

BiInnovation Africa (Phase II)



African-European partnerships for biodiversity conservation

Context

The African continent is a global biodiversity hotspot, home to unique ecosystems, numerous iconic animals and over 60,000 different plants. These ecological resources are in demand around the world, often included as established and new ingredients in food supplements, cosmetics, flavours, fragrances, and medicines.

However, biodiversity-based value chains between Africa and Europe have not yet fulfilled their potential for socio-economic development and the conservation of biological diversity. Strengthening supply chains, improving market access, and regulatory and business environments that enable companies and producers to respect people and

Political partners:

- **Cameroon:** Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)
- **Madagascar:** Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)
- **Namibia:** Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)
- **South Africa:** Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Implementation phase: 01/2023 – 12/2025



nature are urgently needed. Through Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), e.g., indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) that provide genetic resources [providers] can ensure adequate and rightful compensation from business partners [users]. In fact, Member States of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have committed to share monetary and non-monetary benefits deriving from the use of these indigenous materials fairly and equitably. Through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted in 2022, ABS has gained further importance. Benefit-sharing creates incentives for the sustainable use of environmental assets ensuring their availability for future generations. However, so far only few long-term business relations under the legally binding Nagoya Protocol on ABS exist.

Objectives

BioInnovation Africa supports African-European business partnerships for biodiversity-based value chains that are based on high ethical, social, and environmental standards, including equitable benefit-sharing and the sustainable use of Africa's genetic resources. The objective is to promote social-ecological change and reconcile environmental and socio-economic sustainability in biodiversity-rich areas for the benefit of all.



Relevant sectors:

Flavours and fragrances	Food supplements	Cosmetics and body care	Biotechnology	Pharmaceutics
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The approach

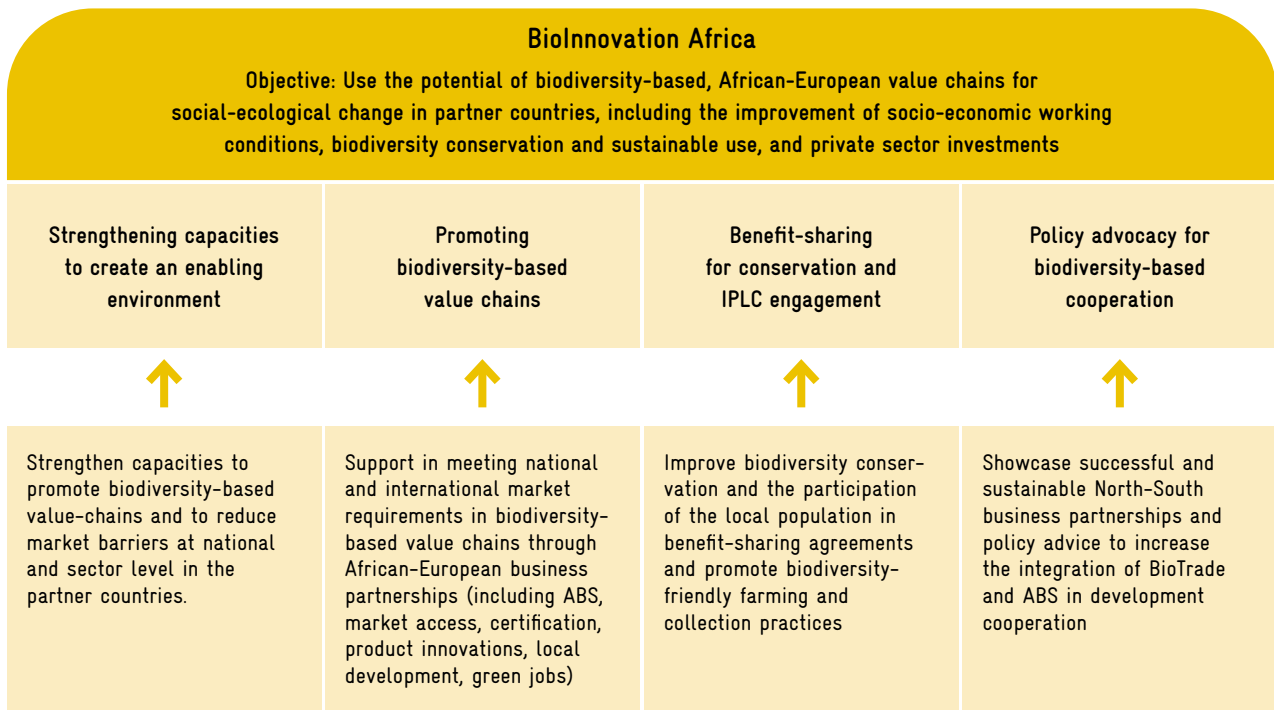
The BioInnovation Africa project strengthens partnerships for biodiversity-based innovations and products alongside environmental conservation. The target provider groups are local producers, cooperatives, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia,

and South Africa which supply raw or processed biological materials and ingredients to Europe-based companies and research institutions (as target users).

There are four intervention areas (see next page).



Intervention scheme



BioInnovation Africa supports the implementation of ABS frameworks, strengthening stakeholder capacities in provider countries through blended learning trainings on inter alia the valorisation of biodiversity, business development and ABS negotiation skills. The project also offers both providers and users general advice on ABS contracts and facilitates the development of IT-based online systems for ABS applications, permitting and monitoring. As part of benefit-sharing for conservation activities, the project supports the roll-out and implementation of national guidelines for benefit-sharing mechanisms and concepts for financing instruments. To encourage biodiversity-based value chains and long-term business relations between providers and users, the project facilitates various knowledge exchange formats and sector dialogues. Likewise, BioInnovation Africa promotes technology transfer to increase local value addition and the creation and improvement of green jobs in provider communities.

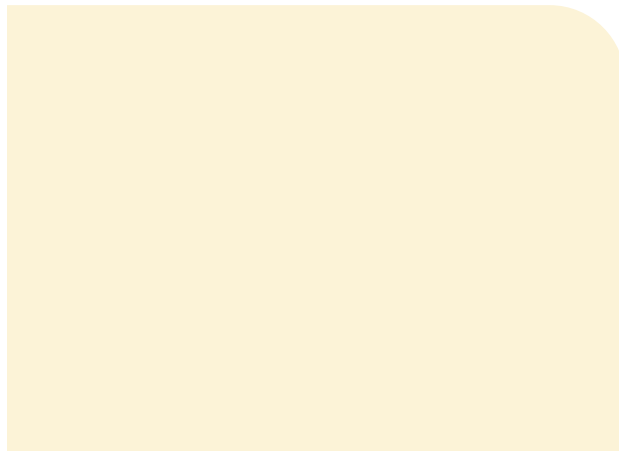
Expected outcomes and impacts

- African-European biodiversity-based value chains better address national and international market requirements.
- Capacities to promote biodiversity-based value chains and to reduce market barriers are strengthened in partner countries including the operationalisation of ABS.
- Biodiversity conservation and the involvement of the local population in benefit-sharing agreements are promoted.
- German development cooperation is visible as a key supporting partner to promote biodiversity-based value chains.



Selected results from the first project phase (2019 – 2022)

- More than 320,000 ha of wild collection sustainably used
- More than 1,500 ha of cultivated land sustainably used
- More than 7,400 field operators with new or better employment / employability of which 83 % were women
- More than 150 stakeholders trained on the valorisation of genetic resources, biological ingredients and ABS contracts, of which 48 % were women
- More than 1,3 Mio. € private sector investments mobilized
- 20 cooperation agreements between African and European private sector partners signed
- Political partners possess several knowledge products, reference guides, videos and online tools to better guide involved stakeholders through national ABS processes



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