

MONTHLY REPORT

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know? Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) are, typically, ethnic groups who are descended from and identify with the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently.



Policy Task Force

The Dasgupta Review commissioned by the UK government tells us that the economics of biodiversity are complicated and aims to inform policy. It interrogates if markets can address externalities and inequities without government intervention.

African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) in collaboration African Development Bank (AfDB) hosted a Nature-based Economy Webinar, that took place on the 30th of June 2021, themed 'Economics of Biodiversity: The African Grassroots, Regional Development Bodies & Development Finance Institutions' Perspective'. The purpose of the webinar was to unpack the discussion on the economics of biodiversity by exploring the local realities on the ground for Africa's indigenous and local communities. The webinar entitled attracted over 110 participants.

It is expected that African voices, particularly those of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), will enrich current discourse on the conservation economy. Alongside the crucial perspectives of African IPLCs, other expected outcomes included: Outlook of African Grassroots community on the Dasgupta review's implications, insights from African development finance on the conservation economy and clarity on the role of African regional economic communities in the economics of biodiversity. The recording to the full webinar can be accessed <https://youtu.be/LL8W3kxDCqA>

CSO OF THE MONTH



South African Youth Biodiversity Network (SAYBN)

The South African Youth Biodiversity Network (SAYBN) is a national chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN). It was founded on the 6th of September 2017, after the Africa capacity building workshop hosted by GYBN in collaboration with the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) formerly known as the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in Krugersdorp, August 2017. GYBN is an international network of 280 youth organizations, representing a total of 664,000 members from 140 countries, whose common goal is to prevent the loss of Biodiversity. GYBN is the coordination platform for youth participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and officially recognized by the CBD Secretariat



GYBN aims to represent the voice of global youth in the negotiations under the CBD, raise awareness among young people of the values of biodiversity and connects individuals and youth organizations to build a global coalition of young people who will work together to halt the loss of biodiversity. South African Youth Biodiversity Network's vision is to transform South Africa into the country that does not experience human induced biodiversity loss and where people live in harmony with nature. While our mission is to build a national coalition of young people to halt the loss of biodiversity through advocating for progressive policies, raising awareness on the importance of biodiversity, empowering young people and giving them an opportunity to participate in grassroot projects.

Our objectives are to contribute to the South African youth perspective in decisions of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements that South Africa is a party to, especially the CBD. To organize capacity building events to train young people for participation in meetings of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements, especially the CBD. We do environmental education through social media and other events. We administrate a mailing list (and Facebook or Twitter) to share vacancies, internships, workshops, scholarships and other opportunities relevant to youth in conservation and also undergo planning and participating in grassroot projects that protect, conserve or restore.

In line with the current post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework consultations, and because South Africa is youthful, SAYBN has hosted successfully in collaboration with various partners, six meetings with the aim of gathering perspectives of the youth on biodiversity issues and unifying them into a single motion.

In February 2020, SAYBN was the implementing partner of the African Youth Biodiversity Forum which was held In South Africa in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve. This event was a collaboration between Expertise France, UNESCO and GYBN and implemented by the SAYBN. It brought together GYBN chapters in Africa, Man and Biosphere Youth representatives, as well as other youth constituencies to reflect on the zero draft of the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Among many outcomes, the event resulted in a declaration/position paper.

COMMUNITY OF THE MONTH

The Dinkwanyane Water Smart Project in Phiring village



Phiring village is home to the Dinkwanyane People, it is situated in Sekhukhune District Municipality on the Limpopo/Mpumalanga Escarpment- a critical site for water catchment due to the wetlands and rivers running through the area. The Dinkwanyane People are custodians of the land and resources in the Blyde water Catchment area next to the Blyde Reserve. Their vision for the community is to resolve their water problems to ultimately flourish their livestock, crops, and tourism.

The Dinkwanyane Water Smart Project (DWS) was started in 2019 as a demonstration site for Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (K2C BR). This project is funded by the Government of Flanders and is in partnership with K2C BR, Hoedspruit Hub and Conservation of South Africa

The aim of the project is to show how sustainable land-use practices are enhancing ecosystem services, contributing to sustainable livelihoods and creating a resilient community. This is achieved through four core functionalities of the project which are: developing a Conservation Agreement that creates the enabling framework and guides the implementation of the project; climate- smart agriculture projects with smallholder farmers to promote long term social and ecological benefits; sustainable rangeland management project with livestock farmers to promote long term social and ecological benefits; and through various financial instruments by the from the Region for the Region (K2C project).

Hoedspruit Hub has been working with the smallholder farmers and introducing them to better farming practices, training them in crop rotation, and initiating a school garden used as a demonstration for the project. The garden is tended by the Ecosystem Custodians and all the produce goes towards the school feeding scheme. The trainees that attend the agro- ecology training work in the garden to gain practical knowledge.

Conservation South Africa trains and equips livestock owners on how to sustainably manage rangelandson a day-to-day basis. They do a vegetation study at beginning, provide grazing plans, assist farmers with at affordable prices, cattle auctions all through Conservation Agreements. Financial instruments of the projects involve savings groups which are like updated, more formal versions of stokvels which have a goal, vision and a constitution. The members contribute money on a monthly basis which they can easily formally access and repay with interest. The reality is that it is impossible for small-holder farmers with no title deeds to obtain business loans from formal institutions, their alternative is therefore loan sharks with very high interest rates. The introduction of savings groups is to ensure the farmers have financial support and can easily receive financial assistance without losing their profits in the long term.

POLICY UPDATES

INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE REGION AND BEYOND

Extended consultation and virtual discussion on the draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action 27 and 29 July 2021 (Online)

Third Global Thematic Dialogue for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework 2 - 3, 5 – 6 August 2021 (Online)

UPCOMING EVENTS



International Day For Indigenous People campaign,
Date (To Be Confirmed)

OUR CONTACTS

Secretariat task force: Maxi Louis- Namibia (maxi@nacso.org.na)

Policy task force: Pauline Nantongo- Uganda (pnantongo@ecotrust.or.ug)

Communications task force: Nela Duke Ekpenyong-Nigeria (nela@obuduconservationc.org)