INDUSTRY BRIEF
BioInnovation Africa

For equitable business partnerships that contribute to biodiversity conservation
Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa

Africa – a continent of (sourcing) opportunities

Africa bears nine global biodiversity hotspots and is home to over 60.000 different plants and still uncounted numbers of animals and microorganisms. Many of them are used in traditional ways, for instance as food supplements, cosmetic and medicinal applications.

Increasingly, Africa's biodiversity is being used as a source for innovation and natural ingredients, including for food, cosmetics and pharma, although much of its economic potential remains untapped. It is important that these opportunities contribute to local development and the conservation of Africa's biodiversity and the many ecosystems under threat.

European-African collaboration for biodiversity-based innovation

In the context of the *German Marshall Plan with Africa,* the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned ***BioInnovation Africa***. The project aims to encourage and support the private sector to invest in Africa and to enter into sustainable and mutually beneficial business partnerships in accordance with ethical, social and environmental standards.

BioInnovation Africa
equitable benefit sharing for biodiversity conservation

Improving efficiency of national ABS frameworks	Supporting conservation & sustainable use
Biodiversity-based supply chains for sustainable development	Reflecting biodiversity-based value chains in development cooperation

Project aims

The project will collaborate with business and governmental partners in pursuit of:

Regulatory compliance – particularly with respect to the national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations, implementing the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Ecological sustainability – foster R&D and sourcing schemes that respect people and support biodiversity conservation.

Innovation for new products and jobs – promoting technology transfer, long term business partnerships for a reliable supply of natural ingredients and better products.

Advocacy – showcasing successful and sustainable North-South business partnerships as "proof of principle" will help to increasingly integrate BioTrade and ABS in cooperation portfolios.

Partner countries

In its first three-year phase, 2019 to 2022, BioInnovation Africa is considered[1] to focus on Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia, and South Africa. These countries are rich in biodiversity, which is already widely used locally and internationally (e.g. *Centella asiatica,* vanilla, rosy periwinkle, rooibos, baobab, marula, *Prunus africana*).

1 A final decision on the partner countries will be taken after the project inception phase (ending 7/2019) taking into account assessments of national appraisal missions and feedback from industry

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Project implementation

As a sister project to the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the BioInnovation Africa Project will be implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Activities in the partner countries will be executed and facilitated by dedicated GIZ projects on the ground. The Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) will partner with the project to facilitate business engagement and provide guidance on its sourcing standards. This structure allows for adequate exchange with European business and policy makers, as well as the necessary proximity to local supply chain actors.

Business support options

European business interested in developing and scaling up supply chains that are based on African biodiversity and respect Ethical BioTrade principles, are invited to cooperate with BioInnovation Africa. They may benefit from a wide portfolio of project support services.

Strengthen local businesses	Matchmaking	Support for ABS compliance
Sustainable farming and wild collection	Local development and equitable trade	Sector dialogue

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Eschborn, May 2019

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Design / layout:
MediaCompany – Agentur für Kommunikation GmbH, Bonn

Photo credits:
Jonathon Rees / Proof Communication Africa
Suhel al-Janabi / GeoMedia

On behalf of:
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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