CONCEPT NOTE

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

INVESTING IN NATURE: ACCELERATING BIODIVERSITY FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

30–31 October 2026

Background

Global biodiversity is under unprecedented pressure, yet insufficient finance remains one of the greatest barriers to conservation and climate resilience. Closing the biodiversity finance gap is estimated to require more than USD 700 billion annually—less than 0.7% of global GDP. The World Economic Forum's 2025 Global Risks Report identifies extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and critical changes to Earth systems as the three most severe risks to the global economy over the next decade. Mobilising adequate conservation finance must therefore be a shared priority for public and private actors.

Innovative mechanisms, including green bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, project finance for permanence, payments for ecosystem services, blended finance, carbon markets, and biodiversity markets, are gaining traction. Strengthening coordination and knowledge-sharing among governments, private-sector actors, academia, and civil society will help deploy these approaches at scale.

Guyana has emerged as a global leader in biodiversity and climate action through its pioneering Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 and its stewardship of one of the world's most intact tropical forests. Building on this leadership, Guyana initiated the Georgetown Declaration, which established the Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA), a coalition committed to advancing biodiversity conservation through collaboration and resource mobilisation. The inaugural GBA Summit launched the Alliance, and elevated biodiversity as both an environmental imperative and a foundational asset for long-term growth, resilience, and global stability.

Building on the foundation established at the 2025 Summit, the second GBA Conference in 2026 will move the Alliance from its launch phase towards coordinated implementation. Held under the

theme *"Investing in Nature: Accelerating Biodiversity Finance for Sustainable Development,"* it will focus on mobilising public and private finance, strengthening international cooperation, and advancing practical, scalable solutions that translate biodiversity commitments into investment and measurable action.

The Conference will convene GBA Member States and other governments alongside international and regional organisations, Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and Local Communities, academic and scientific institutions, civil society, development partners, financial institutions, philanthropic organisations, youth leaders, and private-sector actors. It will also mark key milestones in the Alliance's development, including an update on progress in bringing areas under biodiversity conservation status, and news on the GBA's new headquarters.

Conference Objectives are to:

1. Strengthen political commitment and international cooperation in response to the global biodiversity crisis;
2. Accelerate the mobilisation of public and private finance for biodiversity through innovative instruments and partnerships; and
3. Advance practical, scalable solutions that enable biodiversity-rich countries and communities to conserve nature while pursuing sustainable development.

Overview of the GBA Conference:

Day One: Setting the Vision—Leadership, Ambition, and Global Cooperation for Biodiversity

Day One will provide the high-level opening and set the Alliance's strategic direction. The programme will connect the interactive exhibition and engagement with youth and women in conservation to leader-level plenary discussions on investing in nature and accelerating biodiversity finance. Participants will consider the state of global biodiversity finance, emerging trends, priorities and opportunities, and biodiversity's role as a pillar of resilient economic growth.

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Day Two: Mobilising Action—Financing Nature through Partnerships and Innovation

Day Two will move from strategic vision to practical delivery, focusing on how biodiversity finance can be mobilised and implemented at scale. Sessions will examine the global finance architecture, innovative instruments and delivery models, country readiness, institutional capacity, and partnerships among governments, development banks, philanthropy, and the private sector. A dedicated deep dive into biodiversity information systems will explore how credible data, technology, community-based monitoring, and national platforms can strengthen conservation planning, investment readiness, and accountability. The Conference will conclude by identifying priorities for country-led action, stronger partnerships, and scalable financing solutions.