

**USAID Biodiversity Policy Update Private Sector Listening Session**  
*High-Level Summary of Feedback from Attendees*  
May 16, 2023

*The following is a summary of the feedback received from attendees of the USAID Biodiversity Policy update listening session for the private sector on May 16, 2023:*

To **achieve transformative change**, the focus should be on:

- High-level collaborations through memorandums of understanding at multilateral institutions.
- Sharing effective private-public partnerships and best practices.
- Cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and harmonization of conservation policies.
- The public sector convening stakeholders and rationalizing global governance frameworks to ensure better enforcement of policies and standards.
- Monetizing biodiversity conservation standards to engage private sector actors.

The public sector can **address private capital mobilization inadequacies** to support biodiversity conservation. Specifically, it can:

- Make the business case for conservation, introduce tax breaks, and provide economic incentives to foster biodiversity market development.
- Lower transaction barriers, provide investment advisory services, and support the establishment of biodiversity-focused funds.
- Leverage blended finance instruments, including the use of first-loss capital, and facilitate partnerships with institutional investors.
- Utilize grants and technical assistance tools and engage the private sector for capacity building and impact.

Strengthen the **links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic opportunities** by:

- Quantifying biodiversity value and ensuring greater economic benefits while minimizing negative impacts.
- Engage the tourism and hospitality industry to create shared value of biodiversity-rich ecosystems while ensuring economic gains are shared with rural communities.
- Addressing the lack of safeguards for biodiversity in certain commodity value chains (such as cacao), which hinders overall production and poses risks to food security.

*It is also important to emphasize that beyond sustainability and economic development, engaging in biodiversity efforts yields secondary benefits related to security, crime, health concerns, and other issues that transcend national boundaries.*

To **shift the conversation from a financing agenda to an investment agenda** and achieve greater scalability and speed, USAID can venture beyond its own instruments and tools by considering:

- A public partnership model that engages institutional investors to mobilize large amounts of capital effectively, with a crucial alignment between market needs and institutional investment mandates.
- Using agency resources to build investment policies, prioritizing mobilizing funds on a larger scale and aligning with investors who have access to a bigger pool of capital.