



Inaugural Meeting of the Steering Committee A Pan African Conservation Trust

Summary Report for Stakeholders

19 June 2022

Background

The inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee for A pan-African Conservation Trust (APACT) was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 16 June 2022. APACT is an ambitious African-led initiative to create a private, legally independent sustainable financing mechanism or network of mechanisms for Africa's 8609 protected and conserved areas¹ (P&CAs), supported by an aligned African leadership and financed through global resource mobilization for 'green growth'.

The APACT Steering Committee (SC) is an interim governance body that provides strategic guidance on the APACT design process, considers alignment with key stakeholder needs, concerns and priorities, and advises on coordination with existing programs and conservation funding on the continent. The SC is Chaired by His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Patron of the inaugural Africa Protected Areas Congress, and member of AWF Board of Trustees. The SC Membership is comprised of individuals with technical competencies relevant to the tasks of establishing APACT and the ability to represent and balance the interests of stakeholders.

APACT emerged as a response to needs raised by the Africa Protected Area Directors (APAD) in the face of challenges protected and conserved area managers face in securing sustained and sufficient financing for operations. APACT has been shaped through a co-creation process involving the co-organisers of the African Protected Areas Congress (African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)) through a highly consultative and inclusive co-design process. The purpose of this summary note is to inform stakeholders of that co-design process of the outcomes of the SC meeting discussions and to engage them in follow up actions.

On the agenda for the inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee was to review the options for the design options under consideration as informed by the stakeholder consultations and initial draft of the feasibility study, to consider and guide the process of engaging key stakeholders,

exploring and shaping necessary governance structures, and agreeing working modalities for the Steering Committee.

Strategic Guidance on Design Concepts

The Steering Committee discussed various scenarios or **components** for the composition of the overall mechanism and endorsed the shape of a hybrid mechanism as likely the most optimal structure for achieving the level of ambition while also mobilizing significant additional funding for protected and conserved areas from diverse sources. The three components discussed and supported at this stage are

1. an endowment that helps those areas most in need with consistent, reliable funding for operational and recurrent costs,
2. a revolving or sinking fund that invests in ways that help protected and conserved areas unlock further funding such as through carbon and biodiversity markets, and
3. an investment vehicle that mobilizes private capital for conservation and development outcomes in and around protected and conserved areas.

The concept of a project preparatory facility was also considered and the SC resolved that this option needs further consideration in the context of existing efforts under the Consortium of African Funds for the Environment (CAFÉ) to ensure complementarity and synergy of effort.

The **mandate** for APACT was discussed with several options explored for the appropriate institutional engagement for a pan-African fund, based on experiences with other such pan-African mechanisms such as the COVID-19 Response Fund. The SC advised that the African Union plays a critical role in shaping the mandate for APACT as a vehicle for delivering Agenda 2063. In that context the Regional Blocks are central to shaping how APACT fits with regional priorities across the continent. A priority on the roadmap is therefore SC outreach to the Chair of the African Union and Regional Block leadership.

Issues of **governance** were informed by a presentation from Fulton the Co-Chair of APAD on the initial shape of the governance framework discussed at the November 2021 meeting. Building on the designed elaborated by the APAD consisting of three elements: a Membership, a Board, and a Secretariat, the SC members and APAD leadership discussed the option of having a large board and then an executive committee as a way to achieve both inclusiveness and efficiency. A technical advisory board with private sector and donor representation was also discussed as an important part of the structure. The SC advice is that the Board Chair be appointed by the AUC and that Board members would be selected on the basis of merit and technical competence.

When shaping the **complementarity** of APACT with existing CTFs and the CAFÉ network itself, the SC advised that this area should be further informed by ongoing dialogue with CAFÉ and the CTFs. Areas of potential synergy and collaboration include facilitating CTF accreditation for climate financing, channeling funding through CTFs, incubating new CTFs on the continent, developing business solutions and approaches for investing in transformative change at landscape scale. There could also be innovative approaches to risk mitigation through credit facilities and guarantee mechanisms across CTFs in the CAFÉ network.

Operational Matters

The Steering Committee agreed to meet in Kigali before APAC, and to invite additional prospective SC members to the table at that meeting. AWF as the Secretariat of the SC will work with the Chair and SC members to agree a timeline for meetings thereafter, aligned to the needs of the design process. Action points for individual SC members were taken and will be reported back to the group at the next meeting.

