

ABCG - AFRICA PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS (APAC) PARTICIPATION REPORT



KIGALI CONVENTION CENTRE, RWANDA
JULY 18-23, 2022

AFRICA PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS

The IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) was the first-ever continent-wide gathering of African leaders, citizens, and interest groups to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving nature, safeguarding Africa's iconic wildlife, delivering vital life-supporting ecosystem services, promoting sustainable development while conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions.

The overarching objective of the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress was to position Africa's protected and conserved areas within the broader goals of economic development and community well-being and to increase the understanding of the vital role protected areas play in conserving biodiversity and delivering the ecosystem services that underpin human welfare and livelihoods.

APAC was also, to stress the implementation of the actions agreed to halt biodiversity loss and land degradation, address climate change, and support the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using protected and conserved areas as one implementation mechanism.

The congress focused on 3 key themes;

- Protected and conserved areas
- People
- Biodiversity

ABCG EVENTS AT APAC

During the inaugural IUCN Africa Protected and Conserved Areas Congress (APAC), the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) organized and took part in the following events:

1. African Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium Wednesday, July 20, 2022
2. Land-Use Planning Training Methodology Conservation Clinic, Thursday, July 21, 2022
3. Launch of the WWF Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025, Thursday, July 21, 2022
4. Panel Discussion: Climate Change and People: Securing a climate-resilient future for nature and people in and around PCAs, Thursday, July 21, 2022
5. Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity Conservation Clinic, Friday, July 22, 2022

This report highlights ABCG engagement in the Land-Use Planning Training Methodology and Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity clinics as the key learning and sharing events organized by ABCG thematic working groups, and a brief overview of ABCG's participation in the other events.

ABCG CONSERVATION CLINICS AT APAC

Land-Use Planning Training Methodology Conservation Clinic

Overview

Land-use planning is critical for identifying sustainable, climate-smart, win-win development strategies that minimize encroachment on high conservation or ecological value land while meeting multiple land-use objectives. However, knowledge and capacity for land-use planning is insufficient to meet needs across Africa. To meet this challenge, ABCG developed a Land-Use Planning Training Methodology, combining expert presentations with interactive group exercises to provide a comprehensive introduction to the theory and practical starting points of biodiversity-sensitive land-use planning.

Session Highlights

The Land-Use Planning Training Methodology Conservation clinics was attended by about 40 participants. The session was facilitated by: Kendall Jones - Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), David Williams - Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and Gerald Mwakipesile (beneficiary of the course) - Ministry of Environment of Tanzania.



Participants at the Land use planning clinic at APAC. Photo credit, ABCG

Welcome and opening remarks were made

by the ABCG Director, Rubina James who gave a brief history and overview of ABCG and Kirstin Siex, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, USAID. Kirstin, gave a brief introduction about USAID work in Africa and highlighted how USAID has been working with ABCG.

Session facilitator, Kendall Jones introduced the course, took the participants through the course, the need for land-use planning across Africa, and what ABCG has been able to achieve through the course. This was followed by a presentation by Gerald Mwakipesile - beneficiary of the course from the Ministry of Environment of Tanzania, who presented on the case study in Tanzania and took the participants through the practical part of the course. The participants broke into small groups for an interactive practical discussion on landscape mapping using the methodology with the guidance of the facilitators. After the discussion, each participant rated and circled areas and departments of interest based on importance in a landscape. A question and answer session followed.

Session discussion

1. Participant from Tanzania commended the discussion, but his concern was on conflict resolution between governments and conservationists. With the case study on Ngorongoro, the government wants to move indigenous people out of the park but there's public outcry.
2. Participant from Kenya Wildlife Service called for collaboration between small-scale conservation groups on the fields alongside communities to resolve conflicts and emerging challenges in the rest of Africa's protected areas.
3. Participants from Cameroon commended the land-use methodology especially on the element of conflict management where different local communities occupy same protected landscape as wildlife.
4. Participant from Zimbabwe acknowledge that they don't have a framework for land use planning and admitted that the clinic will help them better plan land-use.
5. Participant from Kenya spoke on the lack of knowledge and that people don't know what is meant to be in their land.

Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity Conservation Clinic

Overview

The direct impacts of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity are well known, but the indirect impacts resulting from human coping responses are less well known. ABCG and partners conducted over 650 surveys in 19 communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa and found more than a third of the climate change coping strategies could potentially have a negative impact on biodiversity. ABCG used the data and information gathered to identify and implement adaptation interventions that help farming, livestock, and fishing communities adapt to climate change, improve their overall wellbeing and protect biodiversity.



Participants at the GCI clinic at APAC. Photo credit, ABCG

Session Highlights

The clinic was attended by about 60 participants. The session was facilitated by: Nikhil Advani - World Wildlife Fund (WWF), David Williams-Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Mike January (WWF Zimbabwe), Sigrid Nyambe (WWF Namibia), and Alphonse Mallya - The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Similar to the land use planning clinic, opening remarks were made by the ABCG Director, Rubina James who gave a brief history and overview of ABCG and Kirstin Siex, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, USAID. Kirstin, gave a brief introduction about USAID work in Africa and highlighted how USAID has been working with ABCG.

Session facilitators Nikhil Advani and David Williams gave a presentation about the global change impact on biodiversity in Africa, how they conducted the survey in different countries in Africa, how they use the data and information gathered to identify and implement adaptation interventions that help farming, livestock and fishing communities adapt to climate change, improve their overall wellbeing and protect biodiversity. Also, the importance of collaboration in their work in supporting communities in Africa. Nikhil made remarks on the value and objective of the key informant survey which was developed over a 2-year period to identify how communities are being impacted by climate change, how those communities are responding and how their responses are potentially detrimental to biodiversity. He emphasized the importance of working with the community to design, implement and fund on the ground projects to help both the community and wildlife adapt to climate change.

Nikhil then introduced two panelists, Mike January (WWF Zimbabwe), Sigrid Nyambe (WWF Namibia) who supported to carrying out the survey in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Mike and Sigrid took participants through how they administered the survey in different communities in their countries using the survey guidance and questionnaires, which they gave to the participants for reference. Alphonse Mallya (TNC) gave a presentation on the ABCG-funded project that took place in Northern Tanzania on a project on [Empowering Communities to Clear the Way for Healthier Grass in Tanzania](#).

The participants then engaged in small groups discussions, filled out a questionnaire that was administered in different countries in Africa to investigate the biggest changes in weather and climate that communities had experienced over the last few years, actions they took to cope, and the impacts on local biodiversity - with the support of the facilitators.

Session discussion

- Marque from Kenya noted that there is an influx of invasive species invading their pastures and efforts of rehabilitation of the land is futile. As a result, poverty is very prominent. Marque calls upon USAID to identify the reason for climate change.
- Abdu Rakman from Sudan pointed out that there is decreased rainfall creating a situation where there is decreased farming due to lack of water. He also noted that terminology on the survey may need to be simplified for better understanding.
- Grace Impaji from Uganda commended the questionnaire as practical, user-friendly, and customized for different age groups, it doesn't exaggerate research findings.

Rubina closed the session by emphasizing the importance of the collaboration of conservation organizations, that focus on alignment, coordination, and harmonization which provides the strength to find solutions to the problems.

African Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium

The African Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium was a virtual symposium held alongside the margins of APAC. This session was the first-ever African Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium that was held as part of the 6th North American Congress for Conservation Biology in Kigali, Rwanda. The symposium was held virtually and identified ways to increase the African Diaspora engagement in biodiversity conservation on the African continent. The event also marked the 2015-2024 United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.

The session was moderated by Israel Borokini, President, Society for Conservation Biology, Africa Section and Rubina James, ABCG Director.

Climate Change and Its Effects on Communities Living in and Around Protected Areas – Panel Discussion

The session was moderated by Nikhil Advani, *Director Climate, Communities and Wildlife at World Wildlife Fund (WWF)*, with 5 panelists sharing ideas and experiences about challenges faced by communities living in and around protected and conserved areas. These challenges included climate change and its impacts of conservation, as well as how to overcome conservation conflict between man and wildlife.

Session Recommendations

1. Systematize and formalize indigenous climate knowledge by improving dialogue between indigenous climate knowledge experts and climate scientists.
2. Integrate indigenous knowledge and understanding into climate policies.
3. There's need to convince communities around protected areas that adaptation to climate change is important. Protected areas are vulnerable, and communities around protected areas are equally vulnerable
4. Promote the use of a range of drought-resilient crops which can provide food to communities in a short term. Teach communities on the right crops to adapt.
5. Sensitize stakeholders to bankable and sustainable solutions to energy which can reduce use of biomass which puts pressure on forests and protected areas.
6. Promote green jobs.
7. Listen to indigenous people and have dialogue with them.
8. Climate adaptation and mitigation must go hand and hand.

Launch of the WWF Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025

The ABCG Director, took part in a panel discussion at the WWF [Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025](#) . The Strategic plan is a call to move beyond business as usual and make nature everyone's business. Rubina discussed the importance of collaboration and need for Intergenerational dialogue and involvement.

Communication and Outreach Activities

ABCG Visibility and Branding

ABCG created materials that were shared with different stakeholders and participants at the congress and attendees of the ABCG clinics. These included, t-shirts, mousepads, notebooks, folders, ABCG success stories, and ABCG brochures.

ABCG organized the following communications and media engagement activities:

Activity	Description	Link
Pre-APAC Op-ed	Opinion piece for creating awareness on best conservation practices developed by ABCG published in: Rwanda's largest circulating newspaper, and Standard Newspaper: Kenya's second largest newspaper in terms of circulation.	https://www.newtimes.co.rw/opinions/its-high-time-africa-walks-talk
Media Engagement	Radio Interview: radio talk with Royal Fm. Rio Heriniaina, a youth from ABCG Member organization World Wide Fund for Nature WWF from Madagascar, spoke about the role of youths in addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation in Africa TV appearances with Voice of Africa (VOA) featuring ABCG partners	https://youtu.be/m-4vZVv5c-8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YO1__arfoKo
Social Media Engagement	A comprehensive APAC pre, during and post, social media engagement	#APAC2022 @ABCGconserve

	plan that included text, videos and images.	
Photography	Conference event photos	https://www.flickr.com/photos/abcgconserve/
Videography	Capturing live updates from the conference and video summary of ABCG events	10-minutes summary video of ABCG at APAC: https://youtu.be/lxDA_J0jxuc 4-minute video on LUM event: https://youtu.be/pZVsNGU1aI8 4-minute video on Climate Change event: https://youtu.be/R_JG3spZXIY

ANNEXES

Annex 1:

LUM clinic presentation

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/0vqplz2qno4rhq1bt79w5/h?dl=0&rlkey=kazjgv61nwuuy0hy8y8kzk4n9>

Annex 2:

GCI guideline and Questionnaire

- <https://wwfclimatecrowd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Climate-Crowd-Interview-guidelines.pdf>
- <https://wwfclimatecrowd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Climate-Crowd-Interview-Form.xlsx>

Annex 3: Participants Lists

LUM Participants List

Names	Organization	Email
Bana Mediatrice Rwamukwaya	WCS	mbana@wcs.org
Kenneth Tah	COMAID, Camerron	info@comaidcameroon.org
Phillip Kuvawogo	IFAW	pkuvawoga@ifaw.org
Kapesa Midwell	Zim Parks	mkapesa@zimparks.org.zw
Guy Western	SORALO	gwestern@soralo.org
Amisi Luenga Moise	AWF	aluenga@awf.org
Robert K. Mwingihali	WCS	rmwinyihali@wcs.org
Teresiah Mukera	AWF	tmukera@awf.org
Walter Mupezuweni	AWF	wmupezuweni@awf.org
Inaoyom Imong	WCS	iimong@wcs.org
Didi Wamukoya	AWF	dwamukoya@awf.org
Kapera Richard	UWYA - Uganda	rufurich1968@gmail.com
Noella Mumba	AWF	nmumba@awf.org
Patrick Nsabimana	AWF	pnsabimana@awf.org
Susan Canney	Wild Foundation	susan.conney@zoo.ox.ac.uk
Derrick Mugisha	Biodiversity Hub International	derrick@biodiversityhub.org
Bitchick Bi	IUCN Cameroon Programme	augustin.bitchickbibitchick@iucn.org
Kapere Richard	Uganda Wildlife Authority	rufurich1968@gmail.com
Emmanuel Mtiti	JGI	emtiti@janegoodall.org.tz
Irene Natukunda Kananura	Global Youth Biodiversity Network	irene@biodiversityhub.org
Harrison Nnoko	AJESH - Cameroon	info@ajesh.org
Athan Tashobya	Journalist	atashobya@gmail.com
Courage Mutema	Conservation Planner	cmutema@zimparks.org.zw
Randall Mabwa	Blue Ventures	randall@blueventures.org
George Oloo	AWF	goloo@awf.org
Magaiwa Elijah Bosco	ABCG	elijahbosco535@gmail.com
Joan Momanyi	CORDIO EAST AFRICA	jmomanyi@cordioea.net
Amisi Luenga Moise	AWF	aluenga@awf.org

GCI Participants List

Names	Organization	Email
Leslie Bayanta	Africa Leadership University	fatumalest26@gmail.com
Magaiwa Elijah Bosco	ABCG	emagaiwa@abcg.org
Philbert Nsengi yumua	GIT	philbert.nsengiyumua@gitde
Hounga Fredrick	BEES-ONG	huomge_fredrick@yahoo.com
Kevin Doyle	USAID CARPE FABS activity	kevin.doyle@fabsactivity.org
Greg- Bokz	RedRocks	info@redsintiation.org
Mutaxu Grace	IUCN	mutoivugrace@gmail.com
Romain Beville	NOE	rbeville@noe.org
Jame Mwanca	KASANIA TRUST	gm@kasanica.com
Ailia Fatai	AMAF BENINI	amafbenin@yahoo.be
Mohamed Dida	ISID	didhomohamed@gmail.com
Tenkodogo S. Eveniste	NATUDEU	tenkodogoevenistego@gmail.com
Chemutai Davis	BMCA- UGANDA	chemutai.5.davis@gmail.com
Elijah Gachohi	AWF	e.gachohi@okavango-capital.com
Okori Joseph	Biodiversity	joseph_okori@yahoo.com
Mpagi Grace	Most at Risk Population Network	mpagigrace06@yahoo.com
Natukunda Irene	Global Youth Biodiversity Network	natukundairene01@gmail.com
Derrick Mugisha	Biodiversity Hub International	Derrick@biodiversityhub.org
Jen Hacking	WWF DRC	jhacking@wwfgrc.org
Rachael Axelrod	WWF US	rachael.axlrod@wwfus.org
Tendai chinho	WWF Zimbabwe	tchonho@wwf.org.zw
Roman Eyholzer	Ponni Foundation	roman.eyledzer@ponni.foundation
Noah Sitati	WWF Tanzania	nsitati@wwftz.org
Noella Mumba	AWF	nmumba@awf.org
Wellington Matsika	AWF	wmatsika@org
Munana Daniel	KF/EWF	danielm@ewf.org.za
Zereb Musumire	International Crane Foundation	zerebm@savingcranes.org
David Titus Bada	International Crane Foundation	davidb@savingcranes.org
Terry Mukera	AWF	tmukera@gmail.com
Walter Mupezuweni	AWF	wmupezuweni@awf.org
Rebecca Goodman	AWF	rgoodman@awf.org
Alexis Wilkman	AWF	awalkman@awf.org
Ivy Maledi	CIFOR	i.amugune@cifor.org
Gerald Mwakipesile	MLF- Fisheries- Tz	mwakipesilegp@gmail.com
Patrick Dalmas	AWF	pdalmas@awf.org
Ogeli Ole Makui	SORALO- Kenya	ogelimakui@gmail.com
Daniel Wesangula	Distory Communication	Dwesangula@distory.co.ke
Athan Tashobya	Journalist	atashobya@gmail.com
Ben Freeman	USFS- IP	benedictus.freemanefs_ip.us
A. Elmandi	Sudia- sudan	a.elmahdi@sudia.org
Michel Neoy Kibwila	COMIFAC	michngoy@gmail.com
Maestracci Alice	Expolrtline France	alicemaestracci@exertise.france.fr
Dupetit quantitin	Expolrtline France	quentin.dupetit@exertise.france.fr

Zipporah Nyokabi Mureithi	SUSO	nyokabimureithi@gmail.com
Dokgne Hamkoling Franik Gires	University of Druata	dokgnef@gmail.com
Olajuyugbe Bamidele Joseph	ISW/ Niger delta Forest Project	olajuyigbebamidele@gmail.com
Abel Peter	Tanzania National Parks	abelpeter@gmail.com
Valentina Sanga	Prime Minister's office TZ	sangavalentina2@gmail.com
Alais Norinday	Africa People Wildlife	olemorindat@hotmail.com
Thulani Methula	Eswatini National Trust Comm.	methilani@gmail.com
Robert Baluku	Uganda	robbaluku@gmail.com
Tayebwa William	Ministry of EAC Affairs Uganda	williamtayebwa@gmail.com
Fyson Suwedi	National Parks and Wildlife Malawi	fmsuwedia@yahoo.com
Larissa Sousa	Gorongosa National Park	lsouse@gorongosa.net
Misaki Daniel	Ihandiro Youth Advocates For Nature	misakidans@gmail.com
Jimmiel J Mandime	IFAW	jmandima@ifaw.org
N. Gorosa	Vuka Now	tgorosa@vukanow.com
Malidudi Langa	KAWICCODA	kajikhomen@gmail.com
Julius Itwaregya	ORGILS	info@orgilsghana.org