



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

World Biodiversity Day: the BIODEV2030 project to integrate biodiversity into development

Dakar, Senegal, 22 May 2021 (IUCN-PACO) - The theme for this year's Biodiversity Day is "We are part of the solution". It builds on the momentum generated last year by the theme "[Our solutions are in nature](#)", which reminded us how biodiversity is the answer to many of the challenges of sustainable development.

The trend of species decreasing numbers, declining populations, and degrading ecosystems continues in 2021. One million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction. The health of the ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is now deteriorating at an unprecedented rate. This is affecting livelihoods, food security, health, and quality of life, particularly in Africa, and is creating economic and financial risks.

Despite their increase, the actions implemented for the conservation and more sustainable management of natural resources remain insufficient to stop the direct and indirect causes of the degradation of nature. It is now urgent to reverse the decline of biodiversity and preserve ecosystems if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2050.

[BIODEV2030](#) is an initiative financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), coordinated by [Expertise France](#) and implemented in 16¹ pilot countries with multiple socio-economic, environmental and geographical backgrounds. IUCN² and WWF are each responsible for implementation in 8 countries. The project supports countries in adopting and sustaining sectoral commitments to halt the decline of biodiversity and its consequences over the next decade. According to **Mrs. Pauline Teillac-Deschamps, BIODEV2030 Coordinator**, *"The whole approach aims to promote the integration of biodiversity into development strategies, thus the "mainstreaming" of biodiversity. It is also about making the link with other major issues such as climate or the sustainable development goals. Let's not forget that the achievement of 14 of the 17 SDGs depends directly on the protection of biodiversity!"*

In Central and West Africa, [BIODEV2030](#) was launched by IUCN in Burkina Faso and Senegal in 2020, just before the Covid 19 crisis. **Mrs. Florence CURET, Senior Project Officer - Engagement of non-State actors, Economic Knowledge Unit at IUCN** confirms that *"Activities were slowed down a bit in the first half of 2020 by this pandemic, but the process of dialogue between actors is now well underway in these two countries. Their experience is therefore particularly rich in lessons for other countries, particularly Benin and Guinea, which have just launched the project."*

As a reminder, IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

In this context, **Mr. Aliou FAYE, Regional Director of IUCN for Central and West Africa** maintains that he *"will ensure the smooth running of BIODEV2030 in the region, with a view to contributing to the establishment of a society that uses natural resources sustainably, while sharing their benefits equitably."*

¹ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, Senegal, Tunisia, , Vietnam

² Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal

Note to editors

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About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and some 18,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

<http://www.iucn.org/fr>
<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>

About AFD

The French Development Agency finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer and more sustainable world. AFD implements over 4 000 projects Overseas and in 115 countries, ranging from climate to biodiversity through peace, education, urban development, health and governance.

About Expertise France

The French Agency for International Technical Cooperation designs and implements projects to contribute to the balanced development of partner countries, in line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and France's priorities for external action.

www.expertisefrance.fr

About WWF

WWF France is an entity of the World Wide Fund for Nature, it is an association active in 100 countries and supported by nearly 5 million members worldwide. Combining global reach and scientific foundations, WWF's action ranges from the local to the global level and aims to provide innovative solutions to reconcile the needs of people and nature.

WWF France is facilitating the project in Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Uganda, Tunisia and Vietnam.

www.wwf.fr