

The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) Report on OEWG5 & COP15.2



acba
African CSOs
Biodiversity Alliance



Montreal, Canada

3-19 December 2022

Acknowledgements

ACBA wishes to thank the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) for sponsoring the secretariat members to participate in the negotiations and to coordinate ACBA member activities.

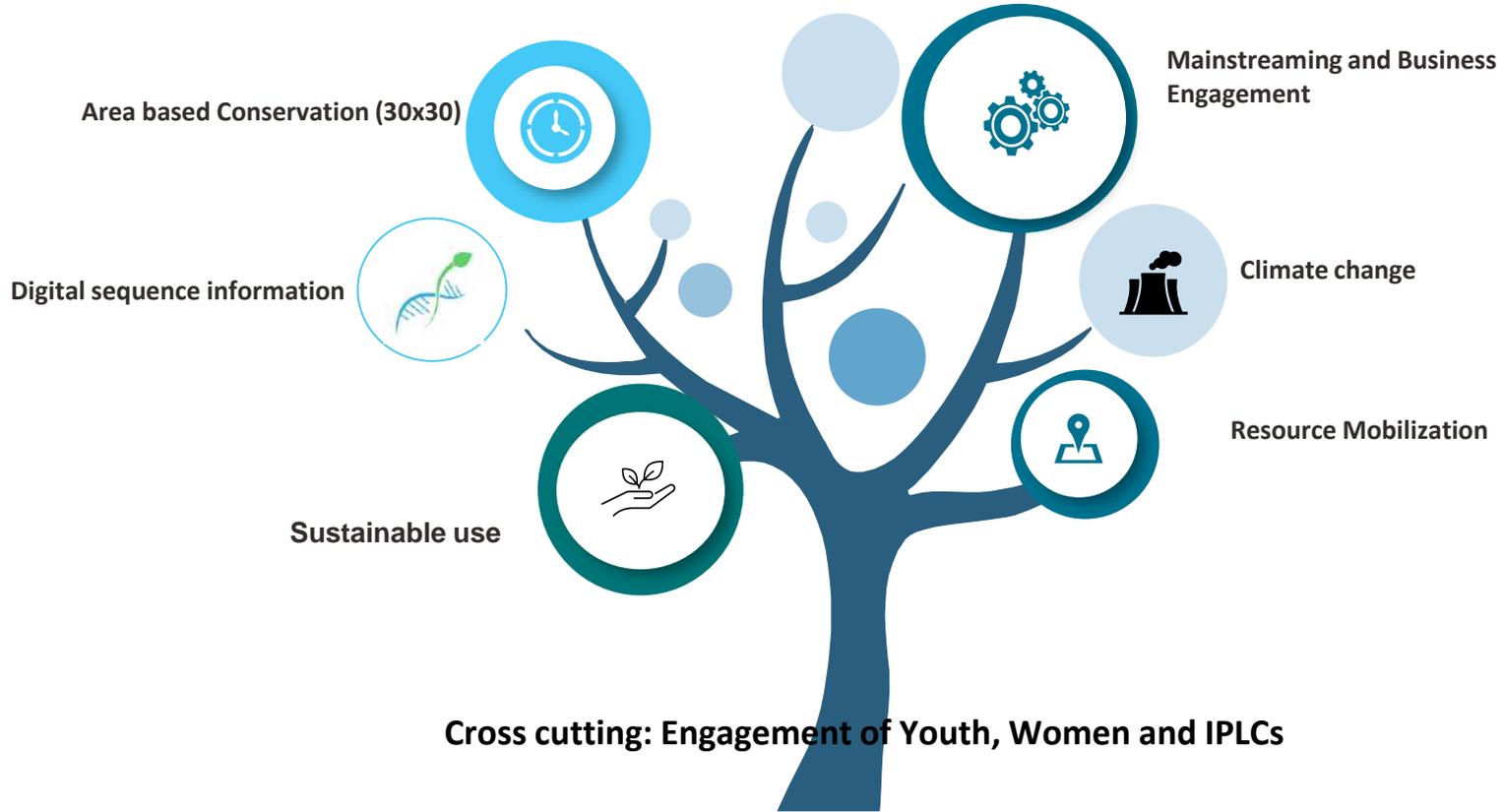
AWF and ACBA worked in a spirit of partnership and collaboration to maximize on impacts and achieve the set goals of the alliance.

Objectives



1. To engage key stakeholders and state parties to ensure the outcomes of the negotiations reflect the Africa context and reality
2. To raise the profile and reputation of ACBA (and ACBA member organizations) through engagement and sharing of perspectives
3. To coordinate effective ACBA member engagement during the Montreal meetings

Priority issues



ACBA Team



Yemi Katerere (Zimbabwe), David Obura (Kenya), Simangele Msweli (South Africa), , Fred Kumah (Kenya), Pauline Nantongo (Uganda),Kevin Lunzalu (Kenya), Rerani Ramaano (South Africa),Taye Teferi (), Olivia Tawarar (Kenya), Derrick Mugisha(Uganda), Lucy Mulenkei, (Kenya), Lesle Jansen (South Africa), Samantha Hofmeyr(South Africa), Chifundo Diraleni(Zimbabwe), Dr Joseph Onoja(Nigeria), Uwayesu Eugene (Uganda), Jackem Otete(Kenya), Chinenye Anekwe(Nigeria), Gervais Muderhwa(DRC Congo), Keletso Malepe(South Africa), Daniel Kobei (Kenya)

How we engaged



1. Held daily ACBA daily coordination meetings and attended briefing meetings of other entities – e.g., CBDA and AGN
2. Conducted meetings with relevant stakeholders
3. Attended negotiating sessions (plenaries, contact groups and friends of the chair)
4. Organize side events
5. Contributed to the CBD Alliance ECO newsletter
6. Shared updates on social media
7. Participated in marches/demonstrations organized by different parties

Report- Coordination meetings

- On the of 28th of November we conducted a zoom meeting before OEWG5 and COP15.2 . The aim of the meeting was to prepare members for the negotiations. The meeting presentation can be accessed [here](#) .
- At COP 15, ACBA held daily coordination meetings to recap on the day and plan for the day(s) ahead.



Report- Stakeholder meetings



- a. Fred, Yemi and Simangele met with a Mary Rowen, Lead, Biodiversity Division USAID. Meeting was to update USAID on progress ACBA is making and ACBA's impact at COP 15. Members encouraged to engage local USAID office and get on the mailing lists. US Forest Service can also act as a grantor.
- b. As part of the CBD Alliance, we met with the CBD executive secretary to raise issues such as increasing influence of the private sector in the negotiations and the use of "nature positive" when it has not been adopted by the Parties.
- c. ACBA, AWF and CSABC held a brainstorming session to explore next steps in their collaboration.

Report- Influencing negotiations

- a. ACBA produced a briefing paper titled *“What does a good post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework look like for Africa?”*. This paper can be accessed in the ACBA website: [here](#)
- b. ACBA contributed to writing the [CBDA opening statement](#) which was read to plenary by an ACBA member, Simangele Msweli.
- c. ACBA coordinator, Yemi Katerere sat at a press conference to deliver the ACBA position, emphasizing the need for the CBD to address underlying causes of biodiversity loss instead of reacting to the symptoms of the underlying issues.
- d. ACBA delivered a [statement](#) to the African Group of Negotiators, providing insights into concerns with a particular emphasis on targets 3 (area-based conservation), 5 (sustainable use), 19 (resource mobilization) and 21 (governance, management of biodiversity, communication, awareness).



Negotiation outcomes (2020 GBF)

The primary goal of ACBA's participation at COP15.2 was to influence the final text of the GBF. Ahead of the negotiations, ACBA published a [position paper](#) on what a successful GBF would include. The paper was published online and distributed to various parties in the hopes of influencing the final text of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Below are some of the expected outcomes and the final outcomes of different areas we were following;

1. **Area based conservation (Target 3)**- This target calls for the protection of 30% of land and sea areas by 2030, it builds on Aichi Target 11's partial success in protecting land and sea areas while falling short of the sub targets for connectedness, ecological representation, and efficient and equitable management. The percentage of the target was not the most important factor for ACBA; rather, the most important factor was that the target should be a global target, with each nation having the ability to decide how much of its territory they want to safeguard in accordance with its own national development priorities.

Comment on the final text of Kunming GBF: The 30% protection of land and water essentially reinforces the continued focus of the CBD on conservation and fortress conservation. The target does recognize the need to protection of indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, particularly those pertaining to their traditional lands, as well as the recognition of indigenous and traditional regions when appropriate. However, land under the ownership and management of IPLCs will not be part of the 30%. This essentially means that IPLCs will continue to be marginalized in the allocation of biodiversity funding and their contributions to biodiversity conservation will not be formally recognized.

Negotiation outcomes (2020 GBF)

2. Sustainable use of Natural Resources(Target 5) - This target focused on ensuring that harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health. ACBA attended COP15.2 in the hopes that the target's language would encourage Sustainable Use, building on the long-term success of approaches like Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Africa.

Comment on the final text of Kunming-Montreal GBF: This is an important target for ACBA because sustainable use is a focus area for ACBA members. ACBA and other developing country constituencies successfully campaigned for text that embraces sustainable use. The target also clearly highlights the rights of Indigenous people and local communities.

3. Climate change and Biodiversity (Target 8)- This target seeks to minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. ACBA hoped that the GBF's final wording would emphasize that any attempts to combat climate change must not destroy biodiversity and would instead recognize the connections between biodiversity and climate change that can result in positive climate-biodiversity outcomes. ACBA's main concern was that this target would be used to promote false solutions such as NbS and "nature positive" – terms that have not been defined by the CBD Convention.

Comment on the final text of Kunming-Montreal GBF: The final text addresses the relationship between climate change and biodiversity as well as how to minimize harmful effects of climate change on biodiversity. Nature-based solution approaches are included together with ecosystem-based approaches

Negotiation outcomes (2020 GBF)

4. **Target 9-** This target focuses on meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and is consistent with target 5. ACBA advocated for a text that supports sustainable biodiversity-based products and services, clearly secures the management and use of wild species, and promotes the development of sustainable biodiversity. Additionally, ACBA pushed for a text that safeguards the social, economic, and environmental benefits for communities as livelihood approaches.

Comment on the final text of Kunming-Montreal GBF: This was a success for ACBA because the text captures the management and use of wild species in a sustainable way. It also highlights the protection of and encouraged traditional sustainable use by indigenous people and local communities.

5. **Business Engagement (Target 15)** - Target 15 aims to address the detrimental effects of businesses on biodiversity. ACBA lobbied for the inclusion of the clause requiring businesses and financial institutions to account for and bear legal liability for any adverse effects of their activities on human rights and biodiversity. ACBA also lobbied for the language to urge the governments to implement laws and rules to ensure that no business harm biodiversity.

Comment on the final text of Kunming-Montreal GBF: The text that ACBA pushed for is clearly reflected in the final text. However, this target also calls on governments to enable businesses to operate while ensuring they don’t cause any biodiversity-related risks

6. Resource Mobilization (Target 19)- This target focused on raising the funds needed to implement the 2020 GBF; without a doubt, this was a significant target that nearly all parties were keeping an eye on. ACBA believed that going into COP 15, the final text should make it clear where the necessary financial resources will come from and how they will be distributed to local players such as IPLCS, CSOs, and youth.

Comment on the final text of Kunming-Montreal GBF- ACBA notes with concern that the innovative funding mechanism proposed within the framework depends on governments using public funding to leverage private funding. ACBA affirms that article 20 of the Convention needs to be applied to ensure developed country parties are held accountable to their legally binding obligations to provide new and additional financial resources for biodiversity conservation to developing country parties. ACBA further encourages consideration of practical solutions to the unsustainable debts in Africa that eventually divert the limited funding away from climate and biodiversity action. The push by African countries to have a dedicated Biodiversity Fund was unsuccessful. The adoption of the GBF was controversial as objections by DRC Congo were ignored by the chair.

7. Engagement of IPLCs, Youth and Women in Decision making (Target 21)- Going to COP 15, ACBA pushed to retain the phrase on engaging IPLCs, Youth, and Women as well as the honoring IPLCs cultures and rights over their land, territories, and resources. This Target is on ensuring fair and effective participation of IPLCs, Youth, and Women in decision-making.

Final text of Kunming-Montreal GBF- Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.

Although the focus of Target 21 was changed in the final text of the GBF, **a new target (Target 22)** was introduced at COP 15 and it is focused on the engagement of IPLCs, Youth, Women and People with disabilities.

Target 22 : “Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.”

Negotiation outcomes (2020 GBF)

The final text elicited differing reactions from Parties and observers. Some thought the final GBF was comprehensive, while others had reservations about various aspects. ACBA members felt that the overall objectives of COP15 were achieved and balanced, with some members highlighting key issues on Sustainable Use that were incorporated in the framework in targets 5 and 9 but also the methodology, was welcomed. Although the final text did not include everything that ACBA members desired, they concluded that it was a fair and comprehensive document that recognizes the need to foster full and effective participation of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs), Youth, Women and People with disabilities in implementation. The final framework emphasizes for a “whole of society approach” to achieve the targets within this decade.

We drafted an [ACBA post-COP15.2 statement](#), which provides more information on our final position on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework .

The final Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework can be found [here](#) .

CONT- Side Events

Organizers	Event Title	Outcomes
SwedBio (Lead), ACBA, Soka Gakkai International, Natural Justice and ESCR-Net	How a human-rights based approach can deliver a truly transformative and just post-2020 GBF	This side event drew attention to how a human rights-based approach can significantly contribute to achieving the targets and goals of the post-2020 GBF in effective and just ways, ultimately leading to a world in harmony with nature, and it also provided more insight into how a human rights-based approach can be put into practice to achieve the Convention's three objectives.
Third World Network (Lead) & ACBA	Debt, biodiversity and climate crises: addressing fiscal barriers on the path to transformative change	As we all know, the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss can exacerbate debt burdens. The panelists discussed proposals for resource mobilization, debt relief, and debt sustainability frameworks that would create fiscal space for biodiversity action in order to meet the CBD objectives.
ACBA & CORDIO East Africa	Shared spaces approaches to a nature and people positive future	This event was co-organized with CORDIO East Africa to provide more information on how to build support for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use in local "shared spaces," where people live close to and rely on nature, and where the future of global sustainability, as well as broader conservation goals, will be won or lost.
ACBA & AWF	Africa's commitment in the implementation of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) /Launch of ACBA's Voluntary Commitments	This session aided in providing a platform for African CSOs, particularly members of the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance, to launch their voluntary commitments, which include projects that cuts across all the Post2020 GBF's draft targets. This event also helped to demonstrate to the global community the role ACBA members can play in the implementation of the post-2020 GBF, and by the end of the event, a case was presented to make the funding needs for national CSOs and community-based organizations clear.

CONT- Side Events

Organizers	Event Title	Outcomes
CSABC (Lead) & ACBA	Traditions, Contributions and Future of Local Communities in Biodiversity Conservation. This will focus on the role of IPLCs in OECMs	This event contributed to raising awareness of the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in biodiversity conservation, including land transformation under IPLC land tenure customs. As we are all aware, the IPLCS play an important role in conservation, and this event highlighted the critical importance of including them in decision-making processes. The findings are expected to aid in the development of policies that can be used to financially reward biodiversity protection.
CSABC (Lead) & ACBA	Strengthen Non-State Actors' Common Action to Support Win-Win Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development	This was a full-day meeting that focused on the main contradiction between biodiversity conservation and green development, with in-depth exchanges and discussions on policy measures, practical actions, and independent commitments of non-state actors in nature conservation and green development; biodiversity protection exchange and cooperation, and exploration of a win-win action path for nature protection and green development.
CSABC (Lead) & ACBA	Mobilizing the African non state actors to support the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF- The case of African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA)	This side event provided more information on the voluntary conservation efforts of CSOs, commercial corporations, internet companies, and local communities. The event assisted in highlighting the progress of initiatives and voluntary commitments from the COP15 NGO Parallel Forum in Kunming, best conservation practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and voluntary actions and collaboration between civil society and the private sector for biodiversity conservation.

Report- ECO articles

a. 7 December – What does a good Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework look like for Africa? [Link](#)

Authors: Yemi Katerere and Simangele Msweli



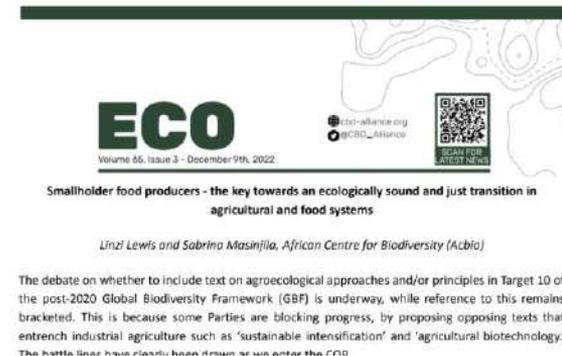
b. 8 December- 30x30 Target – sanctioning extractive tourism and human rights violations in Africa? [Link](#)

Authors: Mariam Mayet and Linzi Lewis, ACBIO



c. 9 December- Smallholder food producers - the key towards an ecologically sound and just transition in agricultural and food systems: [Link](#)

Authors: Linzi Lewis and Sabrina Masinjila, ACBIO

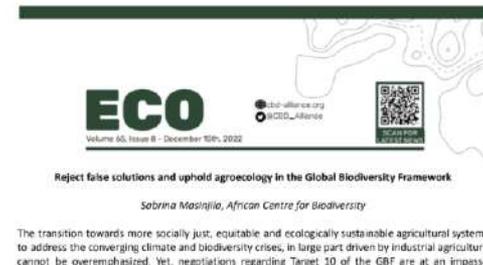


d. 13 December –Legal, sustainable and safe use of biodiversity is a right of IPLCs : [Link](#)

Authors: Community Leaders Network, Resource Africa, Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO) and African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA)

e.15 December- Reject false solutions and uphold agroecology in the Global Biodiversity Framework: [Link](#)

Authors: Sabrina Masinjila, African Centre for Biodiversity



Report- Social Media Updates

Twitter post analytics

#SharedSpaces discussion ongoing, aiming at building support for conservation, restoration & #SustainableUse in local 'shared spaces', where people living in and next to nature depends on it, where the future of sustainability, broader conservation objectives can be won or lost.
pic.twitter.com/l1hweGUKLW



🔗 16 🍀 44

Facebook Page visits



Facebook Page new likes

12 ↑ 9.1%

Facebook page visit

General twitter Analytics

DEC 2022 SUMMARY

Tweets

30

Tweet impressions

20.4K

Profile visits

4,699

Mentions

68

New followers

42

Post analytics

African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) posted this • 1mo



African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) launched it's members Voluntary Commitments, the event presented an opportunity for ACBA members to demonstrate and share the work ... show more

Targeted to: All followers

Organic discovery

223

Impressions

124

Unique Impressions

LinkedIn post analytics

Twitter post analytics

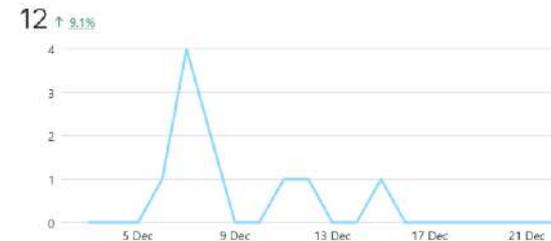
Top media Tweet earned 2,363 impressions

Youth are celebrating #youthday through some discussions on: Intergenerational Equity: Meaningful Youth Participation and How to Engage Them".

@MsweliSimangele from @AWF_Official and a member of @CsosAfrican touches on opportunities that are available for youth engagements. pic.twitter.com/kCA630AohV



Facebook Page new likes



Facebook page likes

Key takeaways from OEWG5 and COP15.2

- ❖ ACBA and AWF had a significant representation of young people at COP15.2. They participated actively and it was felt that participation of Youth at key global events should be continued.
- ❖ While most of the discussions did not fully reflect everything that members wanted or expected, participation at COP15 was a valuable learning experience.
- ❖ ACBA should make a greater effort to formulate its positions ahead of key events and effectively communicate and socialize them well in advance for maximum impact.
- ❖ One of the shortcomings identified at COP15.2 was failure to interact with specific country delegates in order to support and strengthen each other's positions, which is something we need to strategically plan for in the future in order to have a strong position.
- ❖ It was clear that most participants did not have positions on the draft GBF that was being negotiated. Instead, many organizations were seeking funding opportunities rather than trying to influence outcomes that would benefit their constituencies and biodiversity.
- ❖ The voices of African IPLs, CSOs, Youth and Women could have been better coordinated for maximum impact.

What can we do differently

- ❖ Organize more events under the ACBA brand and actively explore opportunities to participate in or organize activities and actions that would profile ACBA and disseminate key messages.
- ❖ Going forward, assign responsibilities to ACBA members in order to keep track of various discussions and ensure that we don't miss anything and that most of our positions are represented.
- ❖ Be very strategic when it comes to identifying country Parties with which we want to collaborate and not limit our engagement to the AGN.
- ❖ Identify pathways to engage with various major groups, such as youth, women, and IPLCs, in order to strengthen our positions and support one another in the future..
- ❖ Participation at key events should go beyond mere attendance. Members must engage more by writing position papers, marches, organizing press releases and press briefings and media blogs to communicate our messages to the target audience.
- ❖ Have a clear plan and roadmap to guide participation.

Next Steps

- ❖ The members agreed that a campaign on ecological debt and ecological justice would be excellent and were eager to move it forward. It was agreed to develop campaigns that put a spotlight on the issues important to Africa, its communities and biodiversity.
- ❖ Link COP 15 outcomes to the Kigali call to action and other conventions such as UNFCCC and UNCCD.
- ❖ We must plan how to participate in and assist the national implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- ❖ Simplify the meaning of the GBF at the country level so that IPLCs can better understand and contribute
- ❖ Continue engagement with a range of donors

You can reach us on



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