

Workshop Outcomes on Biodiversity Financing Held in Lome, Togo and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for Countries in the Africa Region

30TH June and 28TH July 2023

Organized by UN Environment Programme in collaboration with Africa Development Bank and UNEP Regional Office for Africa

Introduction

In December 2022, the 15TH Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Montreal, Canada which saw the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) and agreed on four overarching goals and 23 targets to be achieved by 2050 and 2030 respectively which act as a global action guide to halt and reverse nature loss and people living in harmony with nature.

The KM GBF recognizes there is an existing biodiversity financing gap of \$700 billion per year and to bridge the existing financing gap KM GBF has provided a roadmap to the financing sector to address the planetary crises by increasing nature-positive and drastically reducing nature-negative impacts resulting from nature financing activities.

Nature-positive financing has the capacity to address the needs of achieving sustainable development while supporting a net-zero transition. Some of the actions to support nature-positive financing include mainstreaming nature in decision making processes, assessment and disclosure of nature related risks and opportunities, dependencies, impacts from the financial institutions and businesses, repurposing harmful incentives and scaling up resources aimed at enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. All these actions align private and public financial flows with the KM GBF 2030 targets and 2050 goals.

Nature financing consultative meeting

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) held a consultative meeting with national focal points from the Africa region (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast and Benin), Worldwide Fund (WWF), African Union (AU), United Nations Environment Management Group (UN EMG), and International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF).

The consultative meeting aimed at enhancing countries understanding of blended nature financing mechanisms including nature, climate, and ocean financing at the country level for resource mobilization to finance their set biodiversity national plans and strategies and their alignment to the KM GBF targets and goals.



In this regard, countries were introduced to the role of policy coherence, non-market state actors, financing sector and relevant stakeholders for successful implementation of integrated nature financing. The consultative meeting extracted discourse among the participants on applicability nature financing at the country level and the components required for successful implementation and realization of full benefits from the instruments. In addition, the consultative meeting seeks to understand technical capacity needs at country level regarding integrated nature financing.

Key discussion points and takeaways

The consultative meeting delved into an enhanced understanding of resource mobilization derived from nature through exploring different environmental financing mechanisms. Environment financing allows countries to restore and protect biodiversity, enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation, reduce pollution, access financial benefits from natural resources stocks at a country level, and direct the gained resources towards MEAs, NBSAPs, and KM GBF targets and goals implementation. In addition, the public and private sector, financing sector, local communities, civil society, research, academia, government, and the non-state actors are important to support mainstreaming and implementation of identified nature financing at the country level. Furthermore, information and knowledge sharing are important to increase understanding between relevant stakeholders on nature-based financing and identify what is working, what is not working and how to implement relevant nature financing mechanisms as per country needs and available nature stocks.



Participants focused on the following questions to make specific recommendations for national actions.

- (i) What are the two critical capacity needs at country level?
- (ii) What are the specific follow-up actions you will undertake after this meeting?
- (iii) What will be the role of experts/expert networks in the region to sustain capacity development?
- (iv) How to design the national financing targets?

Key Recommendations from the Meeting

- a) Enhancing the technical capacities of national focal points and focal points from financing institutions, to map and prioritize the existing financing options as well as attracting new financing methods to implement the KM-GBF at the national and regional level.
- b) Create working groups and partnerships among national focal points, AfDB and other financing institutions, WWF, and UN agencies for effective collaboration and implementation of bio-finance at the country and regional levels.
- c) Deliberate involvement of non-state actors in collaboration with line ministries to leverage on political goodwill in support of the implementation and financing of the KM-GBF.
- d) Repurpose and redirect harmful subsidies toward sustainable financing from the financial sector portfolio.
- e) Provision of a training toolkit to enhance capacity on bio-finance for effective resource mobilization to support the implementation of the KM GBF and set national biodiversity targets
- f) Organize technical capacity building workshops on biodiversity finance at country and regional level to further strengthen understanding and integration of biodiversity finance.

Formalizing UNEP-AfDB partnership

The consultative meeting on integrated nature-positive financing saw UNEP and AfDB formalize their partnership to support the implementation of the KM GBF across Africa by establishing an expert working group aimed at supporting innovative biodiversity financing. The focus of the working group would be to provide technical capacity to the different stakeholders involved in biodiversity financing including the financing sector and the national focal points to bridge the existing biodiversity financing gap for implementing the KM GBF. Additionally, the expert working group was bestowed with a mandate to develop a knowledge sharing platform for decision-makers and development partners in Africa to share knowledge, links, opportunities, solutions,

and approaches in support of nature-positive resource mobilization and enhance sustainable development in Africa.



For further information:

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