CONNECT: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION INTO THE HEART OF GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING

Objective:

- To help achieve sustainable development by bringing biodiversity information to the heart of government decision making using actionable biodiversity information.

- To ensure biodiversity is taken into account in decision making across government sectors by improving development decision makers' access to and use of biodiversity information and embedding biodiversity information within national development decision making processes.

Contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals

- **SDG 1** (**1.4**): Deliver biodiversity information that supports an existing demand, so project countries can enhance natural resource equity;

- **SDG 2** (**2.3**) : One project country (Ghana) has selected agriculture as their thematic focus, and so will be promoting sustainable practices;

- **SDG 8** (**8.3 and 8.4**): Bring environment and development or sectoral decision-makers together and stimulate discussion on green growth opportunities;

- **SDG 12** (**12.2 and 12.8**): Bring environment and development or sectoral decision-makers together and stimulate discussion on sustainable consumption and production patterns;

- **SDG 14** (**14.1, 14.2 and 14.8**): Promote opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources for sustainable development;

- **SDG 15** (**15.9**): Support and encourage the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems through better access to salient, credible and legitimate data for decision makers.
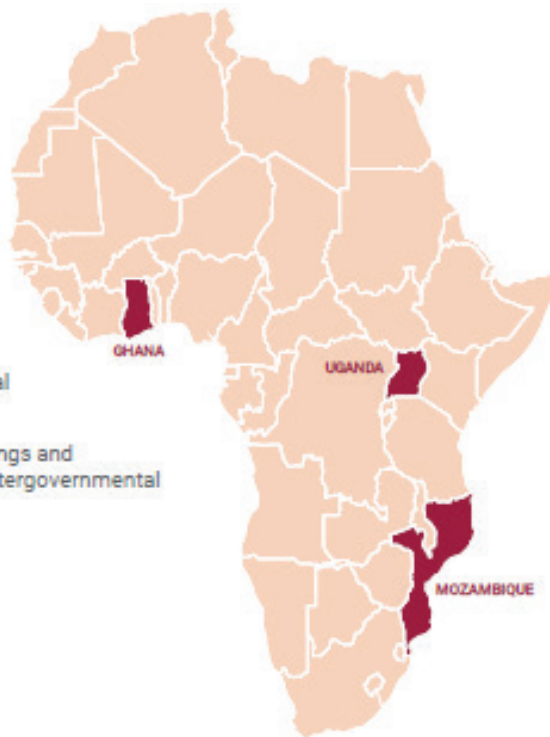
Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- **Target 1**: Raising public awareness to increase the value of biodiversity, its conservation and sustainable use;

- **Target 2**: Biodiversity valuation and integration into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies;

- **Target 7**: Promote sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry to meet the needs of present and future generations;

- **Target 11, 12 and 13**: Maintain and safeguard species and ecosystems and their effective and equitable management;

- **Target 14**: Restore and safeguard ecosystem services for human wellbeing including women and indigenous and local communities;

- **Target 15**: Promote opportunity for biodiversity and ecosystem restoration and contribute to climate adaptation;

- **Target 19**: Share, transfer and apply the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss.

- The Connect project focuses on in depth development of proofs of concept with a small number of carefully selected pilot countries (Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda) to:

  1. Clearly understand the in-country demands for, and the barriers to using, biodiversity information within government decision making including clarifying the format, timing and packaging required;

  2. Mobilize and repackage existing biodiversity data and information from a range of sources (national and international) to meet a number of the above demands; and

  3. Strengthen the connection between government decision makers and biodiversity and ecosystem services data providers in order to sustainably provide policy-relevant, spatially explicit information to meet ongoing national needs.

- Each national team has developed a draft Political Economy Analysis and National Biodiversity Information Landscape Report.

- A National Steering Committee in each country has selected a thematic focus for a biodiversity information product, and are conducting next stage stakeholder workshops.

- At the global level, a Global Communications Strategy and Upscaling Strategy have been published, along with a Global Biodiversity Information Landscape Review.

WHERE DOES CONNECT WORK?

* CONNECT works with the Governments of Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda, to improve both the quality of biodiversity information and its use in critical development decisions.

* CONNECT also works globally, sharing findings and innovations with other countries and with intergovernmental bodies in environment and development.

Further information:

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