

# MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2020  
ISSUE 2

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know Kenya's Amboseli National Park is experiencing a "Baby Boom" where more than 200 baby elephants have been born in 2020 alone <https://bit.ly/34Uhp67> .



## Communications Task Force

Following a successful campaign on zoonosis in Africa, ACBA launched another campaign on Great Ape Tourism on the 16 October, 2020. The campaign was titled 'Securing A #Future4GreatApes'. This was a two-weeks campaign that aimed at highlighting the conservation status of Great Apes in Africa, the important roles they play, the growing threats to their survival and the recommended actions that need to be taken to protect this iconic species. As part of the campaign two webinars were hosted, one on seeking to answer the query 'Why and How should we secure a future for Great Apes?' and the second one on strengthening the implementation and enforcement of Great Apes tourism guidelines. The materials for the campaign are available on trello from the following link: <https://trello.com/b/1TyBPKqZ/acba-future4greatapes> . Both the webinars were recorded and are available on the attached links, 1st Webinar <https://bit.ly/37gZFn4> and 2nd Webinar <https://bit.ly/37CkJoc> . The Securing A #FutureForGreatApes campaign was ended with a video on Great Ape Tourism this is available on ACBA Youtube channel On this link [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8By7dT\\_gz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8By7dT_gz0)

## Policy Taskforce

ACBA's main goal is to ensure that the African Civil Society effectively engages with the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in a manner that reflects the values, rights, priorities and needs of African people. ACBA identified SU as a priority policy position, Therefore it seeks to Influence policy makers in the region (such as CBD National Focal Points and the African Group of Negotiators) and simultaneously mobilize the general public to rally behind the priority position of SU. Therefore, as part of this process ACBA has made submissions to the CBD discussion forum for the consultation on sustainable use [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XPSxdtktzUqHDv51w1M0HcLZTGHg\\_RsV/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XPSxdtktzUqHDv51w1M0HcLZTGHg_RsV/view?usp=sharing) . Following that, it also made submission on the ECO article on sustainable use - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q6ZrAoPmx3QRMuNGIGEGBNcWtDTiCDTUMsBEfioyXOY/edit?usp=sharing>

# CSO OF THE MONTH

## Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO)

Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) was initiated as a project in 1999 as a response to the El-Niño related mass bleaching and mortality of corals in the Indian Ocean in 1998. It was registered in Kenya as a non-profit research organization, with a network of projects, collaborators and partners through whom it works in other countries. CORDIO focuses on marine and coastal ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean, comprising the countries of east and southern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa) and the Indian Ocean islands (Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, Reunion).

CORDIO is a knowledge organization, working with partners to find solutions that benefit both ecosystems and people. It focuses on coral reefs across a broad spectrum of issues that includes climate change, resilience, long term monitoring, artisanal fisheries, community based management, mitigation of climate change impacts and endangered species protection. CORDIO is supported primarily through research grants and collaborations with other institutions, including global conservation organizations, major universities, government institutions and inter-governmental bodies. At local levels, they work closely with community groups, protected area managers and resource managers, with a current focus on improving resilience in coral reef fisheries to protect the reefs and fishers from shocks, including climate change.

The Sustainable Development Goals and blue economy principles provide a societal frame that organizes CORDIO's primary research, and their contributions towards sustainable use of coral reef systems. This also frames their emerging contributions from science to policy at national and regional levels in the Western Indian Ocean, and in global marine science, monitoring and policy domains focused around tropical marine ecosystems.

To learn more about CORDIO click this link- <https://cordioea.net/outputs-results/maspawio/>



# COMMUNITY OF THE MONTH



## Kilombero District

Located in Morogoro Region, south-western Tanzania, Kilombero district is situated in a vast floodplain, between the Kilombero River in the south-east and the Udzungwa-Mountains in the north-west. Kilombero district hosts iconic natural resources such as waterfalls, wildlife, and wetlands.

The rainforests are a crucial water source for the Kilombero and its economy. Kilombero's main economic activity is agriculture including banana and cocoa production; thanks to the rainforests and water sources which are crucial to the activities and economy.

Community members cited significant climate impacts on their livelihoods including extensive crop failures, increased human-wildlife conflict due to crop-raiding, an increased prevalence of diseases in humans and livestock, and decreased fish harvests.

To cope with these climate-induced changes, communities are clearing natural areas to expand cropland in a bid to increase their harvest, overgrazing areas with their livestock, and illegally hunting wildlife. Collectively these responses are having undesirable impacts on biodiversity particularly due to agriculture expansion into previously natural areas. In the last 30 years, at least 60 percent of Kilombero Valley wetlands have been converted to cultivated land.

As part of an inclusive green growth initiative, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in partnership with public and private companies engaged 2,000 farmers in 13 villages in Kilombero through an effective complementary process of a cocoa value chain that aimed to increase the community's cocoa production while conserving nature and improving the quality of ecosystem services at a coordinated landscape level.



# KEY UPDATES

## INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE REGION AND BEYOND

- In October the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) released a workshop report on Biodiversity and Pandemics which addresses the link between the degradation of nature and increasing pandemic risks, quantifying the economic cost of preventing future pandemics, and offers evidence-informed policy options for governments and decision-makers to escape the era of pandemics <https://ipbes.net/pandemics> .
- Africa Union launched the African Youth Month with a calendar of events focusing on education, entrepreneurship, employment and engagement <https://au.int/en/africa-youth-month-2020>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### EVENT TITLE

- Models for financing Regenerative Economies that serve Humanity and Steward the Integrity of the Earth's Ecosystems.
- **Convenors:** African Development Bank and African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance
- **Date:** 19 November 2020

## OUR CONTACTS

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