

## **Background**

Incentive measures for biodiversity conservation and sustainable landscape management are practices and policies and investment measures that provide monetary and non-monetary reward to organisations or communities in recognition of their efforts in conserving and protecting biodiversity and sustaining ecosystem services. Incentive measures can be applied in various contexts, for example in managing protected areas, restoring critical ecosystems, wildlife management, wetland management, promoting regenerative agriculture, sustainable land use practices, promotion of nature-based solutions, and community-based conservation.

## **Importance of incentive measures**

Incentive measures are particularly crucial to motivate local environmental stewards to continue their efforts in protecting and conserving the environment and/or addressing environmental degradation and pollution. These incentives serve as recognition for their efforts and can encourage them to continue to engage in conservation and sustainable resource use. For incentives to result in positive ecological impacts and socio-economic improvement, strong and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, particularly marginalised sections of society, is a prerequisite, such that efforts made at the local level are adequately compensated. By incentivising local environmental stewards, we can promote sustainable actions and practices, and adoption of nature-based solutions that yield long-term benefits for local communities and ecosystems.

## **Types of incentive measures**

There are two kinds of incentive measures: i) financial incentives, which include direct cash payments, stipends, or monetary reward for environmental stewardship; and ii) non-financial incentives related to government recognition, capacity strengthening, access to resources, building ownership, representation and engagement of local stewards in decision making processes increasing their accountability and responsibilities, and legal measures to formally support efforts of indigenous people and local communities.

## **Incentives in global agenda**

The Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework (KMBF) stresses on promoting incentives that deepen actions for biodiversity conservation, such as increase in the area of protected areas and other area-based conservation measures globally (Target 3); likewise, on eliminating or reforming incentives including subsidies that harm biodiversity and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Target 18).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an important source of financing incentives. Under the Paris Agreement, one of the incentive instruments is results-based payment to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. This includes policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. This agreement also facilitates participation and partnership in the mitigation of emissions by public and private entities through incentives.

## **Submission process**

[Step 1: Fill form I by 15 July 2023 if you are interested in contributing a case study?](#)

[Step 2: Fill Form II by 31 August 2023 with detailed information](#) (by invitation only, after assessing Form I)