



Green Value Initiative – Natural Capital in Africa

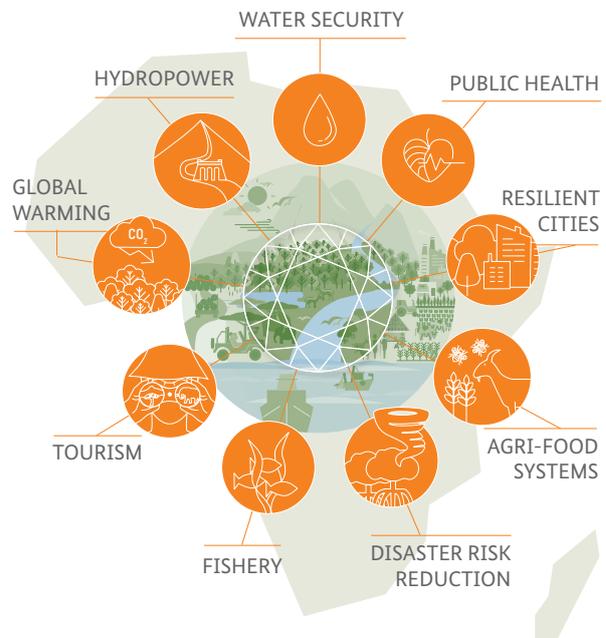
Pillar 1: The Social and Economic Value of Africa’s Protected Natural Assets

THE GREEN VALUE INITIATIVE

The Green Value Initiative is the umbrella program of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on the value of nature in Africa. The initiative supports African countries and development institutions to integrate the value of natural assets in decision-making. Its objective is to mainstream natural capital into policies and planning, financial markets and development finance, as well as measures of economic progress and national accounts (natural capital accounting). This constitutes one of the building blocks for transformative change towards nature-positive economies and development in Africa. To halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, the world needs to embark on a decade of ambitious action until 2030 and beyond, starting with the new Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

They are an important, yet heavily underrated, backbone of functioning landscapes and of the natural capital of African countries. To ensure their ecological integrity and reverse ongoing degradation trends exacerbated by climate change, population growth and land use change the socio-economic importance of these areas needs to be uncovered and integrated in decision-making. This will be critical to maintain the ability of protected areas to provide vital goods and services.

SOCIETAL AREAS BENEFITING FROM AFRICA’S PROTECTED NATURAL ASSETS



Thematic Pillar 1 on Protected Areas: “Africa’s Protected Natural Assets”

The demands on conservation areas today are more diverse than ever: They not only protect species, preserve habitats and conserve ecosystems, they also provide vital public goods and ecosystem services such as water retention and purification, erosion control, local climate stability and carbon storage, pest and disease control and protection from extreme weather events. As guarantors of these services, conservation areas make significant contributions to African economies and development goals (see graphic).

Objectives

The protected area pillar of the Green Value Initiative highlights the multiple values of conservation areas in Africa for development and prosperity. It aims to raise awareness among decision-makers and the public at large for the necessity to strengthen existing areas, to expand the coverage of protected land and seas and to increase investments in those areas as important assets of Africa's natural capital. Thus, it contributes to an ambitious new Global Bio-diversity Framework developed under the CBD.

Fields of action

1. Flagship report:

The main product will be the "Africa's Protected Natural Assets Report", commissioned by BMZ and produced by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and scientific partners from Africa and Germany. The report provides evidence on the state and trends of Africa's protected natural assets, highlights the values of these conservation areas for key economic sectors and policy areas and pro-

vides recommendations for change. It integrates Africa-wide analyses with evidence from case studies (see below). By uncovering the interdependencies between conservation areas and the economy, the report contributes to harmonising biodiversity conservation with development.

2. Case study processes:

The initiative collaborates with six African countries to carry out natural capital and ecosystem services assessments in selected conservation areas. The assessments serve to both gather evidence for the report and to leverage policy ambition and action on the ground. Case studies are carried out as participatory and inclusive processes that are guided by integrating stakeholder views from national and local level, from policy, civil society, business and science to ensure policy relevance and uptake.

3. Communication:

Findings, messages and recommendations will be communicated at inter-national events and meetings such as the IUCN World Conservation Congress and towards the CBD COP 15. This includes the launch of the Green Value flagship report in August 2021.

CASE STUDY PROCESSES AS PART OF PILLAR 1

