



Supporting the Post 2020 Global Diversity Framework – Aspirations and Plans from Youth in Africa

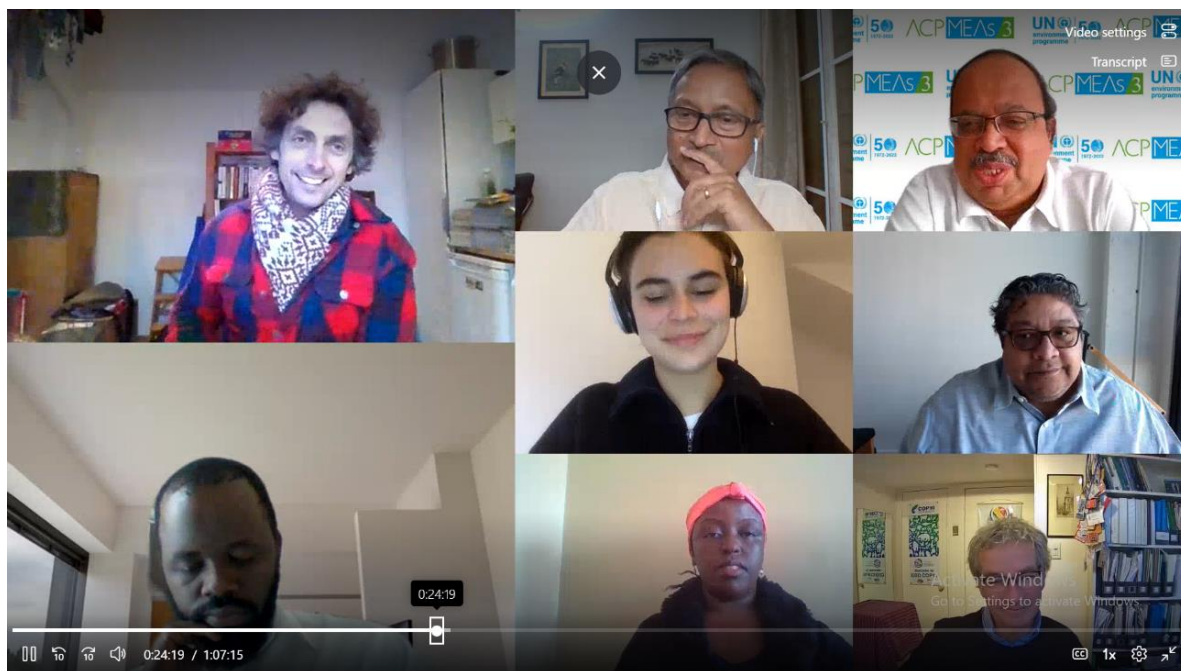


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Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in partnership with a number of international and regional organizations and Secretariats to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) belonging to biodiversity and chemicals cluster, is implementing a multi-year programme in support of enhancing environmental governance in 79 countries belonging to Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions. This programme is termed as the ACP MEAs Programme. It is funded by the European Union in partnership with Organization of Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific States (OACPS).

The ACP MEAs programme launched the Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI) during 2021, with an aim to mentor, train and empower youth on issues of environmental management, governance and development. The first batch of youth from the Africa region were trained during 2021 to capacitate them and provide inputs to the **post 2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**. YETI was delivered through partnerships with UNEP InforMEA, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), European Union, OACPS Secretariat, Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Secretariat, expert mentors coming from diverse fields, including the academia and youth (environmental) networks in Africa region.



Focus on the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

The Youth mentees took into consideration the important propositions in the Convention on Biological Diversity and prioritized the need to emphasize on resource mobilization, capacity building and stakeholder engagement as key areas of focus in order to ensure the effective implementation of the post 2020 GBF.

Through a 4 month long mentorship programme , the youth produced a number of reports with guidance from their mentors on the above themes. The reports are on topics listed as follows;

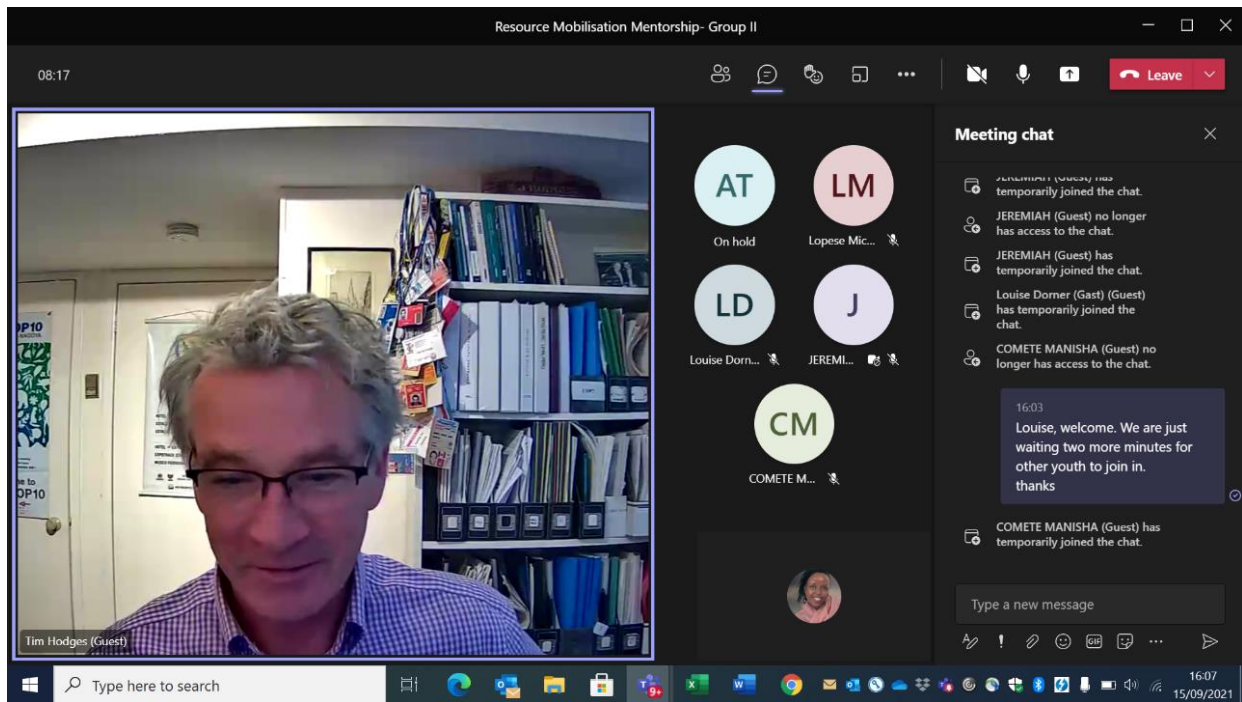
- 1) Communicating Biodiversity through the Media; Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.
- 2) “Africa youth perspectives on the wisdom of the indigenous peoples and local communities towards ecosystem restoration; the future we create.”
- 3) “Directing the resources from the ecological debt between the global north-south towards effective implementation of the post 2020-global biodiversity framework.”
- 4) “Generation of additional resources and re-directing resources for the post 2020 biodiversity framework in achievement of sustainable development goals.”
- 5) “Opportunities for Capacity Building and Capacity Development for Biodiversity Conservation”.
- 6) “Youth’s involvement in capacity building and development on biodiversity.”

This is a summary document of key content and recommendations detailed in each of the six reports.

Report: Africa youth perspectives on the wisdom of indigenous people and local communities to achieve the post 2020 global biodiversity framework

This report focuses on stakeholder’s engagements with the Ogiek community living in and around the Mau Forest complex in Kenya - who are the generational inhabitants of this forest. The recommendations pertaining challenges experienced by IPLC and the Ogiek communities, as detailed below, which can be addressed by state actors as well as non-state actors has direct links to elements of the post 2020 GBF as follows:

- ❖ Inclusion of traditional and local knowledge in national education systems is a means of increasing indigenous-urban conservation. Indigenous ecological knowledge ought to be integrated into formal school curriculum, into our present educational systems at local, national, regional and global levels as well as by all people.
- ❖ The post 2020 GBF implementation framework needs to provide adequate mechanisms to involve local communities in deciding on implementation plans and sharing of benefits of their actions, in line with the local governance mechanisms.
- ❖ The national government entities that deals with environmental protection and conservation, (such as Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service in Kenya) need to work together with young people and IPLCs in order to ensure that efforts to save Mau-forest are successful. The inclusion of IPLCs should be mandatory so as to establish or improve ecological laws and local policies that will legally ensure sustainable use of forest and other resources found therein. These laws should be replicated nationally.
- ❖ Enhancing and developing capacities of local youth in support of implementing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that will be re-designed considering the outcomes of CBD COP 15 should be prioritized.
- ❖ The role of IPLCs in supporting achieving the objectives of CBD and related processes should be recognized, advocated and strengthened.



Report: Directing resources: Balancing the ecological debt between the North and South to achieve the post 2020 global biodiversity framework

This report focuses on the historical imbalances between the countries in the developed world (the North) and developing work (the South) in their contributions towards ecological management and reiterates the need to assess the ecological debt balances from the North and South.

The recommendations to find balances in ecological debt include:

- ❖ Use of trade policy instruments which effectively transfer the costs as follows;
 - Transfer costs from restoration of ecosystems and transitioning efforts, to more sustainable production methods by producers in the Global South to consumers in the Global North.
 - An alternative would be the cancellation of financial debts (from the Global South to the Global North) in exchange for the cancellation of ecological debt (from the Global North to the Global South).
- ❖ Policies need to be put in place to prevent ecological debt from rising. The additional costs of production systems without damage to the natural world should be paid by those demanding the outputs. Any losses in biodiversity must be compensated for by the producers.
- ❖ South-South cooperation (SSC) should develop policies ensuring that countries that strive to protect its natural environment (in the interests of current and future generation of citizens across the world), will not be placed at a competitive disadvantage in global supply chains. One way to this, would be for SSC to implement and adopt these countries' resource-management mechanisms.
- ❖ Establishment of policies in countries where a percentage of revenue collected from farm produce, animals products, tourism (amongst others) to be set aside for use in environmental protection and management.

- ❖ A whole range of policies are needed including carbon pricing regulation, reform of capital market and finances to fund the cost of carbon transition on developing countries.
- ❖ Policies to be passed on corporate social responsibility in environmental management and protection where corporate institutions will be required to have environmentally friendly policies and also, for them to set aside funds towards environmental management, protection and upgrading.

In support of the above, the youth suggested the following:

- ❖ Young generations require increased understanding of CBD framework and be empowered as they contribute to implementing the National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plans (NBSAP).
- ❖ Establishment of a coalition of like-minded politicians, administrators, bureaucrats, professionals, academics, civil society, and activist to take right decisions to allocate enough funds from the National annual budget for the youth's involvement in the implementation of the global biodiversity framework.
- ❖ Adoption of educational strategies such as educating people at the grassroots level on how to care for our environment.
- ❖ Funding the grassroots organizations as they are central to major social and economic transformation. They are best placed to collaborate with communities on maintaining a healthier planet.

Report: Youth engagement in capacity development for realizing the objectives of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework

The report details capacity development recommendations, focusing on achieving the GBF in general as well as Target 4 (conservation of biodiversity at species and genetic levels) and Target 21 (participation of IPLCS, youth women and girls in decision making) specifically of the draft global biodiversity framework

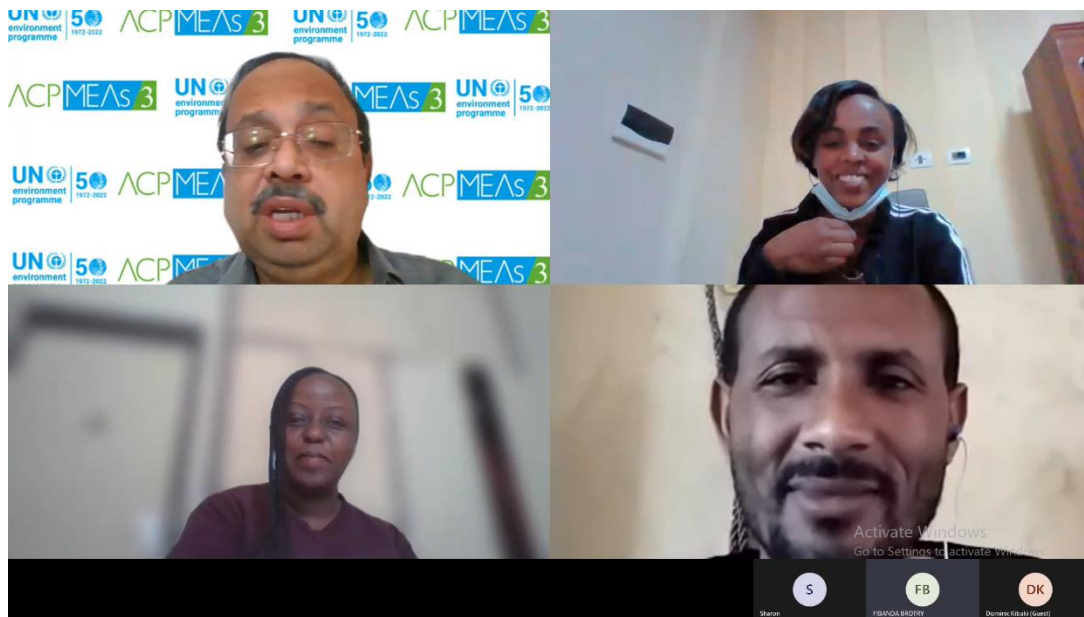
Recommendations from the report include:

- ❖ The need for conservation education awareness programs to be provided to the local communities.
- ❖ Design of responsive policies and action plans that are commensurate with both conservation and species management actions.
- ❖ Awareness creation program relevant to management actions and recovery of species and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species including through ex-situ so as to reduce human-wildlife conflict.
- ❖ Promoting environmentally resilient traditional practices.
- ❖ Increasing the involvement and participation of the vulnerable groups (youth, women, and girls) in decision-making
- ❖ Involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs) on effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and land issues.

This report presents the challenges faced in the sub regions of Africa on capacity development and suggests

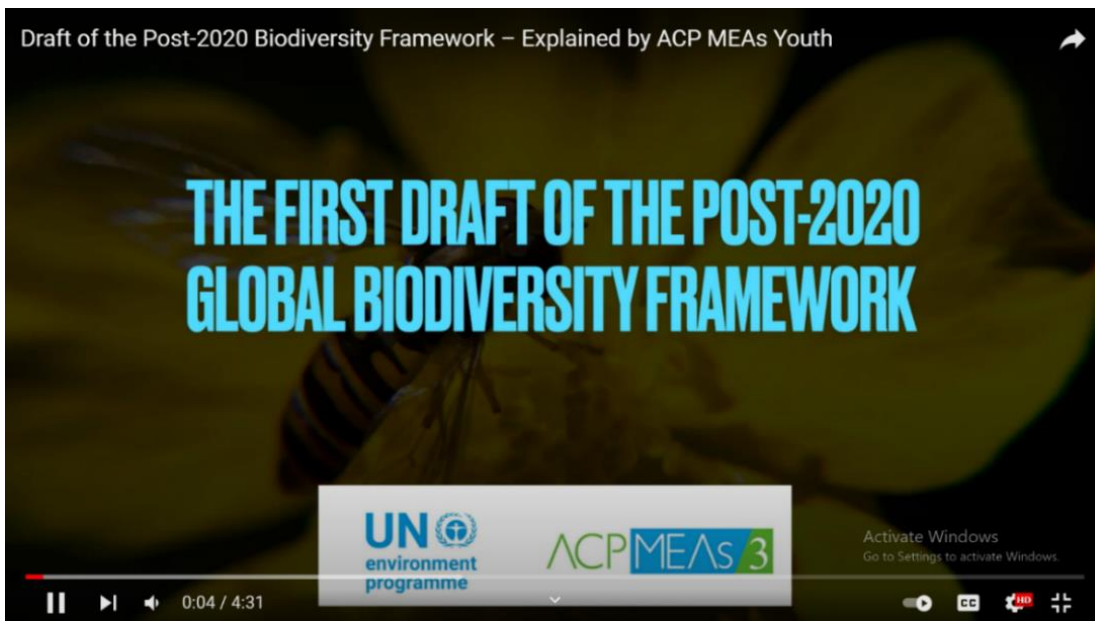
- ❖ Ensuring the inclusion of the youth in budgeting for capacity building and development as well as their involvement in the development of action plans for implementation of capacity building protocols.

- ❖ Supporting interlinkages with the relevant organizations both governmental and non-governmental sectors to strengthen the implementation of sustainable development strategies that consider the post 2020 GBF as central to achieving desired results.
- ❖ Improving access to information on capacity building in countries, by creating a clearing house for youth and youth related actions and opportunities.
- ❖ Supporting youth forums that facilitate engagement with state officials and ministries in charge of the environment, to allow youth to give their recommendations on the policy processes.



Report: Communicating the post 2020 global biodiversity framework through social media

This report is a consolidation of four tasks; preparing a press release, video and social media posts on the open-ended working group's first draft of post-2020 global biodiversity framework.



In this [video](#), the Youth Mentees working on Stakeholder Engagement of the media, explain the first draft of a new global biodiversity framework¹. The framework by the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entails global actions through 2030, aimed at preserving and protecting nature and its essential services to people.

¹ <https://youtu.be/9G0Z446hzcM>

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List of Mentors;

1. **S. Gopikrishna Warriar** - Managing Editor at Mongabay India
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4. **Reynaldo Morales** - Professor at Northwestern University, USA
5. **Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati** - Programme Manager, ACP MEAs programme, UNEP

List of Mentees;

1. Steeven Kezanutima
2. Fridah Mghazo
3. Alphonse Muia
4. Hassan Noor Muhammed
5. Jean Marie Vianney Nikobahoze
6. Herman Peshu
7. Belta Syovinya
8. Sharon Chepngetich
9. Fibanda Brotry
10. Flavian Wanzala
11. Betelhem Nadew
12. Dr. Hawi Kidanu Kebede (MD)
13. Dominic Kibaki
14. Ashley Kitisya
15. JulietGrace Luwedde
16. Ngetaos Obed
17. Kenty Nkamicaniye
18. James Lopusa Taban
19. Jeremiah Oliech
20. Bonface Githaiga
21. Alice Tanui
22. Micah Lopese
23. Twagirimana Eugene
24. Ibrahim Koech
25. Manisha Comete
26. Wambua Gloria Munyiva
27. Lucy Kamau
28. Mohammed Abdella
29. Dagues Desire Dushime
30. Joan Weda
31. Erick Muhatia
32. Benard Njuiri
33. Daisy Love Nkirote Muturia
34. Rukia Ahmed
35. Valeria Dickson Nyanje

Further Information on the Report

This report has been produced by UNEP under the ACP MEAs 3 Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI) to empower the youth on issues of environmental governance. The contributions are to feed into the finalization of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Disclaimer

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The 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.

United Nations Environment Programme

P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, 00100, Kenya
Tel: (+254) 20 7621234
E-mail: publications@unep.org
Web: www.unep.org

