



PRESS RELEASE

December 15th, 2022

LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS COALITION IN AFRICA

The COP15 in Montreal, from the 7th to the 19th of December 2022, is expected to be one of the crucial environmental conferences to adopt new global targets to fight against biodiversity loss. The "Aichi targets", which defined a strategy for 2010-2020, were not achieved, therefore a new roadmap for international action in favor of biodiversity for 2020-2030 must be established in order to protect all life. The United Nations stressed in 2020 that SDG 15 regarding the conservation of biodiversity will not be achieved with the state of protected areas as is.

Scientific data, particularly from The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), warned of biodiversity decline with one million species at risk of extinction in 2019. Protecting the extensive African flora and its iconic species, including elephants, chimpanzees, and lions, is a major concern.

While the development of protected areas is one of the most effective measures for preserving ecosystems and biodiversity, research has also shown that its effectiveness depends on the degree of integration of conservation projects in national and local strategies and their integration in other areas of public policy and action: reforestation policies, water systems, agriculture, and economic development of local populations.

The effect that protected areas have on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience is based on the development of connective networks. These networks help sustain the genetic diversity within species, ensure natural migration and in some cases even help adapt to climate change. Today, however, half of all protected areas are connected. By reducing the fragmentation of natural habitats, ecological corridors contribute to connectivity networks.

In the midst of a systemic environmental crisis where biodiversity, climate, and desertification - from the three United Nations Conventions on the environment - are linked, the [Climate Chance Association](#), which specializes in networking actors by organizing Summits and multi-stakeholder coalitions, is launching **a new international platform to mobilize for the central role that biodiversity corridors play in Africa**. The coalition will be co-chaired by four countries: France, Gabon, Guinea, and Tanzania.

In a field where initiatives are multiplying, it will be a tool for coordination, exchanging best practices, and capacity building; it will also feature a continent-wide mapping. The Coalition also aims to mobilize funding to accelerate the renovation of old corridors or develop new ones. The goal is to explore the possible linkages between the actions related to the fight against climate degradation, specifically within the forestry domain.

In January 2023, Climate Chance will deploy **the first demonstration project from the new Coalition, in Guinea**, a country with growing forest cover that remains at the intersection of multiple ecological connectivities. The Guinean government has committed to a National Strategy and the implementation of a National Biodiversity Conservation Plan (2016-2025) in which the issue of inclusion of the local population and management of biological corridors are emphasized.

During the COP15 in Montreal, the launch event for the International Coalition for "Corridors of Biodiversity in Africa" will be held by the co-chairs of the French Republic, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Guinea, and the United Republic of Tanzania on:

Thursday, December 15th from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm (event will be followed by a cocktail reception)

Intercontinental Hotel - Sherwood Stratton Room (2nd Floor)



Event schedule:

Family photo (with ministers and partners present)

Welcoming remarks and moderation:

Ronan Dantec, President of Climate Chance

Introductory remarks by the co-chairs:

For France: Bérangère Couillard, Secretary of State to the Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, in charge of Ecology

For Gabon: Lee White, Minister of Water, Forests, Sea, and Environment, in charge of the Climate Plan and the Land Use Plan

For Guinea: Aboubacar Samoura, Director of the Guinean Office of Parks and Wildlife Reserves, representing Safiatou Diallo, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development

For Tanzania: Mpoki Ulisubisya, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania

Overview of the coalition's operation, objectives, and next steps + analysis of biodiversity corridors, and carbon offset studies.

Anne Raimat, Director of Biodiversity, Climate Chance

Statements by the Coalition partners: What strategic direction should the coalition take? What are the main issues? What are your expectations for the future?

- Suzanne Ngo-Eyok, Senior Vice President, Conservation International
- Lesle Jansen, Executive Director, Resource Africa
- Véronique Andrieux, Director General, WWF France
- Satyen Sinha, Executive Director for Europe, International Conservation Caucus Foundation
- Sébastien Soleille, Head of Energy Transition and Environment, BNP Paribas, representative of Entreprises pour l'Environnement
- Gilles Kleitz, Executive Director of Sustainable Development Solutions, French Development Agency (AFD)

Brief Conclusion:

Ronan Dantec, President of Climate Chance

Cocktail

About Climate Chance

Created in 2015, Climate Chance is the only international association involved in the mobilization against climate change seeking to unite all non-state actors recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change— the UNFCCC. Its objective? To strengthen the climate action of local authorities, businesses, and civil society by bringing together actors and exchanging best practices, to advocate and promote common priorities and initiatives, and thus to contribute to the achievement of the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement.

www.climate-chance.org/en/

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