



II Fórum Económico

6-7
February

Bissau 2016

SAVE THE DATE



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INSTITUTO BENTEN

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República da Guiné-Bissau

A year after the close of the 2014 elections, Guinea-Bissau's governmental and institutional leadership immediately moved towards addressing the country's various challenges. The country engaged in an Economic Roundtable in March 2015, after which it chose to rebrand the country's economic strategy by placing environment and biodiversity at its core.

Building on this momentum, Instituto Benten in partnership with the Government of Guinea-Bissau will organize the 2nd Bissau Economic Forum (6-7 February, 2016) under the theme of ***“Natural Capital & Economic Transformation.”***

Natural Capital

Natural capital is the world's stocks of physical and biological resources, including air, water, minerals, soils, fossil fuels and all living things.

These stocks work together to deliver ecosystem goods and services that in turn provide benefits to society. These benefits include harvestable products like food, materials and fuel, clean potable water, purified air to breathe, the natural decomposition of wastes, and natural beauty.

Framing the value of nature in economic terms can help to communicate the benefits of sustainable conservation to key decision-makers like businesspeople and policymakers. For example, the world's national parks are found to generate spending in excess of \$600bn per annum – that is a 60:1 rate of return on the \$10bn per year that's spent safeguarding them.[1]

Leveraging Natural Capital towards Economic Transformation

As increasing global pressures deplete stocks of natural capital, businesses face growing challenges. Industries dependent on natural capital are constantly battling feedstock and commodity price fluctuations, while increased demands on agricultural production, alongside water and energy requirements due to population growth.

Guinea-Bissau seeks to be the continent's leader when it comes to natural capital accounting, preservation, and sustainable utilization and the 2015 Bissau Economic Forum will serve as an unofficial launch for the country's new economic platform. The 2015 Forum will not only aim to learn from the country's own historical experiences, it will bring together regional and international actors to understand global best practices.

[1] Source: Barmford et al, 2015.

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Learning from the best:

**Natural Capital and
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