



Needs and pathways for green recovery plans positive for biodiversity

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Needs and pathways for green recovery plans positive for biodiversity

- ❑ African Development Bank is committed to supporting biodiversity on the continent
- ❑ Links between AfDB priorities and Biodiversity
- ❑ Existing AfDB biodiversity projects
- ❑ Never let a crisis go to waste
- ❑ How do we make recovery plans green and positive for biodiversity?
- ❑ Four ways to increase investment for biodiversity and NbS
- ❑ In conclusion...





African Development Bank is committed to supporting biodiversity on the continent

- ▣ Biodiversity is the key to our ability to respond to change
 - ▣ It is also highly representative of the extent to which we have damaged our environment and upset the complex interactions
 - ▣ It is an indicator of many other parameters which are important to our quality of life
 - ▣ So we definitely need recovery and development plans that are positive for biodiversity
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- ▣ **The African Development Fund (ADF 15) policy commitment on biodiversity: To support ADF countries on biodiversity conservation (including restoration of degraded ecosystems) and on combatting desertification by 2022.**



Links between AfDB priorities and Biodiversity



Light up Africa

- Promote access to clean energy
- Reduce the energy dependence of the poorest and fight against desertification

Feed Africa

- Protection of agricultural genetic diversity to ensure long-term food security.
- The protection and restoration of land, fisheries, etc.

Industrialise Africa

- Improve value chains, enhance biodiversity
- Reduce pollution and take account of the risks and opportunities linked to biodiversity

Integrate Africa

- The conservation of cross-border ecosystems and their biodiversity (West Africa, 28 cross-border basins cover 71% of the territory)
- Great Green Wall, Niger, Chad Rivers basins, etc

Improve the Quality of Life

- Increase support for the adaptation and resilience of local population
- Generating resources supporting green jobs and local livelihoods





Existing AfDB biodiversity projects

- ❑ **Sustainable Management and Conservation of Forests Project in Benin**, jointly funded by GEF for an amount of \$ 2 million and the Bank for approximately \$ 8.8 million
- ❑ **Madagascar:** private sector investments in ecotourism in protected areas
- ❑ **The Lake Chad Biosphere and Heritage project (BIOPALT):** early warning system, income-generating activities and the creation of biosphere reserves.
- ❑ **Great Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative (GGW)** will receive at least USD 14.3 Bn in new funding to fast-track restoration of degraded land, save biological diversity, create green jobs and build resilience of the Sahelian people.
- ❑ **Shea Butter: A market value of USD 120 Mn directly or indirectly employs around 16 million African women** (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, etc.). AfDB is supporting the Shea Butter Subsector which will increase incomes, reducing gender and development inequalities and ensuring inclusive growth





Never let a crisis go to waste

- ❑ **Africa is rich in biodiversity** but has lost as much as 40% in the past 40 years.
- ❑ **Africa's ability to adapt to climate change** is deeply rooted in its biodiversity and if we fail to protect and enhance biodiversity, we will lose options to adapt.
- ❑ **COVID-19 took us all unawares** but it has shone a spotlight on our relationship with nature. C-19 has exposed weaknesses in our socio-economic systems, with significant proportions of the population and the economy badly affected, whilst other are not affected or even benefit.
- ❑ **Ebola** had a similar impact but on a more localized scale.
- ❑ **We must not a crisis go to waste.** We must use C-19 as justification to mainstream biodiversity considerations into our development and recovery plans going forward.





How do we make recovery plans green and positive for biodiversity?

- 1. Stop any actions that are negative for biodiversity** – the Bank applies its ISS which are designed to avoid / mitigation negative E&S impacts. Biodiversity is included but we need to do more and ALL investors need to raise awareness
- 2. Increase actions that are positive for biodiversity.** For example, AfDB has targets to increase climate finance. The Paris Agreement calls for ALL finance to be low carbon and climate resilient.
But DFIs do not have targets for biodiversity Can we change that through the CoP?
- 3. Raise awareness amongst all investors and regulators** of the need for the consideration of biodiversity in development and recovery plans



Four ways to increase investment for biodiversity and NbS

- ❑ **Valuing natural capital** and incorporating biodiversity values into national accounting systems (business case)
- ❑ **Engage the Private Sector** by paying them for biodiversity outcomes – we are seeking to do this for adaptation (google ABM AfDB). This approach could work well for, for example land restoration or subsidizing farmers to maintain local gene-pools
- ❑ **Promote a landscape approach** – like the GGW, Horn of Africa, Lake Chad
- ❑ **Create a Rio Convention Fund** within the AfDB to provide Technical Assistance for capacity building, awareness raising , enabling environment and project development to access existing funds such as the GEF and GCF.



In conclusion

- ❑ Biodiversity is absolutely core to humankind's quality of life on Earth
- ❑ It is under-valued and over-exploited
- ❑ Recent pandemics have shown just some of the impacts of bad management of biodiversity
- ❑ We must ensure that we build biodiversity considerations into public and private financing activities
- ❑ Progress with the UNFCCC – specifically the creation of targets for Development Finance Institutions – could provide some direction
- ❑ We must stop damaging biodiversity; we must start protecting and enhancing it; and we need to mainstream biodiversity in investment decisions.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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