

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2022

DID YOU KNOW?

We owe ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all - Professor Wangari Maathai



ACBA's participation at the African Protected Areas Congress (APAC)

The African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) actively participated in the first of its own African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) that took place from 18th -23rd July 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. ACBA members participated through side events, pavilion activities, attendance at high-level events and other side events hosted by other participants.

The key mandates of ACBA was to facilitate sharing of lessons, create opportunities for collaboration, and influence national, regional, continental and global biodiversity policy processes and practices. ACBA serves as a marketplace for Alliance members to create opportunities and partnerships that can enhance their work in their communities and respective country levels for that reason ACBA secured a pavilion at the congress which was used to showcase the diversity, extent, and value of conservation work being carried out by ACBA members and also created a great opportunity for ACBA members and partners to come together and identify areas of common action.

ACBA hosted 7 events in its pavilion, the events were led by different member organizations; the event on building Landscape Climate Resilience through Green Investments Finance was led by A Rocha Ghana, Community-Based Conservation: Moving forward with a renewed commitment to people and nature by Community Leadership Network (CLN), Supporting Conservation in Africa using DNA Barcoding and Citizen Science collaboration was led by (CSTI), Launch of Policy Brief on Responsible Tourism to Great Apes led by IGCP and CTPH, Pan African solidarity and strategies: Centering human rights in conservation and safeguarding biodiversity which was led by Natural Justice, Enhancing Community Rights, Resilient Local Economies, and Conservation In Africa this was led by Resource Africa, Youth Engagement in Policy and Local Action led by South Africa Youth Biodiversity Network and Vhembe Youth biosphere and lastly Would effective resource management in Africa be a pathway to peace? Led by Somalia GreenPeace Association (SOGPA)

Other than the pavilion events some ACBA members were also able to present different events in the main African Protected Area Congress program, the events were led by David Obura the Director, CORDIO East Africa, Pauline Nantongo the Executive Director ECOTRUST Uganda and Lucy Waruigi Director of African Conservation Center.

ACBA STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH & SIGNING OF AN MOU WITH AWF

As the second phase of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) approaches and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) takes shape, African Protected Area congress that happened for the 18th to 23rd was an opportune moment for ACBA to reflect on how it engages throughout African countries between now and 2030.

Africa CSOs Biodiversity Alliance developed a 10-year strategic plan titled “from bottom up nature people positive” which was launched at the African Protected Area Congress.

The strategic plan carefully navigates the challenges of developing a plan for a geographically and thematically diverse network that is united in its desire to sustainably manage and use biodiversity.



The plan speaks differently to different members because of this diversity. The strategic plan developed by ACBA is ambitious but achievable, the main mandate of the alliance is to make sure that African voices are included in conservation models, agendas and also focused on empowering Indigenous People and Local Communities & small-scale farmers with rights to sustainably manage and benefit from their resources.

The Alliance also, most importantly, creates a platform where members are able to network and share their perspectives on issues relating to Sustainable Use of natural resources. “While a strategic plan does not guarantee funding, not having a plan guarantees no funding. We are therefore motivated in the belief that this strategic plan will assist us mobilize the required financial resources and means of implementation.” Stated Dr. Yemi Katerere African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance Coordinator.

The main theme of the ACBA pavilion at the African Protected Area congress was “Strengthening partnerships to secure Africa’s Biodiversity and heritage” and that is because ACBA believes that partnerships are very key when it comes to successful networks. In that way, ACBA was honored to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) as they believe in the vision and values of ACBA.

African Wildlife Foundation has in the past provided critical funding and technical support that has enabled coordination of ACBA’s activities as well its active participation at key events such as the IUCN WCC, CBD negotiations and APAC and the signed MOU is a clear indication that AWF are willing to work together with ACBA to achieve its goals going forward. “This Memorandum of Understanding is a game changer in the field of biodiversity conservation and we must therefore be very proud of this defining moment in the history of pan African conservation.” stated Mr. Kaddu Sebunya, CEO African Wildlife Foundation.

The full video of the event can be accessed here <https://youtu.be/E6L6Cot4jnM>

APAC KIGALI CALL TO ACTION



The IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) was the first of its own continent-wide gathering that attracted governments, African regional bodies, NGOs, national and international experts and organizations, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, academia, the judiciary, development partners and the private sector to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving nature, safeguarding Africa's iconic wildlife, delivering vital life-supporting ecosystem services, promoting sustainable development while conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions.

The congress had an objective to position Africa's protected and conserved areas within the broader goals of economic development and community well-being and to increase the understanding of the vital role parks play in conserving biodiversity and delivering the ecosystem services that underpin human welfare and livelihoods. The African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) forms one of the many NGOs and CSOs that actively participates in the African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) through its diverse membership.

The congress was organized by Africans and for Africa and celebrated and acknowledged the skills and commitment of Africa to conservation, sustainable use of nature and human well-being under the theme "For People and Nature". The Congress identified priority actions to strengthen Africa's protected and conserved areas in a manner that is just, equitable and fair and that will deepen the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The outcomes from all the attended high-level events, pavilion events and other side events that happened at APAC were committed and documented to form the Kigali Call to Action which can be accessed here <https://apaccongress.africa/download/english-version-of-apac-kigali-call-to-action/>

POLICY UPDATES

INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE REGION AND BEYOND

ACBA online Training Seminar on Submission of Voluntary Commitments on the CBD online Platform

The African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) conducted an online training seminar that focused on building capacity of Non-State actors in voluntary commitment submission for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for its members and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who were interested in taking the process forward. The training that happened on the 5th of July, 2022

Voluntary Commitments provide an opportunity for non-state actors to contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through a number of actions that complement and are supportive of governments that have the responsibility for the delivery of GBF goals and targets[1]. The full training video can be accessed here <https://youtu.be/p6AA1qbpITw>

UPCOMING EVENTS



Francophone Africa Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms, Dakar, Senegal (Tentative)

19th to 22nd September

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