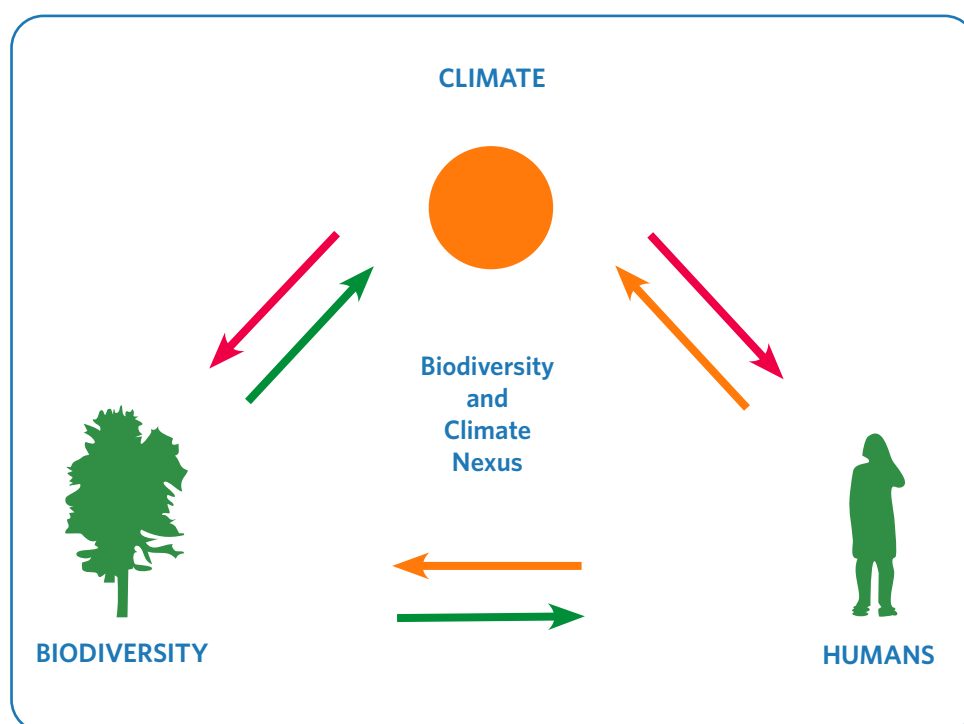


Nexus Area: Climate and Biodiversity

Climate and Biodiversity Hub '23-25

Climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable

Considering the climate and biodiversity nexus in an audit means recognizing their deep interconnection and assessing them together rather than in isolation. In practice, this involves identifying how climate policies impact biodiversity—and vice versa—by evaluating both trade-offs and synergies. For instance, a renewable energy project might lower emissions but harm local ecosystems, while actions like carbon storage and habitat conservation can either conflict or complement each other.



Biodiversity and climate are interconnected

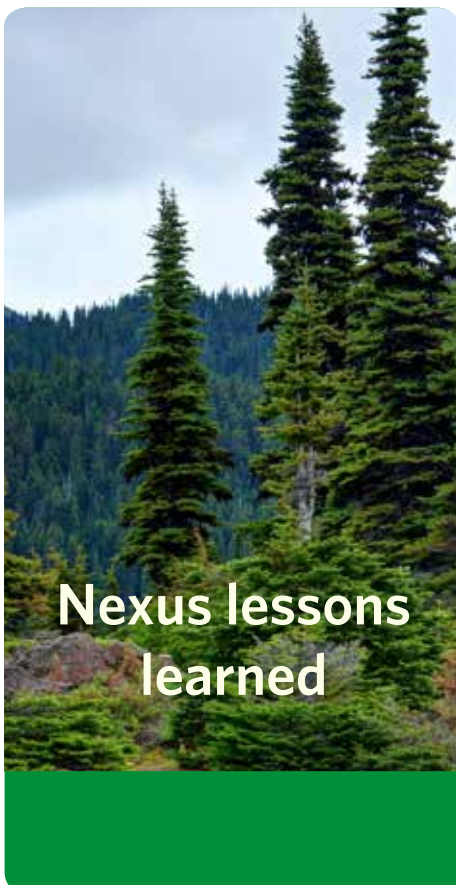
- Biodiversity loss can further accelerate climate change by reducing nature's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and protect against extreme weather events
- Mitigating climate change can help to conserve biodiversity, while protecting biodiversity and/or reversing biodiversity loss can help to mitigate climate change

Biodiversity is critical for humans

- Biodiversity is critical to human wellbeing (individual and communities) by providing food, water, air, energy, medicines, genetic resources, materials, cultural or spiritual benefits, etc.
- **Human activities can impact biodiversity:**
 - Positively via protection, restoration, sustainable practices etc.
 - Negatively via habitat loss and degradation, pollution, harvesting etc.

Climate change, caused by humans, affects living conditions

- Increased temperatures and extreme weather events impact mental and physical health, natural and urban habitats degradation etc.
- Nature-based solutions and sustainable agriculture, forestry, industrial, energy and product practices and consumption can reduce carbon footprint
- Environmental auditors play an important role in making governments accountable

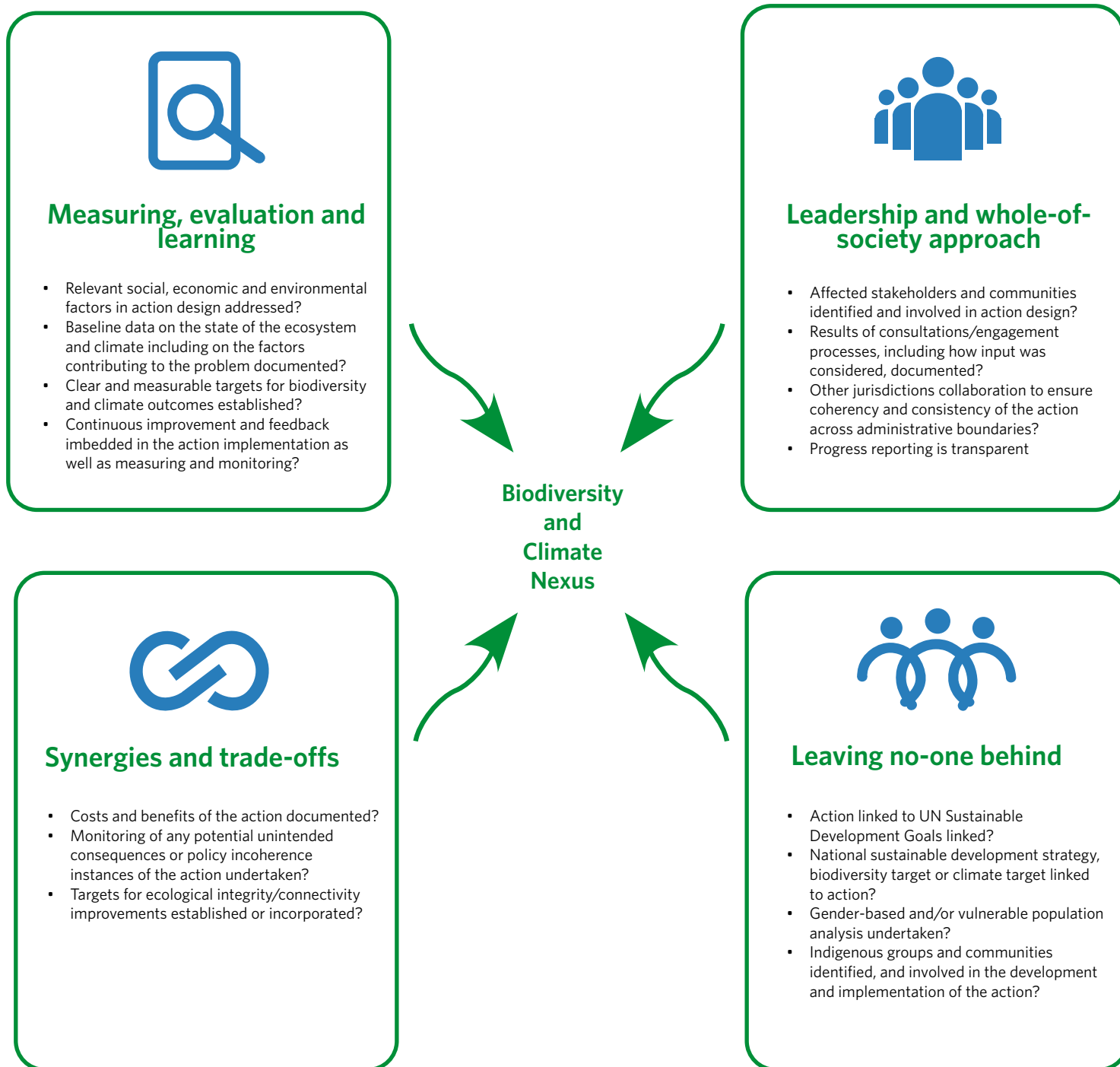


Canada, China, Estonia, ECA, Morocco, Philippines

- A nexus lens helps track long-term co-benefits of programs like tree planting and highlights missed opportunities, such as unmeasured emissions from forest loss or use of fast-growing exotic trees instead of native species.
- Protected areas often lack effective safeguards, risking biodiversity and climate. The nexus approach can link ecological harm to climate impacts in audits.
- Lack of information hinders the development of effective climate adaptation strategies. There is a need for better data integration across biodiversity and climate domains.
- Nexus concept can uncover synergies and trade-offs across sectors (e.g. the interlinkages between climate, agriculture, and socio-economic development).
- Local ecological interventions can support biodiversity and climate goals, but it is important to monitor over the long term to sustain the benefits.

Applying the key Biodiversity and Climate Nexus considerations in an audit context

As environmental auditors are applying those key considerations as part of their audit work, they can use the following potential audit questions to guide their planning, examination and reporting approaches.



A full suite of potential audits questions has been developed to support audit in key Biodiversity and Climate Nexus thematic areas.