



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability



CONCEPT NOTE

Breakfast Dialogue



Strategic partnerships for Africa's Bioeconomy: A G20 Legacy Initiative

1. Background and context

The G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy launched under Brazil's G20 Presidency in 2024, produced a set of 10 High-Level Principles to guide the development of sustainable, inclusive, and innovation-driven bioeconomy's. These principles emphasise environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, circularity, responsible finance, equity, and the integration of traditional and scientific knowledge systems. In line with these themes, in 2025, under the South African Presidency, the GIB has focused on the following priorities:

- Establishing global bioeconomy standards and metrics
- Examining the common needs, opportunities and challenges in bioeconomy development support in an African context
- Financing the Bioeconomy
- Framing a platform for delivering on bioeconomy developments in Africa

The initiative aims to harness renewable biological resources to foster economic growth that is socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and technologically advanced. It recognises the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern science and the need for innovative financing to support bioeconomic growth, especially in developing countries and Africa.

Furthermore, the G20 comprises mega-biodiverse resource supplier and user countries in the bioeconomy realm and are also party to the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity where the Kunming Montreal-Global Biodiversity Framework is in implementation. In line with the KM- Global Biodiversity Framework and AMCEN commemorating four decades of Environmental Action and significant contribution of bioeconomy to the GDP in Africa, it is an opportune time to establish an "Africa legacy Bioeconomy Initiative". To kickstart this initiative the following objectives would help frame this initiative:

- Support alignment of African bioeconomy efforts with the 10 High-Level Principles of the G20 Bioeconomy Initiative and the KM-Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Promote a coherent, inclusive bioeconomy that delivers equitable outcomes, regenerates biodiversity, and advances climate and development goals.
- Identify short-term, collaborative actions to accelerate Africa's biodiversity conservation and sustainable use within existing frameworks.

Within the 3rd GIB, a Breakfast Dialogue will be held entitled, "Strategic partnerships for Africa's Bioeconomy: A G20 Legacy Initiative".

2. The aim of the breakfast dialogue

The Aim of the Dialogue is to convene champions of Africa's bioeconomy to identify and share practical, high-impact opportunities for translating concepts emanating from GIB-South Africa into action with a specific focus on safeguarding biodiversity for a sustainable bioeconomy.



Key themes for discussion

- Driving collaborative implementation of the KM-Global Biodiversity Framework: Operationalising biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the African bioeconomy, promoting models that regenerate ecosystems and ensure equitable benefit-sharing.
- Science, technology, and innovation for Africa's bioeconomy: Strengthening regional cooperation to apply biotechnology, digital tools, and traditional knowledge for inclusive and resilient bioeconomy development.
- Financing models for inclusive bioeconomy growth: Exploring innovative financial instruments and capacity-development approaches to support biodiversity-positive investment and infrastructure across Africa.
- Social inclusion and equity in bioeconomic transitions: Ensuring that African bioeconomy efforts prioritise gender equality, youth participation, and Indigenous rights, in line with the G20 principles.
- Standards and metrics for implementation and accountability: Advancing African-led approaches to tracking bioeconomy progress, aligned with the 10 High-Level Principles and the GBF monitoring framework.

3. Expected outcomes

Drawing from the discussions and initial inputs from Africa towards shaping operational linkages to the GIB, the expected outcome is to develop a clear and actionable roadmap aligned to the Bioeconomy Principles and will guide the sustainable development of the bioeconomy, while foster stakeholder mobilisation and strengthen partnerships through the African Bioeconomy Platform.

This outcome will also be mainstreamed in G20-South Africa's Declaration from the Bioeconomy Initiative and the G20-Environment, Climate and Sustainability Working Group, to recognise the bioeconomy and its biodiversity economy sub-sector as an ideal case-study for best practice in driving the implementation of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a continent and with its G20 members.

4. Strategic Context: Beyond the Dialogue

While this dialogue is the immediate focus, it establishes the foundation for subsequent implementation activities:

Roundtables – These round tables will build on dialogue insights and contribute towards the **Roadmap Development** – This will synthesise insights from both the dialogue and roundtables into stakeholder-validated action.

5. Expected Participants

A total of about 120 delegates is expected to attend this dialogue. These include: G20 Members, Public sector, project developers, private sector, financial institutions, IPLCs, knowledge institutions, development partners.



Programme

Strategic partnerships for Africa's Bioeconomy: A G20 Legacy Initiative

Date: 19 September

Duration: 07:00-10:00 (including breakfast)

Format: Pretoria & online for G20-ECSWG members

RSVP: Ms Nonhlanhla Skosana, Email: Nskosana@dfpe.gov.za

Programme Director: Ms Dorothy Maseke

Time	Item
07:00-08:00	Breakfast and networking -All
08:00-08:10	Opening
08:10-08:15	Welcome remarks Ms. Flora Mokgohloa, Deputy Director-General, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
08:15-08:35	The past, present and future of G20's Initiative on Bioeconomy: Reflections from Brazil and South Africa (5 minutes each) Brazil- Bioeconomy & Climate Change Mr Ben Durham, South African Government South African Presidency, Environment Focal Point
08:35-09:50	Session Title: <i>Crafting Africa's Bioeconomy Legacy Roadmap with a Global Outlook</i> <u>Keynote</u> Ms. Doreen Robinson, UNEP <i>Bioeconomy for Maintaining the planetary boundaries and enhancing socioeconomic aspects (5 minutes)</i> <u>Plenary</u> Facilitator: Ms Preshanthie Naicker Mr. Khorommbi Matibe, National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment & Mr. Rik Kutsch Lojenga, Union for Ethical Biotrade <i>Governance Tools for safeguarding the Nature-Based Core of the Bioeconomy: A Synergy of Policy, Law, and Voluntary Sustainability Standards</i> (10 minutes)

	<p>Session Title: <i>Crafting Africa’s Bioeconomy Legacy Roadmap with a Global Outlook</i> (Continued)</p> <p>Dr. Sue Snyman, Africa Leadership University <i>High-level key considerations drawn from African case studies to drive bioeconomy development</i> (5 minutes)</p> <p>Ms. Julie Mccarthy, Nature Finance & African Natural Capital/FSD Africa <i>Tailored financing models for the bioeconomy</i> (10 minutes)</p> <p>Ms. Marta Gomez San Juan, Food and Agriculture Organisation <i>Partnerships, Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure sustainability</i> (5 minutes)</p> <p>Africa – AU; AUDA-NEPAD; G20-GIB + ECSWG <i>Structuring the Roadmap for Africa’s Bioeconomy Legacy and Enabling Support Systems</i> (20 minutes)</p> <p>Interventions by G20 Members, Invited Guest Countries, International Organisations and partners (15 minutes)</p> <p>Wrap-up: The global bioeconomy platform to support implementation (5 minutes)</p>
09:50-09:55	Key outcomes and next steps
09:55-10:00	<p>Closing</p> <p>Ms. Flora Mokgohloa, Deputy Director-General DFFE</p>

