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Strategic Plan **Africa**

CONSERVATION STRATEGY FUND

The value of nature
shapes development
priorities for countries
in Southern and
South-eastern Africa.

Problem Statement

The sub-Saharan Africa's poorest people are most vulnerable to effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. It has some of the world's most valuable biodiversity, but remains one of the most economically impoverished regions. This leads to significant social, political, and economic challenges to achieving biodiversity conservation and socio-ecological health.

The threats facing the region's biodiversity are also highest due to, among other factors, the on-going infrastructure developments to spur the region's economic growth, market failures, limited funding to the conservation sector, and in many cases omission of the local communities' interests, knowledge, and experiences.

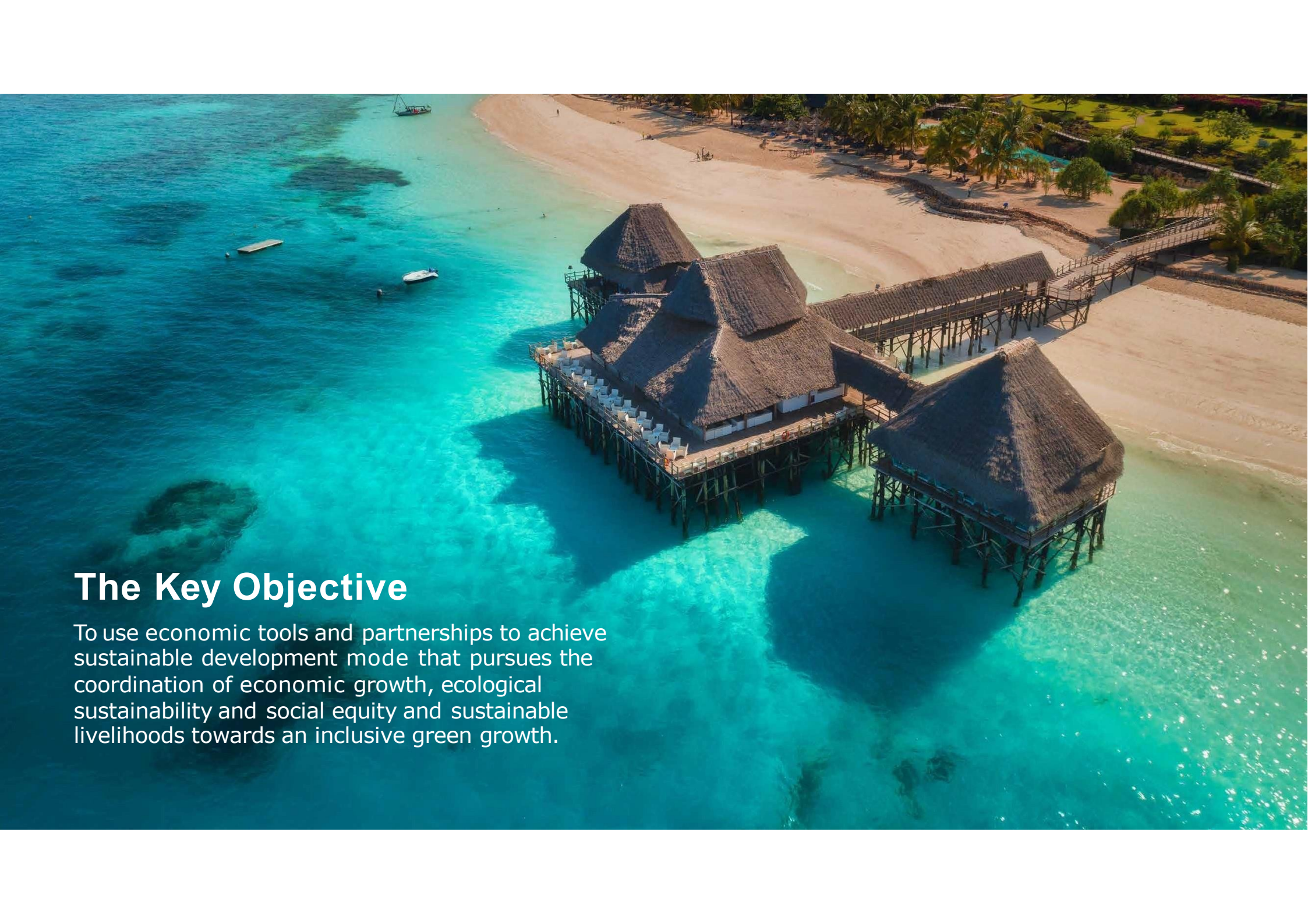
CSF will work on addressing the false dichotomy between economic growth and a healthy environment by highlighting the impacts of development and the benefits of nature and wildlife. The CSF strategy will therefore gear towards addressing the following thematic areas;

- ❖ Unsustainable infrastructure development activities
- ❖ Unregulated ASM sector
- ❖ Vulnerable community livelihoods
- ❖ Limited financing for the region's protected areas



CSF changes the way economics is used for policy and investment decisions by incorporating the value of nature and ecosystem services -**CSF makes the economic and business case for a healthier environment.** We identify the economic impact of environmental losses and develop strategies and alternatives for smarter infrastructure and responsible mining. We support the establishment of sustainable financing for protected areas that benefit both communities and wildlife species. We also design and implement incentive programs that protect ecosystems and provide better livelihoods for communities.

Overview



The Key Objective

To use economic tools and partnerships to achieve sustainable development mode that pursues the coordination of economic growth, ecological sustainability and social equity and sustainable livelihoods towards an inclusive green growth.

An aerial photograph of a dark green body of water. A long, narrow wooden pier extends from the left side towards the center. At the end of the pier is a small wooden structure. To the right of the pier, a small wooden boat with a red interior is visible. The water has a textured, slightly rippled surface.

Specific areas of programmatic focus

01 Infrastructure Development
(Roads, dams, development
corridors and oil pipelines)

02 Artisanal and
Small-scale Mining

03 Sustainable Community Livelihoods

04 Sustainable Financing
for Protected Areas

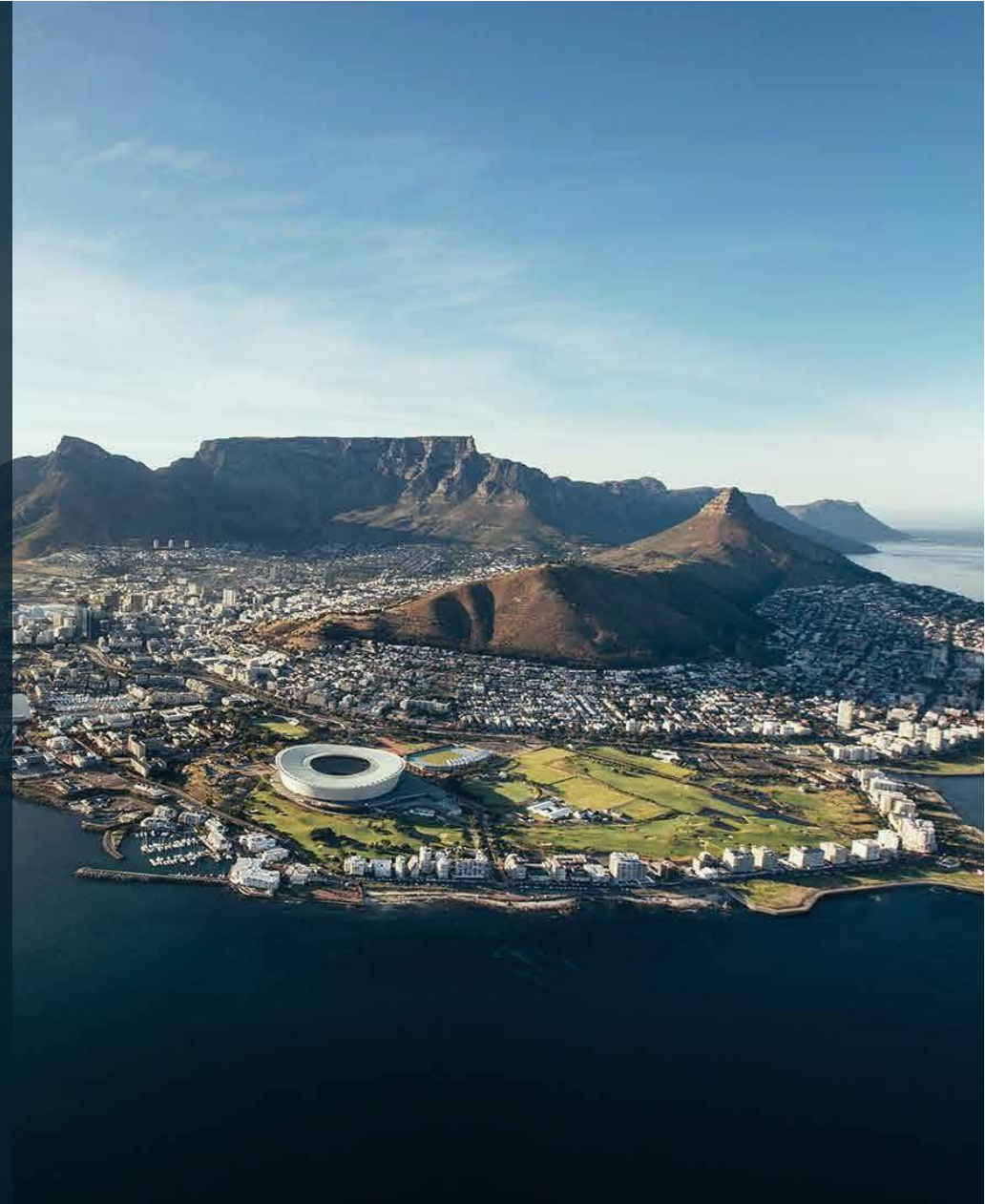
i. Infrastructure Development (Roads, Dams, Development Corridors and Oil Pipelines)

Sub-Saharan Africa still faces the challenge of quantifying the value and benefits of ecosystem services, as well as valuing the costs and impacts of ecosystem degradation and environmental destruction.

It is also a challenge to assess the time scale in which these valuations need to be calculated, to attribute responsibility to users or polluters regarding payment for ecosystem services or offsetting biodiversity loss.

The reality on the ground often fails to consider the negative direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of infrastructure projects on both people and the environment.

To spur sustainable infrastructure development, CSF will use its expertise, experience, and strategic cross-sector partnership, to inform, and strengthen the decision-making processes on infrastructural development in the region.



ii. Artisanal and Small-scale Mining

ASM has been significantly overlooked as a key economic activity in the sub-Saharan region.

From an economics perspective, ASM is a growing and important rural non-farm economic activity in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of the region's ASM activities are found in informal economic sectors posing a challenge for regulators and donors who would like to help operators integrate biodiversity and human health considerations.

As part of the CSF's focus in Africa, we will use our expertise in conservation economics and economics tools to ensure that the ASM sector is regulated, sustainable, and has minimum to no negative impact on biodiversity and social well-being.

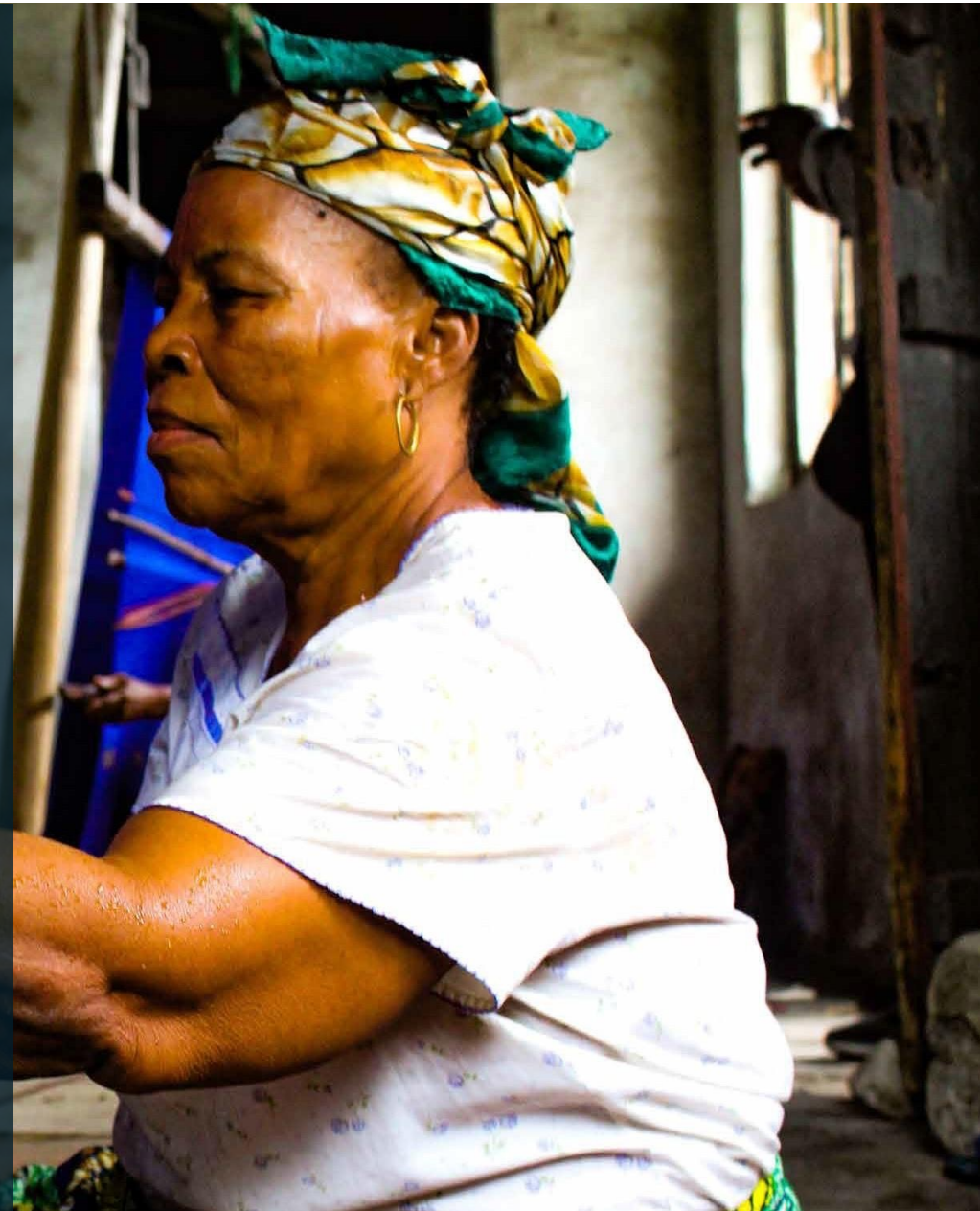


iii. Sustainable Community Livelihoods

Indigenous People and Local Communities are instrumental in safeguarding key natural areas but often lack the financial means to do so. They however, often lack the power to influence decisions that affect the ecosystems that are so vital to not only their survival but equally to their culture and way of life.

CSF will therefore, focus on **building the capacity of IPLCs** to enhance, where necessary, their abilities to engage in local and national decision-making processes on ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate change and resource planning.

CSF will further **work with communities** in the areas of high-risk ecological importance, to **expand their livelihood options** through communal land ownership and diversified income sources. This will be done through initiatives such as through developing business models, towards investing in the future to ensure a long-term community partnership and alternative financing.



iv. Sustainable Financing for Protected Areas

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of the traditional funding mechanisms for protected areas. The region's protected areas, therefore, need proper financing plans and sufficient funding to withstand a major economic downturn.

CSF will work to improve the financial sustainability of protected areas by incorporating diverse funding sources and engaging multiple beneficiaries in our financing plans.

We will provide capacity for integrating economic incentives in the design of funding mechanisms and simultaneously work to eliminate disincentives.



CSF's

APPROACH

01 Educate

CSF will provide relevant capacity and training materials to address the capacity gap in the economics of conservation.

02

Convene/Connect

Bring together key relevant stakeholders towards ensuring more inclusive and informed decision-making process, policy and strategy development and actions.

03

Analyse

Conducting analyses on specific needs or gaps and drawing recommendations towards the development of an informed national and regional decisions making processes.

04

Inform/Sensitize

Prepare, gather and distribute relevant information about and for conservation economics to positively influence decisions, policies, and practices and address the market failures in conservation initiatives.



Expected Outcomes

01 **An enabling environment for inclusive green growth promoted**

The region's policies, strategies, initiatives, incentives, and actions are favourable to promoting inclusive green growth and diversified financing for protected areas.

02 **Strengthened indigenous communities livelihoods**

Strong and effective initiatives that are adequately supporting the socio-economic, cultural and socio-ecological growth and development of local communities established.

03 **Sustained infrastructure development**

The region's decision-making processes, development policies, and strategies incorporate nature conservation and the conservation economics impacts

04 **A well regulated and sustainable ASM sector**

Policies are in place to incentivize safe and sustainable ASM in the region.



Thank you