

MONTHLY REPORT

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DID YOU KNOW?

Protecting nature's invaluable contributions to people requires that we harmonize our policies and actions at every level~ Elizabeth Mrema Executive Secretary at UNEP/Secretariat of the CBD



African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) participation at OEWG5 and COP15.2

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the 3 Rio Conventions that were established from the 1992 Earth Summit. While the two other Rio Conventions (UNCCD and UNFCCC) were established to address worsening desertification and rising climate temperatures, the CBD was established to address biodiversity loss and it is guided by 3 objectives, namely:

1. Conservation of biological diversity
2. Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) members have been actively engaging with the UNCBD processes since its inception in February 2020. ACBA's participation in the CBD processes aims at ensuring that the members commits a post-2020 GBF that focuses on halting biodiversity loss and delivers equally on the 3 CBD objectives. The meetings of the OEWG-5 and COP15.2 that will be happening in Montreal, Canada, stands as a great opportunity for ACBA members to continue with their engagement efforts to influence the outcome on the post-2020 GBF, other than that ACBA members will also score on opportunities to communicate their voluntary commitments.

Some of the ACBA key messages at OEWG5 and COP15.2 are ;

1. Human rights based approach to conservation and demand ecological justice
2. Mobilizing resources that are commensurate to the ambition of the GBF
3. Area based conservation should happen at all jurisdictions including where people live and take into account local context, values and culture
4. Climate change affects biodiversity and biodiversity can offer solutions to climate change. Therefore any solutions to climate change must not undermine ecosystem integrity or harm biodiversity

CSO OF THE MONTH

VHEMBE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Vhembe Biosphere Reserve is a registered NPC and the biosphere reserve itself was declared by UNESCO in 2009, the organisation has a decade of working with the communities. Since all biosphere reserves operate under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere program, the three main functions of the VBR are conservation, sustainable development and research. The VBR works with implementation organizations to achieve objectives according to the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).



Our vision is to maximize the VBR's considerable potential for conservation, sustainable development and socio-economic upliftment, as well as research and education in the interests of ensuring long term sustainable benefits for its stakeholders. This can be achieved through building a conservation and sustainable-use ethic, which can then be effectively monitored; promote appropriate and sustainable development; actively spread benefits and opportunities to disadvantaged members of the community including land resettlement communities; and facilitate relevant

The research, education and skills training in the area for the benefit of its stakeholders. The VBR collaborates with various national and international conservation programmes within the biosphere, such as the World Heritage Site, Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA), the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme, Ramsar Sites and Stewardship Programmes. As a result, the VBR contributes directly to the following international agreements and conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity; World Heritage Convention; and, African Network of Biosphere Reserves and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The VBR falls within the Greater Mapungubwe and Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Areas which are trilateral initiatives involving South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Termed as 'Smart Biosphere Reserves', the VBR serves as a learning platform for other biosphere reserves through the exchange of knowledge and information. In July 2013, the VBR and WBR hosted the AfriMAB capacity building workshop, with representatives from UNESCO and other African biosphere reserves. Regionally the VBR is also part of the Limpopo Biosphere forum which involves Kruger to Canyons and Waterberg Biosphere, where regular meetings are held to capacitate each biosphere. It is also important to highlight that as the VBR we complement the work of local, provincial and national governments in terms of conservation and sustainable development in communities.

COMMUNITY STORY

Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Youth Network on International Day for Biodiversity and World Environment Day 2022



On 31 May 2022, the Vhembe Biosphere Youth Network (VBRYN) went on a hiking trip to celebrate the International Day for Biodiversity coupled with World Environment day. The hike was held at Medike Nature reserve in the Soutpansberg mountains. Eight (8) members of the youth network together with Mr Makoni the coordinator of VBR were part of the participants who went to Medike. The Soutpansberg mountains are one of the richest biodiversity hotspots in South Africa with Medike nature reserve and its efforts to protect the biodiversity in the mountains from anthropogenic activities from the neighboring communities. Among the successful hiking, there was the knowledge that benefited many of the youth, particularly as far as Biodiversity is considered. Rangers also showed their interest in providing

opportunities to the VBRYN. For example, The Field Guides Association of Southern Africa, which is the association that sets the standard and level of professionalism in the guiding industry, through different private wildlife institutions e.g bushwise, oluvane environmental, training, and many more. The experience was interesting because of the new knowledge which was enhanced through interaction. Rangers displayed a fundamental principle of conserving nature for future generations. Through hiking, individuals can learn and observe how the environment interacts with nature.

The theme for the International Day for Biodiversity 2022 was “building a shared future for all life” and that of World Environment day was “Only One Earth”. The two themes teach us that we cannot engage in a journey that potentially limits the existence of other lifeforms in the future and while we only have one earth it is our utmost responsibility to take good care of it. As a youth Network, it is our responsibility to ensure that the future generations will continue from where we leave and share the privileges of nature without degrading them. We are so thankful to the Medike for ensuring that our biodiversity does not continue to be lost and for educating the nearest communities about conservation and sustainability. We hope to visit Medike Nature Reserve again and share the experience with the world for awareness to build a better shared future.

POLICY UPDATES

INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE REGION AND BEYOND

15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the 3 Rio Conventions that were established from the 1992 Earth Summit. While the two other Rio Conventions (UNCCD and UNFCCC) were established to address worsening desertification and rising climate temperatures. This year's COP15 will happen in Montreal Canada from the 7th to the 19th of December

UPCOMING EVENTS



ACBCOP 15 , Biodiversity Conference: Montral, Canada
7 - 19 December, 2022

OUR CONTACTS

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