REGIONAL AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP TOWARDS FOCAC 2018: PROCEEDINGS

Edited by Taye Teferi, Laurent Some, Jackson Kiplagat, and Gedion G. Jalata

AUGUST 2018
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Regional awareness and capacity building workshop towards FOCAC 2018: Proceedings

Edited by Taye Teferi, Laurent Some, Jackson Kiplagat, and Gedion G. Jalata

Some of the workshop participants © TRAFFIC
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Acknowledgements

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Abbreviation and Acronyms

AfDB – African Development Bank
AUC – African Union Commission
AIDA – Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa
BRI – Belt and Road Initiative
CADF – China–Africa Development Fund
CAADP – Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CEFDHAC – Conférence sur les Ecosystèmes de Forêts Denses et Humides d’Afrique Centrale
CSO – Civil Society Organisation
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
FDI – Foreign Direct Investment
FOCAC – Forum for China–Africa Cooperation
ODA – Official Development Assistance
NDS – National Development Strategies
PIDA – Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
RECs – Regional Economic Communities
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment
SME – Small and Medium Enterprise
UNECA – United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature
Executive Summary
The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is the premier platform through which trade and investment is mediated between China and African countries. Since its formation in 2000, FOCAC has evolved through six Ministerial Meetings (two of which were elevated to a Summit level). Each FOCAC meeting led to a growing portfolio of development projects that have contributed to significant growth in investment and trade. This has benefited African countries as well as China. However, the partnership between China and Africa can still evolve into a stronger win-win situation. While recognising and appreciating this mutual development, it is important to ensure that projects financed through FOCAC are integrated into and consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063 as well as National Development Strategies (NDS) and meet critical environmental and social sustainability standards.

The 2018 FOCAC Summit will be held in Beijing in September 2018 under the theme “Win-win cooperation and join hands to build a closer community with a shared future for China and Africa”. China and Africa are expected to come to an agreement and declare a FOCAC 2018 Action Plan using the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI), the UN SDGs and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union as well as the NDSs of various African countries as important development trajectory contexts.

It is very important that all projects supported by the FOCAC framework fully adhere to rigorous environmental and social sustainability standards and deploy best international standards and practices of planning, implementation and progress reporting. It is only through these levels of standards that African countries will be able to ensure a sustainable development pathway and guard against “lock-in” into unsustainable development.

Africa is endowed with unique biodiversity and ecosystem services that support livelihoods and underpin national economic development. As Africa struggles to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and the exploitation beyond sustainability of its wild resources of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity, it is the well-functioning ecosystems that form the basis for ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience. Therefore, development projects coming through FOCAC should not compromise that natural coping capacity.

In this context, WWF and TRAFFIC organised a Regional Awareness and Capacity Building Workshop Towards FOCAC 2018 held during 19th–20th June 2018 at the Southern Sun Mayfair Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide a platform to review the FOCAC 2015 Action Plan—its implementation to date and implications of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI);
- Provide a platform for dialogue, exchange and sharing of good practices and lessons learned amongst key government officials, civil society organisations (CSOs) and other relevant stakeholders to inform their preparation for a strategic engagement in FOCAC 2018;
- Deepen government officials’, CSOs’ and opinion writers’ knowledge and understanding of the importance of FOCAC as the premier platform for discussion of trade and investment between China and Africa, including the process involved and the key players and support mechanisms;
- Enhance environmental and social sustainability within the FOCAC process and enrich African countries’ engagement with China constructively;
Develop recommendations that feed into the FOCAC 2018 process in order that trade and investment is guided by the principles of sustainability and best international practices and so that illegality and unsustainable trade in natural resources is effectively and collaboratively eliminated;

Increase capacity among CSOs to participate in the FOCAC processes and support the effective implementation of the FOCAC Action Plan;

Develop recommendations to FOCAC for increased environmental and social sustainability and the improvement of the process to include a monitoring and reporting plan, which is publicly available so that countries can monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan.

After detailed discussions and reviews, participants of the workshop developed the following key issues and recommendations that should inform African countries’ engagement in the upcoming FOCAC 2018 Ministerial Conference and Heads of States and Government Summit.

A) Key issues raised during the discussions included:

- China engages Africa as a bloc—commitments are multi-laterally pronounced at summits but subsequent agreements are bi-laterally negotiated between China and individual African countries. It is important for each African country to understand this process and engage accordingly.

- There is need to develop a strategy to support private sector and civil society engagement in FOCAC processes.

- FOCAC provides an important process and platform for environmental conservation interests and opportunities to influence decisions on Chinese investments in Africa towards sustainability.

- The 2015 Johannesburg Summit provided an agreed framework for co-operation known as a “10+5+1”—i.e. ten cooperative plans, five pillars plus one representing the comprehensive and strategic collaborative partnership between China and Africa at the core of the relationship. This framework for co-operation is comprehensive and covers substantial areas of interest to Africa such as infrastructure development, investment, human resource development, environment and natural resource protection as well as support for the universally agreed UN SDGs, and Agenda 2063.

- These development and investment opportunities should be areas of great interest to all African countries.

- China is one of the top four Africa partners in trade, infrastructure, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Official Development Assistance (ODA) support. This is the reason African countries should effectively engage in the FOCAC process as an opportunity presented by China.

- Trade is an enabler so we should be involving our local entrepreneurs in the FOCAC discussion to ensure creating wealth while protecting the environment is done within a sustainability framework.

- China has a comprehensive Africa policy while Africa has yet to develop one vis-à-vis China. “It takes two hands to clap, not one”. Africa should develop an Africa-grown comprehensive agenda/strategy going into negotiations with China that emphasises policy co-ordination and sustainability.

- In this regard, to engage better with China, adequate and early preparation is critical. African countries must develop a common position in their engagement at the upcoming FOCAC. It will be helpful to identify priorities at continental, regional and country levels.
• African countries must negotiate for a win-win situation in the aid flows and projects supported under FOCAC. Agenda 2063 and different African Union (AU) sectorial programmes such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA), as well as the high five of the African Development Bank (AfDB) can be used by Africa to engage China in the FOCAC process multi-laterally.

• Investing in woman and youth will have a multiplier effect.

• Countries should engage in and deploy integrated regulatory frameworks and relevant tools such as Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) when reviewing proposed investment projects.

• FOCAC projects must give room for incorporating local content from African countries. It was also highlighted that it would be important to integrate Africa-based private sector actors including consultants and contractors in projects financed under FOCAC.

B) Overall recommendations by participants:


• We recommend that preparation for FOCAC 2018 at national as well as regional levels should be participatory and factor in input from Civil Societies, relevant private sector actors, think tank groups as well as media through a well-coordinated and inclusive process.

• We recommend that the AUC and RECs have stronger engagement in the FOCAC process in order to ensure regional and continental development strategies are fully considered.

• We recommend African countries make a concerted effort to build national capacity to integrate FOCAC commitments to actualise SDGs and Agenda 2063’s ten-year plan.

Content of FOCAC commitments

• We recommend that the Action Plan, coming out of the next FOCAC Summit 2018 should have:
  • A clear financing as well as implementation-tracking mechanism with measurable indicators of success.
  • A clear commitment to environmental and social sustainability.
  • A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan that stipulates periodic reporting and that the reports should be publicly accessible.
  • We recommend that FOCAC provides meaningful financial support for the successful implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063’s ten-year plan.

C) Thematic Recommendations -

Thematic recommendations regarding infrastructure, natural resource-based economies, wildlife, and renewable energy are provided by the workshop participants. These are:

Infrastructure

• Promote green infrastructure through better design and planning of infrastructure that promote the use of social and environmental sustainability criteria.
• Promotion of national, regional and global policies that incorporate sustainability concerns and best practices.
• Protecting environmentally sensitive areas that may be too vulnerable to allow huge infrastructural activities.
• Use of planning tools for decision making to promote green infrastructure.

Natural Resource-Based Economies
• Strengthen legislation and enforcement to prevent the trade of illegally harvested, traded and transported timber, timber-based and non-timber products, and punish non-compliance and violations to the full extent of the law.
• China and Africa to develop and launch a traceability system (tracking and monitoring) for trade in natural resources to ensure legality and sustainable extraction.

Wildlife
• Recognise and address wildlife crime as a cross-cutting issue, which poses a threat not only to wildlife but also to regional security, rule of law, good governance, economic growth and social development which underpin the trust-based relationship between China and its African partners.
• Recognise wildlife trafficking as a predicate offence related to economic/financial crimes when prosecuting wildlife crimes.
• China should continue enforcing its domestic ivory ban with maximum rigour and catalyse international action, including specific efforts to target trade via social media and illegal imports by Chinese traders and tourists that travel to neighbouring countries and overseas.
• China and Africa should maintain their commitment to international agreements and processes on wildlife and wildlife trade.
• Africa and China should further strengthen their collaboration to stamp out poaching and illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn and other wildlife products along the entire supply chain.
• African Elephant range states should step up efforts to combat poaching and stamp out corruption that is facilitating illegal trade.
• FOCAC should support actions to strengthen capacity of wildlife management agencies, building on the commitments of the Johannesburg Action Plan.

Renewable Energy
• Engaging with the African Union Commission (AUC) to facilitate co-operation between African governments and the private sector on renewable energy access.
• Strongly integrate sustainable energy in the FOCAC process to achieve the ambition of low-carbon development and a shift away from carbon-intensive activities through progressive policies that favour renewable energy development in Africa.
• Promote technology transfer through co-operation on research and development and development of energy efficiency standards.
• Strengthen policy, legal and institutional oversight for effective management of environmental and social impacts associated with large-scale renewable energy projects such as large-scale hydropower, solar photovoltaic (PV), geothermal, wind, biofuels and other related structures.
• Need to shift FOCAC finance towards a low-carbon sustainable development in Africa.
1. Day One Proceedings

1.1 Plenary Session I: Welcoming remarks and official opening of the consultative workshop

Introduction

More than 43 participants attended the Regional Awareness and Capacity Building Workshop Towards FOCAC 2018 that took place during 19th–20th June 2018 at the Southern Sun Mayfair Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, organised by WWF and TRAFFIC. Participants included those from government offices, civil society, regional and international organisations, as well staff from WWF and TRAFFIC. The workshop addressed timely and pertinent issues in relation to the China-Africa partnership focusing on the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Dr Taye Teferi, TRAFFIC’s Policy and Partnership Coordinator for Africa, welcomed the participants and distinguished guests and introduced the facilitator of the workshop Mr Gedion G. Jalata, Chief Executive Officer, Center of Excellence International Consult, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Welcoming remarks and the official opening were provided by:
Mr Fred Kwame Kumah, Regional Director, WWF Regional Office for Africa (WWF-ROA)
Dr Taye Teferi, Policy and Partnership Coordinator for Africa, TRAFFIC

The keynote address was given by Ms Joyce Achola Ogundo on behalf of Dr Chris Kiptoo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Government of Kenya

The session highlighted key issues in relation to FOCAC, expectations from the workshop and recommendations relevant to the upcoming FOCAC 2018 Summit.

The speakers highlighted the following key issues:

- FOCAC is an initiative that was launched between China and African countries in 2000. Ministerial Conferences have been held between China and African countries every three years with the hosting alternating between China and Africa. The 7th FOCAC 2018 Ministerial Conference and Heads of States and Government Summit will take place in Beijing, China in September 2018.
- While the FOCAC process is a platform for China and African countries engagement as a bloc, the agreements are bi-lateral between China and specific African countries.
- FOCAC is an important platform for WWF and TRAFFIC to engage with in order to support the ambition that the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, environmental & social) are given full consideration in the trade and investment deliberations, and that use and trade in natural resources is legal and sustainable.
- WWF and TRAFFIC support the participation of private sector and civil society representatives in the FOCAC process in order to ensure inclusivity.
- There is a need for major development projects and associated investments to incorporate Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) in their plans to ensure environmental and social sustainability.
- TRAFFIC works in a strategic alliance with WWF and IUCN and specialises in monitoring the impact of trade on biodiversity. As such it can provide useful insight and input into the FOCAC deliberations and associated action plans touching on wildlife (fauna & flora). By providing strategic technical advice and targeted capacity building, TRAFFIC is assisting
African countries to fulfill their obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and is supporting African commitments given towards implementing those and the respective mirror strategies by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union (AU), such as the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa. In Africa, TRAFFIC currently has a focus on Central, East and Southern Africa whilst liaising and providing work linkages to West and North Africa.

- The 2015 Johannesburg summit agreed on a Ten-Point Plan. This Plan is comprehensive and covers substantial areas of interest to Africa, such as infrastructure development, investment, human resource development, environment and natural resources protection. These should be areas of great interest to all African countries.
- The recent ivory trade ban by China is a positive indicator of their commitment to support wildlife protection in Africa and it should be an opportunity for WWF and TRAFFIC and all relevant stakeholders to engage positively and amplify the outcome of this development. The FOCAC platform can offer a good opportunity for engagement and follow up action.

**The speakers identified the following areas of focus for the workshop:**

- Generate ideas to help focus engagement in the upcoming FOCAC process.
- Make recommendations to help Africa move forward with a well-co-ordinated sustainable development agenda.
- Better understand the Chinese investment trajectory in Africa.
- Highlight the importance of early preparation in relation to the FOCAC 2018 Summit.
- Hear experiences and challenges countries are facing in relation to FOCAC implementation and learn lessons.
- Identify areas of commonalities among African countries in order to ensure that national development ambitions are consistent with regional and pan-African commitments.
- Examine ways of encouraging inclusivity of civil society and relevant private sector players in the preparations for FOCAC 2018.
- Understand and learn more about how huge Chinese investments are impacting countries in Africa.
- Deliberate on how best to promote environmental and social sustainability in Africa under FOCAC.
- Provide concrete suggestions from this meeting to feed into the upcoming FOCAC 2018 Summit.
- Bring synergy between socio-economic development and environmental issues.
- Generate knowledge on how best to achieve efficiency in the implementation of projects supported by FOCAC.
- Learn more about the China-Africa partnership and suggest ways and means for making the partnership stronger and better.
- Discuss very candidly how and when engagement with FOCAC works well (or not), experiences and challenges to feed into the FOCAC 2018 Forum process. How can Africa take advantage of the FOCAC platform to address the serious problem of unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade in Africa?
- Understand how African governments have implemented the 2015 FOCAC Johannesburg Action Plan and offer suggestions on how best they should prepare for the FOCAC 2018 Summit.
• Consider a multi-stakeholder strategy to assess co-operation with China and identify the challenges and how best these could be transformed into opportunities.
• Come up with a strong set of recommendations that support a collective effort for African countries in their engagement in the FOCAC 2018 Summit.
• Suggest ways of tracking commitments and actions coming out of the FOCAC 2018 Summit for Africa to follow up on progress of implementation.

Recommendations included:
• For Africa to benefit from FOCAC, African countries need to prepare adequately for the summits, including the upcoming one in Beijing in September 2018.
• Trade is an enabler and so there is value in involving entrepreneurs in trade and investment fora such as FOCAC. This will ensure creating wealth while protecting the environment.
• For Africa, natural resources—including wild resources of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity form an important asset supporting sustainable development. Therefore, trade in natural resources and related products should be guided by the principles of legality, sustainable extraction, trade and use.
• Proper and comprehensive preparation is very important for multi-stakeholder platforms such as FOCAC. As Africa engages China, preparation cannot be over emphasised.
• Assessing effective implementation of investments through FOCAC, we need to look at where we are and where we are going. It is important to ensure we are on the right path as guided by national development strategies as well as regional frameworks.

Following this, all the participants introduced themselves and the workshop programme for the two-day meeting was outlined by the workshop facilitator.

Proceedings
Presentations, discussions and reflections were made in the following thematic areas:
• Africa-China Partnership (Trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), development assistance and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)): Trends, opportunities, and challenges.
• FOCAC: Experiences, challenges and opportunities.
• FOCAC, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.
• Group discussion on how best to engage with the FOCAC 2018 Summit.
  • Group I: Lessons and tracking of the FOCAC Action Plan.
  • Group II: Engagement strategies and improving co-ordination.
  • Group III: Strategies to achieve global and regional commitments.
• Conclusion and policy recommendations.

1.2 Plenary Session II: Africa-China partnership (Trade, FDI, development assistance and the Belt and Road Initiative): Trends, opportunities, and challenges.
A presentation was made by Mr. Gedion G. Jalata, Chief Executive Officer, Center of Excellence International Consult on the Africa-China partnership.

Key issues raised included:
• China is one of the top four partners with Africa in relation to trade, infrastructure financing, foreign direct investment (FDI), and official development assistance (ODA). No other country
matches this level and extent of engagement. This is the main reason African countries should effectively engage in the FOCAC process as an opportunity presented by China and deliberate towards a win-win situation.

- China’s presence in Africa, in terms of the number of firms, market share and annual revenue, was highlighted in order to demonstrate the magnitude of China’s engagement in Africa.

**Figure 1: Chinese firms by sector (%), market share (%), and annual revenues in Africa (USD billions)**


- It was noted that China has built seven economic and trade co-operation zones in Africa; two in Zambia, two in Nigeria, and one each in Mauritius, Egypt, and Ethiopia.
- Chinese investment in African countries is backed by the China-Africa Development Fund, which has invested more than USD3 billion, and a Special Loan for the Development of African Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) funded by the China Development Bank.
- Top recipients of China’s FDI in Africa in descending order are South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Algeria, Nigeria, Zambia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Angola, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mauritius, and Kenya. Seven of the countries are found in the Southern Africa region.
- China is also a large and fast-growing source of development assistance to African countries. For instance, China is the largest bilateral infrastructure financier in Africa and seven times larger than the next largest bi-lateral financier. From 2000 to 2014, China provided USD86.3 billion to African countries.
- From 2000 to 2015, China’s Exim Bank alone contributed USD63 billion to African governments and state-owned enterprises.
- Overall, the sectors receiving the most in Chinese loans in Africa between 2000 and 2014 were: transportation (28%), energy (20%), mining (10%), communications (8%) and others—agriculture, health etc. (34%).
During the sixth FOCAC Ministerial Meeting, held in South Africa in 2015, China pledged USD60 billion as a development fund (in various kinds of support) to African countries. These include:

- Loans, preferential loans, export credits, concessional foreign aid loans (USD35 billion);
- China-Africa Development Fund, (CAD Fund for equity investment, USD5 billion);
- Small and medium enterprise (SME) credit line (USD5 billion);
- Grants and zero interest loans (USD5 billion); and
- A new China-Africa Cooperation Fund with USD10 billion allocation to African countries.

China provided USD 3 billion to the South-South Climate Change Cooperation Fund and an additional USD2 billion to aid developing countries implement the SDGs.

Six highly successful forums were convened: in 2000 (China), 2003 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), 2006 (China), 2009 (Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt), 2012 (China), and 2015 (South Africa). The seventh Forum will be held in Beijing in September 2018.

The Forum is the main institutional mechanism/platform for Chinese development assistance to Africa and China has pledged to increase assistance to Africa as indicated in the successive forum meetings.

The terms of Chinese development assistance are negotiated bilaterally, basically drawing from the FOCAC commitment and also guided by other important documents such as China’s Africa policy.

Significantly, the convening of a FOCAC meeting goes beyond the conventions of diplomatic pageantry and includes parallel initiatives such as the FOCAC Business Forum and the Academic Forum meetings.

At the last summit held in Johannesburg during 4–5th December 2015, President Xi Jinping announced the content of the jointly agreed framework for cooperation as “10+5+1”. Ten co-operative plans focused on industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, infrastructure
finance, green development, trade and investment, poverty reduction, public health, cultural people-to-people exchanges and, lastly, peace and security. **Five pillars** highlighting the nature of the relationship, namely, political equality and mutual trust, win-win economic cooperation, mutual learning between Chinese and African civilisations, mutual assistance in security, and solidarity and co-ordination in international affairs. **One** denotes the comprehensive and strategic co-operative partnership between China and Africa at the core of the relationship.

- **The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** was also highlighted. More than 65 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe have agreed to be part of this initiative. Ethiopia, through the Addis Ababa–Djibouti standard gauge international railway, and Kenya, through the Mombasa–Nairobi standard gauge railway have already benefited from the BRI.
- The BRI plans to create connections further into Southern African countries through the ports of Dar es Salaam, Maputo, and Durban among others. In this regard, Southern African countries should develop projects to make the most of this initiative. The Chinese government is keen to support projects in relation to the BRI across all target countries.
- China also established the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** in 2014 with an authorised capital of USD1 billion and initial subscribed capital of USD50 billion to support the BRI.

**Recommendations included:**

- African countries need to understand the Chinese, Indian and Japanese approach to development assistance, which is characterised as the “Asian mode of development assistance” where aid and FDI are bundled together and used as a market penetration strategy.
- Value addition is key for Africa to benefit from the co-operation.
- African countries must negotiate for a win-win situation in the aid flows and projects supported under FOCAC. Adequate preparation is an important element in these processes.
- China has a comprehensive Africa policy while Africa has not developed one yet. African countries should develop a coherent strategy for engagement that emphasises policy co-ordination. African countries should move towards a common African position in their engagement with FOCAC.
- African countries have not fully exhausted the USD60 billion pledge linked to the FOCAC 2015 Action Plan. In this regard, they would need to engage China actively before the next FOCAC, which is scheduled to take place in Beijing in September 2018.
- Transparency and accountability are important in this relationship for the proper use of natural resources for sustainable development, investment and trade.
- Setting standards on quality: we need to set standards and share with the Chinese. For example, value addition is not done on timber in Mozambique and Cameroon. This is a problem that needs rectifying in the interests of value addition.
- **Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union Commission (AUC)** should be engaged in FOCAC and the BRI.
- FOCAC should involve CSOs and relevant private sector stakeholders complementing engagement by governments.
- The issue of debt load/crises must also be carefully reviewed by African countries.

Four presentations were made in plenary in a panel discussion format. The panelists were Dr Taye Teferi – TRAFFIC; Ms Stella Kangwa – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Zambia; Mr Stephen Kinyua – IFAW representative; Ms Bagula Solange, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DRC; and Mr Bienvenu Ngoy, President of Conférence sur les Écosystèmes de Forêts Denses et Humides d’Afrique Centrale (CEFDHAC), DRC.

Key issues raised:

FOCAC-related projects:
- There was involvement of China in priority sectors. Following FOCAC 2015, two projects were identified and signed i.e. agricultural and construction agreements.
- DRC signed agreements with China under FOCAC 2015 on agriculture, health (to build a hospital) as well as developing academic partnerships.
- WWF, in consultation with the government of the DRC, has put in place a platform for CSO consultation on mineral development in Katanga Province for engagement in the FOCAC process.
- The space for CSO engagement in the FOCAC process is very limited in many countries. Organisations like WWF and TRAFFIC can bring significant value-addition to FOCAC preparations and deliberations, e.g. as advisors to certain RECs and the AUC, but opportunities for engagement are very limited to minimal engagement and advocacy on the sidelines of Ministerial Conferences and Summits.
- WWF has been working with China’s Exim Bank in the area of greening investments including those coming through the FOCAC process.
- Adherence to best environmental standards should be an important element in construction projects under FOCAC financing. This is a message that should be shared with Chinese counterparts in order to ensure better protection for Africa’s rich biodiversity and functioning ecosystems.

Challenges in FOCAC Implementation:
- Challenges in Zambia under FOCAC are around loan repayments; exchange rate losses (as loans are denominated in US Dollars and not Chinese Yuan). Chinese investment should be guided by social and environmental sustainability principles in order to guard against any potential harm. Going forward, there is a national co-ordination committee in place to manage FOCAC related projects. The national development plan has incorporated FOCAC projects which are monitored by the national co-ordination committee.
- In DRC challenges have arisen because of a lack of adequate policy and engagement strategy with FOCAC. There is also insufficient follow up regarding the Summit resolution and attendant Action Plan at the country level. Normally there is engagement with the Chinese government, but there is no direct contact with the FOCAC Secretariat. Furthermore, challenges exist in the contracts for mineral extraction around the issue of partnership arrangements for co-financing using mineral resources as payment.

Roles of CSOs and the private sector as well as the AUC and RECs:
- In Zambia, CSOs and the private sector have a complimentary role to government efforts in ensuring communities benefit from the FOCAC processes and are doing a good job on this.
• In DRC, the government has put in place an EIA use policy for projects and CSOs to keep reminding Chinese companies to work in compliance with local laws through a multi-sector dialogue. CSOs do stop certain projects through advocacy and lobbying if they do not meet important sustainability standards.

• There is a need to open up the FOCAC process in all countries going forward so that CSOs and private sector stakeholders can engage to enrich the discussions.

• The Content of the Declaration and related Action Plan should be tracked with a clear monitoring and reporting plan. Currently, there is no clear mechanism for monitoring and reporting that makes the progress reports available to all stakeholders.

• FOCAC should be a process that feeds into the attainment of SDGs. Monitoring the contribution of the investment under FOCAC will thus be extremely useful.

• Governments should bring on board CSOs and the private sector stakeholders in their preparations for and engagement with the FOCAC platform.

• During the forthcoming summit, we expect that China would show leadership in environmental sustainability and ecological civilisation and strongly support the efforts to eliminate illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

• Why are African governments not working together as they engage China through the FOCAC platform? Where is the role for bodies like the South African Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC) or AUC? How can we catalyse in-country action on FOCAC driving towards a regional and integrated approach to development?

• It was noted that infrastructure development is crucial to African countries. In this regard, why can’t African countries ensure the payment of debt with natural resources like minerals equals the quality of the infrastructure that is put in place? In any forward-selling of natural resources, caution must be taken to have appropriate pricing in place in advance of any sale agreement.

Recommendations included:

• For Africa to benefit from FOCAC, African countries need adequately to prepare for the summits including the forthcoming FOCAC Summit in September 2018 in Beijing, China.

• Having a negotiation approach as Africa in the FOCAC process and engaging with China through the AUC and RECs to complement country-level engagements.

• FOCAC should be open to and facilitate engagement by CSOs and relevant private sector stakeholders in its deliberations.

• With regards to meeting environmental and social sustainability standards during project implementation, it is not sufficient to meet only local or national standards that are often weakly enforced. It is important to adhere to best international standards of social and environmental sustainability. CSOs should support government efforts in ensuring that these standards are met.

• Projects financed under FOCAC should be socially and environmentally sustainable.

• African countries must understand the FOCAC process and develop an engagement strategy through national consultations.

• There should also be an African body and/or a joint body from Africa and China that is in charge of tracking the FOCAC Action Plan implementation, its regular review and reporting.
1.4 Plenary Session IV: FOCAC, SDGs and Agenda 2063

Three presentations were made during this session by Ms. Elaine Geyer-Allely – WWF International, Kenya; Dr. Dominic Walubengo – Forest Action Network/NECSA, Kenya; Mr. Peter Odhengo – National Treasury, Government of Kenya.

Key issues raised:

- Agenda 2063 is a well written document but current actions of most leaders leave a lot to be desired as they act as though the countries/nations will end at the end of the fiscal year! The needs and rights of future generations should not be forgotten when it comes to resource extraction and use.
- African colleagues become too wise to be advised once elected into office, even on issues in which they have no expertise. Governance, peace and security and environment-related issues need broader participation by experts and citizens.
- How can development be undertaken in a consultative way if people are not consulted? Lack of consultation is the primary reason dams are being built upstream and suffocating everything downstream and railway lines are being built in national parks!
- While Agenda 2063 is a good document we do not see leadership and a strong drive to ensure its effective implementation with adequate financing.
- There is need to ensure full use of key planning tools and guidelines. For instance, the use of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Land Use Plan (SEALUP) in the Tana delta, Kenya has demonstrated how environmental and spatial planning can guide investment and the need to ensure its full implementation is critical.
- We also need trust, partnership and taking personal responsibilities in the African continent during engagement in the FOCAC process.

Recommendations

- Africa needs an African agenda and strategy founded on country-based negotiations before going to negotiate with the Chinese. Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 are good documents but lack means of enforcement.
- A coding, tracking and reporting system is needed for the overall framework.
- Agenda 2063 can be used by Africa to engage China in the FOCAC process, multilaterally.
- A common Africa position, aligned to national development strategies of African countries, is timely and pertinent for African countries’ engagement with China at FOCAC.
2. Day Two Proceedings

Breakout Session 1: Group discussions on how best to engage with FOCAC 2018

Three groups made presentations during this session on diverse thematic areas including lessons learned and tracking of the FOCAC Action Plan implementation; engagement strategies and improving co-ordination; and strategies to achieve global and regional commitments.

Group 1: Lessons learned and tracking of the FOCAC Action Plan

*Members:* Alleta Nyehuye – Chair, Bright Chizonde – Rapporteur, Louise Scholtz, Joseph Bindoumi, Luis Jeremia Nhamucho, Muoelle Samuel Desire, Karine Edang Ep Allogo, Abedi Tsengengwa Leon, Jean Bernard Yarissem

Group members discussed and reflected on the following:

- What are the lessons learned from African countries’ engagement with China as well as from FOCAC commitments: What must be improved?
- How best can FOCAC commitments be tracked and followed up on from the African side?
- Do we need an African agency towards FOCAC? Or do we need another Forum for Africa-China Cooperation (FOACC) i.e., an African agency that drives its engagement with China?

**Reflections**

*On what are the lessons learned from African countries’ engagement with China as well as from FOCAC commitments: What must be improved?*

The group reflected that:

- There is no maximum African ownership in the FOCAC process;
- African countries’ bilateral engagement with China does not help to maximise African benefits;
- There is a lack of transparency in Chinese engagement with African countries.
- The group also highlighted areas for improvement including:
  - Increasing civil society engagement;
  - Promoting negotiations at regional and sub-regional levels; and
  - Increasing transparency and information-sharing among African countries and China.

*How best can FOCAC commitments be tracked and followed up on from the African side?*

- A joint monitoring framework from the government and civil society actors at national, sub regional and continental levels is recommended.

*Do we need an African agency towards FOCAC? Or do we need another Forum for Africa-China Cooperation (FOACC) i.e., an African agency that drives its engagement with China?*

- The group indicated that there is a need for an African mechanism to assess the projects, verify and monitor the implementation of FOCAC-related commitments and projects. This will help to improve issues such as human rights, resource extraction, sustainable development and sustainable wildlife harvest and wildlife protection.
- The FOCAC mechanism must involve governments, civil society actors, academia and private sector among others.

**Group II: Engagement Strategies and Improving Co-ordination**

Members: Bagula Chenama Solange – Chair, Bwendo Kabanda – Rapporteur, Bienvenu Ngoy, Julienne Desire Gaudeuille, Constant Allogo, Stella Kangwa, Secelela Balisidya, Donmingos Neto, Dominic Walubengo, Hamadi Gharbi

Group members discussed and reflected on the following questions:
- Engagement Strategies for RECs and the AUC?
- Engagement Strategies for African Countries at bilateral level?
- Engagement with CSOs and the private sector?

**Reflections**

*Engagement strategies for RECs and the AUC*

- The group indicated that the FOCAC consultation process starts with government-to-government engagement where plans are shared with preliminary indications of Chinese investment focus for the three indicative years to be covered by the Action Plan. No details of financing levels are given at this time by the Chinese Embassy.
- Ambassadors come together to discuss the common purpose:
  - Consultations among countries sent to China through country Embassies
  - At the FOCAC Summit the draft is reviewed by Ministers who conclude and send it as a draft FOCAC Declaration and Action Plan.
- The challenge is at the level of monitoring and tracking of the implementation of the Declaration and Action Plan due to a lack of transparency:
  - The AUC is currently an observer and not party to the negotiations;
  - Having AUC and the RECs onboard will bring better co-ordination with the continental development ambition; and
  - This will help better integration between national and regional development strategies.

*How did the RECs and AUC become observers to the process? How can we engage them to input into the FOCAC deliberations?*

- The challenge is that loans are given to countries but bodies like the AUC or RECs cannot get loans from China to implement projects—dams, roads, farms;
- AUC and RECs can play an active role by co-ordinating and experience-sharing amongst member countries.
- It is important for African countries that are FOCAC members to be transparent to other members regarding their strategic ambitions.
- Diplomatic relations among the African countries should be strengthened to enhance China-Africa relations;
- Identify and consider regional projects that cut across several countries. For example, support through BRI can be used to promote regional planning for countries within the RECs the initiative covers.
- Synergy among the RECs is essential to inform countries and regional initiatives strategically.
Recommend upscaling the role of AUC from observer to active member of FOCAC so that Africa negotiates with the active involvement of the AUC. Ensure all stakeholders’ involvement at national level is informing the various REC blocs and commissions present in the country about recommendations to the AUC so as to have an AUC-level unified voice for FOCAC engagement; and

- AUC should develop guidelines based on country consultations for FOCAC engagement including social, economic and environmental sustainability.

**Engagement strategies for African countries at bilateral level**

- Country-level sharing of drafts developed during the country Ministerial Reports. These should also include CSOs and private sector stakeholders during consultations at country level; and
- Countries’ engagement in integrated regulatory frameworks and issues related to EIAs and SEAs and related to similar proposed investments should be inclusive.

**Engagement with CSOs and the private sector**

- CSOs and private sector actors should understand their role and relationship with the FOCAC process and related outcomes;
- Use FOCAC to foster closer collaboration between China and CSOs and the private sector through knowledge sharing—WWF/TRAFFIC can play a convening role;
- Governments, through Ministries of Foreign Affairs, should open-up and share possible project ideas/concepts with CSOs and the relevant private sector actors prior to drafting requests to China and FOCAC. There is need to improve in-country consultations; and
- African governments should negotiate with China to allow local indigenous companies to tender for FOCAC-supported projects.

**Group III: Strategies to Achieve Global and Regional Commitments.**


Group members discussed and reflected on the following:

- How best African countries can make the most from FOCAC commitments to:
  - Achieve SDGs, mainly in environment, sustainable wildlife harvest and protection and guarantee sustainable (green) infrastructure development as well as building a green economy?
  - Strengthen delivery of Agenda 2063 and its ten-year plan as well as related flagship projects?
  - Achieve National Sustainable Development Goals?

**Reflections**

- The group indicated that sustainable development has three components. These are the growth component, the environmental component, and the social component. They all combine to bring forth sustainable development.
- The group further indicated that approaches that identify the SDGs and Agenda 2063 would have strong environmental and social sustainability. Development support through FOCAC financing should be consistent with these. In relation to this, challenges to achieve the relevant goals and priority areas (at continental, sub-regional and national levels) must be recognised.
Then, the best way FOCAC can help African countries to achieve the goals must be highlighted.

- The group also recommended:
  - The importance of localising the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into national development strategies;
  - The importance of awareness creation and advocacy on the FOCAC Action Plan. This is needed because the FOCAC Action Plan lifespan is for three years and would need to be implemented in a timely manner; and
  - Building institutional capacity for public institutions, which is an important lesson drawn from the Millennium Development Goals’ (MDGs’) implementation.
  - Investing in women has a multiplier effect as evidenced during the MDGs’ implementation.
  - Promoting and engaging national consultants and private sector players in FOCAC-based projects will help national capacity building and technology transfer.
  - There is need for systematic data generation, which serves as a means of evaluation and monitoring the FOCAC Action Plan. This can be done through the AUC Statistical Agency based in Tunisia or through the UN Economic Commission for Africa.
  - There is need for multilateral partnerships between the various stakeholders (government, civil society and the private sector) at the country-level in relation to engaging with the FOCAC process.
  - Injecting local content by engaging local businesses in FOCAC-related projects brings significant benefit and ownership.
  - There is a need for an African common position with regards to engagement with FOCAC by African countries in order to enhance co-ordination.
  - Find a strategic platform that African countries can use to prepare for FOCAC engagement as well as follow up action after the Summit linked to monitoring the effective implementation of the FOCAC Action Plan.
3. Concluding Remarks

It was reiterated that the partnership between Africa and China through FOCAC offers a great opportunity to advance sustainable development in a win-win relationship. The partnership, for instance, has offered benefits to African countries on infrastructure development including roads, railway development, power generation, and telecommunications among others. Nonetheless, it is not without challenges. There are issues around environmental and social sustainability; use of best international standards in the sector ensuring quality of projects; labour, safety and environmental violations; tied aid, monopoly and fear of over-dependency; lack of transparency and accountability in development assistance; insufficient technology transfer, and debt sustainability. The development assistance coming from China is also demand-based. In this regard very few African countries are making the most of the opportunity under FOCAC by submitting relevant projects in a timely manner to tap into the financial pledge.

It is important to develop a good understanding of the Chinese approach to aid/development assistance linked to the FOCAC process. The attainment of national development ambitions within the context of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs should form the basis for African countries’ engagement with China through the FOCAC platform. This approach will ensure that projects financed through FOCAC commitment are not only consistent with national development strategies but also support the delivery of the overarching global and regional development strategies that the countries have committed to. It is equally important that environmental and social sustainability standards as well as the deployment of best international tools, methods and practices guide the implementation of all projects. There is a need to ensure the quality of the projects through the use of competitive bidding, independent evaluation by experts as well as increasing transparency and availability of relevant information through all stages of the project from development to implementation. Inclusion of and partnership with local contractors should be supported in order not only to build capacity but also help ensure sustainability.

Project designs and implementation agreements should allow for African countries to negotiate for increasing national involvement by stipulating increased quotas for local employees, both professionals and others, technological transfer, and sub-contracting to local suppliers. It is important to promote joint ventures and use of local content in order to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes.

China has a comprehensive Africa policy while Africa has yet to developed one vis-à-vis China—“it takes two hands to clap, not one.” Africa should also devise a coherent strategy of engagement that emphasises policy co-ordination between African countries and also at REC and AUC levels. This will help African countries to negotiate from a more informed and policy-coherent position.

A key task after the workshop is to engage with the maximum possible relevant actors at national, sub-regional, pan-African and global levels to promote the recommendations of the workshop. In order to meet that objective, Rose Thuo, the WWF-Africa Regional Director for Communications and Marketing, highlighted the need to develop an advocacy plan that she and her team will help support the development of.

Finally, Mr Laurent Some from WWF and Dr Taye Teferi from TRAFFIC thanked everybody who had helped make the meeting such a success and called on all participants to share the
recommendations of the workshop with relevant policy makers and stakeholders, especially those working on the preparatory process for FOCAC 2018 at national and regional levels. They urged the delegates to engage actively with national preparations and inform the process as guided by the advocacy plan to be developed by each country.

Thereafter, they declared the **Regional Awareness and Capacity Building Workshop Towards FOCAC 2018** closed.
4. Annexes

4.1 Annex I: Workshop Programme

**REGIONAL AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP TOWARDS FOCAC 2018**

19th to 20th June 2018, Southern Sun Mayfair, Nairobi, Kenya

Day One – Tuesday, 19th June 2018

8:30 - 9:00 am : Registration of Participants

**Overall Facilitator:** Mr Gedion G. Jalata

9:00 - 11:00 am : Welcoming Remarks and Official Opening of the Workshop

**Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Fred Kwame/ Roland Melisch**
Regional Directors, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and TRAFFIC International

**Speaker:** Dr. Chris Kiptoo, Principal Secretary, International Trade

**Keynote Address by Ambassador Macharia Kamau,** Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Introduction of Participants and Overall Programme Introduction Facilitator

11:00 - 11:20 am : Group Photograph and Health Break

11:21 - 1:00 pm : Africa-China Partnership (Trade, FDI, Development Assistance and the belt and road initiative): Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges

**Presenter:** Mr. Gedion G. Jalata, Center of Excellence International Consult

1:00 - 2:00 pm : Lunch Break

2:00 - 3:00 pm : Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC): Experience, Challenges and Prospects

**Panel:**
- Dr. Taye Teferi - TRAFFIC International
- Ms. Stella Kangwa - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Zambia
- Mr. Stephen Kinya - IFAW Representative
- DRC Gov delegate
- Mr. Peter Odhengo - The National Treasury, Government of Kenya

Discussions and Reflections
3:00 - 3:30 pm: Health Break

3:30 - 4:45 pm: FOCAC, SDGs and Agenda 2063

- Ms. Elaine Geyer-Alley, WWF International: FOCAC, SDGs and Agenda 2063: Linkages, how to optimize benefits and address challenges
- Dr. Dominic Walubengo - Forest Action Network/ NACSO-Kenya
- FOCAC and Agenda 2063 - Perspective from civil society

Discussions and Reflections

5:00 - 6:30 pm: Cocktail

Day Two – Wednesday, 20th June 2018

8:30 - 9:00 am: Registration

9:00 - 9:15 am: Recap of Day 1

Rapporteur: Key Issues and Recommendations

9:15 - 11:15 am: Breakout Sessions: Group Discussions on how best to engage with FOCAC 2018

Group 1: Lessons and tracking of FOCAC Action Plan

- What are the lessons learned from African countries engagement with China as well as from FOCAC commitments: What must be improved?
- How best FOCAC commitments can be tracked and followed up from African side?

Group 2: Engagement strategies and improving Coordination

- Engagement Strategies for Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union
- Engagement strategies for African countries - bilateral level
- Engagement with CSOs and private sector

Group 3: Strategies to achieve global and regional commitments

How best African countries can make the most from FOCAC commitments to:

- achieve SDGs
- Agenda 2063
- National sustainable development goals

Discussions and Reflections

11:15 - 11:30 am: Health Break

11:30 - 1:00 pm: Presentation from the Groups Discussions and Reflections

1:00 - 2:00 pm: Lunch Break

2:00 - 2:30 pm: Key Recommendations for African countries on how to engage at FOCAC 2018/ Workshop Communiqué

2:30 - 3:00 pm: Closing Remarks - WWF/TRAFFIC

3:00 pm: Media Briefing/ Interview WWF/TRAFFIC
4.2 Annex II: Guiding questions for the plenary and breakout sessions

Guiding Questions for the Regional Awareness and Capacity Building Workshop Towards FOCAC 2018

Date: 19th and 20th June 2018, Southern Sun Hotel Mayfair, Nairobi, Kenya

Guiding Questions for the Plenary and Group Discussion

Session I: Africa-China Partnership (Trade, FDI, Development Assistance and the belt and road initiative): Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges

The session will set the scene for China’s engagement with Africa. Accordingly, it will address the following major questions:

- What is the nature and features of Chinese engagement with African countries? What do the trends (latest and historical- FDI, Trade and Development Assistance) tell us about this engagement?
- What are the opportunities and challenges the partnership is confronted with?
- What is FOCAC and how has it evolved since its formation in 2000?
- Proffer lessons learnt (including best practices) and policy recommendations on how best to engage China through FOCAC?

Session II: Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC): Experiences, Challenges and Opportunities

This session addresses the essence of the meeting i.e., FOCAC. In this regard, the session will focus on:

- Sharing experience in engagement with the FOCAC process as well as implementation of the key outcomes/action plans from the perspectives of governments and CSOs?
- Highlighting what worked and areas of improvement and suggesting how best improvement can/should be undertaken?
- Proffer lessons learnt (including best practices) and policy recommendations on how best African countries, RECs and the AUC should engage with China at the forthcoming FOCAC?

Session III: FOCAC, SDGs and Agenda 2063

This session aims to examine the linkages between FOCAC, SDGs and Agenda 2063 so as to highlight the interface and how best to focus on Africa’s strategy to make good use of the opportunities arising from FOCAC, in particular from development financing perspectives in environmental protection, climate change, south-south cooperation fund, FDI e.t.c. to promote sustainable development under the framework of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. In this regard, the session should try and address the following questions:

- What are the convergences and divergences between FOCAC, SDGs and Agenda 2063?
- How could Agenda 2063, FOCAC and SDGs be aligned so as to benefit Africa, a continent where people living in poverty is nearly half the population, as well as offer best protection for wildlife and ensure sustainable development?
- How best could African countries, the AUC and RECs engage China at FOCAC to achieve SDGs and Agenda 2063 ambitions?
- Outlines and analysis of the development assistance and investments options desirable for African countries to achieve SDGs and Agenda 2063.
Unveil the opportunities and challenges in engaging China and other development partners to achieve SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Provide comparative analysis on how African countries engage China and other development partners and investors (traditional and emerging) in achieving SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Kindly proffer engagement strategy?

**Breakout Sessions: Group Discussions on how best to engage with FOCAC 2018**

**Group 1: Lessons and tracking of FOCAC Action Plan**

- What are the lessons learned from African countries engagement with China as well as from FOCAC commitments: What must be improved?
- How best can FOCAC commitments be tracked and followed up from African side?
- Do we need an African agency towards FOCAC? Or do we need another Forum for Africa-China Cooperation (FOACC) i.e., an African agency that drives its engagement with China?

**Group 2: Engagement strategies**

- How best can Regional Economic Communities and the African Union engage China at FOCAC? Here it is important to create linkages with AUC and REC- level sectorial strategies such as Agenda 2063 flagship projects, Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) and SADC Industrialization strategy among others.
- Chinese Development Assistance is characterised as demand-based following through the pledge made at FOCAC. In this regard, an engagement strategy for African countries at bi-lateral level is timely and pertinent. How best should countries engage in this?
- There is need to increasing the engagement of CSOs and private sector in the FOCAC process and the projects financed through FOCAC. Suggest innovative engagement strategies that can be followed up on. How could these important stakeholders participate in the monitoring of the effective implementation of FOCAC-financed projects?

**Group 3 Strategies to global and regional commitments**

How best can African countries make the most from FOCAC commitments to:

- Achieve SDGs mainly in the environment sector, wildlife protection as well as ensure sustainable (green) infrastructure development and build green economy?
- How can Agenda 2063 be meaningfully linked to the 10-year plan and flagship projects?
- How can national sustainable development goals (NDG) deliver on regional and global goals?
### 4.3 Annex III: List of Participants

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<td>Luis Jeremia Nhamucho</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Martin Tsounkeu</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>General Representative Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)</td>
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<td>Mouelle Samuel Desire.</td>
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<td>Foreign Affairs Officer Department of Asian Affairs and Relations with OIC, Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) Cameroon</td>
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<td>Mutusso Dhliwayo</td>
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<td>Director, Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association</td>
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<td>Zambia</td>
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<td>Taye Teferi</td>
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<td>Victor Nyambok</td>
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TRAFFIC is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

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