

eMag on Climate Action in Africa

**#1 What convergence of
biodiversity and climate issues at
local level?**

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The Observatory's Lens



Ecosystems adaptation through biodiversity corridors

Mélaïne Assè Wassa Sama, Climate Chance

Mélaïne Assè Wassa Sama, Climate Action Project Officer in Africa at Climate Chance presents the trend "Biodiversity Corridors: Strengthening Ecological Connectivity to Adapt Ecosystems to Climate Change".

What is ecological connectivity?

Human activities (mining, forestry, urban development, dams) have contributed to the fragmentation of natural habitats, making it difficult for animal species to migrate. During the Biodiversity Day at the Week for Sustainable Mobility and Climate (SMDC) in Dakar, we discussed how giraffes in Senegal are having trouble migrating because of railroads.

Ecological connectivity is a paradigm that indicates the degree of connection between natural environments of a landscape, in terms of their components, their spatial distribution and their ecological functions. This set of structural and functional elements connects natural areas.

What is a biodiversity corridor?

A biodiversity corridor is a well-defined geographic space, governed and managed to maintain or restore ecological connectivity.

It allows animals to migrate from one area to another according to the seasons and natural disturbances.

How can biodiversity corridors be used as collaborative tools to facilitate both connectivity and adaptation to climate change?

Corridors involve a variety of actors in both their planning and management (governments, local government services, businesses, private actors). Local populations are increasingly involved in species protection, which marks a paradigm shift in biodiversity conservation.

Moreover, corridors allow species to move to different areas according to climate change, and to thrive.

How is ecological connectivity relevant to the convergence of the three Rio Conventions (on Climate, Biodiversity and Desertification)?

The three Rio conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification) are often presented separately, but they come from the same conference and are inevitably related. Ecological connectivity is a cross-cutting issue that allows both to protect biodiversity, to fight against climate change and to slow down desertification by maintaining biological diversity.

For more information on the Africa Observatory, please contact Mélaïne Assè Wassa Sama: melaine.sama@climate-chance.org



Read more: "Strengthening ecological connectivity to adapt ecosystems to climate change", Global Synthesis Report by Sector 2022.



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Launch of the International Coalition "Biodiversity Corridors in Africa"

Anne Raimat, Climate Chance



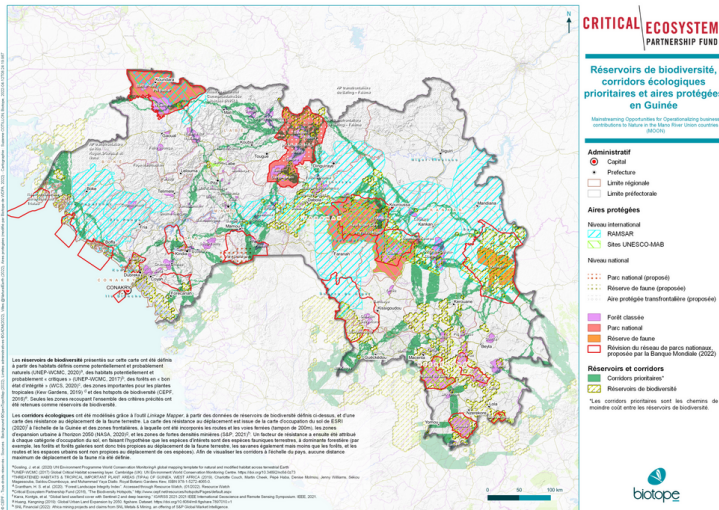
Anne Raimat, Biodiversity Director presents the International Coalition "Biodiversity Corridors in Africa" launched by Climate Chance at the COP 15 in Kunming-Montreal and co-chaired by France, Gabon, Guinea and Tanzania.

The main objectives of the Coalition are:

- actors' mobilisation,
- advocacy in relation to the international agenda on the subject,
- knowledge sharing and capacity building,
- Search for funding solutions,
- and the development of demonstration projects

The Coalition will be set up throughout 2023 starting under the chairmanship of France, Gabon, Guinea, and Tanzania.

To date, the coalition has about sixty active stakeholders.



More information on the International Coalition Biodiversity

What is the coalition's demonstration project?

The demonstration project in Guinea consists of creating, restoring and maintaining a corridor from the North to the South of the country by backing it up with funding from offsets.

It will run from February 2023 to February 2026, over a 3-year-period.

Are you interested in more information on the Coalition and the terms of participation?
 Contact Anne Raimat: anne.raimat@climate-chance.org

Ecological connectivity and biodiversity corridors are great tools for associating the themes of the 3 Conventions on Climate, Biodiversity and Desertification. Climate Chance, considers Ecological connectivity to be a highly cross-cutting issue dealing with all three of these topics.

Therefore, at COP 15, Climate Chance and its partners launched an international coalition on biodiversity corridors in Africa.





Migratory species protection and adaptation to climate change

Amy Fraenckel, Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

Amy Fraenckel, Executive Secretary of the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species and Wildlife, discusses the importance of ecological connectivity in the context of migratory species conservation and climate change adaptation.

Is ecological connectivity sufficiently taken into account within international frameworks?

The good news is that there is now broad agreement on the importance of connectivity, which is included in many of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Agreement. Connectivity can also provide a holistic way to achieve these targets in all regions. It is also addressed in the UNFCCC framework and in IPCC reports.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and Wildlife has long addressed ecological connectivity as it is essential for the protection of migratory species that need to be able to reach their migration sites. They face many barriers and threats, and it is essential to identify these in order to take action to preserve them.

But ecological connectivity is not just about species, it is about conservation, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience.

How can ecological connectivity be used as a tool for adaptation to climate change?

Climate change has impacts on habitat, but also on access to water and causes changes in migration. This year we will publish a study on the impact of climate change on biodiversity where we will address connectivity.

In addition to protecting and restoring biodiversity, corridors are a tool for improving and fostering resilience within ecosystems.

Achieving these objectives can only be done by taking into account the variety of factors and actors involved: populations, urban growth, etc. Infrastructure development and human activities can continue to take place and meet economic needs but must consider connectivity.

Internationally, governments must work together to protect species and natural sites. We are building on the past and opening up new opportunities to implement initiatives. In particular, we have supported transboundary cooperation in Africa, but also in other regions of the world.

The issue of connectivity will be focused on during the COP 14 (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) to be held in October 2023 in Uzbekistan.



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Communities' role in biodiversity protection and restoration

Adja Aïssatou Sy, Biodiversity and Protected Areas West-African Observatory

Adja Aïssatou Sy, coordinator of the Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas of West Africa (OBAPAO) presents the work initiated by her organization, the steps to be taken to strengthen ecological connectivity and the importance of involving local communities.

What is the role of local communities in restoring ecological connectivity?

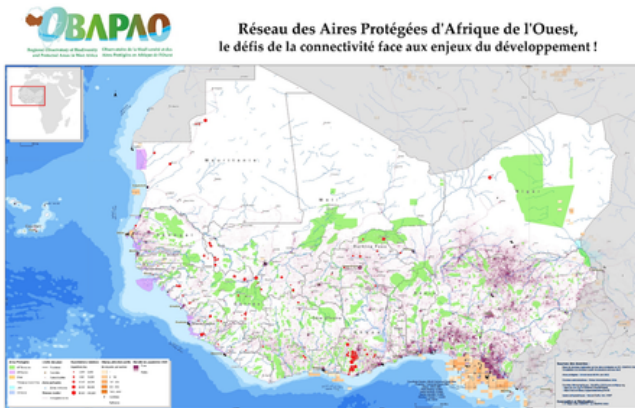
There has been a 110% collapse of animal populations in West Africa between the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, which is linked, among other things, to the fragmentation of natural habitats as well as to the overexploitation of animal species and climate change

This situation has led to the formation of islands of biodiversity to which communities do not have access, which contributes to the emergence of human-animal conflicts.

There are alternatives for managing biodiversity corridors, but these must be based on more holistic planning at the regional level. To do this, it is necessary to assess the state of the corridors and allocate resources at both the regional and national levels, granting legal status to these spaces through a bottom-up approach based on dialogues with local communities. These local populations must be involved in the entire process, starting with the assessment, by sharing their traditional knowledge and practices.

In this comprehensive planning effort, synergy among the three conventions is central to support the resilience of both ecosystems and communities.

It is important for implementation to be documented and monitored with defined indicators to identify successes and failures.



What is the work of your organization? Why is data production central to protecting biodiversity in West Africa?

Our Observatory's ambition is to contribute to the production of quality data for the West African sub-region in order to help decision-makers in the implementation and political decision-making related to protected areas and biodiversity. We wish to accompany the countries for a better connection of the protected areas which, we see, are very fragmented.

This necessarily involves the rehabilitation of ecological connectivity in these areas.





Access to finance for biodiversity, climate and desertification projects

Yohann Zaba, UN Climate, RCC Lomé

Yohann Zaba, Regional Expert on Article 6 and Carbon Pricing at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Regional Collaboration Center (RCC) in Lomé, led by the West African Development Bank (WADB), explains the RCC's missions and the mechanisms proposed to facilitate access to finance for projects.

How and why is the RCC supporting field projects that deal with the three issues of climate, biodiversity and desertification?

The three conventions are often seen separately, a division that is due to financial considerations. However, in practice, the actions are often combined or have a common operationalization. The RCC, which works in 26 countries with the WADB and tries to integrate as much as possible this convergence in the projects. To do so, RCC works with networks of actors such as Climate Chance, but also with other structures such as the West African Alliance for Carbon Markets and Climate Finance. RCC ensures that all three dimensions are taken into account.

It is also important to emphasize the cross-cutting aspect of gender, which makes a link between the three conventions, as women are particularly vulnerable on the socio-economic and climate levels.

How does RCC support project leaders in accessing funding?

We support governments, civil society, the private sector and the research community in accessing funds and structuring their projects, particularly through access to data, capacity building and the production of studies. We do not finance projects directly but we constitute a hub to facilitate access to the most suitable funding.

How does it work? The main mechanisms include:

1. Project submissions in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) space to access co-funding from the WADB.
2. Support to access the Green Climate Fund (WADB is accredited to the Green Fund).
3. Support for smaller project holders at the local level and their redirection towards smaller and more accessible funding opportunities.

Are you carrying out a project that contributes to the fight against climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification in West Africa and would like support in accessing funding?

**Please contact the West African Development Bank:
RCCLome@unfccc.int**

[Watch the recording of the eMag #1](#)



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Upcoming Events

Join us once a month on Thursdays from 3 to 4:15 pm (Paris time) for a themed virtual meeting on climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa, followed by an e-magazine to read through.



eMag #2
February 23

**Renewable Energy and
Access to Energy**

[Click to register](#)



eMag #3
March 23

**Agroecology and Food
Systems**

[Click to register](#)



eMag #4
April 20

**Financing Loss and
Damages and Adaptation**



eMag #5
May 25

**Sustainable Mobility
and Transport**



eMag #6
June 22

**Circular Economy and
Waste Management**



eMag #7
July 20

**Sustainable Urban
Planning and Habitat**



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eMag written by Chloé Quinero