



Distr.: General  
PACBPA/1/9  
21 September 2010  
Original: English

**Pan-African Conference on Biodiversity: “Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation: What Opportunities for Africa?”**  
**First session**  
Libreville, 12–17 September 2010

## **Road map for a green economy in Africa**

*We, the African ministers of environment and of economic planning,  
Assembled in Libreville on 16 and 17 September 2010,*

*Considering* the resolve expressed in the Bamako Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> to “urge all countries to explore fully opportunities for building green economies, through, among other things, the development of clean technologies, renewable energies, water services, green transportation, waste management, green buildings and sustainable agriculture and forests”,

*Considering also* the overall objective of the first session of the Pan-African Conference on Biodiversity to identify approaches and methods for integrating biodiversity issues into policies, strategies, plans and programmes relating to economic development and poverty alleviation in Africa,

*Noting* that, to foster the effective conservation and management of biodiversity, it appears essential to promote legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks that fully involve indigenous and local communities in decision-making processes relating to biodiversity and are conducive to poverty alleviation,

*Noting also* that the green economy is a viable and promising response for equitable and sustainable development in Africa which emphasizes sizable growth in investments in the economic sector, reinforces the Earth’s natural capital, reduces ecological losses and minimizes environmental risks,

*Noting further* that, even if the green economy eventually generates new financial resources, its development requires investment and support, including of a financial nature, from both the public and private sectors,

*Observing* that these sectors include renewable energy, clean transport, green buildings, waste management, water management, sustainable agriculture, forest management, sustainable fishing and the like,

*Recommend* that the following measures be taken:

(a) Develop, update and improve national legal and regulatory frameworks to take into account the promotion of the green economy;

---

1 UNEP/AMCEN/13/10, annex I.

- (b) Take appropriate fiscal measures and reduce or eliminate Customs and tariff barriers, with a view to encouraging the introduction of clean technologies and the development of a green economy;
  - (c) Promote sustainable financing mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services;
  - (d) Reduce or eliminate subsidies for programmes and projects that might contribute to the loss of biodiversity or the deterioration of ecosystem services;
  - (e) Facilitate and improve access to microcredit and other credit to encourage the creation, development and sustained existence of eco-friendly small and medium-sized enterprises;
  - (f) Encourage international financial institutions to support the promotion of the green economy in developing countries;
  - (g) Establish and improve systems for managing data on the use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including assessment of their economic value;
  - (h) Update national accounting systems to take into account the value and deterioration of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
  - (i) Encourage revision of the accounting system of the United Nations on economy and the environment, taking into account biodiversity and ecosystem services;
  - (j) Adopt standards for environmental accounting, particularly for biodiversity and ecosystem services;
  - (k) Build national capacity, including with regard to training and equipment for public institutions and non-governmental organizations;
  - (l) Promote the use of state-of-the-art modelling and planning tools;
  - (m) Strengthen communication and education in order to enhance public awareness of the development of the green economy with a view to promoting eco-citizenship;
  - (n) Implement the recommendation made at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Bamako in June 2010, to organize a pan-African forum on the green economy.
-