



Key features in UNBL

Providing spatial data and analytical tools to support countries delivering the Global Biodiversity Framework



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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[Watch the UNBL trailer](#) 

UNBL supports efforts to use spatial data for the national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Spatial data enables stakeholders to visualize human-related activities and environmental trends on interactive maps, prioritize actions, and monitor and report on trends over time.

The [UN Biodiversity Lab \(UNBL\)](#) is a free, open-source platform supporting country-led efforts to use spatial data and analytics for sustainable development. Over the coming year, UNBL will be enhanced with new features to support Parties in meeting their commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including the GBF.

UNBL is user-friendly, requires no GIS expertise, and is available in English, Spanish, French, Russian, and Portuguese.

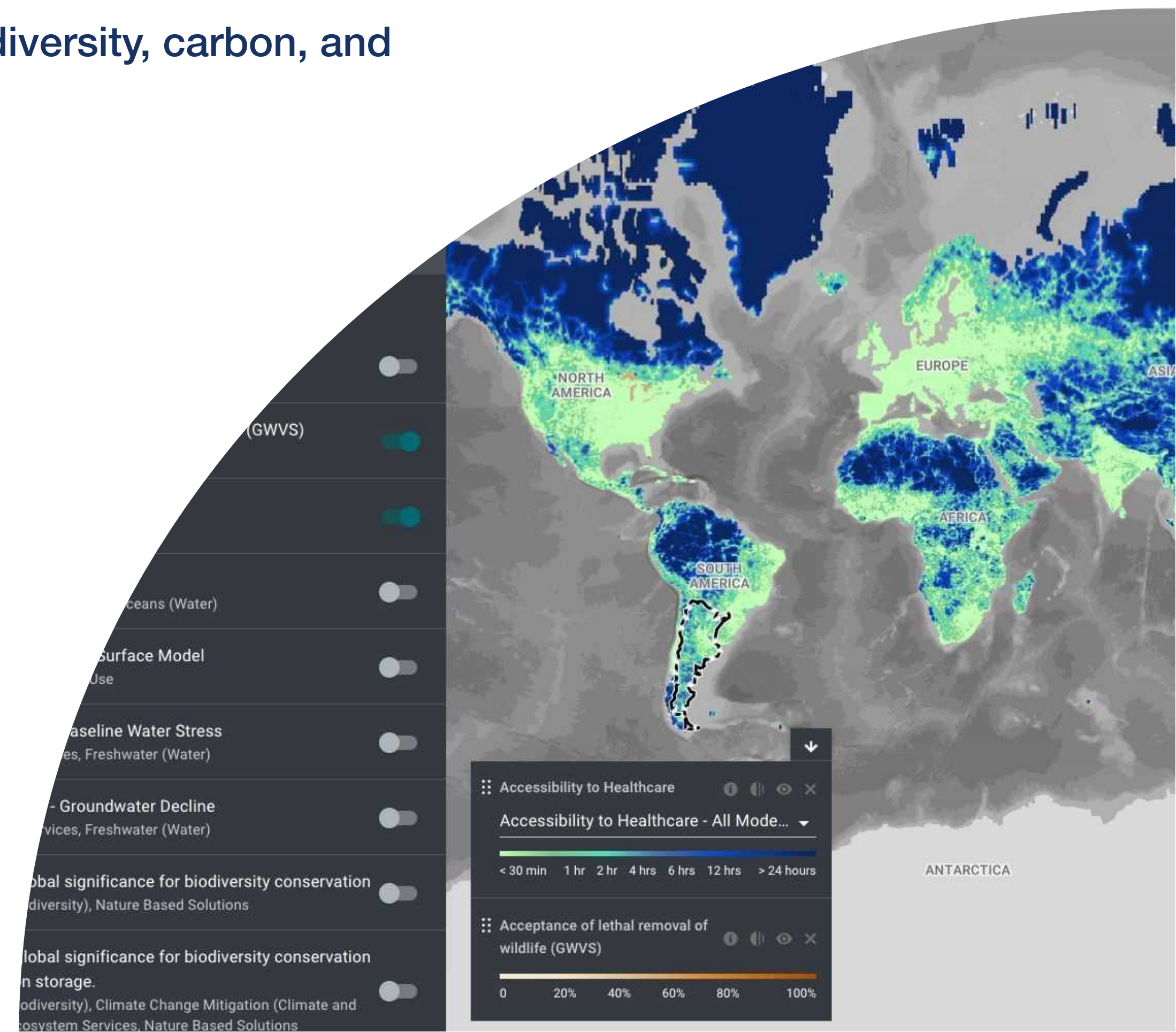
Visualize data and create maps using the UNBL map view

UNBL's easy-to-use map view interface enables users to visualize multiple spatial data layers at the click of a button. You can navigate to countries in the "Places" menu to see metrics for each or use the "Layers" menu to select from the 600+ global data layers on biodiversity, carbon, and sustainable development, curated by our team of experts.

Users can use the UNBL map view to:

- Visualize and download 600+ global data layers.
- Use keywords and filters to find relevant data layers, including GBF related data layers.
- Create customized maps for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national reports.
- Access eight national-level metrics and graphs calculated at the click of a button.

Learn more: [UNBL Map View](#)



Access the latest UNBL data for monitoring the GBF

Spatial data will be essential to planning, monitoring, and reporting on the GBF. Indeed, 41% of the headline indicators and 34% of the component indicators have methodology relying on spatial data (for details, see the Technical Guidance [“Using Spatial Data to Support the Development of Plans for National Monitoring Systems for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”](#)). These datasets are referenced in the [GBF indicator website](#) and in [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14](#) associated with [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/1](#). The UNBL Data Collection on the GBF monitoring framework provides access to these datasets, thus constituting a curated list of global spatial datasets that can be used by decision makers at national, regional/transboundary, and global scales to calculate selected headline, component, and complementary indicators, subject to national needs and priorities.

Users can:

- View and download nearly 50 spatial datasets for calculating indicators.
- Compare national data with global datasets for monitoring.
- Fill national data gaps using global data.

Learn more: [UNBL Data Collection for GBF Monitoring Framework](#).



Kunming - Montreal

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

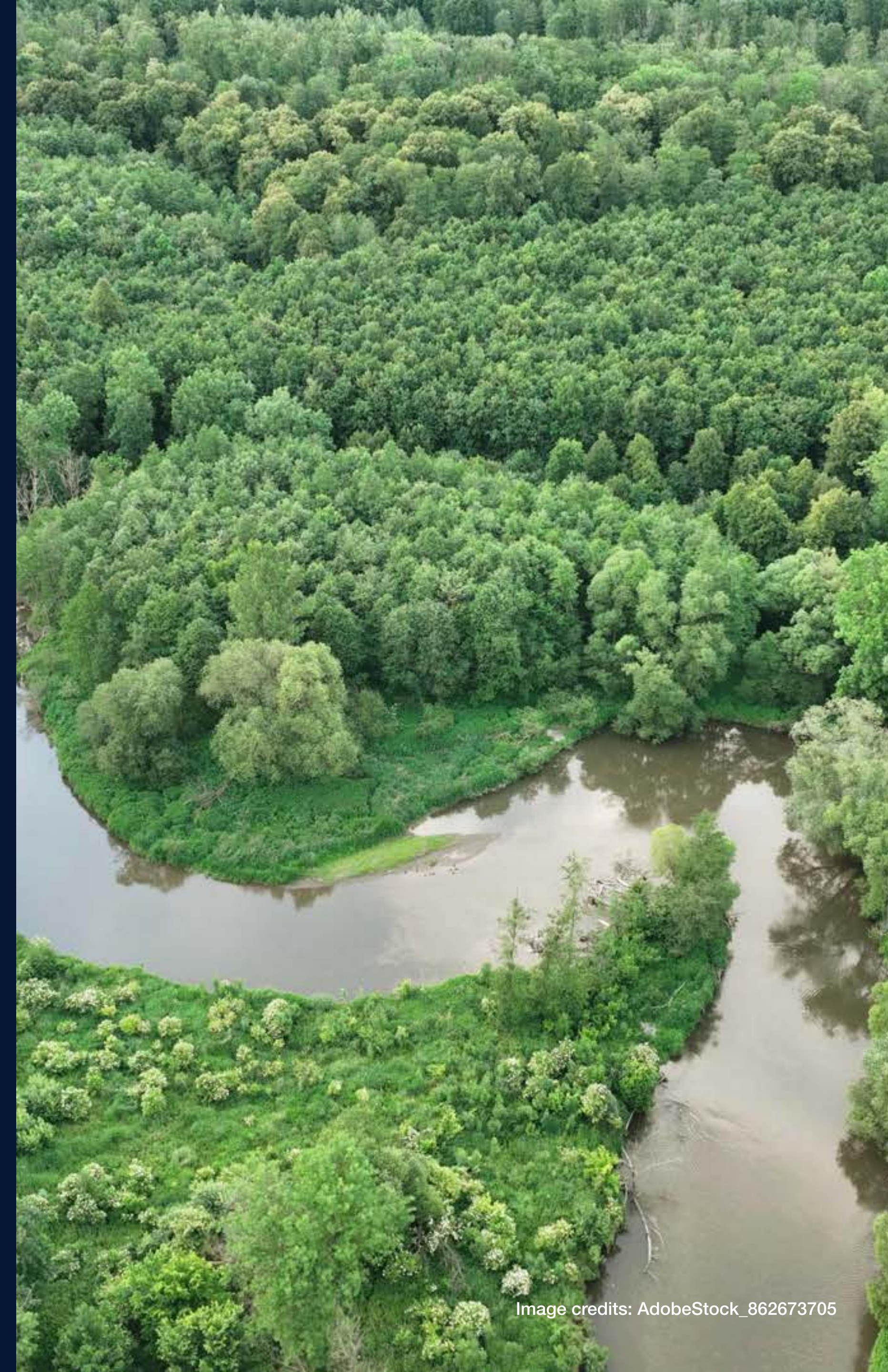
Access additional UNBL data collections

The UNBL Partnership ensures that the platform is updated to include data relevant to nature, climate, and sustainable development; that all UNBL data is up to date; and that all UNBL data meets our quality standards. These global data can be used to support countries to fill national data gaps, as needed, for work at the national level.

Users can access the UNBL Data Collections to:

- Find a list of curated datasets directly related to Ecosystem Restoration, Protected Areas, and Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change.
- Access data that can be used to support national action around Targets 2, 3, and 8, respectively.

Learn more: [UNBL Data Collections](#)

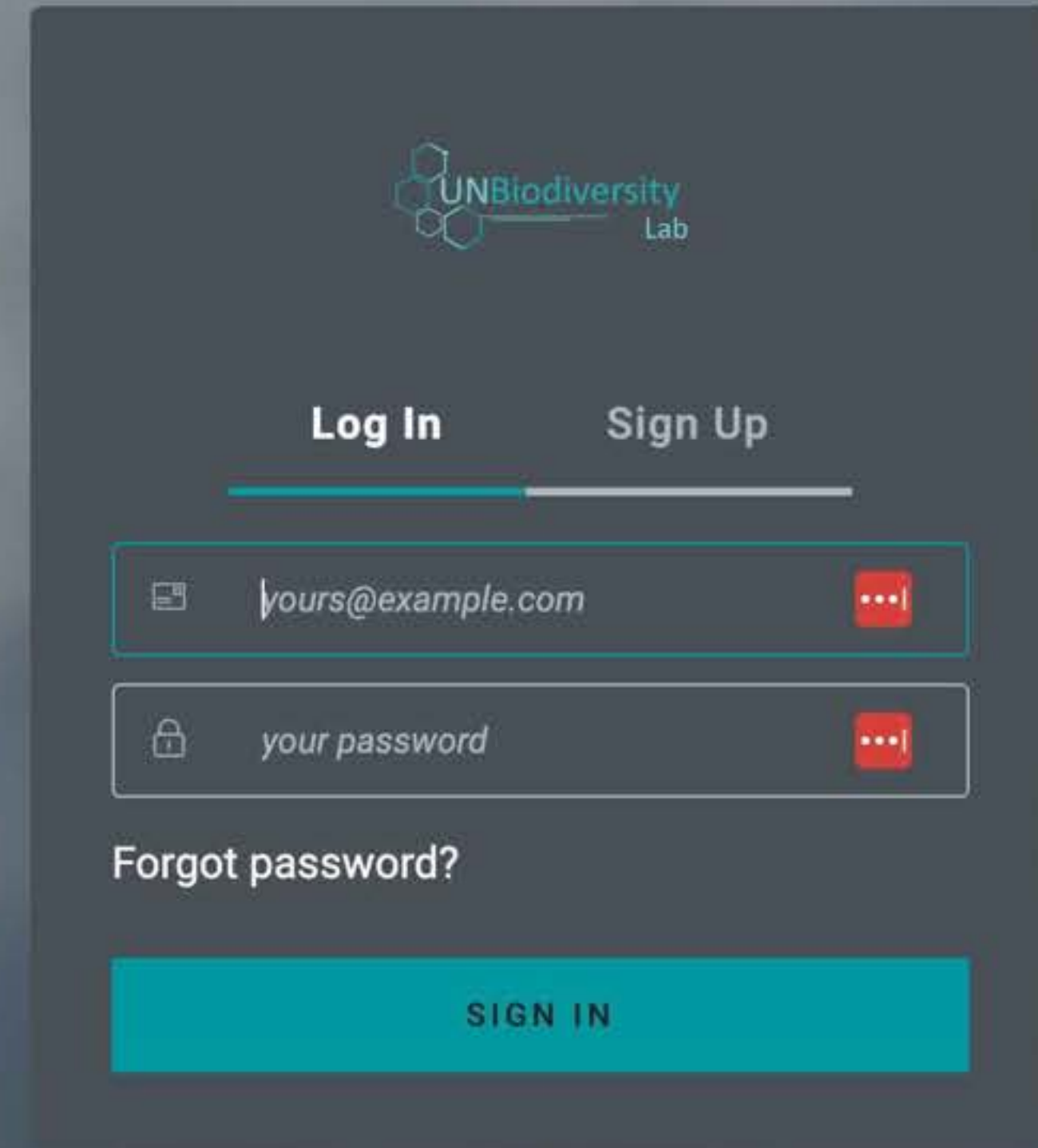


Create a UNBL secure workspace

UNBL workspaces are password-protected online spaces for collaboration.

Users can:

- Access a password-protected space for online collaboration, for example, for a whole-of-government approach to support the use of spatial data that can be used as part of a national monitoring system.
- Seamlessly bring external data into UNBL by connecting to, for example, existing national data repositories (via STAC/Azure, GEE, ESRI, WMS/WFS) or uploading national/subnational datasets and areas of interest.
- Tag users' own data to identify the goal, target, and indicator types to support monitoring and reporting efforts.
- Visualize national and subnational datasets alongside global data available on UNBL.
- Calculate any of the UNBL metrics for users' uploaded areas of interest.
- Invite a community of users to the workspace and customize the level of access.



The screenshot shows the UNBiodiversity Lab login and sign-up interface. At the top, the logo for UNBiodiversity Lab is displayed. Below the logo, there are two tabs: "Log In" and "Sign Up". The "Log In" tab is selected, indicated by a teal underline. Below the tabs, there are two input fields: one for the email address (containing "yours@example.com") and one for the password (containing "your password"). Both fields have a red "X" icon on the right side, indicating a validation error. Below the input fields, there is a link for "Forgot password?". At the bottom, there is a teal button labeled "SIGN IN".

Learn more: [User Guide on Secure Workspaces](#)



Support biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning using the UNBL integrated spatial planning tool

UNBL is developing an integrated spatial planning tool to support biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning. The tool will build on a selection of best available global datasets with a priority use of official recommended datasets around the GBF and its monitoring framework to develop a prioritized spatial plan for Targets 1-3, with co-benefits for the other spatial targets, including Targets 4-12 and 21.

Users will be able to apply the integrated spatial planning tool on UNBL to:

- Run a customized spatial prioritization analysis that shows where action to protect, manage, and restore nature could lead to the best outcomes across the spatial targets and indicators of the GBF.
- Access and visualize relevant global data for planning that could be used as needed.
- Vary the weight on input datasets based on those most important for national priorities.



New features



Support the calculation of headline indicators using UNBL

The UNBL Partnership is building functionality to support the calculation of the spatial headline indicators at the national level, subject to national needs and preferences. These metrics will be implemented based on the proposed data and methodology as developed for each indicator.

Users will be able to access UNBL metrics to:

- Support the calculation of headline indicators.
- Download results as tabular data and maps for use in national planning, monitoring, and reporting.



New features



Connect to other key national reporting tools

The UNBL Partnership is exploring the best ways to connect to other key tools supporting GBF planning, monitoring, and reporting. The goal of this work is to reduce duplication and simplify data flows.



650+

Global data layers
grouped in 200+ datasets

204+

UNBL workspaces created

2,600+

Registered users from 153
countries

10,000+

Attendees in UNBL events
& trainings

Use cases

UNBL led to an 81 percent increase in the number of maps used in countries' 6th national reports on biodiversity to the CBD. Explore how some countries have used the platform:



Colombia

The government of Colombia is using UNBL to survey key global datasets and identify opportunities to integrate them within nation-wide analyses, including new efforts to estimate total carbon stocks in dry tropical forest areas, one of the most critically endangered ecosystems in Colombia.

Ecuador

The government of Ecuador has used UNBL's spatial data to monitor deforestation and biodiversity loss, determine which ecosystems should be set aside for protected areas, and to define six intervention zones to implement its REDD+ Action Plan.

Haiti

The use of UNBL has added to the tools for forest management in Haiti, contributing to using spatial data to strengthen government decisions and make Haiti's forest policy more effective; UNBL provides insights that can be used by the government of Haiti to make decisions on where restoration efforts should be intensified, in common agreement with institutions working in this sector.

Viet Nam

Geospatial data from UNBL can support Viet Nam's government to create maps that show pressure on key forests and protected areas.

Resources

[UNBL Website](#) 

UNBL Brochure: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Russian](#)

UNBL User Stories: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Russian](#)

UNBL Trailer: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

Micro-course ‘Using Spatial Data for Biodiversity’ hosted by Learning for Nature:

[English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Russian](#)

Technical guidance ‘Using the Spatial Data to Support the Development of National Monitoring Plans for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’

[English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

UNBL Public Platform User Guide: [Online user guide](#) | [FAQs](#)

Downloadable Guidance: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Russian](#)

UNBL Workspace User Guide: [Online user guide](#) | [FAQs](#)

Data providers:



In addition to the logos shown above, we gratefully acknowledge the following data providers: European Space Agency (ESA)/ European Space Agency Climate Change Initiative (ESA CCI), ESRI, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Wind Atlas, NASA Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Global SDG Database, UN-Habitat, UN Water, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Australia, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), WWF International, University of Sydney, Global Wildlife Values Survey (GWVS), University of Exeter, Fundamental and Applied Biogeography Research Group (FABio), Global Footprint Network, York University Ecological Footprint Initiative, Footprint Data Foundation, Utrecht University, 5 Gyres, The Ocean Cleanup, World Health Organization (WHO), and World Bank.

Donors:





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