



International Coalition
**BIODIVERSITY
CORRIDORS
IN AFRICA**

**PRESERVING ECOSYSTEMS
BY SUPPORTING
HUMAN-ANIMAL COHABITATION**

**FORGING JOINT RESPONSES
TO THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE,
BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

A KEY CHALLENGE: INCORPORATING THE "ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY" DIMENSION INTO CONSERVATION POLICIES



Ecological corridors are nature's circulatory system. Terrestrial and marine connectivity (and inter-connectivity) is one of the most important adaptive responses for ensuring the resilience of species and ecosystems.

To combat habitat fragmentation, informed planning decisions can determine the future of much of Africa's wild flora and fauna: either confined to large parks with genetic fragmentation of populations, or connected via thriving ecological corridors where human-animal cohabitation is managed to ensure sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Against a backdrop of unprecedented global biodiversity loss, accelerated by the effects of climate change, the last Conference on Biodiversity (COP15) in December 2022 proved to be a crucial step in defining an ambitious framework for the protection of ecosystems.

The resulting Kunming-Montreal framework emphasises the fundamental contribution of ecological connectivity to the proper functioning of ecosystems and species by including it in a number of objectives and targets.

Thus, a fundamental shift in the conservation paradigm is needed, emphasising that the future of wildlife lies as much in shared spaces with human communities as in protected sanctuaries.

It was against this backdrop that an international coalition for biodiversity corridors in Africa was launched in Montreal. Co-chaired by Gabon, Guinea, Tanzania and France, with a secretariat provided by the Climate Chance association, the coalition aims to bring together all the stakeholders working to maintain and restore these corridors: public and private actors, conservation and development NGOs, research organisations...

THE COALITION'S CORE OBJECTIVES: INFORMING AND MOBILISING STAKEHOLDERS

● CONVERGENCE OF INFORMATION

The creation of the International Coalition "Biodiversity Corridors in Africa" began with the observation that there was no forum for exchanges between all the actors working on these issues. Many NGOs, both international and local, are developing high-quality initiatives in the field, but there are still few fora for dialogue and feedback on the successes and difficulties encountered.

Through a dedicated website, the coalition is offering all those involved in ecological connectivity an operational portal for pooling information. The aim is also to present a mapping that is as exhaustive as possible of corridor actions and the areas at stake. Today, this mapping work does not exist on an African scale.

● FOSTERING NEW PROJECTS

By bringing actors together, the aim is to foster the emergence, consolidation and development of connectivity projects on the ground, and to support project leaders by exchanging knowledge and helping them get in touch with potential financial partners. Through the «cartography» of major corridors, we aim to map out key territories and encourage new projects.

● KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

This involves analysing the synergy between national public policies and actions on the ground. Some countries, such as Tanzania, have adopted important legislation concerning biodiversity corridors, creating a favourable framework for conservation and development. Analysing and highlighting these kinds of legislation is one of the coalition's objectives.

The development of research and the publication of new studies on corridors will be the focus of our attention, and will be mentioned in the news feed on our site.

● FINDING INNOVATIVE FINANCING

The modes of financing for conservation and development are undergoing several changes. In this context, the coalition also aims to monitor the situation and disseminate up-to-date information on: new financing, mobilisation of climate finance and evolution of standards, impact in terms of development for the benefit of local populations.



Official launch of the international coalition for biodiversity corridors in Africa - COP15, December 2022.

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PORTAL ON BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS

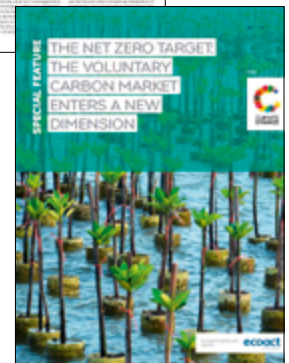
A CARTOGRAPHY OF ACTION UNDERWAY AND KEY TERRITORIES

Based on a dozen or so major corridors that are well described at the African level (Kenya-Tanzania-Mozambique, KaZa, Ghana-Senegal, etc.), the work carried out on the coalition's cartography lists and updates, using detailed factsheets, all the actions undertaken, specifies their state of progress and highlights the territories at stake, likely to arouse the interest of local actors and financiers. We would like to present all the existing initiatives, whether or not the actors are members of the coalition.



ANNUAL STUDIES AND ANALYSES

The portal will disseminate analyses and synthesise existing knowledge on the state of ecological connectivity, scientific research on the role of corridors, carbon credits and biodiversity, innovative financing and the development of the main initiatives. Drawing on the expertise of Climate Chance's Global Observatory of Climate Action, the coalition will publish an annual summary report on the state of action on ecological corridors.



A NEWS FEED

On the basis of constant monitoring, this news feed will indicate significant developments in actions in the field, new scientific publications and the results of major international conferences on the subject of ecological connectivity.

A MAJOR ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

The coalition is conducting active advocacy in favour of connectivity. It is present at the major international conferences on biodiversity, but also raises this issue in other forums: climate COPs, development summits, annual Climate Chance Africa summits...

● ACTION CARRIED OUT OVER THE PAST YEAR

In 2022, several events and presentations were organised ahead of COP15: a side-event in partnership with WWF International at the 1st African Congress of Protected Areas in Kigali; a special day on biodiversity, ecological connectivity and the Great Green Wall at the Climate Chance Summit in Dakar... The official launch of the Coalition "Biodiversity Corridors in Africa" took place in December 2022, at Biodiversity COP15, under the co-presidency of the Republic of France, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Guinea and the United Republic of Tanzania, in the presence of the respective ministers and key figures.

In 2023, an initial strategy meeting brought together the members of the coalition at the One Forest Summit in Libreville, Gabon, to set out its roadmap. The coalition then actively participated in several international events to present its work and advocate for ecological connectivity. At COP28 in Dubai, UAE, it organised two side events, one dedicated to the issue of ecological connectivity and the convergence of climate-biodiversity agendas, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC), the other dedicated to emerging initiatives on the subject of ecological connectivity in West Africa (including the "Biodiversity Corridors in Guinea" demonstration project). It also organised events at the Three Basins Summit in the Republic of Congo, in partnership with Comifac, Conservation International and the IFDD; at Future Fabrics in London, in partnership with LVMH; and at the European Energy Transition Conference, in France...



Side-event on ecological connectivity - COP28, December 2023.

2024 will be a decisive year of deployment for the coalition, in connection with the major climate-biodiversity events on the global agenda: the COP14 Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) under the aegis of the UN, in Samarkand (Uzbekistan), in February. This will be an opportunity to formalise the Global Partnership for Ecological Connectivity, spearheaded by the CMS and in collaboration with a large number of international conservation organisations, and of which the international coalition "Biodiversity Corridors in Africa" is a partner. Also on the agenda: the 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) in Kenya and COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Colombia.

A central advocacy issue: the search for innovative financing

Both the conservation community and the development community are looking for new financing models that will generate sustainable income, for local populations, and that will make the most of all the ecosystem services provided by wildlife. The aim is to contribute to the definition of new international standards for impact analysis, based on an applicable and replicable methodology that incorporates climate-biodiversity-development co-benefits. The aim of the coalition is to initiate dialogue and debate around these financing solutions, paying particular attention to the impact on local populations, who should be the main beneficiaries.

THE "ECOSYSTEM" OF BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS

Since the launch of the international coalition "Biodiversity Corridors in Africa", Climate Chance, as the coalition's secretariat, has first sought to identify the main players in this field. For the launch of the coalition at COP15 Biodiversity in Montreal, we mobilised and brought together a large number of stakeholders, thereby underlining the existing momentum around this issue.



● A FLUID GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BASED ON EXPERTISE, SHARING AND CONSENSUS

- The Strategic Steering Committee

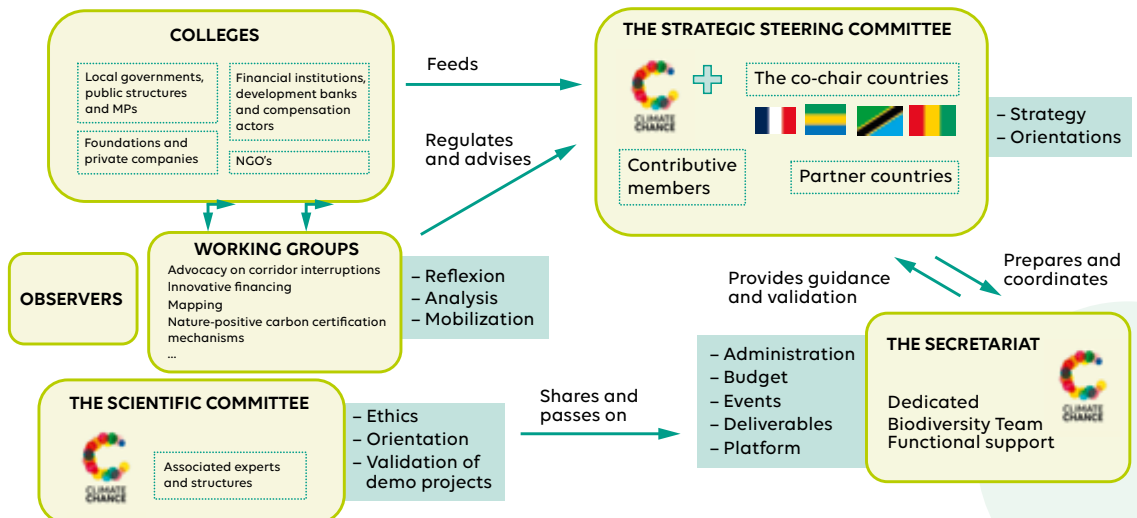
Made up of the co-presiding countries: Gabon, Tanzania, Guinea, France and the partner countries, the funders and the representatives of the working groups, it determines the coalition's roadmap and strategic orientations.

- Working groups

These are set up according to the coalition's main themes: advocacy, innovative financing, compensation mechanisms, mapping, etc. These groups mainly include the organizations that are members of the initiative, but may be open to other qualified individuals or organizations.

- The Scientific Committee

This committee is made up of independent figures and experts responsible for guaranteeing the scientific rigour of the initiative, particularly with regard to the information posted online. It monitors scientific publications and current research. Its members represent research organisations or are present on an individual basis. It is involved in the deliberations of the working groups. Its findings are published on the dedicated website.



JOIN THE COALITION

Joining the coalition means, first and foremost, participating in its implementation by being convinced of the importance of this network.

The principle of the coalition is that all its members contribute to its funding, which in turn benefits advocacy and the pooling of resources.

You don't have to be a coalition partner to have your own initiatives featured on the information portal. On the other hand, the definition of the coalition's strategy, the choice of its areas of intervention and the priorities of its advocacy action are reserved for those who make a concrete contribution to its deployment. Contributions can be financial, with fees adapted to the size of the organisation, or scientific.

"This coalition gives me hope because biodiversity corridors are an idea that goes beyond borders."

Suzanne Ngo-Eyok
Vice President Africa,
Conservation International

"Social and environmental co-benefits are an essential component of projects."

Véronique Andrieux
Director General, WWF France

SUPPORTING US



GUINÉE



TANZANIE



GABON



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité



MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité



MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité



AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT



OUR SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS



About Climate Chance

Since its creation in 2015, the association has supported the central role of local and regional actors in climate action and the inseparable link between the climate, biodiversity and desertification agendas, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is the only international association seeking to unite all non-state actors in Europe and Africa: local governments, businesses, civil society organisations, as well as the media, researchers and citizens, working to accelerate local action. The initiative of the international coalition for biodiversity corridors in Africa, bringing together climate and conservation players, is part of this larger effort to unite actors.

The role of CLIMATE CHANCE in the international coalition

The association acts as the secretariat, coordinating and running the coalition, with the aim of strengthening the dynamics of the players involved and encouraging dialogue between all the stakeholders.



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