

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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ECOWAS APPEAL FOR AN AMBITIOUS GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS


1. This information document is submitted by Nigeria in relation to agenda items 83.*


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ECOWAS APPEAL FOR AN AMBITIOUS GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS


**WE**, representatives of the governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo;


**PARTIES** to global instruments adopted to mitigate climate change and to preserve species and their ecosystems including the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance; and wholly committed to their full implementation;


**NOTING** that, as recognized in the [Kigali Call to Action for People and Nature](#), the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, which impact human health and wellbeing, must be addressed simultaneously;


**CONSCIOUS** of the tripartite environmental crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss;


**RECOGNIZING** that biodiversity from the West Africa region, including thousands of wild species that are threatened with extinction, form an integral part of humanity's natural heritage and must be protected for present and future generations;


**ALARMED** by the dire warning in the landmark Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services *2019 Global Assessment Report* that 75% of the earth's land surface is significantly altered, 66% of the ocean area is experiencing increasing cumulative impacts, and over 85% of wetlands (by area) have been lost; that about one million species are threatened with extinction, many within decades; and that changes in land and sea use and direct exploitation of organisms are the leading drivers of species loss and ecosystem decline;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the rate at which forests and woodlands are receding today due to uncontrolled logging; bushfires; extensive farming; transhumant pastoralism; and political, legal, institutional, technical and economic challenges;

**AWARE** that the ocean covers 71% of the earth's surface and **DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the pernicious degradation of wetlands and marine areas is increasing and that pollution, over-exploitation, warming, acidification and biodiversity loss in the ocean are occurring at rapid or unsustainable rates now impacting the distant polar regions and the high seas;

**CONSCIOUS** of the need to urgently protect biodiversity to preserve ecosystem services vital to human well-being including crop pollination, water purification, food security, clean air, flood protection and carbon sequestration.

**NOTING** the recommendations adopted by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the 16th World Conservation Congress in Resolution [WCC-2016-Res-050-EN](#) encouraging IUCN State and Government Agency Members to “designate and implement at least 30% of each marine habitat in a network of highly protected Marine Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, with the ultimate aim of creating a fully sustainable ocean, at least 30% of which has no extractive activities, subject to the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities”;

**NOTING** the recommendations adopted by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the 17th World Conservation Congress in Resolution [WCC-2020-Res-125-EN](#)¹ calling on IUCN State and Government Agency Members, non-governmental organization members, and all IUCN components to “support, at a minimum, a target of effectively and equitably protecting and conserving at least 30% of terrestrial areas and of inland waters² and of coastal and marine areas, respectively, with a focus on sites of particular importance for biodiversity, in well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) by 2030 in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;”

¹https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2020_RES_125_EN.pdf

²As defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention / Telles que définies par la Convention sur la diversité biologique et la Convention de Ramsar



FURTHER NOTING the call in the “Global Deal for Nature”³ by leading scientists and governments for the conservation of 30% of the Earth’s land and sea surface as a milestone towards the larger goal of 50% conserved by 2050, as a companion pact to the Paris Climate Agreement reaffirmed in IUCN Resolution WCC-2020-Res-125-EN;

RECALLING that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the importance of halting biodiversity loss, protecting and preventing the extinction of threatened species, sustainably managing and using terrestrial forests and ecosystems, reversing land degradation, combatting desertification, and conserving and sustainably using the land, freshwater, ocean, and marine resources for sustainable development;

DECIDE to jointly advocate for the following commitments in upcoming negotiations on climate (CoP 27 UN Climate Change Conference, 6-18 November 2022), international wildlife trade (CITES CoP19 14 - 25 November 2022), biodiversity (CBD CoP15 7 – 19 December 2022), and managing the high seas (High Seas Treaty Negotiations early 2023) as the minimum response to a planetary emergency:

1) The global designation of 30% of land, freshwater, and ocean areas worldwide as protected by 2030 (30 by 30) as a first option for climate adaptation and as means to securing the social and economic development of local communities thereby positively contributing to the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want”⁴;

2) The commitment to immediately halt human-induced extinction of wild species and eliminate its associated risks by 2050,

3) Ensure that non-wild species are preserved for future generations;

4) The commitment to reduce, halt and reverse global forest loss including through the restoration 350 million hectares by 2030, as recommended in the 2019 Dakar Declaration on Forest Landscape Restoration⁵;

5) The conclusion of a robust new high seas treaty and the establishment of highly and fully protected areas covering 30% of the global ocean which prohibit environmentally damaging activities;

6) The commitment to eliminate exploitation, use and trade in wild species that is illegal, unsustainable, or poses a risk of zoonotic disease transfer to humans, wildlife, or other animals and the implementation of One Health as an essential integrated approach to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems;

7) Global financial investments from all sources ensuring that the biodiversity finance gap of 700 billion USD per year is closed in full, through the mobilization of 1% GDP by all countries for biodiversity and the commitment to redirect or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, in a just and equitable way, by at least US\$ 500 billion per year;

8) Endorse and support A Pan-African Conservation Trust (A-PACT) Fund as one of Africa’s financing mechanisms to support protected and conserved areas and establish a dedicated biodiversity fund to support effective implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework;

9) Ensuring equitable, effective, generational and gender-responsive participation of all rights-holders and stakeholders, including IPLCs and youth in decision making related to biodiversity, at all levels, and the full protection of their rights;

10) Strengthening protected areas’ institutional capacities, management effectiveness, governance, private sector engagement, data collection and information sharing and local communities’ commitment to reducing threats to species and their habitat, including critical ecosystems.

³E. Dinerstein, et. al. A Global Deal for Nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets. *Science Advances*. 19 Apr 2019:Vol. 5, no. 4. Available at <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/4/eaaw2869>.

⁴<https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>

⁵<https://www.bonnchallenge.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/%5Bnode%3Anid%5D/>

[Dakar%20Declaration%20on%20the%20Restoration%20of%20Forest%20Landscapes%20in%20West%20Africa.pdf](https://www.bonnchallenge.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/%5Bnode%3Anid%5D/Dakar%20Declaration%20on%20the%20Restoration%20of%20Forest%20Landscapes%20in%20West%20Africa.pdf)