



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 5: Converging the Climate and Biodiversity Frameworks

Organization	
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Theme	Converging climate and biodiversity frameworks
Description	<p>CONTEXT IPCC and IPBES call for integrated management of climate change and biodiversity loss</p> <p>The first joint report of 2021 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) highlights the importance of protecting biodiversity in the fight against climate change, including by using nature-based solutions. EcoAct's Research & Innovation team looked at the benefits of addressing these two aspects together.</p> <p>While climate and biodiversity issues have long been managed separately, there is now a growing interest in developing integrated management to accelerate action by policymakers and organizations. The IPCC/IPBES "Biodiversity and Climate Change - Scientific Findings" report, funded by the governments of the United Kingdom and Norway, highlights that biodiversity loss and climate change must be addressed together if we are to achieve our global climate and environmental ambitions.</p> <p>Since the 1970s, sustainable development has been a source of international concern, revolving around the challenges of climate change and biodiversity. In the Brundtland Report (1987), it was described as "<i>development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs</i>". This macroscopic approach aimed to steer growth towards a resilient future for all.</p> <p>Nevertheless, today, huge gaps remain between theory and the real world. Greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere are increasing, while biodiversity is collapsing. For a long time, these two environmental issues were managed separately, which had a negative impact on both. This report could be a turning point in making it</p>

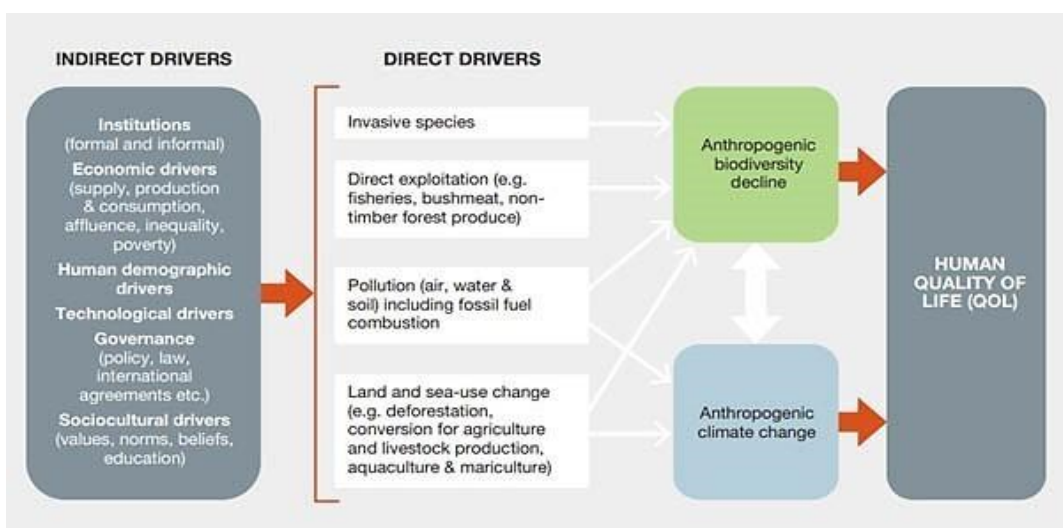


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possible to tackle the two subjects together more effectively. It demonstrates the need to merge these challenges, citing multiple factors such as pollution and land/sea use change that have a significant impact on climate and biodiversity.

IPCC and IPBES highlight the co-benefits of climate action and biodiversity protection



According to the report, "Protecting and restoring carbon-rich ecosystems is the top priority in a joint perspective of climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection." Four pillars of action are identified as key to increasing climate and nature benefits:

- **Protect:** reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation coupled with biodiversity preservation and conservation of carbon-rich non-forest ecosystems on land and at sea, including freshwater systems and coastal areas;
- **Restoration:** restoration of degraded ecosystems, such as wetlands that are effective carbon sinks, flood prevention ecosystems and hotbeds of biodiversity;
- **Manage:** valuing agriculture, forestry and fishing practices that respect the climate and biodiversity, changes in consumption to reduce pressure on land, optimising the localisation of supply chains (about 30% of threats to species worldwide are linked to the international trade in commodities);
- **Creating:** urban greening and biodiversity support to reduce energy consumption and enable cities to become carbon sinks, mitigation opportunities on new habitats combining low-carbon materials and spaces for the reintroduction of biodiversity into the city, mitigation options combining technology and nature.

The combination of positive actions for climate and biodiversity shows that it can lead to the mitigation of climate change as well as the adaptation and protection of biodiversity as ecosystem services.



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Towards a life-cycle vision of climate change mitigation

While some actions are beneficial for the climate and nature, it is wrong to extrapolate the results by claiming that all mitigation actions improve ecosystem services and vice versa. The IPCC and IPBES clearly warn that reducing emissions can sometimes contribute to the collapse of biodiversity:

- **Poorly managed reforestation** and afforestation: Reforestation and afforestation are considered relatively cost-effective climate change mitigation options. However, if poorly managed, they can also promote the use of planted forests as sources of bioenergy, thus having adverse effects on carbon storage, water balance, biodiversity and the food security of existing ecosystems. This is why international standards are essential for the effective management of afforestation and reforestation projects.
- **Solar energy and land-use change:** Utility-scale solar power plants require land, which may involve clearing or converting otherwise managed land, limiting biodiversity.
- **Wind energy and species migration:** Onshore wind turbines can interfere with migratory or flying birds as well as bats, with mortality rates that can be of a similar magnitude to those caused by other human infrastructure (industry, cars).
- **Hydropower and ecosystem modification:** The construction of dams for freshwater storage and the creation of hydropower alters the habitats of all freshwater organisms and blocks fish migration, resulting in range contraction and population declines.
- **Impact of rare and critical minerals on marine ecosystems:** Given the growing demand for rare and critical metals for low-carbon technology products, deep-sea mining has raised concerns about its impact on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, in an area that is largely understudied.



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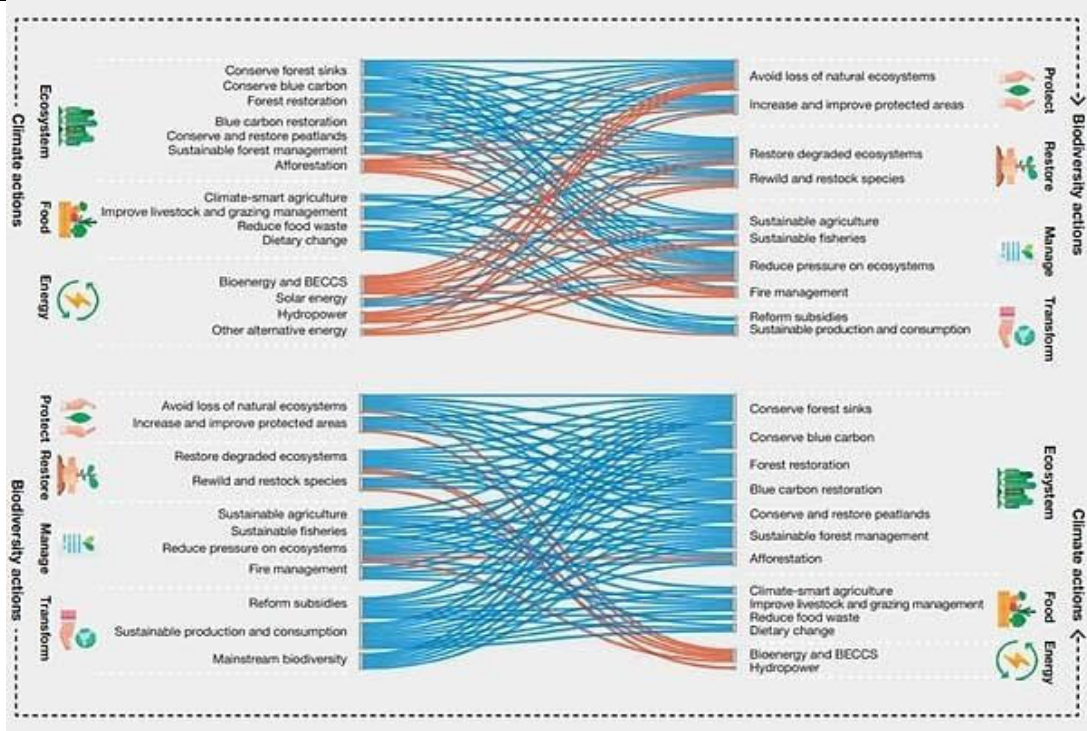


Diagram showing the positive and negative effects of climate change mitigation actions on biodiversity mitigation actions (top), and biodiversity mitigation actions on climate change mitigation actions (bottom). The blue lines represent the positive effects, while the orange lines represent the negative effects.

This shows that the vast majority of actions involve positive co-benefits in both directions. Key warnings about afforestation, bioenergy, BECCS (bioenergy with carbon capture and storage) and hydropower as mitigation actions, with the potential to harm biodiversity (loss of natural ecosystems, fire management, pressure on ecosystems). Nevertheless, actions in favour of biodiversity almost always have beneficial effects on the climate.

For this reason, it is essential to conduct life-cycle assessments of mitigation and biodiversity-related projects. Only a multi-criteria approach will ensure strong co-benefits for the climate and nature. Knowing and acknowledging the trade-offs will enable smart integrated management for optimal reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with biodiversity conservation.

The Proposed Approach

The reintegration of climate and biodiversity into a global framework requires the implementation of an approach that reconciles the two themes within international regulatory bodies, work and cooperation programmes at the ecosystem level, and funding methods by multilateral and bilateral donors. Only this multipolar convergence will ultimately make it possible to systematize the concomitant management of the two themes.

In this perspective, the three Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forest Basins could be a large-scale



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demonstration action that will accelerate the rapprochement and convergence of the two interrelated policy issues within ecosystems and support them at the political, technical and operational levels in the following areas:

- Negotiating Framework
- Regulatory framework
- Programmatic framework;
- Funding Framework
- Communication framework

1- Negotiating Framework

The three basins could form a group for consultation, proposals and negotiations (Ad Hoc Group on Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Tropical Forests) within the multilateral climate (climate COP) and biodiversity (biodiversity COP) forums. This status will enable it to bring up and instil within these two bodies the problems and solutions responding to them in order to include them in the texts and means decided by the Climate Convention and the Biodiversity Convention.

2- Regulatory framework

The comparative review of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework would make it possible to verify the elements of alignment and possible discrepancies between the two institutional frameworks with a view to seeking a convergence of texts, in particular on the target objectives and the provisions that govern the basins of biodiversity ecosystems and tropical forests and avoiding contradictory incentives or obligations. Although not legally treaty-based, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a strategic plan, endorsed by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The three basins could work closely with the two Conventions on the coherence and convergence of the two institutional frameworks impacting support for the preservation and restoration of ecosystems for climate and biodiversity.

3- Programmatic framework

Parties have committed to supporting the shared ambition of the Paris Agreement through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which set the climate roadmap for mitigation and adaptation. These same parties endorsed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which is the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. This presupposes that these two ecosystem-level roadmaps converge and end up in a common programmatic framework, a common reporting system, similar to the National Climate Communications related to the transparency framework of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The three basins could work closely with the two Conventions on the development of an integrated climate and biodiversity roadmap that would become an integrated programmatic framework for the preservation and restoration of ecosystems.

4- Funding Framework

Financing for adaptation and mitigation activities is specific to financial instruments dedicated to the fight against climate change such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Climate Change Adaptation Fund (FACC). Biodiversity financing is specific to environmental financial instruments such as the Global Environment Facility



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(GEF). With regard to bilateral financial instruments, here again the financing programmes are specific to climate actions or environmental actions.

The three basins could work closely with the United Nations and the European Union and their multilateral financial instruments on the one hand, and with bilateral donors on the other hand, to build bridges between their own instruments, and on the other hand, to create new integrated "climate-biodiversity" cross-cutting funding lines with bilateral donors for the preservation and restoration of Ecosystems.

In addition, the three basins could create a common financing mechanism for the three basins to rationalize and accelerate the financing of the preservation and restoration of ecosystems and thus limit the slowness of the GCF, the FEL and the Adaptation Fund, whose administrative time, due to the slowness and complexity of the procedures, is incompatible with climate and biodiversity issues.

5- Communication framework

The Climate and Biodiversity COPs are essential meeting points to share, propose, initiate, promote, establish partnerships and finance new initiatives, results and experiences of the parties and their partners. The alliance of the three basins wants to place biodiversity and tropical forest ecosystems at the heart of these two global events for the climate and the environment.

The three basins could federate within a common pavilion the ecosystems of the three basins, which represent 80% of the world's biodiversity, ensures the vital role of global regulator of the carbon balance, and is expected to capture 80% of the existing and future financial mobilization announced at COP 27 for climate and COP 15 for biodiversity.

BARRIERS AND OBJECTIVES

Barriers

The reintegration of climate and biodiversity into a common global framework requires preparatory work on convergence in five key areas:

- The negotiating framework;
- The regulatory framework;
- The programmatic framework;
- The funding framework;
- The communication framework.

This project is particularly complex on the regulatory side, which impacts the Paris Agreement and the Kuming-Montreal Agreement, and on the financing side, which will lead multilateral and bilateral donors to review the structure of their financial instruments.

On the other hand, the Negotiation, Programmatic and Communication components depend on the endogenous capacity of the three basins to define an operating mode that allows them to present a common front during the climate and biodiversity COPs.

Objectives



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	<p>The purpose of this panel is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch the reflection on the process of integrating climate and biodiversity into a common global framework; ○ Gather expert views on institutional, legal and technical barriers and obstacles; ○ Define a roadmap with the constitution of an ad hoc group; ○ Set a date to continue this debate at COP 28 in Dubai.
<p>Keynote address Panelists</p>	<p>INTRODUCTION OF THE PANEL</p> <p>Panel Chair: Keynote address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Joe WALSTON, Executive Vice President of Wildlife Conservation Society Global <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● H.E. Mr. Collinet Makosso, <i>Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo</i> ● Dr. H. David Cooper, <i>Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity</i> ● Representative of the UNFCCC. ● Ms. Suzanne Ngo-Eyok, <i>Vice-President, Conservation International</i> ● Ms Nana Touré, <i>IUCN Regional Director for East and Central Africa</i> ● Sir Zac Goldsmith, <i>Former Minister of State for Asia, Energy, Climate and Environment (United Kingdom)</i> ● Ms Sylvie Lemmet, <i>Ambassador for the Environment at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs</i> ● Professor Simon Lewis, <i>University of Leeds</i> Moderator <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Honoré Tabuna – Commissioner of the CCEAC <p>Rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. H. David COOPER, <i>Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</i>
<p>Expected results</p>	<p>The discussions will aim to bring out the following key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify blocking themes that could promote the convergence of climate and biodiversity frameworks to accelerate ecosystem conservation and restoration; ● Identify legal, administrative, operational and financial barriers ● Present the challenges and co-benefits of the identified convergence actions; ● Define potential obstacles and the modus operandi to resolve them; ● Establish a working group with experts from the three basins, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) ● Setting the next steps with an important milestone at COP 28 in Dubai.
<p>Targeted audience</p>	<p>Large audience</p>

