



**SPATIAL PROTECTION TARGETS - 30 x 30 DIALOGUE –  
IN THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

*Dialogue Report – November 24, 2020*

---

## INTRODUCTION

The [African CSO Biodiversity Alliance](#) (ACBA) in collaboration with [WildOceans](#), convened a virtual dialogue on November, 24 2020 to share perspectives on spatial protection targets in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). It attracted a total of 65 participants including ACBA members, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), youth, academia and UN delegates. The dialogue was conducted in both English and French divided in three sections: panelists' presentations, open discussions and an interactive Q&A session.

The workshop was moderated by Fred Kwame Kumah, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) Vice President of External Affairs, who noted that the session was primarily informational, to help participants understand the varying perspectives in order to make informed decisions and positions on the matter.

---

## DIALOGUE STRUCTURE

The first session was structured to hear considerations of the science and principles underpinning the call to protect and conserve at least 30% of the planet, to discuss proposed mechanisms for achieving 30x30 protection, and to discuss opportunities and challenges - from global, regional and national perspectives. The following presentations were made:

- a. Ms. Kina Murphy and Raina Thiele from the Campaign for Nature presented on the Global Perspectives on spatial protection targets 30 X 30 [[videolink](#)];
- b. Dr. Jean Harris, Executive Director - WildOceans, presented on the Perspectives on progress towards 30x30 in the Africa region and value of protection and challenges in achieving it [[Videolink](#)]
- c. Professor Moenieba Isaacs, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), presented on Alternative perspective to spatial protection targets in Africa [[Videolink](#)]

Discussions in presentation and a question-and-answer format followed; David Obura<sup>1</sup>, CORDIO East Africa, Daniel Kobei<sup>2</sup> from the Ogiek Peoples Development Program (OPDP) representing Lucy Mulenkei, Indigenous Information Network, Barbara Lassen<sup>3</sup> from Natural Justice and James Murombedzi<sup>4</sup> from The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) presented perspectives from Africa CSOs about the need for increased spatial protection and concerns and reservations about how to achieve it. The question-and-answer format was as follows;

- a. Expound the concept of other Effective Conservation Measure - Question [answered](#) by Dr. Jean Harris (WildOceans)
- b. How to mainstream and finance protected areas – [answered](#) by Raina and Kina (campaign for Nature)
- c. Our production and consumption patterns as a bigger problem over protection. – how do we put human production and consumption patterns issues in what we are doing? – [answered](#) by Prof. Isaacs (PLAAS)

---

<sup>1</sup> David Obura's presentation - <https://youtu.be/seNz4nJmmKI?t=2940>

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Kobei's presentation - <https://youtu.be/seNz4nJmmKI?t=3404>

<sup>3</sup> Barbara Lassen's presentation - <https://youtu.be/seNz4nJmmKI?t=3798>

<sup>4</sup> James Murombedzi's presentation - <https://youtu.be/seNz4nJmmKI?t=3798>

## Key outputs of the discussions included;

- a. The need for people to talk more about protected and promoted areas.
- b. Making a compelling case to heal the planet and how to make it happen as well as look at the issues of rights, finance, OECM
- c. Looking at the production and consumption patterns that underpin most of the destruction we have within.

---

## DIALOGUE SUMMARY

To sum up, the diverse group of participants made the following observations;

### What is the problem?

1. We can all agree that society benefits from the services that healthy ecosystems provide. We also agree that we have a biodiversity crisis as outlined by Jean Harris. What is not clear is the claim that increasing the area under spatial protection will address the biodiversity and ecosystem integrity crisis. Are we losing biodiversity because of inadequate protected areas?
2. Or as James Murombedzi argues, it is a crisis of accumulation arising from the expansion of capital and **commodification of nature**.
3. Africa has 14.4% of its total land area and 3% of the seascapes under protection. Despite this, we have continued to lose biodiversity. Why? Shouldn't we prioritize improving the effectiveness of existing protected areas?
4. Protected areas tend to be fragmented and do not necessarily represent all ecosystems and biodiversity. So, simply calling for more area under protection will not necessarily address the crisis. Nor will it be easy to create connectivity between the protected areas.
5. Professor Issacs proposes convivial conservation as an alternative conservation model. **Convivial conservation** is essentially letting nature flourish freely with people being part of it as opposed to traditional spatial conservation. She also mentioned transforming economies and recognizing rights of IPLCs.
6. In Africa, most of the protected areas were created during the colonial era and some were created as military buffers against liberation movements. Hence, there is a need to address past injustices associated with the creation of protected areas.

---

## UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF 30X30 FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

1. Conceptual frameworks like 30x30 evolve in particular places, intellectual contexts, and value propositions. Therefore, they cannot be applied uniformly in all places and contexts.
  - a. The framing of 30x30 acknowledges this point as pointed out by Jean Harris. It is a global target. So, each country can contribute what it can. But we need to explore how these global targets translate at the local and national levels especially for communities that are highly dependent on nature for their livelihoods and safety nets.
  - b. Hence, African countries need to understand what 30x30 means for their economies and people.
2. As Barbara Lassen notes “much of the world’s biodiversity lies in areas traditionally managed, owned, used and occupied by IPLCs”. Perhaps we need to increase investment in these areas.

### THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

---

What are the biggest threats to biodiversity loss? An unsustainable food production system is the biggest threat to biodiversity. It transforms landscapes, requires a network of *infrastructure*, uses *energy* to produce, transform, store, and transport food. At the same time, it is vulnerable to *climate change*. Along the entire food value chain is a *growing population*. Is this where our focus should be in order to halt biodiversity loss?

### CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

---

After a 2-hour discussion, the workshop came to a close at 5 p.m. Nairobi EAT, with Fred giving closing remarks thanking the participants and noting the need to schedule follow-up meetings.

### DIALOGUE RESOURCES

---

Here are links to resources quoted during the dialogue discussions:

- SDG 14 - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14>
- Zero Draft of the post-2020 GBF - <https://www.cbd.int/article/zero-draft-update-august-2020>
- IPBES report on the importance of IPLCs as custodians of biodiversity.
- Report of the Thematic Workshop on Human Rights as enabling condition in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 18 – 20 February 2020, Chiang Mai, Thailand-  
<https://www.cbd.int/post2020/doc/WS-HR-CBD-post2020-GBF-Report-en.pdf>
- IUCN governance type
- The Great Transformation- An analysis done by Ika Polani-  
[https://inctpped.ie.ufrj.br/spiderweb/pdf\\_4/Great\\_Transformation.pdf](https://inctpped.ie.ufrj.br/spiderweb/pdf_4/Great_Transformation.pdf)
- (IUCN-WCPA) conservation measures
- **Recording link to the 30x30 dialogue:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seNz4nJmmKI>