

W-18 The Global Biodiversity Standard: An introduction to assessing biodiversity recovery in ecosystem restoration projects

P. Smith¹, P. Blanchflower², F.C.G. Cardoso³, N. Ramahefamana⁴, R. Kindt⁵, L.H.R. Baqueiro⁶, and A.S.M. Mutegeki⁷

¹ Botanic Gardens Conservation International

² Auroville Botanical Gardens, India

³ Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Hong Kong

⁴ Missouri Botanical Garden, USA

⁵ The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)

⁶ Jardim Botânico Araribá, Brazil

⁷ Tooro Botanical Gardens, Uganda

Duration: 90 minutes

Target audience: The workshop targets a broad audience, including conservation professionals, policy makers, NGO staff, botanic garden personnel, sustainable business representatives, and academics, ranging from beginners to those with advanced knowledge in biodiversity conservation.

Objectives:

- Understand the TGBS methodology: Develop a thorough understanding of The Global Biodiversity Standard, including its criteria, assessment process, and alignment with global biodiversity goals.
- Practical Application: Gain practical skills in applying the TGBS criteria to biodiversity projects, with a key focus on ecosystem integrity.
- Ecosystem Evaluation: Learn to assess and enhance ecosystem integrity using the SER Ecosystem Recovery Wheel concept, ensuring projects contribute positively to biodiversity.
- Adaptive Management: Master techniques for robust project monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management to drive continuous improvement and achieve tangible outcomes.
- Collaborative Network: Build connections with other biodiversity professionals and learn about the process and benefits of becoming a TGBS hub to support global conservation efforts.

Abstract: Amidst a pressing global biodiversity crisis, the imperative for effective nature-based solutions has never been greater. In response, The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) has been developed as a pioneering framework, establishing a rigorous global benchmark for initiatives focused on the protection, enhancement, and restoration of ecosystems. Developed by an international consortium of biodiversity experts, TGBS introduces eight comprehensive criteria to certify projects that deliver tangible benefits to biodiversity.

Our workshop, "The Global Biodiversity Standard: An introduction to assessing biodiversity recovery in ecosystem restoration projects" offers a deep dive into TGBS. The session begins with an overview of TGBS, highlighting its alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework and its role in setting best practices in biodiversity conservation and restoration. Following this, participants will engage in interactive discussions centred on the four pivotal elements of the TGBS assessment: Level of Protection; Ecosystem

Integrity; Social Benefits; and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management. The workshop will include an introduction on how to set a reference model, a baseline and assess current conditions.

Moreover, the workshop will explore the TGBS certification process that ensures accountability, transparency, and encourages continuous enhancement in the quality of nature-based solutions.

Participants of this workshop will acquire comprehensive insights into how TGBS can steer and refine biodiversity projects to ensure they are inclusive, transparent, and effective. Discussions on becoming a TGBS hub will also be included, aiming to cultivate a global network committed to biodiversity restoration in alignment with natural ecosystems.