

aef

AFRICAN
ECOLOGICAL
FUTURES



WHAT IS THE **AFRICAN ECOLOGICAL FUTURES PROGRAMME?**

THE **AFRICAN ECOLOGICAL FUTURES PROGRAMME**

WHAT IS THE AFRICA WE WANT,
AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?

The African Ecological Futures programme (AEF) combines futures thinking with physical and ecological infrastructure planning in order to present a holistic planning and investment approach to achieving an African future that can benefit all.

The five-year programme will demonstrate the viability of this approach through *four practical flagship projects* aimed at instilling a new African development paradigm.

The initiative is led by the World Wide Fund for Nature, the African Development Bank and the Luc Hoffmann Institute.

WHY DOES AFRICA NEED THIS INITIATIVE'S APPROACH?

Africa is experiencing unprecedented societal, economic and environmental transformation. It has the world's highest rate of urban population, a fast growing middle-class and a population which will double by 2050. This will put immense pressure on governments to provide citizens with jobs, food, water, energy and the infrastructure necessary to meet these basic needs. Africa is also at risk to global environmental issues like climate change which create new challenges in meeting these needs. Africa needs billions of dollars annually for a variety of development initiatives and as a result foreign direct investment (FDI) is flowing in rapidly to answer some of these needs. FDI flows unlock opportunities but also bring with them risks — like the impact on ecological infrastructure. Investments that are not green or sustainable can also reduce the overall welfare of Africans if they heighten pollution, sustain growth without poverty alleviation and promote extractives and uneven development.



WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING?

The AEF programme aims to understand the constraints holding Africa back from a sustainable developmental trajectory and find ways to minimise the tension between development and environmental goals. The AEF will encourage policy makers, investors, planners and development finance institutions to mainstream futures thinking into planning and investment decision-making in key institutions. The programme focuses on Africa, but recognises that global financial and trade links have a bearing on Africa's development trajectory. The programme will mainstream futures thinking and planning as an approach to ensure resilient physical and ecological infrastructure systems.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES?

- 1.** To understand existing and future trends in physical and ecological infrastructure and their implications for Africa's economic development through tools, methods, data and scenarios mapping
- 2.** To influence physical infrastructural investment decisions through ecological futures thinking, evidence-based research, capacity development and partnerships
- 3.** To establish broad trends in physical and ecological infrastructure needs of cities and test, through pilots, new models of resilient and climate smart cities
- 4.** To ensure ecological futures thinking, tools and methods are shared and mainstreamed within finance development institutions investing in Africa and national planning agencies and to foster continued learning amongst key agencies and institutions

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME DESIGN:

THE FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME WILL BE DELIVERED THROUGH **FOUR FLAGSHIP PROJECTS**

1

FLAGSHIP ONE : Trends in physical and ecological infrastructure development

This flagship establishes trends in physical infrastructure development and financing and related impacts on key ecological infrastructure through: data collection, long term patterns and drivers of ecological futures through mapping, scenario planning and other tools. It will also identify global best practices which could inform African development.

2

FLAGSHIP TWO : Platforms for delivering benefits of African Ecological Futures thinking

This flagship will be driven by evidence-based information and communications to promote the practice of African ecological futures thinking. Through knowledge sharing platforms like online repositories, media campaigns, and stakeholder engagement actions, lessons from testing and global best practices can be shared, opportunities for scaling up explored and knowledge gaps identified.

3

FLAGSHIP THREE : Resilient ecologies and cities

This flagship is to aid cities resilience through: conducting a trends analysis of urban futures; development of urban futures scenarios for key African cities; capacitating cities to deal with ecological and physical infrastructure trade-offs; capacitating cities with tools for resilient ecological thinking for planning; developing and understanding of the climate change vulnerability that African cities face in the present and future.

4

FLAGSHIP FOUR : Adoption of ecological futures thinking, tools, methods & approaches

This flagship mainstreams and embeds the AEF approach and tools into national financial and economic planning institutions as well as lending practices of development finance institutions like the African Development Bank. It will offer capacity development in countries and regional institutions to be able to deliver on national commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and biodiversity and emissions targets.

VALUE PROPOSITION OF THE AFRICAN ECOLOGICAL FUTURES PROGRAMME

- 1.** To raise the importance of ecological infrastructure as vital for ecosystem functions, livelihood and resilience against climate change.
- 2.** To test new development planning and implementation approaches such as futures thinking and the use of natural capital accounting in strategies and projects in order to deal with physical and ecological infrastructure trade-offs.
- 3.** Raising the importance of the future of urban development as the engine of economic growth that will determine on how we plan and manage interconnected ecological infrastructure and urban spatial management.
- 4.** To offer a regional framework and coordinating mechanism for dealing with future challenges to ecological infrastructure at the transboundary, sub-regional and national levels.
- 5.** To ensure futures thinking and the importance of ecological infrastructure are embedded in African finance practices, governance systems and policy structures.
- 6.** To support WWF regional and country programmes in developing a futures framework and approach to dealing with key conservation challenges.
- 7.** To support knowledge platforms for sharing lessons, knowledge and global best practices (these are programme and project appropriate and specific).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME,
OR TO GET INVOLVED IN A PARTNERSHIP
OR DONOR CAPACITY, PLEASE CONTACT :

YEMI KATERERE
African Ecological Futures Programme Manager
ykaterere@wwf.panda.org
Telephone number +27 123 456 7890



AFRICAN
ECOLOGICAL
FUTURES

