

# The Global Biodiversity Standard

INTRODUCTORY BOOKLET

Promoting the Protection, Enhancement  
and Restoration of Biodiversity



## ABOUT TGBS

**The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) provides a global standard for nature-based solutions, to drive positive outcomes for ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.** TGBS is a scientifically rigorous standard that measures uplift in biodiversity, using a global framework with a local assessment. Developed by a coalition of global biodiversity experts, which supports the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework, TGBS provides assurance that tree planting, habitat restoration and agroforestry practices are protecting, enhancing and restoring biodiversity.

### ● QUALITY ECOSYSTEMS

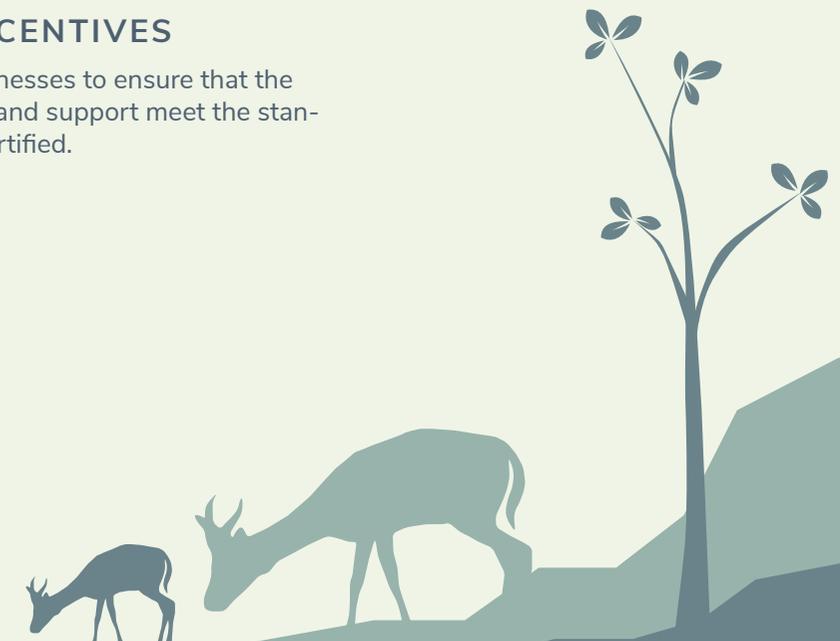
Improves the quality of tree planting, land management and ecosystem restoration projects by implementing a more rigorous assessment system that requires evidence of biodiversity uplift.

### ● BEST PRACTICES

Promotes best practice for projects or practitioners by upholding positive actions such as the incorporation and conservation of native species and reduction of land degradation in land management projects, including nature-based solutions to climate change.

### ● BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Incentivisation for businesses to ensure that the projects they promote and support meet the standard and have been certified.





**Dr. Éliane Ubalijoro,**  
CEO of the Center for  
International Forestry  
Research and World  
Agroforestry  
(CIFOR-ICRAF)

“CIFOR-ICRAF is committed to sharing knowledge that empowers smallholder farmers to plant trees for optimal results. As an enthusiastic supporter of the TGBS, CIFOR-ICRAF is proud to have contributed to the methodologies outlined in the manual. Together, we are shaping a future where trees drive positive transformation, embodying our shared commitment to a sustainable, resilient and just world.”



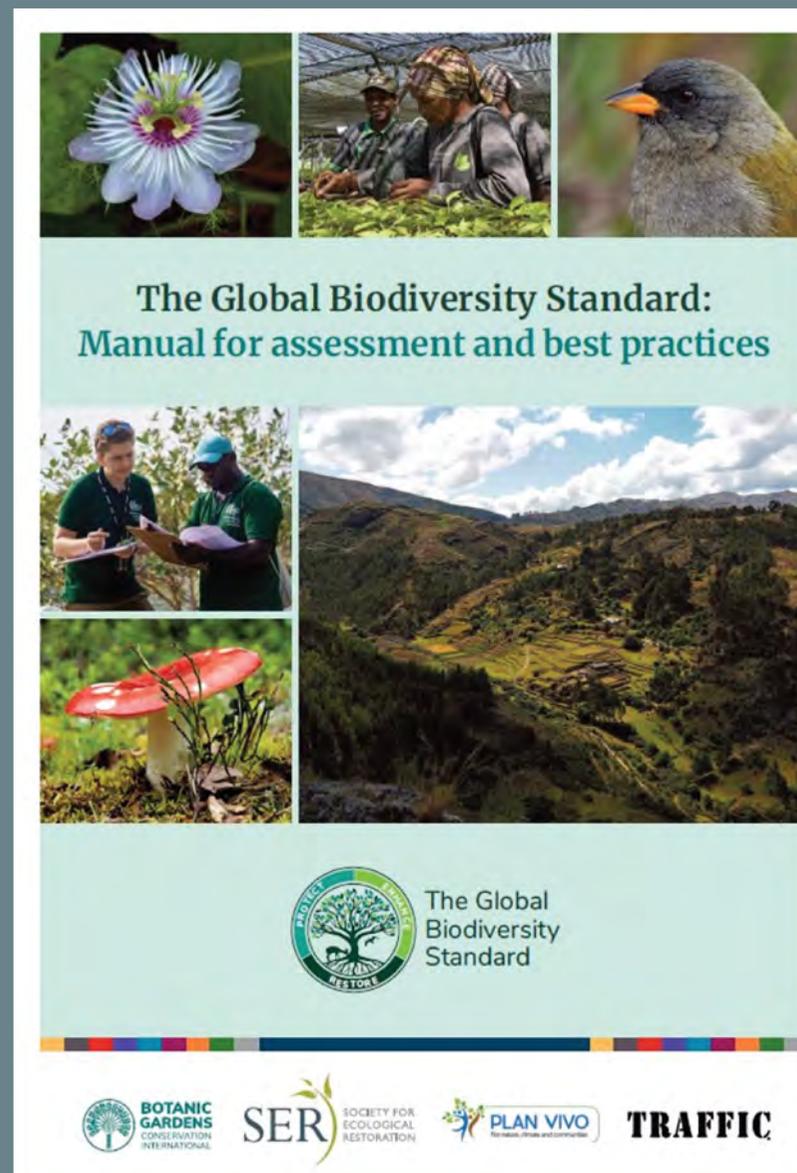
**Dr. Grethel Aguilar,**  
Director General of IUCN

“IUCN welcomes the TGBS as a tool to assess the impacts of tree planting and other nature-based initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, providing assurance to financiers and policymakers, as well as assistance to practitioners. IUCN hosts the Bonn Challenge Secretariat, which records and tracks progress against a target of 350 million hectares of land pledged for FLR by 2030.”



**Dr. David Cooper,**  
Former Acting  
Executive  
Secretary of the UN  
Convention on  
Biological Diversity

“The TGBS is one of several tools that are compatible with the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Target 1 of the GBF calls for participatory effective management of biodiversity and ecological integrity, and Targets 2 and 11 call for restoration to repair damage already caused. Target 4 calls for urgent management action to halt human-induced extinction, and Targets 5 and 9 seek to ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable. The Global Biodiversity Standard will help to deliver on all of these targets.”

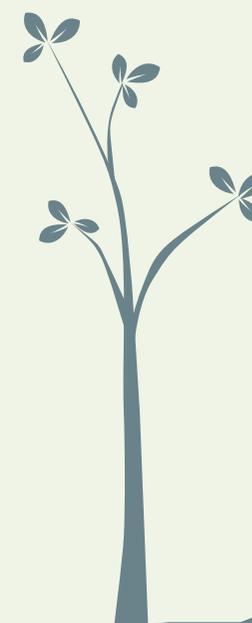


Read the full specifications of the Standard. Download the Manual here!  
[biodiversitystandard.org/our-method](https://biodiversitystandard.org/our-method)



## OVERVIEW

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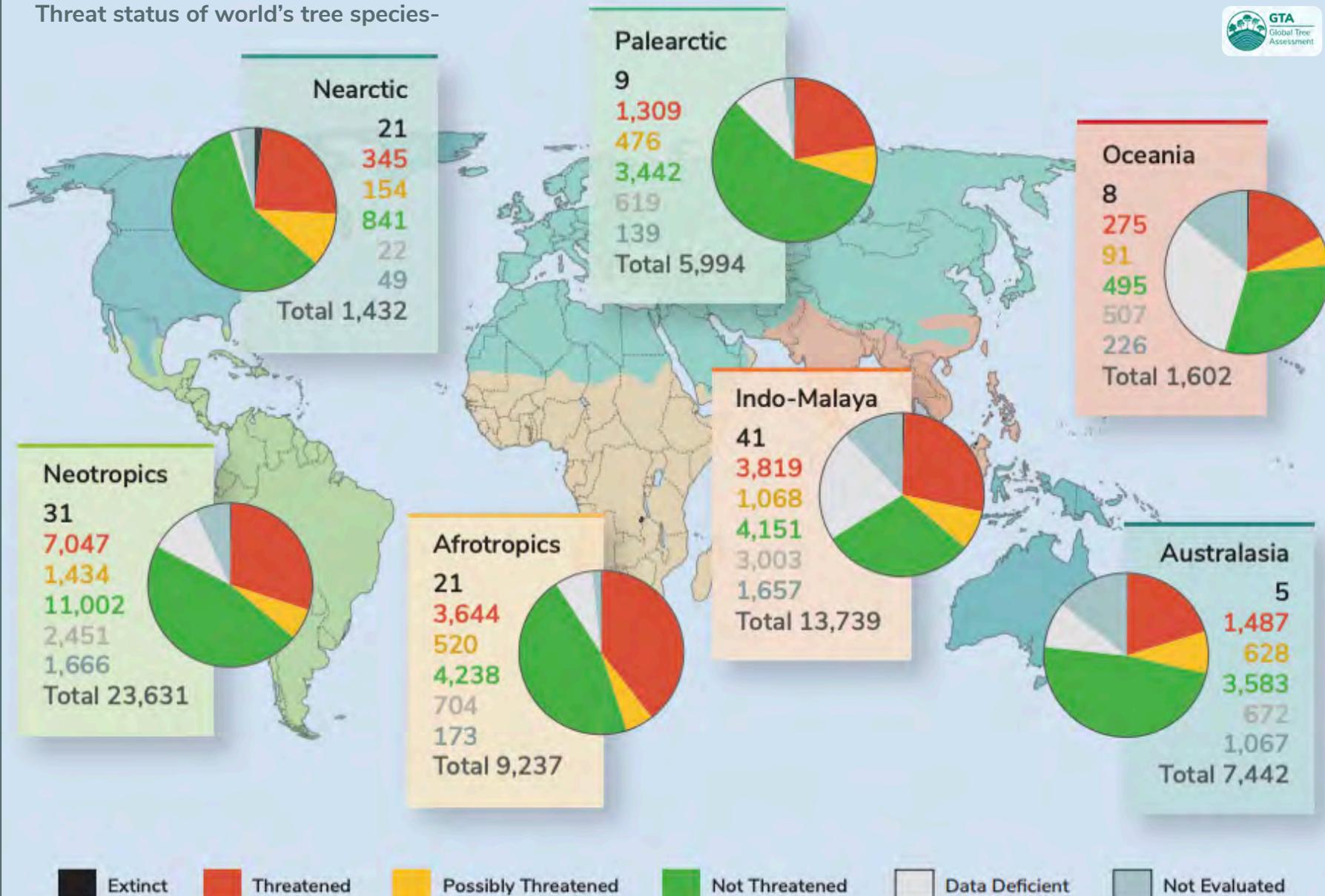
## WHY TGBS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED?

- Globally we are facing a biodiversity crisis and mass extinctions. For example, 30% of the world's trees (17,500 species) are threatened with extinction.
- Climate change harms soil and water resources, affecting food security and vulnerable communities.
- Well-intentioned solutions to climate change such as tree planting schemes can accelerate this crisis. The belief that 'planting a tree at minimal cost' is a viable long-term solution to climate change must come to an end.

## HOW CAN TGBS HELP?

- The Global Biodiversity Standard can help projects achieve positive biodiversity outcomes.
- The Global Biodiversity Standard offers a framework and action plan for protecting and restoring native or natural ecosystems and making them more resilient.
- The Standard also promotes sustainable practices to protect and improve livelihoods.

### Threat status of world's tree species-



## SCOPE OF TGBS

The Global Biodiversity Standard certifies terrestrial, freshwater and coastal project sites for their positive biodiversity outcomes. All land management initiatives, mentioned below are eligible for certification, conditional to obtaining the minimum score necessary for certification.

### Tree Planting



### Protected Areas



### Agricultural Initiatives



### Rehabilitation and Ecological Restoration





## TGBS PROVIDES



**Recognition:** Recognising projects that have a positive impact on biodiversity with a public listing on high-profile sites.



**Assurance:** Providing assurance to governments, financiers of large-scale tree planting, and the public that initiatives are promoting and protecting biodiversity, not contributing to its decline.



**Market opportunity:** Certifying sites can increase the value of commodities, including carbon credits, agricultural produce and non-timber forest products. Bespoke publicity materials are also available.



**Nature-related disclosures:** Providing 20+ independently verified, robust and rigorous metrics of a project's impact on biodiversity.



**Knowledge:** Providing knowledge, data, and mentoring for policymakers, financiers, brokers, and tree planting groups to develop land management practices that protect, enhance and restore a biodiverse world.

Supports the wider mission to restore global biodiversity, in line with the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** and the legally binding targets to tackle the biodiversity crisis.

## GLOBAL VALUES

The Global Biodiversity Standard supports global initiatives such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, Land Degradation Neutrality, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The Global Biodiversity Standard can help countries meet ecosystem restoration targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

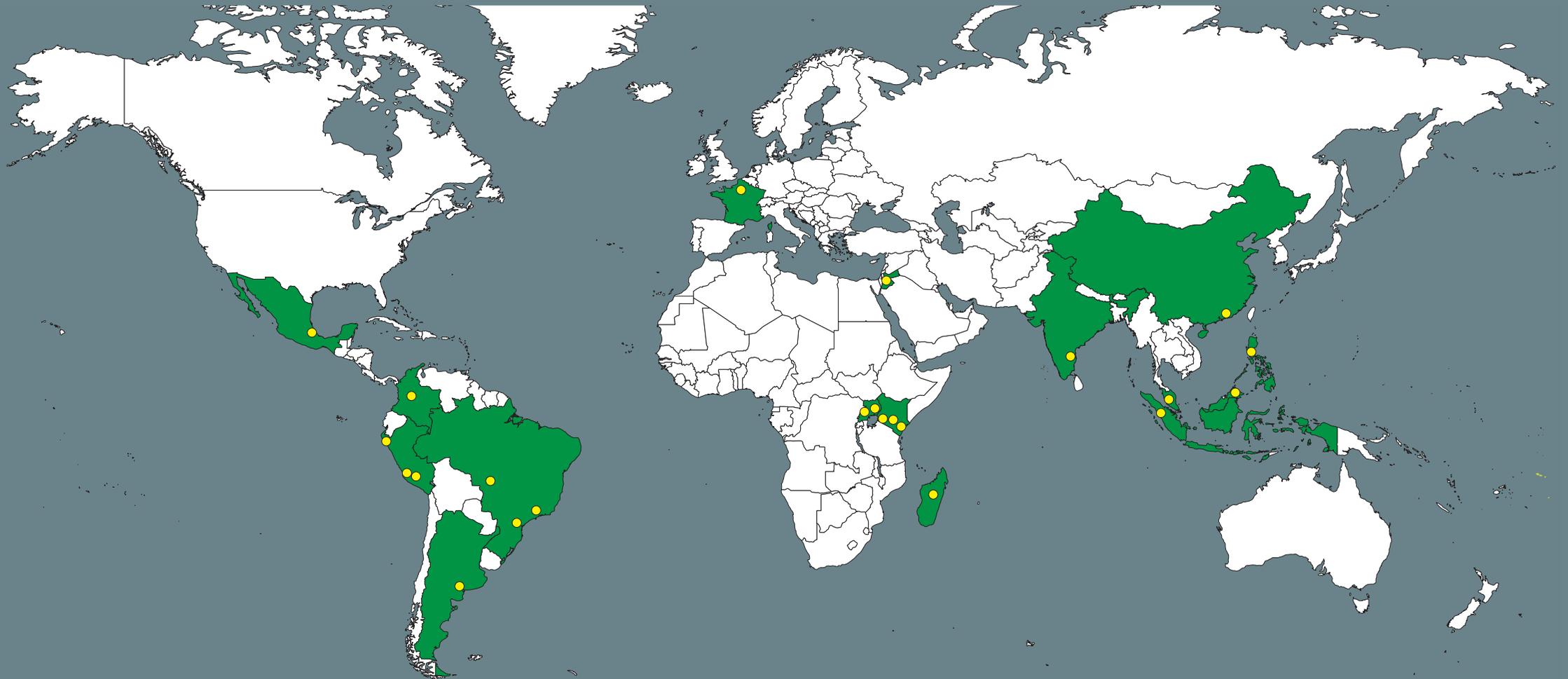
Alignment with The Global Biodiversity Standard also helps achieve several Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring a balanced approach to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

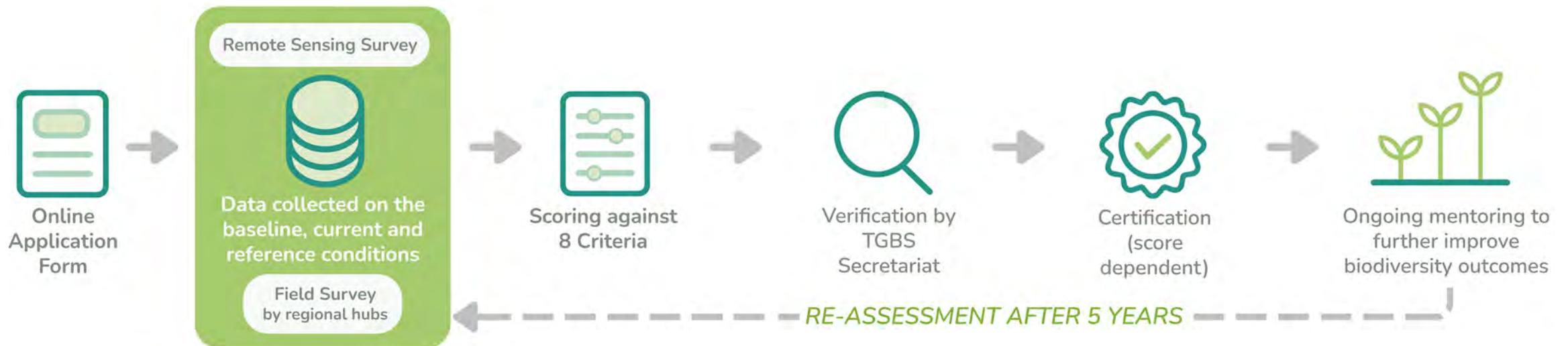
**LAND  
DEGRADATION  
NEUTRALITY**



## GLOBAL PARTNERS

Developed by a world-wide coalition. Building a global network of certified assessors from institutions with local biodiversity experts.





DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Two years of intensive research and development.
- Rigorous technical consultation with input from 40+ independent experts.
- Methodology tested on 100+ sites in 8 biodiverse countries on 3 continents to date.
- Methodology measures changes to biodiversity based on SER Ecological Recovery Wheel.
- Field app developed to standardise assessment and reporting. 200 trained and certified assessors across 15 countries.
- Social benefits assessment based on SER Social Benefits Wheel.
- Assessment of adaptive management based on UN Decade Standards of Practice.
- Manual available in English, Mandarin, French, Spanish & Portuguese.

● ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY

Adapted from SER Standards: the 5-star System, and Ecological Recovery Wheel (ERW)

1

Select appropriate areas and enhance biodiversity.

4

Aim to maximize biodiversity recovery through ecosystem restoration.

5

Promote biodiversity and adaptive capacity.

6

Prioritise the use of native, threatened and rare species.

7

Avoid and reduce invasive or potentially invasive species.



● LEVEL OF PROTECTION

5-star Level of Protection ratings adapted from IUCN Protected Area Categories, IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, & Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)

2

Enhance protection of existing habitats and biodiversity.



● SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND BENEFITS DISTRIBUTION

Developed by Plan Vivo and TRAFFIC, based on SER Social Benefits Wheel

3

Protect, restore and manage biodiversity in consultation and partnership with local communities and other stakeholders.

● MONITORING, EVALUATION & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Adaptive Management List adapted from the Information Sharing Framework (ISF) and the UN Decade Standards of Practice

8

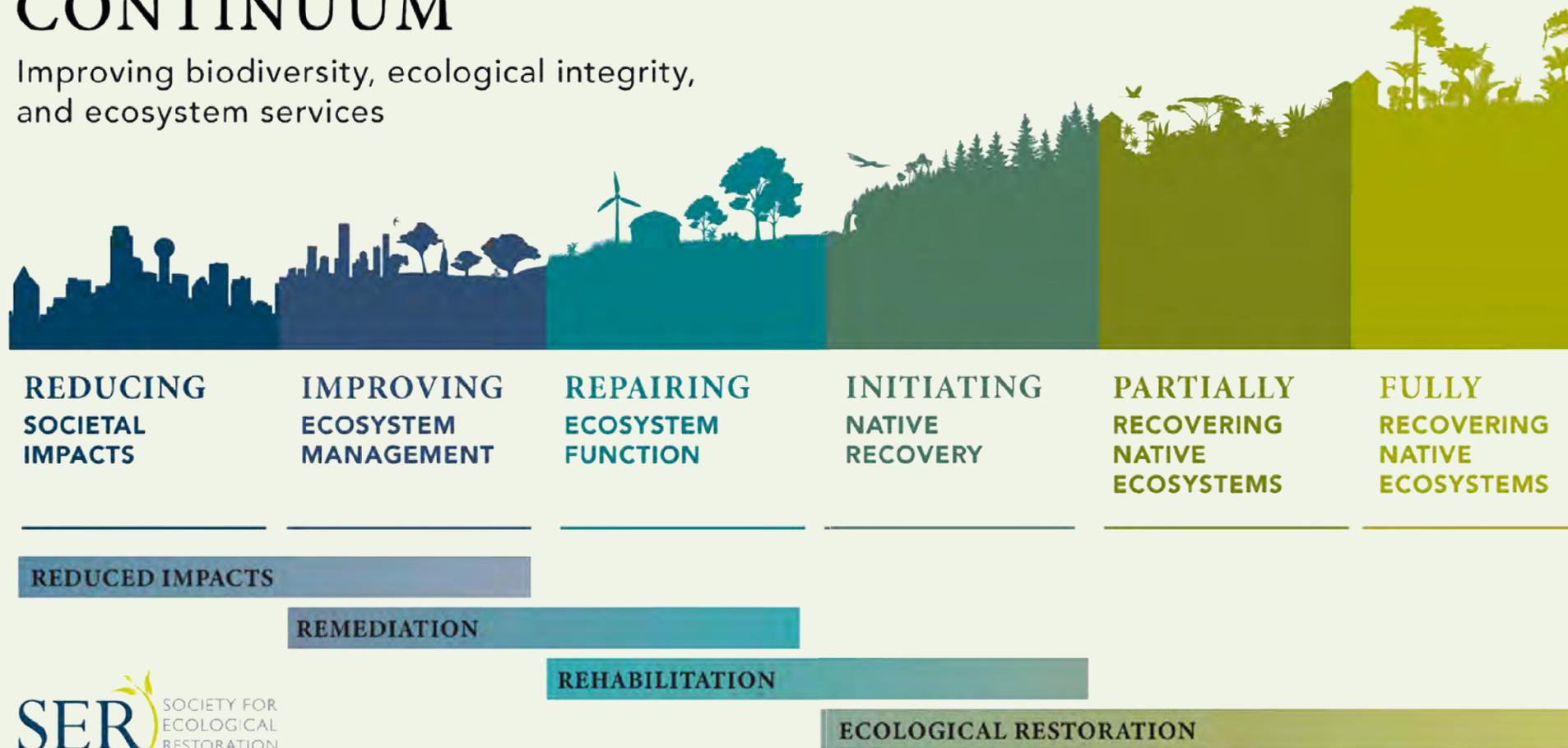
Implement robust monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management of biodiversity



TGBS assesses and certifies projects implementing rehabilitation and ecological restoration.

# CONTINUUM

Improving biodiversity, ecological integrity, and ecosystem services



## TGBS ESSENTIAL

Provides a **foundational understanding** of TGBS and its key components. Applicants will gain insights into project eligibility, baselines, native reference ecosystems and reference models, assessment methods, and TGBS certification process.

## TGBS ENRICHMENT

Offers **specialised knowledge** to enhance projects before or after TGBS certification. Applicants will explore topics such as ecological restoration principles and techniques, genetic diversity conservation, seed-based restoration, propagation protocols, species identification, community and cultural engagement, and sustainable use in restoration projects.

## TGBS SUSTAINABILITY

Focuses on ensuring the **long-term success** and **impact** of TGBS-certified projects. Applicants will explore strategies to enhance stakeholder participation, create and formalise comprehensive monitoring plans, optimise adaptive management practices, and facilitate continuous improvement of the projects.



## CERTIFICATION TIERS

Early stage projects (<10 years)



PLANNING PHASE



IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Certification for uplift in biodiversity from baseline to current conditions



TIERING BASED ON SCORING THRESHOLDS

## TGBS PRICING

### An equitable, self-sustaining, not-for-profit business model that supports local expertise

Hubs who carry out the assessments and mentoring are based in the regions and countries – people who know their own biodiversity and socio-economic conditions best.

Because there are no 'for profit' consultants involved or international travel costs, prices are highly competitive.

Hub assessments are reviewed and verified by TGBS Secretariat to ensure that TGBS methodology is applied to the highest standard.





Download this  
booklet here!

Find out more here:  
[www.biodiversitystandard.org](http://www.biodiversitystandard.org)



# The Global Biodiversity Standard



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Download TGBS Manual here!  
[biodiversitystandard.org/our-method](http://biodiversitystandard.org/our-method)