African NCS Roadmap Planning Meeting: Key Outputs

December 11-13, 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa

i. Executive Summary:

The meeting brought together key stakeholders to discuss and plan a Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) Roadmap for Africa. The meeting included representatives from Oppenheimer Generations, Future Ecosystems for Africa (FEFA) and its network of associated researchers, Conservation International, and policy makers. The first day of the meeting focused on orienting participants to the represented organizations, defining Africa's NCS strengths, and identifying barriers to realizing its full potential. Participants debated possible tradeoffs vs. "triple wins" in terms of investable models that generate money for producers while protecting biodiversity and delivering mitigation. The day concluded with brainstorming of core impacts the group wanted to achieve by 2025.

The second day focused on understanding the global NCS roadmap and how it could be adapted for Africa. Key takeaways included the importance of the "manage" tracks, including farming, grazing lands, forests, and fisheries for NCS in Africa. The discussion also touched on the need for a tailored NCS roadmap for Africa to connect global targets with on-the-ground projects. Day 2 concluded by circling back to the core impacts the Roadmap aims to deliver by the end of 2025, including inclusive approaches, a continent-wide structure, quick wins, a communication strategy, catalytic funding, and engagement with relevant partners.

The third day involved reviewing a draft theory of change, defining high-level roadmap outputs, and structuring the report. The theory of change highlighted the multifaceted and exponential growth desired, emphasizing principles such as co-creation, justice, livelihoods, and non-carbon benefits. A proposed table of contents for the report was outline, including forewords, introduction, action tracks, outcomes, and actionable steps. The introduction aimed to set the scene for the NCS Roadmap, emphasizing the Just Transition in Africa and the nexus between livelihoods, biodiversity, and carbon-rich ecosystems ("NCS **FOR** adaptation, livelihoods, biodiversity, etc."). The group discussed The action tracks were detailed, with adjustments for the African context, and the report structure included chapters on what good looks like and how to transition from action to outcomes. The meeting concluded with assignment of participants to key working groups. See below.

A. PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF ROADMAP REPORT ITSELF

1. Forewords
2. Introduction and executive summary
3. Action Tracks
4. Actions to outcomes
5. What can I do?
6. What next?

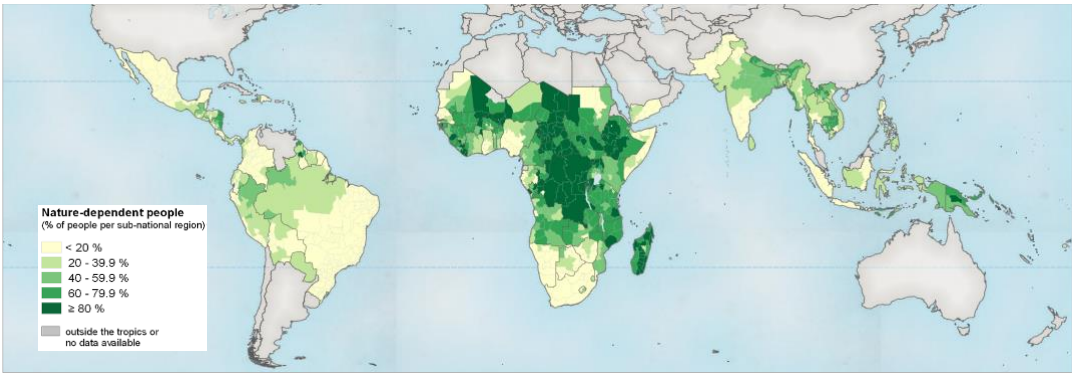
1. FOREWORDS

These will be written by specialists in the following fields: indigenous knowledge systems, science, policy and finance. The forewords are intended to lend legitimacy to the roadmap and to highlight key messages.

2. INTRODUCTION: Value proposition: Nature and the Just Transition in Africa

Setting the scene/the NCS landscape in Africa: discourse, vision and values

A departure point for the NCS Roadmap for Africa – and a driver of support for natural climate solutions – is to recognise that access to energy is essential to the wellbeing/survival of a high percentage of people in Africa. It is also linked to dependence on nature.



The just transition is defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a "… set of principles, processes and practices that aim to ensure that no people, workers, places, sectors, countries or regions are left behind in the transition from a high-carbon to a low carbon economy" and is packaged with values, vision and discourse to be taken on board at the outset and inform the design of the roadmap.

This introductory chapter will also establish the **livelihoods (eradication of poverty)–biodiversity–carbon-rich ecosystems nexus** that not only defines what Africa needs, but also what Africa can offer.

The 4 steps of the "**Carbon Law for Nature**" – a simple benchmark for accelerating emissions mitigation from the land each year to reach net zero by 2030 – are defined in the global roadmap as follows:

Step 1: Scale up actions that protect, restore and improve nature's ability to store carbon.

Step 2: Transform what we eat and how we grow it.

Step 3: Rapidly scale low-cost, centuries-old practices in land management.

Step 4: Reverse agriculture-related deforestation in supply chains.

The introduction explores these 4 steps from an *African perspective*. It includes, for example, concepts like food loss vs food waste, indigenous knowledge systems, and the role of grassland biomes in carbon sequestration.

Carbon accounting favors Africa

The figures for calculating the carbon accounting that supports climate justice for Africa and demands climate

Concepts and definitions

The introduction to the roadmap report sets down definitions for key concepts and processes used in the roadmap. In some cases, these mirror those in the global roadmap; others differ to some degree, and others are unique to the African context. The report glossary contains definitions of these terms.

Ideally, these terms of reference should be firm enough to guide negotiations between funders/investors and project coordinators/stakeholders in an equitable way. Terms of reference from funders should align with those used in the roadmap; likewise, project coordinators are enabled to lay down their own terms of reference using those outlined in the roadmap.

3. THE ACTION TRACKS

The action tracks in the roadmap are natural climate solution themes with different values for emissions savings. They are categorized according to their capacity to protect and/or manage and/or restore.

The action tracks are summarized in the introduction and are explained in finer detail later in the roadmap.

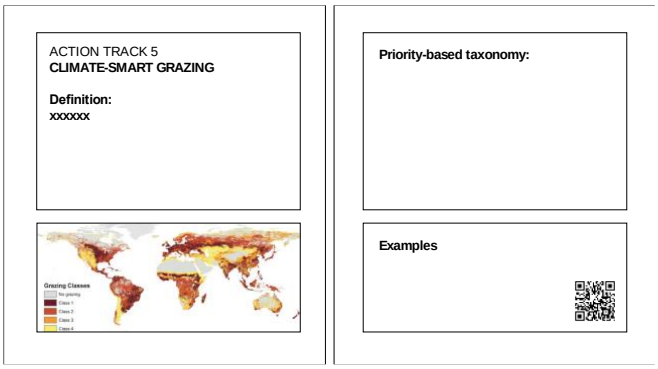
In the Africa roadmap, the global action tracks are adjusted to suit the context:

Global roadmap	Africa roadmap
No-deforestation supply chains	Zero ecosystem-degradation supply chains

Climate-critical protected areas	Climate- and biodiversity-critical protected and conserved areas (PCAs)
IPLC rights and resources	IPLC rights and resources (including tenure)
Climate-smart forestry	Climate-smart ecosystems
Climate-smart grazing	Climate-smart grazing
Climate-smart farming	Climate-smart farming
Dietary shift and food waste	Food loss
Forest and wetland restoration	Ecosystem restoration
	Climate-smart cities
	Energy
	Climate-smart fisheries

Structure of the action tracks chapters

The action tracks in the Africa Roadmap are more detailed and context specific than those in the global roadmap. They are each structured as follows:



What good looks like

Give examples of how the values and principles laid down in the introduction play out in real life.

How all stakeholders are included: community, govt., institutional, financial …

4. FROM ACTION TO OUTCOMES (Holy cow)

Adaptation, biodiversity, livelihoods

5. WHAT CAN I DO?

Ways to enable active participation

B. OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

OPPORTUNITIES	BARRIERS

Scale: Africa has very large existing areas with potential for protection in all ecosystems.

Intact ecosystems attract long-term financial mechanisms for protection.

Existing projects with the option of using carbon credits to fund projects that are doing well.

Sustainable agriculture presents some of the best-defined opportunities: Crops and livestock using grazing and fire as possible management tools.

Native livestock and plants with greater climate resilience and lower impact, e.g. the Northern Cape Speckled goat can negotiate difficult terrain and light hooves that cause less damage to vegetation.

Fisheries (mangroves and shrimp)

Agroforestry – FSC, prevention of illegal logging, reduction of impact load, optimal rotation rates.

Cover crops for nitrogen fixing.

Eradication of poverty - communities need extra income.

Many opportunities for **partnerships and collaborations** because of the multidisciplinary nature of the work.

Capacity for project implementation is not matched by project management capacity.

Overlapping goals (different governments and governmental bodies) but operating in silos.

A **lack of financial mechanisms** to keep ecosystems intact.

Knowledge transfer is hampered: A lack of knowledge/ knowledge is inaccessible/people are prevented from accessing knowledge.

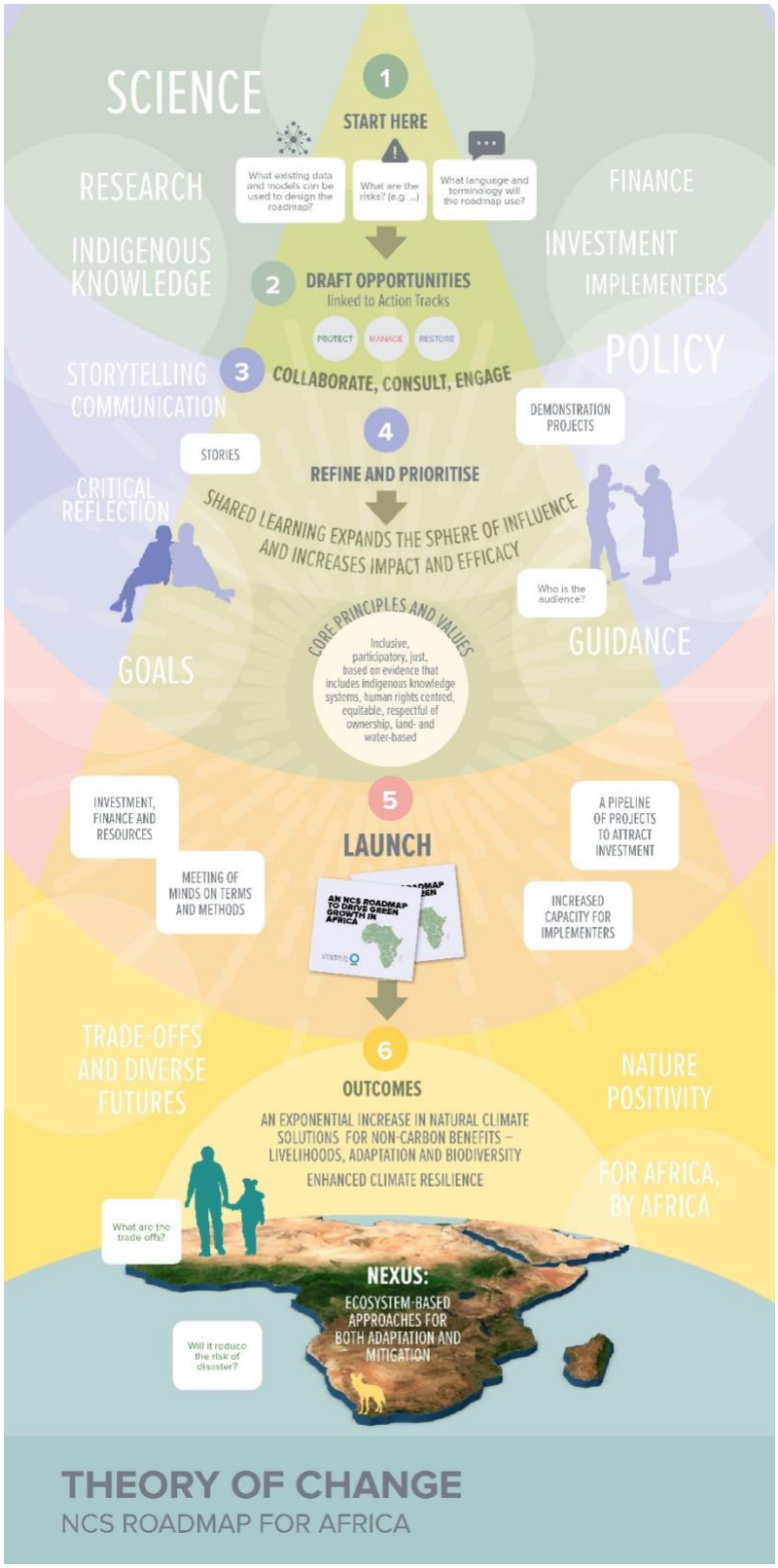
Development–environment dichotomy, e.g., development corridors in planning for the continent may be at odds with environmental planning.

Vague communication: Although climate is the entry point there are many other facets that need to be spelled out.

Land-grabbing (e.g., Blue Carbon investment from UAE): who is buying land where?

Exacerbation of poverty if engagement with local communities is not part of the process.

THEORY OF CHANGE



The theory of change explains how the nature-based solutions defined in the roadmap lead to change.

The figure shows that **the desired growth is multifaceted and exponential**. The **scalability** of the approaches in the roadmap is a critical design aspect; it implies that while projects are growing they retain their integrity and focus. Projects need resources (human, financial, research) to ensure that growth is true to the principles of the roadmap.

Influence and impact increase over time.

What are the underlying principles of the work? co-creation, participation, justice, livelihoods, eradication of poverty, an evidence base that includes indigenous knowledge systems, non-carbon benefits, human-rights centred, equity, ownership.

What should be in place before projects are initiated?

STEP 1: Identify and collate existing data and models, identify a mix of carbon and non-carbon interventions, identify risks, ensure that terms of reference are consistent.

STEP 2: Draft potential opportunities according to the action tracks that have been agreed on.

STEP 3: Filter opportunities to determine alignment with the roadmap's prerequisites for implementation. Suitable opportunities are prioritized for implementation. Findings may include market testing to determine feasibility of projects.

STEP 4: Distribute a roadmap document (print and digital) as part of the process to increase exposure and attract interest.

STEP 5: Financing, capacitation, agreement on terms and methods and a pipeline of projects.

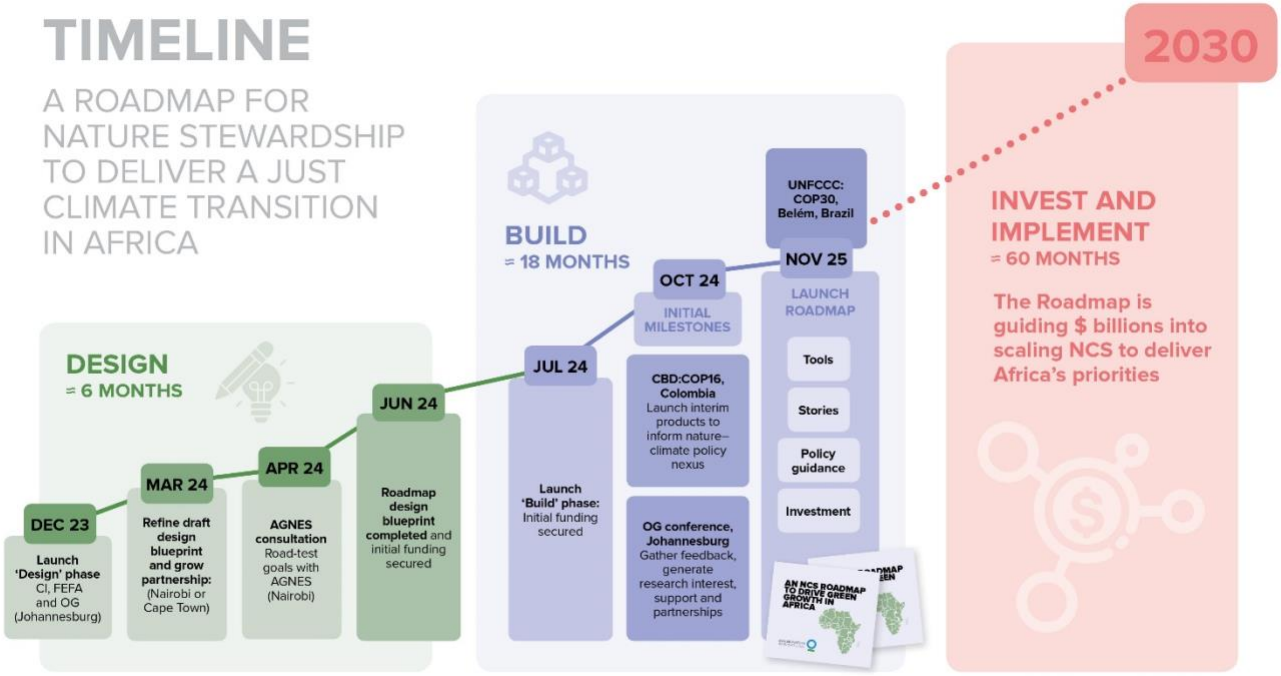
OUTCOMES: Exponential increase of NCS for non-carbon benefits for Africa, by Africa; Climate resilient communities

For discussion: Trade-offs and diverse futures; ratio of EbM to EbA; disaster risk reduction as a selling point.

C. WHAT NEXT?

TASKS	PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE	Key Questions
Define the boundaries of Action tracks/managed areas/production	Mike, Armani, and reference group	
Workplan/Design of roadmap:	Sally, Dan, Dave (and a possible consultant)	Meeting with OG in January based on two pager to secure funding for next 7 months.
Context setting and principles/values:	Julia, Barney	
Identification of possible demo projects:	Elijah, Tatenda	
Mapping finance and flows:	Odi, Justine, Julia, and consultant	Map out how much investment is already covered before asking for co-financing
Grow partnerships and network:	FEFA	By July 2024, host a meeting with key actors to prep for CBD COP.
Engage African decision-makers (incl. NEPD, AUC)	FEFA	- CBD COP to discuss and launch the roadmap process with negotiators from a number of partners. - COP 30: We have drafts ready and financing in place
Tools: (designing and mobilising resources for tools)	Perushan (CSA) and FEFA post doc; Patrick (CI – energy, biodiversity)	TBD

Reconvene in March to prepare for AGN meeting	**Whole group**	Funding for the next 18 months



ATTENDEES

Oppenheimer Generations

- Duncan MacFadyen
- Rendani Nenguda

FEFA and FEFA Network

- Sally Archibald (University of Witwatersrand/FEFA)
- Laura Pereira (University of Witwatersrand/FEFA)
- Odirilwe Selomane (University of Pretoria/FEFA)
- Khombomoni Keith Chuma
- Mohammed Armani (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology/FEFA)
- Batlhalifi Nkgothoe (PhD Student)
- Tatenda Gotore (Research Associate, Miombo Network)

Conservation International Staff: Africa Field Division

- Julia Levin (CSA, ocean) (SA)
- Heidi-Jayne Hawkins (wildlife, soil) (SA)
- María Claudia Díazgranados (oceans/Blue Carbon)
- Elijah Torai (IPLC, CCC) East Africa

Conservation International Staff: Global Programs

- Dan Myers (NCS Roadmap)
- Michael Wolosin (NCS Roadmap)
- David Hole (NCS Roadmap)

Policy Makers

- Barney Kgope (GoSA)