



CAPACITY BUILDING

Opportunities for Capacity
Building and Capacity
Development for Biodiversity:
Youth Engagement

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Opportunities for Capacity Building and Capacity Development for Biodiversity: Youth Engagement

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List of Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CECs	County Executive Committee Members.
COP	Conference of Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations.
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KOT	Kenyan On Twitter
KWCA	Kenyan Wildlife Conservancies Association
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNEP ACP	United Nation Environmental Programme Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific.
UNFCCC	United Nation Framework on Climate Change Convention.
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
YETI	Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative

1.0 Background and Introduction

The role of youth in securing the future of our Planet is receiving more attention at all levels during the past few years. The concept of 'intergenerational equity' elaborated during the Stockholm Summit in 1972¹ is put to test now more than ever before.

Considering the recent outcomes of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC-COP 26) held in Glasgow, youth are the worst affected community with changing patterns of climate. Biodiversity loss and increasing pollution problems. Their livelihoods and very survival are at stake.

Youth need to play a critical role in decision-making from now on. They are at the center of problem-solving discussions and all interventions need their inputs and insights.

The UNEP ACP MEAs 3 Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI) is a good example of how youth need to be engaged in decision-making through intensive capacity development and capacity development actions in issues of environmental management and governance.

2.0 Capacity Building and Capacity Development

Definition

Capacity Building is building something new with a set design and plan. It can also be defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills and abilities that the society needs to survive whereas Capacity Development is flexible to improve already existing knowledge and resources and dynamically build that with the local actors.

There is a great need to focus on capacity development simply because it gives room to the diversity of every individual and place showing that not every person is a homogeneous group. Therefore, it creates the window for input from the already existing resources and uses it to its benefit. Capacity development includes the input of the local actors and it is, therefore, an area we need to focus on because no one knows better their surroundings than the first-degree local actors.

Capacity Development work at the individual level, organizational level, and the enabling environment, i.e. the policy frameworks, legal issues that will enable the individual or the organization to be able to implement all that pertains to capacity building.

Individual capacity development focuses both on technical skills and functional skills such as creating partnerships networks and management skills which comes in handy in the implementation processes of the projects.

Youth and Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity conservation focuses on the protection and management of resources to maintain equality in an organism to secure them for future generations to spend life healthily. Biodiversity

conservation helps preserve varieties of species in the ecosystem as well as in the preservation of resources for the future generation.

Youth are important in the conservation of biodiversity and have a huge impact on it. The Youth are energetic, they have wide knowledge in the use of modern technology and have a great orientation to problem-solving. It is therefore important to inform Youth on the dependency of biodiversity for survival and their role as environmental stewards. There is a need to provide opportunities for youth to experience and connect with the ecosystem through the creation of awareness. Youth can create awareness and support persons who act as long-term ecological sustainability as well as strengthening the use of *ex situ* conservation and also encouraging the study of ecosystem services that are provided by biodiversity.

The youths also play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation since they stand out as potential voters in affecting future policies and thus there is a need to reach out to their expectations. This can be possible only if youths are equipped with the necessary skills and expertise in biodiversity conservation.

The youths are also tasked to rally for biodiversity by raising their voices to push leaders towards committing to make an equitable and sustainable future real. For this to be achieved the youths should openly share their ideas with the leaders on biodiversity conservation and even bring forth their suggestions for consideration.

To also note is that the youths take lead in advocacy of biodiversity conservation intending to secure a sustainable future. Through advocacy, they can mobilize and share their ideas widely thus creating awareness of biodiversity conservation. This shows the active role played by youths.

Youths have also taken lead in the negotiations on biodiversity conservation, through this youth priorities are gathered and in the long run, maybe put into consideration.

3.0 Prioritizing Youth Capacity Development in the Context of Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

With about 21 draft targets and a number of headline indicators that are currently negotiated by the 196 countries Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) we chose targets 4 and 21.

3.1 Target 4 and Target 21

❖ Reasons for choosing Target 4 and Target 21

Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through *ex situ* conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.

It is of interest because, in the recent past, management actions and conservation of species and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species including through *ex situ* conservation have faced several challenges which can be attributed to the changing lifestyles of both local and international communities.

❖ **Target 4:**

Target 4 focuses on reducing threats to biodiversity which is a key contributor to achieving the objectives of the CBD.

By ensuring active management by the existing management organizations dealing with recovery and conservation of species, the 2030 milestone could potentially be achieved at the local level.

We took advantage of the conservation areas surrounding where we are from Nairobi National park, Giraffe Center, Ngong hills, Marine Park, making the implementation process more practical and effective.

The local Communities, specifically Maa Community which lives in areas where we can have access (ensure they became our target group) have a history of being subject to human-animal conflict and this issue needs to be resolved to protect and restore the local biodiversity.

Most members of the group had previous work experience in matters in which Target 4 wishes to address.

❖ **Target 21:**

Target 21 focuses on ensuring equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories, and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.

We researched and came to the conclusion that indigenous people and local communities are usually left behind in the decision-making processes in the majority of Africa Countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia.

Also, women and youth are marginalized at the community level in the implementation of conservation decision-making, and this group decided on the need to change this narrative.

3.2 Elaborating Actions

Target 4

“Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict”²

Kenya tops among the world in having beautiful landscapes, wildlife, marine life, and natural habitats. The Country according to the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife has the following: 22 National Parks, 28 National Reserves, 5 Natural Sanctuaries, 234 Forest Reserve, 160 Conservancies, 5 Marine reserves, 4 Marine Park, 6 Heritage Site, 66 Important Bird Areas, 6 Ramsar Site and 6 Biosphere *reserves*

With 65 percent of wildlife outside protected areas, having the third-largest population of rhino in the world, the fourth in the population of elephants in Africa, Kenya faces enormous threats for its biodiversity where studies have shown sixty-eight percent loss of wildlife since 1977³

3.3 Gaps in Capacity Building

Gender Role in Community Set Up

In most African cultures women are still seen as not as important when it comes to community affairs, decision making, and the related hampering progress in conservation action. Informal actions in managing biodiversity by the women always contributed to local conservation efforts. The need to focus on providing equity and equality to women in conservation action is, therefore, an urgent need.

Unemployment and High Levels of Poverty

With unending poverty and limited opportunities for employment to youth, illegal use of biodiversity is a major problem in the region. Focusing on immediate needs for livelihoods, the youth are always tempted to harvest resources from the wild and to the maximum extent to get economic gains, This has put the ecosystems under stress and has always resulted in tensions between conservation and livelihoods at the local level. Global economic models predict that the world economic growth will be cut by half, from the initial projection of 3% to not more than 1.5% as a result of the pandemic.⁴

Climate Change

The UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) shows global warming will also have impacts on natural vegetation and fauna. Seasonal patterns will change, leading to longer and hotter summers. Some species will not be able to adapt well to this change of environment and may slowly disappear from the ecosystems. The most serious consequence is likely to be the impacts on agriculture and thus food security, especially due to increased water shortage.

An increase in the average world temperature will lead to serious impacts on the environment. Climate change experts predict that this global warming will cause increased rainfall in many areas, increased desertification in others, and the loss of ice cover in the polar regions. In the worst scenario, the average sea level is predicted to rise by up to 0,98 m by the end of the twenty-first century, posing a serious threat to low-lying delta systems and small island States.

An increase in droughts, family, floods, wildfire, and other natural calamities, will adversely affect the ability of youth to deal with adaptation and mitigation. One of the key constraints is the lack of opportunities for the youth to come up with local solutions to climate change challenges. The solutions include entrepreneurial actions as well. Capacity development to deal with climate mitigation and adaptation to protect nature and use nature-based solutions is an option that needs to be explored.

3

⁴ <https://nutritionconnect.org/resource-center/will-covid-19-cause-another-food-crisis-early-review>

3.4 Opportunities for Capacity Development

Existing Well-Developed Policies and Regulations in Kenya Law

The New Constitution of Kenya (2010) ushered in a new era of the legal framework for protecting species and habitats and it led to the birth of other policies from the Wildlife Conservation Act, National Land Policy, Kenya Forest Policy, Wildlife Strategy 2030, Devolution Act and others. All these laws are in line with international goals such as Sustainable Development Goals and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Kenya's 2010 Constitution created a decentralized system of government, with 47 political and administrative units. The main objective was to devolve power, function, resource management, and representation to the local level. The goal is to increase efficiency, participation, equity, and environmental sustainability by enabling local communities to identify and prioritize their environmental problems; ensure efficient resource allocation; promote greater respect for decisions made with local inputs; allow for easier monitoring of resource use, and give marginalized groups greater influence on local policy.

The following are some key elements from the above legal frameworks that need to be considered during the capacity development plans for youth.

Chapter 5 Land & Environment, Article 69 (1), sustainable, exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources as well as equitable sharing of the accruing benefits

Chapter 11, County Governments, Part 1 (d) to recognize the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development of Kenya's vision 2030 to maintain sustained economic growth of 10% per annum – recognizing and promoting the role of conservation and tourism in economic development

By using the above existing policies and laws as the baseline in the capacity implementation, it should be possible to attract the needed help to develop the capacities of the youth.

The Strength of Youth in Delivering the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework

With the country's 70% population that is in the youth category (below 32 years), the young people who have access to information, technology, networks and will be able to bring about the needed changes in conservation action at the local level.

The attitudes and changes in outlook to find solutions for the youth are certainly different from those who are one generation older. These strengths will be leveraged to build and develop the capacities of youth at the local level.

Youth Higher Literacy Levels

According to the Ministry of Education in Kenya, Kenya has a national adult literacy rate of 61.5 percent and a numeracy rate of 64.5 percent. The literacy rate in Kenya among people below 20 years of age is over 70%. This indicates Kenya's Youth are well educated and have the necessary pre-conditions to

enhance knowledge and develop skills to help their community and the Nation to achieve productivity and success in conservation actions.

Digital Skills

Kenya, known as the “Silicon Savannah,” Kenya's information and communication technology (ICT) sector has grown by an average of 10.8% annually since 2016 according to the World Bank. Most young people are comfortable using the tools of ICT.

Social media activism, a good case study being Kenya on Twitter (KOT) has been able to change company and government directives by solidarity through social media platforms.

With the increase in digital companies and access to smartphones in the country, the Youth are well placed to maximize this method and direct it to environmental conservation activities

Change of Attitude

The young generation is ready to be involved in climate action plans and play a greater role in conservation. Further, the youth have come to understand the importance of better environmental management in our world. With their outlook towards enhanced social responsibility and ability to influence change – among their peers and others – the youth are well placed to bring in the needed behavioral change in the society towards better conservation action.

3.5 Existing Networks in Kenya

❖ The Establishment of Kenyan Wildlife Conservancies Association

The Kenyan Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) is the national representative body and voice for conservancies in Kenya. Their role is to help catalyze the conservancy movement by connecting, informing, convening, and representing conservancies and other key stakeholders in a shared effort to make wildlife conservancies thrive in Kenya.

KWCA has three key goals. The first goal seeks to keep the policy advocacy momentum to generate sustainment into the future as this is essential in creating an enabling policy and legal environment that will support conservancy growth and incentives. the second goal focuses on enhancing conservancy efficacy through two strategies:

1. Strengthening the capacity of Regional Associations to support conservancy growth and development; and
2. Ensuring conservancies have the management and governance tools, guidance, and information they need for success.

❖ The Kenyan Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023.

The Existence of the national body of 121 Conservancy across 27 Counties, with a land mass of 6.5 million hectares, this powerful body is vital in the conservative program in the Country. A lot can be learned from their work and also a lot of partnership opportunities can be formed during Capacity building or activities implementation.

Having a strategic partnership with them, will lead to sustainability of the target's implementation activities and also increase the success rate of Capacity.

❖ **Existence and Role of Wildlife Clubs in the School System**

The Wildlife Club, which is in existence in most high schools, has thousands of students join the club; the Wildlife Club works closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service in Environmental matters and conservation.

This existing structure will be maximized during the implementation of the capacity activities around the target location.

Another great benefit is the students already have a background foundation on Environmental Conservation issues, this will make it easier during the implementation process.

The Schools living around the target location will play a greater role in the success of the targets chosen; also during the activities, the Schools via the Wildlife Clubs will be at the forefront during the implementation process of the activities laid out

This channel of Wildlife Clubs in schools will be useful in integrating the next generation in Species conservative process and also in the Stewardship and Volunteering program.

4.0 Dealing with Target 4

Target 4.: “Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict”.

Conservation of species is a cornerstone of a country's economy hence the need to ensure active management actions for the recovery and conservation of species and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species. However, attempts to ensure that all species are secure both in their natural habitat and *ex-situ* conservation have faced several challenges. For example, the rising population has led to competition for space and land resources leading to human-wildlife conflict like cases of elephants roaming into farms that are near their natural habitat.

For example, Ethiopian Grey Zebra whose number had deteriorated over the last 3 decades. The giraffe population in Kenya has also declined by 40percent over the last 3 decades. Elephants have also fallen victims to poaching leading to its extinction which needs to be recovered. Lions have as well been endangered. On the other hand, more than 8000 tree species are estimated to be endangered worldwide.

4.1 Capacity 1: Cooperation and Partnership with Stakeholders Responsible for Wildlife Management

Cooperation and partnership with stakeholders responsible for wildlife management are key to ensure policies and regulations favor recovery and conservation of species and genetic diversity of wild species are better articulated and implemented.

❖ **Facilitate a partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service Implementation of Conservation and Awareness Program to the Local Community and Government.**

Key Stakeholders

1. Kenya Wildlife Service Management
2. Local communities
3. Local county government

Location of the Capacity Building Program?

1. The main Habitat /Ecosystem will be Nairobi National Park
2. The Community lives in its outside boundaries specifically in Kajiado and Machakos Counties.

Focus of the Action

According to the Kenya Wildlife Service Strategic Plan of 2019-2024, conservation education awareness programs are vital in the recovery and protection of species.

As per the National Wildlife Strategy 2030 and Nairobi National Park Management plan 2020-2030, there has been a decline in wildlife population and species, and the most key to note is that an estimated 70-80% of park animals roam outside of the protected area boundaries. The repercussion of this trend means the increase in human-animal contact is more direct. It is important to educate the local communities, policymakers to make responsive policies and action plans that are commensurate with both conservation and species management actions.

Activities to be Carried Out in Partnership with Management of Kenya Wildlife Services:

1. Tree planting with the community inside and along the fence of the park.
2. Workshops and seminars for the local community on the effects of poaching and bushmeat
3. Fence building together with the community along with the protected areas.
4. Training on the process of how an individual or community will be compensated in case of any loss caused by the wild animals.
5. Monitoring and evaluation actions

Indicators of the Capacity Process?

1. Number of Trees Planted
2. Population size increase of targeted animals bush meat
3. Number of awareness-raising programs carried out
4. Number of successful compensation claims

5. Number fire incidents
6. Monthly and yearly reports on impacts

Links to Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs 4,5,11,14,15,17

❖ **Ensuring Proper Policies and Existing Regulations on Water Pollution is Enforced.**

According to the Nairobi National Park Management plan 2020-2030, pollution is caused by residents specifically from Kajiado County (On gat a Rongai) where sewage and waste are drains into the Mbagathi River. The river is a major source of water in the park.

The interference of proper flow and pollution of this river will negatively affect any plans of recovery of species in the park. Water is a major component in the conservation of species and genetic diversity of wild species.

Activities to be Carried Out

1. Consultative meeting with local governments on how to enforce and strict punishment for violations related to sewage drainage processes polluting the river.
2. River cleanups with community, students, and other environmental groups on a regular basis.
3. Public awareness program on benefits of clean water.
4. Tree planting programs
5. Monitoring water quality

Indicators of the Capacity

1. Water Quality level
2. Water Quantity level
3. Health and well-being of species in the target areas

Links to Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs 4 ,5, 6, 11, 14, 15

4.2 Capacity 2: Awareness Creation Program

Awareness Creation Program relevant to Management Actions and Recovery of Species and Genetic Diversity of Wild and Domesticated Species Including through Ex-situ and Effectively Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict.

The creation of awareness on management actions and recovery of species and genetic diversity of species is very important for the achievement of target 4. The following are some suggestive actions.

Focus of the Action

- ❖ Identify Target Areas and Audience best placed to Influence Management Actions and Recovery of Species and Genetic Diversity of Wild and Domesticated Species

It is important to identify the target audience because these are the people who will be made aware of their role in management actions and recovery of species and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, involving local communities

Some indicators of progress could include documented target areas and audiences best placed to influence conservation actions and recovery of species.

Youth

- ❖ Initiate Poster Campaigns and Use of Social Media to Raise Awareness of Management Actions and Recovery of Species within the Locality and Connecting Areas.

Social media is the main form of communication and therefore it will be very instrumental in the creation of awareness through hashtags, short films, and documentaries on local communities' role in the recovery and conservation of genetic species. With the involvement of Youth in management actions and recovery of species and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, Youth can easily come up with documentaries and social media stories that call for management actions and recovery of species. This will create a lot of awareness for a large number of people.

The actors of this can be education institutions because of the knowledge that they have and therefore can influence a number of people. The local communities led by local authorities like the chiefs and village elders can also play a role by creating awareness by distributing posters amongst people in the locality and also ensuring that programs with management actions and recovery of species and reduction of human wildlife conflict is aired in the local stations.

A timeline of 1 year may be needed to achieve this. It is a good period of time because it will provide a good time to for example create films and documentaries.

Progress could be indicated by education materials distributed in the range areas and programs with management actions and recovery of species and reduction of human-wildlife conflict aired in the media.

5.0 Dealing with Target 21

Target 21: “Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories, and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth”.

The main objectives of this target are to enable indigenous peoples, women, and girls, and Youth to strengthen their capacities to biodiversity-related decisions made at the local, national and global levels to respect their rights and knowledge systems and to enhance their communities to mitigate and adapt biodiversity issues.

5.1 Key Focus of Action

The country has a rich mix of ethnic, religious, and mosaic cultural groups with diversified social, political, and economic organizations. Within such diversity, the roles of traditional beliefs, environmental ethics, and socio-cultural practices in the conservation of natural resources benefited the country in conserving the environment from diminishing for good.

Over the millennia, indigenous peoples have developed environmentally resilient traditional practices. Apart from economic aspects, they have a close and intimate cultural connection with their lands, forests, trees, and surrounding biodiversity. They have well-established distinct systems of knowledge, innovation, and local practices relating to the uses and management of environmental resources.

On the other hand, traditional belief systems and taboos that are associated with biodiversity protections (such as trees, shrine places, wildlife, and forests) are still maintained and used as a conservation tool for safeguarding and protecting the remnant natural resources. For instance, indigenous people are setting aside sacred ecologies (such as sacred groves, sacred forests, trees, animals, and plants) for spiritual as well as cultural purposes. These traditional protected areas as acknowledged by many scholars, are well reserved and have endangered wildlife and plants than formally protected areas.

Women /girls and Youth, as part of the community, also have an important role in natural resource management. Different youth initiatives, environmental clubs in schools, plantation programs by youth associations, and environmental movements by university students are good examples to reflect their role in preserving the environment in Ethiopia. Women movements and feminist activities are also mainstreaming the right to environment and decision making in their agenda.

5.2 Key Gaps and Opportunities

Ethiopia, for example, is home to a rich diversity of plant and animal species and is one of the world's most important centers for the further development of crops such as coffee. However, biological diversity has diminished dramatically. The population is growing fast. The associated increase in the demand for firewood has led to a significant reduction in forested areas. At the same time, nature conservation areas are being used as pasture land and natural resources are being exploited ruthlessly. To maintain levels of biodiversity, the Government of Ethiopia has designated 14 percent of the country's territory as protected areas. For example, according to official figures, 350 million seedlings were planted in one day in July 2019. Often, however, less than half of seedlings survive the first two years after being planted. Responsibility for managing the forested land and nature conservation areas is spread across multiple national and regional authorities at different levels. Laws and regulations are interpreted differently and are therefore not being properly implemented.

The community in general and indigenous peoples, women, and Youth, in particular, are the neglected participants from decision-making processes, under the national and local natural resources

management systems. Eventually, amid a growing emphasis on community-based approaches to natural resource management, there are concerns about the lack of women/girls and Youth participation in communal decision-making. While national and local governments are trying to regulate natural system management through policies, laws, and institutions, there are gaps in mainstreaming indigenous peoples, women/girls, and Youth in decision-making processes.

Increase the Number of Vulnerable Groups (Youth, Women, and Girls) in the Decision-making Table and Incorporate their Inputs.

1. More equitable resource distribution. With devolution in Kenya, Counties are guaranteed a certain level of allocation of funds from the national government regardless of political affiliation. Compared to the previous structure of government where all resources were centralized, devolution provides for a more equitable distribution of funds to different regions of the country. There is a need for good budgetary allocation.
2. Involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs). In Kenya, CSOs have a lot to offer when it comes to addressing effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and land issues. This ranges from public sensitization on rights and technical aspects of Environmental Conservation, supporting policy and legal framework development as well as helping to keep the government in check. Lack of deeper involvement of CSOs denies counties the opportunity to leverage the contribution of CSOs.
3. Inadequate capacity. Most of the Kenyan county governments decry low staff capacity as well as lack of specialized skills to address some of the Environmental conservation challenges. This affects the ability of these counties to effectively work on achieving biodiversity sustainability.

5.3 Youth Capacities Needed

1. Appreciate and recognize the traditional and communal ways of natural resource management systems by the Indigenous peoples.
2. Institutionalize and modernize such traditional systems by the indigenous peoples without compromising their culture, belief, and belongingness to nature and provide a well-organized framework to support them.
3. Support recognizes youth and women associations in their participation in natural resource management.
4. Provide systems and platforms to develop an awareness of their rights to the natural resource as a whole.
5. Provide opportunities for community participation and engagement.
6. Develop policies and regulations and make decisions based on community participation.
7. Building capacity on access and benefit-sharing

5.4 Actors to Deliver

1. Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority
2. Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society
3. Regional Park authorities, and botanical and zoological gardens
4. Ministry of women
5. Ministry of youth
6. The legislator/house of people's representatives/
7. Kenyan County government officials e.g CECs in Tourism, Environment, Lands, and Agriculture.
8. Kenya Local Chiefs (Nyumba Kumi Heads)

5.5 Measuring Progress

1. Empowering local communities and indigenous people, women and girls, and youth, on the importance of being involved in decision making in favor of target 21
2. Educating the local community and indigenous people on their rights over land, territories, and resources and the importance of resources.
3. The number of Youth/women/girls being involved in the policy-making process, public participation, and consideration of their inputs.
4. The number of county governments that have rolled out these initiatives.
5. The number of CSO's engaged on matters of public participation.

5.6 Suggested Indicators

1. Qualitative and quantitative level of participation by the rightsholders (indigenous people, women/girls, and youth). The rights holders are to be actively engaged in public debates, live discussions, and policy-making processes in matters of environmental conservation.
2. Level of understanding and knowledge about the right to natural resources by the community. Community members will actively engage in conservation activities such as biodiversity protection.
3. Level of mainstreaming natural resource management by the concerned ministries. A well-outlined collaboration structure among government ministries on matters of Biodiversity.
4. The number of women, girls, and Youth in local, regional, and national decision-making processes. Statistical data of rights holders engaged in the decision-making processes will give an overview survey of the individuals engaged in biodiversity conservation efforts. This will eventually help in the identification of gaps and possible solutions & mitigation strategies.

5. Level of methods and platforms provided by the relevant bodies to develop the awareness as to rights to natural resources by indigenous peoples, women, and Youth. These platforms can be either virtual (Media Channels) or physical (community discussions)
6. Level of Mainstreaming biodiversity in other development sectors. The outlined structures will help merge the efforts of mainstreaming biodiversity in the Health, Agriculture, Tourism, and I.C.T Sector

6.0 Conclusions

In conclusion, it's notable that for targets 4 and 21 to be achieved, collective efforts will be needed. Impactful actions require the commitments to act from all the stakeholders in general and local community engagements in particular. Developing the capacity of national and local community participation will play a vital role in achieving the targets. The more the capacity of the community is built, the better the global vision to conserve the environment as a whole comes to be achieved. It is also important to note that the Youth play vital roles in capacity development. However, their involvement has not been fully recognized and it is high time that they are brought on board.

Through the Implementation of the chosen Target 4 and 21, we shall be to achieve the following Sustainable Goals (17 SDGs of United Nations, 2015):

- ❖ The suggested actions presented here are a small set of suggestions for concrete local actions to engage with communities, youth, girls, and women and ensure they learn as they participate in designing the actions and implementing the same.
- ❖ The role of local governments, civil society organizations, and academia in ensuring successful capacity development cannot be overstated but is critical to achieving the post-2020 global biodiversity targets at local and national levels.

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ACP MEAs Programme

The ACP MEAs is a joint UNEP- EU-FAO-OACPS partnership programme. It aims to build the capacity of 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific to fulfil their obligations to multilateral environmental agreements. Phase III (ACP MEAs 3) of this programme is being implemented in Africa by the African Union Commission (AUC), Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention, in the Caribbean by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cartagena Convention, in the Pacific by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the civil society partner.



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