



SUMMIT OF THE THREE BASINS OF BIODIVERSITY ECOSYSTEMS AND TROPICAL FORESTS

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Summit of the 3 basins AMAZONIA - CONGO - BORNEO MEKONG SOUTHEAST ASIA

Panel 4: Scientific Cooperation and Capacity Building

Organization	
Organization	Summit of the 3 basins organization team
Registration contact (<i>name, e-mail, phone/WhatsApp</i>)	Lucille Valentin-Deybach Lucille.Valentin.Deybach@fr.ey.com Cell WhatsApp:+ 33 7 65 18 88 62
Speakers contact (<i>name, e-mail, phone/WhatsApp</i>)	Patrice Lefeu Patrice.lefeu@fr.ey.com Cell WhatsApp:+ 33672586645

Happy	
Theme	Scientific cooperation and capacity building
Description	<p>CONTEXT</p> <p>The IUCN 2020 report, Science-Based Ecosystem Restoration for the 2020s and Beyond¹, by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Scientific Working Group, set out a very comprehensive vision of the conditions for multidimensional ecosystem restoration success, based on the results of the consultation launched by the United Nations, as part of the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030.</p> <p>The same consultation, which inspired the strategy of the United Nations Decade, recommends involving indigenous communities, scientists and modern technologies in the search for ecosystem restoration solutions.</p> <p>The Sub-Regional and Intercontinental Scientific and Technical Cooperation Platform will align with the various international/multilateral scientific cooperation and monitoring forums that guide global climate and biodiversity directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE IPCC <p>The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) assesses the state of knowledge</p>

¹ [Science-Based Ecosystem Restoration for the 2020s and Beyond - resource | IUCN](#)



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on climate change, its causes and impacts. It identifies opportunities to limit the magnitude of warming and the severity of its impacts and to adapt to expected changes. The IPCC reports provide a regular review of the most advanced knowledge. This scientific production is at the heart of international climate negotiations. It is also fundamental for alerting decision-makers and civil society. The IPCC's permanent liaison with States is ensured by a National Focal Point.

In its latest report, the IPCC concludes that "Anthropogenic climate change is exposing the ocean and its ecosystems to conditions not seen in millennia."² Ocean warming, sea level rise, acidification, deoxygenation, and the increase in extreme events are all phenomena linked to climate change, leading to increasing consequences for marine biodiversity and the world's population. Combined with pressures from human activities, the combination of these different impacts increases the vulnerability of marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as that of all societies that depend on them. This is particularly the case for mangroves, kelp forests and coral reefs, which have already suffered heavy losses – even though these ecosystems play a key role for biodiversity and human societies by providing them with many ecosystem services.

- **IPBES**

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an intergovernmental body established in 2012. It is under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Its mission is to act as an interface between the scientific community and governments. It contributes to responsible policy decision-making through the dissemination of multidisciplinary knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystems. It is considered the "IPCC of biodiversity."

In its latest report, IPBES points out that in most regions of the world, nature has now been significantly altered by multiple human factors. In total, 75% of the Earth's surface is significantly altered, 66% of the oceans are experiencing increasing cumulative impacts, and more than 85% of the wetland surface has disappeared. In most of the biodiverse tropics, 32 million hectares of primary or regeneration forest were lost between 2010 and 2015. The average abundance of native species in most large terrestrial biomes has dropped by at least 20%, potentially affecting ecosystem processes and thus nature's contributions to populations.

- **OECD WORLD SCIENCE FORUM**

In response to the need for international collaboration in science to address complex and interrelated societal, environmental and economic challenges, the overall objective of the World Science Forum (GSF) is to help countries improve their science policies and share the benefits of international collaboration. The GSF is a forum for consultation and



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mutual learning for senior science policy makers from OECD member countries. It carries out analytical work on high-priority science policy issues.

Specifically, the GSF assists its members in the formulation and implementation of their science policies by:

- Exploring opportunities and mechanisms for new or enhanced international cooperation in selected priority areas;
- Defining international frameworks for national or regional science policy development;
- Addressing the science policy dimensions of issues of global concern.

The conclusions of the United Nations, its agencies and the scientific platforms on Climate and Biodiversity are unanimous and unambiguous with regard to the level of criticality of biodiversity ecosystems and tropical forests and the pre-eminent role of science in the search for solutions to increase the effectiveness of climate and biodiversity initiatives.

BARRIERS AND OBJECTIVES

Barriers

The implementation of the many initiatives recommending the urgent deployment of enhanced cooperation in favor of the preservation and restoration of ecosystems to combat climate change and the preservation of biodiversity will be accelerated by the creation of an intercontinental scientific platform, at the scale of the three basins Amazonia, Congo, Borneo Mekong and Southeast Asia.

Knowing that the creation of this cooperation platform is the subject of a consensus among all parties, no institutional, legal, administrative, technical or economic barrier appears to stand in the way of its creation. Nevertheless, it will be decisive that the missions entrusted to the scientific cooperation platform are complementary to the already existing scientific and technical groups such as the IPCC and IPBES.

Objectives

The objective of this panel is to analyse the elements that will structure the creation of the scientific and technical cooperation platform to constitute a true centre of excellence for the scientific cooperation of the three terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity basins and tropical forests for the monitoring, management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems. The discussions will aim to bring out the following key elements:

- Its missions and objectives
- Its complementarities with existing bodies in the fields of environment, climate and biodiversity



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic axes of its work • Its governance, modus operandi and funding model • The expected results of this platform
Keynote address Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. H. David Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity • Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Deputy Director of Global Partnerships – World Resources Institute • Professor Simon Lewis, University of Leeds • Mr. Laurent Durieux, Researcher at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement • Dr. Grace Jopaul Loubota Panzou, dearhon., Denis SASSOU-N' GUESSO University, Higher Institute of Geographical, Environment and Planning Sciences (ISSGEA), African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence • Dr. Emma Stokes, Vice President of the World Conservation Program, WCS • Prof Raphaël Tshimanga, Chair of the Panel of Experts on Climate Change in Africa • Mrs. Chantal Marijnissen; Head of Unit for Environment and Sustainable Natural Resources at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission <p>Indicative list subject to completion</p>
Expected results	<p>5 main results are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The launch of the process of creating this joint scientific cooperation platform for the three basins, the future global centre of scientific excellence for biodiversity and tropical forest ecosystems; • An initial outline of the missions and objectives of this cooperation platform, with regard to existing initiatives and groups; • An initial outline of the modus operandi, the economic model and the governance of this scientific cooperation platform; • The next steps with a rendezvous clause at COP28 in Dubai to continue the work.
Targeted audience	Large audience