



HOW CAN BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON MARKETS CREATE REAL BENEFITS FOR NATURE AND COMMUNITIES?

Harry Tittensor, Senior Nature and Climate Officer

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ABOUT PLAN VIVO

Plan Vivo is a leading certification system for projects in climate and nature markets.

For more than 25 years, we have supported community-led nature-based projects that protect and restore crucial ecosystems and strengthen local livelihoods.

Our role is to ensure these projects are recognised, valued, and fairly compensated for the impact they deliver.





WHAT WE DO

Plan Vivo operates two internationally recognised certification standards:

- Plan Vivo Carbon Standard (PV Climate)
- Plan Vivo Biodiversity standard (PV Nature)

Leading certification body for community and smallholder-led nature based projects

Locally-driven projects access climate and nature finance



PLAN VIVO: >25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

1997 - First operational project - **Scolel'te, Mexico**



Scolel'te ("the tree that grows" in Mayan Tzeltal language) is the longest-standing project in the Plan Vivo network, dating back to a pilot programme in 1994. It was officially operational three years later.

Through the Scolel'te Program, AMBIO collaborates with rural communities in Chiapas to contribute to the mitigation of climate change, promote social welfare through the strengthening of local capacities and promote the establishment of forest, agroforestry and sustainable management systems of community forest areas.

Currently, more than 1,400 smallholders participate in the scheme, all of whom receive economic incentives to protect and sustainably manage their forests and jungles.



Biodiversity credits, what are they?

Biodiversity Credit Alliance definition:

“A biodiversity credit is a certificate that represents a measured and evidence-based unit of positive biodiversity outcome that is durable and additional to what would have otherwise occurred.”

- \$700 billion annual biodiversity funding gap (UNEP-FI)
- Supports Target 19(d) of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Complements public financing, blended finance



WHAT IS PV NATURE?

Launched in 2023, a certification to enable the issuance of Plan Vivo Biodiversity
Certificates or PVBCs



Financial mechanism

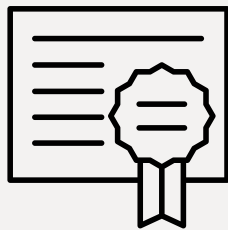
WHAT IS PV NATURE?

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PLAN
VIVO



PVBCs



Financial mechanism



Direct, financial benefits to
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

WHAT IS PV NATURE?

Motivations & Drivers

- Increased recognition of the scale of biodiversity loss
- Learning from, and synergies within the VCM:
 - biodiversity credits must be high integrity
 - Requires third party verification
- Not aimed at generating biodiversity offsets rather for a contribution towards a nature positive market



PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Land and Management Rights

- To be held by the community exclusively
- >30% can be managed by an outside entity (land tenure issues etc)
- Statutory or customary land tenure

Nature-based Interventions

- Restoration, conservation or improved land management

Participatory

- Interventions and monitoring implemented by community

Additionality

- Ecological gains or net-positive results or change that would otherwise not have been possible without the project or its funding

E&S Safeguards

- Strong safeguards to prevent / mitigate negative impact



WHY PV NATURE?

Financial inclusion

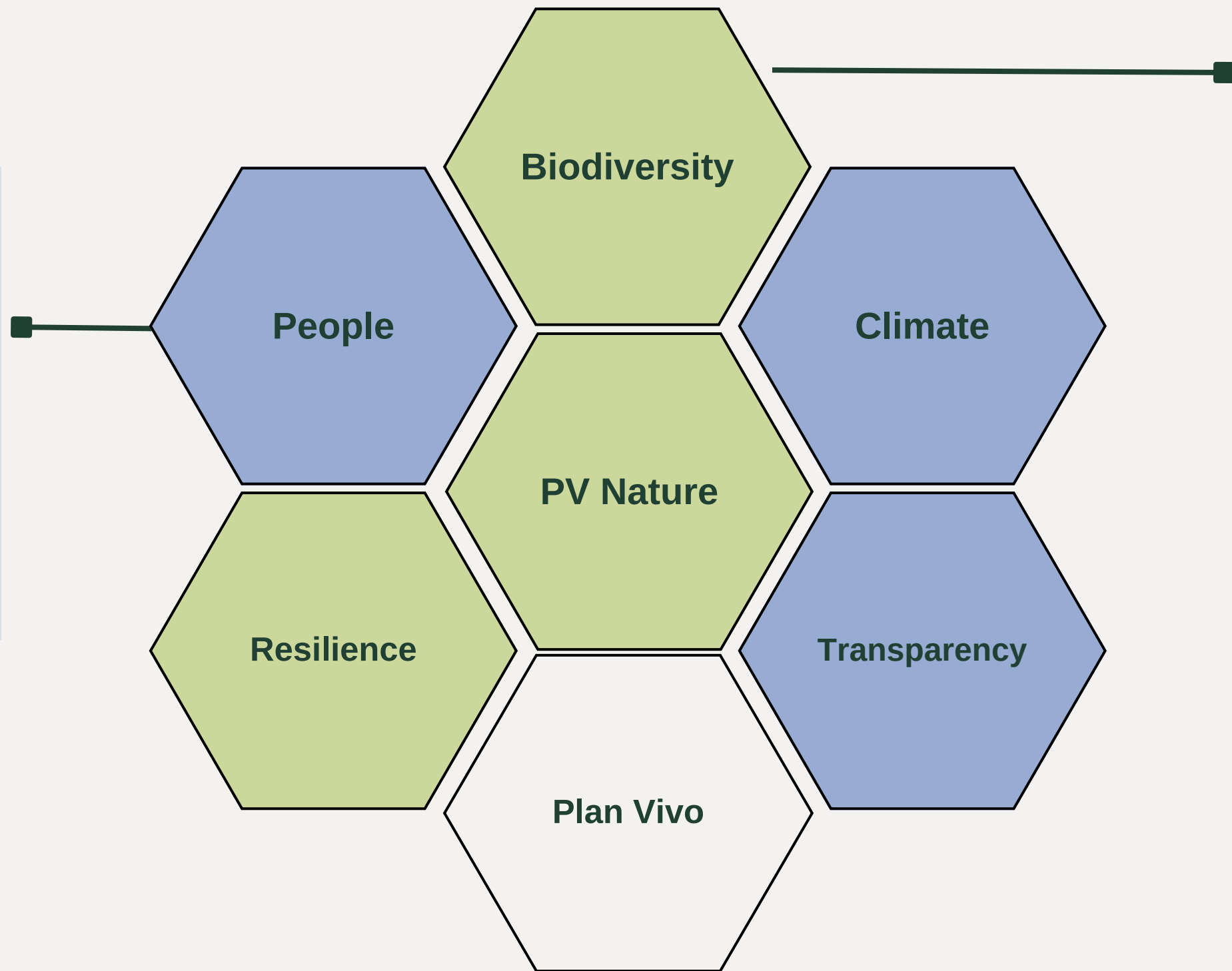


People:

Equitable benefit sharing (**at least 60% of PVBC revenue to communities**)

Providing an incentive to conserve ecosystems while fostering sustainable economic activity

Tool to promote customary rights and safeguard traditional knowledge



Biodiversity:

PVBCs provide a direct investment to communities by protecting biodiversity

Robust approach strengthens conservation

Beyond biodiversity: building resilience and future proofing



PV NATURE METHODOLOGY



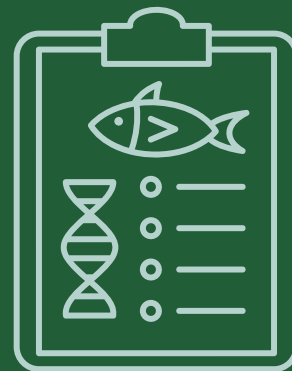
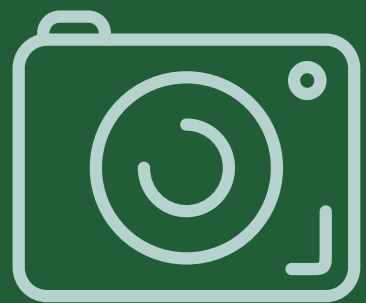
Quantifying trends in biodiversity: Scope of PV Nature Methodology

- ✓ Biodiversity certificates represent positive outcome
- ✓ Describes the effort required to quantify impact
- ✓ A subset of the monitoring that can take place



Measuring Biodiversity Impact

- Measuring change annually in:
 - Species data (birds, plants, fish)
 - Habitat data (land use change and connectivity)
- Digital measurements - e.g. camera traps, acoustic monitors, satellite imagery, BRUVs
- Analysis completed by a Data Analytical Provider (DAP), tested expertise in the species and habitats
- Tracking general trends in ecosystem health





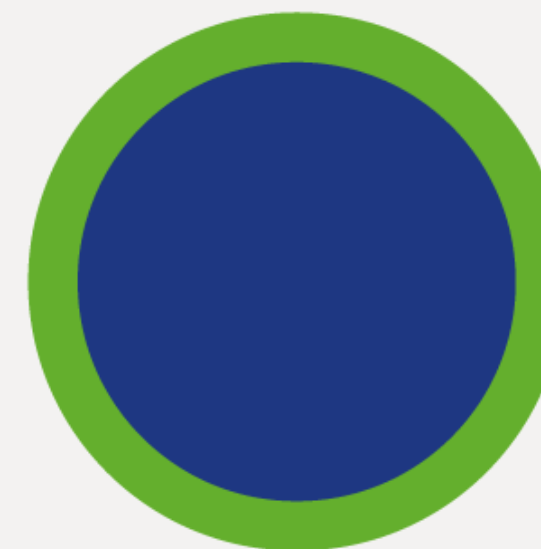
DATA ANALYTICAL PROVIDER (DAP)

PV Nature approved DAPs:

- Collaborate with project teams to design appropriate monitoring approaches
- Generate sampling design plans
- To allow more accessibility, projects doing the monitoring themselves
- Provide support for data collection and deployment on the ground, if needed



Okala



Natural State

PIPELINE PROJECTS - 11 PROJECTS



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Coexisting with Elephants – Botswana

Coordinated by Ecoword and Gazelle Ecosolutions.

[Project Idea Note →](#)



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Kalahari Biodiversity Conservation – Botswana

Coordinated by Kalahari Research and Conservation and Gazelle Ecosolutions.

[Project Idea Note →](#)

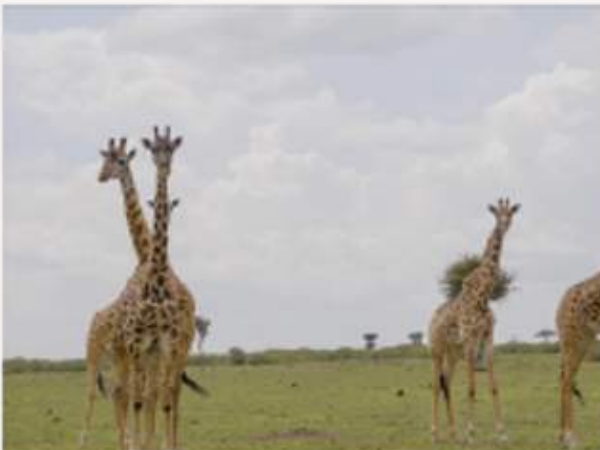


BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Comcaac Biocultural – Mexico

Coordinated by Borderlands Restoration Network.

[Project Idea Note →](#)

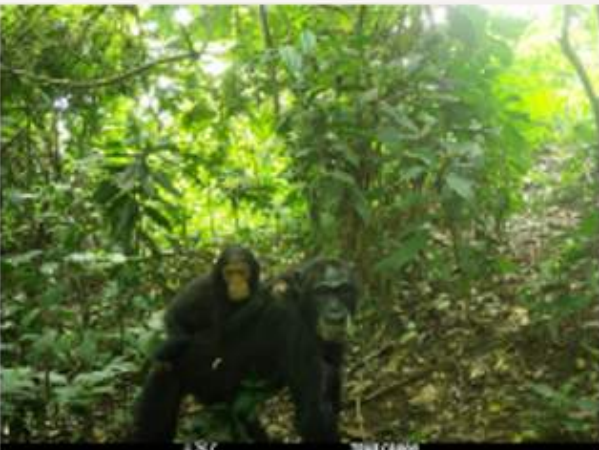


BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Living Landscapes: Restoring biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and coexistence in the Maasai Mara – Kenya

Coordinated by Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya and Enseru Trust.

[Project Idea Note →](#)



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Bugoma-Budongo Wildlife Corridor – Uganda

Coordinated by ECOTRUST.

[Project Idea Note →](#)



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Solent Seascape Project – United Kingdom

Coordinated by Blue Marine Foundation.

[Project Idea Note →](#)



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Bioestrela – Portugal

Coordinated by Cleavel and URZE.

[Project Idea Note →](#)



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Pematang Gadung Community – Indonesia

Coordinated by Centre for Koperasi Mandiri Pematang Gadung Sejahtera (KMPGG) – in collaboration with the Village Forest Management Unit (LPMD).

[Project Idea Note →](#)



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Wild Elephant Forest – Zimbabwe

Coordinated by Wild is Life.

[Project Idea Note →](#)



BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Vanga Seagrass Project – Kenya

Coordinated by Association for Ecosystem Services (ACES).

[Project Idea Note →](#)

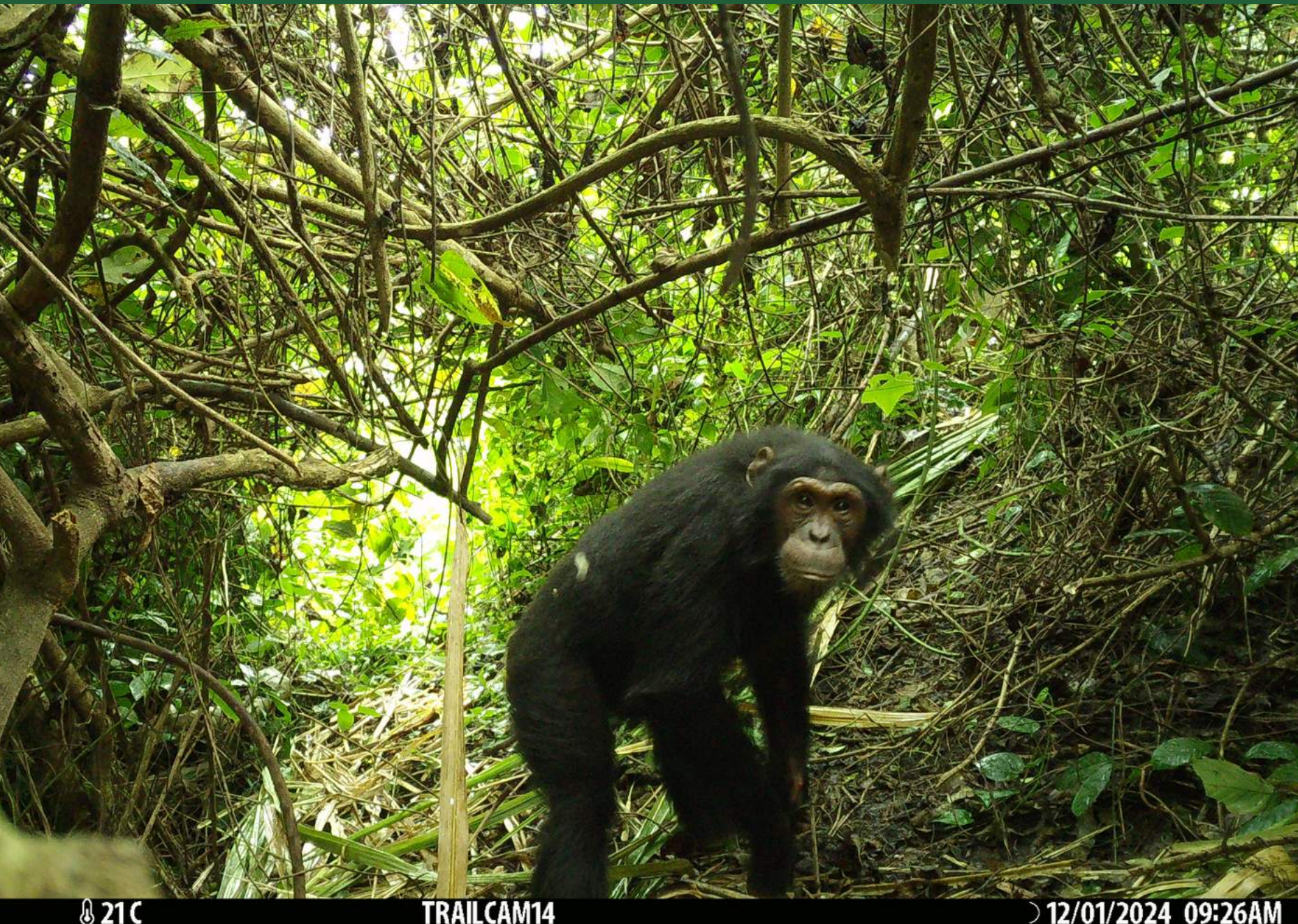


BIODIVERSITY PIPELINE

Konda Village Forests – Indonesia

Coordinated by Konservasi Indonesia.

[Project Idea Note →](#)



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Bugoma- Budongo Corridor Restoration project Uganda

By ECOTRUST
Uganda

Dr. Dianah Nalwanga, PV Nature Officer
East Africa
6th August 2026

About ECOTRUST Approach



Effective recognition and protection of community rights and customary uses aligned to conservation objectives

Aligning community needs and aspirations with International Standards

Targeting small Landholders, Local Community Forests and Private Forest Owners



Design

Development process for Nature-market projects



Interventions

ECOTRUST ~12,000ha. Nn. Albertine Rift, Uganda. Initiatives are focused on: Community managed Natural regeneration, Threats management, Knowledge Transfer, Formulating management guidelines.

Community-based Approaches

Within these international Frameworks, we have built business cases around effective recognition and protection of customary rights and uses (focus on Community)

Measurable Outcomes

MVR systems for measuring the Nature Credits and return on investment. Building accountability. DAP Managed.



COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES



Community Owned

Land is either owned or managed by the Community

Where the community has user rights to the land and to the Certificates



Community Designed

Participatory Tools i.e, The Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) Methodology.

Vison = Theoty of Change, Resource Map = Challenge Action Tree = Barriers = Indicators = PIN & PDD



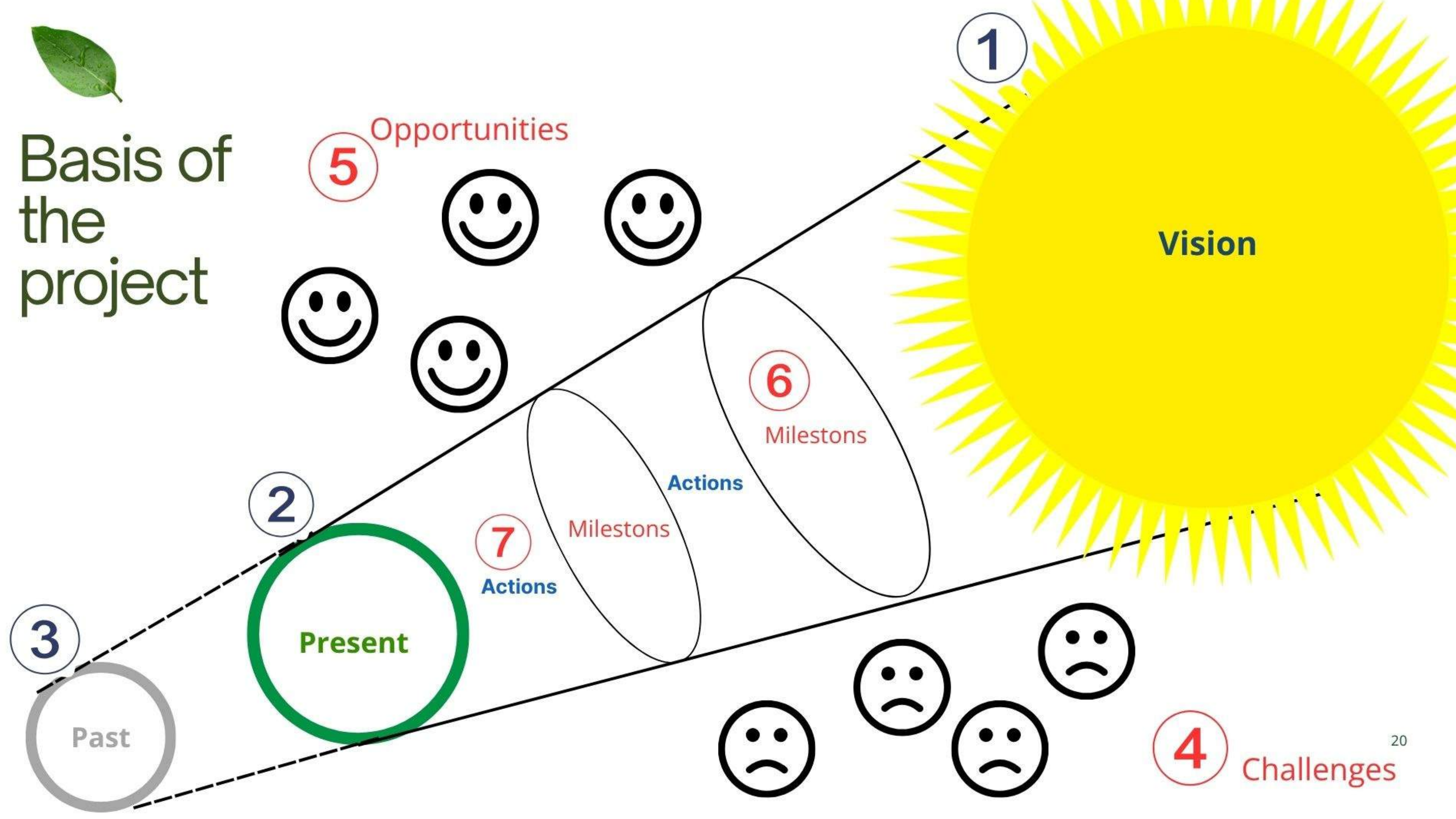
Community Implemented

Interventions are by the Community. Monitoring is through the Community-based Monitoring Approach. Monitoring maintains the scientific rigour while not loosing community efficacy

Nature Credits = facilitate this community work and the community benefit-sharing scheme



Basis of the project



Theory of Change for Ongo Community Biodiversity Programme

Outcome	Environmental Conservation	Livelihood improvement
Results	• Restoration of the forest • Conservation of biodiversity like birds & wildlife. • Declaration of Ongo forest as a community forest • Tree planting in every household.	• Education of children to degree level • Construction of good permanent houses • Ability to have more firewood. • Increased Household income • Purchase vehicles as a means of transport • Increase in nursery seedling production to 100,000 per season
Activities	• Sensitization meetings & awareness campaigns • Tree planting and management • Monitoring and patrolling for illegal activities • Maintenance of the nursery bed business • Encourage members to attend government programs ie PDM, • Promote Village Savings Schemes • Follow up with D.F.O to ensure that Ongo forest is declared as a community forest.	



Automated Methods
Standard Requirements
Community Training for effective Implementation



QUANTIFYING BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

The 5- Pillar Metrics



ASSESSING BIODIVERSITY CHANGE OVER TIME

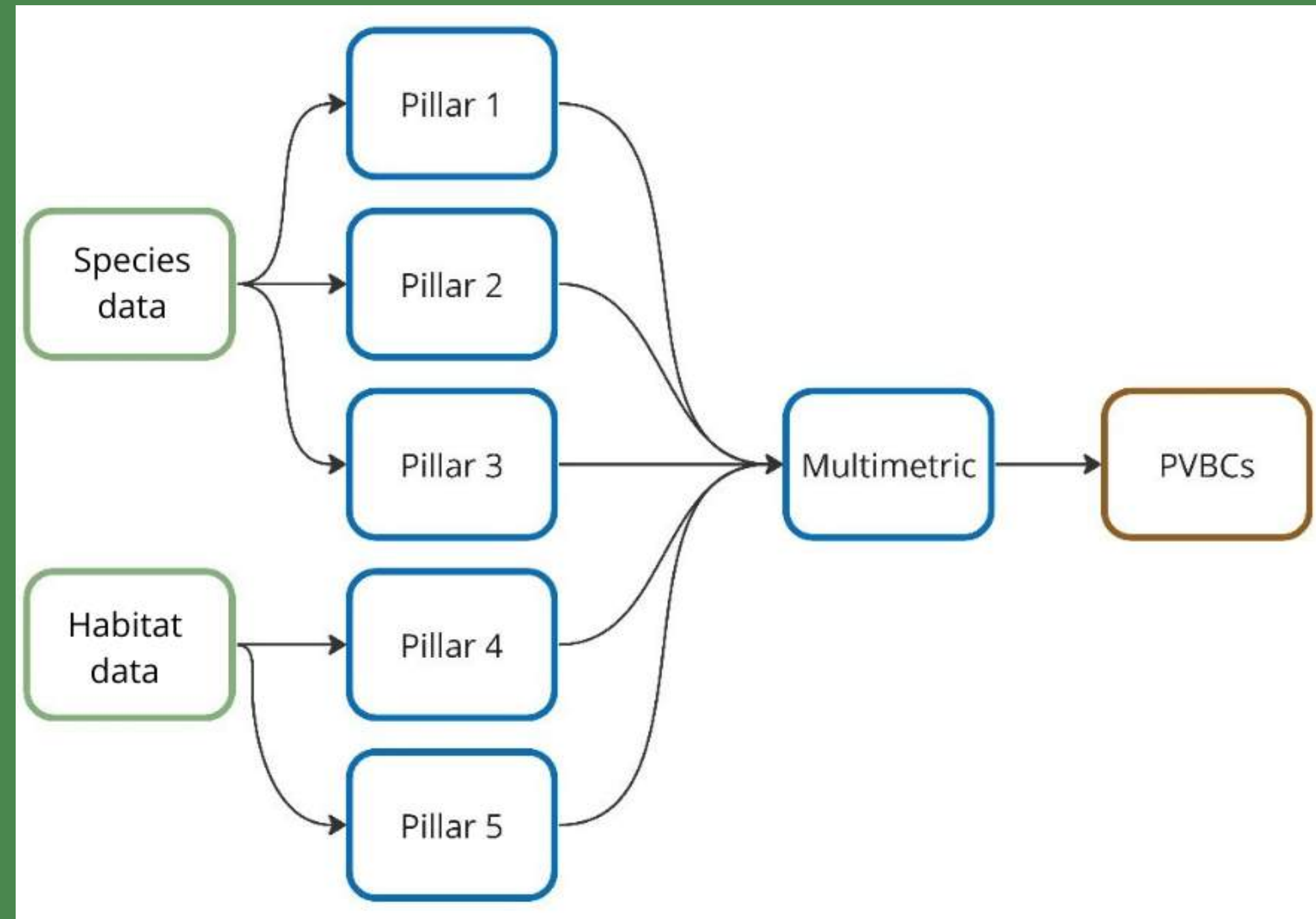
The 5- Pillar Metrics - Quantifying trends in biodiversity (DAP Process)

5 well-established, peer-reviewed metrics (pillar metrics):

- Pillar 1 – Species Richness
- Pillar 2 – Species Diversity
- Pillar 3 – Taxonomic Dissimilarity
- Pillar 4 – Habitat Health
- Pillar 5 – Habitat Spatial Structure (only every 5 years)

5 Pillar metrics aggregated using cumulative sum to form a single unit:

Multimetric = % change per year per ha



Effective recognition and protection of community rights and customary uses aligned to conservation objectives

Restoration
Actions

Supportive
Actions: OECMS

Control Actions

Rewards and
Compensations

Assisted Natural
Regeneration

Land Tenure security
Capacity Building
Governance
Management Planning
Business Planning

Community-based
Monitoring
Patrolling
Fire Management

PES payments
Small grants
Private sector partnerships
for off-taking arrangements
Resilience Fund for HWC

Multiple Community Business cases

Find out more:

PV Climate



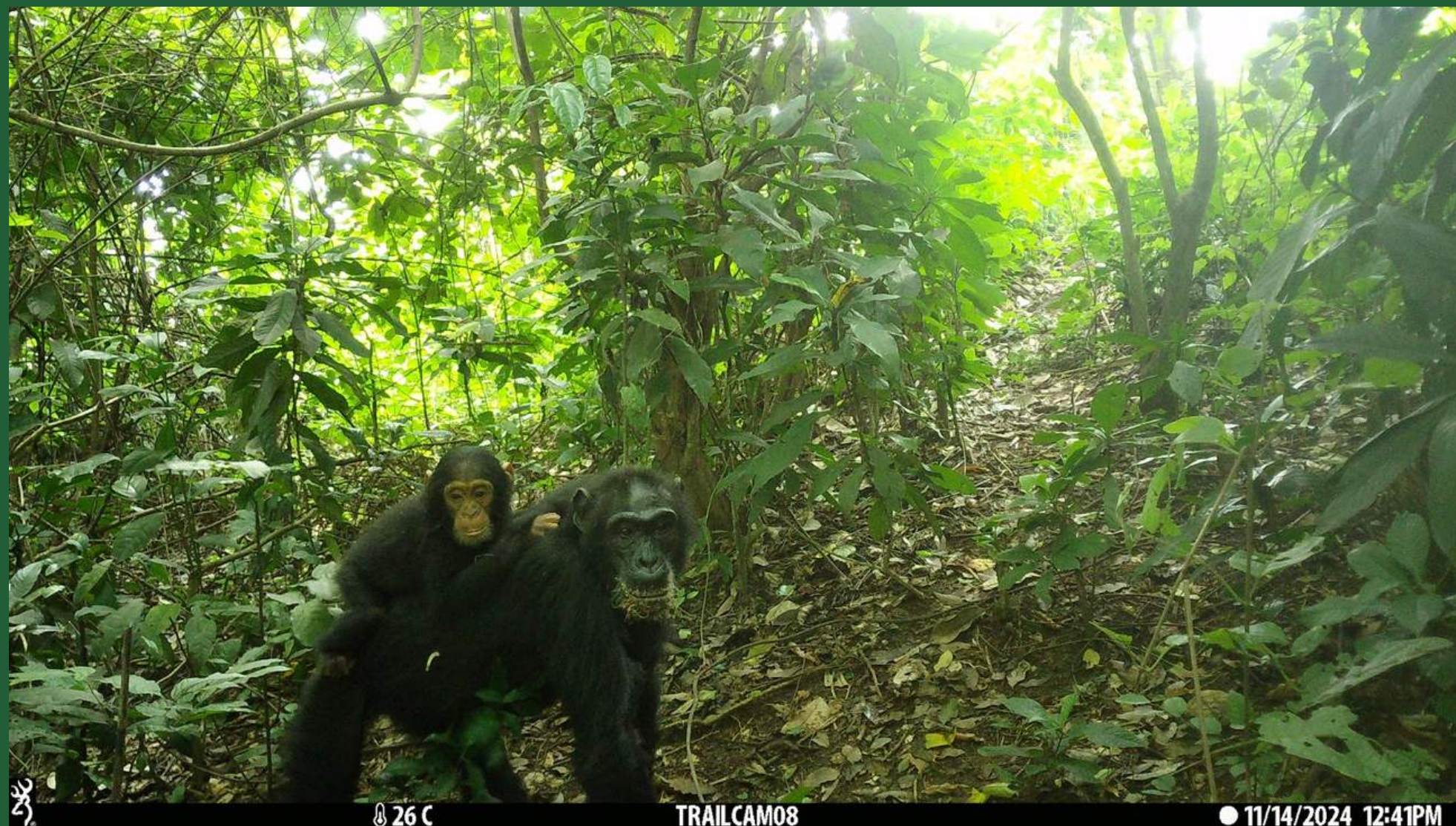
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Plan Vivo



THANK YOU



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