

ACBA Webinar Report

**Sustainable Management
and Use of Wild Species
and Agricultural and
Husbandry Ecosystems)**

*Towards human well-being and an ecosystem service-
based economy*

Background

Approximately 476 million indigenous peoples are distributed across 90 different countries and regions, accounting for only 6% of global population. Nevertheless, they are diversely custodians of 85% of critical biodiversity.¹ The *Earth Protection Report 2020*, it pointed out that land owned and managed by indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) accounted for approximately 25%-33% of the world's land, and that IPLCs have managed it well, with limited degradation. The integration of IPLCs' knowledge from their experiences in natural resource protection and mobilizing the enthusiasm and participation of IPLCs and small-scale communities can therefore significantly improve global conservation efforts.

This webinar invited representatives of Chinese and African CSOs to share experiences and discuss sustainable use and management of biodiversity. It explored the relationship between sustainable use of biological resources, market-based mechanisms, and protection in the ensuring of access, and benefit-sharing for Chinese and African NGOs to participate in biodiversity conservation in the process of establishing traditional knowledge protection.

The outcomes achieved include:

1. A common understanding of the importance of conservation in areas under the control and management of IPLCs and small-scale farmers
2. Appreciation for how community empowerment enhances the potential for ABS in support of sustainable livelihoods.
3. Highlight how ABS can contribute to a balanced relationship between conservation and sustainable development.

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 and Facebook Live, on 30th August 2021 from 10:00 to 12:00 EAT. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Jin Tong, with the following panelists:

Speakers

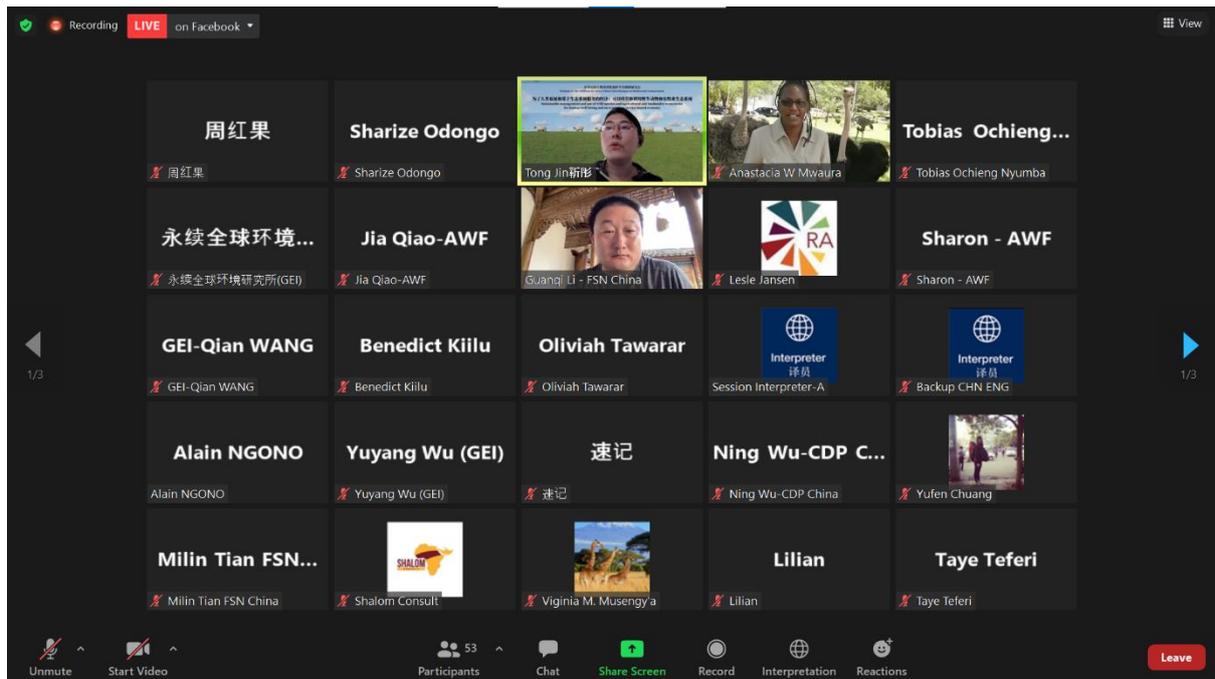
Ms. Lesle Jansen

Ms. Hongguo Zhou

Dr. Tobias Nyumba

Mr. Guanqi Li

¹ State of the world's Indigenous Peoples (2010) United Nations report, First Volume



Highlights

- While development projects can have harmful environmental and social impacts, this is not a given. It is therefore important that throughout stakeholder engagement, especially of the public, that a holistic understanding of the outcomes of projects is provided, including the recognition and addressing of community concerns about their livelihoods throughout the project's lifetime.
- Consultations with diverse stakeholders can be critical to cost-saving in development projects as they often uncover vulnerabilities which governments and other implementers in such projects are then able to respond to, de-risking therefore limiting or preventing losses.
- Traditional knowledge systems not only link with the heritage and cultures of IPLCs but are often linked with important history e.g. cedarwood cultivation for use by indigenous Chinese communities and for other economic uses in cities during the Ming Dynasty. By understanding the holistic value and benefits of traditional practices, it is possible to make use of their lessons for conservation that benefits people and nature today.
- It is important to ensure that when there are legal or administrative changes e.g. land ownership laws which can affect traditional practices and the community benefits that they provide, that these two are updated and reformed to maintain the strongest aspects of traditional knowledge systems.
- Access and Benefit Sharing can be a mechanism that allows IPLCs to advocate for their recognition and rights, even in contexts where they're not formally recognized e.g. by national governments. Additionally, it can allow for addressing the role of indigenous knowledge systems in the final economic value attached to biological resources. E.g. in the case of rooibos, it was clearly recognized that the commercial uses and value of rooibos today directly derive from its use and value as defined by the Khoikhoi and San communities in South Africa.

- Sharing of experiences in multiple contexts is important to identify innovations which improve ABS mechanisms. In the case of seed farmers in China, knowledge sharing among African and Chinese farmers has enabled better outcomes for all involved as they build each other's capacity.

Way forward:

- Successful environmental and social impact assessments for development projects must include those who are involved in long-term conservation efforts in potentially affected ecosystems.
- Traditional knowledge systems should be recognized and increasingly implemented where they provide benefits without depleting biodiversity.
- As governments and private sector develop models for commercializing high value biodiversity e.g. plants like rooibos, they must include IPLCs who maintain this biodiversity because they are the knowledge holders.
- As governments and other actors seek to fairly compensate IPLCs for the use of biological resources, land rights and other related rights will be critical to the upholding of IPLCs rights.
- To ensure that small scale farmers can reap the benefits of maintaining biodiversity e.g. by growing traditional seeds and seed banking, it is essential to build their capacity to be able to commercialize their crop. If their livelihoods are sustainable, this creates an incentive for them to continue to engage in their nature-positive approaches to agriculture.

Session I

Dr. Tobias Nyumba – African Conservation Centre

Dr. Nyumba discussed the role of public participation in development projects, and the value of considering the public essential stakeholders in successful projects. He presented the case study of the Development Corridors Partnership between Kenya and China to build the Standard Gauge Railway. In the Kenyan case, Dr. Nyumba noted that while the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) framework is suitably ambitious:

- It can be strengthened to increase public confidence.
- Can have better oversight to ensure that EIAs successfully prevent or mitigate serious environmental impacts.
- There is need for improvements in Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in practice to include capacity building, transparency and stakeholder engagement.

Dr. Zhou Hongguo – Jishou University

Dr. Zhou presented a case study of the agroforestry of cedars in the Qingshui River Basin in Southwest China. Dr. Zhou pointed out that for agriculture to be conducive to the protection of genetic resources, and the benefit-sharing of genetic resources,

development models in the sector need to be based on and match different regional ecosystems. With ecosystem-based approaches to agroforestry, it is possible to facilitate cooperation among multiple parties, combining people from different cultural backgrounds into a small community and to further achieve lasting ecological maintenance, continuity of economic benefits, and inheritance of national culture.

Session II

Lesle Jansen – Resource Africa

Ms. Jansen presented a case study about rooibos restitution and the South African Khoikhoi community. Ms. Jansen discussed the case from the perspective of the access and benefit sharing agreement developed, and its insights for the Nagoya Protocol. Ms. Jansen highlighted that Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanisms can serve as a catalyst to address challenges that IPLCs face in the upholding of their rights. This is particularly the case when it comes to addressing the land and tenure rights many IPLCs face globally. As IPLCs advocate for equitable ABS, they enrich global frameworks like the Nagoya Protocol. While biological resources that are commercialized may be seen as being valuable for the economic benefits they provide, it is important to allow the social and cultural value they hold for IPLCs to guide how these resources are prospected for not only to respect communities' rights of self-determination, but to allow them to retain management and control over their resources, noting the history of successful preservation of biodiversity by IPLCs.

Li Guanqi - Farmers' Seed Network (China)

Mr. Li presented about joint innovation and critical linkages among farmers with different stakeholders in seed farming across multiple communities in rural China. Building farmers' capacity has been a key success factor. Approaches to do this include a course developed to educate farmers about the basic concepts and analytical frameworks of seed system enhancement and agrobiodiversity management, as well as community-level registry and evaluation, PPB and PVS techniques.

Conclusion

The economic and social well-being, and upholding of the rights of IPLCs and smallholder farmers play an important part in mitigating biodiversity loss as these communities have a stake in biodiversity thriving. Additionally, working with traditional knowledge systems utilized by these groups has insights that not only protect these communities' livelihoods but can provide effective and diversified approaches which enable people to live in harmony with nature.

Many thanks to the ACBA membership for their participation and sharing with their networks. The recording of the full webinar can be accessed [here](#).

Annex

Agenda

Item	Talking Points	Time (min)
Introduction	• Introduction to ACBA and CSABC	10
	• Background to ABS ; Speakers & Moderator	
Session I:	• House rules	15
	Community participation and perceptions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the Standard Gauge Railway Project in Kenya (Tobias Nyumba , Coordinator, Africa Conservation Center, Nairobi, Kenya)	
Reflections	Research on Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources of "Forest and Grain Intercropping"	15
	(Hongguo ZHOU, Professor, Jishou University, China)	
Session II:	• Q&A and comments	10
	• Transition to session II	
Reflections	Rooibos restitution & South African KHOIKHOI Community	15
	(Lesle Jansen, CEO, Resource Africa)	
Session III	From PPB to ABS for Farmer Empowerment and Joint Innovation ---Community Based Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization in China and Africa	15
	(Guanqi LI, Coordinator, Farmers' Seed Network, China)	
Closing Remarks	• Moderator Q&A and comments	10
	• Transition to session III	
Closing Remarks	• Participant Q&A and comments	30
	• Summary	
Closing Remarks	• Lead-up to next webinar	5
	• Vote of thanks	

Poster

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Jin
Tong
Director of Science
Nature Conservancy China
MODERATOR



Dr. Tobias
Nyumba
Project Coordinator
African Conservation Centre



Dr. Zhou
Hongguo
Professor
Jishou University



Li
Guanqi
Coordinator
Farmers' Seed Network (China)



Leslie
Jansen
Chief Executive Officer
Resource Africa (SA)

DATE: 30 August 2021 | LOCATION: ZOOM

TIME: 10:00 AM EAT | 3:00 PM CST

LIVE ON: ACBA Youtube