

Biodiversity and Forest Regional Centres of Excellence

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ARC-X South Africa Regional workshop, Johannesburg
July 2026



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Biodiversity and Forest Component



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- Objectives and expected results
- Target groups
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CIFOR-ICRAF Continental and global engagements

Key Results, Achievements & Next Steps

- Informing continental and AU processes
- RCoEs engagements with CBD process and TSCs
- Linkage with NaturAfrica initiative





Overall Objective

Africa's ecosystems are **sustainably preserved and managed**, and **contribute to the well-being of the people** who depend on them and humanity as a whole, through **sustainable management** through **decision-making** based on **credible and regularly updated information**.



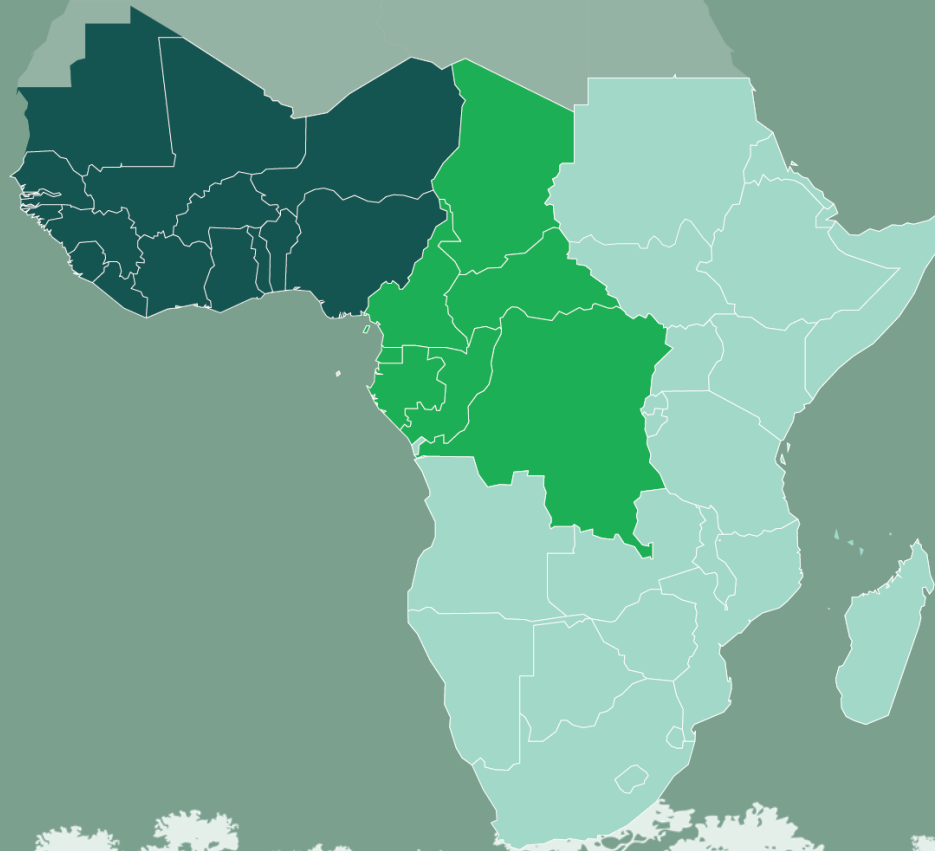
Regional Centres of Excellence

Three Regional Centres of Excellence:

Western Africa:
Centre of
Excellence for
Biodiversity and
Ecosystems

Central Africa:
Central African
Forest Observatory
(OFAC)

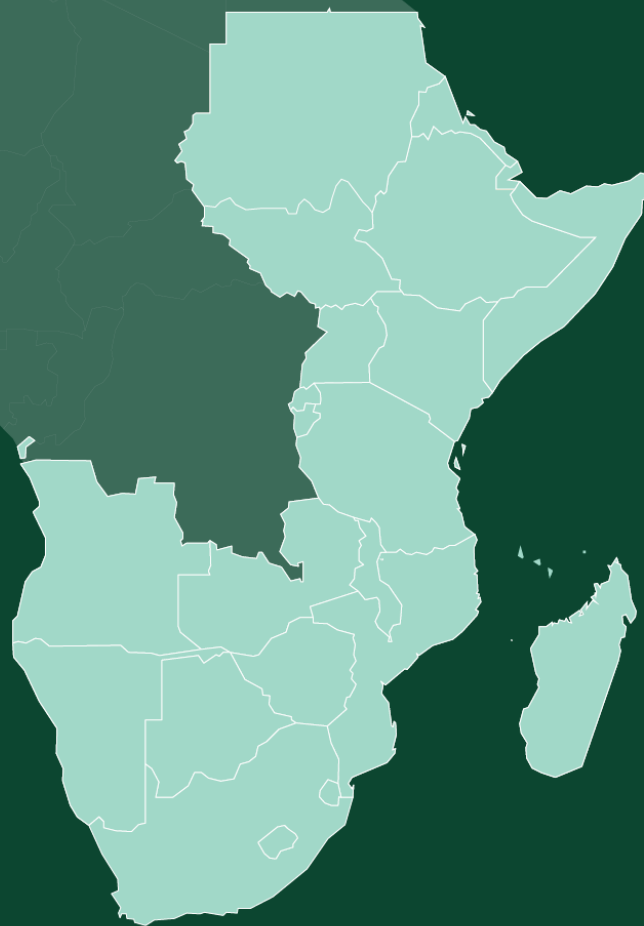
**Eastern and
Southern Africa:**
Centre of
Excellence for
Biodiversity,
Forests and
Seascape
Ecosystems
Management



Centre of Excellence – Eastern and Southern Africa

Geographic scope:

Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Duration:
48 months



EU contribution:
EUR 6,000,000



The Eastern and Southern Africa Consortium



Regional Centre for
Mapping of Resources
for Development

CIFOR – Lead

Partner: Regional Centre
for Mapping of
Resources for
Development (RCMRD)



Funded by European Union



Observatoire pour la Biodiversité et les Aires Protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest
Regional Observatory of Biodiversity and Protected Area in West Africa



Centre de Suivi Ecologique





Target audience

- Government institutions
- Research institutions
- Civil society organisations
- Providers of data, information and knowledge
- International organisations
- Private sector
- Academia
- Local communities
- Continental Regional Economic Commission Blocks
- Global bodies





Results: Eastern and Southern Africa

- 1 Result 1:** Collects, harmonises and summarises information on biodiversity and ecosystems in the region at local, national and regional level and makes it accessible to beneficiaries through an information system.
- 2 Result 2:** Produces scientific and policy analyses to support decision-making.





Results: Eastern and Southern Africa

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Result 3: Facilitates more informed decision-making through better human capacities, a good institutional framework and a better network of information holders.

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Result 4: Engages and coordinates with continental and global institutions and networks.



Result 4: Eastern and Southern Africa



The Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management in Eastern and Southern Africa collaborates and coordinates its activities with continental and global institutions and networks.



Output 4.1 The Regional Centres of Excellence engage with and influence relevant global and continental policy processes and forums



Output 4.2 The Regional Centres of Excellence initiate, support and inform related processes at the AU and continental level



Output 4.3 Facilitating Regional Centres of Excellence engagement and cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity



Engage with and influence relevant global and continental policy processes and forums

- ❖ Initial engagements done with AU Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE) Directorate
- ❖ Developing continental synthesis policy briefs on forests and biodiversity in collaboration with AU. Two key briefs are under development
- ❖ Working group formed to progress a policy and a technical brief:
 - Policy brief focusing on options for moving forward biodiversity policy in Africa
 - A Technical brief, purpose to guide stakeholders on biodiversity data management with a focus on what is the key biodiversity information required for management
 - Drafts being developed, and a joint write shop is planned (RCoEs, AU) Aug 2026



RCoEs engagement and cooperation with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

❖ Learning and exchange between the Technical Support Centres (TSCs) for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Objective: Foster knowledge exchange among TSCs; develop common understanding of roles, responsibilities; and enrich TSCs in planning and fulfilment of their role.

Participants:

- TSCs under CBD (RCMRD, COMIFAC/OFAC, CSE, OSS, SANBI)
- CBD secretariat
- UNEP-WCMC
- EU-JRC
- UNEP Nairobi
- CIFOR-ICRAF, coordinating the RCoE



Outcome: Priority areas identified for TSCs to enhance in their CBD implementation:

Data needs	Partnerships and networking	Institutional, technical & financial needs
• Harmonize national targets with international requirements • Drive data inventory in countries • Facilitate data access from custodian agencies • Access enabling conditions for data collection and management • Data governance frameworks that ensure accountability, foster trust, and guarantee long-term accessibility	• Expand on existing collaborations-MoUs between TSCs, other bodies, • Share a Common Vision of all the TSCs/ align with priorities of the parties • Align action plans of TSCs with continental initiatives(AU agenda 2063, Great Green Wall, Green Transition) • Harmonize frameworks for data standardization • Develop expertise on programs, tools (such as ESRI dash boards, web apps, IUCN tools, GBIF, Protected Planet, WCMC-WDPA, FAO,	• TSCs to support countries to strengthen the national coordination framework • Institutionalize TSCs through NBSAPs. • TSCs to support capacity building of countries on resource mobilization and sustainable financing • Support countries in the finalization of NBSAPs and reporting • Collaborate with Africa Union, through the Biodiversity Unit



Linkage with NaturAfrica:

- As part of outcome 4 of NaturAfrica program, RCoEs are mandated to collect, centralize, and manage information on NaturAfrica initiatives within Key Landscapes for Conservation and Development (KLCDs), through Technical Assistants in each RCoE.
- NaturAfrica has developed indicators and information systems to support monitoring and reporting of conservation outcomes across Africa (broadly under Conservation, Green economy, Governance).
- Ongoing engagements with the RCoEs:
RCMRD and OFAC technical experts and partners to review progress in development of indicators and information systems that support monitoring and reporting (23-27 March 2026).

Cross-Learning Session conducted to review progress on; development of the NaturAfrica information system; and harmonization of indicators and data collection practices across RCoEs (Jul 1 2026).

- Ongoing collaboration with RCoEs for co-design and data collection and overall development of the Natur Africa information systems, data collection protocols



THANK YOU

