

Finance solutions and biodiversity protection in Africa

Africa has benefited from the development of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) in 2012 at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 11 to address biodiversity conservation finance solutions. It is a joint program of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission, designed as a “response to the urgent global need to divert more finance from all possible sources towards global and national biodiversity goals.” Not all African states are involved fully with BIOFIN, but there is increased uptake and even indirect capacity-building.



Egypt Conducting an economic valuation of the country's biodiversity and ecosystems services according to international standards in order to promote sustainable consumption and the responsible use of natural resources.



Tanzania Controlling and promoting efficient sustainable technologies for charcoal production, thereby reducing the effect of energy consumption on the environment and improving livelihoods. Tanzania is strengthening the implementation of programs for protection and restoration of coral reefs and mangroves, thereby strengthening its climate resilience and safeguarding key ecosystem services, as well as promoting food security.



Mozambique Biodiversity offsets are currently the prioritized finance solution for Mozambique, partnering with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)/ COMBO and BIOFUND to develop a functional mechanism for biodiversity offsets in Mozambique, along with the development of relevant specific regulation, in partnership with the National Directorate of Environment.



Malawi Developing and implementing community-based programs on conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, thereby empowering communities to maintain their environments and livelihoods.



Zambia Imposing a moratorium on fishing of threatened species to allow for natural restocking of the threatened species, thereby ensuring that species' diversity is maintained, food security is preserved and associated livelihoods are not lost.



Botswana Working with the government to revise park fees. The revised fees are expected to be implemented for all national parks, game reserves and all wildlife management areas in Botswana except the Kalahari Transfrontier Park. Botswana is taking steps to promote equitable information sharing by preparing ecoregion-based lists of threatened species and maps of their habitats. Additionally, the country is initiating systematic monitoring and reporting of these species to the Clearing House Mechanism.



South Africa Addressing priority gaps in foundational data for indigenous species and relevant invasive alien species, including documenting the distribution and abundance of priority groups and mobilizing data from specimens in collections.



Madagascar Given its unique biodiversity, Madagascar has been identified as one of the most mega-diverse countries in the world among a total of 17 mega-diverse countries. In order to build resilience, Madagascar is developing and implementing a national restoration plan for priority ecosystems vulnerable to the effects of climate change and desertification, including refuge areas.



Congo Educating women and young people about sustainable production and consumption of endangered species in order to promote awareness of biodiversity values, equitable access to information and species protection.



Seychelles Various finance solutions can be implemented, such as providing incentives (e.g., business tax concessions and increasing awareness of corporate social responsibility) to tourism operators investing in biodiversity conservation, promoting bio-security by enforcing and aligning fines and penalties with other environmental legislation to change behaviors, and institutionalizing the coordination of all biodiversity-related projects and their mainstreaming into economic and annual budgetary planning processes through the establishment of a biodiversity finance unit (BFU).



Cameroon Developing and implementing sector-specific biodiversity targets with action plans by key production ministries in order to protect ecosystem services, advance sustainable growth and align policy implementation.



Burundi Integrating areas under agriculture, aquaculture and silviculture into national, provincial and communal land-use plans, thereby mainstreaming sustainable food production and consumption into development planning.



Zimbabwe Incorporating gender considerations in all laws, policies, strategies, bylaws and mechanisms that govern the management, access and control of biodiversity resources.



Eritrea Promoting initiatives to reduce vulnerability of the population and of ecosystems to the effects of climate change and strengthening national capacities to respond to climate change and desertification. Eritrea is establishing in-situ conservation of wild pasture species, an arboretum and botanical gardens, thereby improving species protection and maintaining genetic diversity.



Sudan Working to reduce to environmentally acceptable levels the adverse impacts of traditional as well as organized gold mining on wildlife and inland waters and marine habitats, thereby maintaining key ecosystems and biodiversity. Sudan is adopting climate-smart farming systems such as agroforestry and agro-silvo pastoral systems that lead to natural regeneration of native species and rehabilitation of degraded areas, particularly in vulnerable areas such as traditional dryland farming.



Nigeria Plans to promote measures to reduce the volume of agricultural waste, fertilizers and agro-chemicals entering rivers and wetlands, thereby improving food security and reducing water and land pollution.



Namibia Developing mechanisms for reporting wildlife crime, creating rewards for information and reviewing mechanisms for prosecutions and appropriate penalties, in order to restore threatened species and maintain biodiversity and incomes.



Mali Developing public-private partnerships to maintain the efficacy of protected areas, as well as facilitating bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the conservation of protected areas.



Benin Developing a coherent conservation system of terrestrial (including mountains, hills and inselbergs) and marine ecosystems built on an ecologically representative and well-connected network of protected areas.