

Briefing Note

Faith-Based Monitoring of the Global Biodiversity Framework

Why Monitoring Matters for Faith Communities

Monitoring biodiversity is crucial for achieving the Goals and Targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. More than just a technical exercise, it allows faith communities to demonstrate their vital contributions to a nature-positive world.

Dual Role for Faith Groups:

- **Contributing to formal processes:** Faith communities can provide valuable data and observations that governments may not have access to, helping ensure comprehensive national reporting
- **Restoring human connection with nature:** Engaging congregations in monitoring activities helps reconnect people with the natural world, inspiring important shifts in attitudes toward nature

Monitoring shows change: By documenting biodiversity trends over time, faith groups can demonstrate the tangible impact of their conservation work, inform policy decisions, influence resource allocation, and hold governments accountable to their commitments.

Critical timing: National reports are due by February 28, 2026, which will feed into a global report reviewed at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP17 in October 2026. This is a significant opportunity for faith voices to be heard.

The CBD Online Reporting Tool (ORT)

The CBD Secretariat has created a mechanism specifically for non-state actors, including faith-based organizations, to contribute to GBF monitoring.

What is it?

The Online Reporting Tool allows faith groups to submit commitments and report on biodiversity conservation efforts directly to the CBD.

Two Routes for Contributing:

1. **Indirect route:** Work with your national government to ensure faith contributions are reflected in official national reports, e.g. the 7th National Report due in February 2026 or the 8th National Report due in June 2029.
2. **Direct route:** Submit non-state actor commitments through the ORT (these will be checked by the relevant country)

How to Access

Visit ort.cbd.int and register using either:

- Your organization's credentials, or
- Confirmation from your national focal point

What to Include

- Links to specific GBF targets and your national biodiversity targets
- Description of actions taken
- Indicators and measurable results
- Partner organizations involved

Important Deadline

February 28, 2026

Strategic Approach

Consider both routes to maximize the chances your work is included in the Global Report.

Digital Tools That Can Help

Faith communities don't need sophisticated equipment to contribute meaningfully to biodiversity monitoring. Accessible digital platforms make it possible regardless of technical capacity.

Notable Digital Tools and Apps:

- [iNaturalist](#) - The most widely used with 300+ million observations globally, feeds into the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
- [Seek by iNaturalist](#) - Child-friendly, works offline, no account required
- [eBird](#) - World's largest bird-focused citizen science project (Cornell Lab)
- [Pl@ntNet](#) - Specialized for plants with 36,870+ species
- [Observation.org](#) - European-focused, covers all life forms

Key Advantage

Digital tools effectively turn citizens into real-time environmental monitors, filling critical gaps in government monitoring systems and providing pathways to integrate local and Indigenous knowledge into national reporting.

Aligning Local Work with Global Frameworks

Your local monitoring efforts can be effectively linked to national and global biodiversity frameworks:

1. **Understand your national context:** Review your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to identify how your work aligns
2. **Connect to specific targets:** Map your activities to relevant GBF targets
3. **Engage with national focal points:** Establish relationships before submitting reports to ensure smooth collaboration

Further Resources

Key Links:

- [Faiths for Biodiversity GBF Monitoring Series](#)
- [CBD Online Reporting Tool](#)
- [List of CBD national focal points](#)
- [GBF targets and indicators framework](#)
- [More information about NBSAPs](#)

Next Steps

1. **Register for the Online Reporting Tool** at ort.cbd.int
2. **Identify which GBF targets** are most relevant to your organization's work
3. **Gather your data:** Prepare case studies, positive stories, and measurable results
4. **Consider collaboration:** Reach out to other faith groups working on similar issues
5. **Engage nationally:** Contact your country's CBD focal point to explore contributing to the national report
6. **Submit by the deadline:** February 28, 2026

Last Updated: February 1st, 2026