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BIODEV2030  
MAINSTREAMING  
BIODIVERSITY

**A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER  
DIALOGUE TO  
MAINSTREAM  
BIODIVERSITY:**

CREATING AND  
FACILITATING  
A PLATFORM FOR  
DIALOGUE ADAPTED  
TO THE NATIONAL  
CONTEXT

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## WHAT IS IT?

Practical guide for setting up a constructive and sustainable dialogue between public and private stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity in economic sectors.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Governments, development banks and NGOs or any other organisation wishing to follow a similar mainstreaming approach.

## HOW?

Lessons were drawn from the experience in the 16 countries that tested the BIODEV2030 method between 2019 and 2022.

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, biodiversity mainstreaming is about factoring biodiversity and the services it provides into policies and practices that relay and have an impact on it; **it entails changes in policies, at institutional level and in production methods.** Mainstreaming biodiversity requires cross-sectoral coordination to strengthen linkages and actions between sectors and institutions. It also requires exchanges and solid cooperation between stakeholders with interests in biodiversity and economic development.

**The BIODEV2030 project proposes a participatory and inclusive science-based approach to mainstream biodiversity into economic sectors and consequently halt its decline by 2030.**

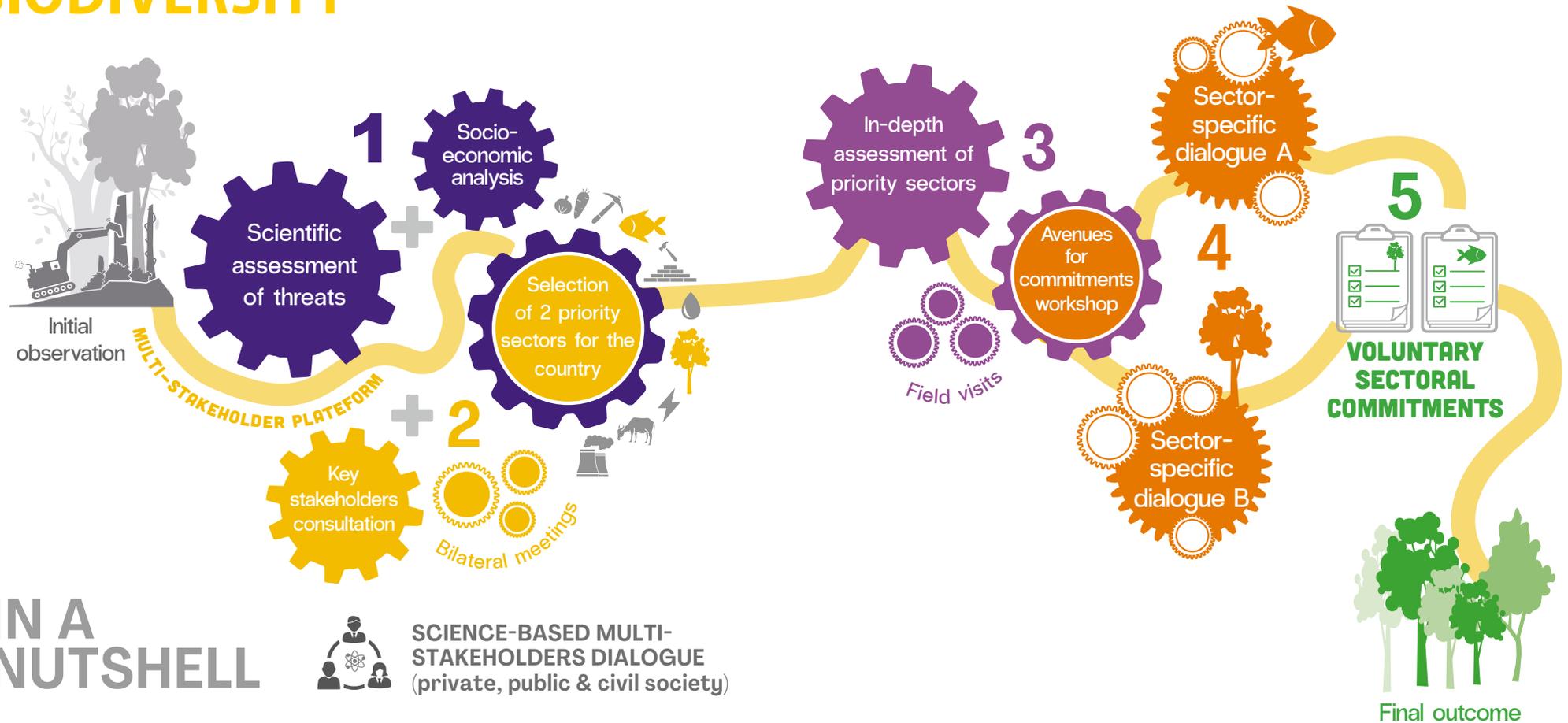
By drawing lessons from the project implementation in the 16 countries that tested the BIODEV2030 method between 2019 and 2022, we identified **two factors of success for setting up a constructive dialogue between stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity:**

- 1. Establish an inclusive and flexible platform for dialogue** that involves stakeholders from the private sector, public institutions and the civil society. This platform governance must be anchored in the national institutional context and supported by the government.
- 2. Ensure that the facilitation of this multi-stakeholder platform is multi-faceted and context-specific** so as to engage in a dialogue grounded in science and to effectively mobilise stakeholders.

Drawing on the lessons learned from the implementation of the BIODEV2030 project, we propose this practical guide for governments, development banks and NGOs or any other organisation wishing to follow a similar mainstreaming approach.

*Over a period of three years, BIODEV2030 has tested a method to provide governments with the means to identify and initiate, together with the private sector, profound changes in the economic sectors that have a strategic impact on both development and biodiversity. It is based on 3 stages: scientific assessments, multi-stakeholder dialogue and voluntary commitments.*

# BIODEV2030 METHOD TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY



## IN A NUTSHELL



SCIENCE-BASED MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE  
(private, public & civil society)

Identify economic sectors

Elaborate sectoral action plans



Threat assessment

Multi-stakeholder dialogue

Sector assessment

Sector-specific dialogue



Voluntary sectoral commitments

Final outcome

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# SUCCESS CRITERIA 1

SET UP A  
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER  
PLATFORM  
SUPPORTED  
BY THE  
GOVERNMENT

**OBJECTIVE:** to set up an inclusive and flexible cross-sectoral platform for dialogue that includes all stakeholders concerned by the conservation of biodiversity and economic development.

In this guide, a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue is understood to mean all meetings and exchanges between stakeholders concerned by the conservation of biodiversity and economic development (public, private and civil society organisations). This platform takes the form of meetings to report on assessment findings (threats & sectors), to discuss the choice of priority sectors or to examine and deliberate on voluntary commitments.

***"In order to be operational and long-lasting, a platform must have a secretariat behind it. The government must be the linchpin of this secretariat, so as to ensure that the focal points of each sectoral ministry work together."***

Ms. Joséphine Thérèse B. Eloundou - Cameroon's Focal Point for the CBD\*



\*Convention on Biological Diversity

# 1

## STEP 1 CLARIFY THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DIALOGUE PLATFORM

The multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue aimed to create an arena in which private sector stakeholders representing economic sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc.), public stakeholders (line ministries and the Ministry of Environment) and civil society could exchange views, using scientific facts and analyses. It intended to raise awareness on the links between productive activities and biodiversity (impacts as well as dependencies) in order for stakeholders to collectively find more biodiversity-friendly ways of producing and consuming.

This intersectoral platform for dialogue was to promote the voluntary adoption of commitments by private stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity in their activities. Together, stakeholders were to define common lines of action to reduce pressures, with the aim of mainstreaming these commitments in country strategies and action plans (including NBSAP<sup>1</sup>). Such a platform should also periodically monitor the implementation of the actions undertaken in order to hold all stakeholders accountable for the dynamics of change.



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(1) National strategies and action plans for biodiversity

# 2

## STEP 2 ESTABLISH A GOVERNING BODY

Members of the governing body and its tasks were co-defined with the Ministry of Environment. They were to represent the different voices of the future multi-stakeholder platform and go beyond the silo approach with a plurality of public and private sector stakeholders. Once formalised, the body had the task of ensuring a continuity of dialogue despite institutional changes. By meeting regularly, it ensured the proper deployment of the platform for dialogue and the fair representation of stakeholders.



### SET THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A PERMANENT PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE

A good understanding of the Government's environmental and sectoral priorities is necessary to ensure the continuity of the multi-stakeholder platform in the institutional landscape. Linking up with national or territorial initiatives that are already operational will be an advantage when it comes to mobilising stakeholders and moving the dialogue forward in an agile manner.



*"In Cameroon, the national platform for the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services (SPBES) has been responsible for monitoring biodiversity assessments since 2017 under the authority of the Minister of the Environment. As BIODEV2030 is based on two assessments, one on the threats and the second on the impacts [economic] sectors have on biodiversity, we wanted to back it up with our intersectoral task force (i.e. the governing body) in order to draw on its legitimacy and technical credibility."*

**Marie-Madeleine Bassalang - BIODEV2030 project leader in Cameroon**

## SECRETARIAT

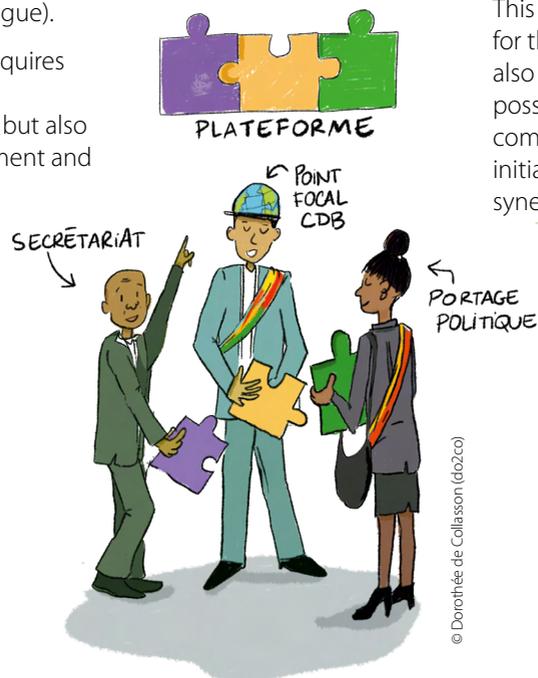
The secretariat for the process is led by an organisation with a strong national foothold on biodiversity issues. Its extensive connections with national companies, government institutions and civil society organisations, as well as the perception by stakeholders of its relative neutrality, lend legitimacy to the process (scientific assessment and multi-stakeholder dialogue).

The secretariat requires diplomatic and networking skills but also project management and communication skills.

## CENTRAL ROLE OF THE CBD NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

The CBD National Focal Point ensures the cross-sectoral coordination of the dialogue, including with the focal points of the sectoral ministries.

It facilitates the mainstreaming of the results of the process (assessment of threats to biodiversity, in-depth analysis of sectors, voluntary commitment of sectors) in strategies and action plans for biodiversity at national and international levels.



## POLITICAL SUPPORT

The biodiversity mainstreaming process needs to be well linked to the national agenda. This requires governmental support and participation at the highest political level (Prime Minister or President) and in all its sectoral or regional components.

This political support for the process also makes it possible to identify complementary initiatives to promote synergies.

# 3 STEP 3 INVITING STAKEHOLDERS TO TAKE PART IN THE PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE

The stakeholders invited to take part in the platform for dialogue were identified by the governing body after having consulted the technical teams from environment and sectoral ministries. It was important to ensure that all stakeholders in society were represented (public organisations, private sector representatives, local communities, civil society organisations, etc.) and that high-level representatives were invited to participate in the discussions in order to facilitate decision-making at the relevant level. Particular attention must be paid to the presence of private stakeholders, who are primarily concerned by production practices that impact biodiversity. The list of invited persons evolves according to the agenda of each meeting, but it is important to be transparent about the organisations invited and attending in order to foster a trusting environment.



### INVOLVE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

It is important to include financial institutions in the multi-stakeholder dialogue to familiarise them with biodiversity issues and thus prepare them for financing the implementation of voluntary commitments.

## SHARE OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN BIODEV2030 PLATFORMS

PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS	Sectoral Ministry 69		Donors 19
			Ministry of Environnement 16
	Academics 42		Ministry of Economy 13
PRIVATE SECTOR	Professional organisations 46		Small-holder businesses 35
	Business 39	Cooperatives 9	Banks 6
CSO*	NGOs 94		
	Indigenous communities 19	Local communities 7	
OTHERS 31			

\* Civil society organisations



### LEAVE THE PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE OPEN TO NEW PARTICIPANTS

A good discussion dynamic in the multi-stakeholder dialogue is fostered by the arrival of new participants. Once the priority sectors have been selected and analysed in-depth, it is possible to identify new sectoral stakeholders to invite. If a regional approach is adopted for mainstreaming biodiversity in the economic sectors, the local branches of the Ministries and local representatives of the economic sectors should be invited to join the platform.



*"In Gabon, it was suggested to restructure the BIODEV2030 steering committee in order to involve the ministries of the two economic sectors selected to mainstream biodiversity: mining and agriculture. Their participation in the governing body strengthened their involvement throughout the process."*

Nathalie Nyare Essima - BIODEV2030 project manager in Gabon



### MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE CORE GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PLATFORM

The dialogue platform evolves according to the needs of the process and its progress, but it is important to keep a stable core group with the same stakeholders who can keep track of discussions. This ensures a dynamic framework for dialogue based on a trusting relationship between stakeholders.

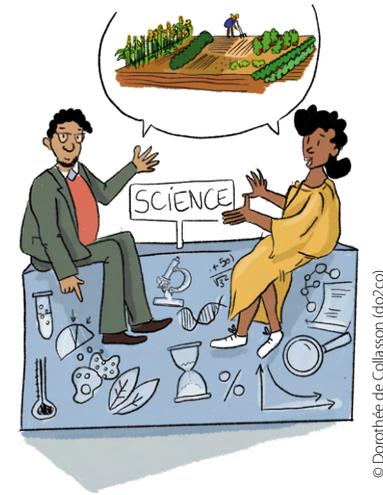


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# SUCCESS CRITERIA 2

FACILITATE THE PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT DECISION MAKING

**OBJECTIVES:** to fine-tune the formats and rhythm of the meetings, particularly with private sector stakeholders, to promote a good understanding of the issues and facilitate decision-making.



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## 4 STEP 4 GROUND THE DISCUSSION IN SCIENCE

All discussions and decisions taken within the multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue were to be based on the scientific assessment of threats to biodiversity. They were then fed by an in-depth analysis of the priority sectors. These assessments made it possible to objectify the situation and helped build a consensus on the priorities for biodiversity mainstreaming actions in economic sectors.

  
**RESOURCES**



*"Thanks to BIODEV2030, biodiversity is permeating the economic sectors, if only by objectifying the pressures on the sectors. This is necessary in order to engage in dialogue."*

Ms. Rantonirina Rakotoaridera  
- Madagascar's focal point  
for CBD



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**-**  **FAMILIARISE STAKEHOLDERS WITH THE CONTENT OF THE ASSESSMENTS**

The multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue set up is driven by science (threats assessment and in-depth analysis of sectors). A good understanding and buy-in of the findings by the stakeholders paves the way for the constructive dialogue necessary for decision making. It is therefore vital that adequate time be taken to present the results of the assessments, to discuss them, to be open to criticism, to be transparent about the limits but also to recall what has been established and cannot be overlooked.

**5** **STEP 5**  
**KNOW THE STAKEHOLDERS WELL**

A thorough understanding of stakeholders and their interests, motivations, level of knowledge, and relationship to biodiversity issues was necessary to define workshop topics and facilitation formats that would boost their engagement. To do this, bilateral meetings were held regularly between the platform secretariat and key stakeholders. These sessions served to establish a vital trust-based relationship with stakeholders, to identify which of them were inclined to support the process and to detect sticking points. The information gathered were then complemented by an in-depth analysis of the sectors, containing a detailed mapping of the sectoral stakeholders and an appropriate mobilisation strategy.

 *"In Vietnam, before a dialogue workshop, we held preparatory meetings with 7 companies from the aquaculture sector. This way, we were able to discuss the good practices already in place (production of fertilizers from livestock manure, for example) and also the obstacles they encountered on mainstreaming biodiversity (uncompetitive certifications, limited financial and contextual capacity for the use of new technologies, etc.). This allowed us to identify possible avenues of commitments but also to adapt the agenda of the dialogue workshop, by inviting a representative of the banking sector to present green finance opportunities for businesses."*

**Chien Vuong Quoc - BIODEV2030 project manager in Vietnam**

**6** **STEP 6**  
**SETTING UP A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE THROUGH A MULTI-FACETED APPROACH ADAPTED TO THE CONTEXT**

The multi-stakeholder platform was progressively driven through a succession of thematic workshops, meetings, training sessions, field visits, etc. and national workshops attended by all the stakeholders. With this sequence, a constructive arena was put in place in which stakeholders could discuss their concerns in the light of consensual and justified scientific data. It also enabled them to compare solutions to be implemented or to come away with knowledge, tools and contacts that could facilitate the implementation of future transformations to better take into account biodiversity. Finally, the decisions and actions discussed upstream were to be ratified by all the stakeholders attending the national reporting and validation workshops.

The preparation of these meetings was key; they had to be adapted (their format as well as quantity) to the contexts, sectors and stakeholders to be engaged. It was therefore vital to consider the facilitation of discussions upstream in order to ensure all stakeholders present were properly involved and working together. The person responsible for facilitating the meetings had to be in a position to listen and understand. He or she was also to ensure that everybody had a chance to speak and be heard.



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**GET CHAMPIONS INVOLVED**

Champions can be organisations or companies that have already undertaken actions in favour of biodiversity. Their story inspires and demonstrates by example that far-reaching changes in practices are possible. Their presentations at the meetings bring real added value for the private stakeholders, who thus learn from those who are furthest ahead on this issue. Nevertheless they must not be allowed to dominate the dialogue.

**FAVOUR A "SPECIAL DIALOGUE" MEETING VENUE AND TOOLS**

The place and the facilitation methods chosen for the meetings must ensure the agility of the dialogue. They can help people think differently and think in a participatory way. The choice of venue must nevertheless ensure that stakeholders can attend as easily possible.

**FEED THE DIALOGUE WITH THE REALITIES ON THE GROUND**

The dialogue must be built on observations shared between the stakeholders. Field visits contribute to the understanding of the links between sectors and biodiversity through a practical approach. These outings provide a thorough assessment of the sectors and thus promote the emergence of common solutions.

*"BIODEV2030 is a catalyst ensuring that all stakeholders direct their efforts towards a shared goal"*

M. Koutchika - Coordinator of the Benin Rice Growers Consultation Council




*"In Benin, we had the idea of organising « biodiversity cafés » to bring together the stakeholders of a sector (ministry and supervisory organisations, associations, federations, private companies, technical partners, etc.) so that they could discuss biodiversity issues related to their activity. Each café brought together about thirty people with a format designed to encourage participants to get to know each other: for example, each person had to introduce themselves and present their relationship with biodiversity, then working groups were set up to mix the types of stakeholders. The programme included: presentations by experts aimed at improving stakeholders' understanding of the impacts and dependencies of their sector on ecosystems; a « champion » to explain his or her commitment to biodiversity; and collective intelligence workshops to find solutions for reconciling economic activities and the conservation of biodiversity."*

**Is Deen Akambi - BIODEV2030 project manager in Benin**



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## SUCCESS CRITERIA 2



*"In Fiji, we took advantage of World Biodiversity Day to organise a workshop for fishermen and communities on the Sigatoka coast attended by the Minister of the Environment, Waterways and Agriculture. In the first part, we raised participants' awareness and inform them about the state of biodiversity and the legislation in force with a mix of quizzes and presentations. Groups were then formed to discuss the best practices and solutions for conserving marine biodiversity based on the knowledge shared and on their fishing practices. At the end, the communities present told us that they much appreciated this workshop which, while respecting their traditions, networked the communities and equipped them for more sustainable fishing methods."*



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**Tavenisa Luisa - BIODEV2030 project manager in Fiji**



*"In Uganda, we wanted to bring the indigenous peoples, the Batwa, IK, Tepeth and Beneath together in a multi-stakeholder dialogue for the mainstreaming of biodiversity. A two-day training course was offered to provide them with knowledge on the state of biodiversity and with a view to them making voluntary commitments to reverse biodiversity loss. The first day was devoted to expressing what biodiversity meant to each people, the causes of its erosion and the challenges faced in its conservation. On the second day, an introduction to nature-based solutions enabled them to draw up a series of action plans which they undertook to mainstream in their structures or communities, also committing to carrying out advocacy actions in these."*

**Francis Alinyo - BIODEV2030 project manager in Uganda**



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*The multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue should be the pillar for mainstreaming biodiversity in the country's economic sectors. It is a propitious arena for discussion that leads to the co-development of actions to be implemented and monitored collectively. Stakeholders who make a joint commitment to biodiversity are thus accountable for, but also united in the changes in practices to be achieved.*



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# 3 YEAR PROJECT

**OUR MISSION:**  
To foster sectoral commitments in favour of biodiversity

**OUR SOLUTION:**  
Through a science-based multi-stakeholder dialogue

**7 ECONOMIC SECTORS OF ACTION**

- Agriculture
- Livestock breeding
- Extractive sector
- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Energy
- Infrastructures

**+650 STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED**

- State actors
- Private sector
- Civil society organisations
- Indigenous people
- Local communities





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FUNDING



COORDINATION



IMPLEMENTATION

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