



acba
African CSOs
Biodiversity Alliance

at **APAC**
REPORT



2022

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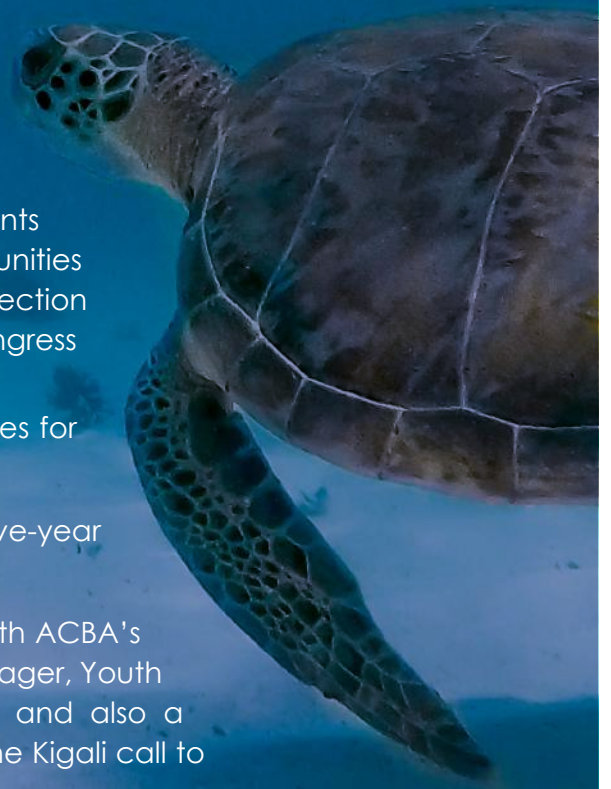
AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE'S (ACBA)

PARTICIPATION AT THE INAUGURAL AFRICA PROTECTED & CONSERVED AREAS CONGRESS (APAC)

Kigali, Rwanda, 16-23 July 2022

ACBA's highlights at APAC

1. A total of 41 ACBA members attended the African Protected Areas Congress in Kigali, Rwanda, of which 29 were sponsored by the Alliance.
2. ACBA secured a pavilion for its members where nine events were hosted under the following themes:
 - Strengthening scientific collaborations to support conservation in Africa;
 - Building a resilient, sustainable Africa by 2030 from local to global;
 - The role of African youth in conservation; and
 - Strengthening capacity to support community-based activities.
3. Some ACBA member events were accepted in the APAC Main Programme:
 - Conservation partially delivered community ambitions & conservation benefits. This builds a means for conservation in peoples' lives, & successfully achieves Targets - Led by CORDIO;
 - Redirect financial flows & public investments in natural capital - Led by ECOTRUST; and
 - Addressing the impacts of linear infrastructure on migration and transboundary conservation - Led by African ConservationCenter.
4. ACBA members also participated in two pre-congress events hosted by African youths and Indigenous People & Local Communities (IPLCs) to explore important community-led biodiversity protection issues, and prepare youth to effectively engage with the Congress streams and cross-cutting themes.
5. The Alliance met with USAID and BMU to explore opportunities for partnership and potential financial support to the network.
6. ACBA launched its ten-year Strategic Plan and signed a five-year MoU with the African Wildlife Foundation.
7. The Kigali call to Action has many elements that resonate with ACBA's mandate and vision. Simangele Msweli who is the Senior Manager, Youth Leadership Programme at the African Wildlife Foundation and also a member of ACBA, was one of three people that delivered the Kigali call to action during the closing ceremony.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

ACBA	African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance
APAC	African Protected Areas Congress
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CLN	Community Leaders Network
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSTI	Center for Science and Technology Innovations
CTPH	Conservation Through Public Health
DSI	Digital Sequence Information
IGCP	International Gorilla Conservation Programme
IPLCs	Indigenous People and Local Communities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OECMs	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
PAs	Protected Areas
SABYN	South African Youth Biodiversity Network
SOGPA	Somali Green Peace Association
SU	Sustainable Use
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VBRYN	Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Youth Network

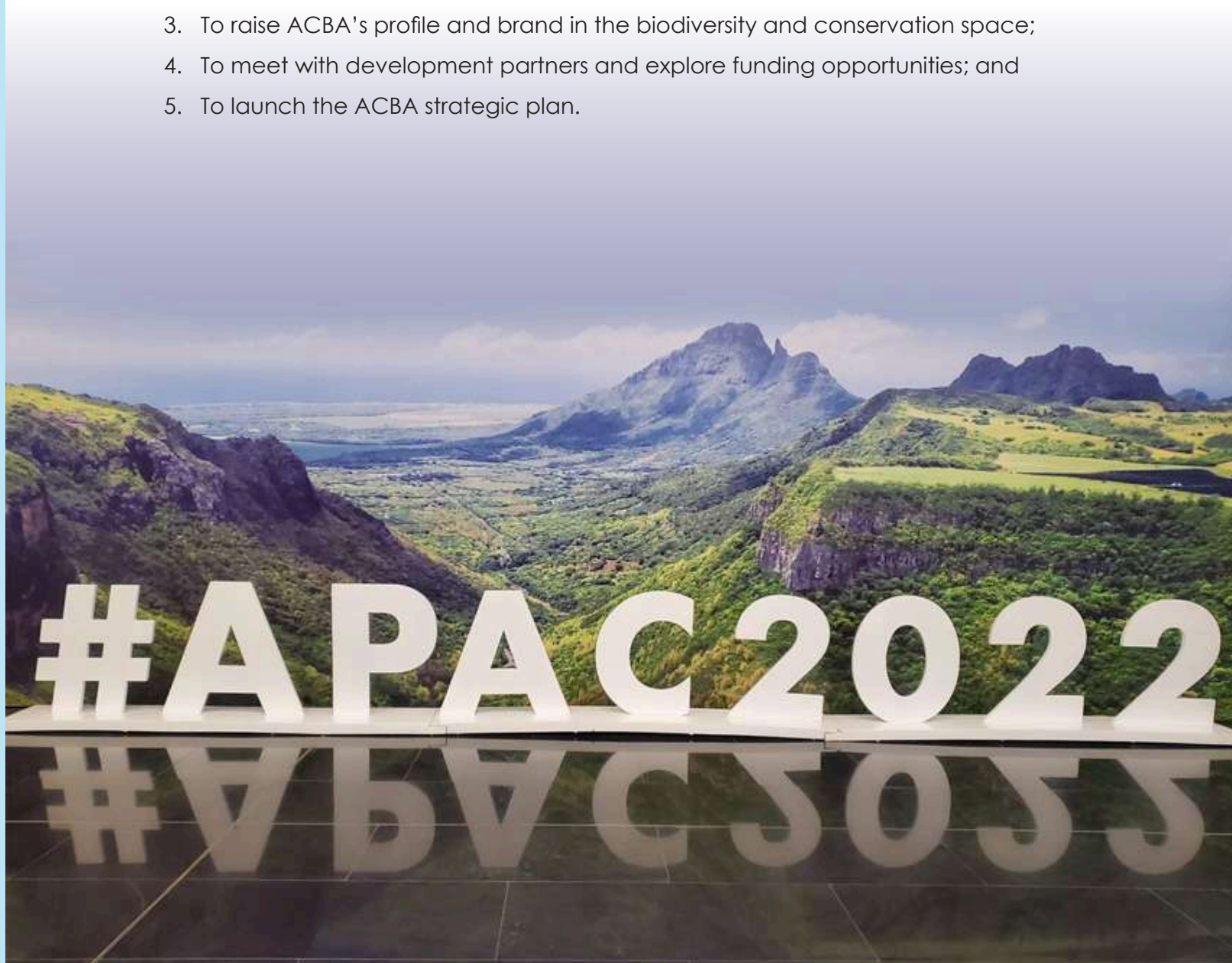
INTRODUCTION

The African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) is a network of African CSOs that speak and amplify the African voices on issues of Sustainable Use of natural resources that contributes to conservation and the just, fair, and equitable benefits for all. In this way, ACBA provided a platform for its members to participate in the Inaugural African Protected and Conserved Areas Congress (APAC) in Kigali, Rwanda from the 16th to the 23rd of July 2022.

The overall goal of ACBA's participation at APAC was to contribute to a new conservation vision for Africa and to learn from other participants attending. This means strengthening the capacity of CSOs, IPLCs, Smallholder farmers, youth, and women to sustainably manage and use biodiversity.

The objectives of ACBA's participation at the Congress were:

1. To showcase the diversity, extent, and value of conservation work being carried out by ACBA members;
2. To share lessons and experiences with other Congress participants;
3. To raise ACBA's profile and brand in the biodiversity and conservation space;
4. To meet with development partners and explore funding opportunities; and
5. To launch the ACBA strategic plan.



ACBA'S PARTICIPATION AT APAC

IPLC Pre-congress

The two-day Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) pre-congress was a great platform for the groups to raise their concerns on issues such as land loss and human rights abuses attributed to the creation of protected areas. Apart from highlighting key issues, this pre-congress event created a safe space for IPLCs to discuss how their rights are key and more importantly how they can be adequately compensated for what they have lost. The IPLCs believe that the current conservation model is inappropriate for Africa.

Community Leaders Network (CLN) represented ACBA at the IPLC pre-congress through their work with different local communities in Southern Africa. Community Leaders Network had a delegation of about 10 people who actively participated in different panel discussions and working groups. The main outcome was the Africa Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), Kigali Declaration that was read at the APAC closing ceremony.

The declaration acknowledged the work done by governments, development partners, and others in recognizing and advancing the rights of IPLCs, but pointed out that more work needs to be done. They committed to advocating on issues affecting them and deploying wisdom and traditional knowledge in advancing the conservation and sustainable use of our biodiversity.



They remain committed to continuing to sustain intergeneration traditional knowledge transfer through their cultural ways and forms, and also set up a pan-African IPLC body as a platform for shared concerns, actions, Programmes, and cross-learning among states.

Youth Pre-congress

To ensure youth become active and respected actors in enhancing conservation in Africa, a two-day Youth pre-congress explored issues important for the youth to fully engage with the streams and cross-cutting themes of APAC.

Recognizing that conservation is an inter-generational endeavor, society needs to engage young people so that their perspectives are included in environmental and conservation discussions. At APAC, Simangele Msweli, a proud ACBA member was involved in the planning and steering committee of the Youth Pre-congress and also facilitated a number of sessions at the congress.

Outcomes of the Youth Pre-congress led to the drafting of a declaration which was presented at the Congress closing ceremony. The declaration emphasized the inclusion of Youth in biodiversity conservation efforts and made clear the important role that youth play in nature conservation. The Youth were also opposed to the imposition of the concept of



30x30. The young people committed and gave recommendations on twelve issues that are captured in the African youth Kigali declaration. Some issues they committed to were resource mobilization to increase grassroots projects linked to Protected Areas, creating an intergenerational exchange mentorship Programme to mobilize mentors and engage the youth to ensure they build back better.

ACBA Pavilion Activities

The ACBA Pavilion was a platform for members to showcase the diversity, extent, and value of their conservation work, it was also a great space for ACBA members and partners to come together and identify areas of common action while they could also network with each other and other potential partners. The pavilion hosted a total of 9 events covering different topics around:

1. STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

Science undoubtedly enhances our understanding of the drivers of biodiversity loss and assists in the formulation of practical and policy responses. However, there needs to be a nexus between scientific research, indigenous knowledge, and public participation to inform our biodiversity conservation efforts in Africa.

1.1 Supporting conservation in Africa using DNA barcoding and citizen science collaboration

Event Lead: Center for Science and Technology Innovations (CSTI): Kenya

This event organized by CSTI focused on introducing the principles for developing an effective biodiversity DNA Sequencing information (DSI) Data Management Plan (DMP) for effective use in conservation and production. It explored the development of DNA Sequencing Information Data Management Plans as a modality to increase the number of Citizen Science researchers and supporters who can safely sample and catalog the DNA information of species that are endemic to African ecosystems in line with other global efforts.

Local communities understand the complexity of biodiversity and natural systems, and empowering them to meaningfully participate in documenting data and information to enhance the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is key. However, for this to happen the capacity of indigenous people and local communities, governments, the private sector, and CSOs should be highly supported.



This event aimed to introduce basic biodiversity concepts in line with genetics and genomics, mainstream locally-led African biodiversity genetic conservation efforts into global scientific discourse, and enable participants to develop a business case for including biodiversity conservation as an economically viable activity in the budgeting of African countries.



Recommendations:

1. The need for inter-agency collaboration in DNA sequencing and barcoding;
2. Community education and awareness creation around the jargon involved with science conversation;
3. The need for strategic partnerships to strengthen capacity building for communities and members;
4. Working groups involving different stakeholders (youth, women, indigenous & local communities) to train on cross-cutting issues related to data collection and citizen science; and
5. The need to include important stakeholders in this conversation i.e donors, private sector entities, and governments.

1.2 Launch of policy brief on responsible tourism to Great Apes

Event Leads: Conservation through Public Health (CTPH): Uganda and International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) from Rwanda

The International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) and Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) in collaboration with the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) launched a policy brief on 'Responsible Tourism to Africa's Great Apes'.

The Policy Brief demonstrated the vulnerability of great apes who are susceptible to a wide range of human diseases such as COVID-19. The policy brief offers practical and actionable recommendations for a One Health approach that can achieve great ape conservation, responsible tourism, and community benefits simultaneously.

The Launch was moderated by Mr. Frank Turyatunga, Director and Regional Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Africa Office, and the panelists comprised Ms. Clare Kamanzi, CEO of the Rwanda Development Board, Mr. Sam Mwandha, ED of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, Dr. Emmanuelle Normand, Country Director at the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Mr. Praveen Moman, Founder, and CEO of Volcanoes Safaris, and Mr. Manzi Kayihura, Managing Director at Thousand Hills Africa.

The panel discussion focused on convincing the audience to commit to promoting responsible Great Ape tourism through the strict adherence and enforcement of tourism best practices and encouraging tourists to support communities. In addition, it helped to create an understanding of the existing great ape tourism challenges today. From the discussion, we also recognized that Great Ape tourism contributes significantly to national economies and community development therefore their survival and protection are paramount. It also highlighted that to reduce zoonotic disease outbreaks, it is crucial for the IUCN Great Apes viewing guidelines to be strictly adhered to.

Recommendations:

To African Governments:

1. Develop and adopt clear guidelines for the re-opening and management of ape visitation e.g. mandatory wearing of masks by park staff and tourists;
2. Enforce strict adherence to the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines;
3. Consider testing and vaccinating park staff against COVID-19 and other preventable diseases;
4. Support local communities to develop both tourism and non-tourism-dependent livelihoods that are compatible with the great ape conservation through nature-based and nature-compatible enterprises; and
5. Enhance opportunities for transboundary collaboration and information sharing on conservation approaches that are people-centered and nature positive, and apply a One Health approach.

To donor partners

1. Channel funding to critical conservation sites for the improvement of health systems around great ape habitats;
2. Equipping park staff with necessary protective gear, supplies, and capacity building park staff on disease identification, monitoring, and management;
3. Support government agencies to establish an African Great Apes Emergency Fund for disease response and great ape conservation during periods of reduced tourism;
4. Support and invest in research on the prevention of disease transmission between humans and great apes; and
5. Support local communities to develop both tourism and non-tourism-dependent livelihood enterprises that are compatible with great ape conservation.

To tour operators

1. Heighten vigilance to ensure adherence to best practice guidelines for responsible marketing of all tourism services;
2. Sensitize clients about great ape visitation rules in advance and hold them accountable; and
3. Encourage government agencies to enforce great ape tourism basic best practices.



2. BUILDING A RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE AFRICA BY 2030 FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

ACBA's envisioned impact as defined in its Theory of Change is one where Africa's biodiversity and ecosystems are thriving and delivering equitable and economically resilient livelihoods and national development.

2.1 Launch of ACBA's Ten-year Strategic Plan and Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)



2.1.1 Strategic Plan Launch

ACBA organized an event to officially launch the Strategic Plan that was attended by over 70 people. At this launch, the Alliance sought to publicize its engagements in Africa while also looking to attract more opportunities to grow its membership and encourage Africans to rally behind Sustainable Use.

As the second phase of CoP15 approaches and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) takes shape, the Africa Protected Area Congress was a unique space to share ACBA's vision and strategic objectives between now and 2030. Operating for two years now, ACBA developed a ten-year strategic plan titled 'From Bottom Up Nature People Positive', which aims to guide the Alliance's operations in Africa, as well as its engagement at a global level.



Focusing efforts on the Sustainable Use of Nature by people, ACBA's strategic plan touches on pillars around strengthening capacity, mobilizing resources, and influencing policy. It carefully navigates the challenges of developing a plan for a geographically and thematically diverse network that is united in its desire to sustainably manage and use biodiversity.

The key highlights from the Strategic Plan include:

1. Empowered IPLCs & small-scale farmers with rights to sustainably manage and benefit from their resources;
2. Local voices and needs shaping Africa's development and conservation models and agenda;
3. An effective and capable cadre of African CSOs leaders;
4. Members share and learn from each other; and
5. Strengthened partnerships around biodiversity conservation in Africa.

2.1.2. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with AWF

Africa Protected Area Congress presented a significant opportunity not only in entrenching biodiversity conservation on the African continent but also as a testimony to the power of partnerships to scale conservation efforts in Africa. ACBA signed an MoU with AWF that has provided critical funding and technical support to enable the coordination of ACBA activities, as well as its active participation at key events.

"AWF's support was made possible because of a visionary leadership that realized if Africa is to conserve and use its biodiversity sustainably, then we need to build from the bottom up, and not separate people from nature." Yemi Katerere, ACBA Coordinator.

"This MOU heralds a new beginning for the continent's conservation journey. I call it the new dawn since it is very evident that we not only have convening power but most importantly, that we can have home-grown solutions to the challenges facing our continent." **Kaddu Sebunya, AWF CEO.**

3. The role of African Youth in Conservation

Youth are the future stewards of biodiversity conservation in Africa. Approximately 75% of people in Africa are under the age of 35 and are considered youth. It is these groups of people who Africa will bequeath its conservation heritage.

For youth to actively champion conservation, we need to leverage existing assets to improve their conservation knowledge, attitude, skills, and practices. It is also important to build a critical mass of empowered and inspired youth networks to advocate for conservation. At the same time, we must strengthen their connectedness to national, pan-African, and global networks, and coalitions to unify the youth voice advocating for conservation-centered policies.

At the ACBA Pavilion, youth were able to share voices in relation to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, showcasing local and on-the-ground activities they are involved in to contribute to the achievement of the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.

3.1 Youth engagement in policy and local action

Lead: South African Youth Biodiversity Network (SAYBN) and Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Youth Network (VBRYN)

This event was led by Ms. Rerani Ramaano from the South African Youth Biodiversity Network (SAYBN) in collaboration with Phathutshedzo Mudau from Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Youth Network (VBRYN). The event focused on sharing the South African youth voices in relation to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and also showcased the local and ground activities that the young people are involved in, especially on issues of climate change affecting local communities.

The event provided a space for youth engagement and discussions on grassroots projects that will contribute to the achievement of the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. Ms. Rerani Ramaano was able to share how South African youth have participated in consultation meetings of the post-2020 GBF and encouraged other young people to play a part in policy and advocacy. Through SAYBN's involvement in the Zero Draft of the post-2020 GBF consultation meetings with the South African youths, specific outcomes were outlined from those consultation meetings. Those were in relation to Goal A on nature conservation: the youth believed that conserving nature is a critical goal that should be shared and engaged with more stakeholders. They also emphasized the critical need for awareness and the integration of indigenous knowledge in nature conservation.

With regards to targets 1 and 2 on area-based conservation: South Africa should focus more on the effective management of the already declared protected areas and increase the resources and management capacity that is allocated to protected areas. The increase of protected areas without effective management of the already existing protected areas would prove to be an ineffective and highly ambitious plan. Extending the protected areas has many implications and the lack of implementation and lack of capacity needs to be considered before agreeing on any of the targets.

When it comes to Goal C on Means of Implementation, there was a strong emphasis on South Africa's lack of means of implementation. The capacity for implementing the Post-2020 GBF is limited in financial resources, human capital, and the technology needed. South Africa needs to strengthen their means of implementation and youth need to be supported to continue playing their role as key stakeholders in the implementation process of the framework. There needs to be financial and capacity support provided to youth organizations that are working on projects and Programmes that fit into the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and thus contribute to the global goals.

Phathutshedzo presented a case study project on mitigation measures of climate change and how they can be implemented to help provide insights into green business modeling in rural areas of Africa.



3.2 Conservation conflict: Would effective resource management in Africa be a pathway to peace?

Lead: Somalia Green Peace Association (SOGPA) from Somalia

Natural resources, environmental degradation, climate change, and conflict are deeply linked. In the last 60 years, at least 40% of all intrastate conflicts were linked to natural resources, which doubles the risk of a conflict relapse within five years. On top of this, climate change multiplies the threats, worsening resource scarcity, and existing vulnerabilities. Recognizing and understanding the threats of armed conflict to nature can help in planning for conflict resiliency informed by national and local context.

This event aimed at highlighting the impacts of armed conflict on nature and people's livelihoods both within and outside the conflict zones and also propose ideas for conflict resiliency that benefits people and nature including administrative and regulatory frameworks. The side event moderated by Simangele Msweli, an ACBA member, featured Ms. Gertrude Nyangi, Founder and Executive Director of Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN), Wassa Cisse, an impact analyst at the Best Seller Foundation, Allasane Makadassu, Technical Director of AWF, and Mr. Hassan Mowlid Yasin, Executive Director of Somali Greenpeace Association.

A consensus emerging from the side event was that effective resource management should be given priority and it is important to build the capacity of CSOs in order to effectively manage and conserve biodiversity.



4. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES

Communities play an important role in biodiversity conservation. However, they lack the capacity and technical know-how with regard to awareness creation and understanding the critical role they play to firm up conservation efforts in Africa.

Strengthened capacity Programmes can make a huge impact on local communities by incorporating community-based activities that will incentivize and empower individuals to protect biodiversity, support traditional ways of life, as well as help build support for existing protected areas.

4.1 Building landscape climate resilience through green investment finance led by A Rocha Ghana

Lead: A Rocha Ghana

It is often the countries hit hardest by flooding and increasing drought that also lacks the financial resources to combat climate change and adapt to its effects. The A Rocha event focused on case studies from Ghana and Uganda around how to drive necessary investment finance through green businesses that are addressing climate risks and vulnerabilities in Africa. This followed an in-depth discussion of key opportunities for building resilient landscapes for livelihoods and Protected Areas' sustainability, by exploring green business investment pathways.

The event shared insights around:

1. The three-pillar approach of MoMo4C is around creating enabling environments, supporting the development of business cases, and knowledge sharing;
2. How climate risk and vulnerabilities in Ghana and Uganda are informing decentralized development planning agenda; and
3. How green business modeling in Ghana and Uganda landscapes is influencing green investment drives in the two countries.

The session recommended:

1. Investment in climate information and data collection infrastructure to improve early warning in the MEI; and
2. Improving access to weather information and early warning systems for agriculture to build resilience.



4.2 Community-based conservation: Moving forward with a renewed commitment to people and the planet

Lead: Community Leaders Network (CLN)

This session focused on framing the future of community-based conservation as a model that works for Africa, its people, and nature. The event focused on funding, capacity building, and institutional frameworks intending to improve the financial sustainability of community-based organizations.

Key recommendations:

1. The need for data relating to CBNRM governance and management to be collected by community organizations and collated at national levels for monitoring, evaluation, and promotional purposes;
2. The need to build the capacity of communities to encourage best practices at the community level;
3. The need for resource mobilization to achieve sustainable support of community-based conservation;
4. The need for effective governance systems in place to support CBNRM;
5. The need for Institutional frameworks for purposes of knowledge sharing and collaborating with governments to improve legislation and policies;
6. The need for measurable targets for accountability; and
7. The need for countries to document CBNRM statuses annually and report with identified indicators the progress made in community conservation. These reports can then be used to identify gaps and needs which can be addressed.



4.3 Voices of People - Enhancing Community Rights, Resilient Local Economies, and Conservation in Africa

Lead: Resource Africa

Resource Africa's philosophy is based on the communities collecting and owning their data. They are implementing a three-year project, which seeks to assist local communities in

connecting and expanding regional networks across sectors impacting their resources through various approaches. A significant part of this project is developing a Monitoring & Information System across southern Africa to allow community-based organizations to collect data on metrics they want to monitor. This data will assist community organizations to monitor their performance in natural resource management, governance, benefit sharing, revenue generation, and expenditure.

During this presentation, Dr. Shylock Muyengwa covered the project's broad intervention areas and highlighted ongoing work under the Regional Monitoring and Information.



The session helped to:

1. Increase opportunities for collaboration;
2. Build support for the Monitoring & Information system;
3. Increase Brand visibility for Resource Africa; and
4. Drive awareness of the need for community ownership of data and the need for Monitoring & Information Systems to allow community-based organizations to collect data on their terms.

4.4 Pan African solidarity and strategies: Centering human rights in conservation and safeguarding biodiversity

Event Lead: Natural Justice

This event was moderated by Nyaguthii Chege, the Natural Justice Hub Director, East Africa, and focused on showing comparative case studies where communities in Africa shared investment experiences that have led to a loss of biodiversity. It offered an opportunity to share lessons and implement a human rights-based approach to conservation, safeguarding biodiversity, and attaining climate justice.

The panel discussion also offered recommendations for a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that would restore ecosystems, support Indigenous People and Local Communities in Africa, and popularize a vision of "living in harmony with nature". It came out strongly that there was also a need to support local people to know the law of conservation and to respect it. Communities represented at the event showed their commitment to working with the government to maintain Protected Areas.

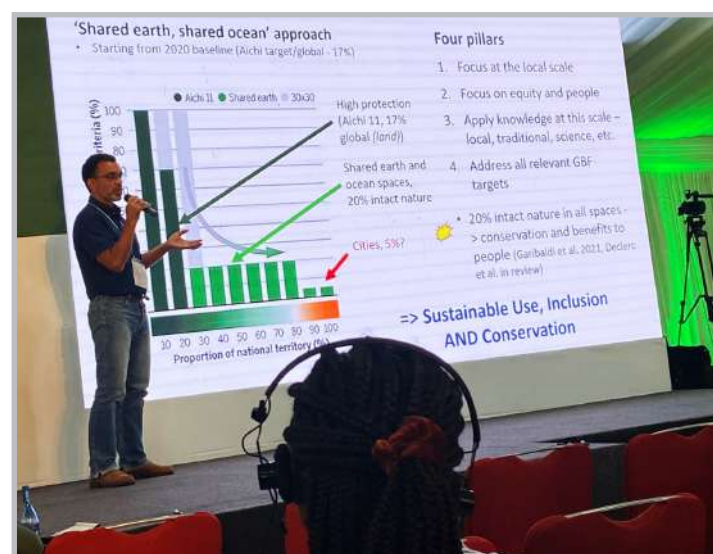
ACBA Main APAC Programme Activities

ACBA events featured in the main Congress Programme and included:

1 Shared earth shared ocean

Lead: David Obura, CORDIO East Africa

David Obura, a member of ACBA, organized an event at APAC which focused on area-based conservation, especially around the issues of 30 by 30. The proposal called on countries to double the current amount of land conservation and quadruple marine conservation. It also calls on countries to prioritize species facing extinction and protect natural ecosystem services such as freshwater availability. Another major component of the proposal involves elevating Indigenous forms of conservation. Indigenous communities account for 5% of the global population, yet protect around 80% of biodiversity. Empowering Indigenous leaders with funding and legal protections will go a long way toward making the 30x30 goal possible.



Some of the recommendations for this event included:

1. The realization that climate change and biodiversity loss are heavily driven by production & consumption demands;
2. The need to increase biodiversity in hotspots;
3. The need to invest in locally-based solutions; and
4. The need to engage with businesses and the private sector e.g. SBTi targets.

2 Redirecting financial flow and public investments in natural capital.

Lead: Pauline Nantongo-Kalunda, ECOTRUST

During the Africa Parks Congress (APAC) ECOTRUST & the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), under the auspices of ACBA convened a Round Table discussion on the topic of redirecting financial flows and public investments into natural capital. This is part of civil society-led dialogue to define the future that Africa wants in terms of the interaction between the economy and the continent's natural assets and rich ecosystems, the full potential of which are yet to be tapped.

There has been growing interest in ensuring sustainable supply to minimize commercial pressure on land, which has accelerated due to the growing global demand for food, feed, and fibre. Voluntary standard systems have been developed for commodities and industries to promote sustainable production, and major corporate groups have started to adopt 'zero-deforestation commitments'.

Several governments in consumer countries have introduced regulations to limit imports of timber and biofuels that do not comply with legal and sustainability standards, while financial service providers are integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria in their investment portfolios.

These public and private policy responses reflect growing opportunities for moving toward sustainable supply, but also risk excluding smallholders who are not able to access finance to upgrade their production systems and their position in value chains. As a result, smallholders may be relegated to degraded or marginal lands. Innovative approaches are required to improve business and finance models with the potential for greater social inclusion, with particular emphasis on de-risking sustainable finance both from an investor's and smallholder's perspective.

The dialogue, therefore, explored ways of redirecting financial flows and public investments in natural capital. Three different models were discussed as follows:



Conservation Trust Funds:

As a tool for the Management and deployment of capital for African Protected and Conserved Areas. This was presented by David Meyers Executive Director of the Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA). An environmental finance expert and entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in sustainability, business strategy, and management, environmental economics, and international conservation. Trust Funds are primarily grant-making institutions funding protected and conserved area management, research, capacity building, and conservation programs.

They normally work in partnership with governments, civil society organizations, and local/indigenous communities. These have been often established in areas of high biodiversity, mostly in developing economies where national budgets do not adequately finance nature. The main advantages of Trust Funds: they Lower Transaction Costs for Donor – allow for smaller grant sizes, build on Local knowledge and tracking, and are generally compatible with national and local priorities

Blended Finance:

This model was presented by Freddie Kalibwani Business Development Specialist at ECOTRUST. A transformational development professional with over 25 years of experience in the practice of value-based

development that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable. ECOTRUST deploys public funds to de-risk smallholder – led investments in natural capital to attract private sector financing. ECOTRUST's blended financing model combines locally adapted financial instruments with building technical capacities and financial literacy, fostering local saving and credit schemes, and better access to off-takers of their products and services. Such integrated approaches allow for significantly reduced risk and, thus, overcome one of the major barriers for SMEs and smallholders to access sustainable finance.

Policy coherence innovation

under GEF STAR (System for Transparent Allocation of Resources), which is a system for allocating resources to countries transparently and consistently based on global environmental priorities and country capacity, policies, and practices relevant to the successful implementation of GEF projects. This innovation is expected to help governments unpack their bottlenecks to be able to deliver money where it matters. This innovation was presented by Dr. Mohamed Bakarr Lead Environmental Specialist in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat located at the World Bank in Washington DC. He is responsible for overseeing all major GEF programs designed to advance holistic and integrated solutions to global environmental challenges.

A Global trust fund that has just received a 5.3Bn pledge for the next 4 years for development or recipient countries. The presentation made by Dr. Bakarr mentioned that GEF operates as a sinking fund, where the money comes in and is passed on to governments. The Primary clients are governments – they pass on funds using their systems. The innovation with the new replenishment is– policy coherence – a mechanism to engage with national governments to change the way they engage with the GEF following the STAR system. This is expected to create predictable financing, coupled with alignment of policies at the national level to reduce the harmful impact on nature and natural resources. E.g. changing harmful subsidies. Out of the new replenishment, 140m has been earmarked for blended finance for unlocking private capital into the focal areas. GEF is working with governments Innovation – Governments rethinking targets.

Key Recommendations:

1. The playing field is never level for nature. Money is not the problem– but the system through which money is delivered is the problem. There is a need to use lessons from various innovations to influence the global financial architecture to allow finance to flow to where it is most needed on the right scale.
 - Risk to biodiversity has been identified as one of the top 5 risks to business and this understanding is critical in influencing the flow of financing/investments
 - Economic Development need not be detrimental to the ecological integrity and tourism potential of the protected areas.
 - Innovative approaches de-risk sustainable finance both from an investor's and smallholder's perspective.
2. Investment partnerships are required to Mobilize financing from all sources –
 - The private sector is looking for investible ideas, in form of trusteeships, co-investment arrangements, etc.
 - Intermediaries should Invest in Incubation to support the community-led nature of positive initiatives to reach an investible scale.
 - CSOs need to demonstrate realistic solutions that deal with drivers, can achieve scale & demonstrate clear value addition, to convince public donors to invest in community-led initiatives
3. Innovation is needed in many aspects of financial architecture.
 - Market-based incentives can transform landscapes & livelihoods
 - Technology & tools to demonstrate impact and potential risk
 - Innovative business and finance models that enable greater social inclusion, and multi-sector collaboration.
4. We need all hands on deck, Keep up the pace with the polluting, powerful, big moneys.

3. Addressing the impacts of linear infrastructure on migration and transboundary conservation

Lead: Lucy Waruingi, African Conservation Center (ACC)

This event aimed at unpacking the balance between conservation needs and development priorities from a national-level engagement standpoint. This means designing linear infrastructure for sustainable outcomes. The event also helped participants understand the data gap that is present with regard to linear infrastructure to help address the climate, biodiversity, and pollution crises; and that we need to invest in research that helps us identify actual gaps.

ACC also highlighted the need to build communities of practice to strengthen capacity through workshops and training. They also referenced tourism as rated one of the biggest income earners, and therefore there is a need to prioritize and define important wildlife corridors and dispersal areas, with a track record of successfully defining over 90 wildlife corridors and dispersal areas. They reiterated the need for incentives for landowners to keep land open and connected

Lastly, the event touched on the need to support policy engagement through mobilizing inter-agency and government dialogues on environment & infrastructure.



WAY FORWARD

1. This being one of the main events that ACBA has participated in, there were several lessons learned and experiences acquired that will shape our way forward into future engagements.
 - Address the language barrier during side events to ensure greater engagement with the Francophone partners, members, and potential members.
 - The Secretariat to follow up with organizations that expressed an interest to join ACBA.
 - Urgently acquire legal registration of ACBA to enable ACBA to get accreditation at key events.
2. Develop a roadmap to guide post-APAC engagement that is aligned with ACBA's strategic plan. The roadmap should explore ways of supporting key outcomes of the Youth and IPLC pre-congresses such as:
 - Direct access to funding
 - Capacity building
 - Acquiring legal recognition of the work of IPLCs outside state-protected areas
 - Defining a new conservation model that works for Africa
 - Greater involvement of Youth and IPLCs in the further development of A-PACT including its governance
3. ACBA members to identify those APAC outcomes from side events and the Kigali call to action that align these with their mandates and integrate these into their Programmes. In this way, each member commits to take forward elements of APAC and implementation of the Kigali call to action.
4. Pursue the development of a partnership with ESRI for those members that expressed an interest in enhancing their Programmatic work through this tool.
5. Following up on the positive outcomes of the meeting with USAID and seeking to identify appropriate entry points for this partnership.

APPENDICES:

<https://africancba.org/>

https://apacongress.africa/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/APAC-Kigali-Call-to-Action-Final_.pdf

<https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2021-04/still-one-earth-natural-resources.pdf>

The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity

World Bank: Protecting Africa's Biodiversity

Nature America

Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa

