

MONTHLY REPORT

# NEWSLETTER



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FOR BIOLOGICAL  
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ENGAGEMENTS



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CSO OF THE MONTH



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SAVING ATEWA  
FOREST CAMPAIGN



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MARCH 2022



# AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF THE POST 2020 GBF (ACBA @ UNEA)

## African Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation in Support of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Date: 2nd March 2022  
 Venue: Hybrid (Green Tent @ UNEA5.2 + Zoom)  
 Time: 3:30PM EAT | 12:30PM GMT | 2:30PM CAT



**Lucy Wamungi**  
 MODERATOR  
 Executive Director at African Conservation Centre



**Pauline Nantongo**  
 PANELIST  
 Executive Director of Ezouza - The Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda



**Maxi Louis**  
 PANELIST  
 Director of the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO)



**Edith Kahubire**  
 PANELIST  
 Principal Social Safeguard and Compliance Officer at African Development Bank Group

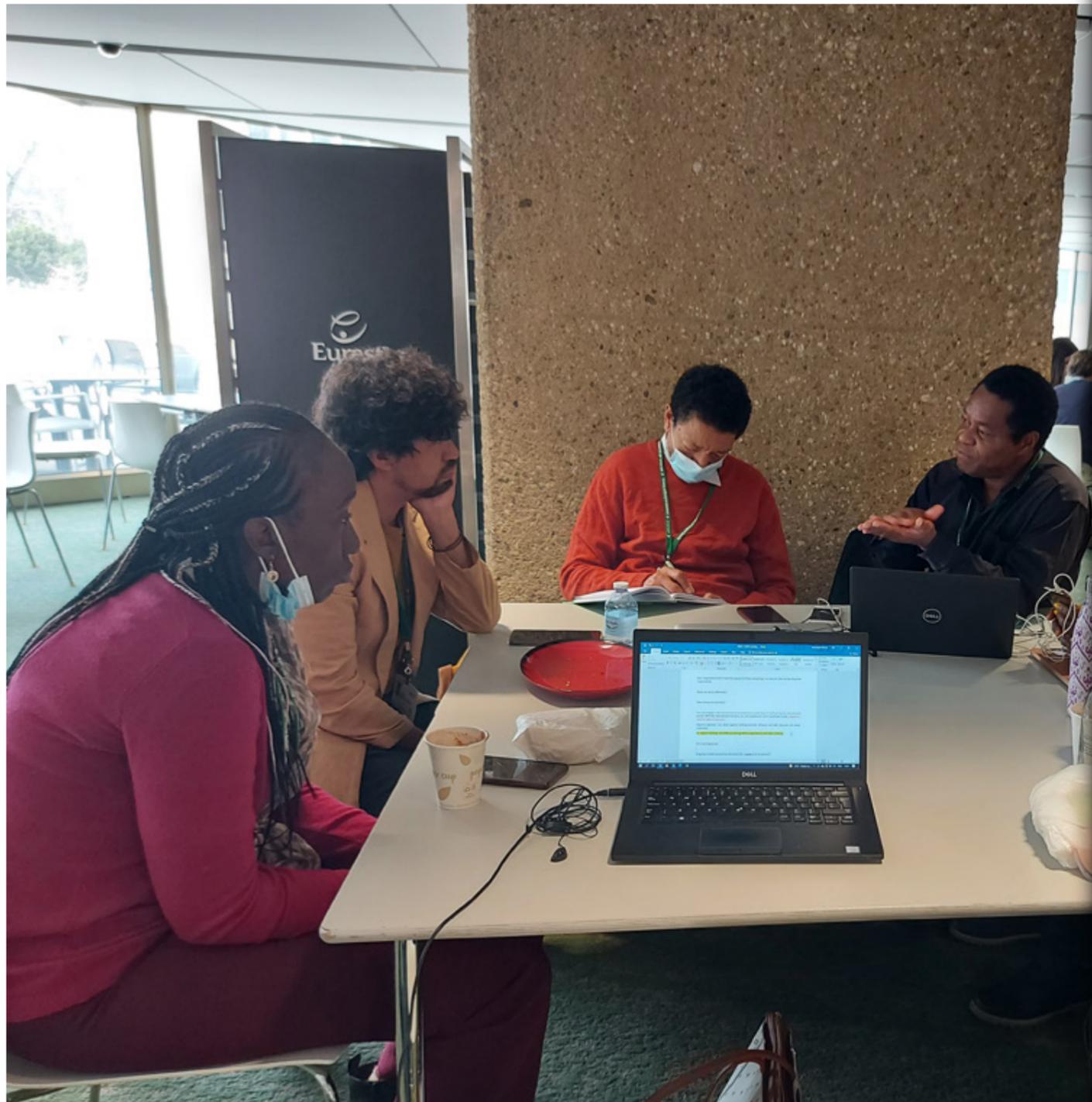


**Dr Malan Lindeque**  
 PANELIST  
 Executive Director, Resource Africa, UK



“There is hope in building strong governance structures to make sure that we have sustainable developments with minimal negative impacts on the environmental livelihoods.” These sentiments were said by Maxi Louis Director of the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO) during the UNEA Green tent side event which was hosted by African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) in collaboration with African Conservation Centre (ACC).

The event that happened on the 2nd of March 2022, focused on South-South infrastructure cooperation for #biodiversity and the achievement of the #SDGs with the aim to strengthen partnership, promote cooperation and coordination on designing and implementing inclusive, resilient and sustainable infrastructure and facilitating the implementation of the #post2020 GBF. It was very evident in the discussions that there is a need to plan for growth with a well-coordinated approach to ensure a balance between resource conservation and development.



African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) had a team of 11 members present at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group3 (OEWG-3), SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 that happened from the 14th to 29th of March 2022 in Geneva Switzerland.

Some of the members present at the meeting were Pauline Nantongo who leads the ACBA policy working group, Yemi Katerere who is the ACBA coordinator, David Obura, the director of Cordio East Africa, David had an event where he engaged on the linkages between goals, targets and milestones from the science perspective, Frederick Kwame Kumah the Vice President External affair at African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Simangele Msweli the Senior Manager Youth Leadership Program from African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Daniel Kobei Executive Director, Ogiek Peoples' Development, Lucy Mulankei the Executive Director of the Indigenous Information Network (IIN) who led the IIFB event on the role of IPLCs in the Post2020, Mariam Mayet and Sabrina Masinjila from the Africa Centre for Biodiversity (ACBIO), Barbara Larsen from Natural Justice and Andrea Athanas from the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF).

To effectively engage in the Geneva meeting, ACBA produced a [position paper](#) which highlighted its comments towards the targets of the post-2020 GBF. The position paper was presented in Geneva and was also published in the CBD virtual table. Other than that, ACBA Attended negotiating sessions (plenaries & contact groups) main focus being OEWG, they also followed other relevant sessions under SBSTTA and SBI. ACBA members attended side events and had Informal meetings with delegates.

Members of ACBA were able to publish articles on the ECO newsletter. On the 18th of March a paper authored by Simangele Msweli titled: [Getting Financial Resources to local levels in support of impactful conservation](#) was published. On the 19th of March another paper authored by Yemi Katerere, Simangele Msweli and David Obura, titled [People at the center of biodiversity conservation: Is Goal B of the GBF strong enough](#) was published. [How the UN agencies are eating into development funds for the global south](#) was authored by Yemi Katerere and Souparna Lahiri and it was published on the 20th of March, 2022. The last paper published on the 22nd of March was written by Fredrick Kwame Kumah titled [Equal agency and importance needed across all Global Biodiversity Framework targets](#).

## AFRICAN CSOS BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE (ACBA) AT THE CONVENTION FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) ENGAGEMENTS

# FUN FACT (TEASER)



Did You Know? Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles.

Read more about this [here](#)



A Rocha Ghana is a non-profit, non-governmental environmental conservation organization in Ghana, established in 1999, as the Eden Conservation Society, and eventually becoming part of the A Rocha International network of organization in 2003. A Rocha Ghana (ARG) has grown to be become a household name and committed environmental NGO in Ghana, providing practical conservation interventions aimed at contributing to the sustainable management of biodiversity as well as important ecological habitats and initiating programmes aimed at facilitating target community's ability to adapt to current trends in climate change and the impacts of a changing natural environment.

The organization works to inspire people with solutions and innovations that are focused on building the consciousness and willingness of people to work together to address the problems that confront or threaten the sustainable management of natural resource management. It also works to identify the problems and challenges to conservation as an important early step, and more importantly work with state and non-state actors to find solutions and innovations to ensure that problems are addressed benefiting people and nature.

A Rocha Ghana strategic goal focuses on utilizing and adapting proven technologies in biodiversity conservation, landscape management and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The organization is committed to developing their own institutional capacity as well the capacity of their collaborating partners and to provide services and networking opportunities for conservation of important ecological habitats.

The organization provides practical conservation interventions through Community Natural Resource governance for sustainable landscape management, conservation of ecosystems and green livelihood and business development. A key outcome of their engagement with state and non-state actors is the critical need to integrate ecosystem services and Sustainable Development Goals Ghana development processes at all levels.



As an organization which is committed to upholding national and international best practices in environmental sustainability and development, A Rocha Ghana's core objective is to be instrumental to Ghana's ability to achieve transformational change through the United Nation (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs.) At the heart of all their engagement with stakeholders, is the commitment to engage and work with youth groups in communities and schools. A Rocha Ghana therefore runs one of the comprehensive networks of school's programs across the country, all working to care for creation and building leaders with a mindset to be sustainable

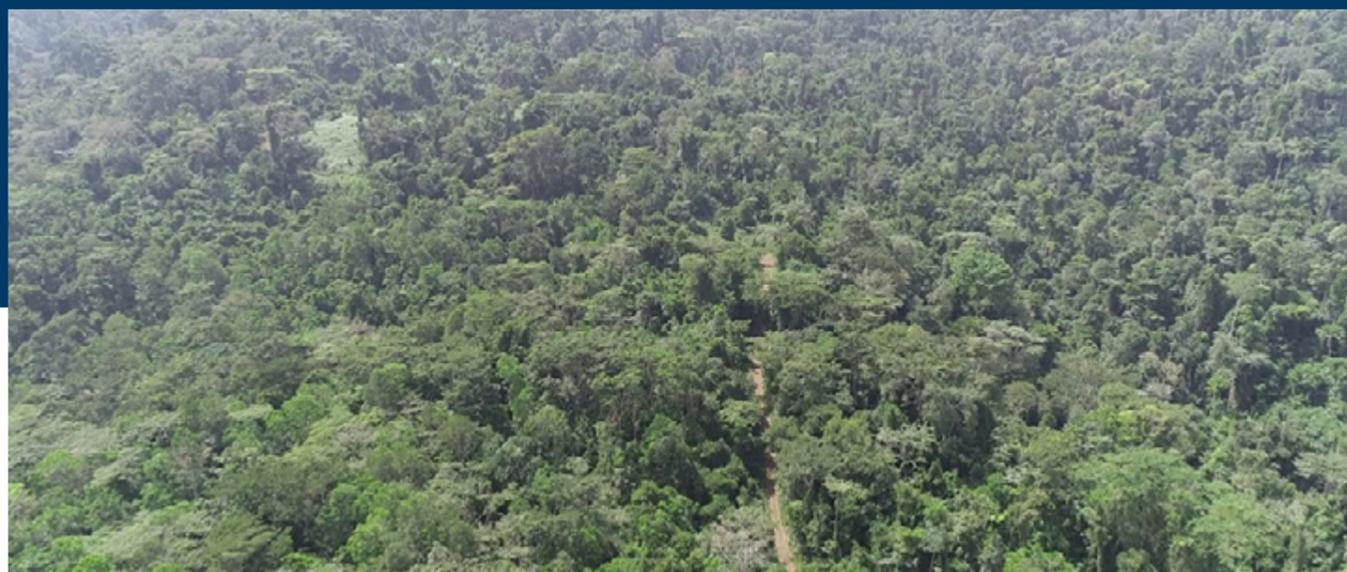
# ON GROUND ACTIVITIES BY ROCHA GHANA - SAVING ATEWA FOREST CAMPAIGN

Rocha Ghana's biggest and longest campaign is fighting for the Atewa Forest to be made a National Park. Located in Ghana's Eastern Region, Atewa Range Forest Reserve falls within the eastern end of the Guinean Forest eco-region and is designated one of the country's Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas due to its exceptional biological value. The forest hosts 1,134 plant species, 239 bird species, 69 mammals, 40 amphibians, 14 reptiles and 711 butterfly species. The butterfly species found within Atewa represent 77% of all butterfly species found in Ghana.

Most important of all, the Atewa Forest serves as the source of three major river bodies in Ghana, the Rivers Birim, Ayensu and Densu. Over 5 million Ghanaians depend on the rivers and their tributaries for water for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses. Despite the numerous natural solutions that the forest contributes to the socio-economic wellbeing of Ghanaians, the forest, just like many vulnerable rainforests across the world, is under serious threat. Aside from being desecrated by pockets of illegal activities—mining and logging, the government of Ghana has targeted the forest for bauxite mining that will turn this priceless watershed and biodiversity haven into a mine pit.

The planned mine development has since met strong local, national and international resistance and continues to be a bone of contention even in Ghana's environmental and political space. There is a clarion call to raise the status of the forest from a Forest Reserve to a National Park to secure long-term benefits of water, food security, biodiversity and climate services, with thriving green ventures for green jobs for the teeming communities and youth in the landscape. If the Atewa Forest, which remains the last hope for this priceless water provisioning watershed for many parts of Ghana and the survival for its endemic species, is mined for bauxite, runoff from the operations is likely to contaminate the three major rivers and streams and dangerous red dust would pollute surrounding areas.

#SaveAtewaForest #Atewa4Water #Atewa4NationalPark



## KEY UPDATES

- **12 - 13 April 2022:** Third meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, Online (Confirmed)
- **20 - 21 April 2022:** Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in the Marine Fishery Sector, Online (Confirmed)
- **27 - 28 April 2022:** Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in the Marine Fishery Sector, Online (Confirmed)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) together with China's Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC) will be hosting their first webinar of the year 2022 under the theme: Africa-China CSOs collaboration towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The webinar is titled: Achieving the CBD's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets: synergies between Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation. The webinar will be held on the 14th of April at 09:30-11:30 EAT. Use this link to join the webinar <https://bit.ly/3DtSjdK>.

## OUR CONTACTS

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