


Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) related to green transition Programme

BIODIVERSITY & FOREST COMPONENT



This component aims to ensure the sustainable management of forests, biodiversity, and seascape ecosystems across different African landscapes. By doing so, the ecosystem services crucial to the well-being of local populations will be fostered, while updated and reliable data will be provided to ensure evidence-based policymaking.

Objectives:

1. The Regional Centres of Excellence (RCoEs) will serve as a key source of updated information, influencing policy decisions on forestry and biodiversity within their respective regions, thereby contributing to both regional and global agendas.
2. Cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic guidance of the RCoEs will be enhanced to tackle the challenges related to Science, Technology, and Innovations (STI) in Africa's green transition.



Final beneficiaries

The final beneficiaries of the biodiversity and forests component include all African citizens that benefit from the preservation of ecosystems services to sustain their livelihoods, climate resilience and local well-being.

Areas of impact

1. Data collection and sharing: the centres will collect, harmonize and summarize biodiversity and ecosystem data from local, national, and regional sources. The data gathered will be made accessible through open-source information systems.
2. Scientific and policy support: the centres will produce and channel scientific and policy analyses to decision-makers to ensure better-informed decision-making across the regions.
3. Capacity building: institutional and human capacities will be strengthened to improve decision-making processes and foster better coordination and networking among biodiversity stakeholders.
4. Global engagement: the centres will collaborate with continental and global institutions to promote ecosystem engagement and biodiversity conservation.



Target group

Government institutions, research institutions, civil society organisations, providers of data, information and knowledge, international organisations, private sector, academia, local communities and continental Regional Economic Commission, and global bodies.

Organisational set-up

Overall coordination of the component is managed by a leading organisation with significant technical and scientific expertise. Harmonization and knowledge sharing across actions in African regions will be carried out by three dedicated consortia, each led by Centres of Excellence, in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) dedicated units.



Lead Organisation: CIFOR-ICRAF

JRC Thematic Unit

Regional Centres of Excellence: Eastern and Southern African Regional Centre for Mapping Resources for Development (RCMRD)

Western Africa: Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE)

Central Africa: Observatoire des forets d'Afrique Centrale (OFAC)



Background

This component builds on the experience gained through the EU-funded Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme. BIOPAMA provided funding to conservation actors in Africa to enhance the management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. Additionally, this component will connect with NaturAfrica, an initiative launched in 2021 to support biodiversity conservation in Africa through an innovative, people-centred approach.

Within this framework, the African Centres of Excellence for Biodiversity, Forests, and Seascape Ecosystems Management represent, therefore, a critical step toward addressing the challenges facing the different regions' ecosystems. Through collaboration, capacity building, and data-sharing, the Centres will ensure that forests and biodiversity continue to provide essential services to local populations while contributing to global conservation efforts.

More information:

www.arcx.green

CIFOR-ICRAF: <https://www.cifor-icraf.org/>

JRC: <https://africa-knowledge-platform.ec.europa.eu/>

This factsheet will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.