



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

SESSION 2.7 (DAY 2)

Landscapes, Livelihoods and Nature Finance: Scaling Ecosystem Investments in West and Central Africa

GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE with WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Accra, Ghana

29 September–2 October 2026



West and Central Africa: Where Global Ecosystems Meet Climate Risk

Ecosystems of Global Significance



FORESTS:

The Congo Basin

Regulates rainfall across much of Africa



COASTS:

Gulf of Guinea

Coastal protection for ~30M people



DRYLANDS:

Sahel

GGW target: 100M ha by 2030



SAVANNAS:

West African savannas ~200M pastoral livelihoods

The Problem at Scale

Global Ecological Value ↔ Local Climate Vulnerability



CLIMATE

780K ha

Congo Basin humid primary forest loss (2024)¹



PEOPLE

65%

Sahel population affected by land degradation²



ECONOMY

USD 3.8B /year

Economic losses from coastal degradation³

Sources: ¹WRI, Congo Basin Forest Loss (2025); ²UNCCD Global Land Outlook West Africa (2019); ³World Bank, West Africa Coastal Degradation (2019)

A Strategic Moment for Ecosystems

A portfolio. A global ambition. A regional opportunity.

GCF PORTFOLIO

GCF ecosystem programming

139

Ecosystem projects
(of 359 projects)

USD 1.7B

GCF financing committed
(of USD 20.4B)

USP-2 TARGET

Target by 2027

120 – 190

million hectares
Scaling Nature-Based Solutions

To be conserved, restored and
sustainably managed by 2027
*≈ the scale of the Congo Basin's
forest cover*

REGIONAL POTENTIAL

Africa-led regional architecture

W&C Africa

Delivering 30x30 at scale
Conserving 30% by 2030

- **Great Green Wall:** Sahel restoration
- **COMIFAC:** Congo Basin governance
- **CAFI:** Central African forest finance
- **WACA:** West Africa coastal resilience
- **AFR100:** landscape restoration

Scale achieved; transformation still ahead

GCF Ecosystem Programming: A four-shift paradigm



Established Approach

Expanding To

1 SCALE

Site-level projects

Landscape-scale transformation

Basin-scale · seascape-scale · commodity landscape approaches

2 OWNERS

Communities as beneficiaries

Communities as owners

Tenure security · governance · benefit-sharing

3 FUNCTION

Conservation

+ Productive climate infrastructure

Watersheds · mangroves · peatlands · agroforestry

4 FINANCE

Grants alone

+ Innovative finance

Blended finance · PES · Nature Bonds

West and Central Africa: Three archetypes, three landscapes

SAHEL

Dryland restoration at continental scale

- Agro-silvo-pastoral landscapes
- Pastoral livelihoods
- 8-country coordination

CONGO BASIN

Landscape-scale forest stewardship

- 30x30 conservation ambition
- Community land tenure
- Deforestation-free commodities

WEST AFRICAN COAST

Coastal ecosystems powering the blue economy

- Mangrove restoration
- Coastal fisheries
- Blue finance



GREAT GREEN WALL (FP268)

Eight Sahelian countries
USD 222M /
USD 150M GCF



PREFOREST (FP159)

Republic of Congo
USD 46.5M /
USD 28.9M GCF



COASTAL RESILIENCE (SAP025)

Guinea-Bissau
USD 10M /
USD 9.8M GCF

The Panel: four shifts, four voices

1 Landscape governance

NDA



AGADEV · Gabon

Mr. Serge Amissah,
Special Advisor to the CEO

Green economy agency;
Congo Basin HFLD state

2 Restoration linked to livelihoods

DAE



CSE · Senegal

Mr. Amadou Sock
National Coordinator

DAE since 2015; 2 GCF
projects (FP003 · SAP043)

3 Ecosystems as climate infrastructure

PSAA



MINEPAT · Cameroon

Dr. Saidou Hamadou,
Head of Strategic Planning
and Foresight Division

Economy & Planning ministry;
RACINE (EUR 214.9M, B.46)

4 Nature finance beyond grants

IAE



TNC

Kelly Witkowski
Director of Green Climate
Fund Unit

Nature Bonds architect; USD
1.5B across 5 countries

Your views can help how GCF works with you

GCF 2026 Stakeholder Perception and Satisfaction Survey

Tell us about your experience engaging with GCF.

أخبرنا عن تجربتك في التعامل مع الصندوق الأخضر للمناخ (GCF).

Parlez-nous de votre expérience avec le GCF.

Cuéntenos sobre su experiencia con el GCF.

Conte-nos sobre sua experiência com o GCF.

Расскажите о своём опыте взаимодействия с

Зелёным климатическим фондом (GCF).





Thank you