

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



ACBA PARTICIPATION AT AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2 (ACS2)



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
IHANDIRO YOUTH ADVOCATES FOR NATURE (IYAN)



ACBA MEMBERS DRIVING IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA

ACBA PARTICIPATION AT AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2 (ACS2)

The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) actively participated in the second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2), hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with the African Union. The summit served as a crucial platform for advancing Africa's climate agenda, unifying the continent's voice in global climate discussions and driving forward African-led solutions for sustainable development.



Taking place as a key milestone on the road to COP30, ACS2 focused on strengthening Africa's leadership in climate action by promoting adaptation, mitigation and green growth strategies. The summit also sought to amplify the role of youth, indigenous communities and non-state actors in shaping inclusive and equitable climate solutions, while calling for reform of global financing systems to better serve Africa's priorities.

ACBA participated as part of the non-State Actors (NSA) coalition organized by PACJA. The NSA were organised under 16 thematic clusters. ACBA was a co-lead on the cluster on Biodiversity and locally led solutions. Each cluster

prepared key messages and an action plan pre-summit, during the summit and leading to COP 30. Many of the key messages of the NSA were reflected to some degree in the draft declaration. We asked to speak at an event with the vice president of the EU. ACBA was also part of a group to prepare a position for African finance ministers

The draft declaration of the summit captured many elements of the key messages of the cluster on Biodiversity and locally led solutions. The draft declaration places climate justice at the center. Whereas,



ACS 1 was mitigation focused with a spotlight on energy and carbon markets, ACS 2 shifted the narrative decisively by placing adaptation, resilience and NbS at the center. ACS 2 went further to reject externally imposed solutions to be a shaper of African climate responses. There was support for locally led solutions across various sectors such as energy, agriculture and water management.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: IHANDIRO YOUTH ADVOCATES FOR NATURE (IYAN)



Ihandiro Youth Advocates for Nature (IYAN), a proud member of ACBA, continues to make impressive strides in promoting clean energy, ecosystem restoration and green enterprise across Uganda. Through its Rural Clean Energy Access Programme, IYAN provides affordable, energy-saving stoves and solar-powered lighting to rural communities, helping households reduce wood consumption

by more than 50%. By partnering with youth and women's associations, IYAN raises awareness about the health and environmental benefits of clean energy while supporting women-led social enterprises that sell stoves at affordable prices.

Today, over 70% of these stoves are sold through women's groups, creating both economic opportunities and healthier homes. Complementing these efforts is the Green the Hill campaign, which has planted more than 150,000 trees in just three years, restoring degraded landscapes and protecting the soil from erosion. IYAN also promotes Eco-Investment projects that educate communities on sustainable livelihoods such as beekeeping and fish farming, initiatives that make use of underutilized land while protecting fragile ecosystems.

This year, IYAN has made remarkable progress through its #TreesForLife res-

toration project in Nyakiumbu Sub-County, supported by the International Tree Foundation. Between June and September, thousands of trees were planted across several schools, with each pupil nurturing their own tree, a simple yet powerful act fostering environmental stewardship. At Mundongo Primary School, these efforts are already transforming the once-bare compound into a vibrant green space.

IYAN's solar program has also been a game changer, literally turning "black villages into bright cities." Beyond lighting rural homes, it has powered small businesses like salons and cinemas, creating jobs for hundreds of youth and improving community security.

Through these innovative and inclusive initiatives, IYAN is not only greening Uganda but also empowering communities to lead the transition toward a sustainable future.



ACBA MEMBERS DRIVING IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA

Across the continent, ACBA members continue to make remarkable contributions toward biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and community empowerment. From research collaborations and women's leadership initiatives to youth education and environmental awareness, our members are showing how collective action can create lasting change. Here are some of this month's key highlights from our network:

1. Amplifying the Role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

ACBA members joined forces to co-author a paper on *The Role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs), Women, and Youth in Afforestation and Reforestation in Africa*. The publication, led by ACBA Executive Director Dr. Yemi Katerere alongside members from A Rocha Ghana, Sustainable Actions for Nature (SAN), and The Soil Solution, underscores how inclusive and community-driven approaches are key to Africa's reforestation and climate goals.

2. Empowering Rural Women Through Climate Leadership – MKAAJI MPYA (DRC)

MKAAJI MPYA is expanding its *Rural Women's Leadership Centres (RWLC)* in the Congo Basin's Yangambi region, providing platforms for Indigenous and rural women to build resilience and lead in environmental conservation. The organization also launched training sessions for environmental journalists through the *MKAAJI Biodiversity Journalists Network (MBJN)*, strengthening media engagement around the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

3. Inspiring Youth Through Digital Inclusion – Vhembe Biosphere (South Africa)

Vhembe Biosphere continues to empower young learners through its environmental outreach and digital inclusion initiatives. Over 500 students have already benefited from programs that enhance access to education, career guidance and biodiversity awareness. Following the successful *Grade 12 Application Drive* at Thavhani Mall, the program expanded across five municipalities, ensuring that learners from disadvantaged communities are not left behind.

KEY UPDATES

- **Extension of Deadline for Case Study Submissions**

The deadline to submit case studies and other information on traditional knowledge, innovations, practices, and technologies of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has been extended to 26 October 2025. [Read more](#)

- **Call for National Funding Priorities**

Parties are invited to submit their nationally prioritized funding needs for consideration under the financial mechanism for the period July 2026 to June 2030. [Read more](#)

- **Logistical Information for Upcoming CBD Meetings**

Details regarding logistical arrangements for the SBSTTA-27 and SB8J-1 meetings are now available. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop on the assessments adopted by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2024 and forthcoming assessments (SA-WS-2025-01),

Date: 18 October 2025,

Venue: Panama City, Panama



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27),

Date: 20–24 October 2025,

Venue: Panama City, Panama



First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J-1),

Date: 27–30 October 2025,

Venue: Panama City, Panama

