

[Draft] Concept Note – Launch of ‘A Framework for National Nature Strategy’

Organisers

This event is jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Financial Sector Deepening Africa (FSD Africa), with support from McKinsey & Company.

Background and Context

Africa's economy heavily relies on nature, but natural capital is rapidly depleting. The decline of natural capital poses significant risks to economic development and people's wellbeing. 70% of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on forests and woodlands for their livelihoods. Africa loses approximately 195 billion USD of natural capital annually through unsustainable or illicit activities. Investing in nature restoration can unlock economic opportunities and mitigate risks. Africa's natural resources, including its extensive coastline, offer a competitive edge. The blue economy, through research, innovation, and ecosystem management, could yield 576 billion USD each year and 127 million jobs by 2063. Marine and coastal tourism alone could bring 100 billion USD each year in revenue and employ 28 million people by 2030. Overall, a nature-positive transition and restoration investment could generate 10 trillion USD in investment and 395 million jobs by 2030.

Recent commitments at national, regional, global, and corporate levels reflect a growing prioritization of nature, with over 190 countries having developed national biodiversity strategies. The Africa 2063 agenda sets a goal for environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies at a regional level. Global initiatives, like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and UN 2030 Agenda, and corporate standards (e.g., TNFD, SBTN, IFRS ISSB, and CDSB) underscore the importance of nature conservation. These trends highlight the urgency and potential for a national nature strategy to align responses with international commitments (e.g. GBF, NBSAPs and NDCs), address regional and global priorities, increase funding, and enhance climate outcomes where nature intersects with climate action.

The Framework for National Nature Strategy aims to provide a structured and comprehensive guide for any country to develop their national nature strategy, which can effectively assess the state of their natural environment, set clear goals and targets for conservation and restoration efforts, identify and prioritize initiatives, establish relevant policies and financing instruments, and create appropriate governance structures for successful implementation. This framework is also a powerful tool to identify interactions between nature and climate including harnessing nature-based solutions to improve climate related outcomes. The framework therefore enables countries to make informed decisions, allocate resources efficiently, engage stakeholders effectively, deliver and track progress towards their nature conservation, climate change and other nature-related goals in alignment with international standards and commitments.

Objectives of the event

- To show-case and rally African countries and their development partners around the Framework for National Nature Strategies as an innovative and integrative tool to boost nature-positive actions to realize national and global biodiversity, climate change and other natural capital goals.

- To stimulate partnerships to support the implementation of the framework to revamp and implement NDCs and the NBSAPs in line with the global stock-take and Global biodiversity Framework
- To highlight the lessons learnt from pilot testing the National Nature Strategy Framework in Ghana
- To stimulate discussions to strengthen Africa’s position on the importance of nature conservation and restoration as a fundamental component of climate resilience and sustainable development in Africa.

Draft Programme

- Date and Time: 9 December 2023, 60 min
- Interpretation: English and French

Introductory remarks 5min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nassim Oulmane, Acting Director, Technology, Climate Change and Nature Resource Management Division, UNECA • Kelvin Massingham, Director of Risk, FSD Africa
Presentation on the Framework for National Nature Strategy 20min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robin Smale, Senior Expert, McKinsey
Panel Discussion 30min	Moderator: Dorothy Maseke, Lead Nature Finance, FSD Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana • Representatives from other African countries • Rep of African Development Bank • Private Sector Representative (business related risks etc.) • Civil society
Closing & Way forward 5min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSD Africa • UNECA

Key messages

- The Framework for National Nature Strategy provides a structured and comprehensive guide for African and other nations to navigate the complexities of nature conservation and restoration. By adopting this framework, African countries can foster sustainable development, protect natural capital, and enhance their contribution to global climate resilience efforts.

- Unlocking nature-based solutions in Africa requires clear policies, participatory governance, capacity building through technical assistance, and substantial financial support. This involves mobilizing funding from international donors, governments, and private sector investors to implement sustainable practices for conservation and restoration.
- Nature-based solutions play a crucial role in addressing climate change and fulfilling Africa's development needs and priorities. They offer a sustainable path by simultaneously mitigating and adapting to climate impacts, providing a self-reliant approach for the continent's growth and resilience.

Links to background documentation:

[forthcoming]

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