

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



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WHEN CLIMATE ACTION MEETS PEACE BUILDING: LESSONS FROM SOMALIA

ACBA PARTICIPATION AT SBSTTA-27 PRE-MEETINGS IN PANAMA

In preparation for the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27), the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) actively participated in two significant pre-meetings held in Panama. These meetings provided valuable platforms to engage with global partners on critical discussions around biodiversity governance, equity and transformative change.



The first pre-meeting, organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance (CBDA), centered on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. Participants highlighted several key drivers contributing to the continued degradation of ecosystems. These include:

- A global and economic system driven by extractivism, where governments often fail to act in the best interest of their people.
- Corporate capture of the state, leading to human rights violations, lack of respect for collective rights, and unsustainable exploitation of nature,
- Weak collaboration among states within the multilateral system.
- Loss of food sovereignty.

- Governance systems entrenched in capitalism, resulting in exclusion, inequality, and poor accountability.
- Elite capture and sectoral egoism that perpetuate siloed approaches.
- Power asymmetries that concentrate decision-making among a few actors, sidelining communities who are stewards of nature.
- The undervaluing of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) systems, coupled with the criminalization and displacement of local people from their lands.

The discussions highlighted the need for a radical shift toward socio-ecological justice. As a result, participants agreed on the launch of a Socio-Ecological Justice Campaign under CBDA, which will focus on promoting collective rights, standing against injustices and championing equity both within and among nations. The campaign will also advocate for holistic and integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, recognizing that humans and nature are interconnected and promote gender-sensitive and rights-based solutions. The second pre-meeting, convened by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), focused on the Nexus Assessment and the Transformative Change Assessment. The workshop highlighted how challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, water scarcity, health crises, food insecurity and economic instability are deeply interlinked, yet global responses often remain fragmented.

Participants emphasized that transformative change for a sustainable and inclusive world, is necessary, urgent and achievable. However, this change must be deliberate and grounded in addressing root causes such as domination over nature and people, persistent economic and political inequities and ineffective or outdated institutions and policies. Transformative change, as discussed, should prioritize equity, justice, pluralism and inclusivity, ensuring that the process itself is as important as the outcomes it seeks to achieve.

Through its participation, ACBA reaffirmed its commitment to promoting justice, and inclusive approaches to biodiversity governance. These engagements in Panama strengthened ACBA's collaboration with global and regional partners while amplifying Africa's voice in shaping the biodiversity agenda ahead of SBSTTA-27 and future CBD processes.

ACBA PARTICIPATION AT SBSTTA-27 MEETING IN PANAMA

The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) participated in the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27), held from 20 to 24 October 2025 in Panama City, ahead of the SB8J-1 meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Hosted by the Government of Panama, SBSTTA-27 brought together experts, government representatives, and stakeholders to develop science-based recommendations that will guide the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and shape key decisions for the upcoming CBD COP17. ACBA participated as part of the CBD Alliance (CBDA), a global network of NGOs.

Delegates discussed and advanced recommendations on several critical issues, including:

- Biodiversity–climate change linkages
- Invasive alien species
- Biodiversity and health
- Risk assessment of living modified organisms (LMOs)
- Integration of IPBES assessments into CBD processes

A key outcome of the session was outlining the process for the first global review of collective progress towards implementing the KMGBF, an important step in assessing how countries are advancing global biodiversity goals.

Parties reviewed the findings of the IPBES Nexus Assessment and the Transformative Change Assessment, which examine the interconnections between biodiversity, climate, water, health, and food systems. However, consensus could not be reached on:

- Whether to “welcome” or “take note of” the assessments; and

- Whether to “encourage” or “invite” Parties to adopt synergistic and holistic approaches to biodiversity governance.

As a result, the relevant text remains bracketed for further consideration at COP17

The biodiversity–climate nexus was also a key theme throughout the discussions. Parties underscored the importance of integrated and coherent action across biodiversity and climate agendas, recognizing that nature-based solutions (NbS) are central to both climate mitigation and adaptation. Recent scientific findings presented by IPBES and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reaffirmed the crucial role of intact ecosystems in carbon sequestration, the risks of maladaptation when climate policies disregard biodiversity and the importance of ecosystem restoration for enhancing resilience.

Delegates proposed the development of shared indicators and reporting mechanisms to track biodiversity–climate synergies, particularly under KMGBF Target 8 (minimizing climate impacts on biodiversity) and Target 11 (restoring ecosystem functions and services).

Through its participation, ACBA ensured that the perspectives of African civil society were represented, reinforcing the importance of justice, equity, and inclusivity in biodiversity and climate governance. The meeting also provided valuable opportunities for collaboration and strategic engagement ahead of COP17

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT- CONSERVATION THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH (CTPH)

Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) is a pioneering Ugandan organization that integrates wildlife conservation, public health, and community well-being. Established in 2003 after disease outbreaks among critically endangered mountain gorillas were linked to nearby human communities, CTPH launched one of the world's first One Health field programs. By 2007, the organization had adopted a Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) approach, adding community-based family planning to its zoonotic disease prevention and control initiatives.



Between June and September 2025, with support from Tusk Trust, National Geographic Society, Wildlife Conservation Network, and individual donors, CTPH conducted an extensive gorilla health monitoring program. A total of 604 fecal samples were collected from all 28 habituated gorilla groups in Bwindi and Mgahinga Conservation Area using non-invasive methods. The samples were analyzed at the Gorilla Health and Community Conservation Centre (GHCCC) laboratory to detect zoonotic parasites and infections, creating an early warning system for disease outbreaks that could threaten the mountain gorillas. This work is carried out in close collaboration with UWA park rangers and Gorilla Guardians (HUGOs), who are trained in clinical observation and safe sample collection.

CTPH has continued to strengthen the capacity of HUGOs, offering training on human-wildlife conflict mitigation, record keeping, and improved reporting. This builds on previous efforts to enhance community understanding of emerging and reemerging diseases and their prevention.

In addition, 74 Community Conservation Animal Health Workers (CCAHWs) were trained to enhance disease surveillance at the human-livestock-wildlife interface. The training focused on identifying common livestock diseases, improving data quality, and fostering timely reporting to support swift interventions. Each CCAHW received a disease surveillance logbook and the tools needed to monitor and report local disease trends, an essential step toward reducing zoonotic threats and protecting both wildlife and community health. To learn more about CTPH here <https://ctph.org/>

WHEN CLIMATE ACTION MEETS PEACE BUILDING: LESSONS FROM SOMALIA

This month, ACBA is pleased to highlight the work of Somali Greenpeace Association (SOGPA) who have developed a powerful case study titled “Strengthening Climate Peace and Adaptation: Youth and Civil Society as Catalysts for Somali Resilience.”



The case study demonstrates how local leadership can effectively integrate climate adaptation with peacebuilding, offering valuable lessons for Africa's and the world's broader climate-security agenda. It is deeply community-driven and grounded in locally led climate action.

SOGPA led the implementation in partnership with ACBA and Natural Justice (NJ), combining grassroots action, technical expertise, and legal guidance to advance environmental justice and strengthen climate governance.

The initiative spans key regions including Mogadishu, Jowhar, and the Shabelle River corridor, and includes national policy consultations and youth dialogues linked to the NDC 3.0 review process.

Read the full case study here: [Access Case Study](#)

DISSEMINATION OF THE CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE CAMPAIGN FRAMEWORK

On October 7th, ACBA participated in the Climate and Economic Justice Campaign organized by PACJA and partner organizations. During the event, ACBA's Executive Director, Dr. Yemi Katerere, delivered a presentation on the implementation framework of the campaign, which is structured around three interconnected thematic frames: Global Equity and Justice, Climate and Environment and Economic Justice. He acknowledged the great work done by the technical team in providing a foundation for the campaign and emphasized that the structure will continue to evolve as it gains relevance and effectiveness.

Dr. Katerere noted that Africa must move away from being a "junior partner" in global decision-making and instead assert its economic, political, cultural and demographic power. Under the Global Equity and Justice Frame, he highlighted the need to challenge systemic power imbalances within global financial and governance systems. This includes advocating for the decolonization of the global capitalist model that has historically positioned Africa as a supplier of cheap raw materials and labour and calling for the democratization of international institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and UN Security Council to ensure fair representation and decision-making for Africa.

The campaign also seeks to push for a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation to address illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and harmful incentives that deprive Africa of vital resources. Dr. Katerere further highlighted the importance of narrative building and popular education through simplified explainers, digital campaigns like #TaxJusticeNow and policy briefs. Civil society advocacy at AU summits, UN processes and COP meetings, alongside coalition-building with regions such as Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, was also highlighted as key to amplifying African perspectives.



PLANT A TREE TODAY

OUR GOAL:

Restoration of degraded Nyangaya river
forest in Karamoja within Government region

PROJECT TITLE:

Integrate smart actions

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

community tree nursery
indigenous, medicinal
species

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: 011 234 5678
WWW.NRECON.KE

JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY

The African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) is more than a network, it's a movement driving transformative change in how Africa designs and implements conservation.

Membership is open to African civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), youth movements, academics and individual experts committed to promoting the sustainable management and use of biodiversity. By joining ACBA, you become part of a vibrant community of practice exchanging tools, insights and strategies while amplifying Africa's united voice on biodiversity, climate change, and equity. Together, we influence policy and accelerate the localization agenda.

Be part of this inspiring alliance. Join us today: [ACBA Membership Form](#)

KEY UPDATES

• **Commitments Towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**

The CBD Secretariat invites commitments from actors beyond national governments, including civil society, private sector, academia, and local communities, to contribute towards achieving the KMGBF goals.

National Reporting Deadline: 28 February 2026

• **Call for Submissions: Cooperation with Conventions and International Organizations**

Parties and partners are invited to submit information highlighting cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

Submission Deadline: 20 November 2025 (via the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sub-regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Central Asia)

Date: 6–8 December 2025 | **Venue:** Samarkand, Uzbekistan

This workshop will focus on building capacity to implement Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Nominations should be submitted to secretariat@cbd.int as soon as possible and no later than **1 November 2025**.



Africa Biodiversity Summit

Date: 2–5 November 2025 | **Venue:** GABORONE, BOTSWANA



Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)

Date: 8–12 December 2025 | **Venue:** UNEP HQs, Nairobi, Kenya

Theme: “Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet”

UNEA-7 will bring together global leaders and stakeholders to drive action and strengthen multilateral cooperation for environmental sustainability.



UNFCCC COP 30

Date: 10 to 21 November 2025 | **Venue:** Belém, Brazil



OPPORTUNITIES

ACBA is seeking to hire a consultant to support the revamp of its website. The ideal candidate should have a strong background and experience in the environmental sector. Please find the Terms of Reference attached, which include detailed information on the scope of work and the application process.

