The African society remains one of the most biodiverse on the planet today. Yet, several nations on the continent continues to turn a blind eye to the richness and benefits inherent in the continent’s biodiversity, and in most cases where they prioritize, the economic benefits of such nation’s biodiversity are very much left in hands of private corporations and players (UNCTAD, 2021).

As it on national levels, the international level too, as reports have shown the African Continental Free Trade Area pays little or no attention to the African environment. The gap represents a missed opportunity to tap into the vastly diverse environments within the continent. This void creates the need for biodiversity-inclined policies to drive sustainable development on the continent and this is even more achievable with the introduction of such policies into the core tenets of AFCTA (Teflo, 2019).

A core of the policy should revolve about conserving biodiversity and preventing its loss. Biodiverse regions equally represent areas some of those most at risk of unwanted activities. A biodiversity policy should seek to influence a positive change towards tolerance, give allowance and room for advancement in life, habitat and culture. There'll be a need to highlight all biodiverse regions those at risks, and those not (IUCN, 2021).

Some of the habitats put most at risk include Coral reefs, deep trenches, Hot Springs, Thermal vents, Ocean pits, wetlands, marshes, and arboreal habitats (IUCN, 2022). Waves, Phytoplanktons, Zooplanktons and endangered species would also be at great risk of unwarranted changes.

Variation of depth, salinity and temperature affect the oxygen levels of marine life. Construction of new ports, harbours and dredging and increased water temperatures would over time affect water oxygen levels during heavy trade. Increased emission of CO2 than the seas could sink might pose a threat to waters that are at a risk of eutrophication. A direct impact is felt on the fauna that relies on dissolved oxygen and deep marine flora that. only needed a beacon of light. Accumulation of CO2 and other heavy gases would displace light gases like N2 and O2 which serves for balance and life. There's also the problem of increased ocean acidification and pollution, which are common to human (Cardinale et al, 2012).

Of the major problems in the expansion of trade onto a continental front are the emergence of trade routes and heavier maritime presence, construction of more international highways, less restricted travels etc. Some of the highlighted activities are followed by processes that include drilling, mining, dredging, coral destruction, and land reclamation (von Braun et al, 2021).

Biodiversity hotspots contribute largely to the Earth's biodiversity and are equally at great risk of loss, resulting from the consequences of human, geographical and environmental factors. Whilst making up only about 2.3% of Earth’s land area, they constitute 44% of global flora and 35% of land vertebrates. (Myers et al, 2000).

Africa is surrounded by a number of oceans, the Atlantic on its West and Central coasts, the Pacific on the South and South Eastern coast, the Indian on the. Island of Madagascar, the Mediterranean just borders North Africa from Mediterranean regions. It also has a number of coastal seas, many of which offer both local and national importance as well in the preservation of such an area's biodiversity. Africa is home to a number of saltwater lakes, the Nile Crocodile, the cape Buffalo, Hippopotamus, Cranes, Giraffes, Lions, Impala, the marine Kingfisher and a number of other animals that call wetlands, lakes, deltas and plains home. Africa has a number of deserts, rainforests, seas, oceans, rivers and is very rich in savannahs and plains. All the different habitats are to be brought in contact during trade and this could warrant genetic diversity.

Some of the world's most biodiverse regions like the African ecosystem, the isolated New Zealand (and its endemic insects & plants), the Andes region, which is renowned to be the world’s most diverse hotspot with a variety of plant species need protection even with current happenings in the world’s largest terrestrial lung. The Congo basin which is an equatorial rainforest, the second largest in the planet would be at a great risk of biodiversity loss, in terms of trade expansion and in periods of economic development.

Fostering commerce without an adequate plan for protection of life and habitat could serve as an encouragement for Poaching markets, the loss of wetlands, coastal erosion, more deforestation, loss of migratory species. At best, increased human activities across biodiverse regions would tend to introduce another fit for survival, as there'd be an unexpected habitat change, changes in biotic and abiotic factors all of which are brought about by human activities. Continental trade is surely more than capable of causing this.

Meanwhile, the policy makers should not be lopsided towards an "Africa first" regimen. A considerable to large emphasis should be vested in measures that seeks to ensure Africa is not exploited both by desire to grow, its partners and leaders. Exploitation in terms of commerce, negotiated deals, allied governance, exorbitant loans/rates and ensuing debts are easily communicable through foreign investments & trade partnerships. These all mean that Africa's attention to the gains of trade would mean it pays less attention to issues such as biodiversity loss in habitats, species and entire regions, and that it pays more attention to large trade deals. An ecosystem with thriving species and well laid out natural habitats holds more potential in cultural, historical, aesthetic, and mindful living.

Centrally trade, commerce thrives in the want of a market, enticeable labour force and low standard of living. This coupled with the fact that the bulk of Africa remains a third world country in search of growth, development and infrastructural advance keeps Africa in the prowl of many the top guns in the international market. China, Europe, SE Asia, India and the Americas are a few to mention, even as continental powers would have started expression and dominance as the years course through.

To scale down on the impact of biodiversity on the African clime requires us to look outwards at ecosystems thriving under such policies. Like those underwritten by IUCN for global communities, WWF for Europe’s Mediterranean and the Greater Black Sea Basin., USAID, UNCTAD for developing nations

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