

# Financing the Biodiversity Plan: The role of Biodiversity credits - strong foundation or cautionary tale

## DATE:

Day 2/3  
Morning

## CONTACT PERSON

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## PARTNER(S):

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## OVERVIEW:

The Africa Climate Summit 2025 (ACS2) presents a pivotal moment to elevate nature finance as a core pillar of Africa's green development. This event aims to explore the transformative potential of biodiversity credits as a financing mechanism to scale nature-positive solutions across public and private sectors. By convening thought leaders from finance, policy, philanthropy, conservation, and development, the session will spotlight African-led innovations in biodiversity credits, aligning with ACS2's strategic pillars of "Showcasing African Solutions" and "Unlocking Scalable Climate Finance".

Under Target 19 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, this side event will explore not only opportunities in the fast-growing nature finance sector but also how tools like biodiversity credits can play a pivotal role in bridging this gap, ensuring we remain on track to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. There are also significant lessons to be learned from carbon markets and this session will cover these.

## OBJECTIVE

### The session will explore:

- **Biodiversity credits as a financing mechanism:** How can tools like biodiversity credits, and their potential to address nature-related risks and scale solutions across public and private sectors.
- **Barriers to scale:** What are the main obstacles preventing the expansion of nature finance solutions, and how can biodiversity credits unlock more capital?
- **Public-private-philanthropic partnerships:** How can collaborations between public, private, philanthropic, and development finance institutions be expanded to meet biodiversity targets?
- **Regulatory and policy support:** What policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to support and accelerate biodiversity finance, particularly in the context of a changing donor landscape.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Regional roadmap for biodiversity credit markets
- Announcement of the Africa Biodiversity Credits Working Group Landscape Review and Work Plan for 2026– 2030
- Inclusion of nature finance in the ACS2 Flagship Report and Addis Declaration
- Strengthened coalitions across finance, policy, and community sectors.

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

Nature underpins economic stability, food security, and climate resilience, yet remains dangerously underfunded. Biodiversity credits, market-based tools that recognise and reward the protection or restoration of ecosystems, are emerging as a promising mechanism to channel finance toward nature-positive outcomes. As momentum builds globally, there is growing demand for clarity on how these instruments can work at scale, across jurisdictions, and with integrity.

However, significant barriers remain. These include:

- Regulatory frameworks
- A lack of market infrastructure and shared methodologies
- Limited understanding and trust among buyers
- Fragmented data and weak project pipelines

This convening provides a platform to interrogate these challenges and explore collaborative pathways forward. This session is relevant to ACS2 as it is directly aligned with Day 1's theme on 'Nature based solutions.' It also aligns with ACS2's strategic pillars of "Showcasing African Solutions" and "Unlocking Scalable Climate Finance".

### Objectives

1. **Demystify biodiversity credits** and assess their potential in addressing nature-related risks and unlocking capital across sectors.
2. **Identify and address key barriers** to scaling biodiversity finance, including market infrastructure, standardisation, and integrity.
3. **Explore models for blended public-private-philanthropic collaboration** to accelerate the development and uptake of biodiversity credit markets.
4. **Discuss enabling regulatory and policy frameworks** that can help embed biodiversity into financial systems and climate action.
5. **Show case biodiversity credits projects across the continent.**

### Expected outcomes include:

- Launching a regional roadmap for biodiversity credit markets
- A presentation on research on nature finance flows and an updated on the African biodiversity credits landscape study
- Shared understanding of biodiversity credit opportunities and barriers and partnerships required to fund and scale nature-based enterprises and community-led solutions
- Recommendations for regulatory and market-building actions
- Strengthened partnerships across sectors to pilot and scale high-integrity biodiversity credit solutions
- Input into global dialogues (e.g. COP30, G20, High Integrity Nature Markets Conference 2026)