

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE GREEN ECONOMY COALITION - EAST AFRICA HUB (GEC-EA)

1.0 Background and Introduction

The Green Economy Coalition - East Africa Hub (GEC-EA) was formed to establish a sub-regional knowledge and action space that connects green economy and natural capital agendas across the countries of East Africa. This was intended to contribute to stronger integration of nature in economic decision-making across the region. Furthermore, one of the GEC-EA Hub's objectives is to address the regional transition to a natural capital based green economy through collaboration among the partner states. This will in turn enhance natural capital based-green economy transition agendas and actions in each country and the region. GEC-EA hub is facilitated by the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) based in Uganda.

The GEC-EA hub seeks to:

- Assess the integration of natural capital in economic planning, decision-making and budgeting in four East African countries (Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda)
- Identify important policy, governance and institutional mechanisms, including participatory institutional models that integrate natural capital goals into economic decision making and advance natural capital-based green economies
- Convene key institutions in each country to share this diagnosis, and to develop a joint programme of dialogue, research, and action
- Undertake quick-win actions country-level to advance natural capital-based green economy solutions, exploring actions in practice
- Initiate cross-country networking, knowledge sharing, and peer learning to identify resonant region wide issues
- Initiate cross country actions on selected, agreed regional priorities
- Connect the work of the East Africa Hub to Economics for Nature partners in Africa, such as the World Bank convened Africa Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice, IUCN Business and Biodiversity programmes in Africa, the Gabarone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa among others

The GEC-EA hub was constituted with partners from Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. The partners include Kenyan Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), REPOA in Tanzania, and Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) Rwanda.

While Uganda previously undertook a study to examine and establish the Country's status towards transitioning to a green economy, there was need to establish the same status in the three GEC-EA partner states. The partners were therefore tasked with preparing framing papers on their status of transitioning to a natural capital based green economy. The framing papers from

Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda provide an overview of the transition to a Natural Capital based Green Economy and document the status of their transition to a Natural Capital based-Green Economy; the actions that are being taken; the main state and non-state stakeholders and provide recommendations towards achieving this transition. The papers are meant to advance the work of GEC by ensuring that the partner states advance in the transition towards Natural Capital based Green Economies.

It is against this background that ACODE with funding from the Green Economy Coalition is organizing a half-day national dialogue in Uganda to discuss the status of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda's transition to natural capital based green economies. At the dialogue, findings from the framing papers will be disseminated and discussed. The dialogue will additionally provide a platform to discuss issues related to the natural capital accounting as well as launch the GEC-EA Hub. The dialogue is scheduled for 28th June 2022 from 8:30 am to 1:00pm.

2.0 Objectives

The overall objective of the national dialogue is to provide a platform for key stakeholders drawn from each of the partner states to discuss the transition to natural capital based green economies in each state and the region as a whole. The specific objectives of the national dialogue are:

- To provide a platform for the GEC-EA Hub partners to share the findings from the framing papers
- To provide a platform for stakeholders in the East Africa region to influence policy interventions on the transition to natural capital based green economies
- To launch the GEC-EA Hub

3.0 Expected Participants

The national dialogue will bring together about 100 key stakeholders most of whom will be online participants from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. A few stakeholders will participate physically in Uganda. The stakeholders will mostly be those mapped by the GEC-EA Hub partners i.e. those key towards the transition to a green economy.

4.0 Outputs

The key expected output is a dialogue report that articulates the required interventions and collaborations to enhance natural capital based green economies in East Africa.