GINGR

Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Foreword

Dear colleagues and friends of GINGR,

2025 marked a year in which political priorities became more clearly defined, even as the challenge of delivery intensified. Across the UN climate negotiations at COP30 in Belém, governments reiterated the urgency of implementation, scaled-up climate finance, and a Just Transition that works for people in all regions.

At the same time, the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi brought a parallel message from a different, but inseparable, perspective: the energy transition must accelerate without eroding ecosystems, and it must strengthen, rather than undermine the rights and well-being of communities. That is the space GINGR exists to serve. The Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables was created to move beyond good intentions and towards decision-ready practice: common metrics, credible monitoring, and reporting approaches that make Nature-Positive and People-Positive outcomes measurable, comparable, and investable. The ministerial dialogue we convened at the IUCN Congress underlined why this matters now. Ministers called for clearer standards and stronger safeguards so that renewable energy expansion can support biodiversity recovery and community resilience, not trade one crisis for another.

GINGR's Advisory Board helps to turn this ambition into a practical programme. By bringing together global perspectives from conservation, grids and renewables, finance, and civil society, the Board provides strategic direction and accountability - and ensures that our technical work remains grounded in real-world decisions and delivery constraints. In 2026, we will build on the foundations laid in 2025 to support partners who want to pilot and scale approaches that deliver climate action with measurable benefits for nature and people.

Thank you to our partners, Working Group members, and supporters for the expertise and commitment that shaped GINGR's progress in 2025. In 2026, we will focus on piloting and practical uptake so that Nature-Positive and People-Positive outcomes become standard practice, not exceptional efforts.

"The energy transition must accelerate without eroding ecosystems, and it must strengthen, rather than undermine the rights and well-being of communities. That is the space GINGR exists to serve."

Dr. Karsten Sach, *Chair of the International Advisory Board of GINGR*

About GINGR

Our Vision

A rapid energy transition enabled by wind, solar and electricity grids that embraces Nature-and People-Positive goals.

Our Mission

We facilitate Nature- and People-Positive renewable energy and grid deployment by establishing an industry-supported and government-endorsed monitoring and reporting framework on a global scale.

Why GINGR Matters Now

Renewable energy and grid expansion is moving from planning to build-out, and expectations are rising that this growth must deliver climate mitigation and measurable biodiversity recovery, while respecting communities and local rights. Yet energy actors still lack a consistent, decision-ready way to assess and disclose Nature- and People-Positive outcomes across wind, solar, and grids. GINGR fills this gap by translating existing science and tools into practical, comparable approaches that help turn commitments into evidence-based delivery and learning, across markets and project stages.

Turning Ambition into Measurable Delivery

GINGR was launched in 2023 by IUCN and RGI to make Nature- and People-Positive delivery measurable and comparable. We are developing a globally aligned framework for monitoring and reporting, paired with practical guidance to support implementation. From the outset, the focus has been on approaches that can be used by governments, companies, civil society, and the financial sector, and that build on established methods rather than reinventing them.

Since 2024, GINGR has moved from set-up to substantive outputs. Over the past year, we strengthened the bridge between emerging practice and decision-ready guidance: All four Technical Working Groups progressed in parallel. The first iteration of the offshore wind and grids metrics frameworks was completed for wider stakeholder review and grid-tailored indicators advanced to pilot readiness. In addition, flagship White Papers set out actionable pathways for Nature-Positive renewables and grids.

In parallel, the GINGR community of governments, renewable developers, grid operators, financial institutions, and civil society continued to grow, bringing new expertise into the development and testing of the framework.

Highlights 2025

January
Launch of GINGR Newsletter and Linked-In

March
GINGR represented at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue

BERLIN ENERGY TRANSITION DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

June
Webinar series around the UN Ocean Conference

September
GINGR presented at the RGI Annual Conference

IUCN World Conservation Congress Abu Dhabi 2025

October
IUCN Congress with Ministerial panel and Finance Roundtable

COP30 BRASIL AMAZÔNIA BELÉM 2025

November
Publication of GINGR White Papers around COP30 in Belém / Side event at COP30

December
Webinar on Connecting Pollinator Corridors

Tools, Metrics, and Guidance

GINGR was launched to develop a comprehensive framework that enables energy actors to monitor and report their progress towards biodiversity gains and co-created community benefits while deploying wind, solar, and electricity grids. As countries race to cut emissions, what can sometimes be overlooked is that climate action will only succeed if it also halts and reverses nature loss, and delivers fair and durable benefits for the people and communities who host this infrastructure.

The framework looks to support governments, companies, and the financial sector with the delivery of their energy targets whilst also meeting climate and biodiversity goals in a timely, socially responsible way. It builds on pre-agreed criteria and established assessment tools to enable credible, comparable disclosures and to ensure that both impacts and restoration opportunities are identified and implemented.

GINGR's Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were set up to bring together the necessary experts from industry, civil society, research, and policy. Each TWG tackles a distinct piece of the puzzle - and together they form the backbone of the GINGR Framework.

1 OFFSHORE TWG

Purpose

The Offshore TWG is helping to advance a Nature-Positive approach to offshore wind by translating evidence into practical policy and delivery mechanisms, spanning planning, procurement, enabling infrastructure, and long-term monitoring.

Focus and outputs

Coordinated by Ocean Conservancy, the group recently completed a review of biodiversity assessment approaches across regions to identify shared gaps and practical opportunities. They also convened a regional workshop in Asia to strengthen exchange between government, industry, and civil society. This work culminated in a policy paper entitled Integrating Nature into Offshore Wind Development, which was launched at COP 30 in Belem, Brazil. The paper sets out actionable pathways across the value chain and strengthens GINGR's role in shaping globally relevant approaches for reporting biodiversity gains and co-created community benefits in ocean renewables.

2 METRICS TWG

Purpose

The Metrics TWG is developing a practical and science-based toolbox to help offshore wind projects and portfolios select and apply Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature-Positive metrics consistently, from early planning through construction, operation and eventual decommissioning.

Focus and outputs

Led by IUCN, the group recently completed a comprehensive review of the global evidence base on biodiversity metrics. This analysis identified where the field is converging around emerging "consensus" ocean metrics that can be applied across different markets and project stages. These findings informed the first iteration of the Metrics Framework, supported by clear selection criteria to guide users in choosing appropriate measures for their context. In parallel, the TWG prepared a dedicated roadmap paper on delivering Biodiversity Net Gain in the offshore wind sector, planned for publication in early 2026. Importantly, the framework is being designed for real-world use: it supports decision-making across the mitigation hierarchy and will be tested and refined through wider stakeholder review.

> ***"Clear, credible biodiversity metrics are essential for the offshore wind sector to deliver real Nature-Positive outcomes. The Metrics Working Group's framework arrives at exactly the right moment, giving governments and developers practical tools they can use today to drive measurable benefits for ocean ecosystems."***
>
> **Rachel Asante-Owusu,** *IUCN*

3 PEOPLE-POSITIVE TWG

Purpose

The People-Positive TWG has been focused on developing practical guidance to help renewable energy and grid projects deliver fair, durable community benefits, grounded in evidence, rights-based approaches, and best practice.

Focus and outputs

Led by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the group carried out targeted discussions and interviews to map key references and existing approaches to community outcomes, participation, and benefit-sharing. This work established a guiding structure for future project assessment guidance and expanded a curated database of good practices, mapped against that structure to identify where clearer, more implementable guidance is most needed. A first draft package was prepared for review in early 2026.

4 LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE TWG

Purpose

Led by RGI, the Linear Infrastructure TWG is developing a methodology to identify, categorise, and measure the impacts power grids exert on communities and nature. Its purpose is to enhance Nature- and People-Positive outcomes in electricity transmission and distribution while maintaining landscape integrity as close as possible to its original state. The approach accounts for cumulative impacts from other renewable energy developments and captures the cultural values of communities within these landscapes.

Focus and outputs

In 2025, the group convened scientists, researchers, and NGOs to define appropriate metrics, using bio-indicators within a Pressure–State–Response framework. The methodology strengthens environmental and social baselines, improves post-construction monitoring, and supports adaptive management by clarifying which actions generate positive ecological and social outcomes.

A consolidated set of qualitative and quantitative indicators has been peer-reviewed. In 2026, pilot projects with transmission system operators and practitioners will test the approach to ensure scientific robustness, operational practicality, and real-world relevance.

> ***"The LITWG is critical because grid expansion is accelerating and needs to accelerate further. However, our ability and commitment to manage biodiversity and social impacts remains fragmented. Linear infrastructure, when not properly planned and deployed, can fragment habitats, disrupt ecological connectivity, and drive cumulative landscape effects that site-based assessments often miss. These impacts are avoidable, and our work responds with a science-based framework that links grid pressures to measurable ecological and social outcomes. This framework enables adaptive management and supports Nature- and People-Positive grid development."***
>
> **Antonella Battaglini**, *CEO of RGI*

Interested in supporting us?
We welcome partners to trial the methodology. For further information or inquiries, please contact ***info@gingr.org.***

GINGR Products

In 2025, GINGR focused on practical capacity building, translating evidence into accessible formats that help decision-makers and practitioners plan, monitor, and report Nature- and People-Positive outcomes across renewables and grids.

Two flagship White Papers provide clear entry points: one outlines how the global energy sector can actively contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss while supporting communities, and the other sets out how to integrate nature considerations into offshore wind projects.

Our webinar series complements these outputs with concise, expert-led sessions, with recordings and slides available via the QR code below. Watch out for upcoming events and new publications, and be part of the conversation.

White Papers

Powering a Nature-Positive Future

Sets out a roadmap for aligning renewable energy scale-up with measurable biodiversity and community outcomes, building on the GINGR Navigator work.

Integrating Nature into Offshore Wind Development

Provides a targeted stock take and recommendations for offshore wind, connecting planning, monitoring, and implementation into a coherent pathway.

Webinar series and recordings

The GINGR webinars are designed to be interactive and immediately useful, pairing expert inputs with concrete takeaways and links to tools, papers, and examples.

Navigator-linked deep dives, in line with the UN Ocean Conference 2025:

Global Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP):
A practical tour of MSP frameworks, governance, and policy developments, explicitly building on GINGR's Navigator publication on MSP.

Monitoring Biodiversity at Sea:
An applied session on standardised and innovative monitoring approaches for offshore wind and grids, building on GINGR's Navigator on monitoring.

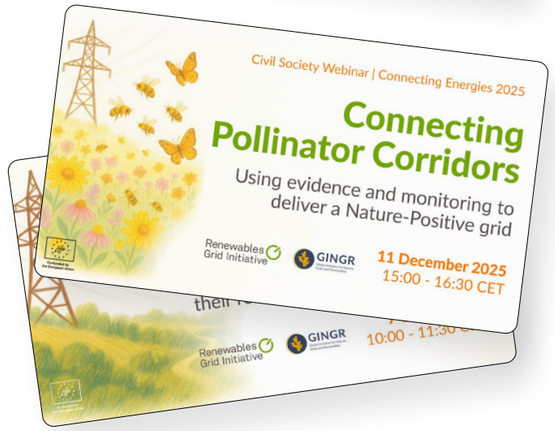
Additional 2025 capacity-building sessions:

Strategic Offsetting (seabirds):
Approaches to residual impacts and the mitigation hierarchy in offshore contexts.

Locating Offshore Wind in Australia:
Smart siting, system integration, and local benefits, with recording available.

Connecting Nature Finance:
Biodiversity credits and the emerging Nature finance landscape, with recording available.

Connecting Pollinator Corridors:
How evidence and monitoring can turn electricity corridors into biodiversity assets.



Explore our latest publications and webinar recordings on our website:

Flagship moments

GINGR's year of technical progress and partnership-building culminated in two flagship international moments: the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi and COP30 in Belém. Together, these platforms allowed GINGR to bring decision-makers, practitioners, and financiers into the same conversation, and to show that rapid renewable deployment must be guided by clear safeguards, practical tools, and transparent metrics that deliver measurable benefits for nature and people.

IUCN World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi

IUCN World Conservation Congress
Abu Dhabi 2025

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress, GINGR stepped into a convening role, bringing ministers and senior decision-makers together for a high-level dialogue on how renewables scale-up can go hand in hand with biodiversity recovery and community well-being. Alongside a short, closed-door finance roundtable, the exchange made one point unmistakably clear: delivery is now the priority, and it must be guided by safeguards and practical tools that prevent new pressures on ecosystems and communities.

Ministers and senior policymakers stressed the urgency of embedding biodiversity safeguards and social equity into national energy strategies, not as add-ons, but as core requirements for credibility and public trust. Panelists called for stronger international cooperation, clear sustainability metrics, and financial frameworks that reward measurable outcomes, so the energy transition becomes demonstrably Nature- and People-Positive in practice.

The high-level panel on Renewables, Grids and Nature Protection was moderated by Tinne Van der Straeten, former Minister for Energy of Belgium. In her closing remarks, she emphasised that "delivering the energy transition requires governments to work across borders and sectors, placing people at the heart of every decision."

COP30, Belém

"We need to make sure that when we are trying to tackle climate change through renewables, we don't create another problem – that's why we need to bring nature, climate and people perspectives to the renewables implementation."

Ali Raza Rizvi, *Director of IUCN's Global Climate Change and Energy Transition Team*

COP30 provided a timely platform for GINGR to bring its work into a global policy and delivery context. In Belém, we highlighted emerging elements of the forthcoming framework and demonstrated why practical, comparable disclosure is becoming essential for governments, financiers, and delivery teams aiming to scale renewables and grids while delivering measurable benefits for Nature and People. COP30 mattered for GINGR because it connected our technical work to the wider international agenda on implementation and accountability and helped broaden the coalition of actors interested in applying and testing the approach.

COP30 BRASIL AMAZÔNIA
BELÉM 2025

A centrepiece of GINGR's COP30 presence was the side event "**Advancing Offshore Metrics for a Nature- and People-Positive Transition**" in the Ocean Pavilion. The discussion focused on how offshore wind and marine grid systems can contribute to climate goals without deepening pressures on marine ecosystems or coastal and island communities, and why shared, consistent metrics and credible indicators are essential for guiding investment, strengthening regulation, and improving project design. By linking robust monitoring, transparent data, and early engagement with those who depend on the ocean, the session showcased how offshore renewables can support biodiversity recovery and community resilience, while advancing the wider GINGR Framework across land and sea.

Our Board

The Advisory Board provides strategic direction to help ensure GINGR meets its objectives, bringing expert perspectives on the practical challenges of delivering climate, energy, and biodiversity targets in a timely, aligned way. Its diverse, geographically balanced membership reflects key stakeholder viewpoints and contributes deep experience, strong networks, and high-integrity leadership committed to Nature and People.

Dr. Karsten Sach
Chairman of the GINGR International Advisory Board

Prof. Rangan Banerjee
Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Dr. Philipp Behrens
Head of Division, Coordination of the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Lori Anna Conzo
Founder, The Nature Collective

Dr. Warren Evans
Strategy Advisor on climate, nature and accountability

Dr. Chengyu Fu
Member of the China National Science and Technology Committee for Carbon Neutrality

Max Levine
Managing Director, CEA Consulting

Yutaka Nakao
DG for Regional Decarbonization Policy / Group Leader, Solar Panel Recycling System, MoE Japan

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal
Global leader of Climate & Energy at WWF and Chair of the IUCN Climate Action Commission

Huub den Rooijen CBE
Strategy Advisor, 3blue

Prof. Dr. Christina Voigt
Professor of Law, Chair IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law

Our Team

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Manager - Communication

Adrián Maté
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2026: From Development to Piloting

2026 marks a significant milestone for GINGR: we will present first versions of the GINGR Frameworks and move decisively from development to application, supporting more consistent disclosure of biodiversity gains and co-created community benefits across renewables and grids. Building on the work of the Technical Working Groups, our priority is to translate emerging thinking and methods into decision-ready tools that can be used by governments, companies, civil society, and the financial sector.

A central focus will be piloting - testing key approaches in real project contexts to validate feasibility, data needs, and usability, and to strengthen guidance through lessons learnt. In parallel, we continue to grow the GINGR community by welcoming (i) partners who want to trial and apply the framework, as well as (ii) practitioners and institutions looking to build on our capacity-building materials - papers, workshops, and webinars - to accelerate Nature- and People-Positive practice across the global energy transition.

What's on the Horizon at GINGR

Decision-ready tools and standardised metrics
Turning outputs from the working groups into practical tools and clear, standardised metrics that help energy actors evidence Nature-Positive and People-Positive outcomes across renewables and grids.

Globally aligned monitoring and reporting
Advancing monitoring and reporting methods that build on established tools and data, enabling credible, comparable disclosure of biodiversity gains and community benefits across markets and project stages.

Collaborative expert exchange
Growing a community of practice across offshore wind, grids, finance, and community outcomes to share lessons learnt, test approaches against real constraints, and accelerate practical convergence.

Pilot opportunities
Expanding pilots with partners to apply GINGR outputs in real projects, validate feasibility and data needs and strengthen what works so it can be replicated and scaled.

Sign up to our Newsletter!

Imprint

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The Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables (GINGR) is a collaboration between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI).

Renewables Grid Initiative

IUCN

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