



**acba**  
African CSOs  
Biodiversity Alliance

# WEBINAR REPORT

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

ISSUE 1 - 15 DEC 2021

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# BACKGROUND

Draft one of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) recognizes how fundamental resource mobilization is with target 19, whose ambition is to mobilize USD 200 bn globally with at least USD 10 bn in international financial flows towards developing countries<sup>1</sup>. Relatedly, target 18 calls for eliminating subsidies harmful to biodiversity by at least USD 500 bn per year justly and equitably<sup>2</sup>. In addition, China as host to the CBD announced the Kunming Biodiversity Fund which commits over USD 230 million to fund biodiversity in developing countries<sup>3</sup>. While these efforts build important momentum, equal or greater commitment from related Multilateral Environmental Agreements and actors outside the conservation sector will be needed to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 towards harmony between people and nature by 2050.

On average, only 15% to 17% of annual global biodiversity funding needs are met<sup>4</sup>. Despite being home to 15 out of the 17 most biodiverse countries including China, DR Congo, Madagascar and South Africa<sup>5</sup>, only 41% of biodiversity funding, over three quarters of which is generated in advanced economies, is deployed to emerging or developing economies<sup>6</sup>. Up to 85% of biodiversity funding is derived from the public sector<sup>7</sup> although over half of the world's GDP is generated by industries either highly dependent (USD 13 tn) or moderately dependent (USD 31 tn) on nature and its services<sup>8</sup>.

The webinar aimed to discuss the shifts necessary to foster sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation in the Global South with expert perspectives from multilaterals, DFIs and African countries and China.

1 CBD/WG2020/3/3. 5 July 2021

2 CBD/WG2020/3/3. 5 July 2021

3 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2021/pr-2021-10-13-cop15-hls-en.pdf>

4 Deutz et al, (2020). Financing Biodiversity: Closing the Global Biodiversity Finance Gap.

5 <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/ecologically-megadiverse-countries-of-the-world.html>

6 Little Book of Investing in Nature (2020)

7 Deutz et al, (2020). Financing Biodiversity: Closing the Global Biodiversity Finance Gap.

8 WBG. (2020). Mobilizing Private Finance for Nature. Washington, DC: The World Bank Group.

# PROCEEDINGS

The Africa CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) in collaboration with China's Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC) hosted this virtual discussion on Zoom and Facebook Live, on December 14, 2022 from 10:00 to 11:30 EAT.



The aim of the webinar was to exchange perspectives on barriers to and opportunities for financing biodiversity conservation in Africa, China and globally. The following outcomes were sought:

- To exchange and share best practices and innovative approaches for effective conservation financing for biodiversity in China and Africa;
- To explore the shifts necessary at the global, continental and more micro levels to foster sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation:
  - Buy-in and involvement of communities;
  - Measuring effectiveness; and
  - Sustainable mechanisms for mobilizing resources.

The webinar was led by:

## Moderator:

Pauline Nantongo  
Kalunda

## Speakers:

Mohamed Bakarr  
Yimei Chen

Dickson Kaelo  
Xiaolin Pan



# PROCEEDINGS

Pauline Nantongo Kalunda is the Executive Director of ECOTRUST Uganda. Ms Kalunda has over 20 years' experience in natural resources management, building and supporting partnerships for conservation, and conservation financing. She has also been at the forefront of turning the Trees for Global Benefits scheme into a model conservation financing scheme.

Mohamed Bakarr is Lead Environmental Specialist in the GEF Secretariat, and has 20 years of experience working on various aspects of integrated natural resource management including agroforestry land use, biodiversity conservation, and ecological restoration in the tropics. Although focused mainly on sub-Saharan Africa, his geographical experience extends across parts of Southeast Asia and Latin America.

Yimei Chen has been Vanke Foundation's Secretary General since 2017. Ms Chen has 23 years of experience working in the non-profit sector in China. She has worked in roles including Executive Director of China Development Brief, and Country Director for China, Mercy Corps. As Vanke Foundation's Secretary General, she works with staff and partners for Sustainable Communities and on community waste management as its current focus area.

Dickson Simiren Ole Kaelo, is the founding Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) a position he has held for 9 years, a period that has seen the growth and recognition of Kenya's Wildlife Conservancies as a viable strategy for reconciling biodiversity and rural poverty reduction objectives. KWCA membership includes 167 Community and Private Conservancies covering 11% of Kenya's landmass and reaching over 700,000 households.

Mr Xiaolin Pan is the General Manager of the China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG)/China International Water & Electric Corporation (CWE) Kenya Branch. The China Three Gorges Corporation is the leading generator of renewable energy across China and aims to promote renewable energy for green development in its operations throughout the world.

The dialogue opened with a brief introduction to ACBA, CSABC, and their partnership towards Africa-China collaboration among biodiversity CSOs.



# HIGHLIGHTS

- The GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) aims to pilot a global microfinance mechanism which will target the resourcing of women, youth and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs);
- Should GEF receive adequate financing, direct financing to developing countries in the Global South which prioritize the valuation of natural capital in their national and state plans and budgets potentially gain better access to public finances for biodiversity. To be successful, these countries will need to ensure there's an enabling policy environment;
- GEF still finds that there is public financing available at the national level that isn't fully tapped;
- Without CSOs contribution, projects carried out by national governments out with public finances allocated to the by GEF, may not take off, and GEF notes there are key best practice cases of national level projects where civil society has played a critical role;
- By implementing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards, corporations carrying out development projects can mitigate biodiversity loss. Those in the energy sector can prioritize supporting the transition to clean and green energy;
- Most of the current funding mechanisms don't take integrated or holistic approaches, especially when it comes to addressing interventions needed to ensure communities are equipped to protect biodiversity as a part of their economic and social development;
- Corporate foundations have an important role to play in the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and can make supportive contributions by addressing production and consumption patterns resulting from their for-profit activities;
- One of the key challenges to ensuring that existing and future financing for biodiversity materializes the desired outcomes is capacity in developing countries. How these finances are spent is just as important as closing the financial gap, and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) hopes to see greater efforts to ensure that finances are deployed to those implementing on the ground, and to local actors including communities.



## WAY FORWARD

- GEF can support advance biodiversity conservation throughout Africa and encourages CSOs to continue building their technical astuteness and competencies to support national projects that are publicly financed through GEF and other financial mechanisms;
- Corporations tasked with supporting development in the energy sector should reinforce sustainable development and be responsive to both climate change and biodiversity loss. Besides, they should engage in consultations with local communities to ensure that development comes with benefits to people and environment;
- Moving forward, conservation must have both biodiversity and people at the heart of addressing biodiversity loss. Additionally, CSOs will require diversified and sustainable funding sources to address biodiversity loss. Coordination among all key actors will be needed, including working successfully with governments, and support from private sector to conservation efforts. Communities also need to be the forefront actors as they are on the ground;
- Corporate foundations should and can leverage on their capacity to provide funding that supports: efficient operations of CSO projects, research, advocacy, and the diversification of funding sources for biodiversity to close the financing gap. With their experience in scaling up, corporate foundations can demonstrate leadership by serving as an umbrella for CSOs and smaller conservation groups to work together to address biodiversity loss. Besides, they should pursue independence to ensure they can prioritize protecting biodiversity as their primary objective.

## CONCLUSION

In their closing remarks, speakers emphasized the following points:

- The GEF is in a stronger position to support biodiversity conservation throughout Africa, and CSOs will play a key role in taking up opportunities arising from lessons learned, including from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Biodiversity conservation and development objectives do not have to be contradictory, especially for companies implementing development projects;
- Coordinated action is the cornerstone of a successful future for conservation. Governments create the necessary enabling policies, laws and incentives; private sector needs to play a more active role in financing biodiversity conservation; civil society must put communities at the center of conservation initiatives; and all relevant actors must do their part to ensure that there are sustainable and diverse funding sources with adequate finances and resources to address biodiversity loss; and
- Corporate foundations are more successful at supporting biodiversity conservation if their funding sources are really and truly committed to address biodiversity loss.

The webinar attracted over 60 attendees. Many thanks to the ACBA membership for their participation and sharing with their networks. The recording of the full webinar can be accessed [here](#).



## SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS SESSION I

### Mohamed Bakarr - Lead Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

While GEF is a key partner to national governments, CSOs play an essential complementary role to both GEF and governments. The GEF's Small Grants Program (SGP) considers the unique roles that government and CSOs play, and therefore aims to address local needs by making funding available to CSOs. Outside of taking up opportunities in the SGP, CSOs are essential sources of technical expertise, field expertise in working with communities and capacity building.

While the financing provided by GEF is fundamental to support countries' environmental goals, not all recipient countries are able to access funding commensurate to their need. Consequently, a globally applicable approach for allocating resources on as-needed basis is being enhanced as GEF and the experts they work with to determine allocation incorporate lessons from trends in biodiversity loss and their relationship to a country's development status. In support of an ambitious post-2020 GBF, the GEF has developed integrated programs which will contribute to by conserving globally significant biodiversity. Its thematic areas include: ecosystem restoration; blue and green islands; clean and healthy; and food systems.



### Xiaolin Pan – General Manager, China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG)/China International Water & Electric Corp. (CWE) Kenya

CTGC is one of the largest hydropower developers in the world and leads clean energy generation in China. CGTC aims to model international best practice in corporate social responsibility by implementing sustainable approaches. CGTC's basis for supporting global biodiversity conservation draws from its partnership with INGOs and local CSOs to protect biodiversity in the Yangtze River, and planting of rare endemic species around the Three Gorges dam. In Uganda, CGTC considered ESG standards in the construction of the Isimba Dam, including collaboration with the Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA).

**二、生物多样性保护案例-在中国**  
**II. Biodiversity Conservation Cases-In China**

**资助8个自然保护区**  
**Funded eight aquatic nature reserves**

Nature Reserves	自然保护区
Shanghai Changjiangkou Chinese Sturgeon Nature Reserve	上海市长江口中华鲟自然保护区
Poyang Lake Yangtze Finless Porpoise Nature Reserve	鄱阳湖长江江豚自然保护区
Tongling Freshwater Dolphin Nature Reserve	铜陵淡水豚自然保护区
Zhenjiang Dolphin Nature Reserve	镇江豚类自然保护区
Reserved Endemic Fish Nature Reserve in the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River	长江上游珍稀、特有鱼类自然保护
"Yangtze River Plain" white White Rag Dolphin Nature Reserve	长江天鹅洲白鱘自然保护区
Yangtze River White Chinese Sturgeon Nature Reserve	长江宜昌中华鲟自然保护区
Yangtze River White Chinese Sturgeon Nature Reserve	长江新螺段白鱘自然保护区

# ANNEX (CONTINUED)

## SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS SESSION II

### Dickson Kaelo – CEO, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)

IPLCs have co-existed with wildlife continuously for most of history, and not just in Kenya. One of the greatest threats to wildlife and biodiversity is increasingly limited space to live on, which is exacerbated by climate change. One of the strongest approaches to address biodiversity loss is to recognize that conservation is fundamentally about people. Ensuring communities take an active role in protecting biodiversity is key to successful conservancies and conservation initiatives, especially because they increasingly manage areas with key biodiversity.

Starting Point: Build Strong community Led Institutions

**“Ultimately conservation is about people”**  
Nelson Mandela

**Conservancies: Reconciling the needs of people and wildlife.**

**Conservancies are institutions and places where communities have strong land rights, plan and manage land and natural resources, as well as optimize benefits for current and future generations.**

### Yimei Chen – Secretary General, Vanke Foundation

Vanke Foundation has supported wildlife conservation for key species in China, including snow leopards, one of the most successful efforts in China. Since 2018, Vanke Foundation has strategically prioritized investing in sustainable communities through environmental protection and community development which address biodiversity loss and climate change. Alongside community support, the foundation incubates social enterprises which address enhance public goods for the environment. The foundation’s goals for environmental protection prioritizes waste management to address the impact on biodiversity, and measures success based on alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## 契合联合国SDG目标 Benchmarking UN SDG goals

联合国可持续发展目标	基金会目标
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 可持续城市和社区: 到2020年, 增加包容、资源使用效率高、减缓和适应气候变化的城市和人类住区数量</li> <li>12 负责任消费和生产: 到2030年, 减少城市人均负面环境影响, 重点关注城市废物管理</li> <li>13 气候行动: 到2030年, 通过预防、减排、回收和再利用, 大幅减少废物的产生</li> <li>9 产业、创新和基础设施: 加强气候变化减缓、适应、减少影响和早期预警的教育和宣传</li> <li>17 伙伴关系: 加强科学研究, 提升工业部门的技术能力, 包括到2030年, 鼓励创新, 大幅增加每100万人口中的研发人员数量, 并增加公共和私人研发支出</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>垃圾分类旗舰项目覆盖10个城市: 万科企业100%, 学校100%, 城市居住社区100个</li> <li>可处理垃圾分类: 收集率50%, 资源化率20%</li> <li>每年在国内外组织至少3次大规模环保论坛</li> <li>孵化培养“公益先锋”</li> <li>在旗舰项目社区内部形成“能人小组”</li> <li>形成社区减碳、减碳全球气候变化行业前沿资料库</li> <li>形成社区营造动员线上指南和资源包</li> <li>形成社区废弃物的闭环项目模式</li> <li>与至少10家国际知名环保组织进行交流或合作</li> </ul>

# ANNEX (CONTINUED)

**Malta Qwathekana - CBD National Focal Point for South Africa, African Group of Negotiators, and Senior Policy Adviser at the Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa**

It is key for biodiversity protection to also be complementary to poverty alleviation in developing countries. The biodiversity financing gap is a major concern but is not the only issue. Where funding is available however, limited capacity to access finances and to deploy funding appropriately can be an impediment to biodiversity protection. Governments need support both to identify where to deploy funding so that it reaches communities on the ground, to report on the implementation of the projects and to provide accessible processes for developing countries to optimize funding opportunities.

## POSTER



### Resource Mobilization for Biodiversity Conservation In the Global South

Perspectives from Africa and China



**Dickson Kaelo**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Kenya Wildlife Conservancies  
Association



**Mohamed Bakar**  
Lead Environmental Specialist  
GEF Secretariat



**Pan Xiaolin**  
General Manager  
China Three Gorges Corporation  
Kenya



**Yimei Chen**  
Secretary General  
Vanke Foundation

DATE: 14 December

LOCATION: Zoom

TIME: 10:00 - 11:30am EAT

LIVE ON: [www.facebook.com/acsosba](http://www.facebook.com/acsosba)

# AGENDA

Item	Talking Points	Time (min)
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to ACBA and CSABC</li> <li>• Speakers &amp; Moderator</li> <li>• House rules</li> <li>• Opening Remarks</li> </ul>	20
Session I: Speaker 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mohamed Bakarr</li> <li>• Xiaolin Pan</li> </ul>	30
Session II: Speaker 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dickson Kaelo</li> <li>• Yiwei Chen</li> </ul>	15
Discussion and Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malta Qwathekana</li> </ul>	10
Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary</li> <li>• Lead-up to next webinar</li> <li>• Vote of thanks</li> </ul>	15



## KEEP IN TOUCH



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