



WWF *for a living planet*

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African Ecological Futures Scenario Workshop – February 28 - March 1, 2015

Africa's growth story is likely to be one of the defining global stories of the twenty-first century. In many sectors today, Africa stands at a crossroads; the decisions it takes now will have enduring impacts on its people, the opportunities they will be able to access, and the environment.

What are the ramifications of such transformation for Africa's rich ecological base? How best can we reconcile and even integrate the preservation of ecological resources with rapid development? Are there specific regions of interest that must be protected immediately? And are there means to influence the systems in transformation so as to achieve dual – perhaps multiple – outcomes?

The African Ecological Futures (AEF) project, a collaboration between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and WWF, aims to answer these questions. It aims to catalyze a discussion that supports change and creates space for bottom-up innovation to flourish while highlighting vulnerable areas that are most impacted, with the goal of informing decisions today that will shape Africa's tomorrow.

To construct and guide this discussion, WWF and AfDB are hosting a two-day scenario workshop in Cairo on February 28th and March 1st, 2015. Pegasys Strategy and Development, WWF's and AfDB's partners in the process, will manage the workshop and facilitate two days of robust visioning. Participants in the workshop will deliberate on the dynamics and trends that will determine Africa's ecological future, and hone in on key uncertainties that will define plausible trajectories for the continent. Based on these uncertainties the workshop will develop a set of scenarios – i.e. African Ecological Futures.

Scenario development is a valuable tool to help identify where the points of strongest leverage lie. The workshop will use scenario development to shine a light on where, and how, thought leaders and decision makers can influence future development. It will culminate in a shared understanding of which ecological regions across Africa are most vulnerable, and which processes are critical to influence in order to preserve the integrity of ecological spaces and the natural capital they contain.

A select set of institutions make decisions every day that influence Africa's future: the African Union, NEPAD, AMCOW, ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA, the East African Community, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, UNEP, and the AfDB. These form the core group of attendees at the workshop. *Please see a proposed workshop agenda overleaf.*

We invite you to join the event in Cairo and contribute to the discussion on African Ecological Futures.

AGENDA

Day One – Saturday, February 28

Session one

- 09:30 am Welcome remarks and introduction – AfDB, WWF and UNEP
- 09:50 am Overview of the African Ecological Futures project and its goals – WWF
- 10:00 am Overview of workshop process - Pegasys
- 10:30 am Findings of phase one – Pegasys
- 11:00 am Tea / coffee break

Session two

- 11:30 am Overview of the key uncertainties that may drive African Ecological Futures – Pegasys
- 12:00 noon Breakaway group discussion of key uncertainties - All
- 12:30 pm Plenary discussion of group insights – All, moderated by Facilitator
- 01:00 pm Lunch break

Session three

- 02:00 pm Using uncertainties to construct scenarios - Facilitator
- 02:15 pm Group scenario development - All
- 03:45 pm Tea / coffee break
- 04:00 pm Plenary discussion of scenarios - All, moderated by Facilitator
- 04:30 pm Summary of day one insights and overview of day two approach – Facilitator
- 04:45 pm Session close

Day Two – Sunday, March 1

Session four

- 09:30 am Recap of day one and overview of day two – WWF, Facilitator
- 09:45 am Presentation on developmental and ecological spatial mapping - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)
- 10:00 am Development pressures on sensitive ecological systems – Pegasys
- 10:30 am Discussion on sensitive ecosystems and implications - All
- 11:00 am Tea / coffee break

Session five

- 11:30 am Review of scenarios from ecological lens - Pegasys
- 11:45 am Breakaways on enriching scenarios with ecological dimensions
- 12:30 pm Plenary feedback, discussion and insights - All, moderated by Facilitator
- 01:00 pm Lunch break

Session six

- 02:00 pm Exploring responses to ensure ecologically secure futures - Pegasys
- 02:15 pm Buzz groups on opportunities to influence scenario outcomes
- 02:45 pm Facilitated discussion on managing ecological futures - Pegasys
- 03:15 pm Concluding remarks – WWF, AfDB
- 03:30 pm Cocktails and networking
- 04:30 pm Close