

Strengthen integration of Economic planning and Biodiversity

Support transition towards a Green Economy: Building on available information and studies on biodiversity and development provide decision makers in EECAS and the Member countries to make a compelling business/economic case on the role biodiversity in development. As a follow up, all active partners in the Congo Basin are to support this action by compiling information on biodiversity and development linkages (e.g. jobs, wealth creation, livelihood opportunities, disaster risk reduction, GDP growth, revenue and foreign exchange earnings) from landscapes and other sources. OFAC and WRI has a key role to play in creating a standardised framework for Partners to collate socio-economic and spatial data related to biodiversity and ecosystem services values and by consolidating and analysing and presenting data in a format that appeals to decisions makers. Each country should be supported by AWF, UNEP-WCMC, IIED, WRI and other countries who have gone through this process (e.g. Uganda and the African Leadership Group on Biodiversity Mainstreaming) to gather evidence and build a convincing and compelling case on the role of biodiversity in development and the associated trade-offs presented at CBFP MOP 2018. Facilitate national meetings of government officials concerned with biodiversity and development to build awareness, capacity and map the biodiversity and development policy landscape and identify priority areas for biodiversity mainstreaming in national development and sectoral planning and implementation processes. Ensure that next CBFP Facilitation will adjust the TORs of MoP to open scope for engaging a wide range of sectoral actors including the private sector involved in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of forest and biodiversity of the Congo Basin by CBFP MOP 2018.

Session Conclusions

Mainstreaming biodiversity into economic planning in the Congo Basin presents an opportunity to transform the relationship between development and conservation into a positive cycle whereby the protection and restoration of natural systems is created by and results in wealth creation and sustainable livelihoods for the growing populations of the Basin. The Heads of States of the ECCAS have committed to promote the establishment of a Green Economy model for the region and have established a Blue Fund, both of which support the Plan de Convergence of COMIFAC. These ambitions will be achieved through actions undertaken at national, sub-national, landscape and site levels and within institutions of every shape and size. The CBFP brings together expertise and resources that can be mobilised to operationalise the commitments of the Heads of State. Participants in the Stream 2 session on *Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Economic Planning* found ample scope for channelling Partner actions to align with ambitions to operationalise the Green Economy in the region. Focusing on the 12-month period going forward from the October 2017 CBFP meeting, Partners would like to recommend the following priority actions:

- **Build the Business Case for a Green Economy:** Building out from available information and studies, including indigenous and traditional knowledge and values for biodiversity, to provide to decision makers in EECAS and the Member countries as a concerted effort to build cross sectoral support for biodiversity. All active partners in the Congo Basin can support this action by compiling information from landscapes and other sources. OFAC has a key role to play in creating a standardised framework for Partners to collate socio-economic data related to biodiversity values and by consolidating and analysing data. Initial 'Killer Facts' publication supported by data set and analysis presented at CBFP MOP 2018.
- **Revitalise the Partnership:** CBFP Facilitation will review the TORs for the Meeting of the Parties of the Partnership to open scope for engaging the range of sectoral actors implicated in ensuring the forest and biodiversity of the Congo Basin survive into the future. By CBFP MOP 2018.
- **Convene Ministries of Planning and Economy:** Capitalising on ECCAS commitments and convening capacity, engage economic and planning Ministries in country and through

regional processes to build a network of Champions for biodiversity mainstreaming in the Congo Basin. 2018 ECCAS technical session adjoining formal ministerial meeting.

- **Engage and Convene Private Sector:** Partners will make an active effort to engage the private sector actors in landscapes and operations, building internal understanding of the drivers behind resource use and business management decisions and operations, and expanding the network of private sector actors engaged in the CBFP. Continuing with report back on progress at the CBFP MOP 2018, including new Partners invited to the CBFP MOP 2018.