

CETAF
POSITION on the
proposal for the
**GLOBAL EUROPE
INSTRUMENT**
(MFF 2028-2034)

The **Consortium of the European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF)**, representing Europe’s leading natural history institutions, welcomes the European Commission’s proposal for the new Global Europe Instrument (GEI)¹ under the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). As institutions at the forefront of biodiversity research, capacity building and international scientific cooperation, our members are deeply invested in ensuring that the European Union remains a global leader in addressing the intertwined crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

However, we are concerned about the **apparent removal of clear thematic spending targets from the core GEI proposal**, including those relating to climate, environment and biodiversity, which were a defining feature of its predecessor, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI–Global Europe).

Under NDICI–Global Europe, climate action was mainstreamed with a binding target of at least 30% of overall expenditure, alongside a dedicated biodiversity spending target of at least 10% (increased from 7.5% for the period 2026-27). These targets provided **legal certainty, political visibility and predictability for partner countries** and implementing actors.

In the current proposal for GEI, **the climate and environment spending objective appears not in the main instrument** but in Annex III of the proposal for a horizontal budget expenditure tracking framework². There, GEI is expected to contribute at least 30% of its total earmarked budget to climate and environment objectives. Article 4 of the same proposal sets a minimum of 35% of the total EU budget to climate and environment spending, covering categories such as climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and resilience, and environment.

¹<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0551&qid=1753799711782>
²<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0545&qid=1753797488776>

While CETAF welcomes the proposed 35% climate and environment benchmark, we are concerned that:

- **The target is not clearly embedded** in the core GEI Regulation proposal itself.
- **Biodiversity is not explicitly identified** as a distinct sub-category within the climate and environment envelope.
- **No clear breakdown is provided** regarding how the 35% will be allocated across climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience and environmental objectives.
- **Article 4 empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts** to adjust climate and environment spending levels, potentially weakening predictability and long-term commitments.

Taken together, these elements risk diluting the EU's longstanding commitment to biodiversity as a standalone strategic priority in its external action. The European Parliament's Committees on Development (DEVE) and Foreign Affairs (AFET) are expected to present their joint draft legislative report on Global Europe in April 2026. As co-legislators, the Parliament and the Council now have a crucial opportunity to ensure that the final Regulation provides the necessary clarity, ambition and legal safeguards to maintain the EU's global leadership on biodiversity.

BIODIVERSITY: A STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE

The case for maintaining, and ideally strengthening, biodiversity commitments in the new GEI is overwhelming.

The EU and its Member States are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and have endorsed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which sets ambitious global targets for 2030 and substantial long-term goals for 2050, including significantly increasing international biodiversity finance. As one of the world's largest providers of development assistance, the EU has a responsibility to ensure that its main external financing instrument is aligned with these commitments.

Furthermore, biodiversity loss is not only an environmental issue but a systemic economic risk. The Global Risks Report 2026³ published by the World Economic Forum ranks biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse among the most severe global risks in terms of economic and societal impact over the coming decade. Degrading ecosystems undermine food security, health systems, water availability and economic resilience, particularly in partner countries most vulnerable to climate change.

Finally, the recent IPBES Assessment Report on Business and Biodiversity⁴ by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services highlights the material financial risks that biodiversity loss poses to businesses and global value chains and underscores the urgent need for public finance to catalyse transformative change.

Biodiversity underpins climate mitigation and adaptation. Nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration and sustainable land and ocean management are essential to achieving climate objectives. However, biodiversity cannot be treated as a mere subcomponent of climate spending. Its drivers, impacts and policy responses require targeted and measurable investment.

In light of the above, **CETAF calls on the European Parliament and the Council to:**

- 1** | **Reinstate clear thematic spending targets directly in the core GEI Regulation**, rather than relying solely on a horizontal tracking framework.
- 2** | **Establish biodiversity as a distinct and explicitly defined sub-category within the climate and environment spending envelope**, ensuring visibility, accountability and strategic coherence.
- 3** | **Maintain the biodiversity spending target at a minimum of 10%, as under NDICI–Global Europe and consider increasing it** to reflect the urgency and scale of the global biodiversity crisis and the EU’s international commitments under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- 4** | **Ensure that any delegated powers to adjust climate and environment spending targets do not weaken legally binding commitments** and are subject to robust parliamentary scrutiny.

³<https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2026/>

⁴<https://www.ipbes.net/business-impact>

IN CLOSING

At a time when biodiversity loss is accelerating globally, sidelining explicit biodiversity commitments in the **EU's primary external financing instrument would send a troubling signal** to partner countries and to the international community.

The EU has positioned itself as a global champion of biodiversity. To uphold this leadership, the new Global Europe Instrument must contain clear, legally anchored and ambitious biodiversity spending targets. Anything less would **undermine both the credibility of EU external action and the global effort to halt and reverse biodiversity loss** by 2030.

CETAF and its members stand **ready to support EU institutions** in ensuring that the final GEI Regulation reflects the level of ambition that science, international commitments and economic realities demand.

