
Report of ACBA's Engagement at COP 28

30th November – 12th December 2023



acba
African CSOs
Biodiversity Alliance

Road Map

The Planning process

- Identifying objectives and priority areas for ACBA.
- Drafting key messages and speaking points to guide ACBA members engagement.
- Identifying specific side events and sessions of potential interest to ACBA members.
- Establishing an activity schedule, a communication plan, a daily briefing schedule, email group and whatsapp group for sharing information with ACBA delegates.
- Establishing members attending COP 28, their individual schedules as well as their areas of focus.
- Organizing a briefing meeting for members to share COP 28 roadmap.
- Identifying the venue for ACBA's side event and confirming the side event's speakers/ panelists.

COP 28 Objectives



1. Promote people and biodiversity positive climate solutions



2. Explore partnerships and collaboration with like-minded Networks and CSOs to collectively influence climate outcomes that benefit Africa



3. Participate in lobbying for reforming climate finance to increase funding to African Governments and IPLCs at the frontline of the biodiversity and climate challenges

Priority Areas

1. Operationalization of Loss and Damage fund
2. Funding for climate action
 - Adaptation versus mitigation funding
 - What is climate finance and who defines it?
 - Access to finance at local level
3. Global stock take – progress in implementing Paris Agreement in past 5 years
4. Real solutions versus false solutions
5. Climate change and biodiversity –
 - Design and effective implementation of Nature based Solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation
 - Carbon and biodiversity credits and offsets and other market-based approaches and their effects on biodiversity and people
6. Agriculture and land issues
7. Climate Justice

ACBA's Key Messages

- **Learning:** Respect and value traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, women and small-scale farmers when designing climate solutions. Diversify who we learn from and domesticate what we learn.
- **Urgent, Real and Equitable Just transition** - False climate solutions harm society, biodiversity and IPLCs and exacerbate global warming. Countries must commit to reduce carbon emissions.
- **Climate Finance:** Funding must be delivered where it matters, be accessible especially to IPLCs and be sustainable. Seek an agreed definition of climate finance and avoid double accounting.
- **Non- Market mechanisms-** Article 6.8 is ready for implementation. This can enhance collaboration between countries more than market mechanisms. Joint mitigation /adaptation and rights - based approaches are what climate solutions need.

Members at COP 28

1. Pauline Nantongo – Eco Trust Uganda
2. Jane Otieno – ACBA Secretariat
3. Yemi Katerere – ACBA Coordinator
4. David Obura – CORDIO East Africa
5. Lucy Mulenkei – IIN (Indigenous Information Network)
6. Hassan Mowlid yasin – SOGPA
7. Gertrude Kenyangi - SWAGEN (Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment)
8. Maximin DJONDO - Bees NGO
9. Tamoifo nkom marie - AJVC - REJEFAC (Youth Network for Central African Forests)
10. BYA'UNDAOMBE LONGYE Jean-Paul - EMERGENCE ONGD RDC
11. John Samorai - Ogiek Peoples Development Program (OPDP)
12. Cheneye Anekwe - Solar Sisters
13. Kelvin Muli - Bridging the Gap – YOUNGO
14. Steve Itela - CAK
15. Ghaamid Abdulbasat - Tanzanian Youth Biodiversity Network



Highlights of ACBA's Participation

1. ACBA side event | Somalia Pavilion | 3rd December 2023

- Panel discussion on financing for biodiversity and climate change: "Towards Effective, Fair and Just Financial Transformations needed to Address the Biodiversity and Climate Change Crises" with leading experts, i.e. David Obura – Founding Director CORDIO East Africa, Pauline Nantongo – CEO, EcoTrust Uganda and Lucy Mullenkei, Executive Director – Indigenous Information Network (IIN).
- Highlights:
 - Funding needs to reach the local level
 - Markets perpetuate top-down approaches and solutions.
 - The structure of the global financial architecture, including unsustainable debt and the criteria for qualifying for funding windows needs to change.
 - Need strong environmental and social safeguards to guarantee the rights of IPLCs with fair and equitable benefit sharing.
 - Concerns about land grabs and forced removal of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) from their traditional lands for projects like carbon credits
 - It is critical that PLCs, women and youth are meaningfully included in the design and implementation of projects such as Nature based solutions
 - A presentation on bio-credits highlighted:
 - The difference between carbon and biodiversity credits
 - How credits can be a tool for mobilizing finance for biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods.

2. Speaking engagements: side events hosted by members and partners

- Youngo Pavilion | COP 28 Youth Climate Forum - Fostering interactive action: Youth, Peace and Climate security - Intergenerational Dialogue focusing on Youth-led efforts on peace building and climate action | Hassan Yassin – SOGPA.
- ZIMPARKS, WWF, AWF, APAD and ACBA | Protected and Conserved Areas as a Solution to Climate Change| Yemi Katerere – ACBA Coordinator.
- IPBES |Market Partners on Oceans and Coastal Zones land use | Nature First: From Land to Ocean. Our Best Ally for Climate Action| David Obura - CORDIO East Africa.
- Food and Agriculture Pavilion (CGIAR - Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research / FAO/ IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development and Rocker feller Foundation) | Session on IPCC and IPBES and future of agrifood sector | David Obura – CORDIO East Africa.
- Science for Climate Action Pavilion | CORDAP - Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform, IPCC- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - Unheard voices - Emerging Leadership in Coral Conservation and Restoration from the Global South. David Obura – CORDIO East Africa.
- Indigenous People Pavilion | Indigenous Youth in Ecosystem Restoration Focusing on their Lands ; A Home for Tomorrow | Lucy Mulenkei – Indegenous Information Network.
- Climate Funds Pavilion | Nature Economies – the Potential of Biodiversity Credit |Pauline Nantongo – Eco Trust Uganda.
- Climate Funds Pavilion | Innovative Financial Incentives for nature and climate positive systems: Pauline Nantongo- Eco Trust Uganda

Speaking engagements: side events hosted by members and partners

- Kenya Pavilion | Investing in Nature , Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation to accelerate climate action in Taveta County.
- IPCC Pavilion Health and Climate | Press- Conference: 10 New Insights. Climate Science. Earth Commission. |David Obura – CORDIO East Africa
- African Pavilion | Economic Commission for Africa and Africa Group of Negotiators | Article 6 Capacity Building | Yemi Katerere – ACBA Coordinator
- YOUNGO Pavilion- YOUNGO Climate Security Working Group | COP28 Youth Climate Forum: - Climate Impacts on Health and Human Security | Hassan Yassin

Outcomes of negotiations and non-binding agreements

Major commitments contained in the final negotiated text include:

- Outside the Global Stock-take, COP28 delivered historic negotiated outcomes to operationalize Loss and Damage, securing \$792 million of early pledges, providing a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and institutionalizing the role of the Youth Climate Champion to mainstream youth inclusion at future COPs.
- There was no “phaseout” nor “phase-down” of fossil fuels. Instead, the agreed text “calls on Parties to contribute to transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems”. This language is considered very weak.
- A significant step forward in the expectations for the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by encouraging “economy-wide emission reduction targets.”
- Building momentum behind the financial architecture reform agenda, recognizing the role of credit rating agencies for the first time, and calling for a scale up of concessional and grant finance.
- A new, specific target to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030.
- Recognizing the need to significantly scale up adaptation finance beyond the doubling to meet urgent and evolving needs.
- Parties failed to reach agreement on Articles 6.2 and 6.4 on the trade of carbon emissions. Article 6.2 allows governments to trade in carbon credits bilaterally. The carbon credits are referred to as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under the UN system. Article 6.4 will set up a global carbon market to replace the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) considered to have failed. The new carbon market will be run by the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body.
- Agreement was reached under **Article 6.8** - non-market approaches (NMA) and will now move to implementation. This will focus on joint mitigation and adaptation actions that can contribute towards meeting NDC targets .

Major commitments contained in the final negotiated text include:

- The GST text contains, for the first time a commitment to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030, as well as a reference to the 2022 [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), making explicit the important links between climate and biodiversity goals. This alignment between biodiversity and climate change is something many groups wanted to see, particularly ahead of the Brazil-hosted COP30 in 2025.

Major Action Agenda achievements outside of negotiated text include:

- The launch of ALTÉRRRA, the UAE's \$30 billion catalytic private finance vehicle, which seeks to mobilize a total of \$250 billion for global climate action.
- The 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food, & Climate, embedding sustainable agriculture and food systems in the response to climate change. It has received endorsements from 158 countries.
- The 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, to accelerate the development of climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable health systems. It has been endorsed by 144 countries.
- The Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA) – a series of landmark energy initiatives across the public and private sectors to speed up the energy transition including:
 - The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge to triple worldwide installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 gigawatts and to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements to more than 4 percent by 2030. It has been endorsed by 132 countries.
 - The Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC), which commits signatories to zero methane emissions and ending routine flaring by 2030, and to net-zero operations by 2050 at the latest. To date, 52 companies, representing over 40 percent of global oil production have signed up to it.
 - The 'Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge' to advance the integration of sub-national leaders in climate-related decision making, which has been endorsed by 67 countries.



Outcomes of bi-laterals and Session Discussions

Opportunities for ACBA

1. International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB)

- ACBA has been offered a valuable opportunity to be represented on all working groups of the. These are:- Measurement, Demand, Supply, Stewardship, and Governance.
- The process of identifying designated representatives for the working groups is already ongoing and this is an opportunity to make sure allocation of ACBA representatives in all the groups
- Chair of ACBA's Policy working Group, Pauline Nantongo, is currently managing the relationship between ACBA and IAPB Establish a system for regular report back to ACBA leadership and membership on progress and get direction from members on any inputs
- IAPB has invited comments on proposed financing mechanism on Biodiversity Credits (27 Nov-12 Jan 2023)

2. ACBA Participation at UNEA:

- The IAPB Panel requested ACBA's in-person representation at the upcoming UNEA meeting
- Major Groups Africa Region is organizing an online International Consultation for UNEA 6 on 18th and 19th December from 2 pm – 5pm (Nairobi Time).
- Hassan Yassin (SOGPA) has been approached by Parks Environmental Peace Building to Co-Host a side event on Nature based solutions as a solution to Peace building
 - ACBA will explore partnership and engagement opportunities

Opportunities for ACBA

3. Meeting with the GEF Secretariat – Gabrielle Richardson Temm
 - She encouraged ACBA members to access funding through the GEF small grants programme
 - Two additional implementing entities will be added to the current role of UNDP
 - The amount of the grant under this facility will also be increased
 - Gabriella also sought clarification regarding the relationship between ACBA and AWF
4. Meeting with HATOF Foundation CEO who expressed interest in ACBA and we will be making follow-ups to explore collaboration avenues.
5. Hassan met SWED Bio. Already engaged with ACBA through ACBN Network of Biodiversity based in South Africa - Asha Naburi – Indosea – Hassan to share contacts. Great to outline the level of this engagement and if there could be any follow-up action.
5. Funding opportunity- Mama Cash - Organization in the Netherlands supporting Women led organizations /initiatives- <https://www.mamacash.org/en/apply-for-a-grant-1> .Currently accepting grant applications. This is attractive for small organizations even those that are not registered

ACBA Reflections on CoP 28

- The Parties committed to equitably “transition away” from fossil fuels, and to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. They also emphasised the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems. This was met with mixed reactions. Some called the first reference to fossil fuels in a UN document as historic while others felt that the world should be moving to rapid decarbonization with funding for developing countries to transition to carbon free economies
- Those committed to fighting the climate and biodiversity crises were left with very little to celebrate. Whilst the decision to establish the Loss and Damage Fund is welcome, the pledges fell far short of what will be required.
- The Global Stock Take (GST) text lacks the required ambition to tackle climate change. The text highlights the gap between developing country needs and the finance available and yet does not offer credible response to this challenge.
- The adoption of Article 6.8 on non-market approaches to climate change should be welcomed by African countries. Article 6.8 focuses on joint mitigation and adaptation actions that can contribute towards meeting NDC targets, avoid greenwashing and false solutions and tackle the debt trap.
- Climate finance remains pivotal as it relates to issues of carbon markets, just energy transitions, capacity building and technology transfer. The lack of a clear definition of what climate finance is continues to have allowed the private sector to push for Nature-based solutions carbon markets as climate finance.
- Climate Finance: This remains unresolved and many feel that carbon markets/offsetting is not climate finance. According to Fadhel Kaboub, economist and co-author of the African Just Transition Report:
 - “Climate finance is a debt owed by the historic polluters of the Global North to the Global South countries that are on the frontlines of climate change”
 - Climate finance requires a total of \$2.4 trillion of transformative investment and transfer of technology for climate adaptation and mitigation by 2030. We are nowhere near this target
 - The Global North is refusing to pay its climate debt. Instead, it is offering loans with conditionalities leading to a neocolonial debt trap. This is packaged with other private financing strategies that ultimately lead to profits returning to the Global North
- Civil Society organizations continue to call for direct and meaningful funding to be delivered to IPLCs



Recommendations for effective member participation

- Debrief meetings for ACBA members during COPs are important to share and strategize. Finding a suitable time to meet will always be a challenge. Those attending COPs need to make a commitment to attend these meetings and to include them as part of their daily schedules.
- Identifying relevant sessions or side events and securing speaking opportunities for ACBA members within externally organized should compliment any events hosted by ACBA. Robust marketing of ACBA side events and early preparation is vital to enhance the chances of achieving maximum participation.



Appreciation



Acknowledgements:

- Somalia Government – Providing space for the ACBA side event
- AWF for sponsoring participation of ACBA secretariate
- AWF also Included ACBA members in their daily briefing sessions