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CABES Central African sub-Regional Workshop

Activity report

***‘Development of Multi-stakeholder Biodiversity Platforms:
Increasing Contributions to National Biodiversity Strategies and
Action Plans (NBSAP) and IPBES activities’***



10 - 11 October 2024

Pullman Grand Karavia

Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo



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Acknowledgments

The first in-person CABES Central African sub-regional workshop was organized in Lubumbashi with the support of CABES consortium partners and several stakeholders. Firstly, we would like to thank the *Government of the Federal Republic of Germany*, and in particular, the *German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)* through the *International Climate Initiative (IKI)*, for funding the CABES project, and consequently the workshop. We would also like to thank the *Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo* for supporting the CABES project. *The University of Lubumbashi (UNILU)* is acknowledged for hosting the *CABES SPIBES MSc. program* and for its support in the organization of the workshop, in particular, through the sending invitations to all participants, and providing the venue for the CABES peer-to-peer training.

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) and the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, www.ipbes.net)* are acknowledged for their support through the provision of information materials, and active participation in the Central African training/workshop.

All the partners represented in Lubumbashi, in particular the *IPBES* and/or *CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)* national focal points, scientists, delegates from Indigenous peoples and local communities, delegates from NGOs and other civil society organizations, are acknowledged for the time allocated to this workshop despite busy schedules and its closeness to the 16th Conference of the Parties to the *CBD*.

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List of acronyms

CABES	<i>Capacity development of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts</i>
CDB	<i>Convention on Biological Diversity</i>
KMGBF	<i>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>
IPBES	<i>Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</i>
SPIBES	<i>Science-Policy Interfaces on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</i>
SPPI	<i>Science-Policy-Practice Interface</i>
NGO	<i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
IPLC	<i>Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities</i>
NFP	<i>National Focal Point</i>
NBSAP	<i>National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan</i>
WASCAL	<i>West African Scientific Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use</i>



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1. Background and objectives

As part of the activities of **CABES** (*Capacity Development of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts in West, Central, and East Africa*, www.cabes.online), sub-regional science-policy-practice dialogues are organized on a rotating basis in a country within its target regions. This is the report of the workshop activities organized in Lubumbashi from 10 to 11 October 2024. The workshop theme was: '**Development of Multi-stakeholder Biodiversity Platforms: increasing contributions to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) and IPBES activities**'.

This workshop aimed to explore opportunities to spur the establishment of and improve the operationalization of national biodiversity platforms and other multi-stakeholder frameworks for biodiversity conservation. To this end, two opportunities were explored. The first was the opportunity offered by the ongoing revision and update of the *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)* in most countries that sign the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*. The second is platforms for the review and uptake of the different **IPBES** thematic and methodological assessments¹. The specific objectives include:

1. Discuss ways and means of improving the national biodiversity platforms' contributions to *national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)*,
2. Discuss the role and involvement of platforms in improving the contribution of States to the activities of **IPBES** and other multilateral environmental agreements
3. Strengthen regional collaboration between platforms in different countries through exchanges of experience and case studies.

2. The workshop

2.1. General organization of the workshop and audience

The workshop was held at the Pullman Grand Karavia Hotel in Lubumbashi, located in the Golf neighborhood, on the bank of Lubumbashi's municipal lake.

The agenda of the 2-day bilingual (English and French) workshop is presented in *Appendix 1*. The workshop was attended by 92 participants of 24 nationalities from 23 countries. The list of participants, their nationalities, and countries of origin is provided in *Appendix 2*. The workshop participants were:

¹ <https://www.ipbes.net/assessing-knowledge>



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- National focal points of **IPBES** and/or **CBD** of countries of the Central African sub-region, **CABES** project implementation partner countries, and the new **IPBES** member countries in Africa, or their representatives.
- Researchers/scientists from various fields related to biodiversity and ecosystem services,
- Practitioners from the public and private sectors,
- Indigenous and local knowledge holders and women's group leaders,
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The local organizing team consisted of the **CABES** team from Lubumbashi and other members of **UNILU**'s academic, scientific, and administrative staff, including Prof. Mylor Ngoy Shutcha, Dr. Paul Kazaba Kaseya (Associate Prof.), Dr Jonas Lwalaba Wa Lwalaba (Associate Prof., Vice-Dean for Research), Mr. Ir Yannick Itete Ilopili, Mr. Serge Langunu, Ms. Myriam Meta Tshiswaka, and Mr. Pierre Makolo Kasongo. The team was joined by Mr. Steve Chitekulu (Head of **UNILU**'s IT Department) and the first cohort of students from the *SPIBES Master's program* organized at **UNILU**.

2.2. Day One

2.2.1. First session: The Opening ceremony

The event commenced with a welcome address by the moderator, Dr. Jonas Lwalaba Wa Lwalaba, who then invited participants to stand for the national anthem of the *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*. The opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Mylor Ngoy Shutcha, Dean of the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences and CABES Coordinator for Central Africa, speaking on behalf of the Rector of the University of Lubumbashi.

Subsequently, Prof. Paul Mawaw, Director of the School of Public Health, provided an overview of the MPox outbreak in the **DRC**, highlighting preventive measures to mitigate contamination risks. Following this briefing, Dr. Matthias Schröter-Vinke shared a pre-recorded address on behalf of *the International Climate Initiative (IKI)*, and Dr. Jan Henning Sommer, **CABES** Program Manager, offered further insights.

The agenda continued with a pre-recorded speech by Dr. David Obura, Chair of **IPBES**, followed by a presentation from Ms. Amarys Preus, **IPBES** Stakeholder Engagement Officer. The Head of Division and **IPBES** National Focal Point for the **DRC**, Mr. Daniel Mukubi, formally opened the workshop on behalf of the General Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

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Participants were then invited to a photo session, after which an icebreaker session was held to foster connections and introduce attendees. This interactive session was facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Hauck (**CABES, CoKnow Consulting**). The morning program concluded with Sessions 2 and 3.



Figure 1. Photos from the opening ceremony



**Figure 2. Cross-section of workshop participants during the ice-breaker session
Summary of the Second Session**

The second session comprised three consecutive presentations, each addressing critical aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

1. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Central Africa: Current Situation and Trends

Professor Mylor Ngoy Shutcha (CABES, UNILU) opened the session with a presentation on the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Central Africa. Drawing extensively from the *IPBES Regional Assessment for Africa (2018)*, the presentation highlighted key trends and challenges. A central theme was the urgent need to enhance the participation of Central

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African researchers in IPBES initiatives and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, particularly through biodiversity platforms.

2. The IPBES Work Programme and the Role of National Platforms

Ms. Amarys Preus (IPBES Secretariat) provided an in-depth overview of the IPBES work program, emphasizing forthcoming assessments and the critical need for increased contributions from African researchers and stakeholders. The presentation underscored the importance of national platforms, clarifying their role as independent national structures and initiatives distinct from IPBES.

3. Capacity Development in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: CABES Work Programme and Progress

Dr. Jan Henning Sommer (CABES, ZEF, University of Bonn) concluded the session with a detailed account of the CABES project's capacity-building initiatives. The presentation showcased the progress achieved across various project components, offering valuable insights into CABES's contributions to regional capacity development. The session concluded with a dynamic question-and-answer segment, facilitating meaningful exchanges between presenters and participants.



Figure 3. Illustration of the presentations from session 2.

Summary of the Third Session

The third session featured a panel discussion centered on the theme of progress *in Establishing and Strengthening National Multi-Stakeholder Platforms on Biodiversity*.

Moderated by Mr. Abisha Mapendembe (CABES, UNEP-WCMC), the panel brought together representatives from various National Focal Points (NFPs), including:

- Dr. Agnes Kouamé Amenan (Côte d'Ivoire),
- Dr. Tessema Lemma Misikire (Ethiopia),
- Dr. Loyapin Bondé (Burkina Faso),
- Mr. Daniel Mukubi Kikuni (Democratic Republic of Congo), and
- Mr. Alfred Tejan Jondie (Sierra Leone).

Each panelist shared updates on the implementation status of their national platforms, outlining notable progress achieved while candidly discussing the challenges encountered.

Additionally, the representative of Gabon, although not an official panel member, was invited to provide insights into the advancements made in establishing a biodiversity platform in his country.



Figure 4. Cross-section of panelists during the Panel discussion on progress in implementing national biodiversity platforms.

2.2.2. Sessions 4, 5 and 6 (afternoon)

Summary of the Fourth Session

The fourth session was moderated by Mr. Abisha Mapendembe (CABES, UNEP-WCMC). It featured two insightful presentations:

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1. Integrating the KMGBF into National Policies: Practical Approaches and Case Studies

Delivered by Mr. Mahlodi Tau (South African National Biodiversity Institute - SANBI), this presentation explored strategies for integrating the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) into national policies. A compelling case study on water-related challenges was shared, offering practical insights for participants on how challenges in the water sector were used as an entry point to address biodiversity concerns.

2. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the Role of IPBES Assessments

Presented online from Montreal by Dr. Jillian Campbell (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD and IPBES Focal Point), this session examined the alignment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the KMGBF. Dr. Campbell emphasized the critical role of IPBES assessments in the review and adaptation processes, and hence the need for greater collaboration between the National Focal Points of the UN CBD and IPBES at the national level to achieve biodiversity conservation goals.

The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer segment, allowing participants to delve deeper into the topics presented.



Figure 5. Presentations from session 4.

Session 5 consisted of a single presentation on the **CABES Master's program on the "Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" (SPIBES)**. This presentation was given by Prof. N'Golo Koné (CABES, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire). He presented the objectives of the SPIBES master program and the progress made, in particular the dissertation defenses of the 23 candidates from the first cohort in Abidjan and the launch of the Master in the University of Addis Ababa and the University of Lubumbashi. The session was attended by the Rector of the University of

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Lubumbashi, Prof. Gilbert Kishiba Fitula, who welcomed the audience and underlined UNILU's interest in the SPIBES Master's program, given the opportunity for African integration.

Participants were then invited to the poster session, during which the 13 students from Lubumbashi's first cohort presented preliminary ideas for their research projects. The main aim of the session was to foster science-policy-practice interactions and to promote co-design and policy relevance of their planned research.



Figure 6. Photos from session 5 and speech by the Rector of the University of Lubumbashi.



Figure 7. Some photos from the poster session focusing on the research themes of the first cohort of SPIBES Master's students at UNILU.

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The concluding session of the first day focused on group work under the theme: *Use of IPBES Products in the Respective Countries*. Moderated by Dr. Jennifer Hauck, participants were divided into four groups: three French-speaking and one English-speaking. Each group's discussions were facilitated by CABES members.

The session concluded with the presentation of the group reports, highlighting key insights and recommendations from the discussions.



Figure 8. Some photos from the group discussions



Figure 9. Some photos of the plenary ('reporting back') session

2.3. The Second day of the workshop

2.3.1. Morning sessions

The second day began with a welcome address and an overview of the day's agenda from the workshop's main moderator, Dr. Jonas Lwalaba Wa Lwalaba (UNILU). Dr. Lwalaba then

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handed over to Mr. Abisha Mapendembe (CABES, UNEP-WCMC) for a recap of the previous day's sessions and the introduction of the day's first presentation.

The first presentation, titled ***“Developing National Multi-Stakeholder BES Platforms: Key Milestones, Challenges, and Opportunities,”*** provided an overview of the various entry points for implementing national biodiversity platforms. Following this, participants were invited to engage in the four working groups established on the first day. The focus of the group work was ***“Opportunities for Using National Platforms to Strengthen the Science-Policy-Practice Interface (SPPI) in Africa and Contribution to IPBES Activities.”***

Each group presented its findings in a plenary session, contributing valuable insights to the ongoing discussions.

Summary of the Morning Sessions (Second Day)

After the coffee break, Dr. Jennifer Hauck (CABES, CoKnow) delivered the second presentation of the day on the ***CABES Capacity Development Programme for Professionals***. She introduced the program and the online portal (*elearning.cabes.online*), providing a demonstration of the registration process. Dr. Hauck also presented the upcoming training modules and conducted a survey to gauge participants' expectations for the courses. Additionally, she highlighted the flexibility of the program, allowing participants to complete the courses at their own pace.

The third presentation, delivered by Mr. Gladman Chibememe (National Focal Point on Traditional Knowledge in Zimbabwe, CBD), focused on ***Integrating Indigenous and Local Knowledge Holders into Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES) Policies***. Mr. Chibememe emphasized the critical role of traditional knowledge held by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in advancing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and in shaping national platforms.



Figure 10. Some photos of the first session and group work on the second day.

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The final presentation of the morning addressed **Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces (SPPI): A Regional Network in Support of National Biodiversity Strategies**. Dr. Sie Sylvestre Da (CABES, WASCAL) introduced the objectives of the regional and sub-regional networks, detailing progress made since the launch of the CABES project in 2022. He also invited participants to join various WhatsApp groups established for information sharing and ongoing discussions.



Figure 11. Illustration of presentations 2 - 4 from day 2.

2.3.2. Afternoon session

The afternoon sessions commenced with a presentation on **"Integrating Gender Considerations into Biodiversity: Opportunities and Challenges"** by Dr. Isimemen Osemwegie (CABES, ZEF - University of Bonn). Dr. Osemwegie introduced key concepts related to gender issues, examining the challenges of integrating gender considerations in biodiversity policies, particularly within the context of several African countries.

Following her presentation, Mr. Patrick Mukanga (Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres - CTA/Gender Expert, Green Livelihoods Alliance Programme, DRC) presented a case study on the integration of gender, as well as Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK), into biodiversity policies. His presentation complemented Dr. Osemwegie's insights, emphasizing the practical challenges encountered in implementing gender-sensitive approaches.

The two presentations were followed by a vibrant discussion among participants, which included an interactive survey conducted via Mentimeter. The survey focused on the question: *"What is the best way to account for ILK and gender considerations in national contexts and*

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research?" Participants were able to view the survey results in real-time, providing valuable insights into the collective perspectives of the group.



Figure 12. Illustration of presentations 5 and 6 in the afternoon of day 2.

Workshop Evaluation and Closing Remarks

Before the closing ceremony, participants were introduced to the IKI complaint mechanism (see <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/about-iki/values-responsibility/independent-complaint-mechanism/>), and took part in a workshop evaluation exercise, moderated by Ms. Sarah Verleysdonk (CABES, ZEF - University of Bonn). The survey results indicated that participants were generally satisfied with the organization and structure of the workshop.

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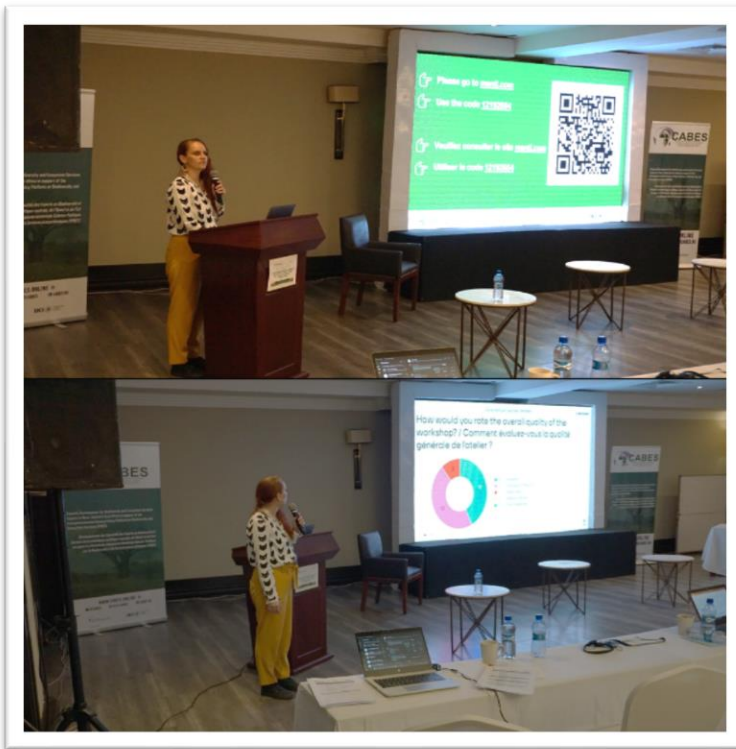


Figure 13. Illustration of the workshop evaluation session.

2.3.3. The closing ceremony

The closing ceremony unfolded in three stages: the reading of the final communiqué, the awarding of certificates, and the closing remarks. The communiqué (Appendix 3) was read alternately in English and French by Mr. Eben Esser Nowaseb, representative of the IPBES Focal Point for Namibia, and Dr. Agnes Kouamé, Focal Point for Côte d'Ivoire.

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Figure 14. Reading of the final communiqué.

During the ceremony, certificates were symbolically awarded to six participants, comprising three women and three men. Other participants were invited to collect their certificates immediately following the event.



Figure 15. Illustration of the presentation of certificates.

Closing Speeches

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Following the certificate presentation, Prof. Mylor Ngoy Shutcha expressed his gratitude to the participants, the local organizing committee, and the entire CABES team for the success of the event. Next, Dr. Jan Henning Sommer, speaking on behalf of CABES, took the floor. He reiterated his appreciation to all stakeholders involved in the workshop and thanked the participants for their active engagement and the warm hospitality extended in Lubumbashi. Ms. Amarys Preus, representing IPBES, followed with her remarks. She expressed her thanks to the CABES project for including IPBES in the event, praised the participants' involvement, and acknowledged the hospitality shown throughout the workshop. Finally, Mr. Daniel Mukubi Kikuni delivered the closing remarks. He highlighted the DRC's interest in the discussions held during the workshop, thanked CABES, IKI, and IPBES for their contributions, and wished all participants a safe journey home.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the DRC national anthem.



Figure 16. Illustration of the closing speeches.

3. Lessons learned and recommendations from the Lubumbashi workshop

Recommendations from the Lubumbashi Workshop

The recommendations provided by stakeholders at the Lubumbashi workshop are primarily outlined in the communiqué (Appendix 3) of this report. The workshop facilitated engaging discussions on the topics covered, helping to clarify certain concepts for an audience that included several representatives from focal points and individuals working closely with national IPBES or CBD focal points. Based on the insights gained from this workshop, the following recommendations are made to enhance CABES' activities, particularly to the organization of future workshops:



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1. **Timing of Future Workshops:** Although the Lubumbashi workshop provided an opportunity for discussions with many new participants, it was noted that several key focal points were unable to attend due to the upcoming 16th Conference of the Parties to the CBD. It is recommended that future workshop dates be better coordinated with other international events to maximize participation from focal points and key stakeholders.
2. **Improved Translation Services:** Given the concerns raised regarding translation quality, it is advised to more carefully evaluate the interpreters' ability to provide accurate simultaneous translation, not just their proficiency in English or French. This will ensure a smoother communication process during future bilingual events.



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Appendices

Appendix 1. Workshop program

"Development of multi-stakeholder platforms on biodiversity: Increasing contributions to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and IPBES activities"

Lubumbashi, D.R. Congo, 10-11 October 2024

Hours (GMT + 2)	Activities	Presenter/Responsible
Day 1: 10 October 2024		
8.30 - 9.00	Arrival and registration of participants	University of Lubumbashi (UNILU) - CABES
9.00 - 9.40	Welcome and official speeches	Rector of UNILU
		Dr. Matthias Schröter-Vinke (International Climate Initiative; IKI)
		Dr. Jan Henning Sommer (ZEF, University of Bonn)
		H.E. the German Ambassador to the DRC
	Opening remarks	H.E. The Minister of State for the Environment and Sustainable Development of the DRC
9.40 - 10.00	Ice breaker	Dr. Jennifer Hauck (CoKnow Consulting; Germany)
10.00 - 10.15	Biodiversity and ecosystem services in Central Africa: status and trends	Prof. Mylor Ngoy Shutcha
10.15 - 10.30	IPBES work programme and the role of national platforms	IPBES Secretariat
10.30 - 10.45	Capacity building for biodiversity and ecosystem services: CABES	Dr Henning Sommer/Dr Isimemen Osemwegie

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Hours (GMT + 2)	Activities	Presenter/Responsible
	work programme and progress report	
10.45 - 11.30	Family photo and coffee break	UNILU; Catering service
11.30 - 12.30	Panel > Biodiversity and ecosystem services in Central Africa: Are existing policies relevant?	Panelists
12.30 - 13.00	Q&A	Lead moderator
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch break	Catering service
14.30 - 14.50	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the role of IPBES assessments in the review process to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)	Dr. Jillian Campbell (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity)
14.50 - 15.10	The potential contribution of IPBES products to national biodiversity strategies	Mr Abisha Mapendembe (UNEP-WCMC)
15.10 - 15.30	Q&A	Lead moderator
15.30 - 16.15	Group discussions > Use of IPBES products in the respective countries	French-speaking participants
		English-speaking participants
16.15 - 16.45	Coffee break	UNILU - CABES
16.45 - 17.05	Plenary group reports	Group rapporteurs
17.05 - 17.15	Press releases and end of Day 1	
Day 2: 11 October 2024		
9.00 - 9.15	Summary of Day 1 and presentation of the programme for Day 2	Lead moderator
9.15 - 9.30	Science-Policy-Practice Interface (SPPI): Potential contribution to policy (case studies)	CABES
9.30- 9.45	Integrating local and Indigenous knowledge into policies on biodiversity and ecosystem services	CABES

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Hours (GMT + 2)	Activities	Presenter/Responsible
9.45 - 10.00	Integrating gender considerations into biodiversity management: opportunities and challenges	Dr. Isimemen Osemwegie (ZEF, University of Bonn)
10.00 - 10.20	Q&A	Lead moderator
10.20 - 10.50	Group discussions > Identification of obstacles and opportunities for ISSPs in Africa	French-speaking participants
		English-speaking participants
10.40 - 11.10	Coffee break	
11.10 - 11.30	Plenary group reports	Group rapporteurs
11.30 - 11.45	CABES Professional Capacity Development Programme	Dr. Jennifer Hauck
11.45 - 12.00	SPIBES Masters programme	Prof. N'Golo Koné
12.00 - 12.30	Q&A	Lead moderator
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 - 14.30	Development of national multi-stakeholder platforms for BES: key milestones, challenges and opportunities	Mr Abisha Mapemdembe/Mrs Justine Lancelin
14.30 - 14.40	A regional network to support national initiatives	Dr Sylvestre Da
14.40 - 14.50	Q&A	UNILU - CABES
14.50 - 15.35	Strategies for using national platforms to improve IPBES in Africa and contribute to IPBES activities	French-speaking participants
		English-speaking participants
15.35 - 15.45	Survey	Sarah Verleysdonk (ZEF, University of Bonn)
15.45 - 16.05	Plenary group reports	Group rapporteurs
16.05 - 16.30	Reading of the communiqué and closure of the workshop	
16.30	Cocktail	

Appendix 2. List of participants

N°	Names	Institution	Country of origin
1	Dion Elzéar	Ministry of the Environment	Central African Republic
2	Ahmat Abaya Abdramane	Minister for the Environment	Chad
3	Jean Joël Loumeto	Marien Ngouabi University	Republic of Congo
4	Daniel Mukubi Kikuni	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development/DRC	DRC
5	Araceli Ndoho Miko Nchama	Ministry of Forests and the Environment	Equatorial Guinea
6	Jacques Mouloungou	Institute of Agronomic and Forest Research (IRAF) Libreville/Gabon	Gabon
7	Mwayi Mkanthama	Environmental Affairs Department	Malawi
8	Bazel Nyamadzawo	Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Wildlife	Zimbabwe
9	Loyapin Bondé	Joseph KI-ZERBO University	Burkina Faso
10	Lemma Misikire Tessema	Ethiopian biodiversity	Ethiopia
11	Kouamé Amenan Agnès	Ministry of the Environment and Development COTE D'IVOIRE	Côte d'Ivoire
12	Alfred Tejan Jondie	Environmental Protection Agency Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
13	Mohamed Alass Sylla	Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development / CNSOLE	Republic of Guinea
14	Eben Esser Nowaseb	Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism	Namibia
15	Edo Lulakako	JUREC	DRC
16	Alex Mwenelwata Kapupu	ANAPAC	DRC
17	Mahlodi Tau	SANBI	South Africa



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18	Bwase Mukanga Patrick	CTA	DRC
19	Edson Gandiwa	ZIMPARKS	Zimbabwe
20	Gladman Chibememe	CHIEMA, (Kinhoy University of Technology)	Zimbabwe
21	Dongang Ceraphine Mangwa	Voice of Nature (VONAT)	Cameroon
22	Vincent de Paul Moudi	Forêt Développement (NGO)	Gabon
23	Maximilliano Fero Mene	National University of Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinea
24	Elisée Mbayngone	University of N'Djamena, Chad	Chad
25	Subbaiya Ramasamy	The University of Copperbelt	Zambia
26	Preuss Amarys	IPBES	France
27	Antoine Kanyenga Lubobo	UNILU/FSA	DRC
28	Bakari Amuri	UNILU/FSA	DRC
29	Odilon Batende	Congolese Environment Agency	DRC
30	Kalenga Kalle Joseph	Provincial Agriculture Inspectorate	DRC
31	Mymy Kabandongo	Agence Congolaise de Pesse/KATANGA	DRC
32	Munyemba Kankumbi	UNILU/FSA/OFCC	DRC
33	Hyacinthe Ilunga	Shalom TV/Press	DRC
34	Laurene Ilunga	Shalom TV/Press	DRC
35	Mujinya Bazirake Basile	UNILU/FSA and GRE	DRC
36	Emmanuel BULUNU	Mining Division	DRC
37	Nyembo Kimuni Luciens	UNILU/FSA/ESI	DRC
38	Fabrice Mambwe	USAID/ FABS	DRC
39	Jonathan Muledi	UNILU/FSA	DRC
40	Christophe Sefu	MMG Kinsevere	DRC



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41	Michel Mpundu	UNILU/FSA	DRC
42	Pierre Makolo Kasongo	UNILU/FSA	DRC
43	Lilas Nyota	UNILU/PRESS	DRC
44	Francisco Kaisayi	Mining Division	DRC
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50	Katemo Manda Bauchet	UNILU/FSA/EPA	DRC
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Appendix 3. Workshop Communiqué

“Development of Multi-stakeholder Biodiversity Platforms: increasing contributions to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) and IPBES activities”

10th - 11th October 2024 in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

COMMUNIQUE

The first CABES Central Africa Regional Workshop on “Development of Multi-stakeholder Biodiversity Platforms: Increasing Contributions to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) and IPBES activities” took place in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo, 10–11 October 2024. The workshop was attended by 84 experts from 24 countries, including representatives from IPBES bodies, IPBES national focal points, researchers, and NGOs, as well as representatives of Indigenous peoples, local communities, policymakers, and the private sector.

The workshop was conducted in a participatory manner, incorporating several plenary sessions, breakout group discussions, interactive panels, and presentations. It addressed critical issues, and we, the participants, have considered the following key points for national policy review processes and the uptake of IPBES knowledge assessment products:

1. ROLE OF CABES IN SUPPORTING NETWORKING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AMONGST MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS IN AFRICA

The participants expressed their appreciation for the CABES initiative and its objectives, particularly in fostering networking and engagement with IPBES through capacity development across multiple stakeholder groups in West, Central, and East Africa. This initiative facilitates vital knowledge transfer regarding IPBES and promotes collaboration aimed at advancing biodiversity-friendly policies across the continent. Furthermore, participants welcomed the emphasis on integrating gender equity and justice, as well as the perspectives of Indigenous peoples and local communities into the CABES framework. CABES can enhance its inclusivity and effectiveness by actively incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise. This approach not only enriches discussions but also ensures that the solutions developed are more equitable and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders involved, ultimately strengthening our collective efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.



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2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PLATFORMS FOR BETTER COLLABORATION AMONG THE SCIENCE, POLICY AND PRIVATE SECTOR

The participants engaged in a productive discussion on the opportunities and challenges associated with establishing national platforms to enhance functional Science-Policy-Practice interfaces. Emphasizing inclusivity, participants stressed that national platforms should encompass all relevant stakeholder groups, ensuring that their diverse interests are addressed and that areas for collaboration are identified to meet the needs of all parties involved. Furthermore, participants highlighted the importance of effective communication, noting the necessity of using appropriate language to facilitate understanding and collaboration. They also emphasized the need to ensure that power dynamics do not hinder equitable stakeholder exchanges. A key takeaway was the critical need to integrate relevant IPBES findings into reviewing and updating the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other national policies. Lastly, participants called for adequate funding and comprehensive support from their governments to strengthen networking activities, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of these collaborative efforts.

3. ROLE OF THE CABES REGIONAL & SUB-REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES EXPERT PLATFORMS

The participants underscored the importance of the CABES sub-regional and regional platforms in facilitating the exchange of experiences and lessons learned from various national contexts among platform members. This collaboration is vital for effectively integrating IPBES products into national policies and for collecting and sharing perspectives from the sub-regions to enhance engagement in IPBES processes. In particular, the platforms contribute to better preparing delegates for IPBES plenaries and to general engagement in IPBES, including the process of producing IPBES assessments and other related activities. Participants emphasized the value of the platform's activities, especially the annual in-person workshops and online training sessions, which create a supportive environment for members from different countries to share insights, best practices, and lessons learned. This fosters mutual support and strengthens collective efforts in managing biodiversity and ecosystem services.

4. RELEVANCE OF TRAINING OF EARLY CAREER YOUNG SCIENTISTS THROUGH THE MASTER'S PROGRAM ON SCIENCE-POLICY-PRACTICE INTERFACES FOR BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - SPIBES

The participants expressed great appreciation for the CABES Master's program, SPIBES, noting with enthusiasm that the inaugural cohort at the University of Lubumbashi has begun their studies, comprising 13 students from 10 different countries across Central Africa and beyond. This program provides an excellent opportunity for capacity building and fosters meaningful exchanges between students and stakeholders from the represented nations, while also



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promoting greater engagement with IPBES. In the future, it would be desirable to provide this opportunity to a greater number of students per country. Participants emphasized their strong support for the program and underscored the importance of making it as inclusive as possible, ensuring that a diverse range of voices and perspectives contribute to its success.

5. RELEVANCE OF THE CABES CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - CCDP FOR PROFESSIONALS

Participants expressed their enthusiasm for the successful operation of the CABES Capacity Development Program (CCDP) for professionals, recognizing it as a vital tool for enhancing knowledge on issues pertinent to IPBES and Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces. The program offers targeted courses for all CABES target groups and beyond, based on regular needs assessments, fostering deeper engagement with IPBES and facilitating the effective integration of its products at both national and sub-regional levels. This initiative promises to significantly strengthen the capacity of professionals in the field, ultimately advancing our collective efforts in biodiversity and ecosystem management through its online and self-paced courses.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Participants would like to extend their gratitude to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Consumer Protection (BMUV) for its keen interest in the region and its support for CABES. We also thank the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for their invaluable assistance in facilitating this workshop and advancing its objectives. Our commitment to the goals of CABES remains strong, and we appreciate the efforts of the organizers of the CABES Central Africa Regional Workshop in providing excellent facilities and a collaborative working environment. Additionally, we sincerely thank the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the University of Lubumbashi for their generous hospitality in hosting this event.

Lubumbashi, October 11, 2024

The Participants