



Consortium of African Funds
for the Environment

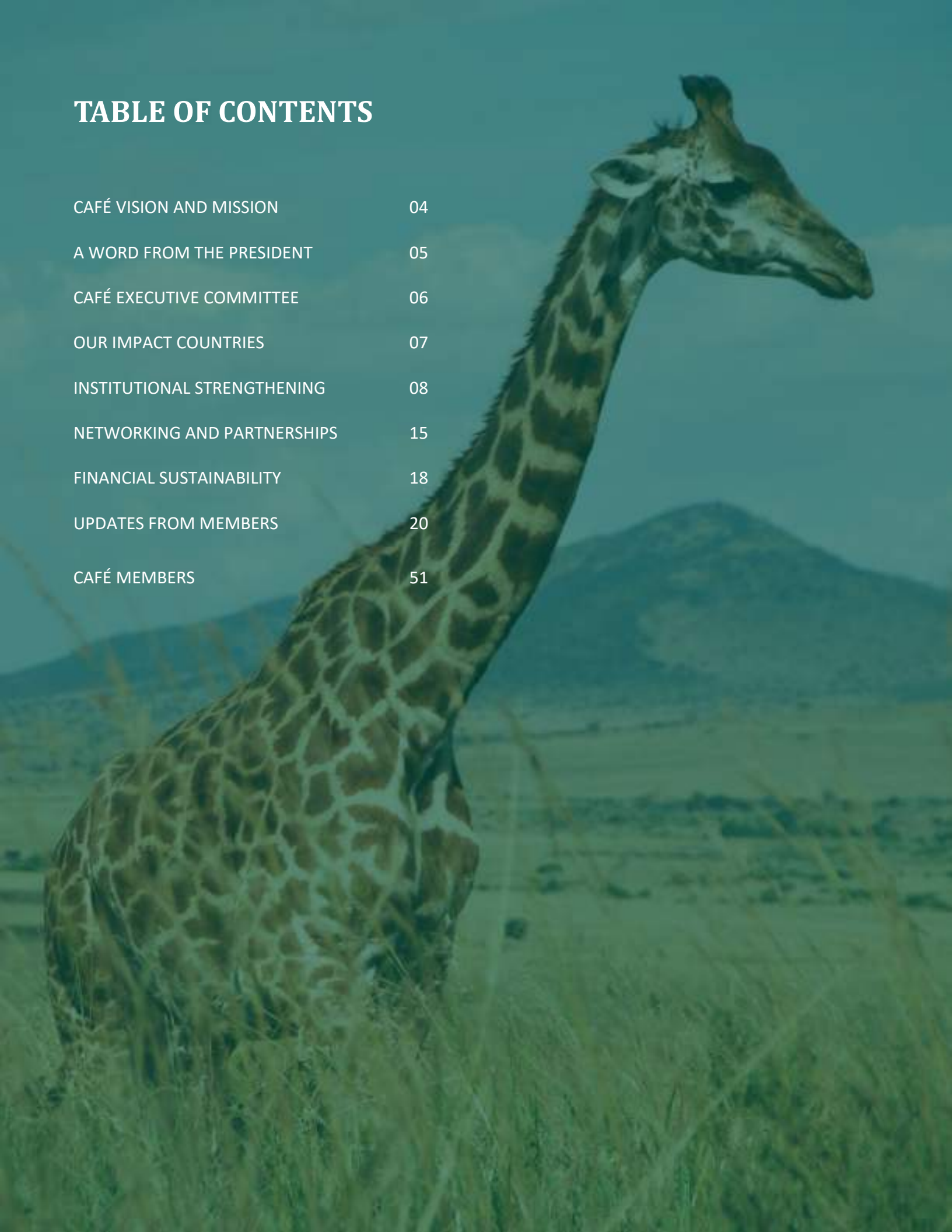
2024 Narrative Report

CONSORTIUM OF AFRICAN FUNDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (CAFÉ)

Championing Sustainable Environmental Financing in Africa

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAFÉ VISION AND MISSION	04
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT	05
CAFÉ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	06
OUR IMPACT COUNTRIES	07
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING	08
NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS	15
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	18
UPDATES FROM MEMBERS	20
CAFÉ MEMBERS	51





ABOUT CAFÉ

The Consortium of African Funds for the Environment (CAFÉ) is a membership-based network of Environmental Funds (EFs) which are also known as Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) in Africa that has been in operation since 2011. CAFÉ has 19 member CTFs that operate in 22 countries and manage over \$550 million in endowments and \$120 million in sinking funds in Africa. Currently, CAFÉ's Presidency is being hosted by the Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) in Cameroon.

Mission

CAFÉ is committed to build a learning community that shares best practices and pursues innovative finance mechanisms in order to foster conservation, environmental management and sustainable development in Africa.

Vision

To be a globally respected alliance for championing sustainable environmental financing in Africa.





A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr Théophile Zognou

Dear friends,

I am pleased to share our 2024 Annual Report, which highlights our efforts to safeguard Africa's biodiversity for the benefit of our host countries and the global community.

In this report, we showcase the work we do to protect intact nature – the most effective action to anchor resilience against the effects of climate change. Here you will read about the growth of our portfolio to over \$550 million in endowments, the inevitable challenges we faced along the way, and the lessons we have learnt. You will also read about the details of the incredible work being done, together with our respective governments and partners, to safeguard wildlife, support local people and protect biodiversity at scale.

Humanity needs nature to survive. Science tells us that 30% of land and marine areas should be conserved and protected to reduce the impact of climate change and maintain healthy ecosystem services, such as food security, and clean water and air. While global awareness of the critical need to protect nature is

growing, we need to scale the solutions that can deliver tangible results on the ground. Africa harbours a staggering 25% of the world's biodiversity, and protecting it is integral to our very survival.

At our 2023 General Assembly held in Arusha, Tanzania, we made a Declaration that called on our respective countries to take up the challenge not only of conservation but also of development in Africa. Through this platform, I am relaunching this appeal to our governments which must make urgent and necessary reforms for the protection of our common home, for the development of Africa. That said, the challenges are enormous and to meet these challenges, to restore the soul and ensure the future of our protected areas, we need not only discipline, consistency and commitment, but a lot of money and this is once again an opportunity for me to appeal to public and private donors.

Enjoy reading.

Théophile Z.



CAFÉ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dr. Théophile Zognou - CAFÉ President;
Executive Director, FTNS, Cameroon



Mr. Tapiwa Makiwa - CAFÉ Vice President
Chief Executive Officer, CCFN, Namibia



Mr. Guillaume de Rouville
Member, CAFÉ;
Executive Director, FOCON, DRC



Dr. Fanny N'golo
Member, CAFÉ;
Executive Director,
FPRCI, Ivory Coast



Ms. Karen Price
Member, CAFÉ;
Executive Director, MEET, Malawi

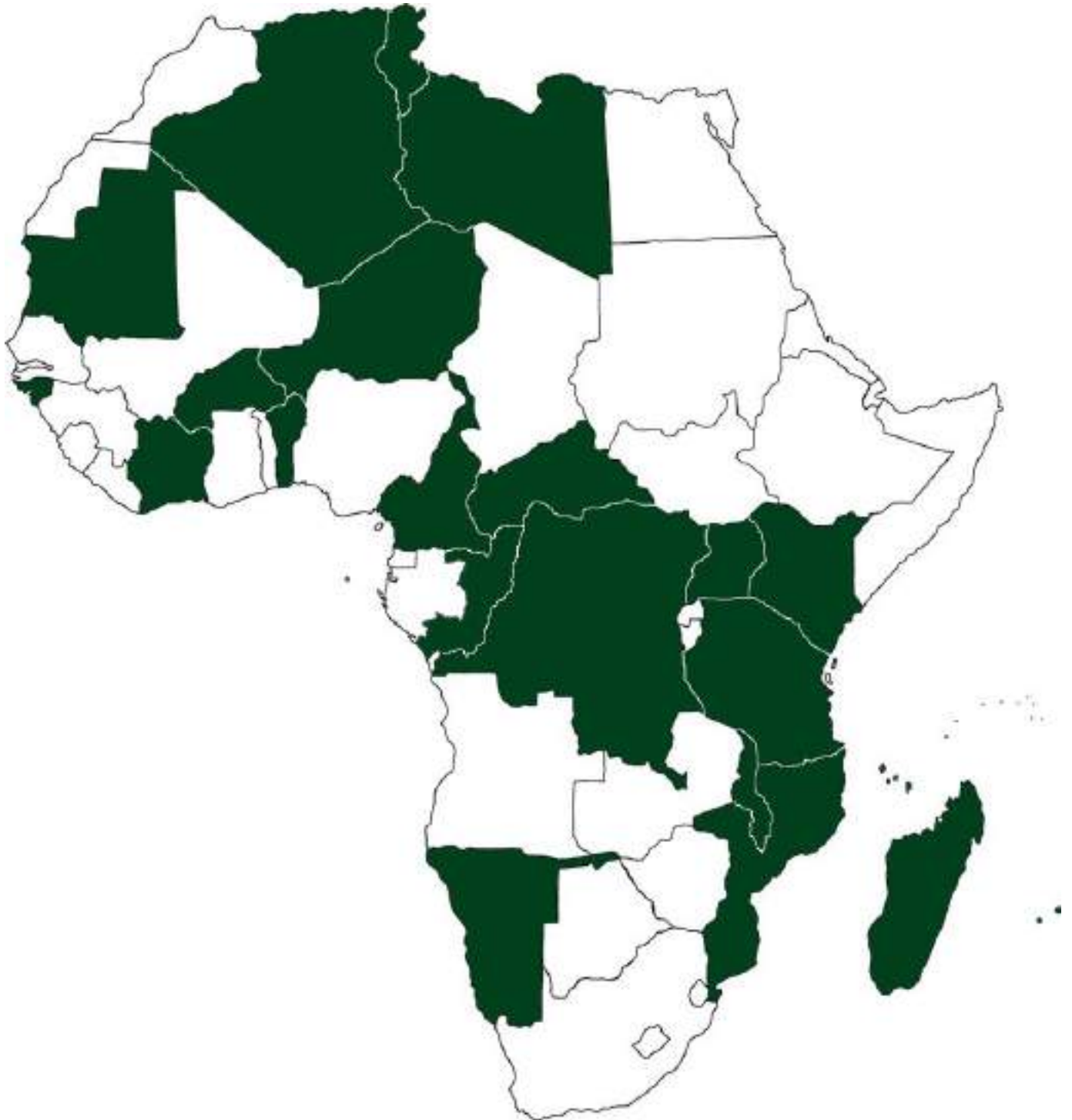


Mr. Luis Honwana - Member, CAFÉ;
Executive Director, Biofund, Mozambique



Mr. Alfred Koffi Allogninouwa
Member, CAFÉ;
Executive Director, FSOA, Benin

IMPACT COUNTRIES





INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The 13th CAFÉ General Assembly

From 28 August to 1 September 2023, CAFÉ held its 13th General Assembly (GA) which was hosted by Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF) in collaboration with the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) in Arusha, Tanzania. Under the theme of “Growing Your Endowment: Strategies for Conservation Trust Funds,” the event brought together different experts and conservation practitioners from around the globe to build capacity and share experiences in promotion of innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation. The participants included representatives from CAFÉ member CTFs, Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) members and other stakeholders and experts in biodiversity conservation and climate change. The GA’s overall purpose was to strengthen capacities of CTFs through knowledge and experience sharing on various financing mechanisms and strategies that the CTFs can employ to grow their endowment funds and increase their financial resources for improved and sustainable biodiversity conservation in Africa.

Her Excellency, Madam Mary Masanja, Tanzania’s Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism was the Guest of Honour.

On the final day of the GA, participants visited the magnificent Ngorongoro Crater, which is the world’s largest intact and unfilled volcanic caldera and Ngorongoro Conservation Area’s main tourists’ attraction. Known as a home to over 25,000 wild animals – including the big five –, the Ngorongoro Crater is the largest and most scenic crater in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It is also one of Africa’s Seven Natural Wonders due to its breathtaking natural features. Other animals found in this crater include hippos, hyenas, warthogs, zebras, elands, gazelles, wildebeests, just to name a few.

The CAFÉ Executive Committee

As an organ that is responsible for carrying out resolutions of the General Assembly and making key decisions for BRIDGE Project at network level, among other tasks, the CAFÉ Executive Committee (ExCo) has held various virtual meetings and 1 physical meeting in the reporting period. The physical meeting took place in April 2024 in Cotonou, Benin and was hosted by the West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA). The meeting accorded the ExCo members an opportunity to thoroughly discuss very pertinent issues for the good of the network and its respective member CTFs.

While in Cotonou, the ExCo also had very fruitful discussions with the Benin Minister of Environment and other top officials in promotion of sustainable environmental financing in Benin and across Africa.

Information session under the BRIDGE mentorship program

CAFÉ and the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) are implementing a 4-year joint project called BRIDGE. It’s a project that supports member

CTFs of the two networks to effectively engage the private sector in conservation finance. Within this project, there is a mentorship program that ensures successful exchange of knowledge, guidance and growth, beneficial to both the Mentor and Mentee CTFs. The main objective of this program is twofold: strengthening CTFs’ capacities and practices, and supporting CTFs to overcome specific issues, replicate best practices, and adapt solutions to their local context with the specialized support of more experienced CTFs.

With this background, a webinar titled ‘BRIDGE Project Mentorship Program: Experiences from Project K’ was conducted on 14 September 2023. BRIDGE came out of the experiences and lessons from Project K – Knowledge for Action, another joint initiative of CAFÉ and RedLAC which phased out in 2018. It aimed at enhancing global conservation through peer-to-peer exchanges and knowledge management among member CTFs.

The information session therefore provided a platform for member CTFs to learn from some fellow CTFs that benefitted from the Project K Mentorship Program. Among the speakers were: Dr. Théophile Zognou, the Executive Director of the Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (Cameroon), Ms. Karen Price, the Coordinator of Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust, and Ms. Karen McDonald Gayle, the Executive Director of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (Jamaica).

During the session, the three speakers shared about the institutional benefits their CTFs gained, key lessons learned, and insights on how fellow members from the two networks can take advantage of the current opportunity under the BRIDGE Project.

Hiring of consultants on M&E plans for BRIDGE Innovation Fund's financial mechanisms

Still in September 2023, a call was issued for consultants to adjust the M&E plans of 9 innovative financing mechanisms that were supported under the BRIDGE Project’s Innovation Fund component. The call sought a consultant to (1) review and adjust the logical framework of the 9 financial mechanisms; (2) review and adjust the M&E indicators of the 9 mechanisms; (3) provide guidance to the corresponding CTFs on how to collect the baseline; and (4) prepare a dashboard template to manage data.

The assignment was carried out by the Impact House at Grant Thornton Netherlands.

This consultancy helped the beneficiary CTFs to improve their mechanisms’ logical frameworks and M&E plans and to be guided on collecting the baseline and managing data through relevant dashboards.

New members of the BRIDGE project Selection Committee

In September 2023, the BRIDGE Selection Committee welcomed two new members namely, Ms. Ravaka Ranaivoson of the Wildlife Conservation Society (Madagascar) and Ms. Ane

Valerie of Zamia Media (Mexico).

The inclusion of the two members in the committee was in keeping with 2024 BRIDGE Project demands for analyzing and selecting various proposals from member CTFs under the Mentorship Program.

The Selection Committee is currently a 7-member team which is responsible for the evaluation of innovative financial mechanisms and mentorship proposals that are submitted by member CTFs, and also selection of CTFs to be financially supported from the BRIDGE project.

The committee's membership has representation from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), MAVA Foundation, Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA), and independent members that were individually appointed by the CAFÉ and RedLAC Executive Committees.

Webinar on joint initiatives between CTFs and the Private Sector

On 24 January 2024, network members attended a webinar on the joint initiatives between CTFs and the private sector. Through the webinar, participants learnt how they can successfully design various initiatives together with the private sector in biodiversity conservation. In particular, participants learnt more about these subject matters: business incubator, biodiversity offset mechanisms, and impact investment.

The following were the presenters: Ms. Alexandra Jorge, the Director of Programs of BIOFUND (Mozambique); Mr Leonel Zavaleta, the Executive Director of the Gulf Fund of Mexico, and Dr. David Meyers, the Executive Director of Conservation Finance Alliance (USA).

Webinar on showcasing results of PFP programs

With the organization of Enduring Earth, CAFÉ network members were privileged to attend a webinar on 29 January 2024 in which results of the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) were showcased. As an approach, PFP secures long-term investment in conservation initiatives by tying sustained funding to tangible, measurable goals encompassing both social and environmental benefits. With PFP, projects are collaboratively designed, locally-led, nationally supported, sustainably funded, and highly accountable, with the goal to inhibit nature's decline and produce robust conservation outcomes.

The webinar was a result of an assessment by EcoAdvisors for Enduring Earth. The following were among the speakers: Dr Adrian Moreira from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Ms. Zimena Barrera of the WWF Colombia, Ms. Ana Maria Gonzalez of the World Bank, Mr. Hari Blasubramanian and Mr Eddy Niesten from EcoAdvisors, and Ms. Paulina Arroyo from Enduring Earth.

Webinar on the role of Conservation Trust Funds to Achieve 30x30

On 29 April 2024, member CTFs had an opportunity to attend a webinar on the role of CTFs to achieve 30x30, which is an initiative that calls for conserving at least 30% of the Earth's lands and waters by 2030. This is an ambitious goal that requires significant financial resources and commitments from governments, civil society, and other key actors. CTFs have played a key role historically in finance for protected and conserved areas and could play a pivotal role in finance for achieving 30x30. As well, the recently established Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) presents a promising new source of international support towards this and other CBD Targets.

Through the webinar, participants learnt how CTFs can be a powerful force for achieving the critical objectives of 30x30 and safeguarding our planet's biodiversity.

The webinar was co-hosted by Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) and Enduring Earth.

With moderation by David Meyers, CFA Executive Director, the following were among the speakers: Adriana Moreira from the Global Environment Facility; Madhu Rao, Chair of IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA); Brian O'Donnell from Campaign for Nature; Rosa Lemos from FUNBIO; and Zdenka Piskulich from Enduring Earth.

Information session on the working group program under the BRIDGE project

The BRIDGE Working Groups program seeks to strengthen the capacities of CAFÉ and RedLAC CTFs to engage with the private sector by providing opportunities to share knowledge, transfer learning, and enhance mutual collaboration. Towards this realization, and to ensure active and meaningful involvement of network members, an information session was conducted on 28 May 2024. This webinar accorded member CTFs an opportunity to get insightful information and relevant details about the program. The session was facilitated by Mr. Leonardo Garcia, the BRIDGE Project Coordinator.

Meeting of the BRIDGE Oversight Committee in Paris

The BRIDGE Project Oversight Committee is a 6-member team comprised of presidents of CAFÉ and RedLAC and 2 members from each of the Executive Committees of CAFÉ and RedLAC. Besides providing technical expertise that guides the Project Coordinator on implementation, the Committee also approves project related manuals and procedures.

In the reporting period, there have been some virtual meetings and 1 physical meeting held on 12-14 June 2024 in Paris, France. It was a very important meeting which allowed the members to thoroughly discuss various topics of relevance to both networks and their member CTFs. The meeting was hosted by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) which also provides financial support for the project.

From CAFÉ, the following are the members of the Committee:

Dr Théophile Zognou (President), Mr Tapiwa Makiwa (the Vice President) and Mr Guillaume de Rouville (Executive Committee Member).

Hiring of consultants to support the BRIDGE Working Group Program

To ensure successful implementation of the working groups program under the BRIDGE project, consultants were hired in June 2024. The working groups program is one of the tools of achieving objectives of the second component of the project which is Exchange and Capacity Building on Conservation Finance with the Private Sector.

A total of 4 different working groups will be created, with each group composed of professionals from member CTFs working together to build collective knowledge on topics related to private sector engagement. The working groups seek to enhance communication and collaboration among CTFs.

The consultants have been hired to: design and develop the virtual pedagogical content for the Working Groups Program; plan and facilitate the working groups' virtual sessions for CTFs' staff; design a set of indicators to monitor and assess the Working Groups' Program expected results; and systematize the whole experience.

The consultancy will be conducted by Conservation Finance Alliance, Zamia Media and Conservation Strategy Fund.

Webinar on biodiversity credits, current challenges and opportunities

On 24 July 2024, network member CTFs participated in a webinar on the topic "Biodiversity credits, current challenges and opportunities." This webinar explored the most recent challenges and opportunities of Biodiversity (or Nature) Credits as an innovative tool for nature finance. Moderated by David Meyers of Conservation Finance Alliance, the panel included Sinclair Vincent of Verra, Toral Shah of Plan Vivo Foundation, and Timothy Male from the Environmental Policy Innovation Center. Each panelist shared their latest insights on the development and application of biodiversity credits and any advice they had for conservationists interested in using this tool to fuel their work.

It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with leaders who are solving conservation challenges around the world and learn about the latest tools in finance and economics for conservation. The webinar also provided an opportunity for participants to access resources and case studies to use in their respective work to help nature and people thrive.

The webinar was organized by Conservation Strategy Fund and Conservation Finance Alliance.

Network member CTFs participating in the Mentorship Program

After formal expressions of interest and submissions of relevant proposals by individual member CTFs, a total of 10 proposals were selected in April 2024 to carry out mentorship experiences on various topics related to private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation. The table below provides details of mentorship topics in which CAFÉ member CTFs will benefit as mentors or mentees:



#	Mentors	Mentees	Topics
1	BACoMaB Trust Fund (Mauritania)	FEDEC (Cameroon)	Strengthening FEDEC's capacities on financial mechanisms and innovative financing with the private sector.
2	FPRCI (Ivory Coast)	FTNS (Cameroon, CAR and the DRC)	Strengthening the capacities of FTNS in the development and implementation of a private financing strategy based on the experience of FPRCI.
3	BIOFUND (Mozambique)	MEET (Malawi) FAPBM (Madagascar) Tany Meva (Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius and the Comoros) PACT (Belize) FIAES (El Salvador) BioGuinea (Guinea Bissau)	Fundraising with the private sector: a transformative initiative aimed at fostering knowledge, skill development and innovation.
4	FUNDESNAPE (Bolivia)	Tanzania Forest Fund (Tanzania)	Finance for Conservation: Strategic Financial Planning in Protected Areas including Partnerships with the Private Sector.
5	Fondo Acción (Columbia)	BIOFUND (Mozambique)	Impact Investment and Blended Finance as Tools to Mobilize Private Sector Finance for Conservation: Latin American and African Lessons Learned.
6	FIAES (El Salvador)	EAMCEF (Tanzania) UBF (Uganda) BIOFUND (Mozambique) Tany Meva (Madagascar)	Environmental Offsets: Contributions of the private sector to the processes of conservation and restoration of ecosystems and landscapes



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



Her Excellency, Madam Mary Masanja, speaking at the 13th GA in Arusha



ExCo members with the Benin Minister of Environment & other top officials



The team from Tanzania Forest Fund on a mentorship visit in Bolivia



CAFÉ ExCo members at a meeting in Cotonou, Benin

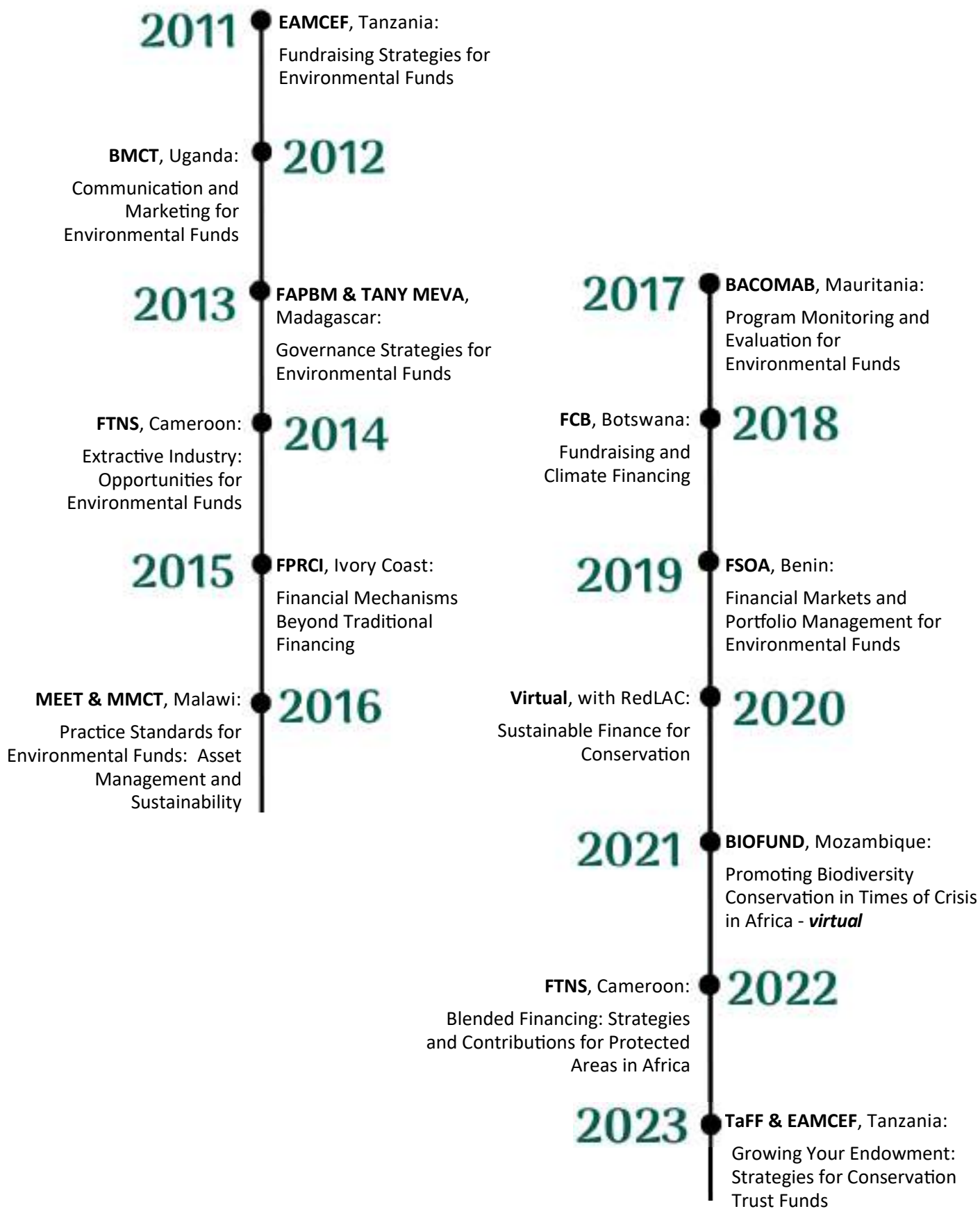


The BIOFUND team during a mentorship visit in El Salvador



BRIDGE Oversight Committee members at a meeting in France

13 years of CAFÉ in brief





NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

GEF/CTFs workshop in Washington D.C.

In January 2024, CAFÉ and RedLAC member CTFs attended a 2-day workshop at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) offices in Washington D.C. The aim of the workshop was to explore potential closer collaboration and synergies for jointly advancing the conservation of the environment and natural resources globally.

CAFÉ was represented by the President and member CTFs' representatives from BIOFUND, Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust, Tany Meva Foundation, BioGuinea Foundation and the MedFund.

Among the outcomes of the workshop include: a joint submission of a White Paper to the GEF by CAFÉ and RedLAC, and arrangements for a GEF/CTFs pavilion at the upcoming COP 16 event to be held in October 2024 in Cali, Colombia.

Participation at the RedLAC Congress in Peru and at COP 28 in Dubai

The 2023 Congress of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) took place in October 2023 in Peru. CAFÉ was well represented at the event which also offered a great opportunity for knowledge sharing and networking.

Similarly, CAFÉ leadership and a number of member CTFs participated at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) that was held from 30 November to 13 December 2023 at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

COP28 was particularly momentous as it marked the conclusion of the first 'global stocktake' of the world's efforts to address climate change under the Paris Agreement. Having shown that progress was too slow across all areas of climate

action – from reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to strengthening resilience to a changing climate, to getting the financial and technological support to vulnerable nations – countries responded with a decision on how to accelerate action across all areas by 2030. This includes a call on governments to speed up the transition away from fossil fuels to renewables such as wind and solar power in their next round of climate commitments.

Some of the network members present included: the Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS), BACoMaB Trust Fund, Tanzania Forest Fund, Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust, Okapi Fund for Nature Conservation in the DRC, and the Foundation for Parks and Reserves in Ivory Coast.

Creation of the CAFÉ Working Group on Marine Protection

At the 13th General Assembly in August 2023 in Arusha, a new Working Group on Marine Protection was created. Among other objectives, this working group aims at raising awareness within CAFÉ on marine and coastal conservation issues and also growing expertise on marine conservation funding. The working group will foster collaborative initiatives among CTFs on marine transboundary issues across the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Indian basins.

The working group is being led by the BACoMaB Trust Fund of Mauritania and it has the following members within CAFÉ: BACoMaB, Biofund, the MedFund, Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar, Tany Meva Foundation and the Okapi Fund for Nature Conservation in the DRC.

The initiative is very ideal for networking among CAFÉ members and also with other players through the Global Alliance for Marine Protection.



NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS



Part of the CAFÉ team at COP 28 in Dubai



Some members of the CAFÉ Working Group on Marine Protection in Arusha



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Financial support towards our annual General Assemblies

In the reporting period, CAFÉ got some financial support for the successful implementation of the 13th and 14th General Assemblies (GAs). For the 13th GA which was hosted by Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF) in collaboration with the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) in August 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania, its financial support was provided by the French Facility for the Global Environment (FFEM) through the BRIDGE Project.

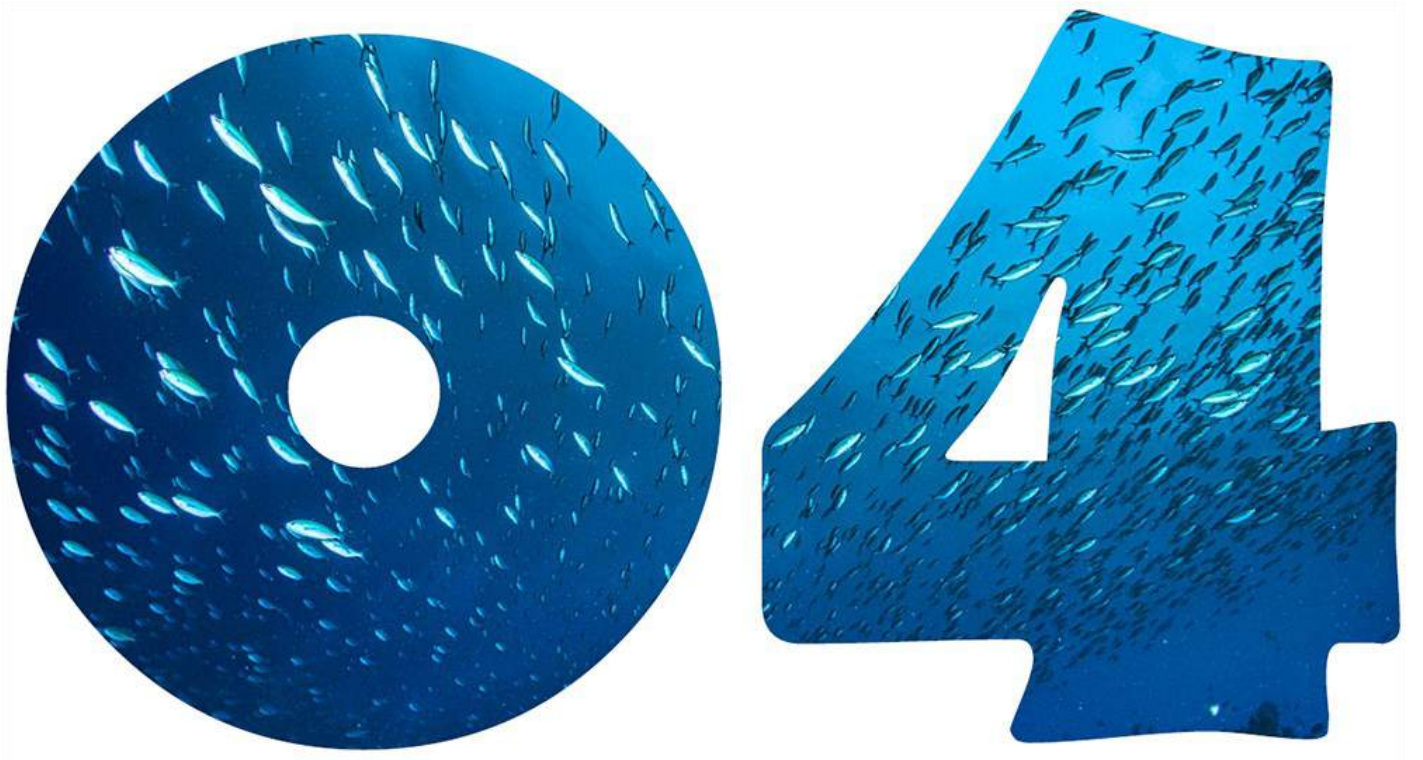
Towards successful implementation of the 14th GA, CAFÉ also secured financial support from various sponsors which includ-

ed the following: FFEM through the BRIDGE project, Enduring Earth, Community Conservation Namibia, the German Cooperation, KfW Development Bank, The Nature Conservancy, GIZ Namibia, The Pew Charitable Trusts, World Wildlife Fund, Gondwana Collection Namibia, and FNB Namibia.

Various initiatives

CAFÉ has laid out various initiatives that are aimed at ensuring the network’s financial sustainability. The initiatives range from strategic collaborations with partners, registration in the US as a 501(c)3 organization to many others that will be realized both within the African region and beyond.





UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

1. THE SANGHA TRI-NATIONAL TRUST FUND (FTNS) — CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND THE CONGO REPUBLIC

A fruitful 2023!

FTNS activities in 2023 were marked by considerable achievements in terms of raising new funding, the fight against poaching and respect for human rights. Several initiatives were also undertaken to improve the living conditions of the people of the Sangha Tri-national (TNS).

A good portfolio performance in 2023!

In terms of endowment capital management, 2023 was marked by a 9.23% increase in our portfolio FTNS (an increase from 63.3 to 66.4 million euros), one of our best performances since our creation. This enabled the FTNS Board of Directors to grant XAF 2,649,598,939 FCFA (approximately €4,038,520) to the TNS parks for 2024 to facilitate their operation and the execution of several projects. FTNS has also reallocated its investment portfolio, notably through the decision to invest in local markets in Central Africa as from 2024.

New funding and new projects!

In terms of sourcing new funding, FTNS obtained the necessary patronage from the three TNS countries to mobilise new multi-

lateral funds. New projects have also been launched such as the CAPRO TNS project as part of the RESSAC initiative (Applied Research in Ecology and Social Sciences of Central African Forest Ecosystems) implemented by CIFOR-ICRAF. It aims at strengthening the impact of research on the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems. This enabled FTNS receive funding of around €160,000 to address "The issue of the cocoa economy at the interface of protected areas in the TNS".

FTNS also received two grants from the Consortium of African Environmental Funds, one of which will support private sector initiatives relating to sustainable agricultural practices and access to financial services by local organisations in the TNS, and the other to build the capacity of FTNS's governing bodies.

Zero elephants poached in parks in 2023!

In terms of conservation, no elephants were poached in the three TNS parks in 2023! This unprecedented achievement reinforces the anti-poaching efforts carried out in TNS with the support of FTNS funds. Nevertheless, some carcasses have been found in the outlying areas of the parks, prompting conservation stakeholders not to relent in their efforts.



In terms of innovation, the three TNS parks are now equipped with acoustic monitoring units following the recent installation of this technology in the Lobéké National Park. These facilities now enable the TNS protected areas to record sound emissions produced by gunfire or animals. This data provides park managers with the necessary information required to better deploy their anti-poaching units.

Overall, the parks' patrolling efforts resulted in 761 surveillance patrols (covering 98,364 km), which facilitated the seizure of 5,708 kg of bushmeat, around 40 ivory tusks and 1,353 rounds of ammunition. The patrols also led to the arrests of 41 poachers, results that have helped to reduce the pressure on wildlife resources.

Always at the service of the local and indigenous populations of the TNS

FTNS remained faithful to its policy of supporting the socio-economic development of the TNS communities. In terms of educational support, the parks provided scholarships to 2,205 primary and secondary school pupils and 5 university students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, 150 teachers were also supported or fully paid for.

The Bomassa modern primary school, which will be completed in 2022, was also inaugurated by Ms Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy, and Mr Jean-Luc MOUTHOU, Minister of Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education and Literacy, in the presence of the District Prefect of Sangha and the Sub-prefect of the Kabo district. The school's construction was undertaken in partnership with FTNS and KFW, and provides pupils and teachers with modern classrooms and equipment.

Ongoing support for the promotion of the human rights of indigenous minorities

In terms of promoting human rights, FTNS facilitated the renewed signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and the Baka association "Sanguia Baka Buma'a Kpode" (ASBABUK) to establish terms and conditions for regulating their access to forests.

Unlike the first MoU, this second signing includes forest concessions located around protected areas. Through this agreement, MINFOF and ASBABUK undertake to work together to facilitate regulated access by the Baka to the forests to promote their ancestral rights in terms of biodiversity conservation and the exercise of traditional activities in their resource areas.

FTNS funds have also facilitated the equipping and support of civil society structures such as ASBABUK and the Bayanga Human Rights Centre (MFEP) for the implementation of complaints management mechanisms in TNS protected areas.

Our mission is to guarantee sustainable funding to preserve TNS World Heritage Site and its populations

More than ever, we remain convinced of the importance of our mission, which has continued to grow since our creation in 2007. In an international context of extreme tension, we are redoubling our field efforts, with results improving every year, in the TNS, where our partners are protecting and restoring natural environments, while helping to transform value chains to make them sustainable.



2. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT TRUST FUND (NETFUND) — KENYA

About NETFUND

The National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND) is a state corporation under Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry. NETFUND was established by the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), 1999, to mobilize and avail resources for environmental management in Kenya. NETFUND envisions to be a sustainable source of funding for environmental protection and conservation in the country.

The Fund works with partners to mobilize and avail resources for environmental management, Capacity building, environmental awards, and facilitating environmental publications, scholarships, and grants in Kenya. NETFUND has unmatched convening power, where it coordinates environmental sector players and creates synergy to deliver well-researched projects and programs competently for effective environmental management in Kenya.

NETFUND Programmes

Over the financial year 2023/2024, NETFUND has implemented projects on Ecosystem restoration and Biodiversity conservation, Climate change mitigation and adaptation, and Environmental Pollution control. This has succeeded due to the organization's extensive experience designing, developing, and implementing projects. Some of the key results realized through various projects being implemented include:

- a) **Ecosystem Restoration and Rehabilitation** - NETFUND signed two project financing agreements; the Fund will implement the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Cherangany Forest Ecosystems for Climate Change Resilience and Improved Livelihoods Project. This aims to restore 2,500 hectares of degraded forest area and protect 90,333 hectares of Cherangany forest. The second project is Lake Naivasha Basin Ecosystem-Based Management, which aims to maintain ecosystem services and ecosystem health of the lake by reducing pollution in the form of pesticides and fertilizer to preserve the health and status of this RAMSAR wetland of International Importance and Important Bird Area.
- b) **Capacity Building** – During the implementation of empowering youth and women entrepreneurship in Murang'a and

Kirinyaga counties, NETFUND trained 26 green enterprises in business management and entrepreneurship in various agricultural value chains. The Fund also facilitated linkages to market and financial opportunities for these 26 entrepreneurs. Under unsolicited funding requests, NETFUND trained 16 women and youth-led community-based organizations on tree nursery establishment. These groups were facilitated to collect 900 kgs of seeds and supported with 1.15 million potting tubes for raising seedlings towards ecosystem restoration.

- c) **Environmental Awards and Grants** – NETFUND identifies, recognizes, and awards green innovations and best practices contributing to environmental sustainability. To date, NETFUND has recognized and awarded 130 environmental champions and supported the establishment of 47 green enterprises under the Green Innovations Award program. This has resulted in enhanced access to clean energy for over 3,000 people and contributed to the sustainable management of 6,030 tonnes of solid waste. NETFUND has also implemented the EmPower Project that supported 8 youth and women-led entrepreneurship in Murang'a and Kirinyaga County through sustainable entrepreneurship training and small grants to scale their businesses. To bridge the gap in financing green enterprises, NETFUND is designing a Green Enterprise Financing Mechanism with the support of the BRIDGE Project. This mechanism will catalyze the private sector investment in green businesses by providing low-interest financing, grants, and technical assistance.
- d) **Climate Change** – NETFUND supported the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry in organizing the inaugural African Climate Summit that attracted the attendance of various Heads of State and bilateral, multi-lateral, and private sector representatives. The Fund also organized side events on Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Secure Africa's Climate Future and Financing Biodiversity Conservation in Africa in partnership with Google, WWF Kenya, and Kenya Community Development Foundation. Additionally, NETFUND supported the country in developing its position paper for the COP 28 in Dubai.

Resource Mobilization

NETFUND developed project concepts and proposals on climate change, ecosystem restoration, and financing mechanisms that resulted in the mobilization of USD 11,761,520 financial resources from development partners, as summarized below.

- a) Bilateral and Multilateral donors – USD 11,164,722
- b) Private sector – USD 438,062
- c) County governments – USD 77,519
- d) Income Generation through paid-up training – USD 81,217

The Fund fostered its partnership with the World Bank, which resulted in developing an Investment Plan Preparation Grant for the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) on Nature, People, and Climate (NPC) Investment Program. NETFUND, in partnership with the World Bank, secured funding from the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund for Sustainable Management and Restoration of Threatened Ecological Corridors in Kenya Project. Also, the Fund organized four (4) trainings in resource mobilization, proposal writing, and carbon markets, with 181 participants drawn from 49 national, county, private, and civil society organizations and entities.

Lessons Learnt

Collaborative Nature of Resource Mobilization - the power of partnerships and collective efforts of bringing together diverse stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-profit organizations with ultimate goal of mobilizing resources. This collaboration enhances the overall capacity to raise funds, acquire expertise, and access essential assets for projects ranging from community development to large-scale initiatives.

Untapped Private Sector Support – there is potential and opportunities for involving the private sector in various initiatives and projects that could bring about positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

Challenges Faced

- a) Actualizing the sectoral approach to Resource Mobilization
- b) Budgetary constraints
- c) Competing national priorities and donor interests



3. TANY MEVA FOUNDATION (TANY MEVA) — MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES AND THE COMOROS

Madagascar is a biodiversity hotspot, home to about 5% of the world's biodiversity. Its fauna and flora richness includes more than 250,000 species, 70% of which are endemic.

On the other hand, more than 80% of the population lives in rural areas and depends mainly on natural resources.

Unfortunately, the high and persistent poverty rate of the population (80.7% in 2023) leads them to carry out acts harmful to the preservation of the environment.

Tany Meva, an environmental foundation, was created in 1996 in Madagascar. It places at the center of its activities the contribution of local communities to manage and sustain conservation.

Launch of the New Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

"For better sustainable management of natural resources with the active engagement of communities". This is the slogan of the new Strategic Plan that will cover the period 2023-2027, highlighting the importance and interdependence of the two

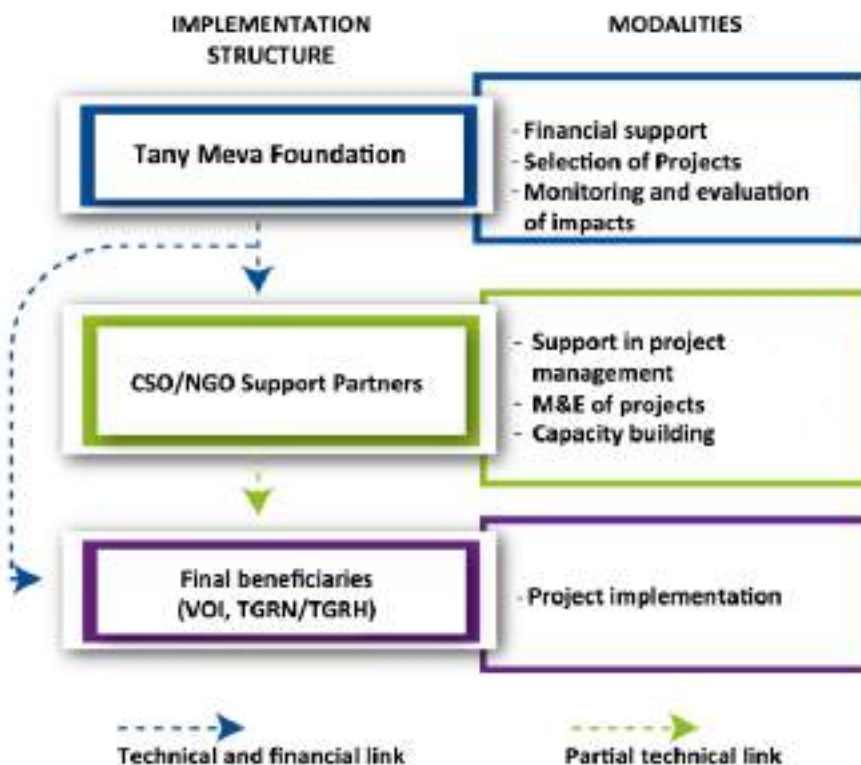
key elements of the Foundation: natural resources and local communities. Three priority intervention themes have been selected: the conservation of natural resources, the ecological restoration of ecosystems and the sustainable development of natural resources.

This strategic plan will refocus the Foundation's action on its primary vocation: the sustainable management of natural resources, while placing the engagement of local communities at the heart of its activities as a leitmotif.

The new strategic plan is distinguished by a new approach that involves collaboration with support partners at the level of the five target landscapes.

Thanks to this approach, in addition to financial support for their project, communities will benefit from support that covers the entire life cycle of the projects, from their preparation to their management and monitoring. This support will be associated with community capacity building programs to ensure the continuation and sustainability of the funded activities after Tany Meva's funding.

The figure below shows our new approach:



To mark this renewal, the Tany Meva Foundation organized a special event on November 21, 2023 to launch this fifth strategic plan, called "Tany Meva 5", which was an opportunity to bring together all the members of the Foundation, its public and private strategic partners and representatives of local communities.

Implementation of the New Strategic Plan

As part of the implementation of the new strategic plan, various actions were undertaken:

1) Updating, and failing that, developing key governance documents:

The alignment of the Statutes, Internal Regulations, Board of Directors Manual and Code of Ethics with Strategic Plan 5 was carried out to harmonize all of the Foundation's framework documents with its new strategic orientations and align them with international governance standards to comply with the standards of Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) in order to demonstrate the organization's commitment to working in accordance with international best practices and to ensuring sound and transparent management of its resources.

2) Capacity building:

Tany Meva staff was trained in environmental and social safeguard standards and procedures and the concept of Corporate/Organizational Social Responsibility, in complementarity with the standards of practice of CTFs (Conservation Trust Funds). The team also follows the online mentorship provided by the BRIDGE program to acquire the necessary foundations in terms of fundraising and Offset.

3) Monographic studies of priority landscapes:

In-depth analyses of the 5 priority areas were carried out to have a detailed portrait of each key landscape. They will serve as a guide to rationalize resource allocation decisions and ensure an objective intervention adapted to the specific needs of each landscape.

4) Financing manual:

The financing manual has been reviewed and adapted to the

guidelines defined by the Foundation's new strategic plan and its statutes; in line with existing procedure manuals and international standards of Conservation Trust Funds.

5) Selection of the first Support Partners (SP):

The Madagascar National Parks organization for the Ankarafantsika barrier of the North-West landscape and the Fanamby organization for Anjozorobe-Angavo of the Central Highlands landscape have been selected and will now serve as relays between the Foundation and the grassroots communities in order to ensure effective and sustainable implementation of the activities financed in these two landscapes.

6) Signing of partnerships with key entities:

To demonstrate its commitment to fruitful collaborations aimed at maximizing impacts to achieve objectives, Tany Meva has strengthened its collaborations with its partners:

- Collaboration protocol with the Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar (FAPBM) to promote the complementarity of actions of the two foundations in terms of fundraising and support for sustainable natural resource management activities in common intervention areas.
- Collaboration agreement with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development to improve the strategic relationship between the two organizations, develop exchanges and sharing and improve their respective institutional visibility.
- Collaboration protocol with the COMBO+ project to provide decision-making support when assessing the impacts of projects that are detrimental to the environment and local communities.
- Agreement with the Mauritius Commercial Bank for the establishment of a mechanism using a green bank card.

Finally, three new directors joined Tany Meva, replacing three departing members and the new Executive Director took the reins of the Foundation in January 2023 to guide it in its renewed commitments to communities and environmental conservation in Madagascar.



4. BIOFUND — MOZAMBIQUE

BIOFUND is an Environmental Foundation, a private Mozambican institution, non-profit, with public utility status, which mobilizes, allocates, and manages financial resources exclusively for the conservation of biodiversity in Mozambique. Its Mission is to support the conservation of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources, including the consolidation of the national system of Conservation Areas.

UPDATES ON THE MAIN ACTIVITIES

In 2023 BIOFUND started the implementation of the New Strategic Plan (2023-2027) based on 4 Strategic Pillars, as follows: (1) Financing Conservation, (2) Mobilization of Funds, (3) Advocacy & Environmental awareness and (4) A Sustainable & Effective Organization.

The year of 2023 surpassed the previous years in terms of the total value of funds channeled to the PAs, in this year was disbursed USD 8.28 M (USD 0.9 M from the endowment and 7.3 M from other funds), to make a total of USD 27.83 M disbursed cumulatively since 2016, to 33 PA beneficiaries (public and

private) under 69 projects, in all provinces of Mozambique. The budget execution, in 2023, reached 75%, exceeding the previous year by 36%. The major highlight of the year was the realization of the first edition of the Mozambican Marine Biodiversity Conference, under the Blue Action Fund project “Blue Future”, implemented by WCS, that reached over 400 people.

This was also a year with considerable investment in short courses, training and support for studies and scholarships, with the training of 284 of the National System of the PAs technicians and members of community associations, and allocation of 98 young people to a 6 to 12 months internships, 22 scholarships and 18 grants for same number of young master’s degree students.

Access the link bellow for more information

<https://www.biofund.org.mz/en/what-we-do/funds-managed-by-biofund/>

[BIOFUND 2023 Annual Report](#)

OUR PROJECTS



Donor/Source of funds	Project Type	Budget	Comments
ENDOWMENT	Disbursement	USD 260,000	Administrative and operational support, all these 3 projects are permanent
		USD 30,000	
		USD 675,000	
		USD 250,000	Specific support for 1 PA to post Cyclone IDAI Restoration
AFD/Red Cross		USD 4,800,000	Promoting sustainable development
EUROPEAN UNION		USD 6,290,000	Developing nature-based mechanisms to respond to natural disasters
EUROPEAN UNION		USD 10,685,000	Blended support to research, communities, and PAs operations & investments
EMBASSY OF SWEDEN		USD 16,000,000	Ecological monitoring, operational costs, feed for inspectors, construction and rehabilitation of infrastructures
GERMAN COOPERATION VIA KfW		USD 672,000	Technical assistance
USAID/SPEED		USD 119,419	The production of a series, called "The Nature of Men and Animals".
BCI	USD 419,048	Promote local awareness and support biodiversity conservation	
WORLD BANK	Fiduciary Agent	USD 27,900,000	Operational costs, eco-monitoring, environmental education, eco-jobs, seasonal jobs, scholarships for general education
		USD 24,600,000	Administrative and operational support to the law enforcement, construction and rehabilitation of law enforcement infrastructures, revision of the Management Plan and Business Plan
		USD 8,000,000	Support to law enforcement, ecological monitoring, rehabilitation of infrastructure, community governance
Blue Action Fund	Direct management	USD 144,118	Specific support for the Organization of an Annual Marine Biodiversity Conference
WORLD BANK, AFD/FFEM, SIDA, UNDP		USD 2,500,000	Contribute to the effective implementation of pilot biodiversity offset projects in the country
WORLD BANK, SIDA		USD 4,200,000	Support to Professional Training, Technical Assistance & Professional exchanges and retraining
USFS (United States Forest Services)		USD 327,330	Ensure technical assistance, Job creation and livelihood improvements for communities
Tusk International, BIOFUND, AVM Consultores and others		USD 153,600	Recognize the bravery and dedication of the rangers in the protection and conservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity in Mozambique

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, the focus was placed on the development of two major projects, i) one to be prepared for the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (worth approximately USD 12M), a fund created with the United Nations to leverage viable private investments that also have a positive impact on this critical habitat, and ii) another being prepared for the Millenium Challenge Corporation, a support arm of the US government, which will invest USD 100M in Mozambique for a Coastal Livelihoods and Climate Resilience project, USD 50M of which is managed by BIOFUND.

CONSTRAINTS

- The rapid growth of BIOFUND brought new challenges regarding organizational management, managing partners and donor expectations as well as stretching the capacity and speed to respond to the increasing demands.
- The new modalities of some of the projects we are managing (with the role of fiduciary agents as well as a disbursement mechanism), prompt us to increase considerably the procurement team, both in numbers and level of expertise.
- We are still facing difficulties and constraints in consolidating a smooth partnership with Governmental entities, which play an important role in the implementation of our projects.
- The limited technical capacity of our Protected Areas beneficiaries is still one of the main challenges to achieve a better effectiveness usage/absorption of funds.

LESSONS LEARNT

- The continued dissemination and the added value of the BIOFUNDS intervention as a CTF in Mozambique has consolidated our name and positioned BIOFUND in a strategic manner to raise and manage funds from different donors.

Communication (and impact monitoring) is however key to assure and strengthening this positioning.

- The steady board members support and oversight, the diversification of the source of funds, the strategic projects (Innovative Financing), multidisciplinary teams, strong partnerships and the endowment mechanism are still the main building blocks for our sustainability.
- The continued investment in young and motivated professionals has been a key strategic decision, bringing a variety of benefits and boosting. However, the added value of combining that with an adequate balance of senior professionals proved to be critical to assure not only the level of expertise and experience needed to upgrade our deliverables and results, as well as to conceive and design new proposals.

BIOFUND in Numbers in 2023

- i. About USD 56.31 M Endowment
- ii. Over USD 20 K raised for the direct management of the projects
- iii. Over USD 101 K raised for Pass through Funds
- iv. Over USD 8.28 M disbursed to Protected Areas
- v. About 10.6 M of Hectares covered by the BIOFUNDS intervention
- vi. 21 Protected Areas beneficiaries
- vii. 35 disbursement projects in Protected Areas beneficiaries
- viii. 240 technicians from the National System of the PAs trained
- ix. Over 6.8 K people reached on environmental awareness campaigns
- x. 125 young people trained under the Leadership Program (PLCM)



5. BACOMAB TRUST FUND (BACOMAB) — MAURITANIA

The BACoMaB Trust Fund (BACoMaB) is a sustainable financing instrument for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in Mauritania. It ensures the long-term coverage of the recurrent costs of priority conservation activities in protected marine and coastal areas, as outlined in their management plans: surveillance, governance, ecological monitoring and restoration, development of resident populations, and environmental education.

Currently, BACoMaB operates at three sites: the Banc d’Arguin National Park (PNBA), the Diawling National Park (PND) under its support for marine protected areas (MPAs), and the Seal Coast Reserve as part of the Monk Seal Conservation Program (PCPM). In 2023, BACoMaB granted a total of 727,295 euros to these three sites: 457,295 euros to PNBA, 190,000 euros to PND, and 80,000 euros to PCPM.

In 2023, the effectiveness of maritime surveillance helped combat illegal octopus fishing and the intrusion of large boats equipped with purse seines. A total of 468 sea patrols were conducted, amounting to 1,900 hours of surveillance, resulting in the interception of 214 boats and the diversion of 36 traditional boats to various surveillance sites.

The grant to PNBA also supported routine ecological monitoring activities through the management effectiveness dashboard, the holding of the Scientific Council, and consultation meetings on shared governance and co-management. As part

of supporting the living conditions of local populations, BACoMaB contributed to the operating costs of desalination stations in villages.

In Diawling National Park, routine hydrological monitoring activities, international waterbird counting, surveillance, and support for local populations were supported (20 women's cooperatives in the commune of N'Diogo were supported with BACoMaB funds).

For the monk seal conservation program, with BACoMaB's financial support, there was an exponential increase in the number of new births, totaling 64 in 2023.

The year 2023 was marked by the signing of a financing agreement for the Technical Assistance Project with KfW and the acquisition of Bridge financing worth 272,082 dollars for the blue carbon valuation project in Banc d’Arguin National Park. Finally, BACoMaB participated in COP28 in Dubai by presenting two side events: the first focused on Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) and the second on showcasing the Bridge project, which aims to enhance the blue carbon value of PNBA.

Looking ahead, BACoMaB aims to enhance its effectiveness through the Technical Assistance Project starting in 2024 and provide financial support for the monk seal translocation project in Banc d’Arguin National Park to safeguard monk seals in Mauritania.

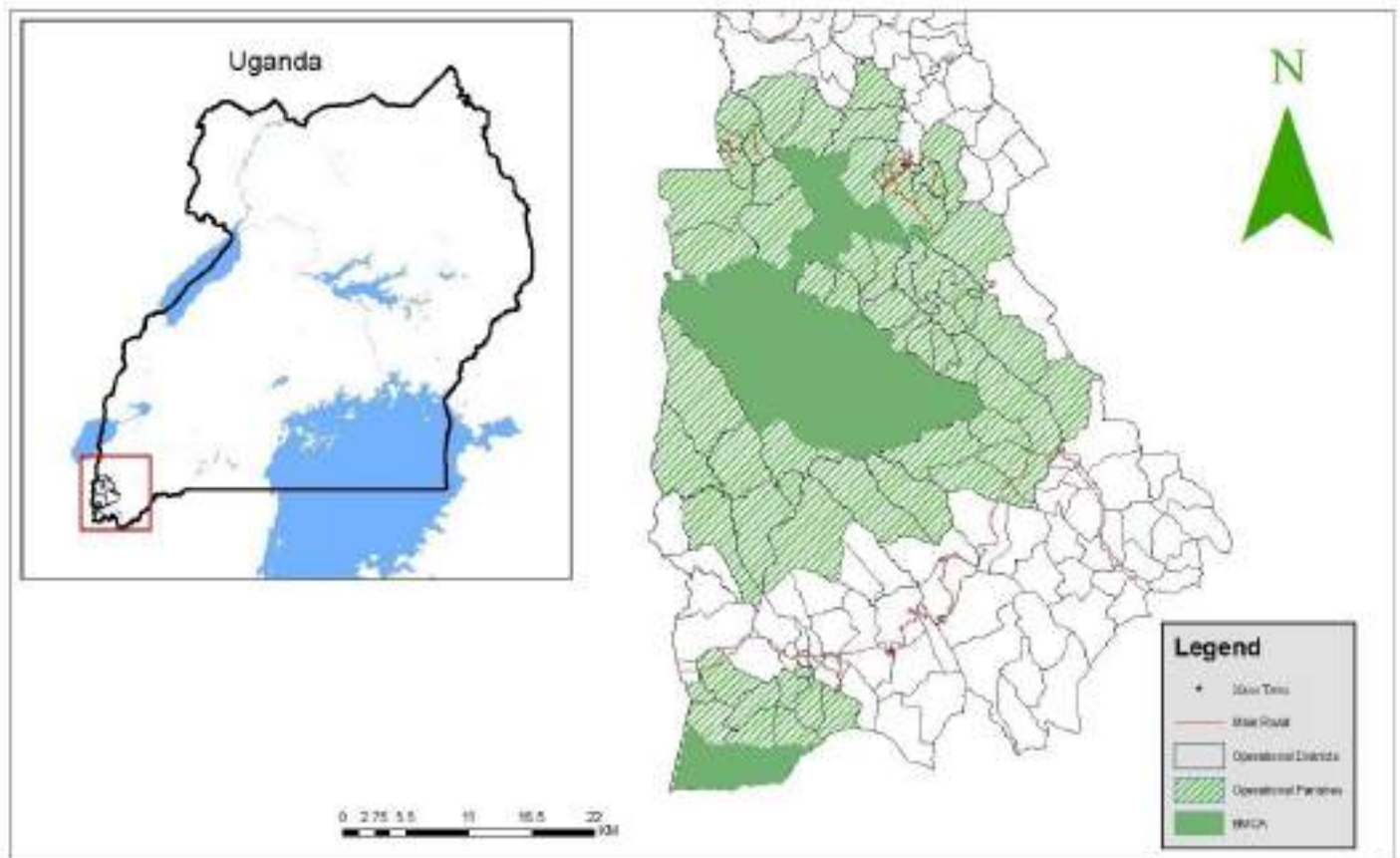


6. BWINDI MGAHINGA CONSERVATION TRUST (BMCT) — UGANDA

1.0 BMCT institutional profile

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) was a trust established in 1994 under Cap. 165 of the Trustees Incorporation Act to support conservation activities of the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area (BMCA). It was initially known as the Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Conservation Trust (MBIFCT) and later the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT). The Trust was established to work in the 1st and 2nd frontier parishes 56

parishes) neighbouring the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP (BINP) and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP). These included parishes across three districts of Kabale, Kisoro and Kanungu. The Trust has since expanded its scope of work to include newly created administrative parishes under the now Rubanda district, involving thousands of people in hundreds of projects. It has become a leader in Integrated Conservation and Development (ICD) in Uganda, with over 400 projects targeted to assist communities around the BMCA. Below is the



2.0 Update on programmes or projects (CODAB)

In a bid to increase conservation awareness, BMCT adopted a business model called Conservation Development and Business (CODAB). CODAB model is a financial inclusion mechanism towards the socio-economic empowerment of community members revolving around group-generated nature based business enterprises as well as skills acquisition.

2.1 Objectives of CODAB

- To create strong groups and valuable enterprise value chains within the park neighboring communities.
- To enable the communities in the BMCA to manage sustainable projects for economic empowerment and harmonious co-existence with the national parks.

- To empower communities to start, manage and contribute to the funding of their enterprises.

2.2 Achievements through community projects in the FY 2023 -24

To improve the rural livelihoods around BMCA, BMCT supported business enterprises selected by CODAB groups with grants from BMCT in form livelihood projects. Business enterprises selected by 26 CODAB groups supported

Twenty-six (26) CODAB groups in Kisoro, Rubanda, and Kanungu districts have been supported with grants in the form of projects. These include 20 heifers, 60 sacks of Irish potato seed, 5kgs of onions, and 257 piglets. A total amount of UGX 114,100,000 has been spent. Details are shown below;

District	Business enterprises (# of items)				
	Piglets	Irish potatoes (sacks)	Heifers	Onions (Kgs)	Bee hives
Kanungu	162		4		
Kisoro	23	10	16	5	200
Rubanda	72	50			
Total	257	60	20	5	200



Nyanamo community conservation development organization in Kisoro district was supported with 10 sacks of improved potato seed by BMCT and they harvested 46 sacks for sale.



Nkuringo Apiculture Foundation-Kisoro District (CODAB) receiving four heifers from BMCT

2.3 Climate change mitigation

BMCT supported communities to establish 8 woodlots within BMCA to mitigate the effects of climate change, BMCT distributed 18,500 trees seedlings in Kisoro, Kanungu and Rubanda districts as shown in the table below:

District	Tree seedlings		
	Eucalyptus	Pine	indigenous seedlings
Kanungu	1,000	13,000	
Kisoro	1,500		2,000
Rubanda	1,000	500	
Total	3,500	13,500	2000

3.0 Resource mobilization initiatives

Fund raising and resource mobilizing is still a challenge. The financial year ending June 2024, BMCT managed to get the following funds from external sources:

- AWEC/Swarovski (UGX 80,000,000=),
- MUST (\$32,000) and
- TUNADO (UGX 69,000,000=)

4.0 Lessons learnt

- Bringing private sector actors in conservation promotes sustainability of project interventions.
- Local Private sector actors should be encouraged to fund conservation activities.
- Fund raising should be done through consortiums to increase the chances of success.



Nyahamo community nursery for agroforestry trees in Kisoro District



7. FOUNDATION FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR (FAPBM) — MADAGASCAR

KEY FIGURES 2023 OF THE FOUNDATION FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR (FAPBM)

Created in 2005, the FAPBM is a private trust fund dedicated to supporting the conservation of Madagascar's biodiversity. Its intervention covers 3 main areas: (i) sustainable financing of the Madagascar Protected Areas System (SAPM); (ii) contribution to the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem services, the fight against climate change and the well-being of populations; (iii) and the promotion of good management within the SAPM.

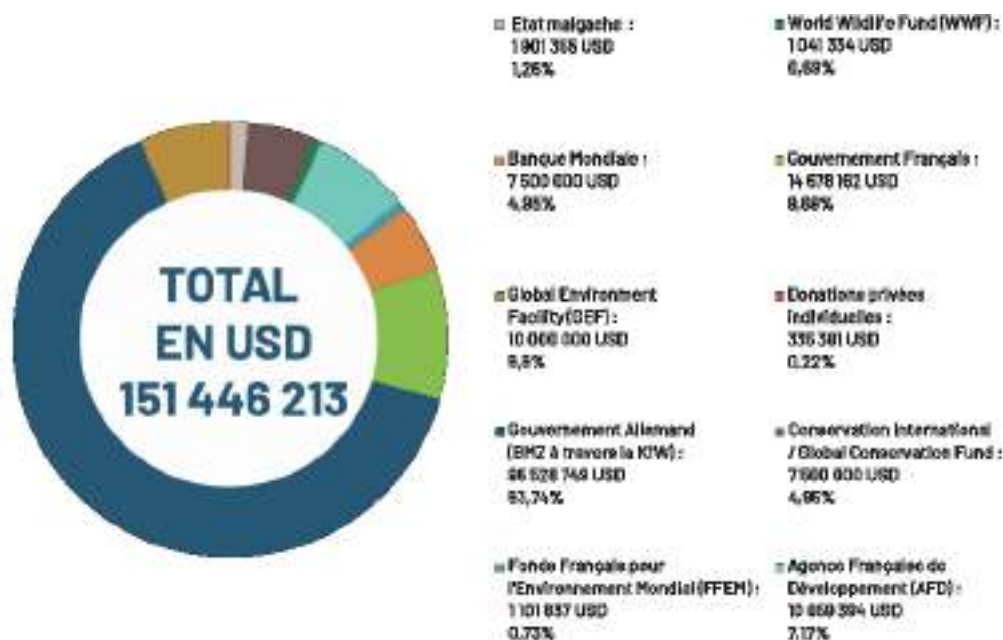
Our key figures in 2023:

151.4 million USD of capital (vs 140.5 million USD in 2022)

64 PAs supported, equivalent to 5.3 million ha (vs 48 PAs supported in 2022)

5.6 million USD of total funding (annual subsidies, exceptional funding and projects).

The figure below shows contributors to FAPBM capital in 2023:



I. FAPBM FUNDING IN 2023

1. Financing of protected areas through annual and exceptional subsidies

A notable increase in funding to PAs through annual and exceptional grants marked the year 2023. Indeed, total funding granted to PAs increased by 57%, rising to USD 3,675,685. Thanks to this annual funding, protected area managers performed better, with an average METT score of 70%.

This increase in annual and exceptional grants made it possible to integrate 16 additional PAs into the FAPBM annual grant cycle.

2. Financial management of ongoing projects

In addition, FAPBM continued the financial management of a major project:

- **GEF6-Marine Protected Areas:** This is a USD 6,209,404 program aimed at expanding and consolidating marine protected areas (2020-2024). The project financed 06 projects as part of support for existing MPAs/LMMAs during the year 2023, for an amount of USD 196,237.

3. The launch of 3 new projects in 2023

In 2023, FAPBM launched 3 major projects:

- **Western Madagascar Baobab Forest Protection Project:** FAPBM received funding of USD 2,000,000 from the Hempel Foundation of Denmark to contribute to the conservation of

the Western Baobab Forests, including the protected areas of Menabe Antimena, Andranomena, Allée des Baobabs and Kirindy Mite. The project will cover a period of approximately 5 years. The project started in June 2023;

- **PA Skills Development Program:** FAPBM signed an agreement with the Hempel Foundation of Denmark for the development of a skills development program for protected area managers in Madagascar. The ultimate goal of the program is to strengthen the skills of the various professions related to the management of a protected area, from site managers to conservation officers. The project approved in 2023 is the development phase of the program with the training of trainers, the establishment of infrastructures and the definition of the training courses themselves;

- **The BRIDGE project:** In 2023, FAPBM obtained support of USD 50,000 from the BRIDGE project. The project will create and test 2 innovative mechanisms for mobilizing the private sector, namely the Biodiversity Enterprise Fund and offset programs.

III. MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

To mobilize financial resources, FAPBM has undertaken several actions in 2023:

Support for the establishment of a Coalition for Protected Areas in Madagascar: The year 2023 was marked by significant progress in the structuring of the Coalition of Managers for Protected Areas in Madagascar initiated by FAPBM. The Coalition is an advocacy organization with the government and with potential donors;

A fundraising mission in Europe: FAPBM led a fundraising mission in Europe (Paris, Frankfurt, Copenhagen and Amsterdam). This trip made it possible to advance several ongoing issues. It was an opportunity to advocate for Madagascar's

protected areas with potential donors, with discussions that will continue in 2024;

Participation in the Global Landscapes Forum: FAPBM participated in the 6th Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) investment case symposium organized by the Luxembourg-GLF Finance for Nature platform in Luxembourg. A presentation of the FAPBM mechanisms in front of 500 European investors led to numerous contacts that have been the subject of exchanges since this event.

IV. REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT TOOLS

In order to increase its impacts on biodiversity and ensure the proper management of funding allocated to protected areas, in 2023, FAPBM revised its main management manuals, which are the financing manual, the prioritization manual, and the investment policy. In addition, FAPBM has developed an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the beneficiaries of its funding.

Main challenge encountered in 2023

The main challenge: Mobilizing private sector funds for protected areas.

The year 2023 saw the beginning of FAPBM's efforts to mobilize private sector funding for biodiversity, particularly through the establishment of the Corporate Fund for Biodiversity. These initiatives aim to diversify sources of funding and optimize the effectiveness of investments in conservation.

The main challenges were, on the one hand, the establishment of adequate mechanisms to promote private investment, and on the other hand, the adoption of relevant and appropriate approaches to convince companies. The year 2024 is a year of testing the various mechanisms.



8. EASTERN ARC MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND (EAMCEF) — TANZANIA

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Eastern Arc Mountains stretching between Kenya and Tanzania have steadily lost its forest cover, from approximately 18,000 km² in ancient times to only 3,500 km² in 2010. This consistent loss of an extremely endangered and highly biodiverse ecoregion led the WB/GEF to support the creation of the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) in partnership with the government of Tanzania in 2001.

The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) is a Trust Fund that was established in June 2001 under the Trustees` Incorporation Act (Cap. 318). It was conceived as a joint initiative of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT), the World Bank (WB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The EAMCEF is governed by a 9-member Board of Trustees and managed by a Secretariat of 19 employees and its Head Office located in Morogoro Municipality in Tanzania.

1.2 Thematic Areas

The EAMCEF field interventions are undertaken through three Thematic Areas namely; (i) Community Development, livelihood improvement and Social welfare of the adjacent communities, (ii) Conservation of Protected Areas and Mitigation of Climate Change and (iii) Applied Biodiversity and Climate Change Research.

Brief Updates About Programme Field Interventions -January to September 2024

In order to maintain and further enhance sustainable conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains, and in order to sustain the project outcomes realized from execution of the EAMCEF programme interventions through the support from the Royal Government of Norway for the past twelve years (June 2011 - June 2023), the EAMCEF continued with implementation of its operations and programme activities through its own resources following the end of the “Sustaining Conservation and Restoration of the Eastern Arc Mountains (SCREAM)” Project which ended in June 2023. The following are main results that were realized from field interventions supported by the EAMCEF for the period between January to September 2024.

2.1 Main Results

2.1.1 Community Development and Alternative Livelihoods

Under this thematic area, the EAMCEF continued to provide alternative livelihood options to the adjacent communities whereby a total of 86 alternative livelihood options were provided and adopted by local communities including animal husbandry, beekeeping, tree planting, conservation agriculture,

beekeeping, energy efficient stoves thereby contributing greatly to poverty reduction amongst the adjacent communities. Other key achievements include the following:

- 73,186 community members participated and significantly benefited from income generating, conservation & climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. Over US\$ 55,829.48 income earned by the local communities from alternative income generating and management activities
- A total of 417 community conservation and income generating groups were formed and participated in conservation activities
- A total of 37,186 (18,315 women) Community members met their basic needs through EAMCEF supported interventions



Figure 1: Beneficiaries of the EAMCEF project enjoy support of gendered livelihoods options to enhance local communities' incomes in Ipalamwa Village around Kilombero Nature Forest Reserve.

2.1.2 Protected Areas Management and Conservation

The key achievements realized during the reporting period under this section include reduction of forest loss through rehabilitation of the degraded forest landscapes and promotion of natural regeneration and forest boundary maintenance as indicated below;

- 296 hectares of forest land rehabilitated through by planting 35,600 indigenous trees and enhancement of natural regeneration in Chome, Uzungwa Scarp, Uluguru, Kilombero, Mkingu and Magamba Nature Forest Reserves.
- 489 km of forest boundaries in Amani, Nilo, Kilombero, Uzungwa Scarp, Magamba, Chome, Mkingu and Uluguru Nature Forest Reserves and the Udzungwa Mountains National Park were maintained through clearing boundaries and tree planting.
- Effectively facilitated formation and operationalization of 15 Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRCs) in 15 villages adjacent to Chome, Amani, Nilo, Magamba, Uzungwa Scarp, Kilombero, Mkingu and Uluguru Nature Forest Reserves and the Udzungwa Mountains National Park. The VNRCs participated frequently in forest surveillance in the protected areas and contributed greatly in reduction of forest degradation by 82% therefore increasing forest cover in the target sites.
- A total of nine (9) Tour Guide Groups and 9 Cultural Tourism Groups were operationalized in Amani, Nilo, Chome, Kilombero, Uluguru, Magamba, Mkingu & Uzungwa Scarp Nature Forest Reserves and the Udzungwa Mountains National Park. The EAMCEF support improved tourism services and products such as tour guiding and entertainments by cultural tourism groups and local tour guides increases income to the community resulting into improved livelihoods.
- 196 km of ecotourism nature trails and 97 km of forest fire - lines in Amani, Nilo, Kilombero, Uzungwa Scarp, Magamba, Chome, Mkingu and Uluguru Nature Forest Reserves and the Udzungwa Mountains National Park were maintained through clearing at the fire-prone zones
- Supported operationalization of 9 ecotourism marketing strategies in Eight (8) Nature Forest Reserves and 1 National Park of target sites. The execution of the strategies enhanced an increase in tourists and visitors to target sites hence reading to 5% increase in the protected areas revenues which strengthened their financial sustainability.
- Supported implementation of all 9 Protected areas Management Plans and 9 ecotourism marketing strategies of the target forest sites were achieved at 99% by all 8 Nature Forest Reserves and 1 National Park. The protected

areas sufficiently implemented their management plans mainly through rehabilitation, law enforcement, ecotourism operations, etc.

3.0 Lessons Learned from Field Interventions and Best Practices

- Enhanced livelihood activities of the local communities to address the drivers of biodiversity degradation is a potential tool towards effective forest conservation and internalization of National & International Frameworks to local communities.
- EAMCEF is a Unique Convener and Financier of Multisector Partnerships to conserve the EAMs
- Strong publicity and communication, networking, partnership and ability to manage funds are key to effective conservation and resource mobilization.
- Ensuring funded projects being endorsed by responsible local government authorities maximizes project relevance with existing plans, ownership, viability and sustainability.



Figure 2: Hululu Ecotourism Nature Trails running to Hululu Water falls was established and supported by EAMCEF in Uluguru Nature Forest Reserve enhanced ecotourism and income for the reserve and communities

9. BIOGUINEA FOUNDATION (BIOGUINEA) — GUINEA BISSAU

BioGuinea Foundation

Institutional Profile

The BioGuinea Foundation (FBG) was established in 2011 under English and Welsh law as a sustainable funding institution. Its goal is to generate permanent financial resources and mobilize partnerships to support biodiversity conservation, promote sustainable community development, and environmental education in Guinea-Bissau. FBG emerged from a fruitful collaboration between various committed stakeholders, including the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the World Bank, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the MAVA Foundation, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and many others.

Update on Programs and Projects

FBG has been involved in various cooperative projects and grants, including:

- **Blue Bijagós:** A project aiming to address marine conservation challenges. Focused on establishing two new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and a connectivity corridor, the project prioritizes sustainable MPA management and the promotion of eco-friendly livelihoods.
- **FFEM:** Project to strengthen the financial viability of the national system of protected areas in Guinea Bissau, through the operationalization and capitalization of the BioGuinée Foundation and its Trust Fund.
- **West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project 2 (WACA Resip2):** Funded by the World Bank, WACA program supports countries' effort to improve the management of their shared coastal resources and reduce the natural and man-made risks affecting coastal communities.

Resource Mobilization Initiatives

The primary goal of FBG's resource mobilization initiatives is to sustainably generate one million dollars in annual revenue. Funding sources include endowment funds, donor projects,

and grants managed by FBG had key contributions from:

- **World Bank:** Institutional support, climate change initiatives, innovative financing, research, and monitoring.
- **Conservation International, FFEM, UNDP, and MAVA:** Various supports related to climate change, innovative financing, and research.
- **REDD+ Mechanism:** Focus on climate change, carbon markets and other innovative financing.

Lessons Learned

FBG has gained valuable lessons over the years:

- **International Recognition:** The importance of being acknowledged as a credible and independent organization, managed according to international standards of accountability and transparency.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** The need to strengthen partnerships to ensure financial and programmatic viability.
- **Strategic Planning:** The importance of maintaining and updating a coherent planning, a robust institutional framework and a communication strategy.

Constraints and Challenges

FBG faces several challenges, including:

- **Global Economic Situation:** The need to diversify funding sources and develop stable long-term partnerships.
- **Insufficient Resources:** The importance of comprehensively assessing needs and allocating resources efficiently.
- **Partnership Management:** Strengthening communication and promptly addressing partners and donors concerns to maintain effective partnerships.
- **External Factors:** Developing contingency plans and enhancing risk detection and risk mitigation plans.

BioGuinea Foundation: 2024 Work Plan

Objectives for 2024

- **Institutional Development:** Acquire the necessary skills to adapt organizational procedures and tools to manage growth effectively.
- **Program Engagement:** Accelerate the fulfillment of programmatic commitments to maintain leadership in grant management.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Launch a new phase of fundraising to exceed the \$14 million threshold over the next five years.

Work Plan Structure

The 2024 work plan details all actions and interventions by FBG during the year, focusing on three main areas:

Institutional Development:

- **Governance:** Recruitment of new Board members, Board and Investment Committee meetings, General Assembly meetings.
- **Planning:** Development of the five-year strategic plan (2025-2029), new resource mobilization strategy.
- **Administration:** Recruitment of staff, development of management and performance evaluation systems, contract monitoring.
- **Financial Management:** Investment performance monitoring, project financial reports, annual audit.

Program Engagement:

- **Project Management:** Reports and evaluations of projects like Blue Bijagós and FFEM, continuous monitoring and evaluation.

- **Tools and Capacity Building:** Update of procedure manuals, SBIA and REDD+ training.
- **Local Project Sub-grants:** Identification and financing of local projects, boost the technical and financial monitoring and evaluation process.

Partnership and Resource Mobilization:

- **Resource Mobilization:** Engagement with donors, finalizing proposals for new funding, develop and roll out fundraising strategies.
- **Communication and Visibility:** Website updates, building presence on social media, development of newsletters.
- **Networking:** Partner meetings and participation in general assemblies of networks like CAFE and PRCM.

Challenges and Mitigation Measures

FBG has identified several challenges for 2024, including the global economic situation, insufficient resources, partnership management, and external factors. Mitigation measures include diversifying funding sources, developing stable long-term partnerships, enhancing communication, and developing contingency plans.

Conclusion

The BioGuinea Foundation is committed to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Guinea-Bissau. With a robust work plan for 2024, FBG aims to overcome challenges, strengthen its capacities and partnerships, and ensure the sustainability of its programs and projects.



10. MULANJE MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION TRUST (MMCT) — MALAWI

This past year has seen MMCT engage a process of profound change to become an organisation fit for a new purpose. The grand objective is for MMCT to develop the skills and upgrade its capacity to manage the Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve and facilitate natural resource based sustainable development within the Mt Mulanje Global Biosphere Reserve. MMCT has changed its name, its governance, its planning and operational systems and now makes a start to upgrading its technical staffing. The assistance of African Parks to coaching this MMCT change process through its incubation programme is well acknowledged and sincerely appreciated.

The origination of this MMCT change process was the government sectors team development of the Mt Mulanje Integrated Management Plan that was coordinated by the Department of Forestry and launched by the Minister of Forestry & Natural Resources in 2020. This comprehensive multiple resource management plan can realise a diversity of sustainable commercial, community and conservation outcomes for the future benefit of Mt Mulanje. This coordination of a substantive range of activities at Mt Mulanje calls for an independent organisation that can develop the capacity to carry out such an innovative role. MMCT has been called to serve this purpose by many of its partners and collaborative local stakeholders.

An increasing concern at Mt Mulanje are the mining actions of Akatswiri Mineral Resources which apparently seek to exploit rare earth minerals within the Chambe Basin and bauxite on Lichenya Plateau. These initiatives have not followed the prescribed legislative environmental processes and will prejudice existing and planned developments in the water, tourism and energy sectors that will have sustainable benefits for community development and improved conservation activities. The local communities and stakeholders have been side-lined and the local dissatisfaction is increasing to becoming a severe conflict situation.

The beginning of 2024 saw MMCT come together with other key government and academic partners for an immense effort to finalise the submission documentation for Malawi to nominate Mt Mulanje to UNESCO for consideration of Mt Mulanje to become a World Heritage Site. This nomination seeks this highest global status for intangible cultural heritage and in so

doing seeks to confirm and reinforce the heritage pride of the mountain within the traditional culture of our local communities. This process was kindly gratefully supported by the African World Heritage Fund. The submission was communicated timely and was positively received by UNESCO with no further additions or amendments requested. UNESCO and ICOMOS have expressed their concern that the Akatswiri mining actions could jeopardise this world heritage listing unless the Malawi Government clearly declares their intent to protect the mountain.

The initiative to develop the Blantyre-Mulanje Water Fund is steadily progressing with the completion of the pre-feasibility study showing positive indications and a start now made to the full feasibility study. This work is supported by the Nature for Water Programme of the US-based Nature Conservancy and is facilitated by Pegasys Consulting and Water for People in Malawi. The Likhubula Valley is the principal pilot watershed catchment project area from where both Blantyre Water Board and the Southern Region Water Board draw water for distribution. This Water Fund initiative has a broad range of stakeholders involved and will seek to establish a Payments for Ecosystem funds-flow to improve mountain conservation work. This scheme and existing water supply systems could also be negatively impacted by the Akatswiri mining work.

Mt Mulanje has gained a centrepiece position in the recently described new global ecoregion that is titled the South East African Montane Archipelago (SEAMA). This ecological determination was published in the NATURE Journal March-April publication and consolidates a range of similar mountain habitats in southeast Malawi and north Mozambique. The ecoregion though already classified as endangered will form a substantive basis for the initiative to have the area given transboundary status, probably best achieved as a UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. A recent increase in transboundary collaboration between MMCT and Mozambican organisations in both countries bodes well to develop this future relationship. A Mt Mabu international research expedition documentary by BBC TV's Jonah Fisher highlighted the collaborative effort.

The continued climate shocks that have been experienced at Mt Mulanje through two years of cyclones and this year's el

nino drought are causing severe negative impacts to the mountain's ecology. The limited relief support, increasing food insecurity and no reconstruction to repair the piped water schemes and smallholder irrigation schemes is now forcing more local attention to harvesting the mountains resources as a principal coping mechanism.

MMCT is this year seeking significant growth to the social enterprise MEGA Magetsi so that it can realise a more substantial service within the Mulanje village communities. MEGA has been promised to be prioritised to receive a Power Purchase Agreement from ESCOM to underwrite the long intended Anzana (formerly Virunga) major investment in both generation and distribution capacity. The proposed investment by the UK Gridworks, USCDF and Old Mutual exceeds \$20million and will principally develop an additional 6MW of hydropower electricity on the Lichenya River. This project could be jeopardised if the Malawi Government grants a mining license for bauxite exploitation on Lichenya Plateau.

The support of the RedLAC CAFÉ BRIDGE Project is much appreciated to initiate the start-up of another MMCT social enterprise Inde-Mulanje that will also provide benefits to many thousand smallholders with a market for their new high-value crops and natural product harvests. The project is receiving

great interest from a number of other partners whom wish to support specific operations of the processing facility.

Ecological research work at Mt Mulanje is steadily increasing with the cooperation of other partner organisations. The recent funding approval by the BGCI Conifer initiative will enable the continued partnership of the Chicago Botanic Gardens and Morton Arboretum to look at live green firebreaks replacing the existing trace-based firebreaks, and this has been possibly extended by applications to new funding facilities. A new partnership with the African Natural History Research Trust has enabled a three-year project to carry out an extensive entomological survey and likely establish the taxonomic description of many possible endemic insects. The new SEAMA ecology platform will probably also catalyse further research interest here. The research facility at Lichenya Plateau is to be constructed this year with the agreed financing to be received from the African Mountain Research Foundation.

MMCT is also facilitating the construction of an environmental education hostel at Lichenya Plateau (alongside the research facility) that will host youth group visits to the mountain. This signature project is aimed to be completed by next dry season and is being financed by a wide variety of organisations giving donations.



11. UGANDA BIODIVERSITY FUND (UBF) — UGANDA

Institutional profile

- Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF) is registered in Uganda as an independent Trust incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Act in August 2016. UBF is a grant-making institution that supports its partners to implement biodiversity conservation projects in Uganda. The establishment of UBF was because of the shortcomings in the biodiversity funding hence the need to address the gap in conservation financing within the country.
- UBF is therefore serving as a catalyst for mobilizing, managing, and channelling financial resources for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Uganda for the benefit of current and future generations and the intrinsic value of nature.

Update on programs/projects

- **The European Union funded restoration and Conservation project**

UBF has since been coordinating implementation of a four-year restoration and conservation project that started in December 2020 and is slated for closure on December 7th, 2024. To date, the project has achieved 353 ha of forest restoration in two Central Forest Reserves, 1633.7 ha of woodland restoration and conservation plus distribution of 900 beehives in woodlands, 411 ha of wetland and river bank restoration, 587.7 ha of woodlots, 261.2 ha of Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Agroforestry (AF) demonstration sites and 1324.8 ha in scale up, trained 62 private nursery operators in commercial tree nursery management, provided 17 value addition equipment for Cassava (6), Shea nut/Balanites (1) and honey (10) to farmer groups and private sector, trained 175 group representatives and private sector individuals in good postharvest handling and value addition practices, trained staff from 22 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and 30 district local government staff in SLM, CSA and AF practices. Project also provided five motorcycles and three computers to the five project implementing districts, trained 59 National Forestry Authority staff and equipped 29 with pieces of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). The project is currently planning for closure activities such as the end-

line evaluation, project steering committee field visits, national level dissemination workshop and final reporting

- **The USAID-UBF- Activity**

This is a five-year (2020-2025) Activity designed to ensure a strong, well-functioning, sustainable Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund (UBF) that is responsive to Uganda's biodiversity conservation financing needs. To date, the following achievements have been registered; the effectiveness score of UBF as measured by the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool is at 76.5%, USD 243,653.40 raised in support of UBF core / operational costs, USD 225,305.92 raised in support of UBF Endowment Fund. Four projects funded and successfully executed to alleviate threats to biodiversity conservation, 1,807 (F-893) people received training in natural resources management and / or biodiversity conservation, 311 (F-66) people trained in climate change adaptation, 750 (F-536) people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, 696.1 hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management, USD 1,137,430 non-USAID funding (Third-party funds) raised in support of biodiversity conservation. USD 1,238 of non-donor resources mobilized for locally led development signed with ten (10) strategic partners, and they are operational.



Some of the woodlot interventions supported with funds from the European union

• **The Clean Products for the Environment (CPE) project**

This is a two-year financial mechanism funded from the Bridge innovation fund under the RedLAC-CAFÉ initiative. The project is working with a plastic manufacturer and two food and beverage firms to pilot the production and use of biodegradable plastic materials that will be sold at a premium price. Project is also working to leverage private sector Corporate Social Responsibility funds into biodiversity conservation. Implementation of initial phase of activities started in full gear in January 2024 and the project is expected to phase out in August 2025. Activities like initial engagement meetings with private sector firms, inception, baseline studies and procurement of one tonne of the biodegradable masterbatch have to date been concluded. The project’s forthcoming activities include clean production trainings, actual production of biodegradable products, developing and implementing a branding and marketing plan, developing and implementing premium pricing mechanism as well as bringing in additional firms into funding for conservation

Resource mobilisation initiatives

- UBF is currently pursuing funding from private sector sources such as Total Energies and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UBF and the two companies,

and scopes of work for each of the companies are being developed. Implementation of the projects under this partnership is expected to begin in the last quarter of 2024. UBF will receive funds from these companies and will initiate and manage contracts with implementing partners, provide projects oversight monitoring, donor reporting and accountability.

- UBF also completed a due diligence exercise for a proposed carbon project with the Volkswagen Climate Partner (VCP) in July 2024. The VCP is yet to provide feedback regarding the next steps of the project development process.
- UBF also recently submitted a funding proposal responding to the Darwin’s extra call round 31 whose deadline was 16th September 2024.
- UBF continues to strengthen and to look out for more partnership opportunities with private sector, donors, government entities, cultural and academic institutions among others

Challenges

- Private sector firms are currently struggling business wise, operational costs are rising and their profits have gone down reducing the amount of funds available for CSR initiatives



During the European funded restoration and conservation project joint monitoring mission that took place in August 2024. The joint monitoring team (project team, district officials, implementing partners and members from office of the prime minister) visited a private sector partner that the project supported with a honey processing equipment



Chairperson of Twekambe Tukore, one of the groups trained and supported with inputs for sustainable land management, climate smart agriculture and agroforestry practices with the European commission funds .Group scaled up the approach to 3.5 acres on their own

- Active restoration works are faced with unpredictable weather patterns limiting the survival of planted indigenous species.
- Insecurity in some of the project locations continue to pose a major threat to the achievement of the USAID-UBF-Activity results.

Lessons learnt

- Private sector entities are profit making entities and hence one must speak their language to take advantage of the financing opportunities in this sector
- The biodiversity conservation financing landscape is faced with dwindling donor budgets and changing donor priorities. It is imperative that multiple sources of financing from private sector, donors or even individuals are pursued. Additionally, designing self sustaining projects such as carbon credits projects will help to narrow down the financing gap
- Integration of tree growth enabler costs in project budgets

during design has great potential in contributing to improvements in tree growing initiatives

- Getting government buy in is key in capitalizing CTFs' Endowment Funds. Information gathered from benchmarking other CTFs in Africa (like Bio Fund in Mozambique, & Madagascar Biodiversity Fund which are all national CTFs) showed that government involvement triggers capitalization of Endowment Funds.
- There is a need for UBF to do more intense "handholding" and monitoring during the early stages of grantees' project implementation. This would help improve the quality and timeliness of outputs delivered and manage the risk of financial mismanagement.
- The livelihood interventions, e.g., the apiary, briquette-making, cassava and shea nut value chains need additional technical support and strengthening of linkages to external markets to ensure success.
- Advancing a significant portion of the project funds at the beginning is risky, especially for new grantees whose capacity is not well known.



12. OKAPI FUND FOR NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE DRC (OKAPI) — THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Okapi Fund is a legally independent, private, English-based (Charity) nature conservation trust, operational since January 2020 to provide sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation in the DRC, primarily through direct financial support for the operating costs of Protected Area managers.

Its missions are ...

- To support the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the environment, natural resources and biodiversity;
- Support the improvement of livelihoods of people living in and around Protected Areas and other Areas of Biodiversity Interest;
- To support research in the field of biodiversity and ecological monitoring;
- To promote "green" tourism;

- To conduct environmental awareness and education operations for the general public and stakeholders.

In 2023 and 2024 the Okapi Fund has continued to develop its activities in support of the Garamba National Park and the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (for a total of over US\$1 million). A significant part of its support has gone towards activities to strengthen human rights and community development.

The Okapi Fund has begun the process of selecting a third national park, which is due to receive its first financial support in 2025.

The Okapi Fund will organise the General Assembly of the CAFÉ network in Kinshasa in 2025, the centenary year of the 1st African national park, the Virunga Park in the east of the DRC.

To date, the Okapi Fund's portfolio of assets under management totals more than US\$64 million (including US\$10 million in capital gains).



13. FOUNDATION FOR PARKS AND RESERVES OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE (FPRCI) — CÔTE D'IVOIRE

1. PROFILE OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire is the first Ivorian trust fund dedicated to the conservation of national parks and reserves.

It is a private non-profit institution recognized as being of public utility by Decree No. 2009-05 of January 8, 2009. Its purpose is to manage environmental funds intended, on the one hand, to finance conservation projects and programs national parks and reserves and, on the other hand, to strengthen management capacities in this sector. It can act as a trust fund, acquire or finance the acquisition of private land intended to become parks or reserves and intervene in debt-for-nature conversion operations.

In short, the Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire is an important instrument for the long-term financing of biodiversity conservation.

2. FPRCI GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT BODY

The governance bodies of the Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire:

i. The General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of the founding members as well as the members of the Board of Directors. It adopts the general policy of the Foundation defined by the Board of Directors. It elects the auditor, approves the accounts for the annual financial year and discharges its management from the Board of Directors.

ii. Board of Administration

The Foundation is administered by a Board of Directors made up of twelve members, nine of whom have the right to vote, and three observers (KfW, AFD, UNDP).

iii. The Investment Committee

The Investment Committee (IC) has a role of study, analysis and proposal. This Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which is the only body empowered to take decisions.

The secretariat of the Investment Committee is provided by

the Executive Director. The Committee is supported by a financial advisor.

iv. The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has a role of verification, evaluation and recommendation.

v. Executive Management

The Executive Management ensures the daily management of the Foundation. It assumes the operational aspect of the Foundation. It is composed of five agents

vi. The Asset Manager

The Foundation's funds are managed by an asset manager, recruited by international tender. The performance of the asset manager is assessed annually.

vii. The Financial Advisor

A financial advisor specializing in the development of endowment funds has been recruited to provide support to the Investment Committee.

3. THE SISTER FOUNDATION: FPRCI-UK

The sister Foundation (FPRCI-UK) was created on October 26, 2009 in Great Britain by the Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire.

This sister Foundation is registered with the "Companies House" and the "Charity Commission" and therefore recognized as a public utility in Great Britain.

4. THE FUNDING PROCESS

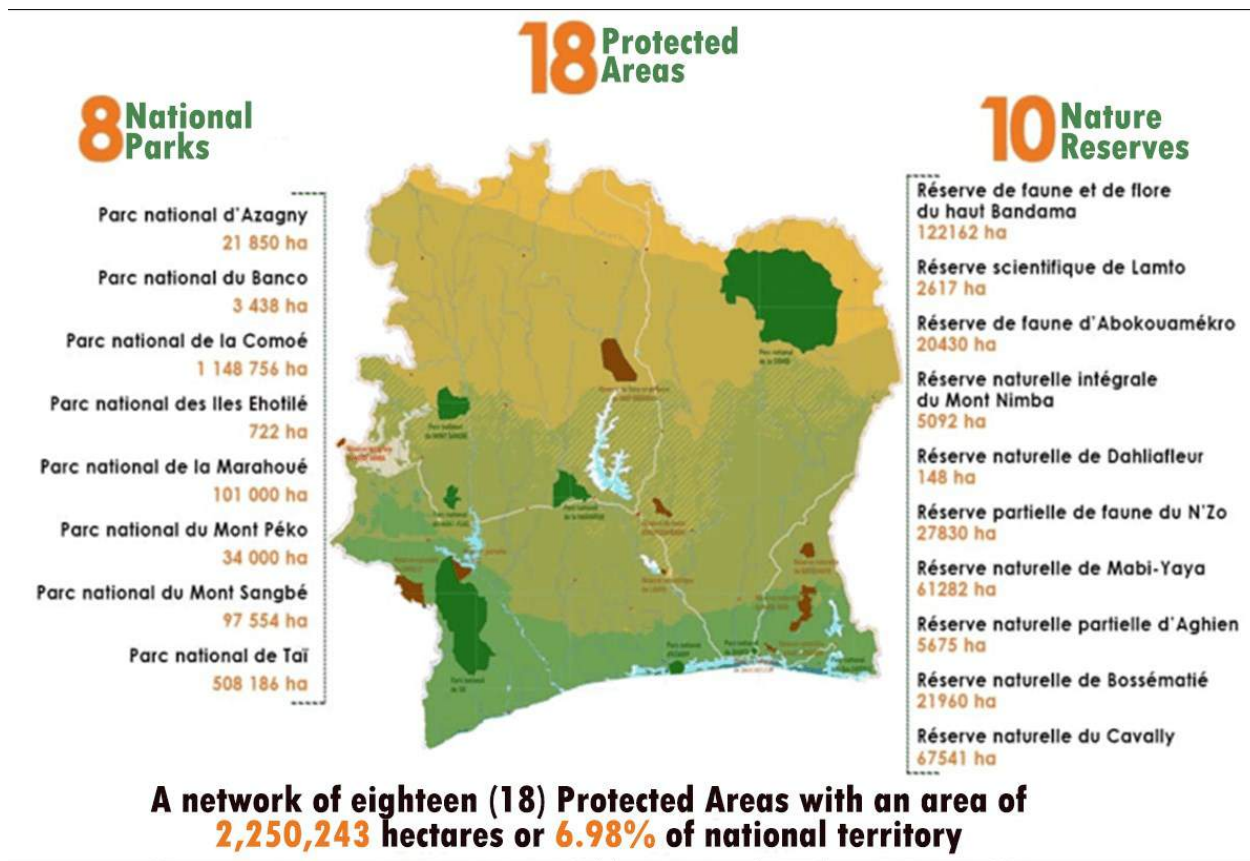


5. FUNDRAISING REPORT

- Endowment fund: 98 million Euros
- Sinking fund for park management: 16.7 million Euros
- Carbon fund compensation fund: 45.73 million Euros
- Funds granted since 2014: 17 million Euros
- Number of parks and reserves funded by the FPRCI: 13

6. PERSEPECTIVES

Funds being mobilized for 2025: 15 Million Euros with the Carbon Fund and chocolate companies.



Network of National Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire

14. THE MEDFUND — MOROCCO, TUNISIA AND ALGERIA

Fund Description

The MedFund is an environmental trust fund, based in Monaco, specifically dedicated to financing marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean, particularly in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

Created in 2015 by France, Tunisia and Monaco with the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, this initiative embodies the commitment of several Mediterranean States and international environmental organizations convinced that the future of the Mediterranean and its populations requires immediate action. The MedFund is currently chaired by Tunisia.

The operation of this multi-donor fund is based on a **trust fund mechanism** aimed at capitalizing a substantial financial amount following a **responsible investment policy** in order to obtain regular profits that will be sustainably reinvested in the management of Mediterranean MPAs.

Our beneficiaries

The MedFund currently supports the recurring management costs of **20 marine protected areas (MPAs) in 9 Mediterranean countries**: in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Turkey and Lebanon, **which represents more than 9,100 km² of protected coastal and marine areas and a total financial commitment of more than €6 million over the next 5 years.**

This support is granted to local civil society organizations that invest alongside national agencies in charge of protected areas. They contribute to financing activities essential to the management of these natural areas in order to preserve marine ecosystems and the populations that depend on them.

A monitoring and evaluation system for the effectiveness of management has been developed in order to monitor and demonstrate the impact of the funding granted on the conservation of biodiversity.

Below is a summary of the actions carried out in 2023 in the North African MPAs.

TUNISIA

The MPAs of La Galite, Zembra, Kuriat and Kneiss continue to implement their management activities following a co-management model involving the Coastal Protection and Development Agency (APAL) and the co-managing NGOs (Mediterranean Action Nature, Association for the Preservation of the Ecological and Natural Heritage of Cap Bon, Our Big Blue, Association for the Continuity of Generations).

Scientific monitoring is carried out annually, governance is active, MedFund monitoring has been strengthened this year in order to consolidate the various actions and verify implementation on the ground.

The Kerkennah MPA, supported by the GEF project, began its management in the summer of 2023, with a dynamic team and initial concrete actions.

The Ras Rmel MPA has been selected for MedFund support from 2024 as soon as its management plan is finalized.

MOROCCO

The Cape of Three Forks MPA was pre-selected for MedFund support in 2022.



Discussions with national authorities are underway to adjust the partnership and prepare the agreement in synergy with a project led by the World Bank.

The co-managing NGO remains to be identified.

ALGERIA

The Gouraya National Park, a site of exceptional biodiversity, is the first Algerian MPA to be selected for MedFund support.

The partnership will be developed directly with the establishment of the Gouraya National Park. The NGO NEMLA will be associated with the management of the site, and will intervene in particular for awareness-raising activities.

The file is being prepared for the start of the agreement in 2024.





AGENCES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET BAILLEURS INSTITUTIONNELS



FONDATIONS



RESEAUX D'AQUARIUM PARTENAIRES



Perspectives

The MedFund’s objective of supporting around twenty marine protected areas by 2025, representing more than 7,000 km² of protected areas, has already been achieved! While Mediterranean countries have committed to protecting 30% of their coastal and marine areas by 2030, a new 2025/2030 strategy will be established to continue and expand The MedFund’s action.

The MedFund is supported by an alliance of public and private donors

#	NAME	IMPACT COUNTRIES
1	FSOA Trust Fund (FSOA)	Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso
2	The Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS)	Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Congo Republic
3	BACOMAB Trust Fund (BACOMAB)	Mauritania
4	Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF)	Tanzania
5	Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation (BIOFUND)	Mozambique
6	Foundation for the Environment and Development of Cameroon (FEDEC)	Cameroon
7	Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN)	Namibia
8	The OKAPI Fund for Nature Conservation (OKAPI)	the Democratic Republic of Congo
9	Tany Meva Foundation (TANY MEVA)	Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius and the Comoros
10	BioGuinea Fondation (BioGuinea)	Guinea Bissau
11	Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust (MEET)	Malawi
12	Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar (FAPBM)	Madagascar
13	Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Ivory Coast (FPRCI)	Ivory Coast
14	Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF)	Tanzania
15	The MedFund	Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria
16	Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF)	Uganda
17	Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT)	Malawi
18	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)	Uganda
19	National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND)	Kenya



Consortium of African Funds
for the Environment

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