



NEWS: Partnership Launches Phase One of High-Integrity Biodiversity Credit Assessment Framework

BCA (Biodiversity Credit Alliance), hosted by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Accounting for Nature (AfN), have launched a new partnership to advance a high-integrity assessment framework for biodiversity credits. The framework will support biodiversity crediting projects and methodologies in demonstrating alignment with [High-Level Principles to Guide the Biodiversity Credit Market](#)—developed by Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA) in partnership with International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB) and the World Economic Forum (WEF). This framework is phase one of a long-term process towards the full operationalization of the High-Level Principles across the market through a digital platform. These High-Level Principles, together with UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards, already underpin UNDP’s engagement in biodiversity credit-related methods and projects.

Interest in biodiversity credits is growing rapidly as countries explore new ways to mobilize finance for nature-positive outcomes. Ensuring that biodiversity credits deliver verified positive outcomes for nature, safeguard equity and fairness for people, and are grounded in strong governance is fundamental to market credibility and long-term viability.

Building on Existing Work

BCA currently has a prototype High-Level Principles (HLPs) Assessment Matrix v1.0. Learnings from early piloting will be incorporated into a robust and standardized framework that can be used consistently by countries and market actors.

What Phase One Will Deliver

Phase one focuses on the design, drafting, consultation, and finalization of an overarching framework to assess and validate biodiversity credit methodologies against the HLPs.

The first component of the project seeks to:

- Support countries, including CAF member countries, by providing a standardized approach to develop high-integrity biodiversity crediting

frameworks and to assess pilot projects currently under development in strategic ecosystems.

- Enable countries to value biodiversity through an innovative environmental asset grounded in integrity, quality and equity.
- Provide assurance to the market, with an option for methodologies that complete the assessment to seek third-party validation of their alignment with the HLPs.

Partner Contributions

- **CAF** brings deep regional expertise and a strong track record in environmental finance across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **AfN** contributes its globally recognized scientific and environmental accounting standard.
- **UNDP** provides extensive support across nearly 170 countries to advance sustainability development goals and hosts the BCA Secretariat.

A digital version of the framework is anticipated in a later phase, once the foundational assessment framework is finalized. Further updates on progress under this partnership will be shared as the workstream evolves.

Partner links

<https://www.caf.com/en/>

<https://www.accountingfornature.org>

<https://www.undp.org>