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Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)

Phase II

REPORT OF THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN (PTA) OF THE IPBES PLATFORM AND LAUNCH OF THE BES-NET II PROJECT



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Abbreviations and acronyms

Bes-Net: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

CDN: Nationally Determined Contributions

DDI: Sustainable and Inclusive Development

EEE: Invasive Alien Species

IPBES: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

PND: National Development Plan

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

PTA: Annual Work Plan

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

WCMC: World Conservation Monitoring Centre

1. Introduction

Scientific evidence shows that invasive alien species are a threat to biodiversity. They have contributed, alone or in combination with other factors, to 60% of species extinctions recorded worldwide. This observation is true for West Africa, whose Guinean forests are among the biodiversity hotspots, and also for Central Africa, which is home to the Congo Basin, the second largest tropical forest in the world.¹

Côte d'Ivoire, a member of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) since November 29, 1994, like many countries in Central and West Africa, is home to a rich biological diversity, composed of thousands of plant and animal species, the preservation of which is crucial, not only for the maintenance of ecosystems, but also for the subsistence of local populations. However, invasive alien species have been reported in several protected areas and crop systems in Côte d'Ivoire, threatening the biological diversity of these parks, soils and the health of populations². In addition, it faces considerable challenges in the management of its biodiversity. Unfortunately, modeling studies show that by 2050, despite climate change, invasive alien species will continue to conquer new territories in Côte d'Ivoire.

In order to meet these challenges, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) aims to strengthen capacity and commitment for biodiversity action worldwide by translating the latest products of the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) in actions for biodiversity and conservation on the ground. It is implemented jointly by the [UNDP](#), [UNEP-WCMC](#) And [UNESCO](#), and with the support of the German government.

It is in this context that during the Regional Trilogue for Central and West Africa held in June 2024 in Abidjan, several challenges specific to Côte d'Ivoire were identified. One of the major obstacles is the lack of priority given to biodiversity at the national level³. Although it is proven that sustainable management of biodiversity can generate substantial economic benefits, this issue is not yet fully integrated into national planning documents such as the National Development Plan (NDP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).⁴ Furthermore, the lack of impact scenarios based on scientific assessments, such as those of IPBES, hampers the ability to drive transformational change in biodiversity.

Other key challenges include:

- Low synergy between scientists, policy makers and practitioners, thus limiting the effectiveness of solutions for the management of invasive alien species and the sustainable use of wildlife.
- Lack of funding for the implementation of large-scale national programmes capable of responding to these challenges.
- The difficulty of demonstrating and communicating the economic and social impact of conservation measures, hampering the commitment of decision-makers and donors.

¹<http://droit-afrique.com/upload/doc/uemoa/UEMOA-Reglement-2007-07-securite-sanitaire.pdf>

²Akaffou, SEV et al. Flora and vegetation of the ruderal areas of Azagny National Park and identification of alien species. *Int. J. Innov. Sci. Res.* 67, 345–360 (2023).

³[Trilogue-Africa-Doc-Action-V4-1.pdf](#)

⁴[Trilogue-Africa-Doc-Action-V4-1.pdf](#)

Despite these obstacles, strategic actions were identified during the trilogue and are presented in the national action plan. This allowed Côte d'Ivoire to be selected to benefit from the BES Solution Fund, in Phase II of the BES-Net project, financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry of the Environment. This project aims to support the integration of the recommendations of the IPBES assessments into policies, research and projects on the ground, in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

It will be structured around three main axes, namely: (i) strengthening the integration of biodiversity issues, including the integration of IPBES assessments on invasive alien species and wild species, in the country's strategic development documents, such as the PND 2026-2030 and the NDCs; (ii) raising awareness and involving all stakeholders, including young people, women and local communities; and (iii) mobilizing financing to implement large-scale actions for biodiversity, control of invasive alien species and sustainable use of wild species through strategic partnerships.

2. Overall objective

The main objective was to validate the annual work plan of the platform and officially launch the Bes-Net II project.

3. Specific objectives

Specifically, this involved:

- Validate the 2025-2026 annual work plan of the IPBES Platform by stakeholders, ensuring its alignment with national biodiversity priorities and the strategic orientations of the PND and NDCs;
- Strengthen dialogue to ensure better coordination between key stakeholders (government, scientific community, civil society, private sector, etc.);
- Officially launch the Bes-Net II project.

4. Workshop PROCEDURE

4.1 Speeches

4.1.1 Speech by Mr. GAEL OLLIVIER, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP:

Opening the series of speeches, he expressed his gratitude to all the participants for their presence and their interest in biodiversity, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and ecosystem services.

Then, he gave a reminder about Ivorian biodiversity, which, although rich and essential to environmental balance and the well-being of populations, is today seriously threatened by the proliferation of invasive exotic species. The latter represent a danger for agriculture, food security and public health.

In this context, he mentioned the Regional Trilogue for West and Central Africa, held in 2024 in Abidjan, highlighting, with the support of UNDP, the decisive role of this event in the selection of Côte d'Ivoire for phase II of the BES-Net project, financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German government.

This project represents a key opportunity to **strengthen the integration of biodiversity issues into national policies, further involve young people, women and local communities, and mobilize**

funding for concrete actions in favor of the sustainable management of natural resources and the control of invasive species.

In this dynamic, he underlined the capital importance of this workshop for the validation of the Annual Work Plan 2025-2026 of the IPBES platform, as well as the launch of the BES-Net II project, which marks a significant step forward in the fight against the degradation of ecosystems.

Finally, he reaffirmed the commitment and willingness of the UNDP to support the Ivorian government and its partners in the implementation of sustainable solutions for the protection of biodiversity, the mobilization of resources while strengthening the synergy of action between the actors.



Speech by Mr. Gael Ollivier, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

4.1.2 Speech by Mr. MATHIAS KLEIN, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Côte d'Ivoire:

He first welcomed Germany's support for this initiative, highlighting its major role in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) with a financial commitment of 1.5 billion dollars per year.

He then stressed the urgency of action in West Africa, where many species are threatened with extinction. In Côte d'Ivoire, invasive alien species pose a growing threat to soils, water resources and local species. However, this issue remains insufficiently integrated into national development policies.

It is in this context that the BES-Net II project, funded by the German government through the International Climate Initiative (IKI), represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen the fight against these invasive species. This project aims in particular to strengthen the capacities of local

actors, to promote the integration of biodiversity issues into national policies and to mobilize funding for concrete actions.

He stressed that this support is part of a broader dynamic of cooperation between Germany and Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen the preservation of biodiversity.

Finally, he stressed the importance of collaboration between partners, welcoming the commitment of UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP and WCMC, as well as the mobilization of Ivorian government representatives for the preservation of biodiversity. He concluded by calling for collective and coordinated action to ensure a sustainable future for Ivorian biodiversity.



Speech by Mr. MATHIAS KLEIN, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Côte d'Ivoire

4.1.3. MR. ASSUI, Special Advisor to the Minister for Youth Promotion, Professional Integration and Civic Service

On behalf of the Minister of Youth Promotion, Professional Integration and Civic Service, the Special Advisor expressed his satisfaction with the organization of this workshop and the launch of the Bes - Net II project. He recalled that young people make up more than 75% of the Ivorian population, which makes the challenges related to biodiversity a key issue for young people. Emphasizing that Ivorian biodiversity, although exceptional, is threatened by invasive alien species, he stressed the importance of integrating these issues into public policies and encouraging the active involvement of young people. The latter, as agents of change, must be at the heart of the solutions.

The Special Advisor also stressed the need to create concrete opportunities for youth empowerment, including through education, training, the development of green entrepreneurship and access to green financing. He presented the Ministry's initiative to train 10,000 young people per year in green economy professions, in order to meet the needs of a sustainable ecological transition.

He concluded by stating that this workshop represents a valuable opportunity to strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration and increase the role of young people in action for biodiversity, while reaffirming the commitment to making them key partners in preserving the environment.



Speech by Mr. ASSUI, Special Advisor to the Minister of Youth Promotion, Professional Integration and Civic Service

4.1.4 SPEECH by Doctor YEMOU JEANNE N'TAIN, Director General of the Environment, representative of the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition:

The representative of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Dr. N'Tain Jeanne, and Focal Point of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for Côte d'Ivoire, began her speech by expressing the honor and commitment of her ministry to welcome the participants. She also praised the good collaboration between UNDP and the Ministry of Environment through several initiatives.

She then recalled the immense challenges facing biodiversity, including the growing threat of invasive alien species, which are seriously affecting forests and wildlife in Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa. She stressed that approximately 60% of the world's species are threatened by this scourge, calling for urgent action. Dr N'Tain stressed the essential role of ecosystems for the well-being of local populations and their livelihoods.

Central and West Africa, she mentioned the main obstacles identified, namely the lack of integration of biodiversity into national policies, the absence of synergies between actors, and insufficient funding. However, she also highlighted the strategic solutions that have been identified to overcome these challenges.

Dr N'Tain welcomed the BES-Net II project as a valuable opportunity to strengthen synergies, raise awareness among stakeholders and mobilize resources for concrete actions. She encouraged participants to fully engage in the workshop, with an open and constructive mindset, in order to transform challenges into opportunities. She concluded her intervention by thanking, on behalf of the Minister, all the actors involved in this initiative.



Speech by Dr. Yemou Jeanne N'TAIN, Director General of the Environment, representative of the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition

4.1.5 SPEECH by Mr. Salomon Kalou (former Ivorian international):

Former Ivorian international footballer Salomon Kalou, committed to the planet, thanked UNDP for this invitation and was pleased to contribute to this initiative which aims to contribute to the protection and preservation of biodiversity. During his speech, he shared his experience in Germany, where he noted the importance of biodiversity and respect for nature in the way of life. He expressed his commitment as a UNDP ambassador for biodiversity, with an emphasis on youth awareness and education, in order to contribute to changing behaviours in the face of biodiversity and climate challenges. He said he was ready to mobilize his image and influence to support these efforts.



Speech by Mr. Salomon Kalou (former Ivorian international)

4.2 Presentation of the BES - Net II project

Mr. Aka Jean-Paul Aka, Team Leader of the Inclusive Sustainable Development (DDI) unit, presented the BES-Net II project, which began with a reminder of the co-creation workshop held in Assinie in October 2024. Then, a reminder of the global Bes -Net initiative, which is a project implemented by UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO, aims to strengthen countries' capacities in biodiversity preservation and management of invasive alien species (IAS). In Côte d'Ivoire, it benefits from catalytic funding of USD 350,000 to support the integration of biodiversity issues into national policies (PND 2026-2030, CDN 3.0), mobilize stakeholders (youth, women, local communities, private sector), and develop concrete conservation projects.

Then, a reminder of the challenges facing Côte d'Ivoire was made, namely:

- Ivory Coast has lost 90% of its forest cover in 60 years;
- Deforestation, habitat fragmentation, pressure on natural resources;
- The low inclusion of biodiversity in national policies.

Furthermore, this project represents an opportunity because:

- Côte d'Ivoire is currently revising its main strategic documents (PND 2026-2030, CDN 3.0);
- BES-Net II offers a unique opportunity to integrate IPBES assessments into national policies;
- Catalytic funding of USD 350,000 to strengthen national efforts.

It will achieve the following results:

Outcome 1: Biodiversity priorities, including IPBES assessments on invasive alien species (IAS) and sustainable use of wild species, are integrated into national planning documents such as the NDP 2026-2030 and NDC 3.0 through the activities below:

- Validation of the annual work plan of the IPBES platform.
- The organization of multi-stakeholder meetings to align biodiversity priorities with the PND and the CDN.
- Participation in international forums and national restitution.

Outcome 2: Increased stakeholder engagement and capacity building of local communities, youth, women and private sector actors in biodiversity conservation and IAS management through the implementation of the following activities:

- Organize an artistic exhibition (photo, painting, slam) to raise awareness among young people.
- Organize a celebrity blogging and bootcamp to engage 500 young people.
- Select ambassadors (young people, bloggers, celebrities) to promote biodiversity.

Outcome 3: A well-structured and feasible project portfolio is developed for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable use of wildlife, with the implementation of concrete pilot activities for the management of invasive alien species (IAS). To achieve this outcome, the following activities will be carried out:

- co-creation workshop to identify conservation projects.
- Recruitment of experts to develop project proposals to submit to donors.
- A call for proposals to select a local NGO to implement a pilot project on IAS (elimination, recovery, restoration of ecosystems).

4.3 Recommendations

At the end of the presentation, the recommendations focused on:

- Develop a specific collaboration with the Ministry of Youth to increase youth engagement, with the proposal to formalize this partnership through an agreement;
- Accelerate the process of integrating biodiversity issues into the 2026-2030 PND;
- Promote exchanges with the first beneficiary countries of the project during phase I for feedback and sharing of experiences;

- Increase funding opportunities for micro-projects in forest management and biodiversity with the GEF;
- Include children and schools in the project by developing school initiatives integrating biodiversity and the fight against invasive alien species, in order to raise awareness among young people from a very young age.

The various response elements focused on:

- The UNDP, involved in the development of the PND, will take the necessary steps to accelerate the integration of biodiversity issues into this strategic document;
- The project was designed drawing on the experiences of UNDP country offices on similar initiatives;
- The USD 150 million BES-Net II project (amount to be verified) will serve to guide the efforts of the major national reforestation project, by identifying priority areas and setting up a monitoring system to ensure the sustainability of actions until maturity;
- UNDP is fully prepared to strengthen collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Education to promote education on climate and biodiversity. It is interested in in-depth discussions on youth engagement and is considering innovative modalities such as bootcamps, beyond traditional workshops on climate and biodiversity issues.

4.4 Presentation of the recommendations of the IPBES trialogue and the annual work plan of the IPBES 2025 platform

The National Focal Point, Dr Yro Hyacinthe Tié, presented the IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), its role and the results of the Abidjan Trialogue (June 2024).

He defined the role of IPBES, which is an independent intergovernmental body created in 2012, equivalent to the IPCC for biodiversity, whose secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany. It provides scientific assessments on the state of ecosystems and guides public policies for their conservation and sustainable use. Its mission is to strengthen, through science, the knowledge that will serve as a basis for formulating better policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the long-term well-being of populations and sustainable development.

Then, he gave the importance of the Platform. Indeed, IPBES mobilizes scientific and traditional knowledge to inform political decisions. Its work is recognized internationally, notably by the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity (2022), shared with the IPCC with several roles. The platform also helps to contribute to:

1. **Assessment:** on specific themes (e.g. "Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production") or methodological issues (e.g. "Scenarios and Modeling"); and at regional and global scales (e.g. "Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services", assessment Africa, Asia, Americas, etc.).
2. **Policy support:** identify policy-relevant tools and methodologies, facilitate their use and strengthen their further development.
3. **Capacity and knowledge building:** Identify and address priority capacity, knowledge and data needs of IPBES member states, experts and stakeholders
4. **Communications and outreach:** ensuring the widest reach and impact of IPBES' work.

In order to better coordinate its interventions, IPBES is structured as follows:

Plenary: decision-making body of the Member States.

Office: chaired by Dr David Obura.

Multidisciplinary expert group: 25 experts from the 5 UN regions.

Expert and working groups: carry out the assessments.

Secretariat: Located in Bonn, headed by Anne Larigauderie ensures the efficient functioning of IPBES by supporting the plenary, the bureau and the multidisciplinary expert group, as well as the work and administrative functions of the platform.

Finally, a reminder was made of the results of the Abidjan Trialogue (June 2024) organized by BES-Net for West and Central Africa, on the theme: "Inclusive solutions for invasive alien species and the sustainable conservation of fauna and flora".

This trialogue highlighted:

- The need to integrate biodiversity into national policies.
- Strengthening collaboration between scientists, decision-makers and field actors.
- The need for increased funding for concrete actions on biodiversity.

4.5 Recommendations

The recommendations on this presentation focused on:

- Further involve other sectoral ministries for better collective ownership of initiatives;
- Strengthen and improve communication on biodiversity by particularly involving stakeholders from the world of sport and facilitating member adhesion;
- Clarify the credibility of IPBES studies and the validation process;
- Identify the causes of biodiversity degradation upstream;

The answers provided concern:

- The Ministry of the Environment is the focal point, but implementation requires intersectoral collaboration with other ministries. The aim is precisely to move away from silo-based work and to promote a collective approach;
- Communication is essential to disseminate information to the right targets. An IPBES media focal point has been appointed to support journalists and strengthen outreach to the general public. The challenge is to break out of the "expert bubble" and make biodiversity accessible to all;
- IPBES studies follow a rigorous process involving scientists and policymakers. Each report can be up to 1,000 pages long, with a 30-page executive summary for policymakers;
- Some causes of biodiversity degradation have been identified, including the involuntary introduction of exotic species via oil tankers, which discharge ballast water loaded with foreign species onto the Ivorian coast, and aquaculture practices, but require in-depth analysis.

5. Validation of the annual work plan of the IPBES PLATFORM

The validation of the 2025 Annual Work Plan of the IPBES Platform took place in plenary through a presentation by Mr. Aka Jean-Paul Aka (Team-leader, Inclusive Sustainable Development) and Doctor

TIE (IPBES Focal Point). This session began with a reminder of the presentation of the PTA previously made by Dr. Tie.

Finally, it was the subject of discussions, proposals and amendments which are recorded in the table below. At the end of this session, the PTA was unanimously approved by all participants by acclamation.

Table presenting the PTA of the IPBES platform validated at the end of the plenary session

Activities	Indicators	S 1	S 2	Year	Dir	Coûts (M FCA)	Total	Part
Component 1: Improving the institutional and regulatory framework								
1.1 Cabinet Information (Report, CCM)	CCM Report	X		1 signed order	PF IPBES		PM	CABES
1.2 Issue the order for the establishment of the National Platform for Biodiversity, IAS and Ecosystem Services (Follow-up to the signing of the draft order submitted to the Cabinet)	Signed Order	X		Signed Order	PF IPBES		PM	CABES PNUD (BES-NET II)
1.3 Identify the Focal Points (letters of designation): Universities, private sector, Government (Sectoral), Youth, research center...	Number of designated focal points	X		Number of designated focal points				PNUD (BES-NET II)
1.4 Develop and validate the policy and guidance document of the IPBES national platform;	Policy and guidance document	X	X	Policy and guidance document				PNUD (BES-NET II)
1.5 Organize meetings of the IPBES National Platform and disseminate the proceedings of the 11th IPBES Plenary	Number of meetings organized and disseminated	X		3 meetings	PF IPBES	2	2	CABES PNUD (BES-NET II)
1.6 Develop a guidance note on advocacy for the integration of biodiversity, IAS and Ecosystem Services into national policies (NDP, PIP, NDC, STANB...)	Guidance note developed and validated Number of policies incorporating the recommendations	X		1 elaborate note	PF IPBES			PNUD (BES-NET II)

1.7 Setting up a digital platform for sharing information	Existence and functionality of the platform Number of platform users	X	X	1 CCM, 2CR	PF IPBES	2	2	CABES PNUD (BES-NET II)
1.8 Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework	Existence of a monitoring and evaluation framework - Number of monitoring reports produced annually	X	X	1 monitoring and evaluation framework 2 reports produced	PF IPBES			PNUD (BES-NET II)
1.9 Developing a draft law on biological diversity	Draft bill validated		X	1 workshop	PF IPBES / CBD			PNUD (BES-NET II)
Component 2: Capacity-building								
2.1 Raise awareness and engage key stakeholders (Media, parliamentarians, senators, youth, private sector, local communities...)	Number of people sensitized and engaged	X		1 Awareness	PF IPBES	1,5	1,5	CABES PNUD (BES-NET II)
2.2 Strengthening the skills of IPBES Focal Points	Number of training courses Number of participants	X	X	3 training courses	PF IPBES	PM		IPBES/ CABES PNUD (BES-NET II)
2.3 Participate in CABES meetings and the IPBES plenary	Activity report Number of meetings held		X	2 meetings	PF IPBES	PM		CABES
2.4 Disseminating IPBES products	Number of notifications relayed Number of Applications Submitted	X	X	5 notifications 5 Experts	PF IPBES	PM		

Component 3: Biodiversity Knowledge Generation								
3.3 Support research on biodiversity in Côte d'Ivoire (thesis, scientific article, etc.);	Number of theses/articles published Number of researchers supported	X		Number of theses/articles published Number of researchers supported	PF IPBES	PM		CABES PNUD (BES-NET II)
3.4 Carry out and disseminate a national assessment on Biodiversity, IAS and Ecosystem Services	Evaluation carried out and popularized		X	1 Evaluation carried out and popularized	PF IPBES			CABES / WCMC PNUD (BES-NET II)
3.5 Mobilising finance and incentivising for the implementation of biodiversity solutions	Amount of funding mobilized Number of solutions implemented	X	X	3 pleas made	PF IPBES	PM		UNDP PNUD (BES-NET II)
3.6 Contribute to international assessments of biodiversity, IAS and ecosystem services	Number of national contributions to international assessments		X	1 meeting 2 Experts	PF IPBES	1,5	1,5	CABES/PNUD (BES-NET II)

CONCLUSION

At the end of this workshop, which allowed **to validate the PTA of the IPBES platform and to officially launch the Bes -Net II project**, after having taken into account the recommendations of all stakeholders. The sustained attention and the intensity of the interactions of the participants, highlighted the interest of the participants for the issues related to biodiversity, IAS and ecosystem services, the crucial importance thus underlining the need to take appropriate measures. It will therefore be up to UNDP and partners to intensify the actions of mobilizing additional resources to continue to respond effectively to the needs identified and to implement the recommendations made.

The closing words were delivered by Mr. Raymond Pierre SAUHI, Consul of the Republic of Sweden in Côte d'Ivoire:

He expressed his satisfaction to speak at the end of this workshop, marking both the validation of the Annual Work Plan of the IPBES platform and the official launch of the Bes -Net II project in Côte d'Ivoire. He stressed that this initiative constitutes a key step for the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, while reaffirming Sweden's commitment alongside Côte d'Ivoire. He expressed his satisfaction with the quality of the discussions, in-depth analyses and relevant contributions, which will ensure effective implementation of the planned actions. The validation of the Annual Work Plan illustrates a collective desire to integrate biodiversity into national policies and strengthen synergies between the stakeholders involved. Finally, after thanking all stakeholders, the Consul officially declared the IPBES platform PTA validation workshop closed and announced the launch of the Bes -Net II project in Côte d'Ivoire.



Speech by Mr. Raymond Pierre SAUHI, Consul of the Republic of Sweden in Côte d'Ivoire

Appendix: Photos









