

#5

BIODEV2030
MAINSTREAMING
BIODIVERSITY

FORMULATING VOLUNTARY SECTORAL COMMITMENTS:

DETAILING THE
OBJECTIVES
AND METHODS,
TO REFLECT THE
CHARACTERISTICS
OF EACH
SUB-SECTOR

ambition for biodiversity

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2030





ambition pour la biodiversité

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2030**

WHAT IS IT?

Practical guide to help stakeholders to formulate and draft robust voluntary sectoral commitments tailored to national and sectoral contexts.

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.

The voluntary approach to biodiversity mainstreaming by sectoral stakeholders complements and reinforces the range of measures available to public institutions (legislation, subsidies, investments) to preserve and restore biodiversity. **This coordinated joint action by governments and private stakeholders will be needed to achieve the 23 targets in the Global Biodiversity Framework.** It takes a long time to formulate robust sectoral commitments that support both regional biodiversity and economic development of the sub-sectors. This requires multi-stakeholder dialogue informed by data on the links between biodiversity and production practices.

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

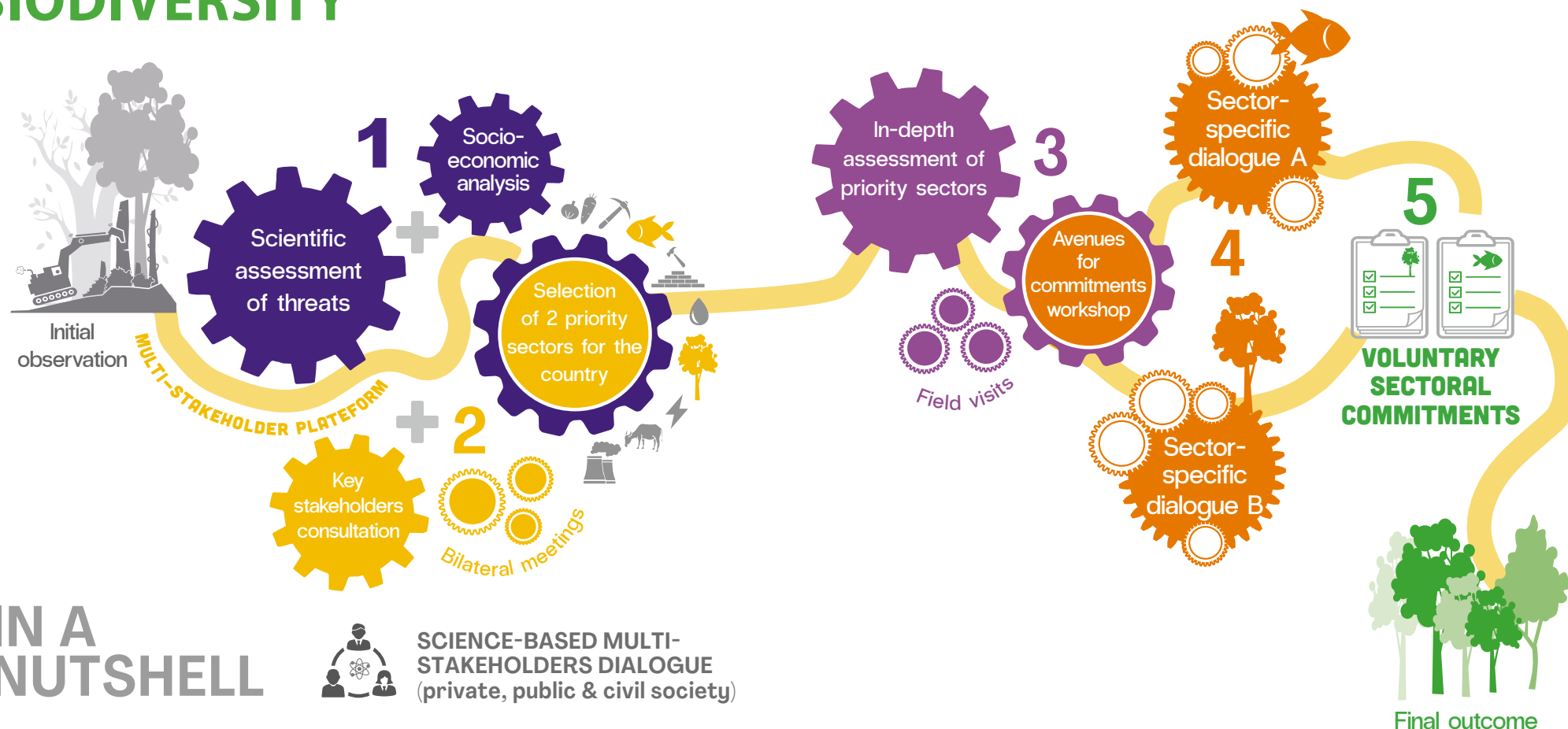
By drawing lessons from project implementation in the 16 pilot countries between 2019 and 2022, and analysing the commitments obtained and the underlying process, we were able to identify two success criteria for formulating robust commitments:

- 1. Define shared objectives and produce detailed voluntary commitments**, specifying the actions to be taken, the actors responsible, the resources to be mobilised, the implementation milestones and the expected results.
- 2. Take into account the characteristics of the sub-sectors and regions** in order to adjust the form and content of the commitments.

Drawing on lessons learned from implementation of the project, we offer 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 three steps: 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



Threat
assessment

Multi-stakeholder
dialogue

Elaborate sectoral action plans



Sector
assessment

Sector-specific
dialogue



Voluntary sectoral
commitments

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RESOURCES



THE FOUR PREVIOUS GUIDES LAID OUT THE STEPS NEEDED TO SECURE INFORMED COMMITMENTS FROM SECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THEIR PRODUCTION PRACTICES ON BIODIVERSITY.

The method outlined in these guides (organising platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogue informed by scientific data) was a way of mobilising new stakeholders with little experience of biodiversity issues. The discussions through the platforms helped to draw in these stakeholders, who may not have engaged under a different approach.

THIS FIFTH GUIDE DRAWS LESSONS ON WHAT MAKES A VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT ROBUST. IT WILL FOCUS ON CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMITMENTS MADE, TO GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE RANGE OF SECTORAL COMMITMENTS OBTAINED.

This variety of outcomes reflects the fact that the method can be tailored to different national contexts and to numerous economic sectors and sub-sectors (e.g. agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, infrastructure, banking and insurance). The approach to engaging stakeholders and facilitating dialogue was largely decentralised, enabling it to be agile and, through the wording of the commitments, to respond to environmental and economic concerns in the target sub-sectors and regions.

SUCCESS CRITERIA 1

DEFINE SHARED
OBJECTIVES AND
PRODUCE DETAILED
VOLUNTARY
COMMITMENTS

1

STEP 1

ESTABLISH A JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR FORMULATING THE COMMITMENTS

A voluntary sectoral commitment is a ratified agreement through which private stakeholders (with the support of public stakeholders, technical and financial partners, and civil society) commit to implement a set of actions that will bring about a positive and measurable change in biodiversity. Its ambition and content (geographical scope, cross-sectoral or single-sector approach, stakeholders' capacity to commit, resources available, etc.) are established following inclusive discussion and negotiation involving multiple stakeholders from the target sub-sector.



RESOURCE

See our recommendations
on quality voluntary
commitments



2

STEP 2 DRAW ON ASSESSMENTS TO DESCRIBE THE CHANGE EXPECTED

The entry point for formulating voluntary sectoral commitments is to share credible, legitimate data identifying the main drivers of biodiversity loss and linking them to the sectors and production practices. Two studies, which won broad support from the stakeholders, were used to initiate dialogue, raise their awareness and identify priorities. The commitment scenarios proposed by the consultants enabled them to jointly identify exactly which pressures to reduce for which expected impacts.



RESOURCES

See our recommendations on conducting an assessment of national threats to biodiversity and an in-depth analysis of sectors and their production practices



INFLUENCE OF THE BANKING SECTOR ON THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

In Tunisia, we worked to develop voluntary commitments with the banking sector. Successive assessments had failed to identify this sector, which has an indirect impact on biodiversity, other than as providing technical and financial support for commitments by other sub-sectors. However, it is critical to mainstream biodiversity into the banking sector, because financing terms can strongly influence the practices of productive sectors, especially primary sectors. Therefore, we used two round tables to initiate dialogue with stakeholders in this sector.

Following these workshops, the members of the banking and finance council signed a charter committing to:

- 1. mainstream environmental and biodiversity criteria into investment decisions and risk assessment;*
- 2. promote best practice and appropriate tools to their member institutions;*
- 3. develop green and environmentally-responsible investments and encourage finance for activities that preserve natural capital.*

A working group will be established to draw up an action plan for implementing this charter.



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STEP 3

DESIGNATE THE SPECIFIC ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION

The more precisely the voluntary actors are identified, the more robust the commitment will be. This is because explicitly naming the stakeholders prepared to commit to transforming practices can avoid delays to action. In addition, naming those responsible for action and the resource institutions increases accountability and will assist in the subsequent delivery of activities.

Seeing that contributions to biodiversity are fairly distributed among the stakeholders also encourages actors to make voluntary commitments. For this reason, all relevant and legitimate stakeholders (from private, public, civil society and research spheres) must be involved in the process of drafting the commitments, so that each can take on their share of responsibility according to their means.



ENGAGE WITH INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS

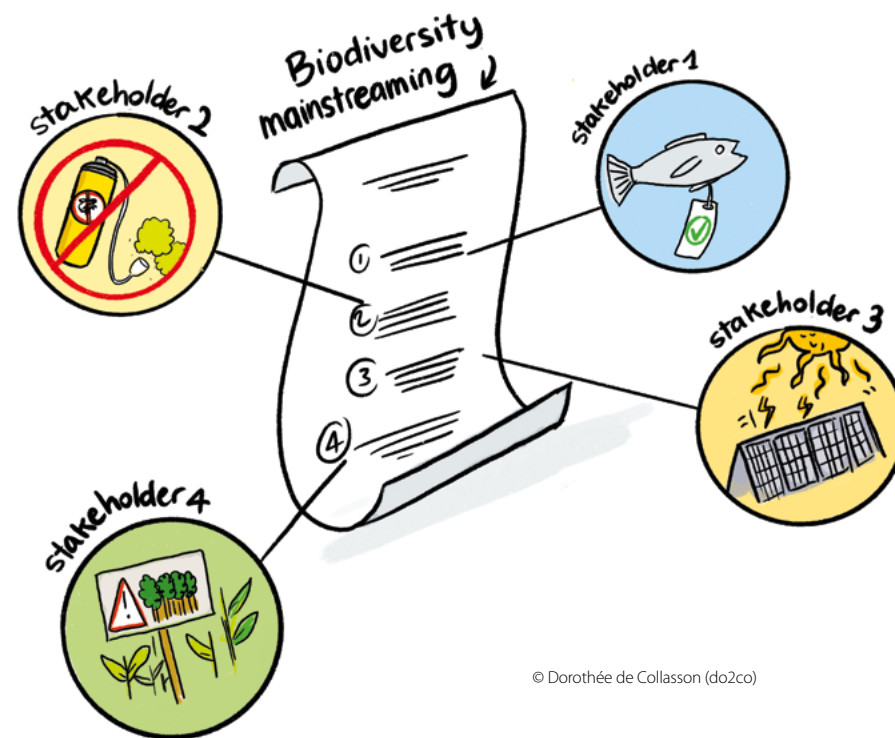
To avoid staff changes impacting the commitment made, it is recommended to forge institutional links and not to rely on personal commitments.



JOINT GUIDELINES AND INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS

In Uganda, stakeholders from the agricultural and energy sectors agreed on 10 collective commitments to preserve biodiversity. On becoming aware of their impacts, they committed to mainstream biodiversity into company strategies, continue the multi-stakeholder dialogue, assess the impacts of their activities on biodiversity, develop nature-based solutions, train in and promote sustainable practices, and report on their activities to support biodiversity. In addition to these guidelines, nine organisations in the energy sector and eight organisations in the agricultural sector drew up and signed specific individual commitments.

Within the energy sector, two private companies, one agricultural federation, three local districts, one research institution, one civil society organisation and one government agency established specific action plans. For example, the company All Green Energy committed to install 2,000 energy-efficient cookers over 4 years (using their own resources and loans), in order to reduce the amount of wood wasted by nearly 80,000 tonnes a year.



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STEP 4

ESTABLISH QUANTIFIED ACTION PLANS FOR EACH SECTORAL STAKEHOLDER, WITH IMPLEMENTATION MILESTONES

The voluntary commitment must be measurable and time-bound, to allow its effects on biodiversity to be monitored over time. This is also an important factor for assessing its potential for implementation and achievement. The dialogue period is crucial for refining the action plans, the objectives, the milestones, and the technical, financial and human resources to be mobilised.

For example, cross-sectoral approaches have required several workshops for dialogue, due to the many practices to be changed and the interdependencies between stakeholders. Over the relatively short duration of the BIODEV2030 project (2 years), five out of the 16 countries have succeeded in forming commitments with quantified targets and time-bound milestones, some with detailed action plans.

However, there has been no success in identifying avenues of finance, despite holding meetings with potential funders in some of the countries..



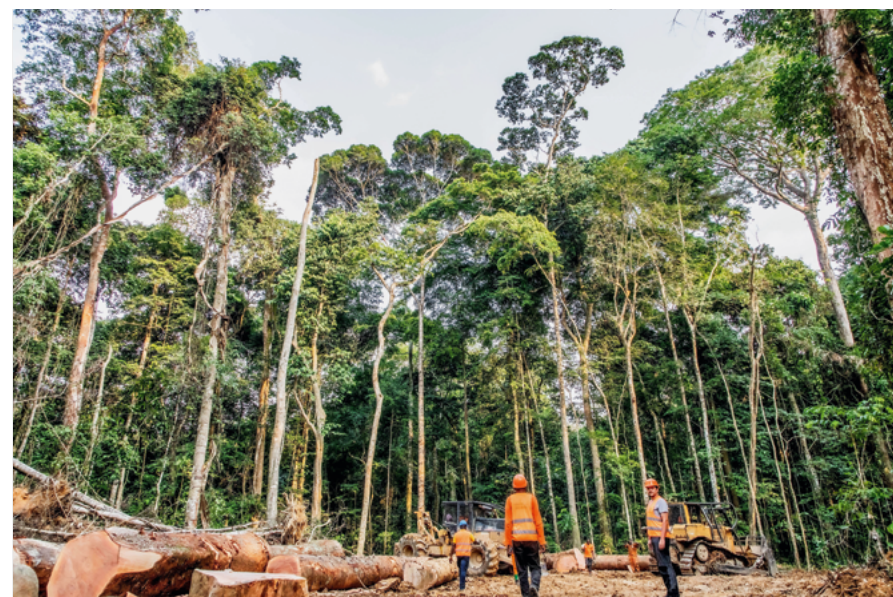
DIVERSIFY THE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FINANCE FOR THE COMMITMENTS

The stakeholders have different perspectives on financing the commitments, which creates opportunities to diversify. While public institutions find it easier to turn to public funding bodies, private sector stakeholders tend to identify private banks or companies as potential funders, through their CSR policies.



A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO FOREST CLEARANCE

In Fiji, the commitments adopted to ensure sustainable cultivation of kava aim to protect key biodiversity areas affected by plantations encroaching on the forest. The commitments made cover a range of complementary activities, including reforestation and more sustainable agricultural practices (agroforestry, water management). The workshops for dialogue enabled the stakeholders to come up with sequenced action plans for the period 2023-2030. These include consultation stages, establishing an environmental committee to steer and evaluate the activities, creating tree nurseries, identifying sites for reforestation, planting 11,500 trees over 5 years on the island of Qamea, and running training for four kava farmers from each village.



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5 STEP 5 CREATE THE ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS

Most voluntary commitments identify the enabling conditions. These mostly focus on measures to be taken by the State. Therefore, ongoing dialogue is needed with public institutions to ensure that appropriate levers are activated and to support effective and sustained implementation of the commitments made, and ideally their extension. Technical and financial support, along with operational research (especially for agriculture) have also been identified as prerequisites for implementation of the commitments.



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There are four main types of enabling conditions covered in the avenues for voluntary commitments:

1. Facilitating enforcement, providing monitoring and/or strengthening the regulatory framework

In Madagascar, public stakeholders have committed to tighten monitoring of shrimp fishing, in particular through helping to formalise the Community Surveillance Committee



2. Support a move towards transformative changes through subsidies and tax incentives

In Senegal, the fishing sector is calling for recognition of the status of "surveillance fishers" and a reduction in industrial fishing licences



3. Provide capacity building and training

In Senegal, all sectors have committed to strengthen provision of initial and vocational training in environmental protection



4. Develop research into more efficient and responsible technologies

In Ethiopia, the stakeholders proposed that four agricultural research centres engage in improving the quality of coffee



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SUCCESS CRITERIA 2

TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
THE CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE SUB-SECTORS
AND REGIONS

FORMULATING AND SIGNING VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS REQUIRES A LONG CO-CONSTRUCTION PROCESS BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE TARGET SUB-SECTORS.

This multi-stakeholder dialogue has followed a different process in different countries, as various factors were taken into account. Firstly, the objectives emerging from this dialogue were influenced by the national context, the choice of target sub-sectors and, where appropriate, target regions, the relevant actors identified, etc. Secondly, the level of detail and ambition in the commitments was affected by the facilitation methods, the time allowed for dialogue and the number of times the stakeholders met.

As a result, there is wide variety in the wording of commitments and the avenues for action.



RESOURCES

See our recommendations on organising multi-stakeholder dialogue and co-constructing voluntary commitments



SUCCESS CRITERIA 2

TERRITORIAL

TERRITORIAL LEVEL OF COMMITMENTS

The commitments were drawn up at the regional or national level, or on a cross-sectoral basis for a given area, depending on how the multi-stakeholder dialogue had been organised. The scope was determined by the various assessments and/or by the stakeholders round the table.

Ethiopia, Fiji, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda drew up regional sectoral commitments. Using this scale also provides an opportunity to develop commitments that cut across issues such as land use, finance or training.

Although there is no difference between these three approaches in the level of ambition in the commitments made, it is noticeable that the countries that have opted for a regional approach have been more specific about the actors who have committed (there has been direct mention of companies).



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STRUCTURING

STRUCTURING OF SUB-SECTORS

Working with structured sub-sectors made it quicker to identify the relevant stakeholders and easier to integrate them into the co-construction process. This time advantage meant they were able to go further in developing and adopting the voluntary commitments. However, this is neither a necessary nor a sufficient factor for successful dialogue.

Depending on the country and the sub-sectors, other factors played an important role in bolstering or limiting the collective commitment:

- the territorial coverage of the organisations involved (e.g. regional branches of unions), which is critical in ensuring that local stakeholders are properly represented and buy in to the commitments made;
- the social structure of the area (traditional or village leaders), which can be used as a lever for mobilisation and also for securing commitments;
- the limited decision-making capacity of local subsidiaries of major international groups (particularly mining operators) without authorisation from their head offices, which must otherwise be mobilised.



THE STRUCTURING OF SUB-SECTORS AS A PRELIMINARY STEP

In Madagascar, the gold sector is relatively unstructured, with around 53,000 independent gold miners. However, the stakeholders expressed a wish to work with this sector due to its impact on biodiversity. The various workshops for dialogue on drafting the voluntary commitments highlighted that structuring of the sub-sector was a prerequisite for voluntary changes in practices by the miners. Accordingly, the public stakeholders committed to effectively formalise the status of operators and improve the traceability of products in the gold sector at two pilot sites (Ifanadiana in the Vatovavy region and Dabolava in the Menabe region) by 2030. This commitment is broken down into a series of actions. These include carrying out an analysis of gold mining operations at these sites, revising or drafting new regulations in order to manage operators and ensure they are suited to the local context, and running information and awareness-raising workshops on the rights and responsibilities of gold miners.

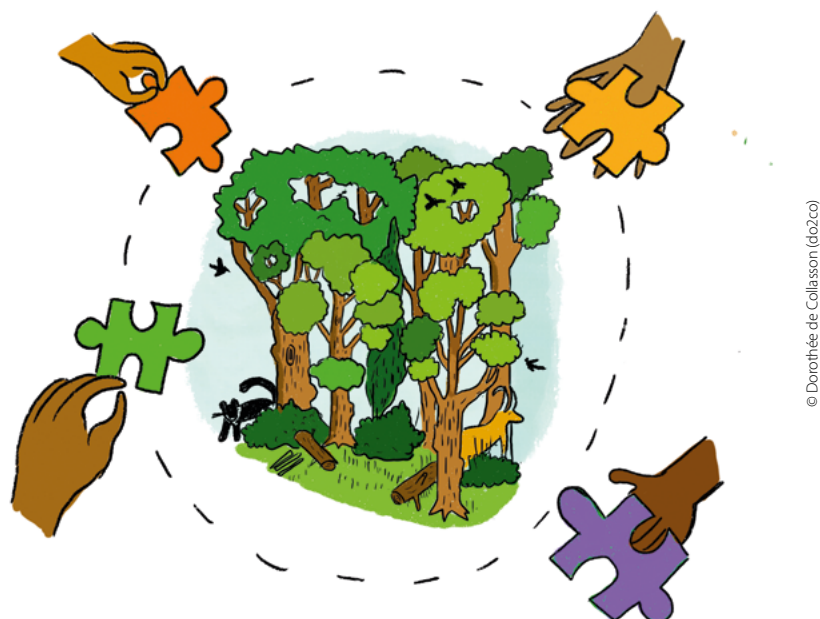
SUCCESS CRITERIA 2

TYPOLOGY

TYPOLOGY OF ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

The types of commitments discussed or made by the stakeholders largely depend on the pressures from these sub-sectors and the stakeholders present and prepared to commit. Within the 16 BIODIV2030 countries, 44 sub-sectors from seven economic sectors took part in the dialogue and the co-construction of voluntary commitments. The actions planned can be seen to overlap and they can be organised into six categories:

1. Environmentally-friendly practices in operation and processing
2. Product traceability and certification
3. Training, awareness-raising and sharing best practice
4. Protection and/or restoration areas
5. Enforcement of regulations
6. Professional structures for artisan producers



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COMBATING BIODIVERSITY LOSS THROUGH MULTIPLE COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

In Benin, the workshop for dialogue among stakeholders from the timber and forestry sectors helped to identify potential commitments. A wide range of avenues for action were proposed throughout the value chain, to provide an organised and coordinated response to all the threats identified. For example, nursery growers could commit to producing native fruit species; logging companies could prepare and implement a plantation development and management plan, setting aside part of their holding and using recommended equipment; sawmills could commit to processing all their products locally and registering with their reference organisation to improve product traceability; and traders could push for an update to the regulations requiring all logging companies to be timber growers.

« Moving from dialogue to action: this is the big challenge now to ensure the commitments made do not remain in a void »

Guy Faller Constant Ganga
Louamba - Congo's National
Focal Point CBD*



* Convention on Biological Diversity



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The BIODEV2030 method is a tool for encouraging sectoral, public and civil society stakeholders to commit to voluntarily reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity. It is a method of dialogue that takes time to raise awareness, explain, understand and negotiate. The outcome is not always the same but depends on the context and on multiple constraints. The commitments obtained are therefore the stakeholders' responses to the particular biodiversity issues they have identified and chosen to act on.

Further effort is required to continue this multi-stakeholder dialogue, which is so important for breaking out of silos and coordinating action. Efforts are also needed to support implementation of the commitments made by the stakeholders and their scaling up.



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3 YEARS PROJECT

OUR MISSION :
To foster sectoral commitments in favor 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

Tunisia

Guyana

Senegal

Burkina Faso

Guinea

Benin

Gabon

Cameroon

Uganda

Congo

Mozambique

Ethiopia

Kenya

Madagascar

Vietnam

Fiji



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FUNDING



COORDINATION



IMPLEMENTATION

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