

MONTHLY REPORT

February 2023 ISSUE

DID YOU KNOW?

Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans

ACBA Members @UCN congress



African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance membership

African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) was formed slightly more than two years ago to bring together civil society organizations, IPLCs, youth movements, academics, and experts from Africa in order to work to promote sustainable management and use of biodiversity for the fair and equitable benefit of society. The alliance is organized into three working groups: the secretariat, policy, and communications.

The Network works to improve, conserve, and restore biodiversity. The members encourage dialogue by capitalizing on the network's diversity. It is very simple to become a member of the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance. There are two types of members: African CSOs, Youth Movements, and IPLCs who qualify to be members, and individual experts from Africa who also qualify to be members. These experts participate in their individual capacities and do not represent their employers' interests. Their membership does not imply any relationship between ACBA and the organization(s) with which they may be affiliated.

Recently, the ACBA drafted a membership guideline that illustrates more what is expected from its members as well as some of the benefits you get as an ACBA member, the document can be accessed here <https://bit.ly/3xHOMGD> and an application form is also attached in the document, once you read the propositions and believe you qualify to be an ACBA member, please feel free to register.

CSO OF THE MONTH

OGIEK PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (OPDP)

Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP) is a Kenya based organization founded in 1999 and registered by the Kenyan Government as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in 2001 under. It was formed by typical Ogiek elders, opinion leaders, farmers and professionals after long land historical injustices that deprived the Ogiek community of their rights as Kenyan citizens.

OPDP's work is centered on promoting the recognition and identity of Indigenous peoples' culture, the participation and



Picture by OPDP

Inclusion of the communities in all sectors of development, championing for land rights, ensuring environmental protection, and overall sustainable development. OPDP has its headquarters in Nakuru town, Nakuru County and operates nationally. OPDP works with indigenous peoples in Kenya, their organizations and across Africa.

Its mission is to OPDP exists to promote and advocate for the participation, self-determination and human rights of the members of the Ogiek community and Indigenous Peoples for sustainable development and its overall goal is To improve and enhance the attainment of inclusive and of equal opportunity in the economic, social, cultural, and political conditions of the indigenous communities. To learn more about OPDP, click here <https://ogiekpeoples.org/>



Picture by OPDP

COMMUNITY STORY

Kuruwitu Conservation & Welfare Association (KCWA)



This month we feature an inspiring community from Kenya that is living in harmony with nature. Kuruwitu Conservation & Welfare Association (KCWA) was set up in 2003 by members of the community who were concerned about the degradation of their seas. Climate change and uncontrolled fish and coral collection needed to be addressed before the marine ecosystem was damaged beyond repair.

Elders who could remember how healthy and productive the sea had been decades ago told their story and KCWA put together a management plan for sustainable fisheries alongside other alternative income generating enterprises. In 2005 they took the unprecedented step of setting aside a 30 hectare Marine Protected Area (MPA). This was the first coral based Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) in Kenya. 12 years on, the area has made a remarkable recovery.

With fishing prohibited within the MPA, fish have grown in abundance, size and diversity. The area has become a breeding ground, leading to an increase in fish outside the MPA. As such, fishermen see greater catches due to a spillover effect. At the same time, biodiversity has increased dramatically making Kuruwitu a destination for eco-tourism creating jobs for guides, boat captains and rangers.

KCWA is working with the local Beach Management Unit (BMU), the Kenyan State Department of Fisheries, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Oceans Alive to develop a co-management plan that will cover a 12 square kilometer area of ocean off the Kenyan coast. Through plan, KCWA work with local fishermen to promote the sustainable use of marine resources, to reduce post-harvest losses and improve fish marketing systems.

Watch this video to get more insights <https://youtu.be/bv-cvDWsQqQ>

POLICY UPDATES

INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE REGION AND BEYOND

The United Nations Secretary-General has designated Dr. David Cooper as Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as of 15 February. David succeeds Ms. Elizabeth Mrema who has been appointed Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The position for new Executive Secretary of the CBD has been announced, Click here <https://bit.ly/3EHrpRD> for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS



5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)

5 - 9 March 2023

Doha Qatar



Sustainable Ocean Initiative Workshop

24 – 28 April 2023

virtual

OUR CONTACTS

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