
Towards just transition in Africa

Green financing for nature-based solutions and rural resilience

Thursday 21 July 2022

Libreville, Gabon | and online via Zoom

09.30 – 13.00 (WAT, Libreville/Abuja; BST, London)

Global climate policies towards a ‘just transition’ under the Paris Agreement should align with and support African states’ national sustainable development priorities – in particular, the need for decent and fair job creation, as well as resilient and sustainable land, environment, and ecosystem management policies. Achieving green growth requires innovative and more accessible financing models, especially as wealthy nations’ financial pledges have fallen short. Ahead of the ‘African COP27’ set to take place in Egypt in November 2022, there is a need for transformational strategic thinking and context-specific action from African governments, civil society, businesses and financiers, in their green financing demands and national implementation plans.

Preservation of biodiversity and nature is not only critical in the global fight against climate change but is also vital for conservation-based economic development. Natural capital stocks, such as terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity, produce benefits that support societal and individual well-being and economic prosperity, such as clean air, fresh water, regulation of water flows and pollination of crops – while also acting as important carbon sinks. Financing environmental protection must go beyond compensation and contribute towards creating fair social and economic conditions for incentivizing conservation.

At this event in Libreville, participants will discuss green financing for nature-based solutions, particularly the integration of plans for job creation in conservation and rural resilience within just transition planning.

This event is part of a series on Towards Just Transition: Connecting Green Financing and Sustainable Job Creation in Africa, supported by the Chatham House Sustainability Accelerator.

09.00 – 09.30 **Registration and Coffee**

09.30 – 09.50 **Keynote Address: Nature-Based Solutions in National Development Planning**

Minister Professor Lee White CBE, Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea and Environment, Gabonese Republic

Chair: **Mr Bob Dewar**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

09.50 – 11.15 **Session 1: Conservation, Rural Resilience, and Job Creation**

Ecosystem protection and economic growth

Dr Honoré Tabuna, Commissioner, Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

Nature-based solutions and green job creation

Mr George Akwah Neba, Congo Basin Coordinator, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Managing environments under stress from disasters and conflict

Ms Nazanine Moshiri, Senior Analyst, Climate and Security, Africa, International Crisis Group

Protecting forests and their dependent populations

Mr Marc Ona Essangui, Founder, Brainforest; President, Environment Gabon

Rural 'green' jobs and employment rights

Ms Aminata Maiga, Director, Decent Work Technical Support Team for Central Africa, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Chair: **Ms Tighisti Amare**, Deputy Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

11.15 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 11.40 **Keynote Address: Reconciling Agricultural Systems with Forest Conservation**

Mr Abou Bamba, Chairman, Organizing Committee of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Chair: **Dr Alex Vines**, Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

11.40 – 12.50 **Session 2: Nature-Based Solution Financing Priorities for COP27**

African priorities for financing nature-based solutions at COP27

Dr Vanessa Ushie, Acting Director, African Natural Resources Management and Investment Centre (ANRC), African Development Bank Group

Economic incentives for environmental protection and conservation

Mr Eugene Ndong Ndoutoume, Business and Biodiversity Coordinator, Gabon Country Programme Office, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Carbon markets and trading

* **Guillaume Fenart**, CEO, Compagnie des Bois du Gabon (CBG)

Financing sustainable forest management

Ms Edwige Eyang Effa, Research Associate, Institute for Research in Tropical Ecology (IRET); OSFAC-Gabon Focal Point; President, FENSED

Chair: **Mr Paul Melly**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

12.50 – 13.00 **Closing Remarks**

* **Mr Tanguy Gahouma-Bekale**, Permanent Secretary, National Climate Council, Gabonese Republic

Mr Bob Dewar, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House