As part of the celebration of World Environment Day, the African Development Bank in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment of Cote d'Ivoire, UN Environment Programme (West Africa, Secretariat of the Convention of Abidjan), and civil society actors, are organizing a webinar to inspire new perspectives on how to preserve terrestrial biodiversity in Africa.

The webinar is structured into 2 sub-themes, to allow maximum participation. They will focus on the following questions and modalities detailed below:

**Moderator: Cedric Lombardo, associé gérant de BeDevelopment**

**Sub-theme 1: The COVID-19 pandemic and biodiversity**

The COVID-19 pandemic has now tragically claimed the lives of thousands of people around the world, and is expected to trigger a global economic recession of unprecedented magnitude in modern times.

This session will discuss the COVID-19 crisis and its links to wildlife trade and, above all, explore potential solutions for a common and coordinated response by the countries of the continent to combat illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild flora and fauna, and to promote national, regional and international responsibility for the safeguarding of all wild fauna and flora in Africa

**Speakers:**

*Pr Inza Koné*, biologist, President of the African Society of Primatology, Director General of the Swiss Center for Scientific Research (CSRS) - Impact of COVID-19 on the environment

*Denis Mahonghol*, Senior Program Officer, TRAFFIC - COVID 19 et le commerce légal et illégal des espèces sauvages en Afrique

*Dr Kroa Éhoulé*, Expert from the West African Health Organization (WAHO) for Medicine and Traditional Pharmacopoeia. Coordinating Director of the National Program for the Promotion of Traditional Medicine, Côte d'Ivoire. Researcher at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) - What could
traditional Ivorian / African medicine bring in the face of COVID-19 and other zoonoses (biodiversity as a reservoir of pathogens and at the same time source of solutions)

Sub-theme 2: The Biodiversity Programme after 2020

Recent assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) show that the world continues to lose many species at an unprecedented rate. While biodiversity is the lifeblood of life on Earth, the looting of these basic resources and the high rate of biodiversity loss are not getting the political attention they deserve. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the United Nations General Assembly to convene in September 2020 a high-level summit to give more political visibility to biodiversity and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The process of preparing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provides an opportunity for Africa to assert its biodiversity priorities, including an adequate supply of financial resources, access to technology and "capacity building commensurate with the challenges and ambitions of the continent.

This session will take stock of progress, focusing on African positions and their relevance for Cote d'Ivoire, beginning with lessons learned from previous processes and the challenges observed in Africa. There is growing evidence that quality solutions to improve funding for biodiversity management and conservation also contribute to broader sustainable development goals and are crucial for reducing poverty and protecting livelihoods. A segment of this webinar will be dedicated to innovative mechanisms to increase investment in the sustainable and equitable management, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Speakers:

Dr Jeanne Ntain, Biodiversity Focal Point - *The global biodiversity framework for post-2020 and the African perspective*

Dr. Kalemani Jo Mulongoy (DRC), co-chair of the IPBES and Institute for Enhanced Livelihoods- *How to better protect biodiversity in Africa, courses of action*

Arona Soumare, African Development Bank - *Financing biodiversity for the CBD’s global biodiversity framework after 2020*

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