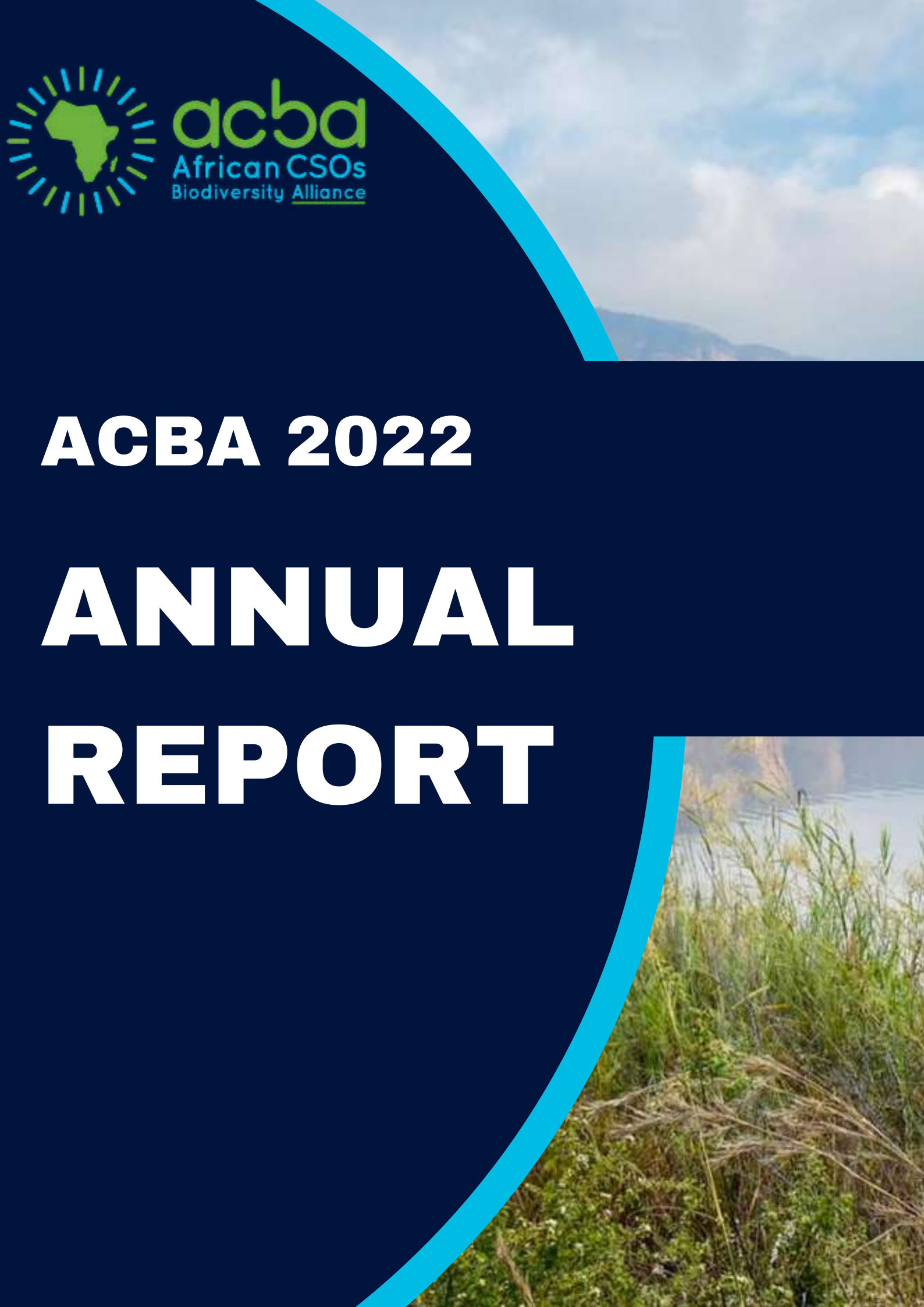




ACBA 2022

**ANNUAL
REPORT**





WHO WE ARE



The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance is a Pan-African group of like-minded organizations that provide an opportunity for Indigenous People and Local Communities organizations, Youth organizations, African-based NGOs and individual experts who came together to share knowledge and experiences and partner on issues of Sustainable Use of nature that contributes to conservation and equitable benefits from nature. We have a membership diversity that enables us to speak with one voice in influencing national, regional, continental and global biodiversity policy processes and practices.

The alliance works through three working groups, namely the Policy and Influencing Working Group, Communications and Outreach Working Group and Secretariat. The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has been providing secretariat support for the Alliance.

Some of the characteristics that set us apart from other alliances include the fact that it gives African CSOs a unified and amplified voice in determining the continent's conservation and development agenda. We support locally sourced solutions developed by African thought leaders and influenced by regional expertise, realities and practices.

We bring together a variety of organizations to develop knowledge and exchange lessons, which also results in the creation of unique knowledge informed by local level experiences for others. This knowledge is shared through its own website, webinars, publications and also through member channels.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

Africa's biodiversity thrives and underpins equitable, socially and economically resilient livelihoods based on the rights of people to sustainably use their natural resources.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to elevate, amplify and create spaces and systems for local voices to participate and influence decision-making processes, in the conservation of Africa's biodiversity for the mutual and equitable benefit of people and the environment.



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Key multilateral events such as the UNFCCC COP 27, CITES COP 19, 14th Meeting of RAMSAR and the CBD COP 15 were all convened in 2022. Despite the demands placed on members, ACBA was able to actively participate and influence outcomes that work for people, nature and recognize the specific context of the African continent

Members consistently included African perspectives in these high-level discussions, thereby influencing not only national but also regional, continental and global biodiversity policy processes and practices.

The alliance witnessed a heightened interest in joining ACBA and a formal process to on-board new members was launched. This process was essential to help members understand the value proposition of ACBA and their responsibilities as a member.

The process to register the network in Kenya was started and is expected to be finalized in 2023.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

- Throughout the year, ACBA has influenced policies in various high-level meetings through the reading of opening and closing statements, publishing ECO articles and preparing position papers. These documents were shared with different decision-makers, ensuring the incorporation of African voices in policy discussions.
- Throughout 2022, during webinars and side events in which ACBA participated and organized, it became evident that there were opportunities for knowledge sharing within the membership and for enhancing understanding of key topics in the biodiversity space.
- In 2022, ACBA successfully established strategic partnerships with key organizations, enhancing the positioning of African voices. Notably, these partnerships include collaborations with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance (CBDA) and the Chinese Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC)
- ACBA initiated the registration process to transition from being a loose network to an official network, positioning itself to consistently represent African voices in key discussions. The registration is intended to be finalized by 2023



MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS WORKING GROUP

This annual report reflects the network's collective efforts and accomplishments in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in support of development across the African continent. In 2022, ACBA focused on several key areas, including advocacy, capacity building and knowledge sharing. Additionally, the group actively engaged with policymakers and decision-makers at regional and international platforms to advocate for robust biodiversity conservation policies and initiatives.

Furthermore, ACBA organized and attended impactful events, conferences and webinars to facilitate knowledge exchange and foster collaboration. These platforms provided opportunities to discuss pressing issues that is important to Africa. While we celebrate our achievements in 2022, we acknowledge the persistent challenges that lie ahead. As ACBA, we remain steadfast in our commitment to foster partnerships and advocate for transformative change.

Since its establishment in 2020, we have functioned as a loosely affiliated alliance. However, following extensive deliberations among its members, a unanimous decision was reached to officially register the alliance in Kenya. The registration process is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2023.

The Alliance thrives on the basis of what members bring into the Network and not just what they can get out of it. In this regard, our dedicated members, partners and supporters contributed immensely to our collective progress in 2022. Network members remain committed to pursuing a collective journey towards a biodiverse and sustainable Africa, where nature and communities thrive.



1. Membership

The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) is proud of its diverse and robust membership, comprising of African CSO, Community-based Organization, Indigenous people and Local Community (IPLC) organization, Youth organization or an individual African expert from all five African subregions working in the area of biodiversity rights, sustainable use, community resilience, policy and advocacy and other related areas that can help address the biodiversity and climate change poly-crisis.

African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance has members in all five African sub regions, including East Africa (45), West Africa (18), Southern Africa (18) Central Africa (11) and North Africa (3). Collectively, ACBA's membership reflects the rich diversity and collaborative spirit that underpins its work.

ACBA values the contributions and expertise of each member organization, recognizing the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in achieving its shared vision of a biodiverse and sustainable Africa.

❖ **Membership Value Proposition:** ACBA has developed a comprehensive [membership value proposition](#). This proposition highlights the benefits, services, and opportunities available to its members, showcasing the value they can expect from their membership.

❖ **Membership Application:** ACBA created a membership application form to ensure that it clearly articulates the necessary information that members need to provide during the application process. This application form is crucial in better understanding and profiling ACBA members, enabling the alliance to cater to their specific needs and preferences effectively.



2. Partnerships

Partnerships are key in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Africa. ACBA firmly believes that by forging strategic partnerships, it can achieve far-reaching impact and drive positive change across the continent.

In 2022, the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) successfully established partnerships with several esteemed organizations, including Chinese Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC), Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance (CBDA) and European Union (EU). These collaborations proved instrumental in enabling ACBA to undertake a diverse range of activities and initiatives throughout the year.

Through its partnership with CSABC, ACBA organized impactful webinars and events, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration on topics related to sustainable infrastructure, climate change, and biodiversity conservation. The partnership with CBDA facilitated joint advocacy efforts during different high-level events. These partnerships reinforced ACBA's commitment to collaboration, recognizing that by joining forces with like-minded organizations, it can achieve greater success and make a lasting difference in Africa's conservation landscape.

ACBA was also able to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

❖ MOU with African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

In July 2022, a significant partnership was forged between the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA). During the inaugural African Protected Area Congress (APAC) held in Kigali, Rwanda, AWF and ACBA signed an MoU.

This collaborative agreement solidified the commitment of both organizations to work hand-in-hand towards a common goal. The MoU symbolizes the shared vision of AWF and ACBA and represents the power of collaboration and sets the stage for impactful joint initiatives that will drive positive change and secure a vibrant future for Africa's rich natural heritage



POLICY AND INFLUENCING WORKING GROUP

The Policy and influencing Working Group continued to provide leadership with respect to the Network's core policy and technical engagements. ACBA's active engagement in high-level policy events presented great opportunities for the network to advocate for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development at national, regional and international platforms. The Network was able to use the various platforms it was present in to raise awareness, influence decision-making processes and ensure that the voices of African Civil Societies are heard.

In 2022, the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) achieved significant milestones, marking a year of impactful engagement and meaningful contributions. ACBA organized a series of webinars with Chinese Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC) that focused on different topics. The challenges and opportunities for sustainable infrastructure in Africa," The synergies between climate change and biodiversity," and sustainable agricultural practices that enhance food security that are compatible with biodiversity conservation these webinars with CSABC served as platforms for knowledge exchange and collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

ACBA's commitment to knowledge dissemination was evident through the publication of 10 articles in the ECO Newsletter that were framed to enhance negotiations during CBD meetings. Seven high-level reports captured ACBA's participation at different high-level events. These articles and reports provided evidence-based insights and recommendations that contributed towards shaping policy agendas.

ACBA's focus areas at different CBD meetings included area-based conservation (Target 3), sustainable use, climate change, resource mobilization, and capacity building. These are all critical aspects of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

We commend the dedicated efforts of our members, partners and stakeholders in achieving these milestones. Their unwavering commitment and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in our collective success. Moving forward, we will continue to advocate for robust policies.



1. Policy and influencing working group initiatives

A. Capacity building for non-state actors in voluntary commitments submission for Post-2020 CBD implementation

ACBA members expressed their desire to identify voluntary commitments in support of the implementation of the GBF by the Parties. A survey was conducted among ACBA members to identify their voluntary commitments towards supporting the implementation of the GBF. This survey aimed to gather insights into the specific actions and initiatives that members are willing to undertake voluntarily to contribute to global biodiversity conservation efforts.

An Online Training Session was organized exclusively for ACBA members. This session focused on providing guidance and instructions on how to effectively upload and showcase their voluntary commitments on the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) website.

These initiatives have been undertaken to empower ACBA members to take concrete actions in line with the GBF objectives and demonstrate their commitment to biodiversity conservation.

B. Participation at High-level policy meetings

The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) stands at the forefront of championing biodiversity conservation in the African continent. With a passionate and diverse network of civil society organizations, ACBA has consistently demonstrated its commitment to preserving the rich ecological heritage of Africa. ACBA actively engaged in high-level policy meetings, such as the Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs) and COP meetings to advocate for the integration of local perspectives and community-led initiatives into global biodiversity agendas.

ACBA's participation at these prestigious gatherings not only amplifies the voices of African CSOs but also strengthens the collective efforts towards safeguarding the continent's unique and invaluable natural resources. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative solutions and inclusive dialogue, ACBA's presence at high-level policy meetings is instrumental in shaping transformative policies and actions that uphold Africa's biodiversity for generations to come.



1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Meetings

❖ Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG 3, 4 and 5)

African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) contributed to the negotiations of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by bringing together 90+ CSOs to articulate their positions in the negotiations through publishing a position paper, scientific paper and convening dialogues and also through facilitating the engagements of member organizations to CBD sessions such as the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24), 3rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) and the 3rd meeting of the Open-Ended Working group on the Post-2020 GBF (OEWG-3).

Following 2 years of virtual engagements, OEWG-3 was hosted physically in Geneva, Switzerland from the 14th to the 29th of March, 2022 and provided significant progress in negotiating the elements of the first draft of the Post2020 GBF, namely the Goals, Milestones and targets. Due to the pending issues, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met in Nairobi Kenya from 21st to 26th of June, 2022 for OEWG-4 to further negotiate the goals, milestones and targets and resolve pending issues such as resource mobilization and Digital Sequence Information (DSI).

ACBA's participation at OEWG4 proved to be highly productive, with 14 members actively engaging in the conference and contributing to shaping the negotiations. ACBA was able to draft the opening statement and closing statements that were delivered to plenary and delivered a statement to the African Group of Negotiators, providing insights into concerns with a particular emphasis on targets 3 (area-based conservation), 5 (sustainable use), 19 (resource mobilization) and 21 (governance, management of biodiversity, communication, awareness).

During OEWG 4 engagements, ACBA members published 6 ECO articles to present its opinions on the 30x30 initiative and to emphasize the relevance of rights holders in the fulfillment of Area-based conservation. There was also an Eco-article that incorporated human rights into biodiversity action and the participation of rural populations in biodiversity protection, which is an important factor to consider.

ACBA's primary goal was to engage key stakeholders and state parties, ensuring that the negotiated outcomes reflect the Africa context and reality. ACBA members articulated the Network's priorities and positions by publishing a comprehensive position paper accompanied by concise but focused one-pager pieces. Some of the ACBA principles that were captured in the position paper include:

1. Focus at the local scale and build from the bottom up
2. Do not separate people from nature
3. Address rights and equity, prioritizing local institutions and rights holders
4. Consider local and traditional knowledge, accumulated experience, social and cultural concerns and scientific knowledge
5. All relevant targets of the GBF are addressed in an integrated manner as none can be achieved in isolation.

To support implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), ACBA advocates for a transformative 'shared earth, shared ocean' framework that fosters a local connection between people and nature and distancing the Network from the classical approaches alienating people from nature.

The full report of ACBA Participation at OEWG 4 can be [accessed here](#)

❖ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Open Ended Working Group 5 and the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15)

The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) actively participated in the 5th Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG5) and the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) held in Montreal, Canada, from December 3rd to 23rd. ACBA's engagement at OEWG 5 and COP15 aimed at engaging key stakeholders and state parties and ensuring that the outcomes of the negotiations aligned with Africa's conservation priorities.

Before the conference, ACBA published a comprehensive paper titled "What does a good post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework look like for Africa?" This paper which can be accessed on our website presents a thorough analysis and recommendations on the essential elements required in the development of a robust and effective Global Biodiversity Framework that addresses the specific needs for Africa.

ACBA participation at the conference helped raise the profile and reputation of its member organizations through active engagement and the sharing of perspectives. By participating in various sessions, side events and discussions, ACBA contributed to shaping and influencing decision-makers to consider the unique challenges and opportunities faced by African countries and communities. This ensured that the voice of African civil society was heard and that their perspectives were integrated into the negotiations.

Through the engagement with the African Group of Negotiators, ACBA delivered a comprehensive statement that highlighted concerns and provided valuable insights regarding specific GBF targets. In particular, the statement emphasized perspectives on targets 3 (area-based conservation), 5 (sustainable use), 19 (resource mobilization), and 21 (governance, management of biodiversity, communication, awareness).

From the participation of ACBA at COP15 there was a feeling that the final text of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework elicited differing reactions from Parties and observers. Some thought the final GBF was comprehensive, while others had reservations about various aspects. ACBA members felt that the overall objectives of COP15 were achieved and balanced, with some members highlighting key issues on Sustainable Use that were incorporated in the framework in targets 5 and 9 but also the methodology, was welcomed.

Although the final Kunming-Montreal GBF text did not include everything that ACBA members desired, it was a fair and comprehensive document that recognizes the need to foster full and effective participation of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs), Youth, Women and People with disabilities in implementation. The final framework emphasizes a “whole of society approach” to achieve the targets within this decade.

ACBA further drafted an ACBA post-COP15.2 statement, which provides more information on our final position on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The full report of ACBA Participation at OEWG 5 and COP 15 can be [accessed here](#)



❖ Side events at the CBD OEWG5 and COP 15 meeting in Montreal Canada

ACBA took center stage as it hosted and participated in an extraordinary series of side events at COP 15. These events were designed to delve into critical and distinct subjects important to the negotiations, serving as a testament to ACBA's unwavering dedication to ensure the inclusion of the African agenda in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Emphasis was on sustainable use, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, resource mobilization and other topics under negotiation. More information about the side events is captured below.

a) How a human-rights based approach can deliver a truly transformative and just post-2020 GBF

ACBA co-hosted a side event in collaboration with SwedBio, Soka Gakkai International, Natural Justice, and ESCR-Net that garnered substantial attention. This event served as a platform to highlight the role of a human rights-based approach in effectively and justly achieving the targets and goals of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). By emphasizing the importance of aligning human rights principles with conservation efforts, the event aimed to foster a world in perfect harmony with nature. Furthermore, it provided invaluable insights into practical implementation strategies for employing a human rights-based approach to fulfill the Convention's three objectives, thereby inspiring transformative action and promoting equity and justice within biodiversity conservation.

b) Debt, biodiversity and climate crises: addressing fiscal barriers on the path to transformative change (Third World Network (Lead) & ACBA)

It is widely acknowledged that the challenges associated with unsustainable national debt can exacerbate the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss especially at the local level.

During this side event, panelists engaged in meaningful discussions revolving around various proposals aimed at resource mobilization, debt relief, and the establishment of debt sustainability frameworks. These initiatives are crucial for generating fiscal space dedicated to biodiversity action, enabling the fulfillment of the objectives outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). By exploring innovative approaches to address the intersection of debt and environmental concerns, the panelists that included ACBA sought to forge pathways towards sustainable financing and ensure the preservation of our planet's precious biodiversity.

c) Shared spaces approach to a nature and people positive future- (ACBA and CORDIO East Africa)

In collaboration with CORDIO East Africa, this event was carefully designed to offer valuable insights into building support for conservation, restoration, and sustainable utilization within local "shared spaces." These spaces represent areas where communities reside in close proximity to and depend on nature, playing a pivotal role in determining the future of global sustainability and the attainment of broader conservation objectives. The event served as an informative platform, equipping attendees with the knowledge and strategies needed to foster engagement and garner backing for conservation efforts within these crucial shared spaces. By emphasizing the significance of community involvement and sustainable practices, the event aimed to secure a successful outcome in the pursuit of global sustainability and the preservation of vital natural resources.

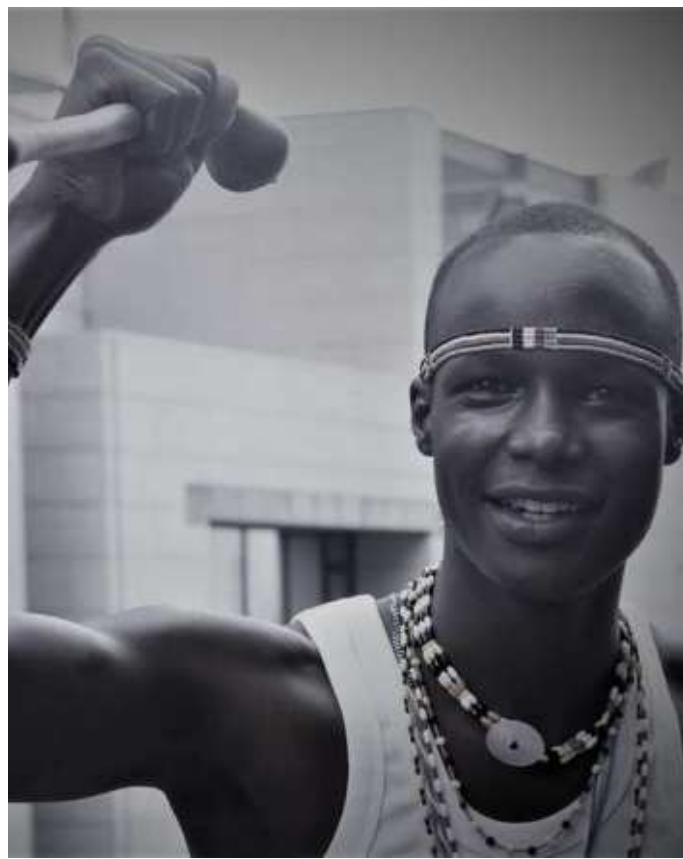


a) Voluntary Commitments Launch - ACBA & African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

This session served as an instrumental platform for African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), particularly members of the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance, to launch their voluntary commitments. These commitments encompass a wide range of projects that align with the draft targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This event also played a crucial role in showcasing to the global community the significant contributions that ACBA members can make towards the implementation of the post-2020 GBF. Furthermore, the session culminated in a compelling presentation highlighting the funding requirements for national CSOs and community-based organizations, thereby emphasizing the need for financial support to effectively execute their vital conservation efforts.



❖ Side Events with CSABC during the COP15 Meeting in Montreal Canada



a) Traditions, Contributions and Future of Local Communities in Biodiversity Conservation. This will focus on the role of IPLCs in OECMs

This side event focused on sharing invaluable contributions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to biodiversity conservation, particularly through their customary land tenure practices. Recognizing the pivotal role of IPLCs in conservation, the event underscored the vital importance of their inclusion in decision-making processes. The insights gained from this event are anticipated to inform the development of policies that can effectively recognize and financially incentivize biodiversity protection efforts. By shedding light on the crucial role IPLCs play in safeguarding our natural heritage, the event aimed to foster greater appreciation, support, and collaboration with these communities for the preservation of biodiversity.

b) Strengthen Non-State Actors' Common Action to Support Win-Win Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development

This comprehensive full-day meeting revolved around the primary challenge of reconciling biodiversity conservation and green development. The event facilitated in-depth exchanges and discussions on policy measures, practical actions, and the independent commitments of non-state actors in the realms of nature conservation and green development. It provided a platform for fruitful exchange and cooperation regarding biodiversity protection, with the shared goal of exploring a mutually beneficial path that harmonizes nature conservation and green development. Through these deliberations, the event aimed to identify actionable strategies that promote both the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable economic growth.

c) Mobilizing the African non-state actors to support the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF- The case of African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA)

The side event served as an informative platform, shedding light on the voluntary conservation endeavors undertaken by various stakeholders, including CSOs, commercial corporations, internet companies, and local communities. By showcasing the progress of initiatives and voluntary commitments stemming from the COP15 NGO Parallel Forum in Kunming, the event underscored the collective efforts made towards conservation. Additionally, it highlighted the best practices in conservation demonstrated by indigenous peoples and local communities, emphasizing their invaluable contributions. Moreover, the event spotlighted voluntary actions and collaborative endeavors between civil society and the private sector aimed at biodiversity conservation. Overall, the side event provided valuable insights into the diverse range of voluntary conservation actions, fostering knowledge sharing and encouraging further collaboration for the benefit of our planet's biodiversity.



❖ 2022 Policy Publications

Biodiversity Funding in Africa

ACBA conducted a review of biodiversity funding in Africa in 2022, supported financially by the Global Environment Institute (GEI). The objective was to assess biodiversity funding from various sources, including multilateral and bilateral organizations, foundations, public funding, the private sector, trust funds, over a 10 to 15-year period where data permitted.

Based on the funding trends, the review aimed to recommend the likely impact on future biodiversity funding in Africa and determine whether there were indications of recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The final report can be accessed [here](#)

What does a good post-2020 GBF look like for Africa?

As different stakeholders were preparing to participate in CBD COP 15, questions arose about how the conference would impact Africa's sustainable development and biodiversity agenda. ACBA drafted a brief articulating potential positive or negative outcomes of COP15 for Africa, with a focus on several GBF targets:

1. Area-Based Conservation (Target 3)
2. Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (Target 5)
3. Climate Change and Biodiversity (Target 8)
4. Business Engagement (Target 15)
5. Resource Mobilization (Target 19)
6. Engagement of IPLCS, Youth, and Women in Decision Making (Target 21)

ACBA emphasized that the successful implementation of the GBF requires an integrated approach, recognizing the interdependence of all goals. The full paper can be accessed [here](#)

ECO Newsletter articles

ACBA has made significant contributions to the global biodiversity discourse and negotiations through the publication of ECO articles during the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWGs) meetings and Conference of the Parties 15 (CBD COP 15). These articles were strategically crafted to influence the decision-making process and ensure that Africa's perspectives and priorities are adequately captured in the final Global Biodiversity Framework.

The 10 ECO Newsletter articles, accessible through the [CBDA website](#), highlight key issues, challenges and provide policy recommendations. By sharing these articles, it helped to amplify the voices of African civil society organizations and experts, fostering a deeper understanding of the region's unique context and facilitating informed decision-making at the global level.



a) ECO Articles During the Fourth Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWG 4)

- The post 2020 GBF must be guided by objectives, principles and articles of the Convention: [Link](#) Author: Simangele Msweli
- Taking responsibility for sustainable consumption patterns: The elephant in the room: [Link](#) Author: Yemi Katerere
- Beyond 30x30: Why rights holders are key to the realization of the Area-Based Conservation Target of the post 2020 GBF: [Link](#):Author: Kevin Lunzalu
- Hand-to-mouth options for rural communities do not guarantee long-term conservation of biodiversity: [Link](#): Authors: Taye Teferi and Emmanuel
- Integrating human rights into biodiversity action: [Link](#): Author (Nyaguthii)

b) Eco Articles During the Fifth Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWG 5) and COP 15

- What does a good Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework look like for Africa? [Link](#) Authors: Yemi Katerere and Simangele Msweli
- 30x30 Target – sanctioning extractive tourism and human rights violations in Africa? [Link](#) Authors: Mariam Mayet and Linzi Lewis, ACBIO
- Smallholder food producers - the key towards an ecologically sound and just transition in agricultural and food systems: [Link](#) Authors: Linzi Lewis and Sabrina Masinjila, ACBIO
- Legal, sustainable and safe use of biodiversity is a right of IPLCs : [Link](#) Authors: Community Leaders Network, Resource Africa, Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO) and African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA)
- Reject false solutions and uphold agroecology in the Global Biodiversity Framework: [Link](#) Authors: Sabrina Masinjila, African Centre for Biodiversity

ACBA post COP15 Statement on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

After the release of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, ACBA members drafted a [statement](#) that captures their views on the final paper and what it means for Africa. As ACBA was closely monitoring several targets, it was crucial for the alliance to articulate a statement expressing their perspective on the final GBF, even as they work on how they will be part of the implementations of the targets.



2. Participation at 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19) for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19) for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) took place in Panama from November 22-28, 2022. ACBA participated through its members, Resource Africa (RA) and Community Leaders Network (CLN), both of which attended the conference as observers.

ACBA's participation at CITES proved significant as its members actively immersed themselves in sessions, working groups and interventions that directly impacted Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), community participation in international conventions and rural livelihoods.

As observers, RA and CLN played a crucial role in pushing for the consideration of community perspectives and the recognition of the impacts of decisions made on livelihoods. Regular briefings held by CLN and RA delegates ensured that important developments and outcomes were shared among the delegates

ACBA's delegates submitted documents at the conference that focused on the role of communities in CITES, the need for CITES to



consider the impacts of decisions made on livelihoods and to observe the debates around listing decisions for key African species.

The key takeaway from CLN and RA's participation at the conference was the recognition of how critical it will be for RA and CLN to work strategically alongside SADC Parties between CoP19 and CoP20, to interact with Parties from other regions of Africa and the world. ACBA, in general, has a critical role to play in encouraging Pan-African discussion and exchange visits.

The engagement of RA and CLN at CoP19 serves as a testament to ACBA's commitment to representing the interests of African communities and promoting their active participation in global conservation initiatives. Through its members' involvement, ACBA remains dedicated to advocating for community rights, sustainable livelihoods and the preservation of Africa's invaluable biodiversity.

The full report on ACBA's participation can be accessed [here](#)



3. Participation at the African Protected Area Congress (APAC)

TACBA's participation at the African Protected Area Congress (APAC) in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2022, was one of its major accomplishments. The congress was under the theme “For People and Nature.” It was a congress organized by Africans and for Africans with the aim of celebrating and acknowledging the skills and commitment of Africa to conservation, sustainable use of nature and human well-being.

The ACBA Secretariat was able to support and facilitate the participation of over 25 members from regions across Africa. The Secretariat provided logistical assistance, guidance and resources to ensure their active engagement and representation at the event. Additionally, a number of ACBA members self-sponsored themselves to attend the conference, resulting in ACBA having a strong representation at the conference, with close to 50 ACBA members present. Our participation at the congress provided us with a valuable opportunity to network, forge new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations.

The African Protected Area Congress served as an ideal platform for ACBA to launch its ambitious 10-year strategic plan as it was easy to engage key stakeholders from governments, civil society and international organizations. The congress provided an opportunity to garner support and gain valuable feedback on the strategic plan's goals and implementation.

The alliance played a pivotal role in influencing key decisions and shaping outcomes during the conference by actively participating as panelists and moderators in various high-level sessions. Our representatives brought their expertise and perspectives to the forefront, contributing to meaningful discussions and influencing policy directions.

The full report that captures ACBA’s participation at the congress can be accessed [here](#).



4. Webinars and dialogues

ACBA collaborated with CSABC to organize three informative webinars. Each webinar attracted an impressive attendance of approximately 80 participants.

The webinars delved into crucial topics pertaining to sustainability and conservation. The first webinar explored "The challenges and opportunities for sustainable infrastructure in Africa," The webinar aimed to share case studies of successful mitigation of biodiversity loss in infrastructure projects and encouraged participants to promote Sustainable infrastructure.

The second webinar focused on "The synergies between climate change and biodiversity," emphasizing on creating awareness of the significance of climate solutions that address both climate change and biodiversity.

Lastly, the third webinar which tackled the topic on sustainable agricultural practices that enhance food security that are compatible with biodiversity conservation. With a focus on contexts in Africa and China, the webinar explored sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture, fostering agriculture and utilization of indigenous knowledge.

These webinars that can be found on our YouTube channel provided a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among the participants, encouraging a greater understanding of sustainable practices and their impact on Africa's future.



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The ACBA Communications Working Group has played a crucial role in giving visibility to ACBA and ensuring the dissemination of ACBA's activities to the wider audience. The primary objective of this working group has been to enhance the visibility of the alliance, attract new members to join and actively promote the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance's agenda. Moreover, the communications working group has spearheaded impactful campaigns that align with the alliance mission and vision.

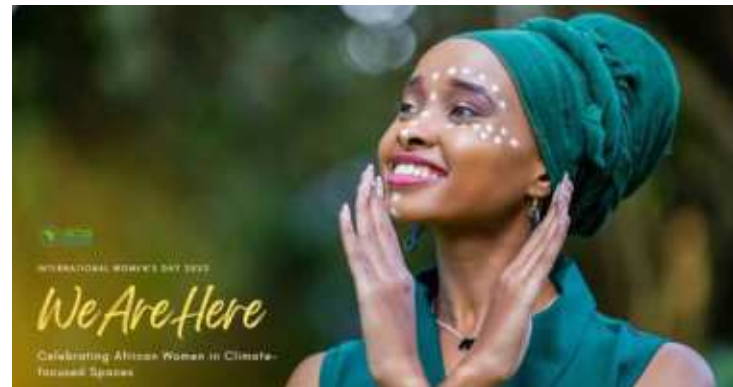
In the year 2022, the ACBA Communications Team successfully organized a significant campaign during the International Women's Day. This campaign titled #WeAreHere served as a platform to raise awareness and advocate for relevant issues pertaining to biodiversity and the role of women in environmental conservation.

The Communications Working Group has also collaborated closely with other working groups within ACBA to ensure cohesive messaging and coordinated efforts. Moving forward, the Communications Working Group remains committed to its mandate of expanding the alliance's brand visibility, attracting more individuals to join the ACBA and promoting the shared agenda of African CSOs in biodiversity conservation.

In celebration of International Women's Day, 2022 the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) launched a remarkable campaign that highlighted the invaluable contributions of women in climate-focused spaces. This campaign aimed to recognize and amplify the exceptional work done by women in addressing climate change and promoting biodiversity conservation across Africa.

Through a series of engaging and inspiring stories, ACBA showcased the diverse roles and achievements of women leaders, scientists, activists, and practitioners who have been instrumental in driving positive change in their communities and beyond. These women demonstrated exceptional dedication, passion, and innovation in tackling the pressing environmental challenges that our continent faces.

The response to the campaign was widely shared and meaningful conversations initiated on our social media platforms. The stories resonated with people across Africa and beyond, showcasing the transformative impact that women can have in tackling climate change and safeguarding our biodiversity.





KEY LESSONS LEARNED IN 2022 AND THE WAY FORWARD

- It is crucial for ACBA to maintain a strong presence in policy spaces and ensuring that African voices are consistently heard and considered in key policy discussions.
- ACBA has been operating as a loose network, going forward the alliance will come up with a more formal but lean and efficient structure in order to enhance its credibility, sustainability and consistency in advocating for biodiversity issues at regional and international levels.
- ACBA will prioritize the creation of well-researched and strategic documents. These documents will be shared with decision-makers in advance to actively contribute to policy discussions and decision-making processes, as this has proven to be very effective in the past.
- In 2022, ACBA was able to develop strategic partnerships with different organizations like CBD Alliance, ABCG, AGN and CSABC. Going forward, the alliance will strengthen existing partnerships while actively seeking new alliances at national, continental and global levels to strengthen its position and enhance its impact in biodiversity conservation.
- Active involvement of members is crucial in shaping ACBA's strategies and initiatives. The Membership and Partnerships Working Group will strive to ensure great participation of members in conferences, events and policy discussions. This, in turn, ensures that diverse perspectives are considered
- Monitoring and Evaluation is an important aspect of every organization. ACBA aims to implement a robust Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to assess the impact of its initiatives. Regularly evaluating the effectiveness of programs and adjusting strategies as needed will be a key focus



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We appreciate ACBA members for generously volunteering their time and making invaluable contributions. These efforts play a pivotal role in advancing ACBA's mission and vision

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