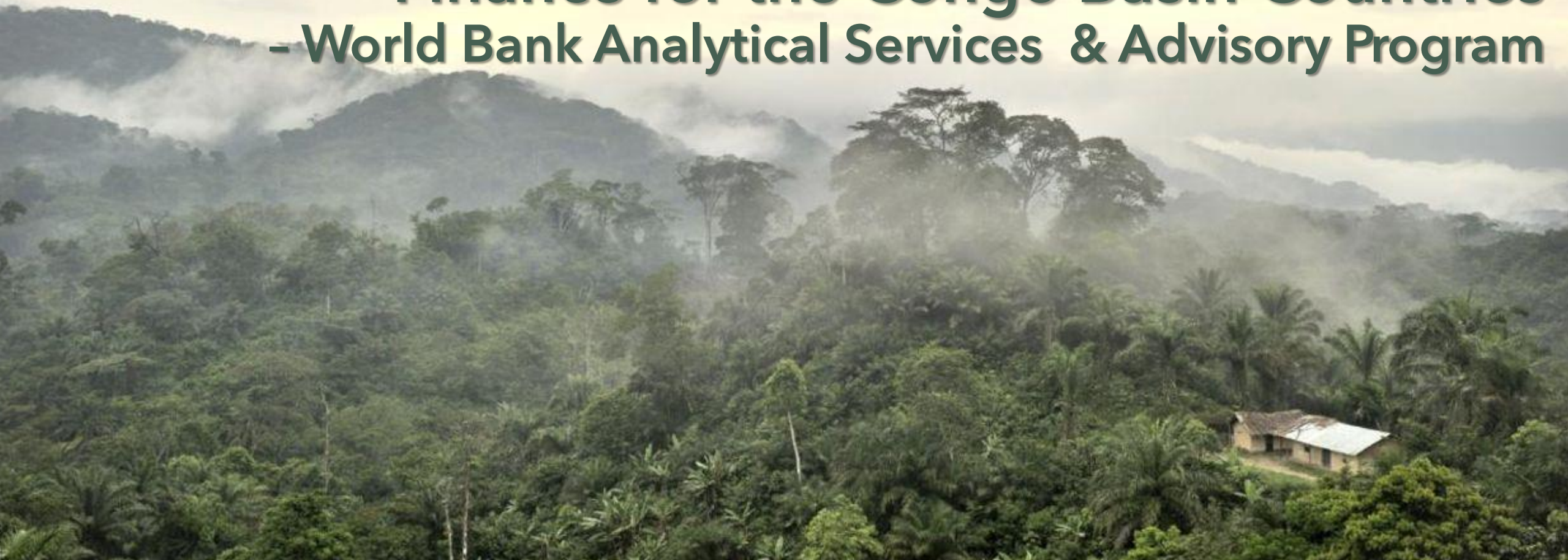


Leveraging Natural Capital Accounting & Climate Finance for the Congo Basin Countries – World Bank Analytical Services & Advisory Program



Kanta Kumari Rigaud | Lead Climate Change Specialist | World Bank

Fourth Meeting of the COMIFAC Working Group on Financing the Forest-Environment Sector
Malabo, 6 March 2025



World Bank's Congo Basin Forest Initiative

Pillar 1:
Mainstreaming
natural capital
accounting into
national policy &
planning

Pillar 2:
Enhancing
readiness for
carbon markets &
results-based
climate financing

Pillar 3:
Conceiving country
roadmaps for
leveraging climate
finance & carbon
markets

Pillar 4:
Facilitating
investment
opportunities to
engage the public &
private sectors

- Working across 6 countries
- A response to countries demand on unlocking climate finance
- Aligned with regional processes and for a
- Funded by CAFE



Programme outcomes:



Better reflect
contribution of forest
capital in systems of
national accounts



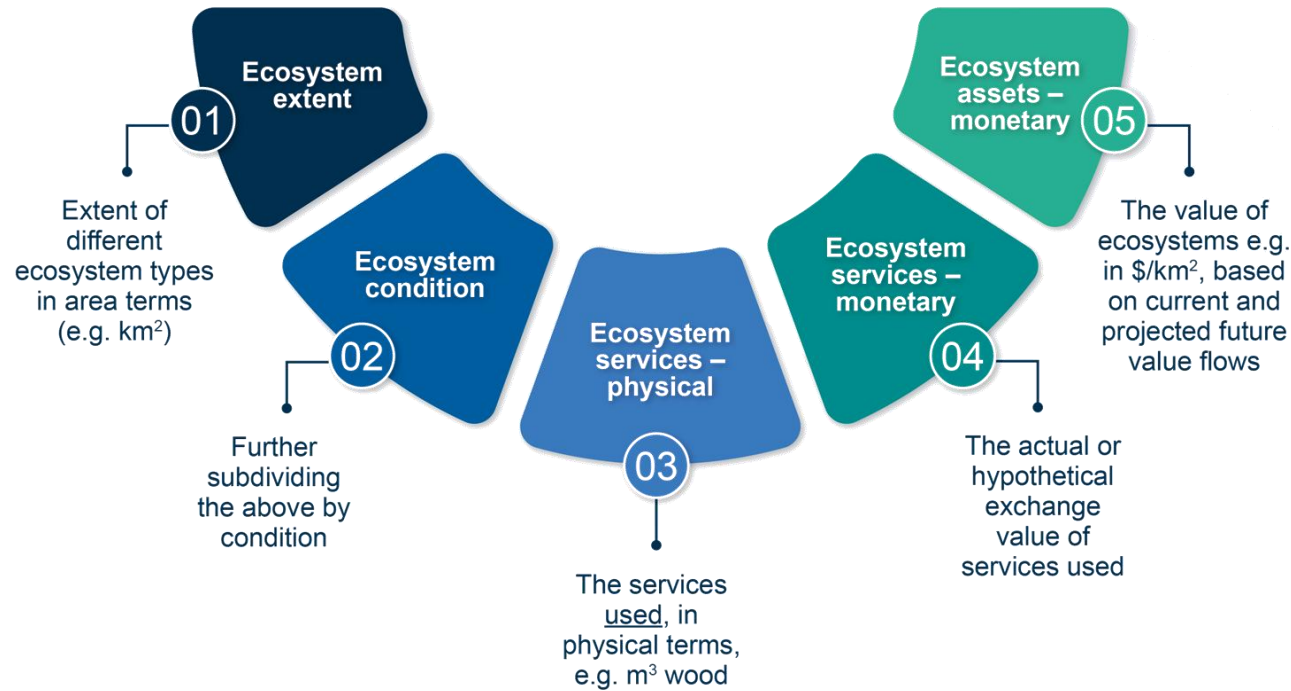
Translate this into
opportunities for
catalysing action
through financing



Contribute to improved
local community
livelihoods through
inclusive economy wide
benefit sharing



Ecosystem Accounts - 5 key steps



- Collaboration with Focal Points from key government ministries (Finance, Planning and Development, Forests, Environment, Statistics)
- Increased ownership and capacity on development of forest accounts.
- Feb 24-March 5, 2025 –multi-stakeholder & high level consultation on results of country-ased forest accounts

PLAN D'ENGAGEMENT DES PARTIES PRENANTES

Janvier-Mars 2024	Introduction à la comptabilité du capital naturel	Points focaux nationaux, Personnel technique
Avril 2024	Liaison avec les points focaux du projet pour rassembler les données et hiérarchiser les services écosystémiques	
Avril 2024	Comptes de l'étendue de l'écosystème	
Juin 2024	Comptes de l'état de l'écosystème	
Juillet 2024	Régulation du climat mondial (carbone) et tourisme	
Août 2024	Services d'approvisionnement	+ Décideurs, bailleurs de fonds
Octobre 2024	Services de régulation	
Decembre 2024	Résultats de la CCN	
Avril 2025	Politique d'aménagement forestier	
Avril 2025	Prise en compte des valeurs forestières dans les politiques sectorielles	

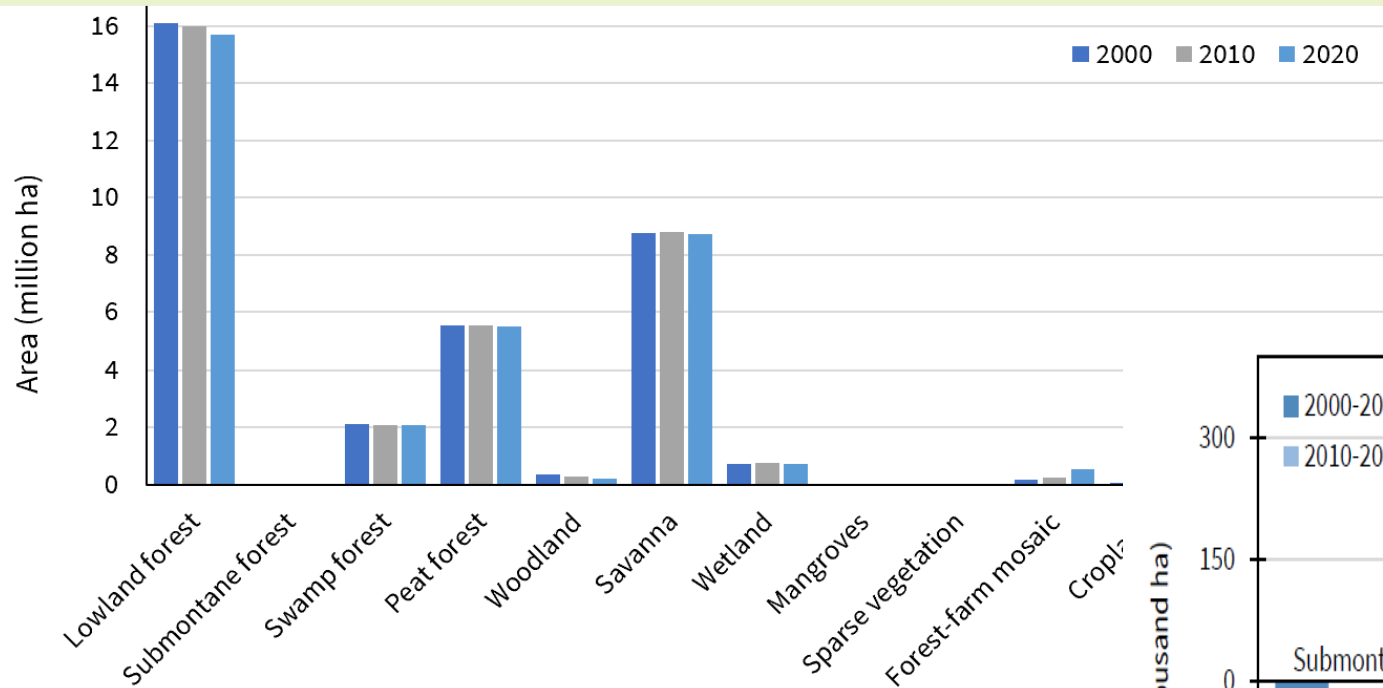


Forest Ecosystem Accounts: Key Features

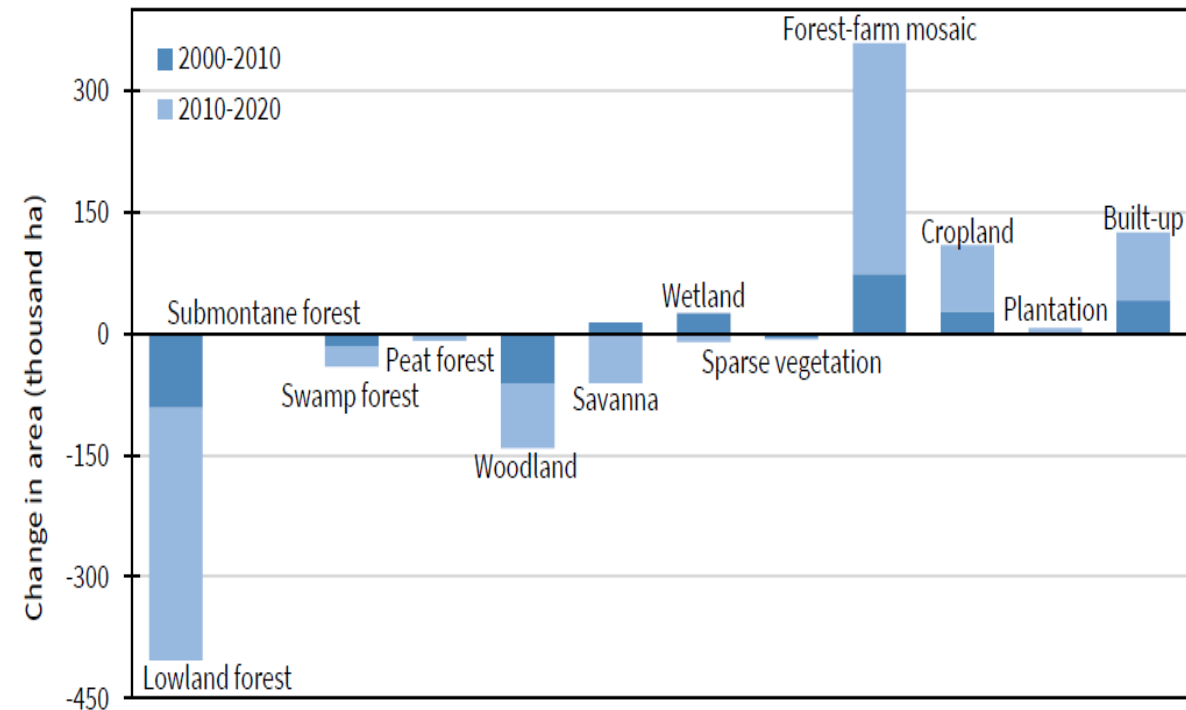
- **Ecosystem extent** for all ecosystem types
 - Forests: lowland, sub-montane, montane, swamp, mangrove, peat, forest-farm mosaic
 - Non-forest: built up area, plantations, woodland, savanna,
 - **Forest condition**: 4 indicators: tree height, canopy, connectivity and naturalness indicator - to derive composite coefficient of change
 - **Key forest ecosystem services assessed**
 - Wood products: wood, poles and fuelwood
 - Non-wood products: wild plant food, bushmeat
 - Global climate regulation
 - Sediment retention
 - Tourism
 - **Time periods**: 2000, 2010, 2020
- Spatial scale**: 100 m x 100 m resolution
- Scope**: National and Provinces



Extent of ecosystem types: Republic of Congo (2000-2020)



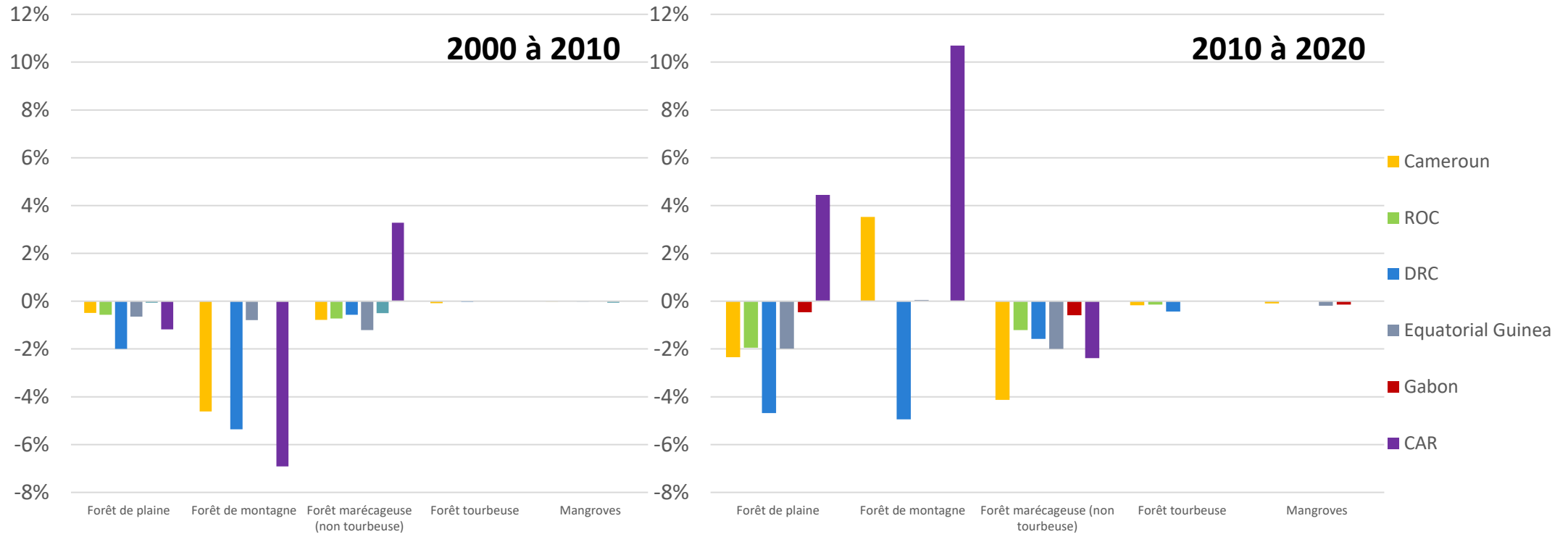
- Dominated by lowland forest, peat forest and swamp forest and sizeable savannah woodlands
- Some increase in farm mosaic and cropland



- Lowland forests have seen the greatest net change in total area (and a decline of 2.5%) - with the greatest decline recorded between 2010 and 2020.
- Peat forests have remained remarkably stable.

Figure 4.3 The change in extent of ecosystem types, measured in hectares, between the accounting years 2000, 2010 and 2020.

Ecosystem extent: Forest types (% change): Regional



- Little change in peat forests and mangroves
- Increased loss rate in lowland forests
- Significant losses in mountain forests (DRC); losses followed by an increase in the Central African Republic
- Increasing loss rate in swamp forests



Forest condition- Equatorial Guinea

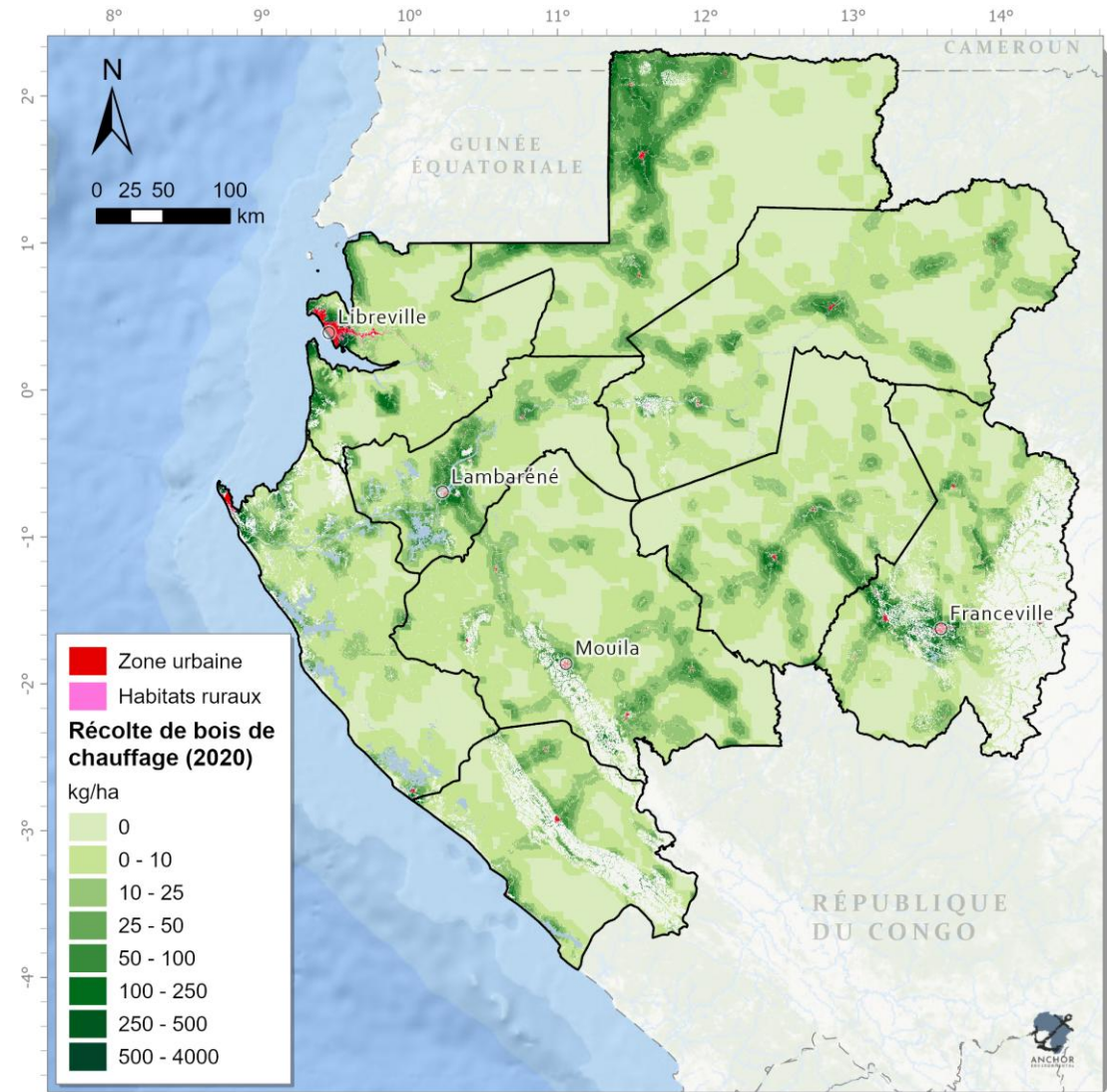
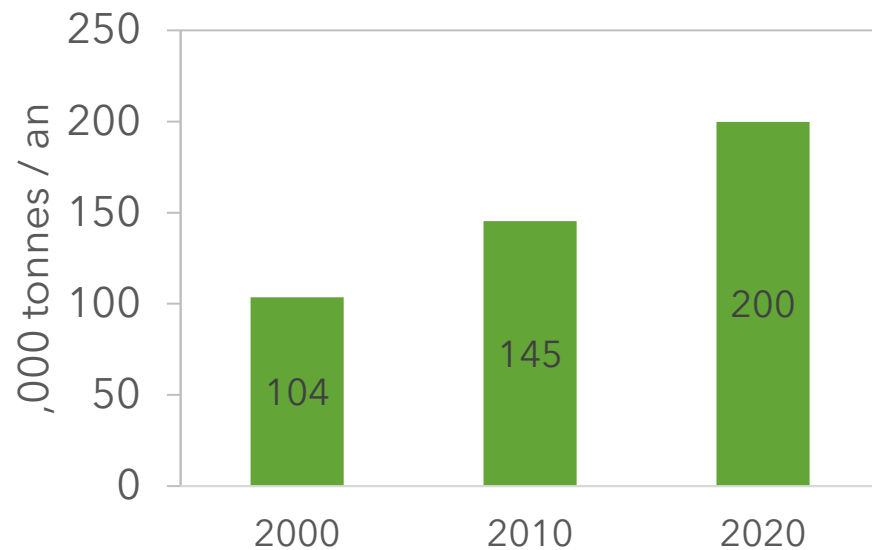
- Scores mapped at 1 ha resolution for forest areas
- Tree height, canopy, connectivity, naturalness index
- Scores then converted to 6 condition indicators



Condition rank	Condition name	Overall condition indicator
1	Pristine	0.95 – 1.00
2	Slightly modified	0.85 – 0.95
3	Slightly degraded	0.70 – 0.85
4	Moderately degraded	0.50 – 0.70
5	Highly degraded	0.25 – 0.50
6	Extremely degraded	0.00 – 0.25

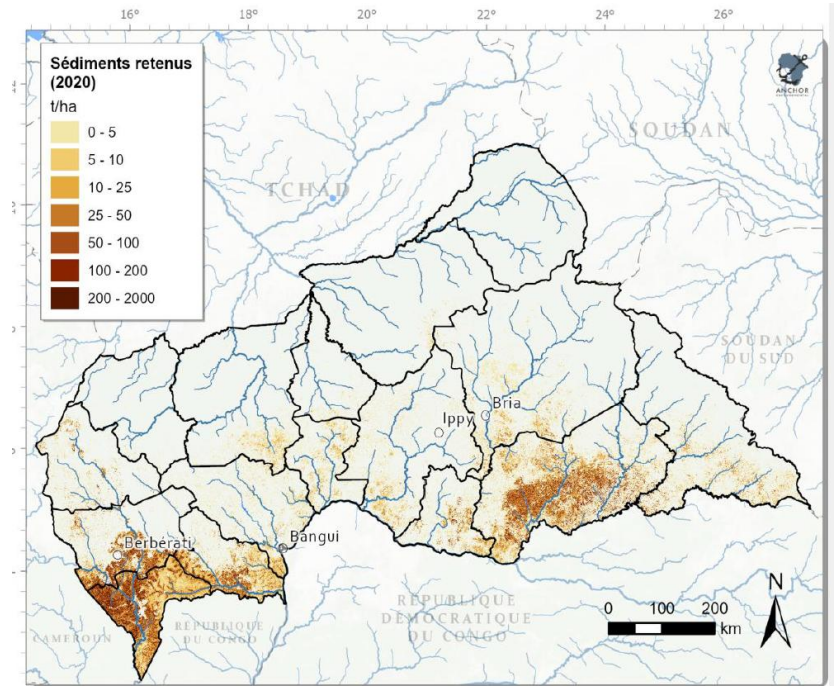
Provisioning Services: Rural Firewood - Gabon

- Highest near settlements and urban areas
- 104 000 t in 2000 to 200 000 t in 2020
 - Population from 1.3 to 2.3 million
- Value XAF 4.9 bn to XAF 9.4 bn



Soil & Sediment Retention: Central African Republic

- Sediment retention per ha is higher in lowland forests
- Sediment export rates have increased by 21% between 2000 and 2020
- Increase in demand for services, but reduced capacity supply



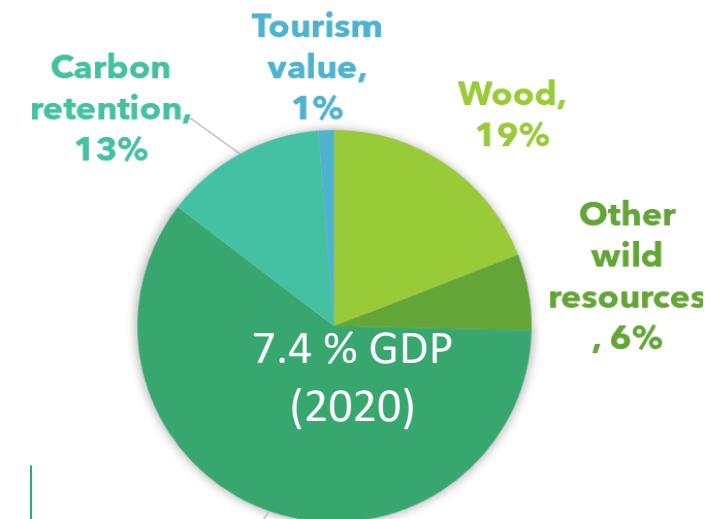
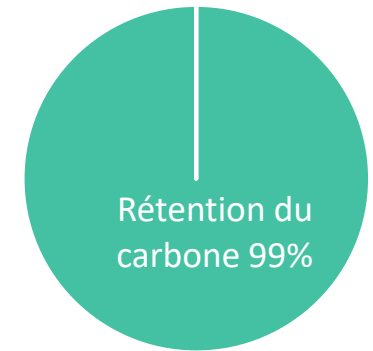
Année	Sédiment retention (millions de tonnes)	% de variation de stock	Valeur (XAF millions/an)	Variation en % de la valeur
2000	327		155 612	
2010	329	0.6%	161 339	3.7%
2020	338	2.5%	172 957	7.2%



Summary, monetary values of ecosystem services: Republic of Congo

FOREST ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	MONETARY VALUE (CONSTANT 2024 XAF BILLION)			MONETARY VALUE (CONSTANT 2024 USD MILLION)		
	2000	2010	2020	2000	2010	2020
Wood	53.6	85.2	93.2	89	141	154
Other wild resources	24.6	34.0	31.3	41	56	52
Sediment retention	272.6	278.5	298.8	451	461	495
Carbon retention	32 555.5	44 217.6	60 107.4	53 900	73 208	99 516
Tourism value	3.9	4.8	6.3	6	8	10
TOTAL VALUE	32 910	44 620	60 537	54 487	73 874	100 227

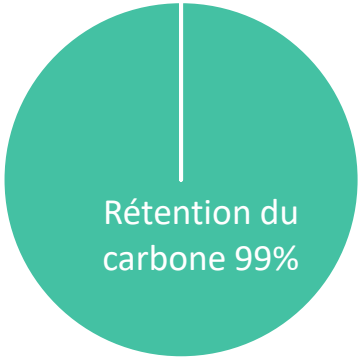
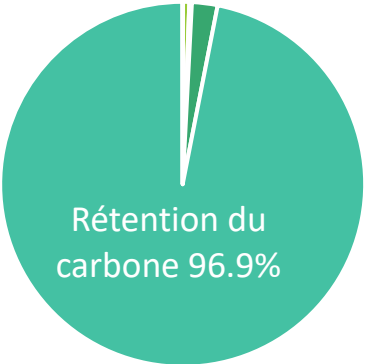
* Considering just the country share of carbon retention and domestic services: the monetary value



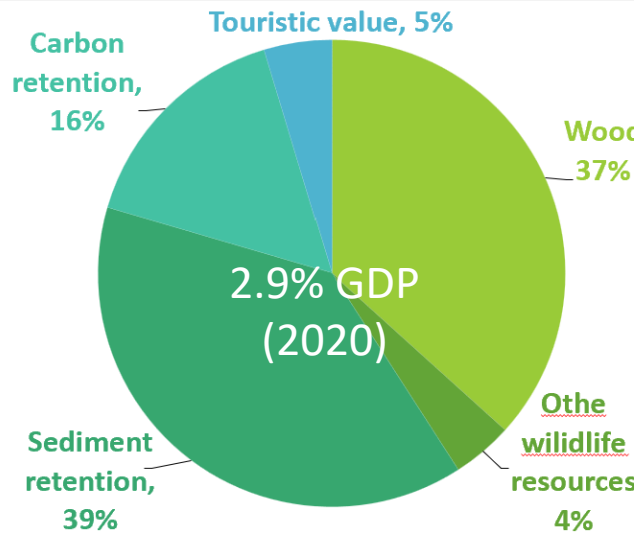
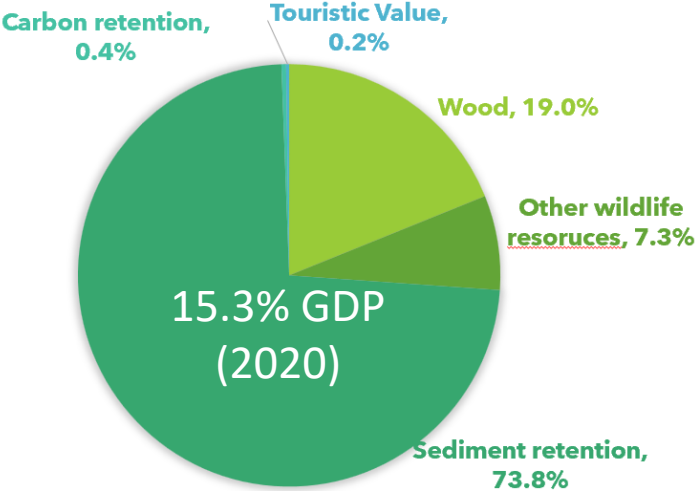
Without global carbon value



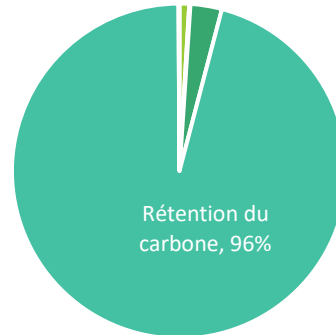
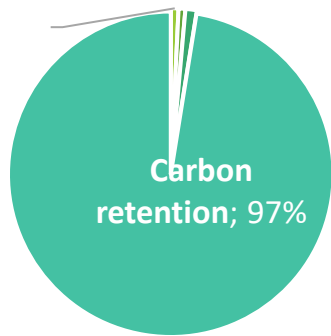
Forest Ecosystem Services - Global vs Domestic Context



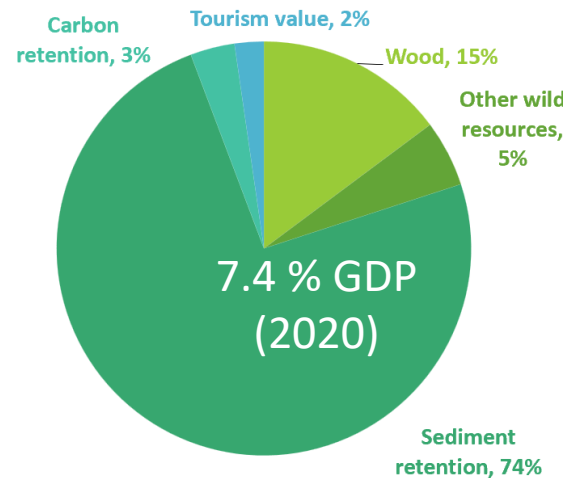
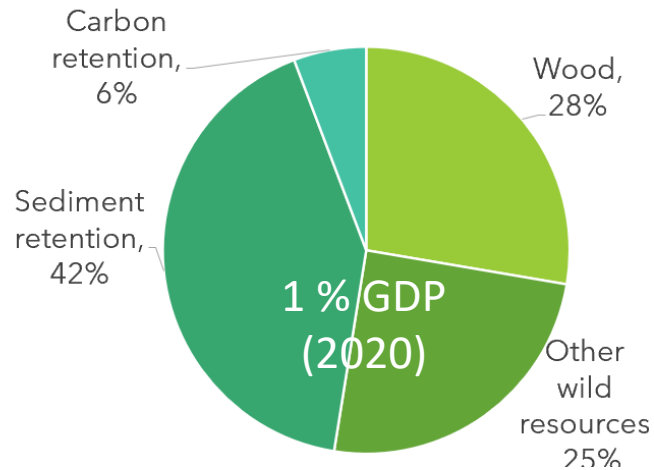
Central African Republic | Gabon



Forest Ecosystem Services - Global vs Domestic Context



Equatorial Guinea | Cameroon



- **Global climate regulation** service is the lion share of the forest ecosystem services in each country of the Congo Basin
- **Domestic** share of ecosystems services—sedimentation delivery, wood and non wood resources etc.—are still significant and must be secured.
- **Monetization of ecosystem services**, including for global climate regulation are key opportunities.



What do these first Forest Ecosystem Accounts say across the 6 countries?

- **Extensive forest** assets but declining extent, especially in lowland forests; and declining condition
- **Forest loss** in most cases has increased in the recent decade
- **Major carbon sink**: carbon gains have outweighed losses
- **National benefits** currently accruing to **GDP in 2020** for services assessed
- **Significant annual value of forest ecosystem** services with **lion's share** due to **global climate regulation**.
- **Domestic** share of **ecosystems services** have increased from **2000 to 2020**; and need to be secured
- Substantial **scope** for **leveraging climate** and **green finance**.

=> Still time to **avoid costly forest transition** that has happened elsewhere

=> Report makes **policy recommendations**



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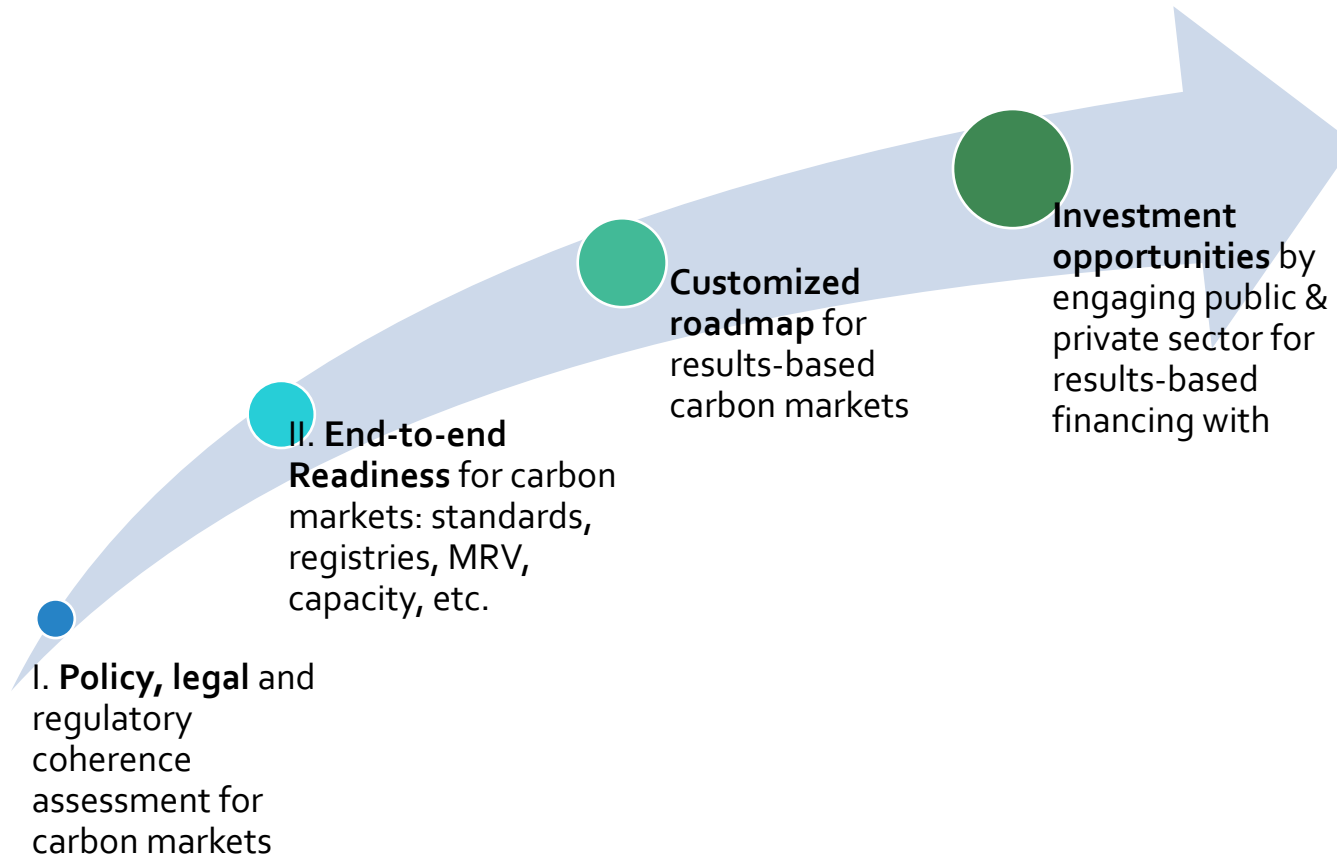
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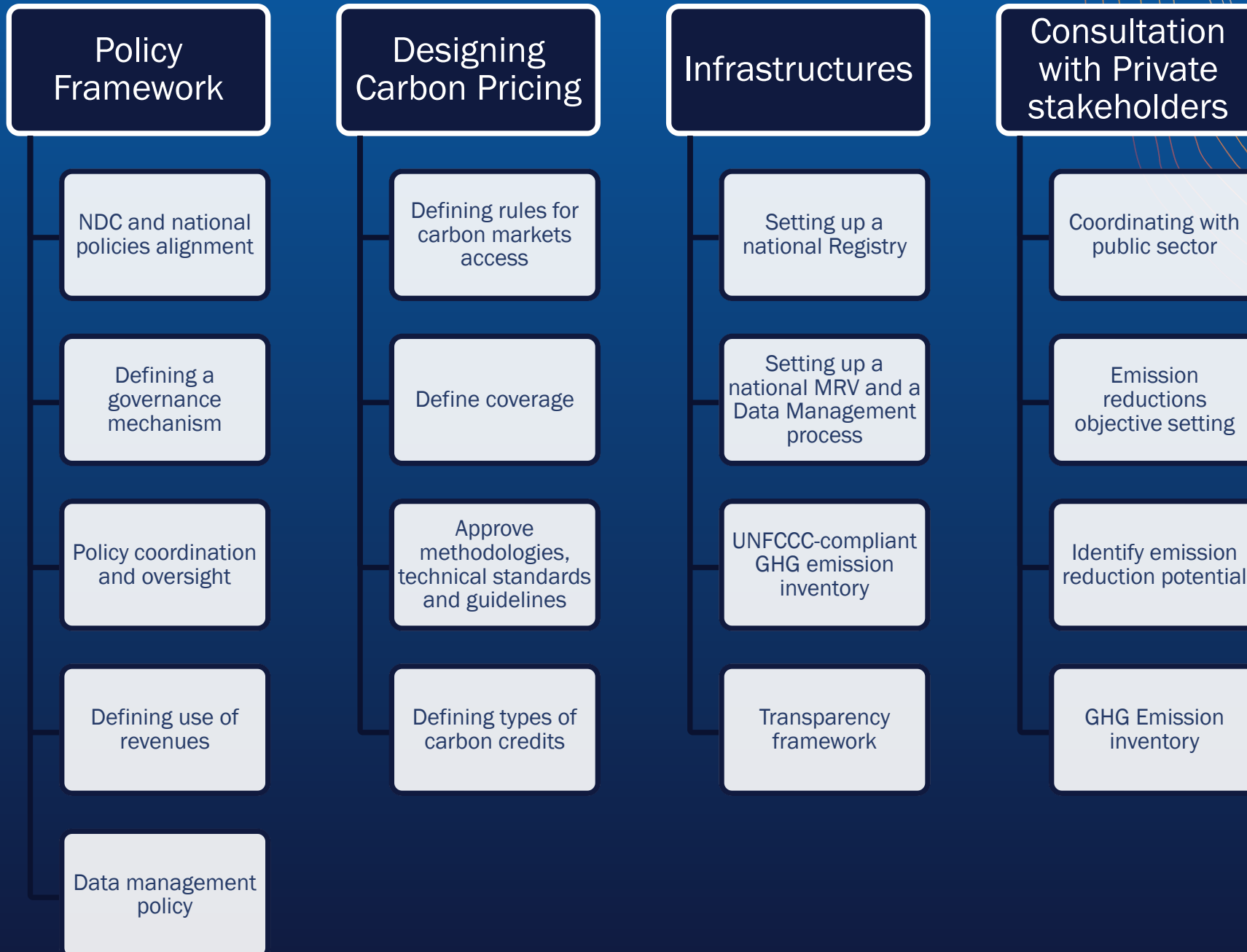
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inclusive economy wide
benefit sharing



Roadmap for strategic engagement on carbon markets



- End to end readiness to harness climate financing from carbon markets
- Ongoing with national partners
- Timing: Draft in May 2025



Next steps

- Finalization of the country national forest accounts, with policy recommendations: Launch in May/June
- Regional Synthesis for forest accounts at the Congo Basin level
- Draft Strategic Roadmap Engagement – ongoing consultations; draft in May 2025



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ANCHOR
environmental

Thank you!

For more information:

- Kanta Kumari Rigaud: Lead Climate Specialist (kkumari@worldbank.org)
- Tsegaye Gatiso, Environmental Economist (tgatiso@worldbank.org)