

CONCEPT NOTE

Francophone Africa Regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Production and Land Restoration

VIRTUAL PRE-TRIALOGUE PROCESS IN COVID-19 CONTEXT WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON PRACTICE COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE

To provide indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) holders and practitioners in the target region with an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange in a virtual Pre-Trialogue process to strengthen and enhance their contribution to the Francophone Africa Regional Trialogue on Land Degradation, Pollinators and Food Security.



BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to organize the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) project's face-to-face Trialogue for the Francophone Africa region, as originally planned. However, in the intervening time, given that many people have now become dependent on virtual communications during lockdown, it has opened up the opportunity to pilot an innovative virtual methodology that aims to:

- i) **Increase diversity in representation** of members of the Practice community (e.g. indigenous and local communities, NGOs and CSOs and enterprises);
- ii) **Improve their understanding** of the BES-Net Trialogues and their participation and intercultural dialogue in both preparatory virtual and face-to-face Trialogue events (e.g. facilitated in situ citizen science events such as BioBlitz and Bright Spots Showcase) and subsequent knowledge exchange with Science community;
- iii) **Address the challenge of power asymmetry** among Policy, Science and Practice communities that is present in all multi-stakeholder dialogue by reshaping the rules and norms governing the relationships and power dynamics involved in the co-production of knowledge; and, thus,
- iv) **Enhance the contribution of ILK** to the joint assessment of information between the Science and Practice communities;
- v) **Capture the real challenges** as well as the Bright Spots of examples of the Practice community as COVID-19 and the partial/full lockdown has led to transformative changes in local food production that highlight importance of pollinators and reveal the power of local practices that increase land rehabilitation/restoration, and strengthen resilience.
- vi) **Enrich inputs and participatory nature** of the Background Document being prepared for the face-to-face Trialogue. Activities to be Undertaken by BES-Net Team



OUTPUTS

- i) **Proposed methodology for remote, interactive process** to be run in parallel in 6 countries to gather and exchange ILK on pollinators, agro-ecological land rehabilitation/restoration and local food production in COVID-19 times.
- ii) **Proposed methodology for virtual regional Pre-Trialogue** for members of Practice and Science communities to jointly assess the local

and global information in preparation for the Francophone Africa Regional Trialogue.

- iii) **Visually attractive and accessible training materials** and interactive exercises for participants.

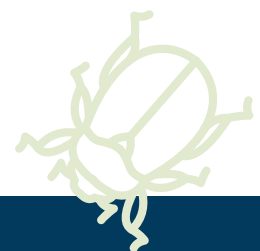


ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY BES-NET TEAM



- **Literature review** of effectiveness of online apps and tools for interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue in the target countries, particularly including those adapted for rural, harder-to-reach participants. Desktop review will also include literature on Multiple Evidence Base adopted by IPBES and the results of ILK approaches piloted by UNESCO, SwedBio and others.
- **Support to gender-sensitive identification of potential participants** from Practice and Science communities in each of six target countries of the Francophone Africa Regional Trialogue, including local boundary organisations that can reach out and support engagement.
- **Design methodology for virtual Pre-Trialogue process** with initial activities in each country (including citizen science pollinator and ethnobotanic information gathering, bright spots of agro-ecological land rehabilitation/restoration, species identification, etc.) and culminating

in an online regional Pre-Trialogue event involving participants from Practice and Science communities in all six countries.

- **Collaborate with graphic designer** to prepare interactive materials for participants.
- **Facilitate parallel in-country information gathering and knowledge translation** sessions among local practitioners and researchers, and subsequent regional virtual Pre-Trialogue for joint assessment and agreements on ILK, case studies and policy recommendations to feed in to face to face Francophone Africa Regional Trialogue.
- **Review draft knowledge products** generated by process as a contribution to the Background Document and as material for the Francophone Africa Regional Trialogue.



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES NETWORK

 besnet.world
 info@besnet.world

 [@BESNet_UNDP](https://twitter.com/BESNet_UNDP)
 facebook.com/besnet.world

Copyright © BES-Net



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre