

CABES/RESPIN WEST AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP
ON
“TOWARDS INTEGRATED POLICIES: *LEVERAGING IPBES & IPCC OUTCOMES TO ALIGN*
***BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTIONS*”**

REPORT



December 3 – 5, 2025

Lomé, Togo

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CABES/RESPIN West Africa Sub-Regional Workshop, held from 3-5 December 2025, in Lomé, Togo, under the theme "*Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC Outcomes to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions*", brought together over 100 stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers, IPBES and IPCC national focal points, NGO representatives, practitioners, and SPIBES master's students from West African countries.

Key objectives and outcomes

- **Day 1:** examined the interconnections between IPBES and the IPCC, highlighting key knowledge gaps (such as the lower visibility of IPBES compared to the IPCC), barriers to collaboration (including institutional silos and funding biases), and areas of mutual benefit—particularly how IPBES’s interdisciplinary approaches can strengthen IPCC communication.
- **Day 2:** focused on plenary introductions to recent IPBES assessments (Transformative Change and Nexus Assessments) and IPCC reports, alongside success stories, NBSAP clinics, and poster sessions. During the poster sessions, 11 CABES students presented their research and received targeted methodological and policy-oriented feedback.
- **Day 3:** identified **existing opportunities** for alignment (policy integration in NBSAPs/NDCs, synergies via IPBES/IPCC, funding from GCF/GEF, capacity building) and **next steps** (regular intersectoral meetings, IPBES engagement, accessible communication, integrated projects e.g., IKI proposals from Togo) with country commitments (Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Gambia).

Main Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges include sectoral silos, policy fragmentation, limited uptake of IPBES outputs, and intersectoral coordination gaps. Recommendations emphasize joint platforms, simplified messaging, resource mobilization (CDKN/IKI), and NBSAP revisions integrating climate transforming commitments into measurable actions for sustainable development.

The workshop fostered networks, sensitized participants on synergies, and produced a final communiqué urging cross-community dialogue. It underscores CABES/RESPIN's role in bridging science-policy-practice for resilient ecosystems in West Africa.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF FIGURES	iv
I. BACKGROUND	1
I.1. The objectives of the workshop	3
I.2. Expected results of the Workshop:	3
II. DAY1: UNDERSTANDING IPBES AND IPCC AS SCIENCE POLICY PRACTICE INTERFACES (SPPIS) - WHY DO SYNERGIES MATTER?	5
INTRODUCTION	5
II.1. Knowledge gaps regarding IPBES and the IPCC	5
II.2. Limits to collaboration between the climate and biodiversity communities	5
II.3. Mutual contributions between IPBES and the IPCC	6
III. DAY2: FACILITATING THE UPTAKE OF IPBES AND IPCC OUTCOMES – HOW ARE SYNERGIES BEING IMPLEMENTED?.....	7
INTRODUCTION	8
III.1. Poster’s presentation by CABES Master Program students.....	8
III.1.1. Poster’s presentation student from Benin	8
III.1.2. Poster’s presentation student from Burkina Faso	8
III.1.3. Poster’s presentation student from Côte d’Ivoire	10
III.1.4. Poster’s presentation student from Ghana	11
III.1.5. Poster’s presentation student from Guinea	12
III.1.6. Poster’s presentation student from Liberia	13
III.1.7. Poster’s presentation student from Mali	14
III.1.9. Poster’s presentation student from Senegal	16
III.1.10. Poster’s presentation student from The Gambia	17
III.1.11. Poster’s presentation student from Togo	18
IV. DAY3: LEVERAGING IPBES AND IPCC OUTCOMES TO ALIGN BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTIONS - WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?	20
INTRODUCTION	24
IV.1. Existing Opportunities to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions.....	20
V. ANNEX 1: FINAL COMMUNIQUE.....	a
VI. ANNEX 2: BREAKOUT ROOMS SESSIONS QUESTIONS OF DAYS 1&2	e
VII. ANNEX 3: TERMES OF REFERENCES AND THE AGENDA OF THE WORKS.....	f
VIII. ANNEX 4: WORKSHOP PICTURES	o

I. BACKGROUND

As the global environmental crisis deepens, the intertwined challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss are increasingly recognized as interconnected, since both are driven by human activities that disrupt natural systems, leading to unprecedented changes in ecosystems, species distributions, and climate patterns. Biodiversity underpins ecosystem functions and services that regulate the climate, including carbon sequestration, water cycling, and temperature regulation. Conversely, climate change impacts biodiversity by altering habitats, shifting species ranges, and exacerbating threats such as invasive species and diseases.

In response to these challenges, the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES)¹, an independent intergovernmental body, was established to strengthen the link between scientific knowledge and policy decisions related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Its core mission is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, which contributes to long-term human well-being and helps achieve the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). IPBES carries out this mission through four key functions:

- **Assessing knowledge:** evaluating the current state of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- **Building capacity:** helping countries and regions strengthen their ability to use and contribute to IPBES's work.
- **Strengthening knowledge foundations:** identifying and addressing gaps in our understanding of biodiversity.
- **Supporting policy:** providing policymakers with the information and tools they need to make informed decisions.

IPBES has produced a dozen major assessments since its creation in 2012². These assessments cover a wide range of topics, including invasive alien species, land degradation, and the sustainable use of wild species, with focus on specific regions like Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Its most recent reports: the "**Transformative Change Assessment**"³, examine the root causes of biodiversity loss and outlines potential pathways to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, and the "**Nexus Assessment**"⁴ addressing the interlinkages among climate, biodiversity, water, food and health.

¹ <https://www.ipbes.net/>

² <https://www.ipbes.net/assessing-knowledge>

³ <https://www.ipbes.net/transformative-change-assessment>

⁴ <https://www.ipbes.net/nexus-assessment>

The work of IPBES is a collaborative effort involving a diverse group of stakeholders, including scientists, government representatives, NGOs, private sector professionals, youths and Indigenous and Local Knowledge holders.

The *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC)⁵, an international body founded in 1988 by the *World Meteorological Organization* (WMO) and the *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP), is mandated to provide governments at all levels with scientific information to support the development of climate policies. The IPCC plays a central role in international climate change negotiations by assessing and synthesizing findings from thousands of scientific studies rather than conducting original research. Its reports are policy-relevant, providing decision-makers with objective, comprehensive, and consensus-based knowledge on the physical science of climate change, its impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The IPCC also develops standardized methodologies for national greenhouse gas inventories, supporting countries in measuring and reporting emissions. Its work undergoes extensive expert and government reviews to ensure transparency and rigor. The most significant outputs are the *Assessment Reports* (ARs)⁶, published every five to seven years, which serve as critical references in global negotiations. In addition, the IPCC publishes *Special Reports* on targeted issues, *Methodology Reports*, and *Technical Papers* to address specific scientific and policy needs.

At regional scales, to support the work of, and strengthen the uptake of IPBES and IPCC assessment findings, two key initiatives were launched: the *Capacity Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts across Africa* (CABES, www.cabes.online) in 2022, and the *REinforcing Science-Policy INterfaces* for integrated biodiversity and climate knowledge and policies (RESPIN, respin-project.eu), which supports the uptake of IPBES and IPCC knowledge and fosters stronger links between science and policy at multiple levels. Together, these initiatives aim to advance integrated biodiversity and climate knowledge for informed decision-making.

Recognizing that biodiversity loss and climate change are twin challenges, deeply interconnected in ways that pose complex challenges to effective policy-making and action, these global science-policy interfaces, IPBES and IPCC organized an IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop, spotlighting the Interactions of the Science of Biodiversity and Climate Change in 2020⁷. Recent assessments by IPBES and the IPCC stress that treating biodiversity loss and climate change in isolation undermines effective solutions. They call for integrated, cross-sectoral policies that maximize synergies, reduce trade-offs, and strengthen human well-being, food security, water availability, and disaster resilience. However, collaboration between biodiversity and climate

⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

⁶ <https://www.ipcc.ch/synthesis-report/>

⁷ <https://www.ipbes.net/ipbes-ipcc-cosponsored-workshop-media-release>

communities particularly among National Focal Points remains limited, highlighting the urgent need for stronger coordination mechanisms. To address this gap, CABES, in collaboration with RESPIN, is organizing a regional workshop on “*Towards integrated policies: leveraging IPBES & IPCC outcomes to align biodiversity and climate actions*”, bringing together experts to identify synergies, trade-offs, and integrated solutions to these dual crises. The discussion will also examine barriers to national-level collaboration and the uptake of IPBES and IPCC assessment findings, as well as explore effective modalities for cross-sectoral cooperation.

I.1. The objectives of the workshop

The overarching objective of the workshop is to promote policy coherence and integration between climate and biodiversity actions by leveraging on the knowledge products of IPBES and the IPCC. More specifically, the workshop seeks to:

- **To explore** and clarify the complex interactions between biodiversity loss and climate change, emphasizing the urgent need for integrated policy responses
- **Share and analyse recent outcomes** and key messages from IPBES and IPCC assessments to inform integrated policy responses.
- **Facilitate dialogue** and collaboration between IPBES and IPCC communities, including National Focal Points to enhance coordination and knowledge exchange at the national level
- **Identify synergies**, complementarities, and trade-offs in biodiversity and climate policies, to support coherent and mutually beneficial strategies.
- **Support capacity-building** for stakeholders to promote co-production, knowledge transfer, and multi-sectoral collaboration necessary for effective policy design and implementation

I.2. Expected results of the Workshop:

These include:

- ✓ A shared understanding of the interconnections between biodiversity loss and climate change, reinforcing the urgency of integrated policy responses.
- ✓ Synthesized key messages from recent IPBES and IPCC assessments made accessible to policymakers and stakeholders to guide decision-making.
- ✓ Strengthened collaboration mechanisms between IPBES and IPCC communities, including National Focal Points, fostering improved coordination and knowledge exchange at national and regional levels.
- ✓ A mapping of synergies, complementarities, and trade-offs in biodiversity and climate policies to inform coherent and mutually beneficial strategies.

- ✓ Enhanced capacities of stakeholders for co-production of knowledge, effective knowledge transfer, and multi-sectoral collaboration in policy development and implementation.

II. DAY1: UNDERSTANDING IPBES AND IPCC AS SCIENCE POLICY PRACTICE INTERFACES (SPPIS) - WHY DO SYNERGIES MATTER?

The first day of the CABES/RESPIN regional workshop, held on December 3, 2025, in Lomé, Togo, brought together experts, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and young scientists from West Africa, Central Africa, and other regions. Under the theme "Towards integrated policies: leveraging IPBES and IPCC findings to align biodiversity and climate actions," the day aimed to strengthen the science-policy interface in a context marked by the simultaneous worsening of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The specific objectives of this first day were to: (i) improve understanding of the processes, mandates, and outputs of IPBES and the IPCC, (ii) identify gaps and barriers to collaboration between the climate and biodiversity communities, (iii) promote dialogue between different stakeholders (public institutions, academia, civil society, and youth), and (iv) co-develop courses of action for better integration of climate-biodiversity policies at the national and regional levels. Following high-level introductory presentations on IPBES and the IPCC, participants were divided into working groups (English-speaking and French-speaking) to discuss three common guiding questions. This report provides an integrated summary of the discussions held by all of these groups.

II.1. Knowledge gaps regarding IPBES and the IPCC

Discussions highlighted significant gaps in knowledge and understanding of the work of IPBES and the IPCC. While IPCC reports are widely known, disseminated, and used, particularly in national reporting processes, IPBES reports remain relatively invisible and insufficiently understood by many stakeholders. Several shortcomings were identified, including: limited knowledge of the mandates, reporting cycles, and operating mechanisms of the two platforms; the absence of structured national frameworks for translating scientific findings into operational public policies; the difficulty of accessing and understanding IPBES documents, which are often considered too technical; and a lack of effective communication with decision-makers, practitioners, and local communities. In addition, participants highlighted the poor integration of biodiversity data into climate models, despite its importance for assessing carbon stocks, ecosystem resilience, and ecosystem services. For several participants, this day was their first real immersion in the IPBES processes, revealing an urgent need for capacity building, particularly in African countries.

II.2. Limits to collaboration between the climate and biodiversity communities

Discussions also showed that collaboration between the IPCC and IPBES communities remains very limited. This situation can be explained in large part by institutional fragmentation, as the two platforms are linked to separate conventions (UNFCCC for the IPCC and CBD for IPBES), with often compartmentalized governance frameworks and priorities. Added to this are the lack of formal coordination mechanisms, the persistence of isolated sectoral policies, funding inequalities that largely favor climate-

related activities, and a lack of political will to truly integrate the two agendas. Participants also noted a lack of technical and institutional capacity to use scientific findings in national planning, as well as low public awareness, limiting social demand for integrated policies. It was noted that even within ministries, teams responsible for climate and those responsible for biodiversity rarely interact, reinforcing siloed approaches and hindering concerted action.

II.3. Mutual contributions between IPBES and the IPCC

Despite these constraints, participants highlighted the strong potential for complementarity between IPBES and the IPCC. The IPCC could draw inspiration from IPBES to better integrate indigenous and local knowledge, adopt more interdisciplinary approaches, and strengthen the links between climate, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being. Conversely, IPBES could benefit from the IPCC's experience in communication, political visibility, and public engagement, particularly through clear messages and flagship objectives. Participants also recommended the development of joint assessments, harmonized databases, and common capacity-building programs, as well as the establishment of dialogue platforms involving IPBES, the IPCC, and the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

In conclusion, the first day of the CABES/RESPIN workshop highlighted a clear consensus: although IPBES and the IPCC pursue converging global objectives, their actions remain insufficiently connected, particularly in African national contexts. Participants expressed a strong need for increased collaboration, improved communication, capacity building, and effective integration of climate and biodiversity issues into public policy. The day's proceedings demonstrated the collective commitment of participants to strengthening synergies between science, policy, and practice. They also confirmed the central role of initiatives such as CABES in building sustainable bridges between the climate and biodiversity communities, which is essential for addressing the challenges of sustainable development in West Africa and beyond.



Figure 1: Breakout room discussions between multiple stakeholders through interactive Questions and Answers sessions with participants

III. DAY 2: FACILITATING THE UPTAKE OF IPBES AND IPCC OUTCOMES – HOW ARE SYNERGIES BEING IMPLEMENTED?

The second day of the CABES/RESPIN workshop, held in Lomé, Togo, brought together diverse stakeholders from various countries. These included policymakers, consultants, scientists, IPBES and IPCC focal points, NGO members, businesses, indigenous peoples, and local communities. The session focused on **“facilitating the uptake of IPBES and IPCC outcomes”** and featured two major activities: plenaries and a World Café.

The plenaries covered: **“Introduction to the recent IPBES assessment reports: Transformative Change Assessment and Nexus Assessment,”** presented by Prof. Sebsebe D. Woodmatas, Prof. Eric Fokam, and Dr. Nadia Sitas; **“Introduction to the latest IPCC Assessment report: needs and opportunities to align biodiversity and climate actions,”** by Mr. Kouakou Bernard Dje and Moussa Waongo; **“Case success stories uptake of IPCC policy recommendations into national biodiversity strategies,”** by IPCC National Focal Points and Dr. Oblé Neya; and **“NBSAP sustainability & resource mobilization clinic,”** by Abisha Mapendembe.

The second activity focused on CABES master students’ poster presentations of their research proposals. This report centers on those student poster presentations.

III.1. Poster’s presentation by CABES Master Program students

The afternoon of second day during the world coffee, the students have presented their research proposals to the different participants. The objective of this presentation, was to have feedback from the different participant in the way to improve their research. Following the take away of the students during the presentation.

III.1.1. Poster’s presentation student from Benin

The student from Benin, **Serge DOSSOU** presented his proposal on the topic “**assessing local management practices for water quality conservation and fish management in Lake Togbadji, Benin**”. His take away from his presentation:

“At the CABES/RESPIN regional conference in Lomé, Togo entitled *"Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES and IPCC outcomes to align Biodiversity and Climate actions"* I presented my poster on assessing local management practices for water quality conservation and fish management in Lake Togbadji, Benin. The event convened researchers, international experts, ministry representatives, and IPBES focal points, yielding rich methodological and strategic feedback to refine and promote my study.

Participants praised the topic's relevance, highlighting its alignment with IPBES's science–policy–practice interface via coherent objectives on local knowledge, water quality, fishing practices, and national policies vital for complex lake socio-ecosystems like Togbadji.

Methodological suggestions emphasized inclusivity: survey women fish processors/traders for their fisheries value chain expertise (fish stocks, conservation, markets) to avoid bias; include fish wholesalers from other regions who drive fishing pressure, demand, and prices for fuller economic insights.

Experts also recommended enhancing spatial analysis through participatory mapping of current/historical fishing zones, mortality/pollution areas, and sacred sites to visualize transformations, contextualize knowledge, and sharpen management recommendations. IPBES focal points (Benin/Senegal) encouraged presenting results to *Benin's Ministry of the Environment* to address the lake's absent management plan and inform integrated policies. This feedback—affirming relevance, IPBES fit, methodological needs, and policy potential—strengthens my work for community and decision-maker impact”.

III.1.2. Poster’s presentation student from Burkina Faso

The student from Burkina Faso, **Mitien GNOUNOU** presented his proposal on the topic "**Ecological and social importance of woody plant species affected by artisanal gold mining in the Total Wildlife Reserve of Bontioli, Djôrô region, Burkina Faso**". The take away from his presentation:

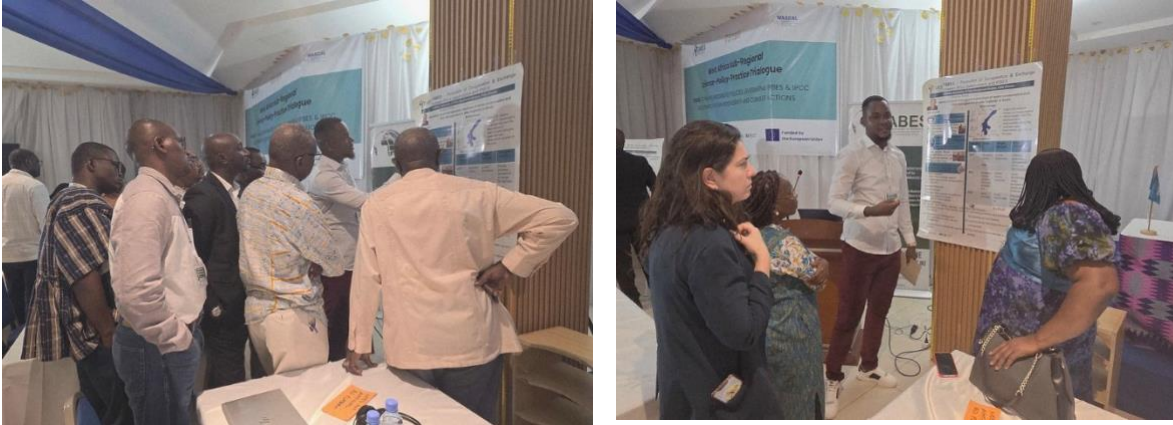


Figure 2: Poster's presentation student from Benin

“The CABES and RESPIN projects hosted a workshop from December 3–5, 2025, in Lomé, Togo, themed *"Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC Outcomes to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions."* CABES master's students, including myself (Mitien Gnomou), presented final research projects via posters to participants from African and European countries. I presented on *"Ecological and social importance of woody plant species affected by artisanal gold mining in the Total Wildlife Reserve of Bontioli, Djôrô region, Burkina Faso"*, explaining the theme in French and English to facilitate rich discussions on rationale, questions, objectives, methodology, and policy links.

Feedback centered on refining the theme and objectives. Dr. Henning Sommer (Germany) and Mr. Ibrahim Kamara suggested tweaking the title to *"Ecological and socio-economic importance..."* to better assess socio-economic roles of woody species and mining's community impacts/perceptions. Dr. Bondé (Burkina Faso) recommended a deeper review of the mining code for improvements to artisanal practices.

Mr. Ibrahim Kamara and Dr. Pagny (Côte d'Ivoire) proposed reformulating specific objective 2 from *"Assess the floristic diversity under artisanal gold mining activities..."* to *"Evaluate how artisanal mining affects*



Figure 3: Poster's presentation student from Burkina Faso

woody plant diversity and local livelihoods", avoiding direct degraded/non-degraded comparisons and enabling analysis of biodiversity loss, community effects, and diversity indices.

Dr. Paul Kazaba (DRC) advised linking keywords (artisanal gold mining, biodiversity, local communities) to highlight policy dimensions. All suggestions garnered broad support from attendees.

Overall, the poster sessions offered invaluable multi-perspective insights, enriching our research approaches”.

III.1.3. Poster’s presentation student from Côte d’Ivoire

The student from Côte d’Ivoire, Oumar TRAORE presented his proposal. The take away from his presentation:

“RESPIN workshop (December 3–5, 2025), themed *“Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC Outcomes to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions.”* The event gathered diverse experts and stakeholders to advance planetary protection and enhance IPCC–IPBES collaboration. My work measures PM2.5 concentrations, assesses their respiratory health impacts, and aims to inform air quality policies through prevention and awareness.

The interactive session yielded encouraging feedback and practical suggestions to bolster the project's scientific and policy scope. Key recommendations included: using GIS for pollutant dispersion mapping; adding a comparative reference site; integrating parameters influencing pollution; reformulating hypotheses as expected results; implementing grid-based multi-site sampling; strengthening policy links to national/regional/international frameworks (e.g., SDGs); and replacing “**indigenous community**” with “**local community**” in the title.



Figure 4: Poster’s presentation student from Côte d’Ivoire

I plan to incorporate these valuable inputs where feasible, despite time and budget constraints. The workshop proved a rich learning experience, deepening my grasp of biodiversity, climate science, and policy interfaces, while boosting my confidence and commitment to project success.

I sincerely thank the CABES–RESPIN organizers for the presentation opportunity, and the facilitators and participants for their insightful discussions and constructive feedback, which enriched my experience and advanced my work”.

III.1.4. Poster’s presentation student from Ghana

The student from **Ghana, Patience ADUBOFOUR** presented her proposal on the topic “**Exploring the Etiology and Management Strategies of Cashew Powdery Mildew Disease (CPMD) in Nkoranza, Ghana**”. The take away from her presentation:

“The CABES–RESPIN West Africa sub-regional science-policy-practice dialogue (3–5 December 2025, Lomé, Togo) gathered experts, policymakers, and SPIBES students. On Day 2, I presented my proposed topic: *"Exploring the Etiology and Management Strategies of Cashew Powdery Mildew Disease (CPMD) in Nkoranza, Ghana"*, receiving targeted feedback across science, practice, and policy dimensions.

Science aspect: Consider ecological conditions/timing for fieldwork; evaluate CPMD incidence/prevalence; trace disease origins (planting materials, biology, climate change); reformulate Objective 2 (*"determine farmers’ perception"*); streamline Objective 1 methodology to fit timelines.

Practice aspect: Examine farmer cultural practices promoting pathogen sporulation; use focus group discussions for robust perception data.

Policy aspect: Secure formal letters for access to MOFA/TCDA/CRIG; review national policies on general disease management (not cashew-specific), plus regional/global frameworks (e.g., IPBES); analyze TCDA/EWRRS-PD initiatives; compare with Côte d’Ivoire’s successful cashew policies for justification.

A Sierra Leone participant highlighted farmers' shift to cashew from oil palm due to agroforestry benefits, low labor, market access, and climate resilience positioning cashew as a key African cash crop for income, food security, and economies.

Overall, feedback was highly positive, urging high-quality disease-free nuts for local/export markets and using policy gap analysis (Objective 3) to inform sustainable cashew industry policies in Ghana

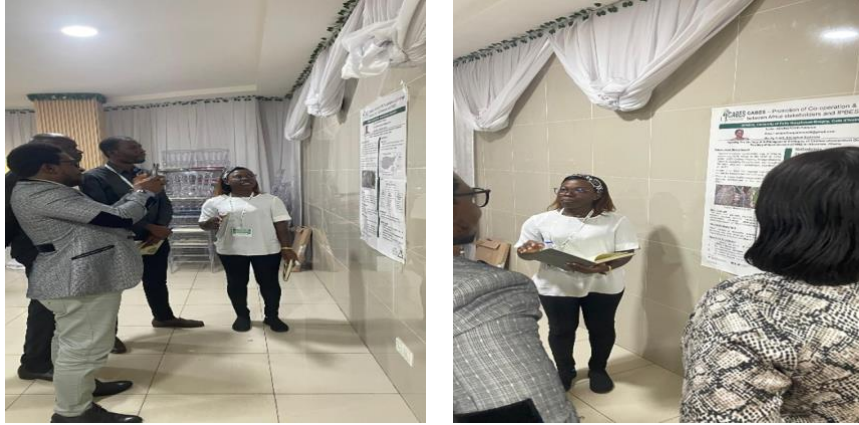


Figure 5: Poster's presentation student from Ghana

III.1.5. Poster's presentation student from Guinea

The student from **Guinea, Jeremy SANDY** presented her proposal on the topic “**Assessment of Urban Forest Management in Guinea: A Case Study of Kakimbo Forest in Conakry**”. The take away from his presentation:

From December 3–5, 2025, I participated in the CABES workshop in Lomé, Togo, presenting my research proposal on assessing urban forest management in Guinea, focusing on Kakimbo classified forest in Conakry. Day 2 interactions with African experts and practitioners yielded valuable comments to refine my design.

General feedback: Audience appreciated the problem statement's relevance to urban forest challenges elsewhere but advised narrowing the broad topic to 1–2 aspects; suggested pre-visit to the study area for firsthand data and field challenges.

Refining objectives: Align each specific objective with targeted data collection/analysis methods; focus Objective 1 on land use/land cover changes over 10–30 years to sharpen the design.

Methodological suggestions:

Stakeholder mapping: Detail actors involved; partner with local organizations to recruit urban residents for interviews, overcoming disinterest.

Policy component: For Objective 3, conduct systematic review of accessible documents like Guinean Forestry/Environment Codes, municipal plans, and Kakimbo management plans to identify policy-implementation gaps (note access issues for unpublished docs).

IPBES/SDGs integration: Incorporate IPBES assessments on urban development, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and policies; link explicitly to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) for global relevance.

The session provided excellent networking and guidance to enhance my proposal's design and impact. Thanks to participants and facilitators for their contributions”.

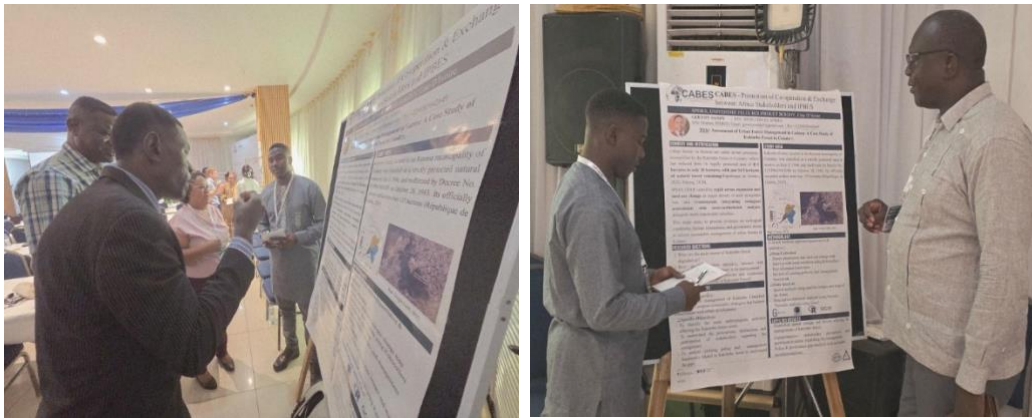


Figure 6: Poster’s presentation student from Guinea

III.1.6. Poster’s presentation student from Liberia

The student from **Liberia, Pearl-Mai Leela DUNBAR** presented her proposal on the topic: **“Assessing the Effectiveness of Sustainable Livelihood Programs (SLPs) for forest fringe Communities around Protected Areas: A case of East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) in Liberia”**. The take away from her presentation:

“The CABES workshop (Lomé, Togo, 3–5 December 2025) engaged stakeholders on the program, IPBES/IPCC, partnerships, and strategies via breakouts, roundtables, and SPIBES posters. Day 2 feedback sharpened my thesis on sustainable livelihood projects in (likely) East Nimba Nature Reserve, Liberia.

Key Comments:

- Involve communities throughout research phases; use local translators/eco-guards for data collection.
- Via KIIs (UNDP, RSPP, FDA, Conservation International, rangers): research project details (funds, timelines, partners, intents, processes, outcomes vs. community expectations).
- Structure objectives/research questions; strengthen justification/policy gap explanation.
- Develop community-specific questionnaires; probe pre-project needs assessments, skill trainings, sensitization/capacity building.
- Review IPBES gaps, Sustainable Livelihood Framework for policy structuring.
- Include transboundary livelihood activities (Côte d’Ivoire/Guinea impacting Liberia); partner with implementing org for field access/demarcation info.

Presentation Challenges: Keeping explanations brief/relevant; language barriers (non-English stakeholders) aided by assigned interpreter.



Figure 7: Poster's presentation student from Liberia

III.1.7. Poster's presentation student from Mali

The student from Mali, **Oumou SANGARE** presented her proposal on the topic “**the assessment of the environmental impact of pesticide use in rice production in the commune of Niono, Mali**”. The take away from her presentation:

“The CABES–RESPIN West Africa sub-regional science–policy–practice triologue (3–5 December 2025, Lomé, Togo), themed *"Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC Outcomes to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions,"* gathered experts, policymakers, focal points, and SPIBES students. I presented my poster on assessing environmental impacts of pesticide use in rice production in Niono commune.

Suggestions/Recommendations:

- Specify "irrigated area" in title for context.
- Conduct preliminary field survey for sampling plots.
- Prioritize water over soil analysis for cost efficiency.
- Inventory insects at sites for ecological insights.
- Develop ecological matrix (density, exposure, residues).

Add legal/risk analysis (pesticide regulations, policies, producer exposure).

Critiques/Improvements:

- Topic too ambitious/broad refocus scope.
- Replace "impact" with "effects" in theme.
- Strengthen policy dimension (regulations, institutions).

Encouragements:

- Topic highly relevant/timely for environmental protection/food security.
- Strong scientific potential with refined methodology.
- Pursue as PhD given motivation and interest.

The enriching session identified gaps for precision, feasibility, and policy relevance, motivating me through connections with pesticide experts leaving lasting memories of the workshop.”



Figure 8: Poster's presentation student from Mali

III.1.8. Poster's presentation student from Nigeria

The student from Nigeria, **Beatrice Osaruonamen IGBINOVIA** presented her proposal on the topic “**Analysis of farmers’ adaptation strategies to flooding in Ido local government area, Oyo state, Nigeria**”. The take away from her presentation:

“The CABES Regional Workshop in Lomé, Togo (December 2025) gathered stakeholders to promote CABES, IPBES/IPCC roles, and partnerships. On Day 2's World Café poster session, I presented “*Analysis of Farmers’ Adaptation Strategies to Flooding in Ido Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria,*” receiving feedback to sharpen clarity, scope, and policy relevance.

Justification/Objectives:

- Strengthen justification with local examples (e.g., cropping shifts, flood-tolerant crops, drainage/raised beds).
- Streamline to 2 broad objectives: revise to “*assess farmers’ adaptive capacity to flood effects*” (vs. impacts); add soil fertility comparison (flooded vs. non-flooded).
- Refine wording: “*identify areas susceptible to flooding*”; “*evaluate effects on agriculture/livelihoods*”; “*assess strategies coping with flood effects.*”

Conceptual Framework/Title/Policy:

- Develop pre-fieldwork framework linking flood drivers, exposure/sensitivity, effects (ag/livelihoods/soil/mental health), adaptive capacity, and policy context.
- Revise title: “*Analysis of Farmers’ Adaptation to Flooding: Evidence from Ido LGA, Nigeria*” for global relevance.
- Bolster policy: identify gaps in national/local flood management; review govt strategies; link to global DRR/climate adaptation.



Figure 9: Poster’s presentation student from Nigeria

Data/Methods/Concerns:

- Sources: NEMA (disaster records), NIHSA (hydrological data).
- Add mental health questions, preliminary assessment, farmers' perceptions (vs. other challenges like pests/markets).
- Validate Ido LGA suitability via prelim assessment, as flood severity on farmers needs confirmation.

Feedback stresses refined objectives, framework, policy ties, and site validation to boost local/global impact on flood adaptation.”

III.1.9. Poster’s presentation student from Senegal

The student from Senegal, **Mame Diarra Bossou THIAW** presented her proposal on the topic “**Contribution of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture to Achieving Food Security in Dakar (Senegal)**”.

The take away from her presentation:

“During the CABES workshop in Lomé, Togo (December 2025), I presented my proposal on UPA's role in strengthening food security in Dakar, engaging African experts/practitioners. Feedback focused on refining design for clarity, focus, and relevance amid urbanization, food insecurity, and climate pressures.

General/Objectives:

Strong interest in topic/poster clarity, especially Dakar's land scarcity.

Refine objectives: use state verbs for general (e.g., analyze); action verbs for specific (e.g., identify/assess); apply SMART criteria for coherence.

Methodological Suggestions:

- Stakeholder mapping: Detail UPA actors (farmers, cooperatives, authorities, NGOs, land services) to guide interviews.
- Policy component: Systematically review Senegalese policies (national agriculture, urban planning, land access) to pinpoint implementation gaps.

Scope/IPBES:

- Narrow to peri-urban focus under land pressure for feasibility/actionability.
- Integrate IPBES Global (2019)/Africa (2018) Assessments for insights on sustainable cities, biodiversity, food systems, and policies.
- The enriching session's feedback will elevate academic quality and impact. Grateful to participants for shaping next steps.”



Figure 10: Poster's presentation student from Senegal

III.1.10. Poster's presentation student from The Gambia

The student from **The Gambia, Lamin K DARBOE** presented his proposal on the topic **“towards integrated policies: leveraging IPBES and IPCC outcomes to align biodiversity and climate actions”**.

The take away from his presentation:

“The capacity development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts in Africa and *Reinforcing Science-Policy Interface for Biodiversity Knowledge and Policies* (CABES/ RESPIN) regional workshop held in Lomé, Togo from the 3 -5 December 2025 brought together experts, practitioners, Scientists and

Policy makers from diverse institutions across Africa and beyond. The three-day event focused on strengthening Science -Policy, Interface for Biodiversity and related policies and programs. The workshop addressed key environmental issues such as Climate Change and Biodiversity loss.

During the poster presentation, which brought together experts from all walks of life, the MSC students of CABES were given the opportunity to present our Research Proposals in poster format, where each student explained their research project to the various participants and why they chose to work on that topic. I was able to present my proposal on the theme **‘Assessing the Effectiveness of Wetland Conservation Policies in the Gambia. Case Study: Tanbi Wetland National Park’**

The discussions were very rich, with extensive sharing of knowledge, experiences and suggestions by participants. The discussion was centred around my poster and focused on the research question, objectives, methods of data collection and analysis. Overall, the majority of participants expressed great satisfaction with the relevance of the proposed topic. During the presentation, the majority of the participants opined that the research topic and its objectives were clear and linked to Science-Policy-Practice. However, others suggested including hypothesis in the study and also collecting the in-situ data.

In conclusion, the comments received during the poster presentation highlight the scientific relevance of the topic and the work is fully aligned with IPBES. Institutional support at the national level is strongly encouraged to ensure that the findings strengthen conservation policies in the Gambia.

This comment provides a solid basis for strengthening my methodology, improving my data collection, and ensuring that the results generated will have a tangible impact in Tanbi and generally improved conservation policies in the Gambia.



Figure 11: Poster’s presentation student from The Gambia

III.1.11. Poster’s presentation student from Togo

The student from Togo, **Esther Affi DJOSSOU** presented his proposal on the topic **“towards integrated policies: leveraging IPBES and IPCC outcomes to align biodiversity and climate actions”**. The take away from his presentation:

“The CABES workshop (Lomé, Togo, December 2025) enabled SPIBES students to present posters to scientists, policymakers, and practitioners. Coordinated by Dr. Lara, my poster in the main hall (with 7 others) covered: *"Diversity of soil macrofauna in maize cropping systems of the Maritime region in Togo,"* evaluating soil health via macrofauna (context, policy gaps, questions/objectives, methods, results, sustainable land implications).

Feedback/Relevance:

- Topic praised for addressing land degradation/fertility loss/biodiversity; aligns with NBSAP/Agroecology Strategy policy gaps.
- Academically robust for PhD potential discuss Master's feasibility/title tweak with supervisor.
- Sensitized non-experts on soil biodiversity's ecological roles (macro/microfauna integration).

Methodological Improvements:

- Refine study area (account for coastal salinity).
- Optimize sampling timing (pre/during/post-maize).
- Select control sites/maize fields with land history.
- Align with local agricultural calendars.

Networking/Conclusion:

- Gained contacts: Regional Environment Directorates, NGO for local actor links.
- Valuable for design/feedback/connections; underscores youth involvement in science–policy–practice, soil biodiversity needs. Limited ag decision-makers (recommend more Ministry of Agriculture in future).

Acknowledgments: EU funding; CABES/RESPIN/SPIBES coordinators; Togolese hosts; researchers/lecturers/focal points.



Figure 12: Poster's presentation student from Togo

IV. DAY3: LEVERAGING IPBES AND IPCC OUTCOMES TO ALIGN BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTIONS - WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?

The CABES/RESPIN West Africa sub-regional workshop, held in Lomé, Togo from December 3-5, 2025, under the theme *"Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC Outcomes to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions,"* successfully convened diverse stakeholders including scientists, policymakers, IPBES/IPCC focal points, and SPIBES master's students from across Africa and Europe. Through plenary sessions, World Café discussions, and poster presentations, participants identified critical opportunities and concrete next steps to operationalize biodiversity-climate synergies at national and regional levels.

This synthesis integrates insights from working group exchanges, highlighting existing opportunities structured around policy integration, institutional synergies, funding mechanisms, and capacity building. It also outlines priority next steps across institutional coordination, science-policy interfaces, communication strategies, and integrated project development complete with country-specific commitments from Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Togo, and others. These findings reflect a collective momentum to transcend sectoral silos, translating IPBES/IPCC assessments into actionable policies aligned with NBSAPs, NDCs, and SDGs for sustainable environmental governance in West Africa.

IV.1. Existing Opportunities to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions

The discussions from various working groups highlight a wide range of existing opportunities to strengthen alignment between biodiversity-related actions and those addressing climate change. These opportunities revolve around four complementary axes: public policy integration, institutional and scientific synergies, integrated project and funding mechanisms, and capacity building and information sharing.

➤ Public Policy Integration and Strategic Coherence

One of the main levers identified lies in the joint integration of biodiversity and climate issues within national and regional strategic frameworks, particularly NBSAPs, NDCs, national climate strategies, and national development plans.

➤ Institutional Synergies and Science-Policy Interface

Synergies between climate and biodiversity focal points, national and international platforms, and the science-policy interface (IPBES, IPCC) strengthen data-driven decision-making.

➤ Integrated Projects and Funding Mechanisms

Existing funding mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, offer major opportunities to support integrated biodiversity-climate projects.

➤ **Capacity Building and Stakeholder Participation**

Capacity building, local community involvement, and knowledge sharing are essential to ensure sustainable alignment.

The main challenge lies in intersectoral coordination and leveraging existing synergies to effectively address environmental crises.

What will be your next steps (after this workshop) to strengthen synergies between actions in favor of biodiversity and those in favor of climate in your country?

IV.2. Next Steps to Strengthen Biodiversity-Climate Synergies

Contributions from various participants across working groups converge toward a clear commitment to strengthen synergies between biodiversity and climate change actions post-workshop. The proposed next steps revolve around four major axes: institutional coordination, strengthening the science-policy interface, communication and awareness-raising, and the development of integrated projects and platforms.

➤ **Strengthening Institutional and Intersectoral Coordination**

A strong consensus emerged on the need for regular meetings between climate and biodiversity actors to sustain the workshop's momentum. Several groups emphasized creating or reinforcing national dialogue platforms involving ministries, technical agencies, researchers, NGOs, and development partners. Concrete commitments include organizing joint biodiversity-climate expert meetings (Ghana), integrating IPBES focal points into national biodiversity platforms (Ethiopia), and enhancing participation in regional and international conferences (Nigeria, Sierra Leone).

➤ **Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface**

Participants highlighted the central role of IPBES and IPCC in aligning biodiversity-climate policies. Several next steps aim to enhance the use of scientific outputs in decision-making processes, including increased country adherence or engagement with IPBES (Gambia, Angola) and integration of scientific support mechanisms like CABES and RESPIN (Nigeria). Organizing scientific and policy events, along with validation and dialogue frameworks around IPBES outputs, was identified as a priority.

➤ **Communication, Awareness-Raising, and Information Sharing**

Improving communication among actors and toward decision-makers is a key step. Groups stressed the need to make IPBES messages and biodiversity-climate initiatives more accessible through simplified,

visual, and nationally adapted supports. Sharing contact lists, capitalizing on networks built during the workshop, and continuing information exchanges were pinpointed as short-term concrete actions to bolster collaboration and prevent initiative fragmentation.

➤ **Development of Integrated Projects and Resource Mobilization**

Several contributions underscored the importance of formulating and implementing integrated biodiversity-climate projects. This includes identifying and mapping existing initiatives, aligning with national strategies, and submitting research and project proposals to international funding mechanisms. Specific commitments mentioned include submitting proposals to the *International Climate Initiative* (IKI) (Togo), mobilizing resources for convention synergies (CDKN), and supporting the development and implementation of NBSAPs integrating climate aspects. Overall, the identified next steps reflect a collective will to move beyond sectoral approaches and build lasting synergies between biodiversity and climate. Institutional coordination, integration of scientific knowledge, effective communication, and integrated project development emerge as essential levers to transform workshop commitments into concrete, measurable actions.



Figure 13: Breakout room discussions between multiple stakeholders through interactive Questions and Answers sessions with participants

V. ANNEX 1: FINAL COMMUNIQUE

CABES/RESPIN West Africa sub-Regional Workshop

“Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC Outcomes to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions”

December 3-5, 2025

Lomé, Togo

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The CABES/RESPIN West Africa sub-Regional Workshop held in Lomé from 3–5 December 2025 brought together biodiversity and climate experts from across West Africa, including participants associated with IPBES, CBD and IPCC processes, researchers, practitioners, ILK holders, youth representatives, women’s organizations and development partners. Over three days, participants engaged in dialogues, peer learning sessions, structured group work and country exchanges aimed at improving understanding of the interwoven nature of biodiversity loss and climate change and exploring ways to strengthen alignment between biodiversity and climate communities.

The workshop created a reflective environment where challenges, success stories and lessons emerging from practice were openly shared. These discussions highlighted how the interplay between knowledge systems, institutions and communication practices shapes the region’s capacity to respond to climate and biodiversity crises in an integrated way.

1. Recognizing the Interdependence of Biodiversity and Climate Change

Participants noted that a major challenge lies in persistent knowledge gaps and uneven awareness of biodiversity–climate linkages across institutions and networks. Many commented on the limited availability of data on how biodiversity loss aggravates climate impacts, the insufficient integration of ILK into assessments and the difficulty of bridging different knowledge systems, which often leads to fragmented understanding among IPBES and IPCC communities. This affects how evidence is perceived, used and communicated in national processes.

Despite these constraints, participants shared encouraging experiences where biodiversity is treated with the same urgency as climate change. Examples included restoration and land management initiatives that enhance carbon storage while supporting ecological integrity and community livelihoods, as well as collaborative research efforts combining ecological and climate datasets to understand landscape-level risks. Such initiatives demonstrate the value of cross-disciplinary cooperation and highlight the potential for integrated solutions already emerging in the region.

The discussions reinforced that joint learning spaces are crucial for building shared understanding. Participants emphasized the importance of dialogue in unpacking complex feedbacks between ecosystems and climate, as well as the value of exchanging interpretations of IPBES and IPCC findings. Many highlighted the need to cultivate a culture of working together, aligning conceptual frameworks and communicating interactions in ways that resonate with policy-makers and practitioners.

2. Encouraging Interaction Among IPBES, CBD and IPCC Communities

Participants described several obstacles that hinder deeper collaboration between biodiversity and climate communities. These included limitations in cross-community consultation, an absence of structured opportunities for sustained dialogue and challenges arising from different institutional mandates, timelines and terminology used in the two global processes. Some noted that messages from the IPCC tend to be more visible to policy-makers, creating imbalance in how evidence from biodiversity and climate fields is accessed and understood.

Despite these challenges, participants pointed to promising experiences where interaction between communities has already begun to grow. In some countries, informal exchanges between biodiversity and climate teams allow stakeholders to jointly interpret global assessment findings, while cross-country networks established through CABES and RESPIN have helped create new professional relationships and foster mutual support. These exchanges show that collaboration does not necessarily depend on formal structures; it often begins with simple opportunities to meet, discuss and learn together.

Lessons emerging from these conversations highlighted the usefulness of better mutual understanding of IPBES and IPCC working methods, review procedures and evidence standards. Participants underscored that shared synthesis products, collaborative communication efforts and regular joint workshops can help foster coherence in messaging without prescribing governance arrangements. They also recognized the importance of acknowledging and appreciating the distinct yet complementary roles of the two processes.

3. Promoting Coherence Across National Biodiversity and Climate Planning

Participants discussed how national strategies such as NBSAPs, NDCs and NAPs often evolve in parallel, resulting in standalone policy documents that do not fully reflect the interconnected nature of biodiversity and

climate challenges. Challenges raised included limited political momentum for cross-sectoral exchanges, differences in how ILK and scientific evidence are incorporated into planning processes and difficulties in translating global assessment outputs into national priorities. These issues often lead to fragmented policies and missed opportunities for synergy.

Yet participants brought forward examples of increasingly coordinated approaches in several countries. These included instances of technical teams reviewing both biodiversity and climate planning documents together, cases where ecosystem restoration targets were developed alongside climate resilience objectives and joint events where ministries co-reflected on shared indicators and policy pathways. These experiences suggest that even modest forms of collaboration can lead to more coherent planning outcomes.

The workshop generated lessons emphasizing the importance of shared timelines, co-learning formats and user-friendly synthesis materials that help bridge thematic boundaries. Participants expressed interest in peer learning to explore how neighboring countries integrate global scientific findings into national processes and emphasized the value of clearer guidance and dialogue formats involving scientists, policy-makers and communities. Such approaches can help ensure that integrated perspectives gradually become more common in national planning.

4. Reinforcing Science–Policy–Practice Interfaces

Participants acknowledged that sustained collaboration between biodiversity and climate communities depends partly on well-functioning science–policy–practice interfaces. They noted challenges related to limited information-sharing channels, differing mandates across institutions and the absence of consistent frameworks for exchange. These issues often result in insufficient visibility of biodiversity insights within climate discussions and vice versa, weakening the overall coherence of evidence used in decision-making.

Nevertheless, participants highlighted success stories involving national and regional platforms supported by CABES and RESPIN, which have facilitated dialogue among diverse actors and provided spaces for co-producing knowledge across disciplines. Experiences shared from various countries demonstrated how regular interaction among researchers, practitioners and policy actors can enable more balanced discussions about risks, priorities and opportunities at the biodiversity–climate nexus.

Lessons learned pointed to the importance of developing flexible, participant-driven interfaces that support repeated engagement rather than formalized institutions. Participants emphasized the value of thematic dialogues, collaborative interpretation workshops and joint learning laboratories, along with user research to understand the information needs of decision-makers. Investing in relationships, communication and shared learning was widely seen as an essential foundation for effective interfaces.

5. Building Capacities and Strengthening Diverse Knowledge Systems

The workshop reaffirmed that capacity development remains central to strengthening Africa's contribution to global science-policy processes. Participants described challenges related to inconsistent understanding of IPBES and IPCC procedures, limited familiarity with the timelines and expectations of the two processes and insufficient national visibility of biodiversity-focused outputs. These gaps are compounded by broader awareness challenges, particularly regarding the role and relevance of IPBES at national level.

At the same time, participants pointed to strong regional assets, including the SPIBES MSc programme, CABES short courses and multistakeholder training initiatives that enhance understanding of the science-policy interface. Success stories also included the integration of ILK into local adaptation and ecosystem management efforts, reflecting growing appreciation of multiple knowledge systems and new opportunities for collaboration.

Lessons emerging from the capacity discussions underscored the value of joint training sessions that bring biodiversity and climate communities together, clear and accessible guidance to support users of assessments and the use of dialogue approaches to strengthen inclusive knowledge co-production. Participants stressed that the ability to communicate and apply integrated scientific messages is as important as producing them.

6. Moving Forward Through Dialogue, Exchange and Joint Learning

The workshop concluded with participants reflecting on future intentions. These were not commitments, but aspirations to continue strengthening collaboration through ongoing exchange and relationship-building. Participants expressed interest in staying connected through cross-country dialogues, sharing insights from the workshop with colleagues, organizing informal knowledge-sharing sessions and participating in joint events around future IPBES, CBD and IPCC milestones. They also expressed readiness to explore collaborative research, co-developed synthesis materials and continued opportunities for peer learning.

Acknowledgements

Participants thank CABES and RESPIN for convening this workshop and fostering a collaborative space for biodiversity-climate dialogue in West Africa. Appreciation is extended to the Government of Togo and the Hôtel La Concorde for their hospitality, and to all facilitators, rapporteurs, interpreters and support staff whose contributions made the workshop a success.

Lomé, 5 December 2025

The Participants

VI. ANNEX 2: BREAKOUT ROOMS SESSIONS QUESTIONS OF DAYS 1&2

Day 1: Mutual Insights, IPBES & IPCC

Question 1:

What are the knowledge gaps with regards to IPBES and IPCC works and processes?

Question 2:

What are the limitations of collaboration between climate & biodiversity communities?

Question 3:

What can the IPBES and IPCC communities learn from each other during the next two days?

Day 3: From Dialogue to Delivery

Question 1:

What are the existing opportunities to align biodiversity and climate actions for different stakeholders?

Question 2:

What will be your next steps (starting from this workshop) for building synergies between biodiversity and climate actions in your country?

Who?	What?	When?

VII. ANNEX 3: TERMES OF REFERENCES AND THE AGENDA OF THE WORKS

CABES/RESPIN West Africa sub-Regional Workshop

“Towards Integrated Policies: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC Outcomes to Align Biodiversity and Climate Actions”

3th – 5th December 2025

Lomé, Togo

Terms of reference

Background

As the global environmental crisis deepens, the intertwined challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss are increasingly recognized as interconnected, since both are driven by human activities that disrupt natural systems, leading to unprecedented changes in ecosystems, species distributions, and climate patterns. Biodiversity underpins ecosystem functions and services that regulate the climate, including carbon sequestration, water cycling, and temperature regulation. Conversely, climate change impacts biodiversity by altering habitats, shifting species ranges, and exacerbating threats such as invasive species and diseases.

In response to these challenges, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)⁸, an independent intergovernmental body, was established to strengthen the link between scientific knowledge and policy decisions related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Its core mission is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, which contributes to long-term human well-being and helps achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IPBES carries out this mission through four key functions:

- **Assessing knowledge:** Evaluating the current state of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- **Building capacity:** Helping countries and regions strengthen their ability to use and contribute to IPBES's work.
- **Strengthening knowledge foundations:** Identifying and addressing gaps in our understanding of biodiversity.
- **Supporting policy:** Providing policymakers with the information and tools they need to make informed decisions.

IPBES has produced a dozen major assessments since its creation in 2012⁹. These assessments cover a wide range of topics, including invasive alien species, land degradation, and the sustainable use of wild species, with focus on specific regions like Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Its most recent reports: the **"Transformative Change Assessment"**¹⁰, examine the root causes of biodiversity loss and outlines potential

⁸ <https://www.ipbes.net/>

⁹ <https://www.ipbes.net/assessing-knowledge>

¹⁰ <https://www.ipbes.net/transformative-change-assessment>

pathways to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, and the “Nexus Assessment¹¹” addressing the interlinkages among climate, biodiversity, water, food and health.

The work of IPBES is a collaborative effort involving a diverse group of stakeholders, including scientists, government representatives, NGOs, private sector professionals, youths and Indigenous and Local Knowledge holders.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹², an international body founded in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is mandated to provide governments at all levels with scientific information to support the development of climate policies. The IPCC plays a central role in international climate change negotiations by assessing and synthesizing findings from thousands of scientific studies rather than conducting original research. Its reports are policy-relevant, providing decision-makers with objective, comprehensive, and consensus-based knowledge on the physical science of climate change, its impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The IPCC also develops standardized methodologies for national greenhouse gas inventories, supporting countries in measuring and reporting emissions. Its work undergoes extensive expert and government reviews to ensure transparency and rigor. The most significant outputs are the Assessment Reports (ARs)¹³, published every five to seven years, which serve as critical references in global negotiations. In addition, the IPCC publishes Special Reports on targeted issues, Methodology Reports, and Technical Papers to address specific scientific and policy needs.

At regional scales, to support the work of, and strengthen the uptake of IPBES and IPCC assessment findings, two key initiatives were launched: the Capacity Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts across Africa (CABES, www.cabes.online) in 2022, and the Regional Science-Policy Interfacing Network on Biodiversity and Climate Change (RESPIN, respin-project.eu), which supports the uptake of IPBES and IPCC knowledge and fosters stronger links between science and policy at multiple levels. Together, these initiatives aim to advance integrated biodiversity and climate knowledge for informed decision-making.

Recognizing that biodiversity loss and climate change are twin challenges, deeply interconnected in ways that pose complex challenges to effective policy-making and action, these global science-policy interfaces, IPBES and IPCC organized an IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop, spotlighting the Interactions of the Science of Biodiversity and Climate Change in 2020¹⁴. Recent assessments by IPBES and the IPCC stress that treating biodiversity loss and climate change in isolation undermines effective solutions. They call for integrated, cross-sectoral policies that maximize synergies, reduce trade-offs, and strengthen human well-being, food security, water availability, and disaster resilience. However, collaboration between biodiversity and climate communities—particularly among National Focal Points—remains limited, highlighting the urgent need for stronger coordination mechanisms. To address this gap, CABES, in collaboration with RESPIN, is organizing a regional workshop on “*Towards integrated policies: leveraging IPBES & IPCC outcomes to align biodiversity and climate actions*”, bringing together experts to identify synergies, trade-offs, and integrated

¹¹ <https://www.ipbes.net/nexus-assessment>

¹² <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

¹³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/synthesis-report/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ipbes.net/ipbes-ipcc-cosponsored-workshop-media-release>

solutions to these dual crises. The discussion will also examine barriers to national-level collaboration and the uptake of IPBES and IPCC assessment findings, as well as explore effective modalities for cross-sectoral cooperation.

1. The objectives of the workshop

The overarching objective of the workshop is to promote policy coherence and integration between climate and biodiversity actions by leveraging on the knowledge products of IPBES and the IPCC. More specifically, the workshop seeks to:

- **To explore** and clarify the complex interactions between biodiversity loss and climate change, emphasizing the urgent need for integrated policy responses
- **Share and analyse recent outcomes** and key messages from IPBES and IPCC assessments to inform integrated policy responses.
- **Facilitate dialogue** and collaboration between IPBES and IPCC communities, including National Focal Points to enhance coordination and knowledge exchange at the national level
- **Identify synergies**, complementarities, and trade-offs in biodiversity and climate policies, to support coherent and mutually beneficial strategies.
- **Support capacity-building** for stakeholders to promote co-production, knowledge transfer, and multi-sectoral collaboration necessary for effective policy design and implementation

2. Expected results of the Workshop:

These include:

- ✓ A shared understanding of the interconnections between biodiversity loss and climate change, reinforcing the urgency of integrated policy responses.
- ✓ Synthesized key messages from recent IPBES and IPCC assessments made accessible to policymakers and stakeholders to guide decision-making.
- ✓ Strengthened collaboration mechanisms between IPBES and IPCC communities, including National Focal Points, fostering improved coordination and knowledge exchange at national and regional levels.
- ✓ A mapping of synergies, complementarities, and trade-offs in biodiversity and climate policies to inform coherent and mutually beneficial strategies.
- ✓ Enhanced capacities of stakeholders for co-production of knowledge, effective knowledge transfer, and multi-sectoral collaboration in policy development and implementation.

3. Target audiences

The workshop will bring together a diverse range of stakeholders whose expertise and perspectives are essential for advancing integrated biodiversity and climate policies. The target audience includes:

- Researchers/scientists from various biodiversity and ecosystem services related fields,
- Practitioners from the public and private sectors,
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),
- Indigenous and Local Knowledge holders, and women and youth groups,
- National Focal Points of IPBES and/or the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD),
- National Focal Points of IPCC,
- Representatives from relevant ministries and regional organizations.

4. Workshop format

The workshop will adopt an interactive approach, which consists of presentations, working groups and plenary sessions where the active participation of attendees is strongly expected to reach consensus. Moreover, the workshop is planned to take place in three main phases

- **Plenary presentations** from IPBES, IPCC, CABES, and RESPIN experts
- **Panel discussions** on integrated policy opportunities
- **Breakout groups** focused on thematic synergies (e.g., land use, nature-based solutions)
- **Country-sharing sessions** on national policy experiences
- **Networking opportunities and regional collaboration building**

Workshop Organizing team

For any queries about the workshop, please contact the organizing team below:

- Dr. Sié Sylvestre DA, WASCAL CoC, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Tel. (00226) 70 14 44 39; WhatsApp (00226) 66873515; E-mail: da.s@wascal.org or da_siesylvestre@yahoo.fr
- Prof. Aboudou Raoufou RADJI; Tel./WhatsApp (00228) 20045114, E-mail : pradji@hotmail.com
- Prof. N'golo A. KONE, University NANGUI ABROGOUA, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Tel./ WhatsApp: (+225) 0707620384; Email: konengolo.sn@una-na.ci
- Prof. Mylor Ngoy SHUTCHA, University of Lubumbashi, Lubumbashi, Tel./ WhatsApp : (00243) 995273991; Email: mylorshutcha@gmail.com, or mylor.ngoyshutcha@unilu.ac.cd

Workshop theme: Towards integrated policies: leveraging IPBES & IPCC outcomes to align biodiversity and climate actions.

CABES/RESPIN West Africa sub-Regional Workshop
 Hotel SAKAKAWA, Lomé, Togo, 3-5 December 2025
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Day 1:		
December 3, 2025		
Topic : Understanding IPBES and IPCC as Science Policy Practice Interfaces (SPPIs)		
Time (GMT)	Session	Chair/Presenter
8.00 – 9.00	Arrival and Registration of guests	
09.00 – 09.40	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome speech by the President of University of Lomé Speech of the Representative of IPBES & IPCC Speech of CABES Program Manager Speech of RESPIN Representative Speech of IPBES Chair (video recorded or online participation) Speech of IPCC chair (video recorded) Speech of the Ambassador of Germany in Togo Opening speech of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Togo 	Moderator: Mr. Marc Belemsobgo/Dr. Sylvestre Da (WASCAL, Burkina Faso) Dr. Jan Henning Sommer (CABES Program Manager, ZEF, University of Bonn, Germany) Ms. Coline Léandre (Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité – FRB, France and RESPIN representative)
9.40 – 10.00	GROUP PHOTO	
10.00 – 10.20	Icebreaker	Dr. Jennifer Hauck (CoKnow Consulting Germany)
10.20 – 10.45	Plenary : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the interlinkages between Biodiversity and climate change and the need to integrate climate and biodiversity policies Q & A 	Dr. Nadia Sitas (Climate and Development Knowledge Network – CDKN, South Africa)
10.45 – 11.15	COFFEE BREAK	
11.15 – 11.45	Plenary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): 	Dr. Bamba Sylla (AIMS)/Dr. Ulrich Diasso (African Union)

	<p>history, processes, assessment reports & stakeholder engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A 	
11.45 – 12.15	<p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): history, processes, assessment reports & stakeholder engagement • Q & A 	Ms. Amarys Preuss (IPBES secretariat)
12.15 – 12.30	Open discussions on integrated IPBES & IPCC platforms	
12.30 – 12.45	<p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Regional model of SPPI on Biodiversity – The Capacity Development on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (CABES): work program, activities and progress • Q & A 	Dr. Isimemen Osemwegie, CABES program Coordinator, ZEF/University of Bonn, Germany
12.45 – 13.00	<p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Reinforcing Science-Policy Interfaces for Integrated biodiversity and climate knowledge and policies (RESPIN) Project • Q & A 	Ms. Coline Léandre (Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité – FRB, France and RESPIN representative)
13.00 – 14.30	LUNCH BREAK	
14.30 – 15.30	<p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Global to National: How IPBES and IPCC can jointly inform climate and biodiversity policy • Q & A 	<p>Chair: Prof. Mylor Ngoy SHUTCHA (University of Lubumbashi)</p> <p>IPBES and IPCC representatives and NFPs</p>
15.30 – 16.00	COFFEE BREAK	
16.00 – 17.00	<p>Breakout groups: Mutual Insights, IPBES & IPCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the knowledge gaps with regards to IPBES and IPCC works and processes? • How to raise awareness on IPBES and IPCC work and activities at the national level? • What can the IPBES and IPCC communities learn from each other? 	Chair: Dr. Jennifer Hauck, CoKnow Consulting, Germany

17.00 – 17.20	Feedback from groups in plenary	Group reporters
17.20	Announcements and end of the day	
Day 2: December 4, 2025		
Topic : Uptake of IPBES and IPCC outcomes		
Time (GMT)	Session	Chair/Presenter
9.00 – 9.15	Recap of Day 1	Dr. Sylvestre Da (WASCAL)
9.15 – 9.40	Plenary: Introduction to the recent IPBES assessment reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformative Change assessment: the need and opportunities to align biodiversity and climate actions. • Q & A 	Prof. Eric Fokam (University of Buea, Cameroon/IPBES MEP member)
9.40 – 10.00	Plenary: Introduction to the recent IPBES assessment reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nexus assessment: the need and opportunities to align biodiversity and climate actions. • Q & A 	Dr. Nadia Sitas (Climate and Development Knowledge Network – CDKN, South Africa)
10.00 – 10.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country success stories - uptake of IPBES policy recommendations into national biodiversity strategies • Q & A 	IPBES National Focal Points
10.40 – 11.10	COFFEE BREAK	
11.10 – 11:40	Plenary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the latest IPCC Assessment report: needs and opportunities to align biodiversity and climate actions • Q & A 	Walters Tubua (Regional Lead, Regional Climate Centres for West and Central Africa – RCC, Togo)
11.40 – 12:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case success stories - uptake of IPCC policy recommendations into national biodiversity strategies • Q & A 	IPCC National Focal Points
12.10 – 14.00	LUNCH BREAK	
14.00 – 15.15	World Café: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the barriers to IPBES & IPCC collaboration at national level? 	Chair: Mr. Abisha Mapendembe (Senior Environmental Policy &

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the practical solutions to overcoming these barriers? • How to extract policy-relevant content(s) from IPBES and IPCC assessment reports? • What are the tools and/or entry points for embedding findings in NBSAPs, NDCs, SDGs, or national development plans? 	Development Advisor, UNEP-WCMC, United Kingdom
15.15 – 15:30	Feedback from groups in plenary	Groups reporters
15.30 – 16.00	COFFEE BREAK	
16.00 – 16.45	Plenary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National platforms as catalysts for climate-biodiversity collaboration: Stakeholder engagement and peer-to-peer exchange • Q & A 	Chair: Mr. Abisha Mapendembe (Senior Environmental Policy & Development Advisor, UNEP-WCMC, United Kingdom)
16.45	Announcements and end of Day 2	
Day 3: December 5, 2025		
Topic: Leveraging IPBES & IPCC outcomes to align biodiversity and climate actions		
Time (GMT)	Session	Chair/Presenter
9.00 – 9.15	Recap of Day 2	Dr. Kouakou Kouadio (Lecturer and assistant coordinator of CABES SPIBES/UFHB)
9.15 – 9.45	Plenary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building as a tool: youth engagement and participation in the SPPI: the SPIBES MSc. programs and case studies of MSc integrated research on biodiversity and climate change • Q & A 	Prof. N'golo Abdoulaye KONE (Assistant professor and CABES SPIBES Coordinator/UFHB)
9.45 – 10.30	Breakout groups: From Dialogue to Delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the existing opportunities to align biodiversity and climate actions for different stakeholders • What are the practical next steps for building synergies between biodiversity and climate actions: 	CABES Team
10.30 – 10.45	Reporting back from groups and final discussion	

10.45 – 11.15	COFFEE BREAK	
11.15 – 11.30	End of workshop survey	Ms. Sarah Verleysdonk, CABES Coordination team, ZEF, University of Bonn, Germany
11.30 – 12.00	Final communiqué	CABES & RESPIN Team
12.00 – 13.00	Closing Ceremony	CABES & RESPIN Team
13.00 –	LUNCH	

VIII. ANNEX 4: WORKSHOP MEDIA COVERAGE

- On national TV of Togo (from the **15.20 min**): [TVT JT 20H DU JEUDI 04 DECEMBRE 2025 - YouTube](#)