, consistent and non-duplicative way.⁸ It also recommended that monitoring of the implementation of the FA BFA build on existing indicators, including those developed for monitoring the implementation of the KM GBF and the Commission's GPAs.⁹

4. The Council, at its 174th Session, endorsed the Commission's recommendations.¹⁰

5. In response to the Commission's recommendation, this document considers existing guidelines and tools relevant to the implementation of the FA BFA. It introduces draft guidelines facilitating the implementation of the FA BFA, the GPAs and the KM GBF in a mutually supportive, coherent and consistent and non-duplicative way, which are contained in the document *Draft voluntary guidelines for the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*¹¹ (Draft Guidelines). They have been prepared in response to recommendations from the Commission's Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (Expert Team).¹² Building on existing indicators, the document further proposes a limited set of new process indicators for monitoring the implementation of the FA BFA for consideration by the Commission. The document *Update on the Implementation of the Action Plan 2024–2027 for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Agricultural Sectors*¹³ includes information on FAO's activities relevant to supporting the implementation of the FA BFA, the GPAs and the KM GBF.

¹ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 51.

² CL 168/REP, paragraph 38.

³ FAO. 2022. *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

⁴ FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. J. Bélanger & D. Pilling, eds. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA3129EN>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/policies/global-instruments/global-plans-of-action/en>

⁶ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 36.

⁷ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 37.

⁸ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 37.

⁹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 39.

¹⁰ CL 174/REP, paragraph 33.

¹¹ CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf.1.

¹² CGRFA-20/25/5.1.

¹³ CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf.2.

II. SUPPORTING COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, THE GLOBAL PLANS OF ACTION AND THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

(i) Existing guidelines and tools

6. Guidelines and other tools developed under the Commission to support countries in the implementation of the Commission's GPAs and in taking action on specific cross-sectoral matters are also relevant to the implementation of the FA BFA and the KM GBF. These are collated on the Commission's website.¹⁴

7. Other guidelines and tools relevant to the implementation of the FA BFA, the GPAs and the KM GBF are featured in the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub,¹⁵ which provides access to over 400 resources developed by FAO. The Expert Team, at its First Session, welcomed the newly established Biodiversity Knowledge Hub as an important resource supporting the implementation of the FA BFA.¹⁶

8. For each action specified in the FA BFA, *Annex IV* of the Draft Guidelines¹⁷ lists, as recommended by the Expert Team,¹⁸ key resources to support implementation, including those developed under the Commission's guidance and by FAO.

9. While many existing tools and guidelines are indeed relevant to the implementation of the actions of the FA BFA, there remains a gap in guidance to assist countries in developing a coordinated and coherent approach to the overall management of biodiversity.

(ii) Draft voluntary guidelines for the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

10. In response to the Commission's request, the Secretariat developed an initial draft of guidelines assisting countries in the implementation of the FA BFA for review by the Expert Team. The Expert Team provided comments and requested the initial draft guidelines to be revised, based on the comments provided, for consideration by the Commission.¹⁹

11. The development of the draft guidelines also took into account feedback provided during the regional workshops on taking action on BFA held in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Near East and North Africa, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific,²⁰ where it was highlighted that guidelines should be voluntary instruments developed through participatory mechanisms that may be adopted or adapted at national level.

12. The resulting draft guidelines are contained in the document *Draft voluntary guidelines for the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (Draft Guidelines).²¹ The Draft Guidelines are designed to support countries in facilitating the implementation of the FA BFA at national level through: (i) developing and implementing a national strategy and action plan for BFA; and/or (ii) implementing the FA BFA as part of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).²² They aim to facilitate the implementation of the FA BFA, the GPAs and the KM GBF in a mutually supportive, coherent, consistent and non-duplicative way.

¹⁴ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/policies/global-instruments/en>

¹⁵ <https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/en>

¹⁶ CGRFA-20/25/5.1, paragraph 13.

¹⁷ CGRFA/20/25/5.2/Inf.1.

¹⁸ CGRFA-20/25/5.1, paragraph 13.

¹⁹ CGRFA-20/25/5.1, paragraph 12.

²⁰ CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf.3; CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf.4; CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf.5; CGRFA-20/25/5.2/Inf.6.

²¹ CGRFA/20/25/5.2/Inf.1.

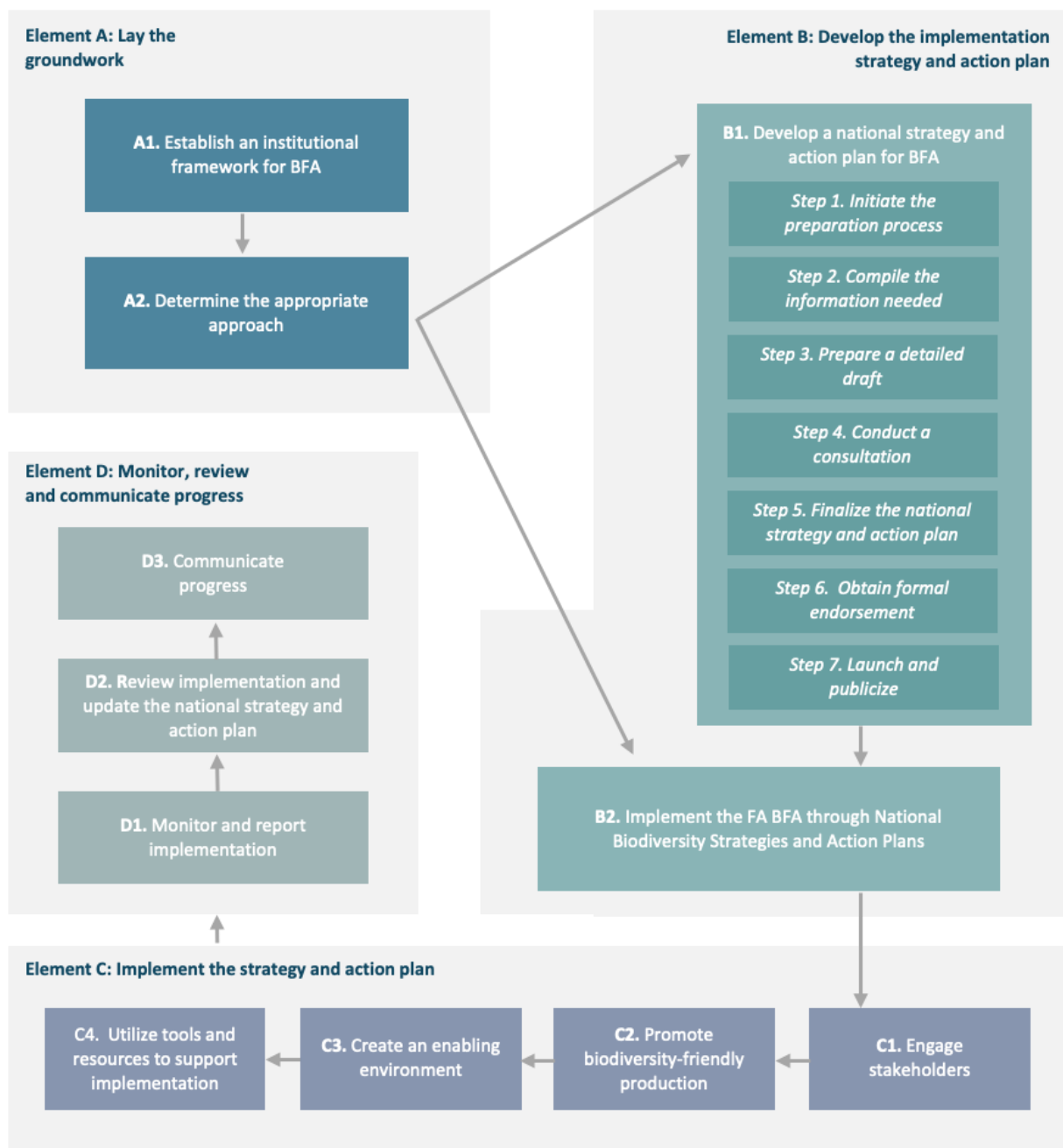
²² NBSAPs are the main tool for the implementation of the KM GBF at national level.

13. The objectives of the Draft Guidelines are to:

- promote the implementation and monitoring of the FA BFA at national level;
- support national policy development for the sustainable use and conservation of BFA; and
- promote the inclusion of agricultural perspectives in NBSAPs.

14. The Draft Guidelines are structured around four main elements: (a) lay the groundwork; (b) develop the implementation strategy and action plan; (c) implement the strategy and action plan; and (d) monitor, review and communicate progress. As illustrated in Figure 1, each of these elements include sub-elements and/or steps.

Figure 1. Elements and steps for implementing the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (FA BFA) through a national strategy and action plan for BFA and/or as part of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans



15. Element A, “*Lay the groundwork*”, includes guidance on establishing an institutional framework for BFA. It further offers guidance for determining the appropriate approach for countries that are considering whether to develop a dedicated national strategy and action plan for BFA and/or to implement the FA BFA as part of their NBSAPs. Additionally, a glossary is provided to define key concepts used in the FA BFA.

16. Element B, “*Develop the implementation strategy and action plan*”, provides guidance for developing a policy instrument that would support the coherent implementation of the FA BFA, the GPAs and the KM GBF. It includes step-by-step guidance on the process of developing a dedicated national strategy and action plan for BFA, as well as guidance on how to integrate the implementation of the FA BFA into the process for developing and implementing NBSAPs. A set of guiding questions is provided for each strategic priority of the FA BFA, to support an assessment of the current situation with respect to BFA, its drivers of change and its management. Additionally, a table is provided that aligns the FA BFA actions and the strategic priorities/priority activities of the GPAs with the KM GBF targets. This guidance is intended mainly for use by those organizing or participating in the development or revision of a national strategy and action plan. Moreover, the information provided, particularly the guiding questions, may also be useful for national authorities in countries that are not intending to develop or revise a national strategy and action plan.

17. Element C, “*Implement the strategy and action plan*”, highlights the importance of engaging stakeholders, including producers, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth, promoting biodiversity-friendly practices in agrifood systems, and developing the enabling framework needed to achieve the country’s goals on BFA. Key resources that can support implementation are provided for each action specified in the FA BFA. Element C may support and guide both state and non-state actors in the implementation of the FA BFA at national level.

18. Element D, “*Monitor, review and communicate progress*”, focuses on the development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track and report progress. It also emphasizes how the resulting information can be used to review and adapt implementation efforts effectively. Over 70 existing indicators and databases are identified that are relevant to monitoring progress towards one or more of the actions of the FA BFA. Many of these have been developed under the aegis of the Commission or adopted for monitoring the implementation of the KM GBF.

III. MONITORING PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

19. The Commission, at its last session, recommended that monitoring of the implementation of the FA BFA build on existing indicators, including those developed under the aegis of the Commission and those developed for monitoring the implementation of the KM GBF.²³ Existing indicators and databases relevant to monitoring the implementation of the FA BFA are listed in *Annex IV* to the Draft Guidelines.

20. The Expert Team, at its First Meeting, noted the importance of monitoring the status of BFA and the implementation of Commission instruments, including the FA BFA. It stressed the need to support countries with the use of existing indicators.²⁴

21. In reviewing the compilation of existing indicators and databases in light of the strategic priorities and actions of the FA BFA, the Expert Team noted that for some actions there are no available indicators.²⁵ Given the high reporting burden countries currently experience, the Expert Team cautioned against the development of new and additional indicators for monitoring the implementation of the FA BFA. However, it recommended the development of a limited set of process indicators, primarily addressing Strategic Priority Area 3 of the FA BFA, the type of instruments used to implement the FA BFA, and the status of implementation and synergies with NBSAPs. The Expert Team requested the Secretariat to develop a questionnaire directed to National Focal Points for BFA based on the recommended set of process indicators, for consideration by the Commission.

²³ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 39.

²⁴ CGRFA-20/25/5.1, paragraph 20.

²⁵ CGRFA-20/25/5.1, paragraph 19.

22. The *Annex* to this document provides a draft questionnaire on the implementation of the FA BFA that is based on a limited set of process indicators, for consideration by the Commission. This questionnaire could be used to gather instrumental information on country-level activities related to the implementation and monitoring of the FA BFA.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

23. The Commission may wish to:
- i) request the Expert Team to review the revised *Draft guidelines for the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, for endorsement by the Commission at its next session;
 - ii) review and, as appropriate, revise the Draft Questionnaire on the Implementation of the FA BFA, as contained in the *Annex* to this document, and request the Secretariat to:
 - (i) circulate the questionnaire to the National Focal Points for BFA for completion by 1 November 2025; and
 - (ii) summarize responses for information of the Expert Team and the Commission at their next sessions;
 - iii) recommend that FAO continue to support countries, at their request, in the coherent implementation of the FA BFA, GPAs and the KM GBF, including by implementing the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors; and
 - iv) invite Members to make use of the FA BFA, the Commission's GPAs and other FAO tools, instruments and other resources, including the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub, when reviewing, developing and/or implementing relevant national policies or legislation, including NBSAPs and/or national strategy and action plans for BFA.

 ANNEX:

DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The present questionnaire, directed at national governments represented by their National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, aims to gather information at country level on activities related to the implementation and monitoring of the *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (FA BFA).

Indicator: Extent of implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Q1: *Does your country implement the FA BFA? [select one]*

- a) Yes, all actions of the FA BFA are under implementation
- b) Partially, one or more actions of the FA BFA is under implementation
Please specify which action(s)
- c) No, but implementation of actions is planned and funds have been identified
- d) No, but implementation of actions is planned and funding is being sought
- e) No

Please provide further details, including actions under implementation, impacts, challenges and lessons learned.

Q2: *If yes or partially were selected in Q1, does your country implement the FA BFA through a national strategy and action plan for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (BFA)²⁶? [select one]*

- a) Yes, a policy has been agreed and is under implementation
Please provide a hyperlink to the policy
- b) No, but a national strategy and action plan is completed and government-endorsed
- c) No, but a national strategy and action plan is completed and awaiting endorsement
- d) No, but a national strategy and action plan is under development
- e) No, but action is planned and funds have been identified
- f) No, but action is planned and funding is being sought
- g) No

Please provide further details, including lessons learned.

Q3: *Does your country use other policy instruments to implement the FA BFA? [select a and/or b, or c]*

- a) The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan²⁷
Please provide a hyperlink to the policy
- b) Other
Please specify
- c) No policy instrument is used

Please provide further details.

²⁶ BFA is a subcategory of biodiversity and corresponds to “the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels that sustain the ecosystem structures, functions and processes in and around production systems, and that provide food and non-food agricultural products.” (FAO. 2019. *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. J. Bélanger & D. Pilling, eds. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/CA3129EN>)

²⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap>

Q4: *In implementing the FA BFA, how has your country fostered synergies with the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Plans of Action?*

Please provide further details.

Indicator: Legal, policy and incentive schemes for biodiversity for food and agriculture

Q5: *Does your country promote production systems that sustainably use and conserve BFA through incentive schemes?*

- a) Yes, extensive incentives are provided
- b) Yes, but incentives are limited in scope
- c) No, but incentives are being developed
- d) No incentives are available
- e) Data not available

Please provide further details.

Q6: *Has your country put in place measures to ensure that BFA is adequately mainstreamed into relevant legislative, administrative and policy frameworks?*

- a) Yes, relevant frameworks have been reviewed, and sufficient measures are in place
- b) Yes, relevant frameworks have been reviewed, but measures are not sufficient
- c) No, but relevant frameworks have been reviewed
- d) No, but action is planned, and funds have been identified
- e) No, but action is planned, and funding is being sought
- f) No

Indicator: Extent of assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture

Q7: *Does your country have a national framework for the assessment and monitoring of BFA?*

- a) Yes, a national framework for the assessment and monitoring of BFA has been adopted
Please provide a hyperlink or specify
- b) No, but BFA, including associated biodiversity and wild foods, are assessed and monitored under a different national framework
Please provide a hyperlink or specify
- c) No, but some components of BFA are monitored
Please specify
- d) No, but assessment and monitoring of BFA is planned and funds have been identified
- e) No, but assessment and monitoring of BFA is planned and funding is being sought
- f) No

Please provide further details.

Q8: *Which of the following best describes your country's progress in assessing and monitoring the status and trends of associated biodiversity present in and around productions systems?*

- a) Well-established and comprehensive – an operational national inventory has high coverage of species and information system(s) are updated periodically
- a) Well-established but limited – an operational national inventory has coverage of some species and information system(s) are updated periodically
- b) Emerging – a baseline survey has been conducted with high coverage of species
- a) Limited – a baseline survey has been conducted with coverage of some species
- b) Minimal – little to no assessment and monitoring is in place

Please provide further details, including hyperlinks to national inventories and information systems, if available.

Q9: *What best describes the status of your country's assessment and monitoring of wild species of food and agricultural importance known to be harvested, hunted, captured or gathered?*

- b) Well-established and comprehensive – an operational national inventory has high coverage of species and information system(s) are updated periodically
- c) Well-established but limited – an operational national inventory has coverage of some species and information system(s) are updated periodically
- d) Emerging – a baseline survey has been conducted with high coverage of species
- c) Limited – a baseline survey has been conducted with coverage of some species
- d) Minimal – little to no assessment and monitoring is in place

Please provide further details, including hyperlinks to national inventories and information systems, if available.