

**ACBA- CSABC Webinar Report**

**Achieving the CBD's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Targets: Synergies between Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation**

***Synergies between Climate and Biodiversity***

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## Background

While halting biodiversity loss undoubtedly has diverse benefits, including economic gains, financing for biodiversity is limited. The "biodiversity financing gap" averages \$711 billion annually, about 0.8 percent of global GDP. Global biodiversity spending is currently \$133 billion, while total needs are \$844 billion; this means that funding needs to increase more than fivefold<sup>1</sup>.

Climate change is one of the greatest risks to African countries and China. By 2030, up to 118 million extremely poor people throughout Africa will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat, which will hinder progress towards poverty alleviation and economic development<sup>2</sup>. In the most severe scenario for climate change, China will potentially lose nearly a quarter of its annual GDP<sup>3</sup>. Relatedly, China and Africa - DR Congo, Madagascar and South Africa<sup>4</sup> are home to several of the 17 most biodiverse countries. This makes biodiversity loss an equally significant risk to their people and nature.

The UNFCCC (UN Framework and Convention on Climate Change) and CBD (UN Convention on Biological Diversity) in their most recent conferences have yet to show requisite commitment to link the implementation of their respective ambitious targets based on the outcomes of at UNFCCC COP26 and ongoing CBD COP15 deliberations. This webinar aimed to share lessons learned and best practices in building synergies between climate solutions and biodiversity conservation and explore practical measures to bridge the biodiversity funding gap and explore potential funding mechanisms in Africa and China.

## 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 on April 14, 2022 from 09:30 to 11:30 EAT.

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<sup>1</sup> Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap,  
<https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/conservation/financing-nature-report/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103362>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.swissre.com/media/news-releases/nr-20210422-economics-of-climate-change-risks.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/ecologically-megadiverse-countries-of-the-world.html>

### The webinar was led by:

<b>Moderator</b> Prof. Dr. LU Zhi	<b>Speakers</b> Dr. GAO Xiang Pauline Nantongo Kalunda	Dr. LIN Hui Dr. Kanyinke Sena
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The aim of the webinar was to share lessons learned and best practices on the synergies between climate change and biodiversity conservation and to explore practical measures which will help bridge the gap in funding for biodiversity. The outcomes sought included:

1. More shared understanding of the importance of climate solutions which address both climate change and biodiversity loss;
2. Lessons from successful projects which have promoted both climate change adaptation and or mitigation and biodiversity conservation in African countries and China;
3. Recommendations on ways to promote funding mechanisms that will effectively mobilize resources to close gaps in funding for conservation throughout Africa and China.

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

### Highlights

- The global call for raising ambition to mitigate and adapt to climate change entails that developed countries lead the way in implementation. While their support to developing countries under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is important, it is equally critical that they seek to reduce emissions based on scientifically recommended milestones nationally and collectively;
- One of the major threats to and opportunities for progress in mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change impacts throughout Africa is arguably the high dependency of people on nature and its services. To disrupt the threat created by this dependency, it is essential to introduce a long-term horizon that maintains nature and climate services and ensure that sustainable livelihoods for those most reliant on biodiversity and climate;
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity conservation efforts are inextricable from the incentives they create for people, who are often both the key and barrier to mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- The dependency of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) on nature is such that climate change and biodiversity loss pose an existential threat. Consequently, IPLCs are not stakeholders to be consulted where development impacts ecosystem services, but rightsholders whose Free Prior and Informed Consent shapes mitigation efforts because they are custodians of critical biodiversity.

## **Way forward**

- Under the UNFCCC and the CBD, while the different scenarios for biodiversity loss and climate change are valuable, consensus on the worst case should not be the focus of negotiations. Instead the focus of parties moving forward should be increased ambition matched with action;
- For holistic climate solutions to work, a value proposition must be made to both those directly and indirectly impacting on nature. It is for instance not enough for private sector to offset its emissions with green investments, these investments must also effectively create an incentive for those closest to nature, including smallholder farmers to make a long-term commitment to sustainable use of biodiversity, and be a step in the transition of private sector to sustainable development;
- Future efforts to mitigate climate change impacts and biodiversity loss must more prominently consider benefits to people – a social tipping point is required to collectively shift individual and shared values that pose a threat to biodiversity and climate and the services they provide; and
- Benefit sharing is a key contributor to the sustainability of designing and implementing projects with IPLCs and must be decoupled from corporate social responsibility which has limited and unsustainable trickle-down effects for IPLCs.

## **Conclusion**

In their closing remarks, speakers emphasized the following points:

- For both China and African countries, poverty alleviation through the creation of sustainable livelihoods from climate and biodiversity solutions are imperative for the successful implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement. There is an opportunity for Africa and China to learn from each other, and reconcile supply-side and demand-side incentives towards sustainable development;
- While offsetting mechanisms have strong uptake, more integrated approaches are not relegated by private sector. Approaches with clear entry points, means of verification, and benefits have proved invaluable for buy-in from private sector, particularly where their resilience is a primary consideration;
- Transparency is an essential component of a robust global framework for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. Without transparency, it is not only difficult to keep the momentum in implementation efforts, but the context which impedes or facilitates progress towards global goals for climate and biodiversity is obscured and opportunities to collaborate and define innovative solutions can be lost; and
- While the traditional knowledge of IPLCs makes invaluable contributions to climate solutions and biodiversity conservation, it is adapting to unprecedented changes in climate and biodiversity. As this knowledge responds to climate change and

biodiversity loss, it is important that new lessons learnt are documented and not only inform how IPLCs interact with nature, but also inform the formal scientific paradigm.

The webinar attracted close to 100 attendees. Many thanks to the ACBA membership for their participation and sharing with their networks.

**Annex  
Poster**

中非民间生物多样性保护平台

# 邀请函

助力2020年后GBF目标实现：  
气候变化与生多保护协同增效

主持人：



高红 教授  
北京大学生命科学学院

嘉宾：



高红  
国家应对气候变化战略研究  
和国际合作中心



Pauline Nantongo Kalunda  
ECOTRUST Uganda



林洁  
中科院战略咨询  
研究院



Kanyinke Sena  
Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-  
ordinating Committee (IPACC)

支持联盟：



时间：2022年4月14日14:30--17:00  
Zoom Meeting ID: 860 9733 7133  
Passcode: 163472



## Agenda

Item	Highlights	Duration (min)
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome</li><li>• Overview of ACBA-CSABC collaboration</li></ul>	<b>10</b>
<b>Session I : Speakers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Presentation 1: Dr. GAO Xiang</li><li>• Presentation 2: Pauline Nantongo Kalunda</li></ul>	<b>40</b>
<b>Session II : Speakers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Presentation 3: Dr. LIN Hui</li><li>• Presentation 4: Dr. Kanyinke Sena</li></ul>	<b>40</b>
<b>Q&amp;A</b>		<b>30</b>
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderator reflections and summary</li><li>• Vote of thanks</li></ul>	<b>10</b>