

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2022

DID YOU KNOW?

COP 27 unites governments and non-Party stakeholders, fostering collaboration among them to deliver greenhouse gas emission reductions and help ensure a just transition to a net-zero economy which alleviates poverty and helps secure a sustainable future.



ACBA's participation at UNFCCC COP 27

The 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is under way from the 6th to the 18th of November 2022. The conference will be hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Sharm el-Sheikh with a view to building on previous successes and paving the way for future ambition to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change. The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA)'s policy task team is currently in the process of planning ACBA's participation at COP27, wherein the alliance will identify issues that will influence and contribute towards some kind of transformation.

The UNFCCC CoP27 will be held in Africa and this gives Africans a unique opportunity to highlight some issues that are important for Africa. Some of the important topics ACBA members will focus on during CoP27 are;

1. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Biodiversity, looking at how the updated NDCs submitted in October 2021 by 143 countries reveal that their total GHG emissions are estimated to be about 9% below the 2010 level by 2030. When combined with all 192 countries, there is a sizable increase, of about 16%, in global GHG emissions in 2030 compared to 2010 is anticipated. Clearly, we need to redouble our climate efforts to remain within the goals set by the Paris Agreement.
2. The Paris Agreement Article 6: Advancements and recommendations by African countries
3. The establishment of loss and damage in financial mechanisms amongst many other issues of focus. The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance looks forward to fruitful discussions of issues of Climate Change that Affects the African countries and the world.

YOUTH ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION: CHAMPIONING FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Research shows that eight million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean every year and with a business as usual scenario, by 2050 there could be more plastics than fish in the ocean by weight (according to research done by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation). The SA plastic pact, in partnership with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, aims to tackle the problem head-on by keeping plastics in the economy and out of the environment. SA Plastics Pact is a collaborative initiative that will create a circular economy for plastic packaging in conjunction with other local initiatives. A circular economy represents a shift away from reliance on the extraction of raw materials to using materials that are already in circulation.



Phathutshedzo Mudau, a young award-winning green entrepreneur is playing a crucial role in the circular economy in South Africa. Through his start-up company, Phathutshedzo Green Surfacing, Phathutshedzo and his co-workers collect plastic waste and biomass waste and convert them into valuable building and construction materials such as pavement bricks, tombstones, and road surfacing technologies. The waste used in the process is collected from local illegal dumping sites and also through clean-up campaigns in partnership with Vhembe Biosphere Reserve and PWK waste management in his village, Tshikuwi based in Venda, Limpopo Province. The youth-run company also takes it a step further by collecting waste from hardware and supermarkets.

This innovative company also developed its own reactors to process the waste in an environmentally-friendly way. Through his company, Phathutshedzo does not use any sand or water to produce the bricks, instead, they use plastic waste materials and the bricks dry up quick enough to be used on the same day. His company also produces charcoal briquettes and organic fertilizers from 100% organic/biomass waste including sawdust and agricultural waste.

His advice to young people who care about the environment and making a change was that “ innovations don't require a degree. I didn't get an opportunity to go to university to pursue my studies, however, that did not stop me from working toward my entrepreneurial dreams. Let's use the challenges we are facing every day to bring solutions and change our lives. You can be part of the change “.

Phathutshedzo highlighted that they are not just building an innovative company, but they are rebuilding the waste management industry and playing their part in building a better tomorrow. Some of their future plans include producing school desks and furniture using plastic waste.

CSO OF THE MONTH



Natural Justice is an organisation rooted in the struggles of communities in Africa. As a team of pioneering lawyers and legal experts, we specialise in human rights and environmental law in pursuit of social and environmental justice.

Natural Justice strives to enhance the collective rights of people and protect the sacred relationships that indigenous peoples and local communities have with nature. Our work is informed by the values, knowledge and self-determination of the communities whom we stand in solidarity with.

Through legal empowerment, research, policy influencing and litigation, and as part of coalitions and campaigns, they support communities to know the law, use the law and shape the law. Natural Justice has three main pillars: Affirming and Securing Rights to Lands, Resources and Knowledge; Defending Rights against Environmental and Social Impacts; and Standing with Communities.

Natural Justice's focus includes enhancing community access to land and governance of natural resources, contributing to the struggle against harmful extractive and infrastructure developments, supporting processes for recognising traditional knowledge and access and benefit sharing, supporting community rights within conservation and customary use of biodiversity, and strengthening community actions towards the climate crisis.

Together with the communities they work with, Natural Justice plays a key role at the national, regional and international levels by influencing policy and laws to recognise and enhance the rights of indigenous and local communities, and by inserting customary law considerations into the international frameworks.

The organisation's geographic focus grew to include three offices on the African continent, as well as one in New York and one in India. In 2016, Natural Justice scaled back to focus solely on communities in Africa. Today, they retain their headquarters in Cape Town (South Africa), have hubs in Cape Town, Nairobi (Kenya) and Dakar (Senegal), and additional staff in Antananarivo (Madagascar), Botswana and Guinea. They also work across a number of other African countries on a project-to-project basis.

click the link <https://naturaljustice.org/about-us/> to learn more about Natural Justice

POLICY UPDATES

INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE REGION AND BEYOND

14 - 21 September 2022: Online Discussion Forum on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Confirmed

19 - 22 September 2022: Francophone Africa Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms, Dakar, Senegal (Tentative)

26 - 30 September 2022: Meeting of the Informal Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Canada, Montreal, Confirmed

UPCOMING EVENTS



CITES CP19: Panama City, Panama

14 - 25 November, 2022

COP 27 , Climate Change conference: Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

6 - 18 November, 2022

OUR CONTACTS

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