



**AFRICAN UNION BIODIVERSITY**

**STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (ABSAP)**

**2023-2030**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successful development of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and its production has been made possible by the partnership involving the African Union Commission, Member States and committed partners. This stretched from the high-level conference to multiple contact groups and editing teams.

Amongst the several partners, the following merit special mention: the Kingdom of Sweden through support to the Nature Based Solutions and Biodiversity Pillar of the AU Green Recovery Action Plan, the European Union through the Intra ACP Multilateral Environmental Agreements Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), TRAFFIC, the Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Access and Benefit-Sharing Capacity Development Initiative, and Expertise France.

This partnership, that is built on a strong commitment for nature, is also evident to continue throughout the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan.

# FOREWORDS



**H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat**

*Chairperson*

*African Union Commission*

Africa's prosperity is intimately connected to its rich biodiversity and productive ecosystems. This is explicitly recognised in our shared continental development framework, Agenda 2063, which envisions an Africa where our unique natural endowments, our environment and ecosystems, including wildlife and wild lands, are healthy, valued and protected, with climate resilient economies and communities. This is an aspirational vision – much needs to be done if it is to be realised. Pollution, land and sea use change, unsustainable harvesting of natural resources and a myriad of other drivers are threatening our biodiversity wealth, fragmenting and undermining ecosystems, and thereby harming the wellbeing of our people, who rely on the goods and services that these ecosystems provide. If we are to achieve Agenda 2063, we must protect, restore and sustainably use our biodiversity. With the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 (this Strategy), we are providing a framework that can underpin the necessary shifts.

These positive changes cannot be made in isolation. Just as nature is marked by deep linkages and interdependencies, so we must recognise that there is a web of actors across the continent whose contribution to the realisation of this Strategy is indispensable. African Union Member States, as well as Regional Economic Communities and other regional organisations, will be central in assessing needs, coordinating, supporting, monitoring, implementation, and mobilising financing. Non-state actors, including the private sector and civil society organisations, also have a vital role to play. Ultimately, it is our people, our communities, who must be placed at the centre of this Strategy. It is in our communities that deep

knowledge of nature resides, it is them who know best what solutions will work in the lands, forests, seas, lakes, rivers, wetlands and coasts which they rely on for their livelihoods, and it is them who stand to lose most if we fail. Resilient ecosystems will support resilient communities. We know, too, that this cannot be achieved without focusing on those amongst us who are most vulnerable, and therefore we must ensure that our actions are inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups, including women and the youth.

There are other aspects of interconnectedness of relevance to this Strategy, these are the nexus themes that intersect with Africa's biodiversity agenda. We know that protecting and restoring nature assists us in adapting to and mitigating climate change, and in protecting our economies and communities from climate-induced loss and damage. We also know that agriculture is one of the drivers of biodiversity loss, but at the same time relies intimately on biodiversity and, with the right management practices, agriculture can in fact contribute to biodiversity protection and restoration. Indeed, agriculture is just one element of the broader water-energy-food nexus, which intersects in important ways with biodiversity. Sustainable urbanisation, the efforts to develop Africa's blue economy, our research and innovation agenda, health, to list but a few. It is however essential to mention here that these nexus issues are explicitly recognised in our policies and programmes, and that we work towards coherent and integrated solutions.

The Global Biodiversity Framework provides us with a set of goals for 2050 and specific targets for 2030. The year 2030 is also the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Africa has committed to these important frameworks, as well as to a number of other important multilateral environmental agreements, including the UN Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. The African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan builds upon the Global Biodiversity Framework and will help us focus our efforts, mobilise the necessary resources, and play our part in achieving the global biodiversity and development agenda - not as an end by itself, but as a means to Africa's prosperity, which is only possible if we protect and restore nature's wealth.



## Forewords



**Hon. Philda Nani Kereng**

*Former Botswana Minister of Environment, Natural Resources, Conservation and Tourism and Chair of the High-Level Conference on Biodiversity*

The development of this Strategy has drawn on a wide range of inputs from stakeholders across the continent, as well as a number of global and regional assessments. Member States worked closely with the African Union Commission and its partners in laying out a pathway for the continent that reflects local, national, subregional and continental priorities, while also taking into consideration Africa's global commitments. It is therefore appropriate that the vision statement for this Strategy speaks directly to our shared development framework, Agenda 2063, when it calls upon us to ensure that, by 2050, the rich biodiversity and resilient ecosystems across Africa significantly contribute to the aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063. In the more immediate term, we must consider the fast-approaching deadlines for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and Global Biodiversity Framework targets. The Strategy's mission statement therefore commits us, by 2030, to take urgent action to coordinate and support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework across the continent, catalysing synergy and coherence in governance and practice responses to reverse biodiversity loss and increase ecosystem resilience, ensuring equitable sharing of benefits from its sustainable utilisation, with increased biodiversity financing and enhanced capacities for Africa.

The Global Biodiversity Framework provides a roadmap for advancing the biodiversity agenda. This is a framework that Africa has contributed to and has committed to achieving, along with our partners. This also applies to other important biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. While this African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is fully African-owned and shaped by our priorities, it has also been important to ensure alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework. This not only reflects our shared global commitments, but will also ensure efficiency in reporting and streamline our actions.

The Strategy is therefore structured around five pillars: Pillar A - Strengthening biodiversity governance and practice; Pillar B - Sustainable use and benefit sharing from biological and genetic resources; Pillar C - Sectoral mainstreaming and integration of ecosystem-based approaches; Pillar D - Increasing financing for Africa's biodiversity; and Pillar E - Enhancing capacities, equity and inclusion for effective implementation. Under these pillars, a number of intervention areas and priority actions are outlined, with the flexibility to take into consideration national circumstances. The Strategy further outlines several support tools that will be progressively developed to aid the Strategy's implementation including, amongst others, plans for resource mobilisation and communication, education and public awareness.

The adoption of this Strategy is an important milestone, but let us not forget that the real work lies in implementation. The Government of Botswana, along with our fellow Member States, stands ready to work with the African Union Commission and partners to implement this Strategy. We must work together to ensure that our biodiversity and ecosystems are protected, restored and sustainably used to the benefit of our people – in this way, we will ensure that Africa flourishes.

## Forewords



### David Cooper

*Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets the ambition of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. On the path to realising that ambition, clear targets have been identified for 2030, the same year by which we are striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. More clearly than ever before, we have agreed as a global community that human flourishing is impossible without a healthy planet. Africa is immensely rich in biodiversity - it is also a continent of creative, industrious people seeking to build a better future for themselves and for their children. Africa's ability to realise its development ambitions in harmony with nature will play a central part in the achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework. It is therefore heartening to see the development of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as a clear statement of intent and a structured pathway for the continent to restore and protect its biodiversity wealth for the good of people and nature.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACRONYMS</b>	<b>1</b>	3.2.2.2 Strategic Pillar B: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Supporting Sustainable Use and Equity in Benefit Sharing	<b>23</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>2</b>	3.2.2.3 Strategic Pillar C: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Scaling Up Mainstreaming and Implementation	<b>27</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>	3.2.2.4 Strategic Pillar D: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions to Increase Financing for Africa's Biodiversity	<b>31</b>
1.1 Global Concerns and Outcomes from Key Biodiversity-Related Dialogues	<b>4</b>	3.2.2.5 Strategic Pillar E: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Strengthening Capacities and Ensuring Equity and Inclusion for Effective Implementation	<b>34</b>
1.2 Urgency for an African Union Coordinated and Aligned Continental Response	<b>6</b>	<b>SUPPORT MECHANISMS AND ENABLING CONDITIONS</b>	<b>43</b>
1.2.1 Mandate	<b>6</b>	4.1 Programming and Coordination	<b>43</b>
1.2.2 Justification	<b>7</b>	4.1.1 Programmes	<b>43</b>
1.2.3 The Change Option and Utility	<b>9</b>	4.1.2 Coordination Organs	<b>44</b>
<b>DESIGNING AN ALIGNED RESPONSE FOR AFRICA</b>	<b>11</b>	4.1.2.1 Continental Coordination	<b>45</b>
2.1 Purpose/ Objective	<b>11</b>	4.1.2.2 Regional Coordination Nodes	<b>46</b>
2.2 Key Principles and Considerations	<b>11</b>	4.1.2.3 National Level Coordination Nodes	<b>46</b>
2.3 Approach, Methodology and Data Sources	<b>13</b>	4.2 Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Plan for Africa	<b>47</b>
2.3.1 Approaches	<b>13</b>	4.3 Major Support Tools	<b>49</b>
2.3.2 Methodology	<b>13</b>	4.3.1 Monitoring and Indicators Framework	<b>49</b>
2.4 Structure of the Strategy	<b>14</b>	4.3.2 Capacity-building and Development, and Technical and Scientific Cooperation Plan for Africa	<b>50</b>
<b>STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR INTERVENTION IN AFRICA</b>	<b>15</b>	4.3.3 Biodiversity Communication, Education, Public Awareness and Uptake Action Plan for Africa	<b>51</b>
3.1 Vision and Mission	<b>15</b>	4.3.4 Stakeholder Engagement Framework for Africa	<b>51</b>
3.2 Biodiversity Strategic Pillars	<b>16</b>		
3.2.1 Defined Strategic Pillars	<b>16</b>		
3.2.2 Intervention Areas and Priority Actions	<b>17</b>		
3.2.2.1 Strategic Pillar A: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Improving Biodiversity Policy and Practice	<b>17</b>		

# ACRONYMS

<b>ABS</b>	Access and Benefit-Sharing	<b>IPBES</b>	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
<b>ABSAP</b>	African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	<b>IPLCs</b>	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
<b>AEWA</b>	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds	<b>ITPGRFA</b>	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
<b>AGN</b>	African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity	<b>LDN</b>	Land Degradation Neutrality
<b>AHTEG</b>	Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group	<b>MAT</b>	Mutually Agreed Terms
<b>AU</b>	African Union	<b>MEA</b>	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission	<b>NbS</b>	Nature-based Solution
<b>AWF</b>	Africa Wildlife Foundation	<b>NBSAP</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
<b>BBNJ</b>	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction	<b>NCA</b>	Natural Capital Accounting
<b>BIOFIN</b>	Biodiversity Finance Initiative	<b>NCP</b>	Nature's Contributions to People
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>CEPA</b>	Communication Education and Public Awareness	<b>NFP</b>	National Focal Point
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	<b>NTFP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Product
<b>CMS</b>	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	<b>ODA</b>	Overseas Development Assistance
<b>COMIFAC</b>	Central African Forest Commission	<b>OECM</b>	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
<b>COP</b>	Conference of Parties	<b>PA</b>	Protected Area
<b>DSI</b>	Digital Sequenced Information	<b>PES</b>	Payment for Ecosystem Services
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>GBF</b>	Global Biodiversity Framework	<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>IAS</b>	Invasive Alien Species	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>INC</b>	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee	<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
		<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The close of the last decade saw a heightened concern by the global community around the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. This stemmed from the growing awareness of the unprecedented loss of wild species and the threats to ecosystem resilience from climate change and natural disasters, resulting in the loss of productivity of vital ecosystem services. Projections of this regressive trend, based on a business-as-usual scenario, highlighted significant risks to human wellbeing and sustainable development pathways. Recognition of the need for urgent action to tackle this crisis led to the emergence of new, more ambitious global commitments to 2030 targets and 2050 goals under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted at the 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Several other commitments and targets were established through other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) and emerging global agreements related to biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions and plastic pollution.

Africa is host to some of the most intact and diverse ecosystems on the planet, with an extraordinary wealth in nature, which is further enriched by its Indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage. As elsewhere, however, the continent is faced with the challenge of addressing the triple planetary crisis. Increasing human pressures on Africa's natural resources, and inequities in the sharing of benefits from its utilisation, greatly limit the potential of the continent's natural capital to contribute to building resilient communities and economies, as well as address the multiple conflicts and security issues that plague the continent and greatly undermine Africa's efforts to attain the aspirations of the continental development framework, Agenda 2063. Unplanned urbanisation, habitat loss due to land use change, unsustainable uses and overexploitation of natural resources, poaching and illegal trade in wild species, pollution, and invasive alien species have been identified as the main drivers

of ecosystem change, resulting in the loss or threat of extinction of valuable species, as well as contributing to ecosystem fragmentation and degradation across the continent.

Current assessments present Africa as the most affected continent globally from the impact of the planetary crisis, with projections that the continent will experience an increased risk of food, water and energy insecurity, with significant implications for the wellbeing of its people. Developing African economies are further projected to experience the greatest contraction globally in the event of a collapse in the flow of ecosystem services.

The African Union (AU) recognises the urgent need for a coordinated effort across the continent to strengthen regional and national efforts in addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. The African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) (the Strategy) thus provides the opportunity to support the implementation of the GBF. This will help the continent address the expanding demand for land and sea use, and the associated increase in pressures on natural resources, while supporting sustainable use and securing a fair share of benefits generated. In doing so, due consideration must be given to human wellbeing and the need to promote an inclusive society and gender-responsive approaches. This pathway underpins the vision and goals for biodiversity adopted under the GBF and other global biodiversity-related MEAs, to which African states are committed.

The highly consultative process followed in developing this Strategy allowed for the inclusion of diverse perspectives from National Focal Points for the MEAs, experts, Convention Secretariats, stakeholders and partners, as well as incorporating insights from several global and regional assessments. The Africa High Level Conference on Biodiversity, organised by the AU, in collaboration with its partners, from the 30th of May to the 2nd of June 2023, provided the opportunity to engage further and build the consensus required for the development of the Strategy. These deliberations supported the defining of a vision, mission statement, and five strategic pillars for the Strategy.



## Executive summary

### Biodiversity Strategic Pillars



**Strategic Pillar A:** Strengthening biodiversity governance and practice (GBF Targets 1-8)



**Strategic Pillar B:** Sustainable use and benefit sharing from biological and genetic resources (GBF Targets 9, 11, 12, 13)



**Strategic Pillar C:** Sectoral mainstreaming and integration of ecosystem-based approaches (GBF Targets 10, 14 -17)



**Strategic Pillar D:** Increasing financing for Africa's biodiversity (GBF Targets 18, 19)



**Strategic Pillar E:** Enhancing capacities, equity and inclusion for effective implementation (GBF Targets 20-23)

### Key principles and considerations of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

- Alignment and coherent response to biodiversity-related MEAs
- Promoting synergy between the Rio Conventions
- Guidance for regional and national uptake
- Multistakeholder engagements
- Cooperation and collaboration at various scales
- Anchor to Africa's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Alignment with other continental frameworks and strategies (e.g. related to climate change)
- Peer learning and capacity building

### The Consultative Process

- Knowledge drawn from recent global, continental and regional biodiversity assessments
- Consultations with experts across the continent
- Consultations with Secretariats of the CBD, CITES, CMS and the Ramsar Convention
- High-level consultation during the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Conference for CBD and CITES
- National level inputs by AU Member States
- Multistakeholder inputs

Twenty-three intervention areas have been defined as critical in triggering the required shift across the Strategy's different pillars. These interventions are aligned with the GBF targets, as well as targets from other biodiversity-related MEAs. This Strategy recognises the need for a multiscale intervention approach and thus provides, firstly, for priority actions adapted to national realities and the development needs of AU Member States. Secondly, regional and continental mechanisms are defined to strengthen collaboration and cooperation in transboundary shared ecosystems, and in support of efforts by Member States.

This approach will also enable bottom-up and independent action by non-state actors, including the private sector and corporations, civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, taking into consideration gender equality.

Key support tools required to ensure effective implementation of this Strategy will be developed progressively and will include i) a Resource Mobilisation Plan; ii) a Monitoring and Indicators Framework; iii) a Capacity Building, Development, and Technical and Scientific Cooperation Plan; iv) a Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Plan; and v) a Stakeholder Engagement Framework.

Placed under the overall coordination of the AU and under direct supervision of the African Union Commission, the programming approach will strengthen continental and regional coordination for the implementation of this Strategy. Coordination organs will build on existing platforms and partnerships at continental and regional levels, leveraging the capacity of Regional Economic Communities and other regional bodies. Establishing National Nodes for this Strategy will be a priority, as this will support not only the Strategy's domestication and implementation, but also the achievement of commitments made under the GBF and other biodiversity-related MEAs.

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 GLOBAL CONCERNS AND OUTCOMES FROM KEY BIODIVERSITY-RELATED DIALOGUES

The triple crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution that the world faces has been recognised as one of the most significant threats to human wellbeing and the capacity of ecosystems to sustain economic growth, thus compromising the needs of present and future generations.

The role of science has been highly recognised in its contribution to raising awareness on the critical threats of changes in the abundance of species, soil fertility and the health of terrestrial and marine ecosystems as a result of anthropogenic drivers. Fragmented ecosystems have become vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, and in consequence the productivity of vital ecosystem services required to ensure food-water-energy and health security, which are key determinants for human wellbeing, has been compromised. These trends pose a significant threat to economic growth and human wellbeing.

In the wave of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that have emerged as part of a collective global response to these threats, new global agendas have been defined for conservation; sustainable use of ecosystems and sustainable consumption patterns; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and stronger governance, with increased social inclusion of poor communities, for a just transition. The ambition set for significant shifts in these key transitions for biodiversity and climate, is expected to bring the transformational change required to set the world on a pathway to sustainability and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Of overarching importance amongst these global agreements is the 1992 Convention on Biological

Diversity (CBD), to which all African countries are Parties and therefore have a shared commitment to its three objectives of conservation, sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources. In recognition of the limited progress in attaining the global goals set for 2020 under the CBD and the unprecedented increase in biodiversity loss, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted as the main outcome of the CBD's 15th Conference of Parties (COP) in 2022. The GBF establishes global commitments to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030, to ensure biodiversity is sustainably used and managed, and to ensure nature's contributions to people (NCP) are valued, maintained and enhanced.

To attain the 2050 long-term vision for living in harmony with nature, and ambitiously shift from business-as-usual, the GBF sets four overarching global goals and 23 global targets to reduce the pressures from human-induced drivers of biodiversity loss and to protect and restore ecosystems, ensure benefits from the sustainable use of biodiversity, and increase financing for biodiversity. The establishment of two new biodiversity funds set a pathway for the mobilisation of additional resources for biodiversity. These include the new Global Biodiversity Fund, to be operationalised through a special window under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and a multilateral mechanism for benefit sharing from the use of Digital Sequenced Information (DSI), which includes a global fund.

There are other biodiversity-related MEAs with landmark decisions aligned to the GBF. The

## Introduction

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held its 19th COP in November 2022. It commits Parties to regulate trade in commercially valuable wild species, including additional timber and marine species, and to further tackle illegal trade in some of the critically endangered species of the continent, while ensuring that sustainable trade in wild species contributes to addressing livelihood challenges. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is in the process of developing the successor to its 2015-2023 Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, with commitments to be aligned with the GBF. Notable is the CMS 2019-2027 Plan of Action for Africa under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), which provides an operational guide for the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan in Africa.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) is preparing the successor to its Strategic Plan for 2016-2024, aimed at addressing the drivers of loss of wetlands, their conservation and management, and ensuring their wise use. This process provides opportunities for Africa to engage in aligning the implementation of the GBF and Ramsar Convention priorities.

Parties to the Rio Conventions<sup>1</sup> have increasingly called for greater synergies in implementation across the Conventions. Of significance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the GBF calls for minimising the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increasing its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions (NbSs) and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimising negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity. Synergy in implementation of the GBF and the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change provides the opportunity for an effective continental contribution in addressing the impacts of the biodiversity-climate nexus in Africa.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP 15 of 2022 resulted in commitments for enhanced drought resilience through a new partnership model for large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes, and implementation through NbSs. In the 9th Session of the Governing Board of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), which convened in 2022, specific attention was given to the contribution of small-scale farmers to supporting climate-resilient agriculture and nutrition, through their knowledge and the immense genetic value of the local varieties at their disposal. Further to these commitments have been new and emerging agreements related to the GBF. Of relevance is the Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) known as the High Seas Treaty, adopted in June 2023, with commitments for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions. This Treaty provides the framework for achieving a 30% marine conservation target by 2030 in alignment with GBF targets. Ongoing negotiations within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), set up by the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly in 2022, for a legally binding instrument aimed at putting an end to plastic pollution, including ocean plastics, equally highlights the urgency and global concern to protect biodiversity. The expected Plastics Treaty provides opportunities to address the threats that plastic waste presents to the continent, particularly considering that African countries are increasingly becoming the main destinations for global plastic and electronic waste.

In line with the constitutive act of the AU, specifically article 3(d) on common position, the AU has played a coordinating role in these negotiations, helping to ensure that coordinated AU Member States were effectively engaged. This Strategy supports a coordinated approach that will assist Member States in meeting their commitments under the GBF and other biodiversity-related MEAs.

---

1. The Rio Conventions are the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).



## 1.2 URGENCY FOR AN AFRICAN UNION COORDINATED AND ALIGNED CONTINENTAL RESPONSE

### 1.2.1 MANDATE

The adoption of a coordinated approach in Africa to ensure the effective implementation of the GBF and other biodiversity-related MEAs is responsive to the mandate emerging from these agreements. Parties to the global agreements have called for coherence and complementarity between the biodiversity-related MEAs, as well as emphasising the importance of synergy and cooperation at multiple scales of implementation. Within the CBD, COP 15 Decisions 4, 6, 13, and the GBF Preamble highlight the importance of regional coordination as a key consideration in the implementation of the GBF. Goals 4 and 5 of the CITES 2021-2030 Strategic Vision commit Parties to undertake cooperative and collaborative approaches, including regional approaches to support implementation. The CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 also reflects the importance of regional approaches, highlighting the need for partnerships with a range of actors, including regional bodies, to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan.

The call for synergy in regional uptake expressed by the new wave of global biodiversity-related MEAs has generated a sense of urgency for Africa. This effectively aligns with the call for urgency under Agenda 2063 in responding to climate change and ensuring the sustainable utilisation of Africa's biodiversity for the benefit of its people. This Strategy seeks to respond to this call and address the gap in continental coordination and implementation support for AU Member States. The approach in the development of this Strategy is informed by the AU's commitment to support and drive effective implementation of the GBF and other global biodiversity-related MEAs across the continent, including consideration of the linkages to other Rio Conventions.

**“ This Strategy is a bold consensus recognising the unique treasure and deep values of biodiversity across Africa, and the critical role nature plays in the livelihoods and wellbeing of all African people. Highlighting the key roles of nature in climate resilience, assuring sustainability in biodiversity use, and the critical roles played by Indigenous People and local communities, the Strategy can supercharge efforts to deliver on Africa's vision of prosperity and secure its biodiversity and natural assets for future generations.”**

David Obura, Chair, IPBES

### 1.2.2 JUSTIFICATION

#### Africa's wealth in nature

Several biodiversity assessments, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment and Africa Regional Assessment, confirm the value of Africa's biodiversity wealth. Coupled with its Indigenous and local knowledge, the wealth of Africa's biodiversity provides an extraordinary and strategic asset in the pursuit of the continent's sustainable development. Valuation studies on Africa's natural capital, though limited, have established that the flow of goods and services from diverse ecosystems constitutes vital direct support to over 62% of the continent's rural population. These goods and services provide essential assets of food, water, energy, medicinal plants, raw materials, sacred rituals etc. that support key development sectors, generate multiple benefits for local economies, and build resilience against climate change and natural risks and disasters.

Although the ecological footprint of African countries remains low based on their biocapacity, it is established that Africa is one of the regions most negatively impacted by the triple planetary crisis. This ecological footprint is however projected to double by 2040 as nature's capacity to contribute to the wellbeing of the people continues to decrease in the face of growing populations and increasing pressures on land and natural resources. The urgency to address the drivers of change is thus critical for Africa.

#### Drivers of negative and positive change in land and sea use

Over the last decade, unplanned urbanisation, habitat loss due to land-use change, unsustainable and overexploitation of natural resources, poaching and illegal trade in wild species, pollution, and invasive alien species (IASs), have been identified as the main drivers of change in land and sea use, resulting in the loss or threat of extinction of valuable species and ecosystem fragmentation and degradation across Africa.

The fast spatial expansion of urban areas modifies local climate and impacts the quality of ecosystems. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs estimated Africa's population at 1.3 billion in 2020, representing 17% of the world's population; this is projected to grow to 40% by 2100. Africa is the most rapidly urbanising region globally, with 43% of its population living in cities. Africa is projected to transition to a majority urban population in 2030, and a 60% urban population by 2050. Urban growth is associated with rapid changes in land cover. With a sixfold increase in urban land cover projected between 2000–2030, several ecologically sensitive areas are at risk.

Demands for wildlife, hunting and wild meat harvesting have drastically reduced wildlife populations, with an estimated 1.6 - 4.6 million tonnes of wild meat extracted each year in Central Africa, and illegal ivory trade doubling from 2007 to 2015. Equally, demands for wood energy remain high, accounting for more than 80% of primary energy supply, with more than 90% of the population depending on fuelwood and charcoal for energy and cooking.

Regarding opportunities for markets and value addition, Africa is the only continent that derives most of its value from nature through primary production. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that 65% of forest timber value is derived from logging and fuelwood collection, and Africa represents only 6% of global income from non-timber forest products (NTFPs), notwithstanding the large and extraordinarily diverse pool of NTFPs present in the continent.

Africa's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters is highlighted by the 6th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report of 2022. The report confirms that the magnitude and extent of local extinctions predicted across Africa will increase substantially with every 0.5°C increase above current levels of global warming. In projecting a transition to very high risk for food production and the onset of very high risk for biodiversity, the report identifies several key risks including the destabilisation of Africa's tropical

## Introduction

forest carbon sinks; the local extinction of more than 50% of plants, vertebrate and insect species across one-fifth of Africa; the total extinction of 7% - 18% of African species, including a third of freshwater fish, and the loss of more than 90% of coral reefs. Africa suffers an annual average of 62 - 68 natural disasters (2005-2015), which affected 30.9 million people in 2015 alone. Droughts specifically are becoming more frequent and severe, with a 29% increase since 2000, and are projected to affect three-quarters of the world's population by 2050. This increases the risk of food, water and energy insecurity, loss of natural and cultural heritage, reduced economic output and increased poverty.

Future disease trends are equally likely to have substantial impacts. There is strong evidence of zoonotic viral pathogens hosted by wild species and, with the encroachment of human activities into natural habitat, the risk to human health posed by the outbreak of zoonotic diseases is increasing. Though Africa has benefited from increased global responses to outbreaks of epidemics such as COVID-19, Ebola etc., wildlife to human transmissions, exacerbated by unequal access to health services, still leave vulnerable groups in Africa exposed to epidemics of zoonotic diseases. From current patterns of invasions from introduced species and trade-related pests, the past decade experienced a significant increase in the number of total alien species identified in African countries.

Plastic pollution constitutes 10% of solid waste across the continent due to its extensive use and weak capacity to manage plastics. As aforementioned, African countries are increasingly becoming the main destinations of global plastic and electronic waste.

Further assessments highlight that these drivers will increase overall, with associated negative impacts on biodiversity, human wellbeing and economic growth. As a consequence, the number of wildlife species threatened by anthropogenic drivers has increased over the past two decades. Soil degradation has led to the loss of income and reduced wellbeing amongst small-scale farmers. For example, in Ghana, agricultural income dropped by US\$4.2 billion from 2006-2015, representing an increase in national poverty rate of 5.4%. Land degradation has equally

increased household poverty risk by 35% in Malawi and 48% in Tanzania. The World Bank Report on the Economic Case for Nature (2021) presents the global decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services as a developmental issue, and highlights that the economies of low-income countries, which are highly dependent on natural resources, are particularly at risk. Sub-Saharan Africa is presented as the most affected region globally and is projected to experience the greatest relative contraction of real gross domestic product (by 9.7% annually by 2030), in the case of a collapse in ecosystem services.

Understanding of drivers of positive change has improved over the last decade due to an increase in assessments. Protected areas increased considerably across the continent over the last decade in the face of expanding demand for land and sea use and pressures on natural resources. Protected areas established during 2011-2020 represent 20% of the protected areas created in the 21st century, highlighting the strong political will to bring about this positive change. Almost all global regions have exceeded the global target of 17% terrestrial protected area coverage and have identified several important bird areas and wetlands of international importance (Ramsar wetlands). There has been an increase in marine protected areas (MPAs), facilitated by the recognition of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in some African countries, although MPA coverage across the continent remains low. Notwithstanding the management and funding challenges that prevail, Africa's protected area network constitutes a key driver of positive change in maintaining the health of its ecosystems.

From a policy perspective, the last decade saw increased attention across the continent on the development of national policy instruments, though with varied country experiences and capacities. Key national policy actions include the development and submission of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Plans. While these have had positive outcomes in determining national targets and calling for the integration of their respective priorities into sector and development plans, effective implementation remains a significant challenge.



## Introduction

### Biodiversity financing and capacity support

Key challenges to addressing biodiversity loss across the continent are weak capacity to mobilise financial resources and insufficient flows of international finance to support the efforts of developing countries. Efforts over the past decade to double biodiversity financing from international flows and Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and to build capacity through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and other resource mobilisation initiatives, remain insufficient. Several studies and assessments conclusively establish the need for a substantial increase in biodiversity financing in order to tackle biodiversity loss and threats to ecosystem functioning. The Financing Nature Report of 2020 estimated an average biodiversity financing gap of US\$711 billion per year, in respect of a total estimated biodiversity protection need of US\$722 - US\$967 billion per year. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development further highlights that most of the existing financing is accounted for by domestic public finance, which covers 65% (estimated at US\$67.8 billion per year) of these finance flows, while ODA represents less than 9% (estimated at US\$3.9 - US\$9.3 billion per year). Based on various market mechanisms and philanthropic spending, private sector financing for biodiversity is estimated at US\$6.6 - US\$13.6 billion annually.

In recognition of the existing biodiversity funding gap of more than US\$700 billion per year and the need for a phase out or reform of subsidies harmful

to biodiversity (estimated at US\$500 billion), the global community has committed under the GBF to increase biodiversity financing by generating new and additional resources from all sources, including the alignment of finance from climate and financial institutions. A new dedicated fund for biodiversity has been established and a two-phase global strategy for resource mobilisation was adopted. In this context, national financial needs assessments and plans remain key to determine the extent of financial support required by Parties to implement the GBF.

Capacity building remains a core issue for many actors in Africa. Over the last decade, capacity building efforts supported by GEF and other funding partners, together with training/networking initiatives and academia largely focused on strengthening the enabling conditions for policy making. Africa continues to lag behind on capacity for implementation, technical and technological capacity for effective management, access to tools, including information and communications technology, as well as capacity to communicate biodiversity information. Addressing the changing dynamics for biodiversity and climate change demands a strong capacity building infrastructure in Africa that cuts across related processes of policy making, management, and investments in key development sectors, and at continental, regional, national and local levels.

### 1.2.3 THE CHANGE OPTION AND UTILITY

This Strategy recognises that biodiversity loss, climate change, and conflict and insecurity across the continent have greatly increased the fragility of Africa's transition to sustainable development pathways. There is a growing recognition that nature can contribute to livelihoods, a better quality of life and economic growth. This calls for an urgent and ambitious transformative change to address the root causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in Africa. Critical to this process is the need to promote an inclusive society with equity in benefit sharing in order to meet the needs of the people, especially the most vulnerable, and to support the growing African economies. This change option equally underpins the vision and goals for

biodiversity adopted under the GBF and other biodiversity-related MEAs, to which African states are committed.

In defining the leveraging points of Africa's model for change, this Strategy promotes a mix of policy, institutional, management and financial responses at various scales: local, sectoral, national, regional, and continental. These responses are designed to shape the enabling environment and trigger major shifts in addressing the key risks to ecosystem health, livelihoods and economic growth highlighted above. This document therefore has relevance to a wide range of stakeholders.

## Introduction



For the AU, this Strategy will generate multiple benefits. Firstly, the Strategy provides a framework for the AUC and its various high-level biodiversity policy making continental platforms to strengthen their coordination role and policy influence across the continent. This will also strengthen several AU policy tools that are yet to be fully internalised, including amongst others, the AU Policy Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation and the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa. The Strategy provides opportunities to accelerate the uptake of the Maputo Convention on Nature Conservation, which entered into force in 2016, and will also strengthen AUC collaboration and joint implementation of the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan for 2022-2032, amongst others.

Coordinating and ensuring synergy in internalising the global biodiversity agenda, and aligning this to the goals of Africa's Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, will significantly contribute to the realisation of Africa's aspirations for development. As a further benefit, the AUC will be able to clearly capture continental implementation progress on the global biodiversity agenda, based on the predetermined interventions and actions outlined in this Strategy.

In recognising that African countries have different levels of capacity to ensure compliance with their commitments under the GBF and other biodiversity-related MEAs, this Strategy provides the required guidance to strengthen regional and national capacities and implementation efforts, as well as to improve resource efficiency and develop opportunities to leverage international and bilateral

financing. Key beneficiaries at the national level will be CBD, CITES and other biodiversity-related convention National Focal Institutions and their National Focal Points (NFPs), who are tasked with coordinating the process of revision and/or updating of the NBSAPs, the setting of national targets aligned with the GBF, and subsequent monitoring and reporting on implementation. The Strategy will support Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in playing a more coordinated and effective role in addressing regional/transboundary ecosystem-based priorities for implementation and experience sharing.

The alignment of all biodiversity-related MEAs under the GBF will ensure compliance with the resolutions under these agreements that call for regional cooperation approaches to implement their objectives and strategic goals.

Furthermore, the multitude of stakeholders in Africa in want of a continental orientation to inform their action plans, will find in this Strategy a clear basis to anchor and align their commitments within the continent as a contribution towards the implementation of the GBF, and to develop aligned action plans for their institutions and stakeholder groups. As critical partnerships remain key to addressing biodiversity challenges, this Strategy constitutes an important planning tool to inform collaborative arrangements across the continent, to support the development of continental projects for funding institutions, and to frame bilateral and multilateral partnership negotiations. This Strategy will be of great utility in mobilising partnerships and aligning finance for the myriad of biodiversity initiatives in Africa that have been brought under the new biodiversity fund, with opportunities to further galvanise climate financing for aligned biodiversity-climate targets.

# DESIGNING AN ALIGNED RESPONSE FOR AFRICA

## 2.1 PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVE

This Strategy seeks to provide the strategic orientation for a coordinated and aligned approach to ensure that AU Member States comply with their commitments to global biodiversity and climate agreements. Such compliance assists Africa in harnessing the potential of its wealth in biodiversity and ecosystem services,

and the benefits derived from their conservation and sustainable utilisation, and thus ensures that it contributes to alleviating poverty, supporting sustainable growth and building climate resilience across the continent.

## 2.2 KEY PRINCIPLES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The development and implementation of this Strategy is driven by the following key principles and considerations:

**Aligned and coherent response to biodiversity-related MEAs:** To ensure consistency and cost effectiveness in fulfilling the commitments of African countries as Parties to the CBD and other biodiversity-related MEAs, this Strategy has identified the global agreements with a mandate for the protection of biodiversity. In undertaking the internalisation of the GBF as an overarching global framework, this Strategy supports an aligned approach that integrates the globally agreed goals and targets under these biodiversity-related multilateral instruments.

**Synergy between the Rio Conventions:** The strong links and interdependence established between biodiversity and climate action, as well as the drivers of the triple planetary crisis, have resulted in a call for coherence in global, regional and national responses. This Strategy recognises the linkages between the global conservation, restoration, mitigation and adaptation goals, and the aligned benefits

these provide for healthy and resilient ecosystems, communities, and economies. The Strategy therefore seeks to develop synergies through a continental approach to the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and the United Nations Forum on Forests, amongst others. It is recognised that the global biodiversity and climate agendas are complementary, with synergies in fostering green, resilient, and inclusive development. Aligning policies for addressing biodiversity loss and climate action will provide substantial benefits to improving local livelihoods. This Strategy thus takes into consideration related goals in the planning and implementation of the GBF across the continent.

**Biodiversity mainstreaming and integration:** This Strategy recognises the potential of Africa's wealth in nature to stimulate sustainable economic growth, if biodiversity and climate considerations are included in economic development. It thus focuses attention on biodiversity-dependent sectors, recognised as key transitions in Africa's sustainable development trajectory. These production and consumption sectors carry out unsustainable activities that drive significant negative changes in land and sea use, and





## Designing an aligned response for Africa

thus undermine efforts in sustaining investments in those sectors. Focus is equally given to extractive sectors, which have significant negative impacts on ecosystems. Mainstreaming biodiversity and climate change priorities across policies and sectors, including the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and aquaculture sectors, constitutes a key approach to inform development and investment trade-offs, and to support healthy and resilient ecosystems that secure food-nutrition-water-energy production systems and their value chains.

### **Guidance for regional and national uptake:**

This Strategy recognises the importance of taking regional and national circumstances, priorities, and capabilities into consideration during implementation. It thus constitutes a guidance framework to support regions and countries in their implementation efforts. Guidance to RECs and other regional entities or biodiversity support programmes is focused on the development of regional action plans. In alignment to the GBF guidance, this Strategy also recognises the NBSAPs as key instruments for national planning and implementation, and thus calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach at the national level in planning, monitoring, reviewing, and reporting on implementation. NBSAPs will further provide guidance for subnational uptake processes, based on the national priorities in internalising global, continental, and regional goals.

**Multistakeholder engagement:** Recognising the critical role of a wide range of biodiversity stakeholders in Africa, this Strategy calls for inclusive and gender-responsive engagement in all phases

of implementation of the GBF in Africa and in the uptake of this Strategy. This equally calls for the respect of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), women, and youth as major vulnerable groups.

### **Increasing biodiversity finance flows to and within Africa:**

Filling the existing gaps in biodiversity financing and effectively managing protected areas represent major challenges for the successful implementation of this Strategy. Developing a resource mobilisation plan for Africa is therefore a priority. It is important that actors collaborate to facilitate access to the newly created global biodiversity funds, as well as other financing institutions and funding sources, to increase resources for Africa and to effectively assess the flow of biodiversity financing to Africa. Ensuring a high-level commitment to a substantial increase in domestic financing across AU Members States is relevant and necessary.

### **Cooperation and collaboration:**

A cooperative framework for the effective implementation of this Strategy is important. This Strategy calls for cooperation across Africa to share experiences at transboundary or landscape/seascape levels to strengthen implementation, and to collaborate on thematic issues for focused actions relevant to specific targets.

### **Relationship with Africa's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:**

The vision, goals, targets, and indicators for this Strategy are aimed at contributing to attaining the aspirations of Africa's development agenda and the SDGs.

## 2.3 APPROACH, METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

### 2.3.1 APPROACHES

The development of this Strategy is structured on a variety of approaches. Firstly, the working approach involved setting up a team within the AUC, which included experts from across the continent. The team worked with representatives of the AU and supported partner organisations by providing relevant orientation, guidance, and documentation. Experts on thematic issues were constituted as working groups within the AUC to provide inputs. The final working approach consisted in the collation of the information collected from the various processes, to produce a preliminary draft. This draft was examined by a wider group of experts, and all comments were reviewed and integrated to produce a draft Strategy document that was submitted and used as a working document during the Biodiversity Conference and its High-Level Segment held from the 30th of May to the 2nd of June 2023 in Addis Ababa, convened by the AU. Through plenary sessions, parallel sessions, break out groups and expert presentations, substantive input was provided to further develop the Strategy. The methodology that was used is detailed below.

### 2.3.2 METHODOLOGY

Data was collected from a variety of sources, including the relevant biodiversity-related convention websites, for information on their mandates, resolutions and specific strategic orientations. This informed efforts to take advantage of synergies in a continental response and support coordinated uptake and implementation by AU Member States.

Knowledge from recent biodiversity assessments within the Convention frameworks, especially the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, the IPBES Global Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and associated regional assessments and several continental and regional assessments helped inform the review of the state of Africa's biodiversity, including its contribution to human wellbeing and economic growth across the continent, and in identifying the gaps in biodiversity governance, financing and capacity development that need to be urgently addressed. Special attention was given to the indicators of the GBF to better understand the underlying intent of each GBF goal and related targets.

In keeping with the key principle for a multistakeholder engagement approach, several consultations were carried out with selected experts across the continent, as well as the Secretariats of the CBD, CITES, CMS and Ramsar Conventions.

The AU High-Level Conference on the Implementation of the Outcomes of the CBD COP 15 and CITES COP 19 was the key platform for engagement on the draft Strategy. Organised by the AUC from the

30th May to 2nd June 2023, the Conference was attended by 19 Ministers, Senior Officials and Experts from 44 AU Member States, representatives from RECs, United Nations agencies, international and regional conservation organisations, and civil society organisations. The Conference provided a platform for AU Member States, partners and other relevant stakeholders to conceptualise the Strategy. The task entailed the formulation of the strategic pillars, actions, vision and mission of the Strategy. Following the Conference, countries were requested to hold further consultations at the national level and provide comments on the draft Strategy through the AUC by August 2023. The revised draft was then presented for consideration to the fifth ordinary session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC - ARDWE) held from the 14th to 18th of November 2023 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Specialised Technical Committee endorsed the Strategy and requested the AUC develop a programme to facilitate its implementation as a vehicle for supporting Member States' efforts to meet their commitments under the GBF at the national level. The African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was subsequently endorsed by the 37th AU Summit held from the 17th to 18th February 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, through EX.CL/Dec.1-28(XLIV).

Following its endorsement by the AU Summit, the AUC launched the development of the annexes to the Strategy, with an initial focus on the Resource Mobilisation Plan for the implementation of the Strategy.



### 2.4 STRUCTURE OF THE STRATEGY

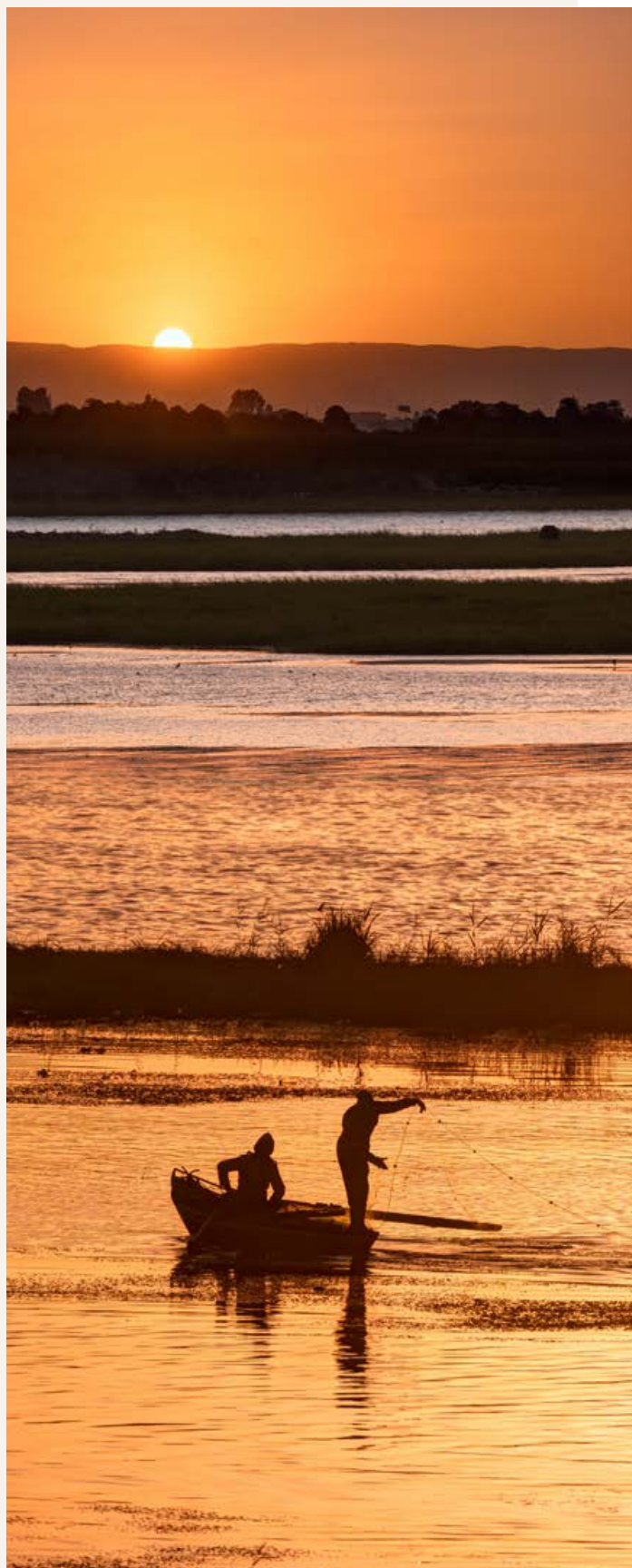
This Strategy is presented as a four-part document.

**PART 1** sets the stage by examining the global concerns around the increasing trend of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and explores the outcomes of a wide range of recent multilateral dialogues and agreements. It highlights the ambitious commitments to achieve transformative change in reversing biodiversity loss, thereby ensuring that humanity is on a sustainable development trajectory. Such a trajectory will support harmony with nature, as it protects biodiversity, restores degraded lands, generates benefits, and builds the resilience of ecosystems, communities and economies against the impacts of climate change. The section further provides background on the value of Africa's biodiversity and its potential for supporting sustainable growth and development. In highlighting the challenges and shortcomings in current efforts to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and threats to ecosystems, it provides justification for urgent action across Africa and underscores the importance of the AU's role in supporting a coordinated approach to the implementation of global biodiversity and climate change goals by AU Member States and regional actors.

**PART 2** of this Strategy presents the key purpose for designing a continental approach and the key principles and considerations that have informed this process. It further provides a detailed account of the consultative and multistakeholder approach and methodology adopted in the Strategy's development.

**PART 3** of the document constitutes two key sections. The first section presents Africa's vision and mission for biodiversity, while the second section details the aligned approach to the GBF, through five strategic pillars. In recognising the challenge of reconciling common positions within a continental approach, this Strategy defines 23 intervention areas and provides a framework for priority actions to be undertaken by AU Member States, with the flexibility to take into consideration national circumstances. It further defines regional and continental-level actions in support of implementation by Member States.

**PART 4** is focused on support mechanisms for the effective implementation of both the GBF and this Strategy. In Part 4, the document defines a programming approach for implementation, identifies coordination organs and provides guidance for the subsequent development of key implementation mechanisms, as annexes to this Strategy.



# STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

## 3.1 VISION AND MISSION

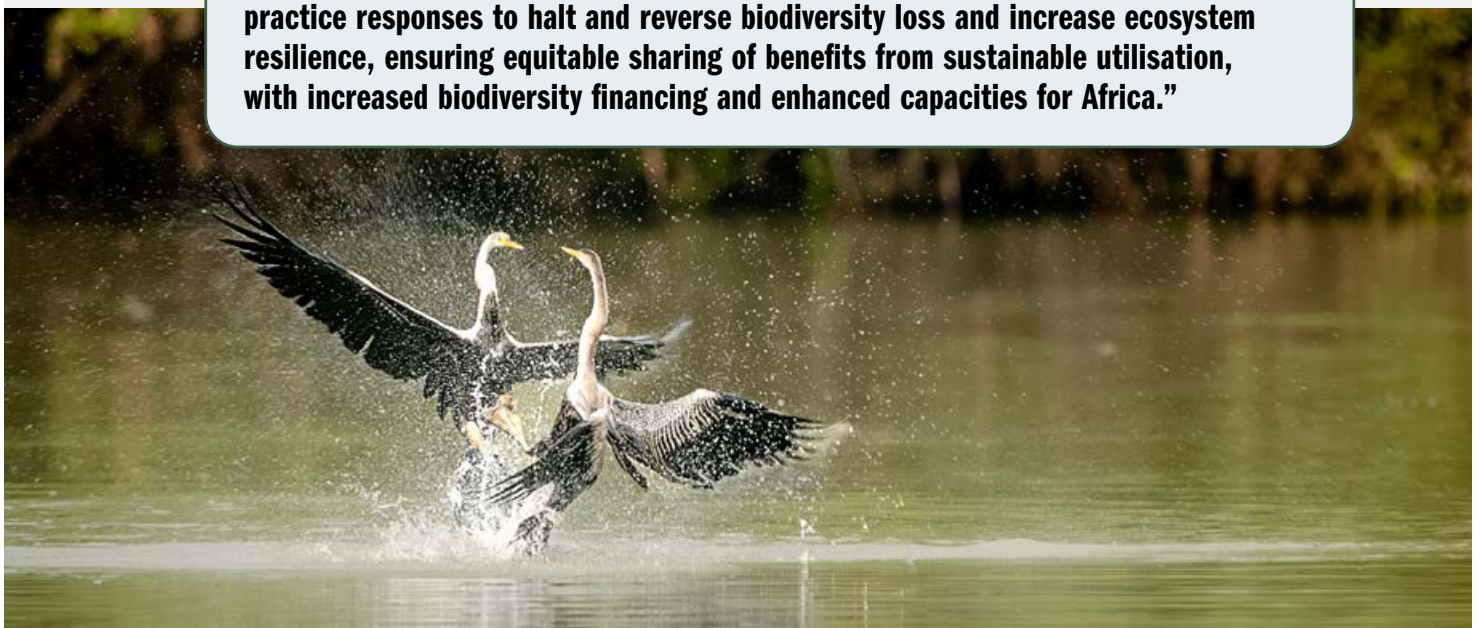
This Strategy aligns the vision and mission of the GBF with Africa's Agenda 2063, and is thus anchored on aspirations for a prosperous Africa where the continent's unique natural endowments, its environment and ecosystems, including its wildlife, wild lands and ocean, are healthy, valued and protected, with climate resilient communities and economies.

As a vision statement for this Strategy:

**“By 2050, the rich biodiversity and resilient ecosystems across Africa significantly contribute to the aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063.”**

To attain this long-term vision, this Strategy is set on a 2030 mission that corresponds to the timeframes of the GBF:

**“By 2030, urgent action is taken to coordinate and support implementation of the GBF across the continent, catalysing synergy and coherence in governance and practice responses to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and increase ecosystem resilience, ensuring equitable sharing of benefits from sustainable utilisation, with increased biodiversity financing and enhanced capacities for Africa.”**





### 3.2 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIC PILLARS

Based on its mission, this Strategy defines key systems that are critical to transforming Africa's development pathway, with changes that result in reducing biodiversity loss and threats to ecosystem health, supporting sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits, and effectively mainstreaming and integrating biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into national and societal processes. To ensure these desired outcomes are achieved, the Strategy further defines a system of significant change with increased financing for biodiversity and strengthened capacities and decision-making processes that are inclusive and gender responsive.

The design of each system of change is supported by the Strategy's strategic pillars, which are aligned with the global orientation of the overarching goals and targets of the GBF and also takes into consideration the strategic goals of other biodiversity-related MEAs. These pillars reflect the global commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and build resilience to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. These global agreements all recognise the importance of ensuring that biodiversity is used and managed sustainably, and that the contributions this brings to people are valued, and benefits are shared equitably to support the attainment of the SDGs.

#### 3.2.1 DEFINED STRATEGIC PILLARS

The objectives that underpin each strategic pillar are as follows:



##### **Strategic Pillar A: Strengthening biodiversity governance and practice**

To strengthen and catalyse synergy and coherence in policies and actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and build the resilience of ecosystems across Africa. (GBF Targets 1-8)



##### **Strategic Pillar B: Sustainable use and benefit sharing from biological and genetic resources**

To promote the sustainable use of biological resources and ensure access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilisation. (GBF Targets 9, 11, 12, 13)



##### **Strategic Pillar C: Sectoral mainstreaming and integration of ecosystem-based approaches**

To strengthen biodiversity mainstreaming and the integration of ecosystem-based approaches within and across all levels of government and development sectors, particularly those with significant impacts on biodiversity, to ensure an aligned biodiversity and climate action response. (GBF Targets 10, 14 -17)



##### **Strategic Pillar D: Increasing financing for Africa's biodiversity**

To mobilise and increase the level of financial resources for Africa's biodiversity, from all sources, including through international and domestic public and private resources in accordance with Article 20 of the CBD, and ensure equity and accountability with regards to access to these resources. (GBF Targets 18, 19)



##### **Strategic Pillar E: Enhancing capacities, equity and inclusion for effective implementation**

To enhance capacities and ensure equity, inclusion and gender responsiveness for effective implementation across all pillars of this Strategy. (GBF Targets 20-23)

### 3.2.2 INTERVENTION AREAS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

The defined strategic pillars draw from a decade of experience across AU Member States in implementing the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and the Aichi biodiversity targets. Further, according to assessment findings of the efforts made and key challenges encountered, each strategic pillar is designed to fill the gaps identified based on Africa's circumstances. To achieve the objectives of each strategic pillar, intervention areas that are critical in triggering the shift across the five pillars have been defined. These intervention areas directly support the achievement of the targets of the GBF and aligned targets of other biodiversity-related MEAs.

Africa's model for a shift in the five strategic pillars and nested intervention areas recognises the need for a multiscale approach with options that are adapted to the realities of national circumstances and development needs. Actions within each of the intervention areas assist AU Member States in

setting priorities, with due consideration of the socio-cultural and economic circumstances of each country. Member States will implement these actions through national and subnational priorities and programmes, as well as encourage and enable bottom-up and independent action by non-state actors, including the private sector and corporations, civil society organisations, and IPLCs, taking into consideration gender equality.

The Strategy recognises the critical role of regional and continental approaches to support Member States in their efforts in attaining the objectives of each pillar and in strengthening collaboration and cooperation in transboundary ecosystems. A set of broader regional and continental mechanisms are defined as priorities in support of each strategic pillar, to support alignment and synergies in providing responses across the continent.

#### 3.2.2.1 Strategic Pillar A: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Improving Biodiversity Policy and Practice

The strategic objective of this pillar is to strengthen and catalyse synergy and coherence in policies and actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and build the resilience of ecosystems across Africa.



##### Intervention Areas

In the past decade of responses within Africa to reduce extinctions and the decline in species abundance, and to maintain or restore ecosystem health, the role of NBSAPs has been established as a main implementation mechanism for supporting policy changes and the adoption of sustainable practices at various scales. These policies and practices, however,

remain insufficient to redress the anthropogenic factors that drive changes from unsustainable uses and increasing demands on land/seascapes. In an increased ambition to improve the policy and practice framework for biodiversity action within this decade, Pillar A of this Strategy defines eight intervention areas for actions across the continent, aligned to the GBF targets 1-8 and relevant targets of other biodiversity-related MEAs.

GBF Target 1 calls for all areas to be under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes to regulate the allocation of different uses and to minimise conflicts between them, and to bring close to zero the loss

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

of key areas for biodiversity and of key natural assets supporting peoples' livelihoods and national economies. Targets 4-8 address the direct drivers of biodiversity loss – land and sea-use change, direct exploitation, pollution, IASs and climate change. With current high losses of ecosystem functions and services across many lands and waters, Target 2 provides for restoration, not only to more natural conditions, but also of biodiversity benefits to people, including through productive sectors and sustainable use. Target 3 calls on Parties to ensure that at least 30% of terrestrial, inland waters, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).



### Priority Actions

Defined interventions to effectively address pressures from direct drivers of biodiversity loss and ensure protection and restoration/recovery measures, are supported by a rich blend of bottom-up actions for each intervention area, to be undertaken by AU Member States and implementation partners across all land and seascape levels. A new wave of revised NBSAPs, policy reforms or, as appropriate, regulatory measures with management tools, will be put in place to integrate these effectively and hold all actors accountable at local, sectoral and national levels (A1). These priorities equally include policy, networking and collaboration support actions amongst countries, defined at subregional and continental levels (A2).

### Matrix of Intervention Areas and Priority Actions to Improve National Biodiversity Policies and Practices (A1)

**Table 1: A1 - Improving biodiversity policy and practice**

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Land and sea use planning (Target 1)</b>	Complete and implement land and sea use plans at subnational and national scales, with specific objectives to reduce close to zero the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity.	Supports all GBF targets through spatial allocation.	CITES Goal 1 (Obj. 1.1.) Ramsar Target: 9
	Conduct periodic National Biodiversity Assessments that identify and map areas of high biodiversity importance (in particular, Key Biodiversity Areas), and ecologically representative areas.		
<b>Effective ecosystem restoration (Target 2)</b>	Develop and review policy and planning tools that identify and map degraded ecosystems and prioritise areas for restoration in the context of national restoration commitments targeting at least 30% of degraded areas.	Targets 4 and 5 (species and their use) Target 3 (in Protected Areas (PAs), and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs))	CITES Ramsar Targets: 7 and 12 UNCCD
	Promote the documentation, sharing and use of knowledge to support adaptation, innovation and decision-making in rehabilitation and restoration practices.	Target 8 (climate mitigation and adaptation)	
	Identify and promote restoration and rehabilitation actions and best practices targeting specific outcomes for biodiversity and people, including the use of climate resilient and economically valuable species.	Targets 9 and 10 (sustainable use and production) Target 11 (NCP, hazard protection)	UNCCD CITES Goal 1
	Develop guidance and principles for restoration and management that are inclusive, to motivate local actors.	Target 12 (urban biodiversity and benefits)	CITES Goal 1

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Effective conservation and management of land and sea (Target 3)</b>	Develop policy and planning tools that expand coverage of PAs and OECMs, including areas of high biodiversity importance, and are representative of important ecosystem types, and thus constitute national contributions to the global target of at least 30% land and 30% ocean cover.	Target 1	CITES Goal 1 (Obj. 1.1.) Ramsar Targets: 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12
	Encourage countries to ratify the High Seas Treaty and start coordinating on its implementation to seek the designation of biodiversity hotspots in the high seas as PAs covering at least 30% of the high seas.		
	Improve the effectiveness and support the management of existing PAs and OECMs.		
	Integrate identification and mapping of key biodiversity areas in PA/OECM expansion and management plans.		
<b>Halt human-induced extinctions and maintain and restore genetic diversity (Target 4)</b>	Develop or revise policies to protect threatened and endangered species from extinction and to maintain and improve genetic diversity.		CITES Goal 1 (Obj. 1.4.) Ramsar Targets: 7 and 12
	Identify, develop and support the implementation of plans for the conservation, recovery and management of threatened and endangered species to halt extinctions and maintain genetic diversity.		CITES Goal 1 and 4
	Undertake or update national red list assessments for species and ecosystems.		CITES
	Develop and implement human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures.		
<b>Sustainable use, harvest and trade in wild species (Target 5)</b>	Develop or revise existing legislation, policies and regulations to ensure the use and trade in wild species is sustainable and legal, including migratory species, does not contribute to pathogen spill over, and takes into account Indigenous and customary use.	Targets 22 and 23 GBF Principles (paragraphs 6-22) Targets 9 and 10	CITES
	Ensure all wild species threatened by unsustainable direct exploitation are identified, monitored, and adequately protected from unsustainable harvest, use and trade and restored through effective recovery interventions.		CITES Goal 3 (Obj. 3.5.)
	Implement and/or strengthen control and enforcement measures to combat illegal wildlife trade and unsustainable use of wild species (such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing).	Mainstream	CITES Goal 3 (Obj. 3.5.)



## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Sustainable use, harvest and trade in wild species (Target 5)</b>	Promote and strengthen ex situ conservation and value addition to reduce pressures and demands on wild species.	Mainstream	
	Develop inventories of wild species, existing uses, and opportunities for valorisation.		
	Create a data bank/base of valuable wild species.		
	Ensure samples of all valuable wild species and their varieties/distinct populations are stored in accredited African biobanks.		
<b>Mitigate or eliminate the impacts of Invasive Alien Species (Target 6)</b>	Develop or strengthen policies to prevent the introduction and spread of IASs, and to control and minimise the impact of IASs on biodiversity, reducing the rate of introduction and establishment of other known or potential IASs by at least 50%.	Target 14 (mainstreaming)	CITES Ramsar Target: 4
	Identify and establish or update national data on IASs, including their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and undertake priority actions across sectors to eliminate, control and minimise threats.		
<b>Reduce pollution risks and impacts from all sources, in particular excess nutrients, pesticides and plastics (Target 7)</b>	Develop or review and strengthen the implementation of policies and regulations to combat pollution from all sources.	Target 14 (Mainstreaming) Legislation supports these actions	CITES Ramsar Targets: 5, 7, See Plastic Treaty, BRA Minamata Convention on Mercury The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
	Establish relevant infrastructure, systems and policies to manage hazardous or chemical waste.	Target 15 (producer actions) Target 16 (consumer actions)	Basel Convention
	Undertake actions to reduce risks from excess nutrients, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals to the environment by at least 50%.		Basel Convention
	Implement actions to reduce the risks and negative impacts of pollution from land and ocean plastics through the reduce, reuse and recycle approach.		Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions
	Upon adoption, ensure the signing and ratification of the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty, and commence implementation to protect ocean biodiversity.		BRS Conventions

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Minimise the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, support mitigation and adaptation (Target 8)</b>	Identify alignments between NDCs and NBSAPs to strengthen national implementation and resource mobilisation including through the identification, ranking and prioritisation of ecosystem-based approaches and NbSs appropriate for implementation within national contexts.		UNFCCC
	Identify, prioritise and promote actions that support ecosystem health and climate resilience for natural and altered ecosystems, and link to appropriate conservation and restoration objectives.	Target 2	CITES Ramsar Targets: 7 and 8 UNFCCC (NDC)
	Implement ecosystem-based approaches and, where appropriate, NbSs within the context of local and community needs, and subnational and national jurisdictions.		

### Matrix of Regional and Continental Support Processes for Improving National Biodiversity Policies and Practices (A2)

**Table 2:** A2 - Regional and continental frameworks to support Pillar A

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Policy development</b>	Ensure the development of strategic policy orientations with guidelines that define priorities for internalising the goals of this Strategy and GBF commitments including other biodiversity-related MEAs in relevant continental / RECs policy and other policies such as the African Continental Free Trade Area leveraging the coordination opportunities offered by existing RECs, regional commissions and transboundary collaborative organs for shared ecosystems.	<p>Develop policy guidelines for national and regional uptake and alignment of global biodiversity goals and related MEAs.</p> <p>Develop an AU strategy on zoonotic disease emergence and transmission from wildlife.</p> <p>For effective implementation of the GBF, the AU should consider ratifying the CBD.</p> <p>Update and/or ensure operationalisation and national and regional uptake of existing AU policies, policy guidance and strategic tools that provide orientation and guidance on key thematic issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An African revised Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; and</li> <li>An Africa-wide restoration plan and programmes, specific species plans, and a plan for combating the illegal exploitation of wild species.</li> </ul> <p>The AUC is to play an advocacy role and raise high-level political will in the continent to support implementation of the GBF and other biodiversity-related MEAs.</p>

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Programmes</b>	<p>Strengthen the collective management of transboundary or shared ecosystems and landscapes/seascapes, including PA management and the management of specific species.</p> <p>Strengthen and support transboundary ecosystem restoration programmes and provide opportunities for sharing cross regional/transboundary experiences.</p> <p>Develop and support joint work programmes with other MEAs including the AEW Africa Initiative, based on regional priorities of range states of migratory wild species.</p> <p>Develop genetic management guidelines for transboundary species to prevent the genetic contamination of species and their populations.</p> <p>Strengthen and support regional cooperation to prevent and combat transboundary movement and crime in illegal wildlife trade, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, etc.</p> <p>Ensure Regional Free Trade Deals with products from sustainably managed land and seascapes.</p>	<p>Ensure effective PA management at national and regional levels taking into consideration the Kigali Call for Action of the Africa Protected Area Congress.</p> <p>Ensure Free Trade Zone policy in continental deals with products from sustainably managed land and seascapes.</p>
<b>Alignment and coordination</b>	<p>RECs and other regional bodies (e.g. Southern African Development Community (SADC), Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Regional Seas bodies, etc.) to support, coordinate and build capacity for implementation of priority actions.</p> <p>Regional networks to enhance experience sharing and capacity building for policy development, implementation, monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>Facilitate establishment, dialogue and exchange within and across respective regional platforms for MEAs and NFPs.</p> <p>Create a framework or platform for different actors (including the private sector) to come together for implementation of the GBF.</p>	<p>AUC to establish a critical partnership for continental coordination and capacity building for policy development and monitoring of progress in implementation across the continent. (Through assessments and reporting to AU Political Organs and processes).</p> <p>AUC and the Biodiversity Policy (or Governance) Coordination Group to facilitate cross regional dialogues and dialogues with other continents for experience sharing.</p> <p>AUC and Biodiversity Policy Coordination Group to coordinate the development of regional common positions to inform global biodiversity negotiations. Convene a Heads of State meeting on illegal timber trade, chaired by the AU, to engage with leaders of key consumer states, raise the profile of illegal timber trade globally and secure enhanced resources to address it and develop mechanisms that will secure long-term legal and sustainable timber trade from AU Member States, to benefit economies, communities and ecosystems across the continent and globally.</p>

### 3.2.2.2 Strategic Pillar B: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Supporting Sustainable Use and Equity in Benefit Sharing

Under this strategic objective, this Strategy seeks to increase access to benefits from Africa's wealth in nature and unique traditional knowledge to the benefit of people and nature, and to ensure equity in distribution, while ensuring the sustainability of the resource, to meet the needs of the people, especially the most vulnerable populations, in Africa.



#### Intervention Areas

Efforts across the continent to unlock the potential of the multiple uses of diverse ecosystem services, including access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and DSI, and thus generate increased benefits for livelihoods and conservation efforts in Africa are faced with challenging equity gaps in the sharing of benefits.

In an ambition to redress these inequities and ensure the potential of Africa's wealth in biodiversity supports the livelihoods of over 1.3 billion people and national economies across the continent, Pillar B identifies four intervention areas. Aligning to the relevant targets of the GBF, Target 9 focuses on sustainable use of wild species to provide social, economic and environmental benefits. Broader benefits from the contribution of nature and multiple ecosystem services to people are covered by Target 11, while benefits of pleasure from natural spaces in urban areas are covered by Target 12. Access and benefit sharing from genetic resources and derived products such as DSI, and associated traditional knowledge are addressed by Target 13.



#### Priority Actions

The actions required to fill the current gaps in ensuring access and equity in sharing benefits, include a range of national priority actions defined with a focus on stronger policy frameworks and strengthened implementation, increase in access to benefits from multiple uses and equity in benefit-sharing mechanisms. There is flexibility for Member States to strengthen existing policy frameworks and capacities to access benefits from biological resources, including genetic resources, DSI and resources beyond national jurisdictions, and to adhere to relevant global agreements. Strengthening management and recovery plans for diverse valuable wild species and recognising the multiple values of ecosystems will ensure the generation of increased benefits from sustainable use. To fill the implementation gaps of existing national ABS frameworks, defined actions include stronger regulatory measures with ABS coordination and administrative arrangements, and the putting in place of viable benefit-sharing arrangements between resource owners and users of biological and genetic resources for diverse purposes, especially industries. Emphasis is placed on the recognition of IPLCs as the most effective stewards of biodiversity. In this regard, a shift to fair access and benefit sharing, as well as support to traditional knowledge holders, will provide greater incentives for conservation and sustainable use practices. Capacity building for regulators, traditional knowledge holders and community resources users/owners to engage in beneficial ABS negotiations is a key action. The national priority actions (defined as B1) will be supported by defined regional and continental collaborative and cooperation measures (defined as B2).



## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

### Matrix of Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Increasing Access to Benefits from the Sustainable Use of Nature (B1)

**Table 3: B1- Intervention areas and priority actions for supporting and ensuring the sustainable use of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits**

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Sustainable use and management of wild species (Target 9)</b>	Identify valuable wild species and develop actions and management and recovery plans at subnational and national levels to assure the sustainable use and benefit sharing from diverse wild species, and recognising customary use rights and traditional knowledge.	Target 5 (enforcement in illegal trade) Target 22 (protection of the rights of IPLCs)	Ramsar Target: 10 CITES Goal 2 (Obj. 2.1.)
	Support the implementation of management plans for valuable wild species and determine the social benefits from the sustainable utilisation.		
	Take legislative, policy and regulatory reforms to protect the rights of IPLCs, secure their land/resource ownership and use rights, and develop planning tools with orientation on the integration of their rights in sector plans.		
<b>Nature's contributions to people and ecosystem services (Target 11)</b>	Inventory and define appropriate ecosystem-based approaches and NbSs for NCP delivery, suited to national contexts.	Target 8	Ramsar Targets: 5 and 12
	Develop incentive structures to promote implementation, for the benefit of people and nature.		
	Document and valorise practices and traditional knowledge in matters of conservation of nature.		
	Integrate the management of ecosystem services in policies, programmes and strategies.	Target 14 (mainstreaming)	
<b>Increase area, quality and access to urban green/blue spaces (Target 12)</b>	Subnational governments to develop and implement land use and municipal plans, increase proportion and effectively manage urban green/blue space for public benefit.		Ramsar Targets: 8 and 9
	Strengthen the management of urban parks and botanical gardens.		

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<p><b>Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources and digital sequenced information (Target 13)</b></p>	<p>Develop/update legal, policy, regulatory and institutional ABS frameworks in alignment with the AU Strategic Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and consideration for accessing benefits from DSI and multilateral mechanisms for benefits beyond national jurisdictions.</p>		<p>CITES Goal 1 (Obj. 1.5.)</p>
	<p>Adhere to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.</p>		
	<p>Strengthen capacity for putting in place ABS measures including through the designation of check points, focal points, clearing-house mechanisms etc.</p>		
	<p>Develop and implement legal frameworks to protect traditional knowledge and support its use with the free, prior and informed consent of IPLCs and ensure benefit sharing with them.</p>		
	<p>Enhance capacities to negotiate viable community protocols that protect the rights of traditional knowledge holders, and community resource use rights/ownership and secure engagement and commitments from industries and financial institutions for equitable sharing of benefits, including from biotechnology industries.</p>		
	<p>Promote and support African endogenous research and development; small-, medium-, and micro-enterprise development; the protection of the rights of traditional knowledge holders; and the construction and equipment of laboratories of reference in each region.</p>		
	<p>Ensure monitoring of the utilisation of genetic resources accessed in other countries Party to the Nagoya Protocol, in their jurisdiction.</p>		<p>CITES Goal 1 (Obj. 1.5.)</p>
	<p>Facilitate access to information on DSI and provide related capacity building.</p>		
	<p>Put in place a database for monitoring monetary and non-monetary benefits.</p>		

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

### Matrix of Regional and Continental Frameworks to Support National Efforts in Ensuring Equity in Benefit Sharing from All Aspects of Biodiversity Use (B2)

**Table 4:** B2- Regional and continental frameworks to support Pillar B

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Strengthening policy frameworks</b>	<p>Provide support for experience sharing on efforts by Members States within the region, in developing and implementing ABS frameworks.</p> <p>Harmonise ABS policies and frameworks at regional levels.</p> <p>Develop regional guidelines, directives and manuals of good practice in support of national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (and complying with the AU Guidelines).</p>	<p>Update the AU Regional Guidance on ABS with options for regional approaches to ensure a fair distribution of the expected benefits from the use of genetic resources and information in open space, including DSI, to conservation efforts in the continent including benefits from genetic resources in multilateral systems (FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, World Health Organisation, BBNJ Treaty).</p> <p>Build capacity for uptake of the AU guidelines at national and regional level</p>
<b>Collaboration and capacity development</b>	Develop research centres at the regional level.	Develop capacities for research and development on genetic resources and to produce, upload, manage and use DSI in the academic and commercial biotechnology sector fostering an African science-based society in line with the aspirations for Africa's Agenda 2063.
	Develop and coordinate implementation of regional programmes, measures of capacity building and information sharing including through regional databases and ABS clearing-house, and monitor the monetary and non-monetary benefits from international mechanisms to the region.  (See the model of the COMIFAC ABS Programme).	Coordinate and support the development of continental common positions by the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity (AGN) to inform ongoing negotiations in several global processes and within multilateral mechanisms to share benefits from the use of genetic resources, DSI, plant genetic resources, and under the BBNJ Treaty with potential to contribute significantly towards increasing financing to Africa.
	Elaborate and implement capacity building programmes including for ABS Focal Points.	Build the capacity of AGN and other stakeholders including IPLCs on multilateral mechanisms relating to DSI.
	Develop guidelines and manuals of best practices on community protocols.	Construct and equip reference laboratories at regional levels and establish a network of laboratories.
	Strengthen synergy with the African Organisation of Intellectual Property on measures of protection linked to Intellectual Property Rights and its two model laws on the protection of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and on protection of traditional knowledge.	
	Collect and compile regional data on monetary and non-monetary benefits from bilateral arrangements by Member States and generate information on best practices in sharing benefits.	Enhance AU regional coordination on ABS – with options for regional and transboundary approaches.

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

### 3.2.2.3 Strategic Pillar C: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Scaling Up Mainstreaming and Implementation

As a strategic objective, this Strategy seeks to strengthen mainstreaming and the integration of ecosystem-based approaches within and across all levels of government and development sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, to ensure an aligned biodiversity and climate action response.



#### Intervention Areas

A wave of global and national policy instruments call for mainstreaming of biodiversity and climate action priorities into sector and development plans. AU Member States are however faced with great challenges in integrating these priorities into the whole of government and society, and across development sectors. Applying ecosystem-based approaches presents challenges both for development and investment trade-offs, and in balancing potential benefits with risks from the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem productivity.

The five intervention areas defined under Pillar C seek to bring sectoral activities within sustainability limits and promote alignment to GBF targets. GBF Target 14 focuses on the values of biodiversity and the importance of integrating these values across sectors and all relevant governance mechanisms, specifically 'those with significant impacts on biodiversity'. Target 10 focuses on the sectors that maximise material production from biodiversity and thus drive land and sea use change (agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture), while Target 15 focuses on sectors that impact on biodiversity through their value chains. Target 16 complements this with a focus on transforming consumption and demand from

consumers, while Target 17 aims at stronger biosafety measures in the biotechnology industries.



#### Priority Actions

National level policy, management and investment priority actions defined for each intervention area (as C1) allow for the circumstances of each AU Member State to be taken into consideration in identifying the best pathways to internalise sustainability actions. There is a need for greater and more explicit recognition of the value of biodiversity in economic accounting, with biodiversity mainstreaming in national strategic policy and planning documents and development frameworks. To move away from business-as-usual, policy and planning instruments must be coupled with concrete implementation, supported by appropriate legal, regulatory, economic and financial instruments at the sectoral level. Under Pillar C, particular focus is placed on the food and nutrition system, driven by the key production sectors of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, which heavily depend on nature. Biodiversity-friendly response actions are also crucial in other key economic sectors such as tourism, energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health, and also sectors with competing developmental needs such as urban development, mining and transport. Aligning biodiversity and climate responses in these sectors will ensure increased sustainability and greater benefits. In defining regional and continental support measures (as C2), priority actions have also focused on experience sharing and collaborative programmes that build on a wide range of existing initiatives for food-water-energy security and human health.



## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

### Matrix of Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Strengthening Sectoral Mainstreaming and Integration of Ecosystem-Based Approaches (Pillar C)

**Table 5:** C1- Strengthen mainstreaming of biodiversity and integration of ecosystem-based approaches within and across all levels of government and development sectors.

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry (Target 10)</b>	Integrate the identification and spatial mapping of key biodiversity areas and production of land/seascape plans in subnational and national jurisdictions, and implement effective management processes to retain biodiversity and essential ecosystem services in production land- and seascapes.	Target 1 (spatial planning and land and sea use change) Target 2 (restoration (including of productive ecosystems)) Target 4 (genetic diversity (wild and domesticated species)) Target 5 (use, harvesting and trade of wild species)	Ramsar Target: 13 Bonn Challenge (African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) UNFCCC (NDCs), UNCCD (LDN targets)
	Identify, define, and put in place schemes for sustainable production practices, notably in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture production sectors.	Target 7 (reduce pollution, including excess nutrients and risk from pesticides)	
	Strengthen NTFP processing and value addition in food, nutrition, pharmaceutical and cosmetic chains for market diversification, and domestication of species to reduce pressures on wild species and ensure sustainable incomes for smallholders.	Target 11 (NCP, including soil health and pollination)	CITES
			BRS Conventions
<b>Integration of biodiversity into policies, regulations and development across all sectors (Target 14)</b>	Carry out valuation assessments to generate information on biodiversity and ecosystem services using diverse ecological, social and economic valuation approaches and tools.	Target 1 (planning / governance)	CITES Goal 4 CITES policy development also contributes to and learns from international efforts to achieve sustainable development
	Put in place Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) systems and develop methodologies that integrate biodiversity values into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic accounting systems with measures to track value addition;</li> <li>Public finance, budget and taxing systems; and</li> <li>Poverty reduction strategies and national development plans.</li> </ul>		Ramsar Targets: 1, 3, 8
	Fully integrate biodiversity priorities and climate change considerations into strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments in all sectors and policies.		
	Implement legislative, policy and regulatory measures to mainstream Target 7 actions across all sectors that have significant negative impacts on biodiversity.	Target 7	

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Transform businesses to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity (Target 15)</b>	Take legal, policy and administrative measures to require and enable business to monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies, ABS compliance and impacts on biodiversity.		
	Develop and implement mechanisms to secure private sector commitments to contribute to attaining national biodiversity goals and GBF, including disclosures and sustainability reporting by companies on risks, dependencies, ABS compliance, financing and impacts of their activities related to nature, and increase domestic benefit sharing by large transnational companies and financial institutions.		
	Develop policies and regulations that require companies to report on compliance with ABS regulations.		
<b>Encourage sustainable consumption by reducing food waste, post-harvest loss, overconsumption and waste generation (Target 16)</b>	<p>Take measures to reduce the ecological footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, while assuring the rights and development of the most vulnerable, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting public awareness relative to overconsumption, waste generation and food waste;</li> <li>▪ Halving food waste; and</li> <li>▪ Substantially reducing the generation of waste from all sources, including plastic waste.</li> </ul>	Target 5, SDGs	
<b>Regulation of biotechnology and harnessing benefits (Target 17)</b>	Adhere to the Cartagena Protocol and put in place legal and administrative measures for biosafety.		Ramsar Target: 19
	Encourage AU Member States to ratify/adhere to the Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.		
	Develop national and regional collaborative programmes for biotechnology development and biosafety regulations.		
	Enhance public awareness education on biosafety and biotechnology.		

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

### Regional and Continental Support Processes for Aligning and Supporting Actions in Pillar C

**Table 6:** C2 - Regional and continental frameworks to support Pillar C

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Policy development</b>	<p>RECs and other regional biodiversity coordination bodies provide guidance with the support of regionally approved methodologies for biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation and NCAs.</p> <p>Encourage mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation into regional strategies.</p> <p>Revision of regional BSAPs, taking into consideration biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p> <p>Implement regional strategies, such as the SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Develop policy guidelines for valuing ecosystem services.</p> <p>Increase knowledge on mainstreaming through training or guidance.</p> <p>Promote experience sharing and capacity building, for example, experience from the Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity in Western Africa.</p> <p>Provide finance for policy development and economic valuation of biodiversity wealth and value of ecosystem services.</p>
<b>Implementation</b>	<p>Experience sharing, capacity building, provision of tools, technology transfer etc.</p> <p>Biodiversity and ecosystem valuation at the regional level (transboundary ecosystems), and harmonisation of approaches for such valuation.</p> <p>Regional blocks to mobilise funds (trust funds), promote knowledge exchange, and provide technical support and capacity building for implementation.</p>	<p>Existing initiatives or opportunities of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Wetland International, BRCM.</p> <p>Regional collaboration of sectors in the food system.</p> <p>Free Trade Zones to facilitate valorisation of value addition and regional trade.</p> <p>Technology transfer.</p>
<b>Coordination/ partnership</b>	<p>Establish partnerships with regional nodes for the Africa 10-year Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and the AU Climate Change Strategy for joint regional programmes.</p> <p>Facilitate the establishment and capacity building of respective regional platforms for MEA NFPs.</p>	<p>AUC to establish partnerships for continental coordination on mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity.</p> <p>Collaborative arrangements with continental nodes for the Africa 10-year Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production and the AU Climate Change Strategy for joint programmes in Africa.</p> <p>AUC and Mainstreaming Coordination Group to facilitate dialogues spanning sub-regions and dialogues with other continents for experience sharing.</p> <p>AUC to play an advocacy role to raise political will and high-level continental coordination across private and public financing institutions, through Heads of States dialogues and continental high-level intersectoral dialogues on valuing biodiversity and the benefits from biodiversity mainstreaming.</p>



### 3.2.2.4 Strategic Pillar D: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions to Increase Financing for Africa's Biodiversity

The objective is to mobilise a substantial increase in the flow of finance for Africa's biodiversity from all sources, including through international and domestic public and private resources, in accordance with CBD Article 20, and to ensure equity and accountability of access to these resources.



#### Intervention Areas

The biodiversity financing gap, estimated at US\$700 billion globally in 2020, is the most significant cause of failure of past biodiversity strategies. To Africa, this is compounded by the GEF assessment, which establishes that African Parties to the Convention are the least able to access GEF designated funds. Foundational to filling this gap is an increase in ambition and commitments across the continent to mobilise a substantial increase of biodiversity financing to support conservation and sustainable use efforts in Africa, and thus meet the financial needs of priority actions for each strategic pillar.

Two defined intervention areas to realise this objective are aligned to GBF Target 18 which aims at eliminating, phasing out or reforming harmful subsidies and incentives that drive biodiversity decline, and Target 19 which addresses direct financing from all sources for conservation actions. The framing of the two targets

poses significant challenges for African biodiversity in that dominant control of both harmful subsidies and direct financing are outside of the continent's control.



#### Priority Actions

Priority actions defined for each area of the intervention are intended to help African countries drive strongly for sufficient and equitable provisioning of finance for Africa. A key focus for actions in this pillar is engagement in mobilising resources from diverse sources including continental, public international, private and financial institutions. Of importance are resources under the newly established Biodiversity Fund, and other emerging multilateral funds with pooled resources and opportunities to support biodiversity goals. For African Member States to effectively engage in these processes, the development of policy, planning and financing tools are key priorities to be carried out in the short term to determine with clarity the priority financing needs at various scales of implementation across the continent (D1). Defined priorities are given for regional and continental support initiatives in mobilising increased finance, calls for capacity building for Member States and collaboration in mobilising resources for joint programmes and projects (D2).



## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

### Matrix of Intervention Areas and Priority Actions to Increase Financing for Africa's Biodiversity (D1)

**Table 7:** D1-Intervention areas and priority actions to increase financing for Africa's biodiversity

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Phase out or reform harmful subsidies and incentives (Target 18)</b>	Undertake an assessment of existing incentives including subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity.		Ramsar Target: 17
	Identify opportunities and incentives to redirect subsidies that are harmful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase financing for combating desertification and supporting land degradation investment neutrality and net zero investments.</li> <li>To increase financing from governments subsidising foreign industries in Africa away from activities harmful to biodiversity.</li> </ul>		
<b>Increase the level of financial resources for biodiversity from all sources (Target 19)</b>	Develop /implement National Financial Plans and similar instruments for implementation of all global biodiversity goals, and for this purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgently undertake in the short term, assessments of funding needs for financing national priorities aligned to the NBSAPs, this Strategy, and the GBF.</li> </ul>		Targets: 18 and 19
	Develop National Resource Mobilisation Plans and programmes to mobilise a substantial increase in finance to reduce the biodiversity financing gap.		
	Raise and secure domestic financing for implementation of NBSAPs.		
	Leverage environmental and climate finance for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.		
	Negotiate increases in bilateral public international finance for biodiversity.		
	Negotiate increased access to multilateral public funds such as GEF, the new Biodiversity Fund, other multilateral benefit sharing funds and other relevant mechanisms.		
	Undertake fundraising under the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions to better access multilateral funds.		
	Develop and incentivise innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services (PES), green and blue bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, and implement other strategies to leverage new and additional resources from private finance.		

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Increase the level of financial resources for biodiversity from all sources (Target 19)</b>	Establish legal, policy and regulatory frameworks to stimulate innovative schemes of PES, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) carbon sinks, green/blue bonds, offsets with payment schemes that ensure equity in their responsibility for the costs and risks of a decline in ecosystems.		
	Develop a mechanism for countries in special circumstances to implement the GBF and other biodiversity strategies.		
	Establish legal, policy and regulatory frameworks to adopt ecosystem-based adaptation as an effective climate change adaptation response.		

### Regional and Continental Support Processes to Increase Financing for Africa's Biodiversity (D2)

**Table 8: D2 - Regional and continental frameworks to support Pillar D**

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Policy development</b>	Support capacity development for the implementation of policy guidelines and approved methodologies for biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation and NCA.	Develop policy guidelines and approve methodologies for valuing ecosystem services, working in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other bodies in the continent.
<b>Implementation</b>	Support capacity development for resource mobilisation by regional networks, including networks for women, IPLCs, youth, legislators, academia etc.	<p>Facilitate cooperation in mobilising resources for continental transboundary land and sea scape management programmes and projects.</p> <p>Carry out continental joint fund-raising under the CBD and other biodiversity-related MEAs to access multilateral funds and thus enable other biodiversity-related MEAs with limited funding opportunities to deliver on their mandates.</p> <p>Negotiate increased access to multilateral public funds such as GEF, the new Biodiversity Fund, and other multilateral benefit-sharing funds and relevant funding mechanisms.</p> <p>Develop a Pan-African Conservation and Restoration Trust to leverage new and additional resources from public and private finance.</p> <p>Convene a Heads of States and Governments Summit on biodiversity finance for Africa.</p> <p>Develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track funding commitments made by developed countries in relation to GBF Target 19.</p>

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Coordination</b>	Establish partnerships and coordination platforms on resources mobilisation and capacity development for MEA NFPs.	<p>AUC to establish partnerships for continental coordination on resource mobilisation.</p> <p>Establish a biannual consultative meeting to discuss and evaluate the progress on the implementation of the GBF.</p> <p>Establish a biodiversity working group including national CBD focal points to review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Strategy.</p> <p>AUC to play an advocacy role to raise political will and commitment to increase domestic financing.</p>

### 3.2.2.5 Strategic Pillar E: Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Strengthening Capacities and Ensuring Equity and Inclusion for Effective Implementation

To ensure strong support mechanisms are put in place for the effective implementation of this Strategy, it is essential to strengthen capacity and ensure equity, inclusion and gender responsiveness in implementation across all pillars of this Strategy.



#### Intervention Areas

This Strategy recognises that enhancing capacities, knowledge and awareness, as well as the full inclusion of IPLCs and stakeholders of diverse perspectives, with gender considerations, will address a wide range of prevailing capacity and equity gaps that have limited implementation efforts across the continent.

The intervention areas identified in this Strategy are essential to overcoming the abovementioned challenges, and are aligned to the GBF priorities on capacities, technology transfer and scientific cooperation (Target 20); the need for data, information and knowledge from multiple sources to be incorporated in GBF target delivery (Target 21); and full inclusion and equity, including gender equality (Targets 22 and 23). Principles for implementation of the GBF identified by Parties are codified in Section

C (paragraphs 7-25) of the framework and correspond to most of the intervention areas in this strategic pillar.



#### Priority Actions

The priorities defined largely focus on carrying out national assessments to determine the needs for each intervention. This is to be followed by the development and implementation of a wide range of planning and support tools, as appropriate, at national and subnational levels, which should be based on the preceding needs assessments.

The defined intervention areas and actions establish a strong foundation to improve biodiversity governance and practice, increase access to benefits and equity in distribution, mainstream ecosystem-based approaches in production and consumption, use ecosystem-based approaches as a natural solution to respond to climate change challenges, and increase biodiversity finance. Accordingly, actions defined under this pillar will be applied in cross-cutting ways across all the other strategic pillars and intervention areas, to support their implementation.

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

### Matrix of Intervention Areas and Priority Actions for Strengthening Capacities, Ensuring Inclusion and Equity for Effective Implementation (E1)

**Table 9: Pillar E1 - Strengthening capacities, ensuring inclusion and equity for effective implementation**

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Capacities, technology transfer and scientific cooperation (Target 20)</b>	Undertake assessment of national and subnational capacity needs for the immediate and long-term implementation of prioritised GBF actions, identify capacity gaps, and opportunities for capacity development including those already identified (for example, capacity needs for accessing, generating, analysing and using DSI).	All targets	All biodiversity-related conventions.
	Identify and document capacity development areas, as well as identify recipients and providers of capacity development (state and non-state actors).		
	Support institutions of higher learning to undertake research, technology development and innovation in biodiversity, and transfer knowledge to national and subnational government institutions responsible for implementation.		
	Engage the private sector, proactively and as appropriate, in the development of national capacity and also strengthen the capacity of business actors, particularly small- and medium-sized enterprises, to address biodiversity-related issues.		
	Develop national plans for Capacity Building and Development, and Transfer of Technology for the implementation of the GBF/NBSAPs and implementation of other biodiversity-related MEAs.		
<b>Information and knowledge to guide effective and equitable governance (Target 21)</b>	<p>Carry out National Ecosystem/Biodiversity Assessments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generate accurate scientific information and knowledge, including from modern and traditional knowledge systems, on the values of the countries' biodiversity, and drivers of change in ecosystem function and biodiversity loss.</li> <li>Develop tools to support informed policy choices and investment decisions for sustainable production and consumption in development sectors.</li> <li>Identify biodiversity knowledge gaps to drive further research.</li> <li>Ensure that traditional and modern knowledge systems are disseminated, policy standards are adequately communicated to all sectors and government departments at national and subnational levels, and that measurable outcomes are identified for implementation of the developed tools.</li> </ul>	<p>Target 16 (traditional knowledge)</p> <p>Targets: 2, 3, 13, 16</p> <p>Target 13, Target 5, CITES (databases)</p>	<p>Ramsar Targets: 8, 9, 11, 16</p> <p>National wetland inventories initiated/ completed/ updated, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p>CITES Goal 2 - Parties' decisions are supported by the best available science and information.</p>



## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Information and knowledge to guide effective and equitable governance (Target 21)</b>	Capacity support to develop harmonised data collection protocols, guidelines on establishing data collection protocols on the sustainable use of biological resources (including genetic resources) and national biodiversity databases; review model data sharing.		
	Capacity support to develop indicators for monitoring the NBSAPs and capacity to develop inventories of natural habitats.		
	Build capacity to document and incorporate traditional knowledge in all relevant actions.		
	Undertake a national Biodiversity Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) needs assessment.  Develop/implement a CEPA plan with ambitious and targeted CEPA actions, to support the implementation of the NBSAPs, the aligned GBF, and this Strategy, in all sectors at all scales, including through the use of local languages and traditional knowledge. This process to be informed by a national CEPA needs assessment.		
	Put in place more effective coordination mechanisms to secure the scaling up of commitments by non-state actor in the national planning, monitoring, reporting and review of implementation, and promote the development of networks and partnerships to enhance and share experiences.		
<b>Representation and participation in decision-making (Target 22)</b>	Establish co-management mechanisms promoting participatory decision-making in support of OECMs and locally determined sustainable use regimes.	Target 3 Target 9 All targets	Ramsar Target: 10 CITES CMS AEWA
	Develop and implement policy, legal, regulatory and institutional reforms for inclusive decision-making that recognises the rights to participation and land/resource ownership of IPLCs, and also of other vulnerable groups such as women and girls, children and youth, and people with disabilities.  Create policy space at community levels to ensure that local communities are part of decision-making processes.		
<b>Gender equality (Target 23)</b>	Ensure the revised or updated NBSAPs are gender-responsive, enhancing the level of participation of women in decision-making processes.		
	Put in place a National Gender Plan of Action for Biodiversity, including the development of gender inclusivity indicators, to ensure a responsive representation and participatory approaches at all levels of decision-making and interventions in biodiversity planning, monitoring and implementation.		

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS (ALIGNED GBF TARGETS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS	LINKED GBF TARGETS	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Gender equality (Target 23)</b>	Generate lessons learnt and identify best practices on integrating gender in biodiversity-related actions.		
	Establish biodiversity gender focal points to ensure action on gender issues.		
	Promote and enhance gender inclusivity in community-based natural resource management activities.		

### Matrix of Priority Intervention Areas and Actions Specific to Strategic Pillars

**Table 10:** Strengthening capacities, ensuring inclusion and equity for effective implementation of Pillar A

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Capacities and technology (Target 20)</b>	Generate and enhance the knowledge base and technologies relating to better understanding of biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss. For example, capacities to carry out biodiversity and ecosystem assessments, and natural capital assessments, building taxonomic knowledge.	Targets 1-8	
	Develop capacity for the effective use of mapping and spatial analysis in biodiversity planning, and the ability to more effectively use remote sensing.	Target 1	
	Establish and/or strengthen communities of practice to enhance the application of tools, experiences and lessons learnt from CITES implementation.	Target 5	
	Develop capacity for the identification of valuable wild species and capacity in development and implementation of their management plans.	Target 5	
	Develop capacity of institutions, business actors (particularly small- and medium-sized enterprises) and local communities in biodiversity-based supply chains including value addition, certification, and transformation and sustainable harvesting methods.	Target 5	
	Capacity building in surveillance, early detection and rapid response and use of e-DNA technologies for identification, preventing further spread and management of IASs.	Target 6	
	Capacity building of private sector actors and scientists in pollution control and management including the introduction and use of engineering technologies for managing pollution.	Target 7	

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Information and data (Target 21)</b>	Enhance institutional capacity to improve taxonomic knowledge, use of georeferenced data in biodiversity planning, conducting biodiversity research and establishing a National Red Data Book for flora and fauna that prioritises user accessibility.	Targets 1, 2, 3 and 5	
	Improve information and knowledge management to support planning, decision-making, and reporting, and develop and implement effective policies relating to the sharing and use of data, information and knowledge, including Indigenous and local knowledge.		
<b>Inclusion (IPLCs) (Target 22)</b>	Develop capacities to promote and increase the accessibility and mainstream traditional and Indigenous knowledge amongst sectors, institutions and professionals in biodiversity management.		
<b>Gender (Target 23)</b>	Ensure the revised or updated NBSAPs are gender-responsive, enhancing the level of participation of women in decision-making processes.		

**Table 11: Strengthening capacities, ensuring inclusion and equity for effective implementation of Pillar B**

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Capacities and technology (Target 20)</b>	Enhance capacities to negotiate viable community protocols that protect the rights of traditional knowledge holders and community resource use rights/ownership, and secure engagement and commitments from industries and financial institutions for equitable sharing of benefits, including from biotechnology industries.	Target 13	
	Enhance capacities to monitor the utilisation of genetic resources accessed in other Parties of the Nagoya Protocol in their jurisdiction.	Target 13	
	Enhance capacity related to compliance and establishing measures, designation of checkpoints in the short-term, examining them in relation to other environmental regulations, permit requirements and policies.	Target 13	
	Capacity in negotiating mutually agreed terms (MATs) (e.g. through providing training materials on how to negotiate MATs and lessons learnt).	Target 13	
	Enhance capacity in the development of national or regional databases for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.	Target 13	
	Build stronger scientific and research institutions to add value to domestic genetic resources, and to be better placed to collaborate with international research organisations and build value chains for products derived from genetic resources.	Target 13	

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Information and data (Target 21)</b>	Support the creation and development of national databases on DSI and support scientific research to generate, access and utilise DSI.	Target 13	
	Raise awareness amongst the general public, business community, decision makers and other relevant stakeholders on the value of genetic resources, including how the equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilisation can lead to increased conservation and socio-economic development.	Target 13	
	Develop tools for monitoring the use of genetic resources, as well as measuring and reporting both monetary and non-monetary benefits that arise from the utilisation of genetic resources.	Target 13	
	Development of online application systems and strengthening national ABS information systems, including indicators that can be used for decision-making and for monitoring.	Target 13	
<b>Inclusion (IPLCs) (Target 22)</b>	Build capacity of IPLCs in biodiversity-based enterprises, including capacity in pricing, market mechanisms, sustainable harvesting, development of business plans, and good agricultural and collecting practices, and support communities to develop and align to approved product standards.		
<b>Gender (Target 23)</b>	Ensure the revised or updated NBSAPs are gender-responsive, enhancing the level of participation of women in decision-making processes.		

**Table 12: Strengthening capacities, ensuring inclusion and equity for effective implementation of Pillar C**

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Capacities and technology (Target 20)</b>	Develop capacities for countries to implement a comprehensive programme for the valuation of biodiversity.	Target 14	
	Enhance capacity and raise awareness of businesses to monitor and assess their impacts on biodiversity and disclose their impacts on biodiversity.	Target 15	
	Enhance capacity for improving legislative and institutional systems and strengthen capacity for law enforcement to ensure the implementation of legal provisions on biodiversity and to enhance compliance of other sectors to biodiversity legislation.	Target 15	
	Enhance technology transfer to allow countries to benefit from and participate in the biotechnology sector.	Target 17	
	Develop capacity in risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise, development measures to address unintentional or illegal transboundary movement of living modified organisms.	Target 17	
	Build capacity for the sharing of information on biosafety, strengthening biosafety frameworks and liability and redress.	Target 17	



## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Information and data (Target 21)</b>	<p>Develop tools for sectors like agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other productive sectors on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services to effectively mainstream biodiversity in their policies and implementation strategies and budgets (Target 10), also supporting awareness raising in this regard.</p> <p>Increase awareness by urban planners of the value of urban biodiversity to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity in urban planning, including the contribution of biodiversity to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as disaster risk reduction (Target 10).</p>	Target 21	
<b>Inclusion (IPLC) (Target 22)</b>	Enhance education and awareness on the value of biodiversity and ecosystems services for IPLCs.	Target 22	
<b>Gender (Target 23)</b>	Ensure the revised or updated NBSAPs are gender-responsive, enhancing the level of participation of women in decision-making processes.	Target 23	

**Table 13:** Strengthening capacities, ensuring inclusion and equity for effective implementation of Pillar D

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Capacities and technology (Target 20)</b>	Develop capacity on subsidies specifically to identify sectors with subsidies, take stock of subsidies, assess their impact on biodiversity and identify approaches for reforming subsidies where necessary, and capacitate sectors benefiting from subsidies to understand the impacts on biodiversity and measures they can undertake to manage such impacts.	Targets 18, 20	
	Develop financial literacy amongst biodiversity personnel, including capacity on tools that can be used to integrate biodiversity in the productive, financial and economic sectors, and indicators that can be used to monitor biodiversity expenditure, including tools for communicating and engaging with the finance sector and private sector to make a business case for biodiversity.	Target 18	
	Develop capacity of countries to develop National Finance Plans to determine their financial needs for the implementation of their NBSAPs and promote understanding of tools for ensuring sustainable financing.	Target 19	
	Develop the capacity of countries on project proposal and fundraising skills, and on innovative financing schemes, including PES, carbon credits, etc. jointly with focal points of CITES, UNFCCC, UNCCD, amongst others.	Target 19	
	Build capacity to develop and test national and local mechanisms for PES through pilot projects and the development of tools for their integration in the national accounting system.	Target 19	

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

INTERVENTION AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TARGET	OTHER CONVENTIONS
<b>Information and data (Target 21)</b>	Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management.	Target 21	
<b>Inclusion (IPLCs) (Target 22)</b>	Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity of IPLCs.	Target 22	
<b>Gender (Target 23)</b>	Ensure the revised or updated NBSAPs are gender-responsive, enhancing the level of participation of women in decision-making processes.	Target 23	

### Regional and Continental Support Processes for Aligning and Supporting Actions in Pillar E

**Table 14:** Pillar E2 – Regional and continental frameworks to support Pillar E

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Capacity assessments, development of planning and support tools</b>	<p>RECs and other regional biodiversity coordination bodies to provide guidance on organising biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos, round tables and other events to showcase technical and scientific cooperation initiatives, technologies and opportunities; this is to be done in collaboration with relevant organisations and stakeholders.</p> <p>Promote research cooperation to foster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective generation and use of relevant scientific and analytical information; and</li> <li>Facilitate science-policy dialogues to support evidence-based policies, actions, and tools.</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitate continental cooperation and collaboration in providing guidance, developing tools and institutionalising biodiversity capacity building at the AU level, which can include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a well-connected group of technical assistance providers to address the Member States' technical and scientific needs on a wide range of issues or thematic areas prioritised by Member States e.g. DSI.</li> <li>Build on existing regional support networks or hubs where possible to avoid duplication of effort and identify a regional organisation to coordinate relevant capacity-building initiatives on biodiversity (e.g. the African Union Development Agency- New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) for biosafety and the AU Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources for aquatic biodiversity).</li> <li>Facilitate matchmaking between stakeholders with specific needs and stakeholders in a position to respond to these needs; facilitate dialogues.</li> <li>Mobilise resources to provide timely and targeted support for projects and activities that address specific identified technical and scientific needs.</li> </ul>

## Strategy and priorities for intervention in Africa

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL	CONTINENTAL
<b>Implementation</b>	<p>RECs and regional networks to develop programmes and projects working through various networks and Regional Centres of Excellence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out transboundary ecosystem assessments and develop regional programmes/tools for CEPA, gender mainstreaming, and implementation support.</li> <li>Facilitate dialogue and exchange of national and regional experiences.</li> <li>Build capacity of regional stakeholders for delivery on key thematic issues across the Strategy's strategic pillars.</li> <li>Establish regional databases e.g. on DSI.</li> <li>Develop, where necessary/applicable, a platform for the RECs and countries to discuss technology management measures.</li> <li>Promote regional-based IPLC initiative (coordination mechanism), at the AU level.</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitate cooperation and collaboration in developing relevant support programmes and projects, jointly or under various MEAs.</p> <p>Recruitment of biodiversity personnel at the AU level to be in charge of the biodiversity agenda and regional biodiversity capacity building.</p> <p>Establish a working group on biodiversity-related capacity-building (continental coordination mechanism), led by the AUC, to coordinate development of a capacity building plan at the AU level, increase the awareness of capacity-building needs and opportunities, and to facilitate, monitor and evaluate capacity building activities for biodiversity at the AU level.</p> <p>Facilitate experience sharing amongst RECs on capacity building in biodiversity.</p> <p>Conduct capacity building of African negotiators.</p> <p>Support the AWF Youth Fellowship Programme.</p>
<b>Coordination</b>	<p>RECs to coordinate and capitalise on partnerships and collaboration with several existing civil society organisation networks.</p> <p>Identify best practices at RECs and develop subregional tools to enhance technology assessment, development, transfer, promotion, monitoring, governance, and use of technologies, including biotechnology.</p> <p>Support documentation of subregional biodiversity information, including transboundary genetic resources and traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>AUC to establish partnerships for continental coordination on capacity building.</p>

# SUPPORT MECHANISMS AND ENABLING CONDITIONS

In the critical analysis carried out under Pillar D on the coordination, financial, knowledge, communication, data management, and technical capacities that exist across the continent for the effective internalisation and implementation of the GBF, the need for greater ambition in mobilising and increasing the flow of biodiversity financing to Africa and to build diverse capacities was established.

This part of the Strategy thus aligns with the goal of Pillar D, to ensure the carrying out of priority actions proposed at various scales of intervention, and defines, as an integral part of this Strategy, the progressive development of key support tools required to ensure effective implementation. The proposed measures and tools to support national, regional and continental level interventions include:

- Coordination organs;
- A Resource Mobilisation Plan;
- A Capacity Building and Development, and Technical and Scientific Cooperation Plan;
- A Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Plan; and
- A Stakeholder Engagement Framework.

To ensure coherence and alignment in implementation, this Strategy provides for a programming approach and a coordination framework of existing and proposed structures. Guidance is provided for the development of each support tool, including the definition of the scope and key elements for consideration in the development process and in the implementation phase. These components are outlined below, and full documents will be presented as annexes to this Strategy once developed.

## 4.1 PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION

### 4.1.1 PROGRAMMES

The implementation of this Strategy will be carried out through five continental programmes designed in alignment with the five strategic pillars. This programming approach will further be developed at the regional level to align with the continental programmes.





## Support mechanisms and enabling conditions

The five continental programmes are primarily designed to facilitate collaboration and cooperation, with a specific focus on each strategic issue at the continental level and based on the defined priorities for the pillar. This provides the opportunity to effectively coordinate the interventions of stakeholders working on the specific programme area, and supports a focused approach based on continental priorities.

Regional programmes aligned to the continental programmes and the five pillars will equally be put in place. This will facilitate collaboration and cooperation, with a specific focus on each strategic issue at the regional level and based on the priorities for the region, as defined within each pillar. Stakeholders

active in specific programme areas in each region will be pulled together with clear orientation on what constitutes priorities for the region.

At national levels, programmes will further enable intervention areas and efforts by Member States in implementation of their NBSAPs in the context of this Strategy, to be captured with clarity and to determine the contribution these provide towards specific programmes of the Strategy.

This approach will be of importance in tracking and reporting on the flow of funding towards the priority activities of each programme area at various scales of intervention.

### 4.1.2 COORDINATION ORGANS

Lessons learnt from coordinating the preparation of a common position and the negotiation of the GBF and several COP decisions of global biodiversity-related MEAs, underscores the need for effective continental coordination, which is critical to ensure strong buy-in and commitment to implement the GBF at all scales across the continent. Overcoming this challenge requires the strengthening of several regional and continental institutions and organs responsible for biodiversity, and their related processes. To strengthen the coordination of interventions, various organs are

included based on their existing mandates, and they will provide coordination support services.

Strengthening continental and regional coordination for the implementation of this Strategy has been defined through existing platforms or, as appropriate, through new coordination platforms, which are defined below. Establishing links with the AGN coordination processes is of critical importance to support experience sharing and coherence required in the implementation of the GBF in Africa.

## Support mechanisms and enabling conditions

### 4.1.2.1 Continental Coordination

#### The African Union

The AU is responsible for overall coordination of the Strategy and generating high-level political support for its implementation. Coordination, monitoring and reporting will be supported by the AUC through the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE).

#### AUC Programme Coordination Working Groups

The technical coordination to monitor, assess, report and review the implementation of the priority actions in each programme will require coordination through five working groups with each to coordinate a programme and to align with other AUC Nodes.

#### Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreement Working Group for Africa

The role of the AGN had been relegated to multilateral negotiations in specific MEAs, with little coordination across these MEAs, and a quasi-absence in coordinating implementation across the continent. Based on the mandate of the AU, and most importantly the expectations raised as a result of the effective coordination of the Africa group during the GBF negotiations, such AGN influence will need to cut across all the biodiversity-related agreements based on a continental- coordination. Of great significance, the AGN will need a stronger influence and presence in coordinating continental implementation. In the short term, the AGN is expected to emerge as a key coordination actor, providing technical oversight and ensuring synergy as Africa seeks to respond to the multiple intersessional consultations and related processes established both under the GBF and other MEAs.

Coordination support for Africa's engagement in several intersessional processes is limited. In the short term, several multilateral negotiations and processes

of relevance to the implementation of the GBF are ongoing and require a coordinated engagement of Africa. There is a need to ensure effective technical preparation of Africa's common position, ensuring the engagement and coordination of the various NFPs, and ensuring synergy in the implementation of these multilateral agreements at continental, regional and national levels. These global negotiations, beyond the CBD and the global biodiversity agreements, include the IPBES, ITPGRFA, BBNJ, INC on plastic pollution, the United Nations Forum on Forest, and others.

Improved continental coordination will further strengthen AGN engagement in these ongoing negotiations and other intersessional negotiations such as within the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and Subsidiary Body for Implementation of the CBD, and strengthen the coordination of MEAs across the region.

This Strategy thus provides for a Biodiversity Working Group for Africa, as a new organ which will function through several units:

- A liaison group as the direct coordinating body of CBD and all biodiversity-related MEAs and processes. Members will include the core coordination of negotiators for each convention.
- AGN for CBD.
- AGN for CITES.

This organ will be charged with:

- **Strengthening AGN technical input into relevant African high-level political processes:**

Although AGN technical input into the African Ministerial Conference on Environment processes has been of great significance in recent years, there is a need to institutionalise this process through the strong continental coordination of biodiversity-related MEAs. This coordinated influence can be extended to other African high-level dialogues such as the SCP processes in support of biodiversity mainstreaming.

## Support mechanisms and enabling conditions

- **Support of strategic AGN debrief sessions:**

Targeted debriefing sessions to support continental, regional and national planning efforts could be organised with partner support.

- **Support transition processes of AGN coordination:**

A major challenge to AGN coordination has been the annual transitions of AGN Chairs to align with the transition in the country that Chairs the AU.

- **Guidance in the functioning of the AGN:**

The pending process of developing a guidance document for the AGN, which is being supported by the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, will need to be finalised.

### Partner Coordination Platform for Biodiversity

The support provided by the Informal Biodiversity Support Group of partners to the AGN has been recognised as fundamental in strengthening the capacity of the AGN to coordinate and support the development of an African common position that has effectively influenced global negotiations. The various dimensions of this support, brought in by different members of this African platform of partners, remains vital to support the implementation process of the GBF. The AUC is to ensure this partner-support-platform is more visible and effective and aligns to specific programmes based on the value add of each partner.

### 4.1.2.2 Regional Coordination Nodes

Regional coordination frameworks for biodiversity provide opportunities for a focused attention to the region's priorities and efforts in tackling biodiversity loss and threats to ecosystems. Regional coordination experiences are limited, though well established in ocean ecosystems through regional seas programmes, large marine ecosystems institutions (e.g. the Benguela Current Convention) and other bodies. Existing experiences from these institutions, and within COMIFAC and SADC, provide opportunities for learning and adapting, in order to support greater visibility and impact of biodiversity-related MEAs at the regional level, and linking regional inputs for both negotiations and implementation to wider continental processes. A regional coordination structure to provide this response will include the following:

- RECs, for overall coordination.
- Regional Coordinating Bodies on Biodiversity, for direct coordination. These will be strengthened to seat programme coordination nodes. In regions where direct coordination bodies have not been established, regional Centres of Excellence can be used as programme coordination nodes. Programme coordination nodes will align with relevant AUC programme coordination units in the region.
- Regional partnership coordination or alignment with existing partnership networks under the RECs, where these exist.

### 4.1.2.3 National Level Coordination Nodes

National nodes will be established at institutions charged with overall and sector-based coordination, and may include:

- National Focal Institutions for overall coordination; and
- Sector National Focal Nodes or National Centres of Excellence for programme coordination.

# 4.2 BIODIVERSITY RESOURCE MOBILISATION PLAN FOR AFRICA

### The Resource Mobilisation Challenge

Coordination efforts in mobilising increased funding for biodiversity in Africa have been limited to relatively short-term projects, and driven by several thematic programmes of diverse stakeholders, thus presenting a challenge in tracking the flow of biodiversity financing in Africa. The lack of a continental strategy with defined priority actions, created further challenges for overall coordination to strengthen the mobilisation of resources. Providing the framework for mobilising biodiversity financing, aligned to the priority actions of this Strategy, constitutes a strategic response to meeting the implementation needs of the GBF and other biodiversity-related MEAs across the continent, as well as providing transparency on financial flows to Africa from all sources. Most of the resources will be mobilised at the national level by individual countries depending on needs and capacities. BIOFIN, for example, is one initiative that can support countries to identify needs and mobilise additional funds. At the same time, there is a need for enhanced financing to support continental efforts to drive Africa's biodiversity agenda.

Developing a Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Plan for Africa, based on the intervention areas and priority actions outlined in this Strategy, is key to ensuring an increase in biodiversity financing for Africa, thereby strengthening the continent's efforts in reversing biodiversity loss and the decline in ecosystem health that is threatening livelihoods and economic growth in Africa.

### Scope of a Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Plan for Africa

- To be developed as an annex to this Strategy.
- The costing of biodiversity needs to be based on the defined intervention areas and priority actions outlined in this Strategy.
- To draw from all sources.
- To be continental only.







## Support mechanisms and enabling conditions

### Objectives of the Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Plan

- To provide guidance for continental resource mobilisation efforts.
- To coordinate efforts for resource mobilisation through the assessment of resource needs and the development of mobilisation approaches, monitoring and tracking financial flows and reporting on availability and accessibility of biodiversity finance.
- To guide the monitoring of the impact of finance in supporting implementation of the Strategy, as well as biodiversity-related MEAs (thereby supporting continent-wide compliance with global commitments).

### Key Considerations in Developing the Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Plan

The process of developing a resource mobilisation plan will need to build on several existing initiatives in defining methodologies to enhance biodiversity financing. At the national level, the BIOFIN Initiative, for example, assists countries in identifying key steps to enhancing biodiversity financing targeted at key sources, including developmental sectors and financial institutions, as follows: defining biodiversity importance and threats, identifying conservation

priorities, assessing funding gaps and resource needs, capturing demonstrated impacts and success stories, strengthening institutional capacity and governance, supporting alignment with international agreements, and fostering collaborative partnerships and coordination.

Financing opportunities from all sources will be identified, including from domestic public finance, public international (bilateral and multilateral) funds, and private funds from industries and private finance institutions. This will include exploring mechanisms to secure commitments, innovative schemes, measures and opportunities for aligning finance, and the identification of new and emerging funding opportunities for continental priorities. This will support the costing of continental priorities. Information on indicative opportunities for financing at the regional and national levels may also be provided.

Based on each pillar of this Strategy (and across pillars), the Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Plan will define access procedures and opportunities, as well as expenditure procedures and priorities at the continental level. To support this process, priorities for information sharing and capacity building will be identified.

Indicators for tracking trends in financial flows from diverse sources will be defined to enable the assessment of their impact on implementation priorities and support reporting.

### 4.3 MAJOR SUPPORT TOOLS

The following support tools will be developed as annexes to this Strategy based on the intervention areas and actions defined. The AUC, in collaboration with its partners, will lead the development of these implementation support tools.

#### 4.3.1 MONITORING AND INDICATORS FRAMEWORK

The Monitoring Framework for the GBF was adopted by Parties alongside the adoption of the GBF itself, in Decisions COP 15/5 on the 19th of December 2022. It was negotiated by Parties and comprises a set of headline, component and complementary indicators recommended for use by countries in reporting on target achievement in the GBF. Given the complexity of the work involved, the framework is incomplete, with an Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) mandated to provide final recommendations for COP 16 (2024) for a full monitoring framework.

The monitoring framework for this Strategy is intended to complement and assist countries in the reporting required for the GBF without additional burden. Accordingly, the primary indicators for each target should be drawn from the approved headline, component and complementary indicators, augmented by achievement indicators for each of the actions identified in Tables 1-14. Given the in-progress work of the AHTEG, it is recommended that the monitoring framework for this Strategy be completed in parallel with the work of the AHTEG, with oversight by African Parties represented in the AHTEG, and supported by relevant observers represented in the AHTEG.

A preliminary policy coherence analysis was completed in the development of this Strategy to highlight linkages between the Strategy's action areas and those of the GBF and other MEAs. Further work on identifying linkages between this Strategy, global MEAs and other continental policy frameworks is required and should be completed as part of the development of the Monitoring and Indicators Framework.

Tentatively, the monitoring framework for this Strategy will be implemented by each country, with specification of the following:

- **Target and action area** – list of individual target and associated priority action areas for a country.
- **Headline indicator** – the headline indicator is to be produced, including related sub-components (e.g. ecosystems), within a country's jurisdiction.
- **Supporting component and/or complementary indicators** – list of supporting indicators needed to generate the headline indicator, within the capacity of the country and partners to supply.
- **Binary and other indicators (target/action)** – GBF and Africa strategy-action binary and additional indicators required to monitor application in each country.
- **Requirements** – for each indicator, catalogue the:
  - National – capacity, resources, personnel, programmes and capabilities for generating the indicators, funding gaps and potential supporters.
  - Regional/continental – support systems, datasets, networking, finance, etc.

In addition to the specific indicators recommended for each target and action, capacity needs and avenues for capacity building, and resource needs for monitoring, need to be specified and included in all communications and projects supporting implementation of the Strategy.



## **4.3.2 CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PLAN FOR AFRICA**

COP 15 Decision 15/8, in adopting a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the GBF, emphasises the requirement for capacity building needs to be determined by Parties based on priorities outlined in their NBSAPs. Regional bodies have further been recognised in this decision as key actors in supporting capacity development. Thematic and regional and subregional capacity-building and development action plans and programmes are thus expected to be developed.

Further to this, technical and scientific cooperation in support of the GBF will be promoted and facilitated by the Secretariat of the CBD in collaboration with competent regional support entities and centres. It is of critical importance that Regional Centres of Excellence in the continent respond to the

expected requests by the Secretariat of the CBD for collaboration and partnership.

Developing a plan for Capacity Building and Development, and Technical and Scientific Cooperation in support of this Strategy will take into consideration several ongoing processes and tools, including the CBD Long-term Strategic Plan for Capacity-building and Development and Technical and Scientific Cooperation for the implementation of the GBF. Complementary to this are the Capacity Building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the findings on capacity building needs for the Nagoya Protocol. Priorities for capacity building defined in Pillar E of this Strategy will inform the development of the Capacity Building and Development, and Technical and Scientific Cooperation Plan.

### 4.3.3 BIODIVERSITY COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UPTAKE ACTION PLAN FOR AFRICA

A Communication, Education, Public Awareness and Uptake Action Plan constitutes an important tool for promoting awareness of this Strategy and supporting knowledge sharing, and will support implementation across the continent.

This aligns with the CBD Decision 15/14 Communication Strategy adopted at COP 15 to support the implementation of the GBF and the guidance provided for the development of specific CEPA strategies and action plans at regional, national, and subnational levels to ensure the uptake and implementation of the GBF. Although the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness set up within the CBD is yet

to elaborate the final details of the communication strategy, the development of Africa's priorities for CEPA, will provide a useful guide to inform this global process. Developing this annex tool to the Strategy will take into consideration the CBD goals for communication aimed at, inter alia, increasing understanding and awareness of the multiple values of biodiversity, including associated systems of knowledge of IPLCs; raising awareness amongst all actors on progress in achieving the GBF; developing and promoting platforms and partnerships, to share information and experiences; and, disseminating information on the relevance of the GBF to key thematic and developmental processes.

### 4.3.4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA

The engagement of non-state actors is a key element for the implementation of this Strategy. This is equally recognised under the GBF, which calls for transparency in the commitments and contributions towards the goals and targets of the GBF.

Across the continent, a wide range of stakeholders at various levels have been engaged in diverse activities aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the continent's biodiversity and ecosystems. Developing a Stakeholder Engagement

Framework for the continent provides the opportunity for mapping and providing greater visibility to the contribution that these key actors make towards each pillar and intervention area for this Strategy. This is expected to trigger greater commitment from non-state actors towards the implementation of the GBF within the continent.

The development of this tool will be carried out through an inclusive process with the participation of key stakeholders.

**“ The successful Conference and development of the ABSAP was due to the strong partnership between different institutions and experts built on a strong commitment for nature. This is also evident as we continue in the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan.”**

Harsen Nyambe Nyambe, Director Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy, AUC





**African Union Commission**  
**Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy**  
P.O Box 3243  
Addis Ababa  
ETHIOPIA

**Harsen Nyambe Nyambe**  
Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy  
Email: [NyambeH@africa-union.org](mailto:NyambeH@africa-union.org)

**Leah Wanambwa Naess**  
Senior Policy Officer, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy  
Email: [WanambwaL@africa-union.org](mailto:WanambwaL@africa-union.org) and  
[FebenT@africa-union.org](mailto:FebenT@africa-union.org)