



African Biodiversity Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Acronyms and Abbreviation

ABN:	African Biodiversity Network
ACS:	Africa Climate Summit
ACW:	Africa Climate Week
AFSA:	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
AFRICE:	African Institute for Culture and Ecology
BftW:	Bread for the Word
BIBA:	Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya
BGM:	Biennial General Meeting
BoT:	Board of Trustees
CCAE:	Collectif Citoyen pour l'Agroécologie
CEG:	Community Ecological Governance
CELUCT:	Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust
CEVASTE:	Centre d'Expérimentation, de Valorisation de l'Agroécologie, des Sciences et des Techniques Endogènes
COD-ILK:	Centers of Distinction on Indigenous and Local Knowledge
COP:	Conference of Parties
CSK:	Community Seed and Knowledge
CSLC:	Community Seed Learning Center
CSOs:	Civil Society Organisations
EASRN:	East Africa Sub-Regional Network
FMSS:	Farmer-Managed Seed System
GDA:	Green Development Advocates
GER:	Global Initiative for Environment and Reconciliation
GLF:	Global Landscapes Forum
GMO:	Genetically Modified Organism
GRABE:	Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour le Bien-Etre au Bénin
GRAP:	Gender Responsive Action Plan
ICE:	Institute for Culture and Ecology
IFT:	Indigenous Future Thinking
IMS:	Information Management System
ISD:	Institute for Sustainable Development

IPBES:	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
JVE:	Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement
KM-GBF:	Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MEAP:	Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program
MEB:	Multi-Evidence Based
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEFP:	Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée
MELCA:	Movement of Ecological Learning and Community Action
MPIDO:	Mainyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation
NAPE:	National Association of Professional Environmentalists
NBSAP:	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NCE:	Nature Conservation Egypt
PELUM:	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
RAINS:	Regional Advisory and Information Network System
RIAM:	Réseau des Initiatives pour l'Agroécologie au Maroc
RIDEP:	Rural Initiatives Development Program
SALT:	Society of Alternative Learning and Transformation
SEATINI:	Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
SIDA:	Swedish International Development Agency
SNS&Ts:	Sacred Natural Sites & Territories
SRN:	Sub-Regional Node
TABIO:	Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity
USIKO:	Usiko Stellenbosch
YCB:	Youth, Culture and Biodiversity
WW:	Walking Workshop

Contributors

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Acknowledgement

I am pleased to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in the various initiatives and activities carried out by the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) throughout 2023. Your dedication, commitment and hard work have been instrumental in advancing our mission and objectives, particularly in promoting biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and community resilience across Africa.

I would like to express gratitude to the Secretariat Staff for their efforts in implementing the Gender Responsive Action Plan (GRAP) 2021-2026 and for their commitment to incorporating gender analysis and action throughout ABN's programs and activities.

Furthermore, I commend all the partners and stakeholders involved in capacity-building activities, community dialogues and initiatives aimed at promoting agroecology and other sustainable farming practices, preserving indigenous seeds, and revitalizing traditional governance structures. Your collective efforts have significantly contributed to fostering sustainable land use, enhancing biodiversity protection, and promoting the well-being of communities across Africa.

I would also like to acknowledge the successful participation of ABN in various regional and international events, including the Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology and COP28 activities. Your engagement and advocacy efforts have been crucial in raising awareness about the importance of cultural biodiversity, youth empowerment and environmental conservation on a global scale.

Lastly, I extend my appreciation to our partners, supporters and donors for their continued collaboration and commitment to the goals and objectives of ABN. Your contributions have been invaluable in enabling us to make meaningful progress towards our shared vision of a sustainable, resilient Africa and global community.

As we look ahead, let us remain persistent in our efforts to make a positive impact and create a brighter future for generations to come.

Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication and support.

ABN Secretariat



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ABN Secretariat

Executive Summary

In 2023, the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) experienced significant organizational changes and recorded remarkable achievements despite persistent challenges. ABN partners grew by five following the final decision by the Biennial General Assembly to welcome new candidates (see appendix). ABN strengthened its capabilities by introducing new positions to address emerging priorities. Dennis Mwangi was appointed as the Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordinator to enhance fundraising efforts and expand partnership opportunities. Additionally, Joseph Kamau joined as Finance Manager, further strengthening ABN's financial management by filling a vacant position. Aligned with Strategic Plan 2022-2026, ABN introduced a Gender thematic area within its programs that underscores its commitment to advancing gender equality across policies, programs, networks, and organizational structures. In this regard, the establishment of the Gender Thematic Coordinator role was a pivotal moment in ABN's commitment to gender equality. The position was filled by the former Finance and Admin Coordinator, Jane Kinya, who transitioned to oversee the implementation of ABN's Gender Responsive Action Plan (GRAP) 2021-2026.

Notable Achievements in 2023

The CSK thematic area initiative spearheaded by ABN focused on capacity building for agroecological farming practices while preserving indigenous seeds through training sessions conducted in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Emphasis was given to farmer-led seed systems, which are resilient to changing climate. ABN partners participated actively in seed fair workshops, contributing significantly towards biocultural diversity conservation and preserving indigenous seeds while promoting values of indigenous knowledge with associated agroecological practices.

Regarding the thematic area of Community Ecological Governance (CEG), ABN has made significant progress, having revitalized traditional governance structures, fostering community dialogues on biocultural diversity conservation, launching guides which practically support these efforts as well as facilitating knowledge dissemination among partners and communities they are working with. Partners also engaged with learning exchange in regard to the implementation of the AU Resolution 372, which emphasized the protection of Sacred Natural Sites & Territories (SNS&Ts). These practices aimed to gather support from stakeholders at local and national levels, with respect to effective implementation and focusing on the importance of community involvement. Moreover, the revival of Indigenous Practices in Conservation of Biocultural Diversity involves efforts to enhance and revive local practices aimed at addressing biodiversity loss. These practices encompass activities such as marine turtle protection and the establishment of community-based tree nurseries, which align with Sustainable Development Goal 15,

promoting sustainability and resilience within communities. This initiative emphasizes the importance of integrating traditional knowledge and practices into conservation efforts, recognizing their role in preserving biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Young people are encouraged and guided by elders and knowledgeable members of their communities to participate in activities that empower both youth and women. Through community advocacy, which employs a bottom-up approach, they address socio-cultural, economic, and environmental challenges while incorporating indigenous knowledge and associated practices. Concurrently, they work towards promoting gender equality and understanding how to live in harmony with nature and culture.

Finally, despite its achievements, the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) faced challenges such as delayed reports, government interference, political instability in some partner countries, and economic fluctuations. Some mitigation measures taken in this regard are the Secretariat refined submission timelines and conducted advocacy workshops to promote supportive policies. ABN's recommendations include maintaining donor compliance, implementing risk management procedures, and adhering to the Memorandum of Understanding at both the Secretariat and partners' levels.

Words from the General Coordinator

Dear Partners, Board Members, Donors, Staff, and Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) throughout the year 2023, I am filled with immense gratitude and appreciation for the dedication, commitment, and collaborative spirit demonstrated by each of you. Together, we have achieved significant milestones and made impactful contributions to advancing our mission of promoting biocultural diversity conservation, sustainable land use and community resilience across Africa.

I want to extend a special word of appreciation to our Board Members for their guidance and strategic vision, which have been instrumental in shaping ABN's initiatives and programs. Your unwavering support has provided us with the foundation to innovate, adapt, and thrive in a dynamic environment.

To our new and existing Staff members, I commend your hard work, passion and professionalism in driving forward ABN's objectives. Your contributions, both individually and collectively, have been essential in implementing our programs effectively and ensuring their success.

I would also like to express gratitude to our partners, whose collaboration and shared commitment have enriched our initiatives and expanded our reach. Together, we have forged strong relationships, leveraged collective expertise, and achieved impactful outcomes that have positively impacted communities and ecosystems across the continent.

To our generous donors, I extend heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and investment in ABN's mission. Your contributions have enabled us to implement innovative projects, build capacity and empower communities to safeguard biodiversity and foster sustainable livelihoods.

Last but certainly not least, I want to acknowledge the invaluable role played by our stakeholders, including local communities, indigenous groups, civil society organizations, and governments who were in support of our initiatives across different countries in Africa. Your engagement, participation, knowledge and policy support at various levels have been integral to the success of our initiatives, and we remain deeply grateful for your partnership.

In particular, I would like to highlight the establishment of a new thematic area within ABN's programs, such as the Gender portfolio, which underscores our commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in biocultural diversity conservation and sustainable development efforts. The implementation of the Gender Responsive Action Plan (GRAP) 2021-2026 marks a significant step towards fostering equitable and sustainable management of Africa's biocultural resources.



I would like to highlight the establishment of a new thematic area within ABN's programs, such as the Gender portfolio, which underscores our commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in biocultural diversity conservation and sustainable development efforts.

Fassil Gebeyehu

Furthermore, our collective efforts in promoting agroecological farming practices, preserving indigenous seeds, and revitalizing traditional governance structures have yielded tangible results, enhancing community resilience, and advancing food sovereignty across the continent. The initiatives undertaken by ABN partners, including capacity-building workshops, community dialogues, and youth-centered initiatives, reflect our shared commitment to promoting inclusive, holistic and sustainable approaches to biodiversity conservation.

As we look ahead, I am confident that our collaborative efforts will continue to make a meaningful difference in safeguarding Africa's biocultural diversity, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and fostering resilient communities. Together, we will navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, driven by our shared commitment to a more just, equitable and sustainable future for all.

Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication, support and partnership. Let us continue to work together, with determination and passion, towards our shared vision of a thriving and resilient Africa.

With warm regards,

Fassil Gebeyehu (PhD)
General Coordinator of ABN



1. Who We Are – ABN

1.1. Vision






ABN's vision is to contribute in building resilient African communities living in harmony with Nature. This is embedded in the strategic plan document of the organization, and translated in the projects' plan and core activities at the Secretariat.

1.2. Mission

ABN's mission is to nurture an African network of individuals, communities, and organizations increasingly rooted in their own biological, cultural and spiritual diversity; governing their own lives and livelihoods; with the ability to resist harmful developments and influence laws and practices that respect the rights of people and Nature.

1.3. Core Values

ABN's core values are as follows:

-  **Commitment:** Our members are committed to live by ABN values and to be pioneers for the change they want to see.
-  **Honesty and openness:** Honesty and openness with ourselves, each other and everyone we interact with.
-  **Solidarity:** ABN will stand in solidarity with those working for justice for humanity and nature, marginalized small-scale farmers, rural communities, indigenous peoples, and the ecosystems of the earth.
-  **Transparency and accountability:** To ensure transparency and accountability as underlying principles of the network for equal and full participation of all members.
-  **Diversity:** To recognize as paramount the value of Africa's diversity of cultures and of living organisms (from genetic level to ecosystem diversity).

1.4. Thematic Areas

To realize ABN's vision in alignment with these core values, ABN operates within four cross-cutting thematic areas:

Community Seed and Knowledge (CSK)

CSK is an innovative ABN program that responds to the threat against local seed diversity and associated knowledge and to build community as well as ecosystem resilience.

Community Ecological Governance (CEG)

CEG is also an innovative approach of ABN, which responds to the destruction of customary governance and associated indigenous knowledge.

Youth, Culture and Biodiversity (YCB)

The thematic area of Youth, Culture, and Biodiversity is focused on fostering a stronger sense of belonging among young people, both with each other and with the natural world. Within this area, ABN endeavors to narrow the knowledge gap between elders and youth regarding indigenous ecological knowledge. Additionally, ABN advocates for the integration of this knowledge into school curricula.

Gender

Since 2023, Gender has been integrated into ABN's thematic areas as a dedication to promote and facilitate the implementation of Gender mainstreaming, aiming to advance women's rights and leadership for achieving gender equality across its policies, programs, networks, and organizational structures. To drive transformative change towards gender equality in the management of Africa's biocultural resources and biodiversity, ABN has developed a Gender-Responsive Action Plan (GRAP).

Communication

We recognize the importance of working with partners and the crucial role of communication in such collaborations. As a result, we prioritize communication as a key part of our overall strategy, acknowledging its ability to support the successful implementation of all thematic areas. By focusing on communication, we aim to improve our capacity to make significant and widespread impacts across various initiatives. Effective communication guarantees that our actions are coordinated, stakeholders are involved, and our shared objectives are communicated effectively, resulting in more successful outcomes and greater positive change.

Advocacy and Policy Influencing

ABN is dedicated to furnishing grassroots communities with the means and occasions to articulate their concerns and take part in decision-making processes concerning

public policies. This objective is accomplished through persistent trend analysis, desk research, and surveys that allow us to collect proof and construct a firm basis for advocacy efforts. By utilizing an evidence-based methodology, we strive to sway public policies at different levels while ensuring that the voices and viewpoints of grassroots communities are acknowledged and taken into account during the decision-making process. Through our proactive involvement and well-informed advocacy, we endeavor to empower communities and nurture positive change that mirrors their needs and priorities.

Networking and Partnership Development

Constantly strengthening our network and partnering with a diverse range of stakeholders are fundamental priorities for ABN. The ABN Secretariat is dedicated to devising strategies that foster a sense of ownership among all partners, ensuring that each stakeholder feels invested in the network's mission and objectives. We also recognize the importance of expanding our partnerships into new areas that are pertinent to our community of practice. By actively engaging with new stakeholders and broadening the scope of our partnerships, we enhance our collective capacity to address challenges, leverage opportunities, and drive positive change within our network and beyond.

2. Change at the Secretariat Level

2.1. New Positions/Staff within the Secretariat

2.1.1. Gender Thematic Coordinator

As a new thematic area within ABN's programs, it was necessary to have a dedicated staff handling the gender portfolio within the Secretariat. In August, the former Finance and Admin Coordinator, **Jane Kinya**, took over the role of coordinating the Gender work of the African Biodiversity Network (ABN). Her key role is to kick off and steer the implementation of the Gender Responsive Action Plan (GRAP) 2021-2026. The GRAP provides a framework for the ABN transformational change for gender equality for equitable and sustainable management of the African biocultural diverse resources.

2.1.2. Resource Mobilization and Networking Coordinator



During the year 2023, **Dennis Mwange** was recruited as resource mobilization and networking coordinator. Dennis joined the ABN secretariat on 1st August 2023. The position of Resource Mobilization and Networking Coordinator was created to bring the fundraising efforts to another level by diversifying the range of funders and mobilizing more funds while enhancing the vibrancy of networking for the development of the network.

2.1.4. Finance Manager



Following the shift of the former Finance Coordinator to the Gender Program, **Joseph Kamau** was recruited to fill the vacancy in the finance department. This recruitment was conducted simultaneously with the one for the Resource Mobilisation and Networking Coordinator. Hence, Joseph joined the ABN secretariat on 1st August 2023 as the new Finance Manager.

2.2. New Thematic Area in ABN Programs

In accordance with the Strategic Plan 2022-2026, a new thematic area on Gender Mainstreaming has been introduced in ABN's programs. ABN, therefore, has shown its commitment with respect to promoting and supporting the implementation of gender mainstreaming to value women's rights and leadership. This action will contribute to ensuring gender equality in the management of ABN's policies, programs, networks, and organizational structures.



3. Achievements in 2023

3.1. Achievements under Community Seed Knowledge (CSK)

These initiatives not only strengthened farming communities on their agricultural practices, such as tilling or production enhancement, but also raised awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage, promoting food security, and fostering community resilience amidst environmental challenges.



Photo showing varieties of local beans.

3.1.1. Capacity Building on ABN Methodologies

The ABN Secretariat implemented two capacity-building activities, executed through the SRN approach for efficiency purposes, piggy-backed with other activities under different thematic areas. In July 2023, ABN supported training on ABN methodologies for North and Central Partners SRN, where they were exposed to various ABN methodologies, including seed cataloging, eco-calendar process, community dialogues and research. Partners had an exposure learning visit to communities engaged by Green Development Advocate (GDA), a partner in Cameroon. This gave the opportunity to partners from five countries (two in Northern Africa and three in Central Africa) to meet and exchange their own practices on issues related to seeds, ecological governance and youth. These partners were accompanied by staff from the ABN Secretariat, and one of the learning centers (AFRICE) in the Eastern SRN.

Also, a workshop on Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) was organized at country node levels in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. This project was funded by BftW - where partners and stakeholders were trained on ABN methodologies with a particular focus on seed saving.

In the Yizegu community in Ghana, RAINS conducted a refresher training session that involved 35 selected farmers (25 females/10 males). The training introduced the Community Seed and Knowledge initiative and facilitated discussions on the role of farmer-led seed systems in enhancing community resilience to climate change. Emphasis was placed on recognizing the significance of women in preserving traditional seeds and protecting biodiversity. The discussions centered on empowering communities to revive and exchange locally adapted seeds, reducing dependence on international seed companies, and safeguarding local interests from harmful practices.

3.1.2. Trainings on Agroecological Farming Practices

During the year, several initiatives were pursued across African countries by ABN partners to promote agroecological farming practices, foster sustainable agricultural systems, and build community resilience. The initiatives conducted across by various partners include: follow-up dialogue sessions with partner communities, including post-agroecological training focusing on preparing smallholder farmers for the upcoming season. These sessions, which prioritized farmer experiences and insights, served as platforms for collective learning and knowledge dissemination.

The implementing partners organized 15 agroecology training sessions with a strong emphasis on gender inclusion. These sessions covered diverse topics such as crop choices, soil improvement through composting, and the advantages of indigenous millets over maize. As a result, participating farmers were enabled to adapt to local conditions, enhance soil quality, and promote traditional seed use, thereby fostering resilient and sustainable farming practices.

Additionally, various capacity-building workshops were conducted, engaging farmers, youth, and stakeholders in learning and practical demonstrations on agroecology, safe food production, and biodiversity conservation. The dialogue meetings facilitated among farmer communities further promoted agroecological practices and conservation efforts, with a focus on scaling up the use of local seed varieties and rehabilitating degraded lands.

Other initiatives, such as the introduction of enset¹, were also conducted in Ethiopia. Furthermore, the Forum of Agroecology was established to strengthen the promotion and implementation of agroecological practices.

¹ Type of banana primarily grown in Ethiopia and is a vital staple food crop in certain regions, especially the south. It is starchy for making the traditional Ethiopian dish "kocho".

These endeavors underscore a collective commitment to sustainable land use, biodiversity protection, and the promotion of agroecological principles across diverse communities in Africa.

Training sessions on crop management and agroecological practices empowered farmers to adopt sustainable techniques like composting and biofertilizer production. Farmer-led initiatives, especially those led by women, demonstrated collective action's effectiveness in addressing climate challenges and promoting natural pest control through the cultivation of moringa and neem trees.

In Kibambura Village of Uganda, the launch of the Community Seed Learning Center (CSLC), served as a pivotal step in preserving indigenous farming practices, offering hands-on learning opportunities, and showcasing traditional farming methods.

3.1.3. Participation in Meetings at National, Regional and International Level on CSK Related Issues

As part of efforts to revitalize seeds, ABN partners participated in seed fairs and capacity-building workshops, which contributed to preserving traditional seed varieties and promoting biodiversity conservation. Participation in Indigenous Seed and Food Fairs across various regions underscored the partners' commitment to fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy efforts to protect indigenous seeds and promote agroecology.

In October 2023, ABN co-supported and participated in the National Seed and Food Harvest Fair hosted at the National Museums of Kenya. The event was about Celebrating Food and Seed Sovereignty in Kenya and offered important insights on protecting indigenous seeds and promoting agroecological practices. There has been an increase in the number of actors coming on board to protect indigenous seeds and foods, hence reaching out to wider communities across the country.

Also, ABN participated in the second Pan-African Seed Governance conference organized by Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) in Tanzania. This was a significant step forward in the quest to protect Africa's seed sovereignty. It brought together key stakeholders, fostered collaboration, and generated actionable recommendations to address the challenges facing seed systems in Africa. One of the key lessons is the importance of mapping out actors to create strong local, national and regional movements to amplify the voice on the protection of FMSS. This is what ABN is currently doing through its FMSS advocacy project in East Africa.

3.1.4. Preservation of Indigenous Seeds

Throughout the year 2023, significant efforts were undertaken by ABN partners across various African countries to preserve indigenous seeds and empower local communities.

These initiatives encompassed a range of activities, including post-harvest storage and management training, learning exchanges, and Seed Catalogue development, all geared towards equipping participants with practical skills and knowledge in agroecological practices. The overarching goal was to enhance crop quality, reduce losses, and facilitate knowledge dissemination within communities. Moreover, support was provided to establish and strengthen community seed banks, which served as learning centers on seeds. These seed banks have served as hubs for promoting indigenous seed conservation and facilitating knowledge sharing among community members.

This concerted effort underscored a commitment to preserving traditional agricultural practices, bolstering community resilience, and ensuring food sovereignty in the face of environmental challenges. Notably, these initiatives reached out to over 4500 community members, with over 60% being men and 30% being female and youth, respectively, thereby promoting inclusivity and sustainability within these communities. The partners who engaged communities directly on the preservation of indigenous seeds include CELUCT, USIKO, GDA, Earthlore Foundation, CEVASTE, RAINS, Muyissi Environnement, RIDEP, ISD, AFRICE, GER, MELCA and PELUM Ethiopia.

3.1.5. Key Outputs under Community Seed Knowledge

-  **Establishments of Learning Centers:** Four learning centers were successfully set up by ABN partners, providing essential knowledge-sharing spaces for communities and supporting ongoing capacity-building efforts.
-  **Revitalization of Local Seed Varieties:** Community engagement in seed valorization led to the revival and preservation of 57 varieties of local seeds, strengthening biodiversity and enhancing community resilience.
-  **Success Story Documentation:** Across ABN partners, 18 success stories were documented, highlighting impactful outcomes under the SIDA-funded project and showcasing best practices in community empowerment.
-  **Experiential Knowledge Sharing:** 16 fairs were conducted at both community and national levels, enabling experiential learning and promoting the use of indigenous seeds through knowledge and practice exchanges.
-  **Case Studies on Indigenous Knowledge:** 13 case studies were developed, illustrating how indigenous knowledge has been utilized to preserve and promote traditional seed varieties.
-  **Community Linkages for Knowledge Co-Creation:** At least five community linkages were established, fostering co-creation and dissemination of knowledge on sustainable practices and indigenous seeds.

3.2. Achievement under Community Ecological Governance (CEG)

3.2.1. Publication of ABN Guiding Documents

A key milestone in the year was the finalization and launch of the ABN Barefoot guide on ABN methodologies, a practical guide addressing ABN methodologies on issues related to living in harmony with Nature and building community resilience. In addition, ABN provided financial and technical support to ten (10) partners for interventions with their communities to revive and revitalize their traditional governance structures for the protection and regeneration of their biocultural diversity. ABN envisions enhancing the documentation and the dissemination of best practices from community dialogues and other initiatives to facilitate learning and replication in other regions. The priority would be on systematic documentation and sharing of success stories and lessons learned to a wider audience to widen the scope of knowledge sharing.

3.2.2. Activities on Community Dialogues

Community Dialogues are spaces where the project beneficiaries have the opportunity to bring on the ground various issues and challenges they encounter, especially on biocultural diversity conservation in their localities. It is also a space for discussions and learning on experiential-based solutions to address those issues and challenges. In 2023, ABN partners implemented Community Dialogues well with communities they are collaborating with. Through the funding of different donors, local initiatives have been supported in Uganda, Cameroon, Gabon, Benin, Ethiopia, Togo and Ghana. The activities implemented contributed to increasing partners' knowledge and practices on ABN methodologies.

In Uganda, AFRICE organized two follow-up community dialogues in the Kalangala district for the protection of Lake Albert's ecosystem. Out of this process, two more communities have embarked on the protection of the Lake Victoria ecosystem. Also, SEATINI facilitated community dialogues with Butimba and Kihagya community Elders, clan representatives and women on the importance of their customary practices, such as the significance of totems, rituals and traditional ceremonies for the conservation of threatened Biodiversity.

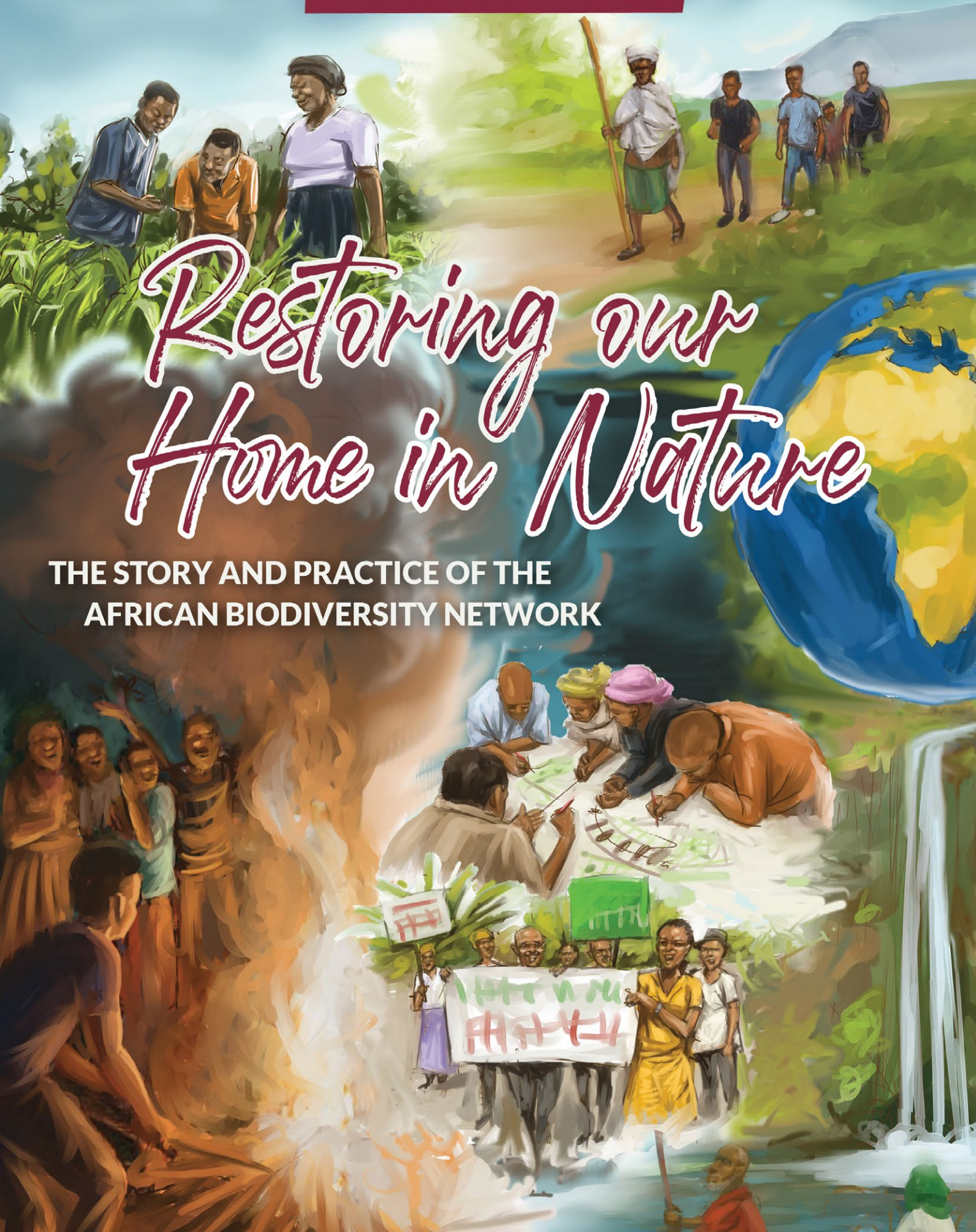


'My community has long endured hardships until we began working with GDA and our partners. We have embarked on a journey to revive our indigenous and traditional food crops and livestock. The diversity of seeds has significantly reduced the risk of hunger and empowered us to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and human-wildlife conflicts resulting from deforestation due to the timber trade,' expressed **Mrs. Mba Louise**, a proud member of the Nkoelon Community."

THE ABN BAREFOOT GUIDE

Restoring our Home in Nature

THE STORY AND PRACTICE OF THE AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK



Moreover, NAPE of Uganda facilitated community dialogues with Butimba and Kihagya community elders, clan representatives and women on the importance of their customary practices, such as the significance of totems, rituals and traditional ceremonies for the conservation of threatened Biodiversity.

In Cameroon, GDA mobilized five forest communities (Akanga, Elon, Mingoh, Fenda and Asoumdele) to map out their areas threatened by the upcoming Mega projects, which will wipe out the rich biodiversity and Sacred Sites. GDA and the communities are using these maps to lobby. Additionally, GDA organized community-sharing exchanges for solidarity and confidence building as they continue the fight for their land rights.

In Ethiopia, Benin, Ghana and Kenya, four partners (ISD, Grabe Benin, RAINS, and ICE) continue supporting new communities on their journey of re-rooting for the future and co-creation of knowledge under the multiple evidence-based approaches and walking workshops in addressing the current challenges.

3.2.3. Experiential Learning and Sensitization on the AU Resolution 372 on SNS&Ts

In May 2023, the partners from EASRN held a learning exchange in Uganda (hosted by AFRICE) to learn through the process of AFRICE and its communities in their journey towards the implementation of Resolution 372 of the African Union on the protection of SNS&Ts at the community and national level. The Buganda community received a bill for an ordinance on the protection of SNS. The ordinance provided legal legitimacy for the communities in the protection of the cultural institutions and SNS and other cultural conservations such as the community seeds and related practices, their food and other cultural practices. AFRICE grounded the community and held two follow-up meetings for leaders of Cultural Institutions from Toro and Busoga Kingdoms to reinforce the roles of cultural institutions in protecting Sacred Natural Sites (SNS), their custodians, and the expression of rights for indigenous communities. The basic foundation for effective implementation of Resolution 372 is to garner support from local and country levels. AFRICE is strengthening the work at community and national levels.

A key strategy for successful implementation and the protection of SNS&Ts and biodiversity, including the rights of nature and culture, is the use of community dialogues. Community dialogues have proved to be tools for effective mobilization of indigenous and local communities, strengthening of their customary governance systems, and documentation of these customary laws. In addition, community dialogues have helped in the identification of authentic custodians of the SNS&T who then champion the recognition of resolution within the existing legal frameworks at their local level and then eventually lobby the National level governments and regional levels. The process may take time, but it eventually enhances community determination and the reduction in biodiversity loss.

The recommendation was for ABN to identify a few potent communities first to identify their SNS, which vary and advance the process of their protection. Currently, not all partners are accompanying the community in reviving its ecological governance structures since the process takes time.

In Ghana, RAINS held a follow up community dialogue with a meeting on the ongoing work to revive and protect sacred natural groves and related cultural practices in the community of Dagboashe, in the Tolon traditional area. Out of these processes, the community also has set bylaws that ensure that neither a tree is felled nor a creature harmed within its boundaries. This, according to the participants, has increased the number of species in groves, such as birds, lizards, frogs, medicinal plants, ants, insects and other creatures that have been rare in the community or become visible as uncommon elsewhere. Additionally, RAINS collaborated and engaged with relevant government agencies on land. Thirty-five relevant government agencies and departments, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and traditional authorities participated in the meetings. Moreover, radio campaigns were organized to highlight the threats to sacred natural sites and, secondly, to highlight national policy frameworks governing forest resources.

3.2.4. Revival of Indigenous Practices in Conservation of Biocultural Diversity

In 2023, some ABN partners put a particular emphasis on enhancing and reviving local practices that help in addressing the critical loss of local biodiversity. Activities implemented in such are particularly located in the Western SRN and the Central SRN, were the partners. The support of ABN also allowed partners to strengthen the capacities of custodians (both traditional and those from public services) to safeguard natural ecosystems and endangered species. It also contributed to reviving the traditional planned grazing system.

In alignment with the SDG 15 (Life on land), ABN continues to support partners and communities to enhance their practices in reviving the lost seed varieties, medicinal plants and local varieties of chicken and goats that are adaptive to the local ecosystem. For instance, Nature Tropical has been strengthening the capacity of eco-guards to safeguard endangered species in Benin, particularly marine turtles. This also included providing equipment to support the actions of eco-guards in the protection of biodiversity at the community level in collaboration with women groups and fishermen. In Ghana, RAINS engaged the Dagboashe community to establish community-based nurseries for shea and other native tree seedlings, undertaking tree planting and farmers' management of local trees. In Togo, the regeneration of medicinal and sacred forests supports the community's use of their knowledge of biocultural.

Similar activities were implemented in Central Africa, where MEFP, in collaboration with the Bayaka community, embarked on beekeeping and revival of traditional beehives accessible to the community and promote ancestral biocultural values among young people and schoolchildren in target villages through intergenerational learning.

In addition, ABN partners' work has extended to academic institutions, like in Egypt, where Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE), in partnership with the Galala University, established a native nursery to promote the planting of six native tree species for landscaping in the tourism sector and private property gardens.

3.2.5. Indigenous Future Thinking (IFT)

Since 2020, four partners (namely ISD, Grabe Benin, RAINS, and ICE) have continuously supported new communities on their journey of re-rooting for the future and co-creating knowledge under multiple evidence-based approaches and walking workshops to address the current challenges. This has led to increased stakeholder engagement with the specific communities.

In Ghana, RAINS held a follow up community dialogue with a meeting on the ongoing work to revive and protect sacred natural groves and related cultural practices in the communities in Dagboashe, in the Tolon traditional area. Out of these processes, the community also has set bylaws that ensure that neither a tree is felled nor a creature harmed within its boundaries. This, according to the participants, has increased the number of species in groves, such as birds, lizards, frogs, medicinal plants, ants, insects and other creatures that have been rare in the community.

Additionally, RAINS collaborated and engaged with relevant government agencies on land. Thirty-five relevant government agencies and departments, CSOs, and traditional authorities participated in the meetings. Radio campaigns were organized to highlight the threats to sacred natural sites and, secondly, to highlight national policy frameworks governing forest resources.

3.2.6. Key Outputs under Community Ecological Governance (CEG)




-  **Adoption of Ecological Governance Practices:** A total of 263 community members have actively adopted ecological governance practices, contributing to the revitalization and preservation of their cultural biodiversity.
-  **Stakeholder Engagement in Institutional Revitalization:** At least five NGOs and other stakeholders have engaged in efforts to revitalize traditional institutions, strengthening cultural governance frameworks.
-  **Community Resources for Ecological Governance:** Two key documents on community ecological governance have been developed, serving as vital resources for community-led environmental stewardship.
-  **Experiential Learning and Knowledge Sharing:** Three partners and communities hosted experiential learning sessions, facilitating knowledge exchange and empowering others to adopt sustainable practices.

3.3. Achievements under Youth Culture and Biodiversity (YCB)

The activities at the Secretariat level included ABN's staff participation in regional consultations on food systems and agroecology, as well as climate change and youth initiatives to address its impacts.

3.3.1. Study on Youth Priorities in Africa

During the inception phase of the SIDA project, JVE was assigned to conduct a study on youth priorities in Africa. This study examined the extent to which today's young Africans are engaged in issues relating to biocultural diversity in Africa. It also analyzed the role of different actors in transferring traditional/local knowledge to younger generations through their activities and platforms, while identifying innovative means of conservation and sustainable governance. The draft report of the study was submitted to ABN's Secretariat by JVE and the following key highlights shared during the Biennial General Meeting (BGM), in September 2023 in Bantu Lodge (Kenya):

-  Young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and risks posed by the climate crisis and are at the forefront of efforts to provide sustainable solutions and call on leaders and decision-makers to take appropriate action to reduce emissions and help communities adapt and become more resilient.
-  There is a low level of knowledge and understanding of cultural biodiversity among young people. This, along with other factors (different interests and insufficient collaboration with governance frameworks and platforms), explains the lack of involvement and commitment of young people in Africa.
-  Even though a number of youth organizations at the national, regional, and continental levels are investing in strong actions in favor of biodiversity conservation with the ambition of engaging young people, they lack the right approaches, strategies, and support to really achieve their goals.

3.3.2. Participation in National, Regional and International Events

ABN participated in the 1st Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology, organized by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), in Machakos County (Kenya). The Summit gathered more than 50 participants from different African countries to discuss the best ways to promote agroecology in addressing the challenges faced by food systems on the continent. AFSA took the opportunity of this gathering to launch the Barefoot guide entitled "My Food is African". The digital campaign that followed the launch of this Barefoot guide recognized the importance of community seeds and indigenous practices in addressing food systems issues in Africa. ABN contributed to shaping the final Declaration of the Summit, addressed to decision-makers on agricultural and food policies.

The Summit ended with the decision to organize a bigger Summit to gather 1000 Youth in 2024 in a different country in Africa to discuss solutions to address the main issues revealed in the Summit in Machakos. This Summit should be an opportunity for young people from different organizations to bring to the table their solutions to various aspects of food systems on the continent. In this process, ABN brought in the critical need to consider the cultural dimension of seeds and the matter of biodiversity governance in addressing challenges encountered in food systems in Africa.

Following the Machakos Summit, ABN was invited to participate in the Executive Committee meeting to plan the 1000 Youth Summit to take place in 2024. The meeting was held in Entebbe (Uganda) in October 2023, with the participation of young people across the continent, coming from various sets of organizations and areas. The meeting had two main outcomes: a) a comprehensive planning (Gantt Chart) for the official launch of the Summit during the COP28 in Dubai (United Arab Emirates); 2) A planning and budget for the Summit, plus roles of the different organizing Committees.

ABN also participated in COP28 activities on Youth engagement: pre-launch and official launch of the AFSA 1st 1000 Youth Summit on Agroecology and Food Systems. It has been an opportunity to speak out about the engagement of ABN in agroecology issues, particularly on the need to bridge the gap between Elders and Youth, through the intergenerational learning process. Also, ABN was part of the official launch of the 1000 Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology held in the Ethiopian Pavilion in the COP28 venue. The Regional Program Coordinator was invited to give the introductory speech of the ceremony.

3.3.3. Activities on Youth Initiatives

In 2023, ABN partners engaged in the promotion of Youth-centered initiatives on socio-cultural environmental and economic issues. These activities included exposure of youth to practical training on farming management systems. Some partners set up projects at school through the school curriculum and the support from Elders in the community. Such initiatives were other opportunities to expose young people to the natural environment through wilderness therapy camps and environmental education, working on heritage, culture and identity. This resulted into a better youth involvement in ABNYCB methodology and the benefits accrued through these processes. A total of 30 youth initiatives on socio-cultural and environmental issues have been reported across partners. Also, 140 young people were involved in activities promoting ABN-related methodologies.

3.3.4. Experiential Learning with Youths

The experiential learning activities are aimed at raising interest among young people in biodiversity conservation, indigenous knowledge and practices and ABN related tools and methodologies. Hence, experiential learning centers were formed to ensure inter-

generational learning in the school systems. With the support of the ABN Secretariat, partners organized a youth-led annual competition on biodiversity conservation and addressing climate change with indigenous knowledge. The purpose was to promote youth-based environmental conservation efforts. Through such, young people were able to see the linkage between climate change and the need for agroecology in the conservation of biocultural and biodiversity blended in with passion.

In the same spirit, environmental club activities were launched as part of the sustainable education program to engage children and youth. More than 150 students were engaged in inter-generational dialogues and practical activities like tree planting, installing tree nurseries, and creating awareness.

3.3.5. Participation in National, Regional and International Gatherings

As part of efforts to promote youth participation in national, regional and international gatherings, a marathon and climate justice caravan was organized to prepare the COP28 in Dubai. A regional caravan on environment and climate justice engaged actors and youth from across Africa in Togo. Over 300 youth climate activists were mobilized, and local leaders and government were engaged in lobbying and advocating against environmental degradation caused by fossil fuel use. A massive awareness of the significance of environment, biodiversity and local production and consumption was made. As a result, over 30 local leaders and authorities were met, and the youth position shared. One of the key outcomes was that agroecology was retained as a key subject in Togo's position, and also the government expressed their support for renewable energy and investment in sustainable electrification alternatives, including solar.



Photo: ABN delegation at COP28 in Dubai, UAE.

During the year 2023, ABN significantly contributed to the evaluation of Kenya's 6th National Report on the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP), laying essential groundwork for the forthcoming 7th National Report. This entailed tailoring the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) to align with national priorities, with robust participation from diverse stakeholders, including government and state departments. Venter Mwongera, in her role as Communications and Advocacy Coordinator at the time, effectively represented ABN during these pivotal discussions.

3.3.6. Using of Youth Music and Arts Related to ABN's Work on Biodiversity Conservation

Using art to showcase ABN-related work has been an important part of the year 2023 achievements. In Tanzania, ENVIROCARE, in collaboration with the Tanzania Cultural Council, identified and engaged youth celebrities or artists and worked with them to promote biocultural diversity through music, drawings and different art works. The aim was to amplify the importance of biocultural diversity and indigenous food systems. The initiative involved collaborating with young artists to create impactful artwork and media, including ten printed pictures conveying key messages about cultural practices across diverse communities.




The project is set to leverage partnerships with Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation and Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority to disseminate these outcomes through popular youth artists. This has been key in heightening engagement among younger generations. The use of art and media served as a dynamic and relatable way to connect with and involve the youth. By working with young celebrities and artists, our project effectively harnessed the power of artistic expression to promote biocultural diversity. The collaboration not only engaged younger generations but also contributed to cultural preservation and increased awareness of the invaluable indigenous values associated with biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems.

In Zimbabwe, a youth festival was organized by CELUCT, witnessed by 40 participants attending this event. This event was a chance for the five youth groups to celebrate their milestones in terms of their agroecology youth specific projects and to share information and learn from each other. During the festival, there was a session where the participants were taught about agroecology and how it would cushion farmers from the adverse effects of climate change.



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3.3.7. Key outputs on Youth Culture and Biodiversity (YCB)

-  **Youth-led Initiatives on Socio-Economic and Environmental Issues:** 30 youth-driven initiatives addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges were implemented, fostering community engagement and sustainable impact.
-  **Establishment of an Intergenerational Learning Center:** One dedicated learning center was established, promoting intergenerational knowledge exchange and strengthening community resilience.
-  **Youth Engagement in ABN Methodologies:** A total of 140 youth actively participated in activities centered on ABN methodologies, building their capacity and fostering leadership in sustainable practices.

3.4. Achievements under Gender

3.4.1. Development and Capacity Building Trainings on GRAP

The key principle under the ABN methodologies is to bring out the different and complementary knowledge and responsibility of both men and women as they play roles in their territories. Community dialogues have offered spaces and avenues for community learning and sharing. Hence, it was crucial to think about the ABN way of handling gender while addressing issues of biocultural diversity. Valuing the knowledge of women on seed governance is one way of doing it, as well as giving them the space to make decisions on food production systems. Thus, they can contribute to reviving their local seed diversity, food nutrition and related knowledge systems.

On stakeholder engagement, ABN participated in the Anglo-feminist school organized by SEATINI in collaboration with WoMin African Alliance, a feminist organization that supports women in organizing and building a movement aimed at challenging the destructive large-scale extraction of natural resources. WoMin also profiles women's struggles and developmental alternatives that respond to the needs of the majority of African women. It profiles their (women's) voices and stories of inspirational organizing and action. It is a good platform that some of the ABN partners are already engaging in.

The ABN also keeps the linkage by sharing some of the gender responses to the climate crisis and struggles our communities are going through, and sharing the ABN principle to consider the rights of nature, biodiversity conservation for the community, and ecosystem resilience.

One of the key challenges identified on gender was limited knowledge and access to information. The ABN continues to share the publication on Celebrating African Rural Women Custodians of Knowledge. Through their Gender and Women Leadership Program, JVE held a festival after training 300 women on the manufacture of organic inputs, the production of seedlings, the reforestation of 3,500 seedlings, the training and

equipping of women in the improved savings and credit system, and the manufacture and dissemination of more than 240 improved wood-burning stoves. For instance, in Benin, Nature Tropical supported women groups with income generating activities under the savings for change initiative. In Kenya, Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation (MPIDO), a partner of ABN, has advanced two projects at Olookisalie community, Kajiado West, targeting women and girls. They support girl child education to alleviate early marriages. Also, MPIDO has a program on the empowerment of women's and has supported women with seed capital for table banking and for the women to set up small business enterprises such as beadwork for sale. The beadwork is also a way of preserving their biocultural heritage.

3.5. Achievements under Advocacy, Publications and Media engagement

The activities implemented in 2023 contributed to progress and achievements made in advancing advocacy and policy initiatives, with a focus on two key objectives: fostering a strong proactive youth movement and increasing support for community-led advocacy.

3.5.1. Advocacy on Youth-Related Issues

During the reporting period, substantial strides were made in empowering youth and fostering their engagement with biocultural diversity issues:

Through workshops, 120 youths (comprising 60 females and 60 males) were reached, ensuring gender-balanced representation and inclusivity in the dialogue on environmental conservation. This provided a platform for raising awareness about biocultural diversity and instilling a sense of environmental stewardship. Additionally, the establishment of youth-led initiatives and inter-generational learning centers has further been used as an advocacy tool to amplify the cause of cultural preservation and environmental conservation among younger generations. Notable behavioral changes in their attitudes around biocultural diversity matters, including increased awareness and adoption of sustainable practices, underscore the impact of these interventions.

Through youth workshops, which had advocacy strategies, 11 youth-led initiatives were established, with over 200 individuals, 40% of them being female, demonstrating the inclusive nature of the initiatives and the diversity of voices represented. These actively participated in advocacy efforts related to socio-cultural and environmental issues. Also, these initiatives provided youth with a platform to voice their concerns, propose solutions, and take collective action towards preserving biocultural diversity.

Six inter-generational Learning Centers were established (within the school system) as part of efforts to facilitate inter-generational knowledge exchange. These centers reached over 150 students (with a distribution of 70 females and 80 males), fostering a deeper appreciation for traditional knowledge and indigenous practices related to biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage preservation.



3.5.2. Cases Studies and Community-Led Advocacy Initiatives

Case studies conducted during the reporting period revealed noticeable behavioral changes among youth participants. These changes included increased awareness about environmental conservation, adoption of sustainable livelihood practices, and a renewed commitment to preserving cultural heritage and traditional values. The assessments conducted among youth participants showed a 25% increase in awareness about environmental conservation practices and a 20% increase in the adoption of sustainable livelihood practices.

On community-led advocacy, a concerted effort to bolster community-based advocacy has led to tangible outcomes. Advocacy workshops and policy influence campaigns have facilitated dialogue among stakeholders and policymakers, resulting in increased awareness and policy reforms supporting community-led initiatives. Furthermore, research findings disseminated through policy briefs and stakeholder engagement initiatives have informed evidence-based decision-making and strengthened partnerships for collective action.

As ABN navigate the complexities of environmental conservation and cultural preservation, it is crucial to build upon these achievements and address emerging challenges. By sustaining youth engagement, expanding inter-generational learning initiatives, and advocating for evidence-based policies, the network can forge a path towards lasting positive change for present and future generations. This report serves as a testament to the collective efforts and underscores the importance of continued collaboration and commitment to our shared goals.

Furthermore, ABN collaborated with non-state actors to fulfill key policy-influencing roles during the year. This includes:

Seed working consortium

ABN played a crucial role as a member of the steering committee in organizing the 2nd National Seed and Food Fair Harvest held at the National Museum of Kenya. As a panelist, ABN contributed to discussions on the role of digital technologies in promoting food sovereignty and how indigenous seed and agroecology foster resilience within communities. These discussions furthered the agenda of lobbying for the operationalization of the operationalized.

Deepening Advocacy Work on Farmer-Managed Seed System

The ABN Secretariat, along with partners from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, launched a regional advocacy campaign aimed at increasing awareness of farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) to promote food sovereignty. Running from October 2023 to September 2024, this one-year project is funded by Bread for the World. Throughout the year, the project focused on lobbying and advocating for the operationalization of FMSS at the regional level, aiming to influence policies aligned with them. This initiative seeks to

contribute to the promotion of sustainable food production systems and create an enabling policy environment for rural farmers to sustainably feed the world with healthy foods while aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 13, and 15. Efforts to increase support for community-led advocacy and build coalitions for policy influence have yielded significant outcomes:

Advocacy Workshops

Organized workshops brought together community leaders, stakeholders, and policymakers to discuss key issues related to biocultural diversity. These workshops provided opportunities for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and strategizing towards collective action. The workshops engaged 80 community leaders and stakeholders, with 40% of participants being females, ensuring gender representation and diversity of perspectives in advocacy efforts.

Policy Influence Campaigns

Conducted campaigns and lobbying actions aimed at influencing policymakers on priority issues such as ecological governance, biodiversity conservation, and seed sovereignty. These efforts sought to raise awareness, build consensus, and advocate for policy reforms supporting community-led initiatives. The campaigns reached over 100 policymakers and government officials, resulting in a 30% increase in awareness about the importance of community-led initiatives for biocultural diversity conservation.

Research and Policy Briefs

Relevant research activities were conducted, and findings were disseminated through policy briefs, position papers, and press releases. These documents provided evidence-based recommendations to policymakers, guiding decision-making processes and informing policy reforms. Policy briefs and research papers were distributed to 50 policymakers and government agencies, resulting in a 40% increase in the adoption of evidence-based policies supporting community-led advocacy for biocultural diversity conservation.

Stakeholder Engagement

Strengthened partnerships with NGOs, civil society organizations, government agencies, and other allies who share a commitment to biocultural diversity conservation. These collaborations expanded the reach of advocacy efforts, facilitated knowledge exchange, and amplified the collective voice of the movement. Stakeholder engagement initiatives reached over 20 organizations and institutions, resulting in a 50% increase in collaborative projects and initiatives aimed at promoting community-led advocacy for biocultural diversity conservation.

3.5.3. Documenting ABN's Work Through Publications

ABN's Position Paper at COP28

ABN released a position paper during COP28 in Dubai (United Arab Emirates); see Annex three for a link to the position paper that addresses the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change on African agriculture. The document advocates for a comprehensive approach that prioritizes community ecological governance, youth engagement, biocultural diversity preservation and conservation, and the safeguarding of community seed knowledge. Also, it recognizes the intricate connections between these elements, and emphasizes the importance of integrating traditional perspectives and practices with innovative technologies and mitigation strategies to promote sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

ABN Quarterly Newsletters

Throughout the year 2023, the ABN's quarterly newsletter published 18 articles spotlighting stories of change and the impacts of the project, achieved through collaborative efforts among communities, partners in the project and the ABN Secretariat. See Annex three for the titles and links to these articles, organized by each quarter of publication (January, April, July, and October), presented in chronological order from the earliest to the most recent.

3.6. Achievements at Sub-Regional Level

In line with the SRN approach, ABN Secretariat supported training on ABN methodologies for North and Central Partners, exposing them to various methodologies, including seed cataloging, eco-calendar process, community dialogues, and research. Partners also had an exposure learning visit to communities engaged by Green Development Advocate (GDA), a partner in Cameroon. The methodologies employed by ABN were praised for enabling partners to address community-related issues practically, considering environmental, sociological, anthropological, and economic contexts. Participants particularly resonated with the emphasis on indigenous peoples as guardians of biodiversity and seeds.

In 2023, networking activities were instrumental in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange within the ABN network. Key events included the Sub-Regional Network (SRN) gatherings held in Uganda and Cameroon for the East Africa Sub-Regional Network (EASRN) and the North and Central Africa (NCA), respectively, as well as the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) held in Bantu, Kenya, with all partners in attendance. These events provided invaluable platforms for partners to share experiences, learn from each other, and strengthen coordination across thematic areas.

3.7. Achievements under Networking and Partnership Building

3.7.1. Africa Climate Summit/Africa Climate Week (ACS/ACW)

The Africa Climate Summit and Africa Climate Week (ACS/ACW) in Nairobi, September 4th-8th, 2023, attended by diverse stakeholders, emphasized critical climate issues linked to biodiversity preservation and Africa's cultural heritage. Discussions acknowledged COP27 findings, Africa's vulnerability to climate change, and the urgent need for global emissions reduction. The event highlighted the inter-connectedness of climate change, biodiversity, and cultural diversity, emphasizing their impact on Africa. The conclusion stresses the imperative integration of climate and biodiversity efforts, and recommendations include follow-ups on notable actions and sustained participation in key campaigns and events. From the summit, the pivotal role of networking in addressing climate challenges and calls for continued collaboration for a sustainable future was stressed.

ABN's role as a part of the Africa Non-State Actors: ABN was actively involved in the planning of an event as a member of the steering committee, where ABN contributed as a panelist discussing the civil society's role in climate change mitigation. Additionally, ABN was instrumental in content development and editorial work for the drafting of a position paper on the impact of climate change on the continent. This paper was submitted at the African Climate Summit and Africa Climate Week held in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2023.

3.7.2. Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) 2023 Mission Report - Nairobi, 11th and 12th October 2023

The report on the Global Landscape Forum 2023 Hybrid Conference held in Nairobi from October 11th to 12th, 2023, highlighted a key platform fostering sustainable landscapes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. The conference covered six thematic areas, including rural development, women in landscapes, youth engagement, environmental justice, sustainable finance, and locally-led landscape solutions. Notable events attended included sessions on African-led solutions in food systems, the role of seed banks in climate change, landscape restoration in Sub-Saharan Africa, agroecological transformation, securing land rights for sustainable forest landscape restoration, and the contribution of multilateral development banks to tackling the climate crisis, emphasizing the importance of follow-ups with donor organizations and showcasing ABN's methodologies and work in biodiversity conservation.

3.7.3. COD-ILK Mission

The COD-ILK Mission, on October 27, 2023, had insights into the meeting held in Nairobi with representatives from COD-ILK member organizations in Kenya, including ABN. The agenda covered discussions on COD-ILK events participation, newsletter writing, and presentations by Joji Carino regarding COD-ILK's functions. COD-ILK, focused on indigenous and local knowledge, facilitates knowledge exchange and conservation. The

meeting emphasized ABN's potential role in coordinating COD-ILK activities in Africa and highlighted the importance of growth beyond Kenya. Members pledged active involvement in newsletter creation and planning for the upcoming MEB webinar. The report also addressed Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) updates and COD-ILK task force nominations, emphasizing the interconnectedness of COD-ILK with broader international initiatives. The conclusion recognized the dedication of COD-ILK members to advancing indigenous knowledge and biodiversity conservation. The meeting showcased collaborative efforts and commitment to positive change.

3.7.4. 29th Eastern Africa Resource Mobilization Workshop

Held from November 28 to December 2, 2023, the workshop had two main components: Training and Networking.



Photo showing participants at the 29th Eastern Africa Resource Mobilization Workshop.

Under training, the workshop covered insights into financial and non-financial contributions from corporations, emphasizing the importance of storytelling, execution plans, leadership deployment, and supporter engagement. Other topics included servant leadership, leveraging African cultural heritage for sustainable philanthropy, empowering communities as resource hubs, overcoming donor dependency, crafting a balanced funding mix, and the pivotal role of families in philanthropy.

The networking section highlighted engagement with other NGOs and donor organizations which fund eco-based initiatives.

Next steps include improving online presence, setting up structures for fundraising, establishing a fundraising plan, increasing engagement with partners and donors, and appointing a Resource Mobilization focal point at the board level for effective follow-up and lead generation.

3.7.5. Resource Mobilization

ABN continued its partnership with its funders, including SwedBio, SIDA, Bread for the World, Swift Foundation, and Tudor Trust, to continue implementing and deepening its work within Africa. We are very grateful for the continuous support that our funders give us and for ensuring we are well-placed to meet our shared goals. This relationship has enabled us to make major strides in nurturing a community that lives in harmony with nature, and we hope our partnerships continue to yield these great results. In the same breath, ABN secured new funding from RE:ARC Institute for 2 years. The proposed **Biocultural Diversity Conservation and Community Enhancement** Program has beneficiaries, including indigenous communities, women, youth, and smallholder farmers. ABN's methodology here emphasizes community engagement and ecological mapping. The project aims for increased biodiversity preservation, climate change mitigation, improved livelihoods, and community resilience.

3.7.6. Staff Retreat

Following the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) in September 2023, ABN Secretariat staff engaged in a team-building retreat. This retreat provided an opportunity for reflection on both individual and team contributions, focusing on ways to enhance collaborative efforts towards our shared goals. Additionally, the team engaged in strategic planning for the last quarter of the year, aiming to improve efficiency and effectiveness in achieving our objectives.

3.7.7. Information Management System (IMS)

The ABN acknowledged the need to have an IMS during 2023. A tendering call was put out for software developers to design an IMS for ABN to which one was contracted and work started in November 2023. The system is currently under pilot stage before conclusion and roll-out.

3.8. Achievements under Monitoring and Evaluation

During the year, ABN commissioned a consultant to spearhead a mid-term evaluation for the SIDA-funded project. The data collection phase was meticulously executed through a multifaceted approach, incorporating online surveys, meetings, and on-site visits to selected partners.

Additionally, three project feedback meetings were conducted with partners under Swedbio, BftW and SIDA projects, facilitating constructive discussions and ensuring alignment with project objectives. Additionally, a meeting with partners was organized in December 2023, where partners were taken through the project and their roles. This meeting was supported by the RE:ARC, one of ABN funders.

An intensive training session was conducted focusing on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for key partners in Tanzania, notably TABIO and ENVIROCARE. Moreover, the NCA-SRN partners underwent comprehensive training on ABN's M&E methodologies, along with the utilization of pertinent tools, aimed at bolstering their capacity in this domain.

The outcomes of these capacity-building endeavors are evident in the enhanced quality of reporting from our partners. Notably, there has been a noticeable shift towards result-oriented reporting compared to previous years. Furthermore, partners have begun conducting more detailed monitoring activities, a notable example being the comprehensive monitoring report submitted by ENVIROCARE. This report not only provided progress updates but also offered a meticulous account of their monitoring activities, serving as tangible evidence of the elevated capacity resulting from the training initiatives.

Society of Alternative Learning and Transformation (SALT) and Green Development Advocates (GDA) communities were visited during NCA-SRN training in Cameroon and BGM held in Kenya, respectively. During the two events, ABN and partners had an opportunity to visit communities working with GDA and SALT. Other partners like RIDEP, Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP) and Biodiversity and Biosafety Association Kenya (BIBA) were visited during physical visits by consultants to collect data for SIDA mid-term evaluation.

Furthermore, a virtual meeting was convened with North and Central Partners, offering insights into M&E approaches and tools utilized at ABN. These activities collectively stimulated the evaluation process, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of project dynamics and fostering collaborative relationships with partners.

In compliance with the respective grant agreements, the Secretariat reviewed reports from BftW, SIDA and SwedBio projects, and developed consolidated activity reports and annual reports, submitted to the different donors. For Swift Foundation and Tudor Trust, who mainly support core cost at the Secretariat, annual reports were developed and shared with each.



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AGRICULTURE

4. Table of Results Achieved in Relation to the Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

The ABN five-year Strategic Plan period is now halfway through, after two and a half years of operationalization. In 2025, the ABN Secretariat plans to assess this plan in order to readjust it in alignment with the new priorities. The table below shows the progress made on the Strategic Plan so far.

Table 1: Results achieved in relation to the Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Strategic Area	Strategy	2023 Milestones
Strategic Area One: Organizational Growth and Development	Devolution of Secretariat functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitated two Sub-Regional Node (SRN) events for East Africa and North Central Africa SRNs. ● Organized country node events in Benin, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.
	Capacity development of staff, governance organs and network partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organized capacity building workshops on ABN methodologies targeting North and Central SRN and partners from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. ● Facilitated training on Monitoring and Evaluation as per ABN's approaches for NCA-SRN and Tanzania partners. ● Facilitated capacity building on digital communication for Tanzania partners.
	Strengthen stakeholders' engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A total of six joint events held in partnership with other actors and ABN partners.
	Management of network partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducted project-based feedback sessions with partners to enhance collaboration and refine project strategies. ● Facilitated networking opportunities at the SRN level by organizing meetings with lead organizations. ● Convened the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) to foster collaboration, share achievements, and set strategic directions for the future.
Strategy Area Two: Communication and Networking	Documentation, dissemination of knowledge, and sharing of experiences and innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Three newsletters published and shared with ABN partners, friends and allies.
Strategy Area Three: Integrated Programming	Community resilience and livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5,240 households were reached directly through project activities.

Strategic Area	Strategy	2023 Milestones
Strategy Area Three: Integrated Programming (Cont'd)	Ecological governance and seed knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 31 communities supported to engage in ecological governance. ● Four community seedbanks supported. ● At least seven categories of indigenous seeds are being recuperated; these include cereals (grains), pulses (legumes), tubers (root crops), leafy vegetables, spice and herbs, nut-like crops, and fruits.
	Intergenerational dialogue and biocultural diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A total of 1,475 youth engaged in 2023 on biocultural initiatives facilitating intergenerational learning from elders. ● At least 15 community learning exchanges conducted to facilitate inter and intra community exchange on intergenerational dialogue on biocultural diversity.
	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At least five project-based feedbacking meetings held. ● External mid-term evaluation for SIDA funded project conducted. ● Monitoring visits to partner organizations held to assess implementation of activities and replication of ABN methodologies at community level.
Strategy Area Four: Advocacy and Social Mobilization	Advocacy and lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five policy briefs developed by Secretariat and partners during key events. ● Two actions influenced through ABN strategic partners in Uganda and Zimbabwe; (1). Sustained action on advocating for food safety, agro-chemicals resulted into a Cabinet decision in May 2023 to create a new Food, Feed and Plant Authority in Uganda through SEATINI and partners. These partners led by SEATINI will be participating in consultations for the development of principle objective for the new Authority in Uganda. (2). In Zimbabwe Agroecology Promotion Policy influenced through consultations with PELUM Zimbabwe and partners.
	Gender mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrated gender programming into the implementation of community-level activities among ABN and partners, culminating in the execution of at least five targeted initiatives. These initiatives were strategically designed to enhance the active participation of both women and men in biocultural conservation efforts, thereby fostering inclusivity and maximizing impact.

5. Main Challenges, Mitigation Strategy and Recommendations

Despite the performance recorded both at the ABN Secretariat and partners level, some challenges were encountered in the course of the year 2023. One of the major challenges was the delay of reports submitted by partners. This has caused a major delay in the Secretariat's capacity to comply with donors' requirements in terms of audit and reports submission. Subsequently, this has hampered the Secretariat's capacity to receive the funds and do the installments to partners for the timely implementation of project activities. As a mitigation strategy, the M&E and Finance departments have reviewed the timelines of submission to avoid such issues in the future.

At the partners' level, the challenges are more on operations and interactions with the various stakeholders they work with. A few examples are as follows:

Government officers and officials are often not familiar with or trained in some activities, such as agroecological practices aligned with ABN methodologies. This would create difficulty when it comes to the promotion of agroecology and associated cultural and spiritual practices. The ABN's mitigation strategy in 2024 is to support and advise partners to organize tailored capacity-building opportunities for government officials, extension agents and relevant stakeholders on values and uses of agroecology and empowerment of youth, women and smallholder farmers. Hence, they would understand the other perspectives of development, which should begin from within.

The official position of most Governments on critical issues such as GMOs, and the interest of investors in the agriculture sector challenge the advocacy and lobbying efforts. Mitigation measures were taken particularly targeting challenges posed by governmental and investor positions on GMOs, and impeding biodiversity conservation advocacy. They involve educating stakeholders on GMO risks and biodiversity conservation, enhancing the capacity of advocacy groups in GMOs and sustainable agriculture, forming coalitions with similar organizations to reinforce advocacy, advocating for transparent policy-making that prioritizes public health and environmental sustainability, empowering local communities to advocate for their rights in agriculture and conservation of biocultural diversity, developing strategic communication strategies to inform stakeholders about GMOs, pushing for stronger regulations and liability frameworks for GMO deployment, establishing monitoring mechanisms to hold governments and investors accountable, collaborating internationally to exchange advocacy strategies, and launching public awareness campaigns to educate consumers and encourage biodiversity-friendly practices.

The challenges associated with fostering proactive collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders were addressed through ongoing engagement efforts aimed at establishing and strengthening linkages to facilitate project implementation. This mitigation strategy involved consistently reaching out to potential collaborators, nurturing existing relationships, and actively seeking opportunities for cooperation. By prioritizing

continuous engagement, the project team was able to overcome barriers to collaboration, enhance communication channels, and build trust among stakeholders. This approach not only facilitated smoother project implementation but also fostered a sense of shared ownership and commitment among all involved parties, ultimately contributing to the project's success. The recommendations to anticipate, mitigate and cope with challenges are various, both at the Secretariat and partners' levels:

At the Secretariat level, it is recommended that the current level of engagement be sustained to meet donors' compliance requirements and address partners' needs promptly. Additionally, implementing robust risk management procedures and documentation will help tackle major operational challenges effectively. Improving disbursement procedures to ensure timely fund allocation is essential to prevent delays reported by partners.

At the partners' level, it is advised to adhere strictly to the provisions outlined in the Memoranda of Understanding, particularly regarding submission deadlines. Partners should proactively identify risks specific to their operations and develop corresponding strategies and documentation to mitigate them effectively as they arise.

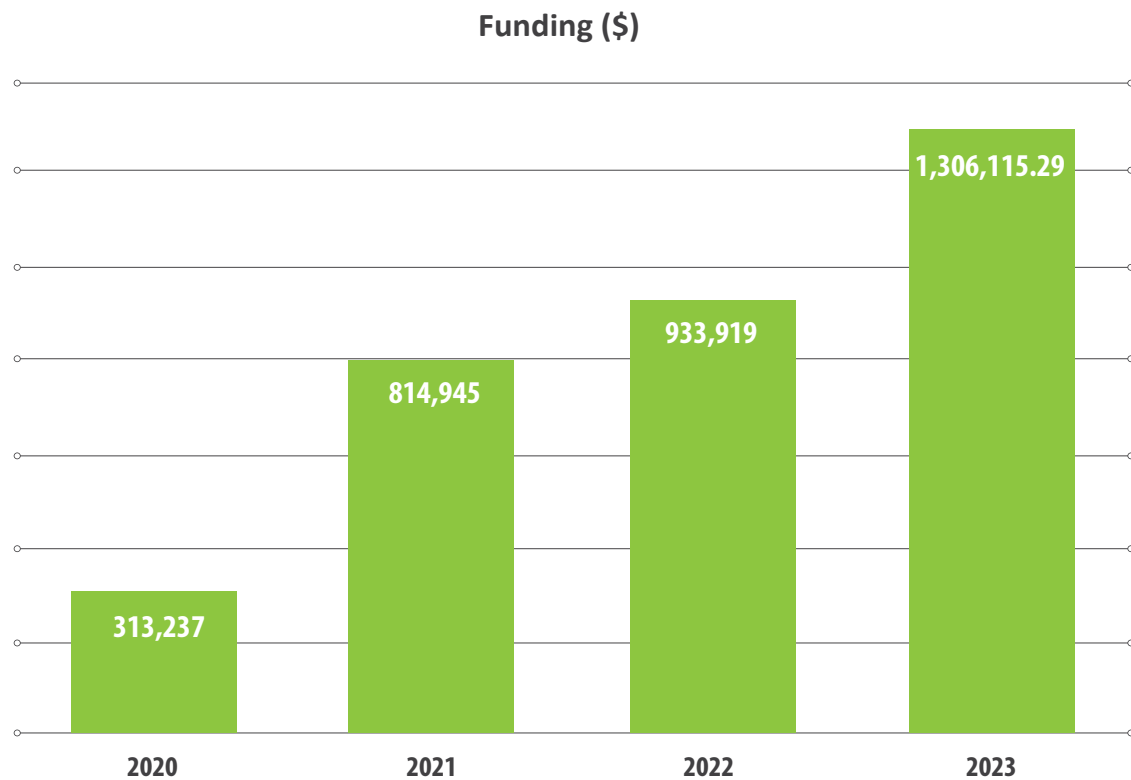


6. Summary Financial Statement

6.1. ABN Year 2023 Financial Highlights

Over the past three years, the overall budget and income have grown considerably. The budget now stands at **\$1.3m** (up from **\$0.3m** in year 2020). This growth is attributable to an increase in funding from the existing and new funders, good governance, and commitment from partners and staff. Currently, the funding model is project-based, with each funder having specific reporting requirements. Below is funding from 2020 to year 2023.

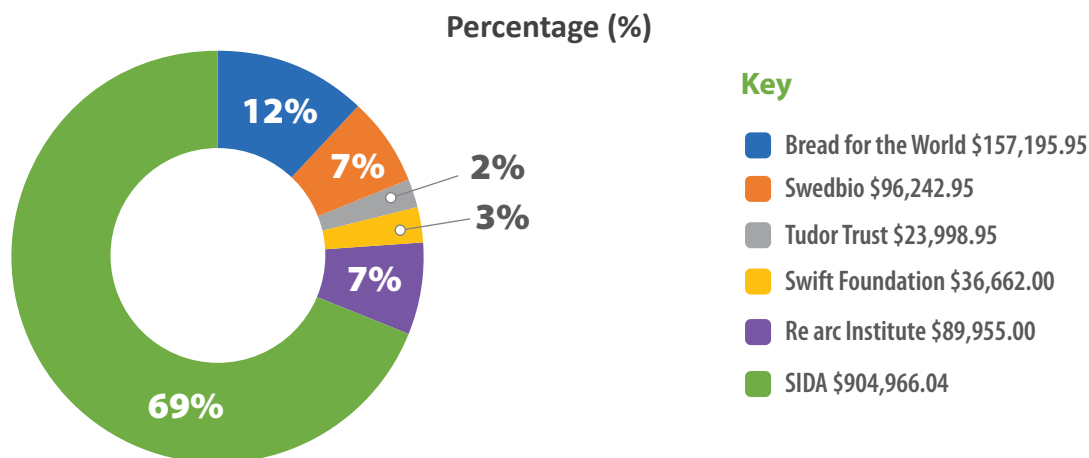
Graph 1: Graph showing trends in funding year on year



6.2. Year 2023 Financial Performance

Available funding - The year 2023 began with an opening balance of **\$51,729.51**, which was the funds that remained in 2023 for activities spanning the subsequent year. The total income received during the year was **\$1,309,099.09** (a growth of **28.66%** from 2022) making the total available funds for the year **\$1,360,828.60**. The income received comprised mainly of continued support from Bread for the World, \$157,195.95 (12%), Swedbio, \$96,242.95 (7%), Tudor Trust \$23,998.00 (2%) Swift Foundation, \$36,662.00 (3%), RE:ARC Institute, \$89,955.00 (7%) and SIDA-contribution no.14883, \$904,966.04 (69%).

Pie chart 1: Pie chart showing contribution by ABN funders



6.3. How the Funds were Spent

In terms of funds utilization, the total expenditure for the year was **\$1,003,275.73**, an absorption rate of 73.73% of the available funds and a 1.5% rise in costs compared to the year 2022 (**\$988,273**).

Overall, 20.87% of the annual cost (\$209,383.78) was spent on secretariat core costs while the balance of \$793,891.95 (79.13%) was utilized on direct thematic costs to support activities implemented by partners and by the ABN secretariat for regional learning exchanges events, publications and participation to regional and global discourses.

Table 2: Table Showing how funds were spent by thematic areas

Expenditure by Thematic Area	Amount	Percentage
Community Seed and Related Knowledge (CSK)	135,496.67	13.51
Community Ecological Governance (CEG)	121,949.10	12.16
Youth Culture and Biodiversity (YCB)	70,614.73	7.04
Advocacy, Communication and Regional Collaboration	122,305.77	12.19
Network Development and Praticce	343,525.68	34.24
Secretarial Staff	187,808.99	18.72
Administration Costs	21,574.79	2.15
Total	1,003,275.73	100.00

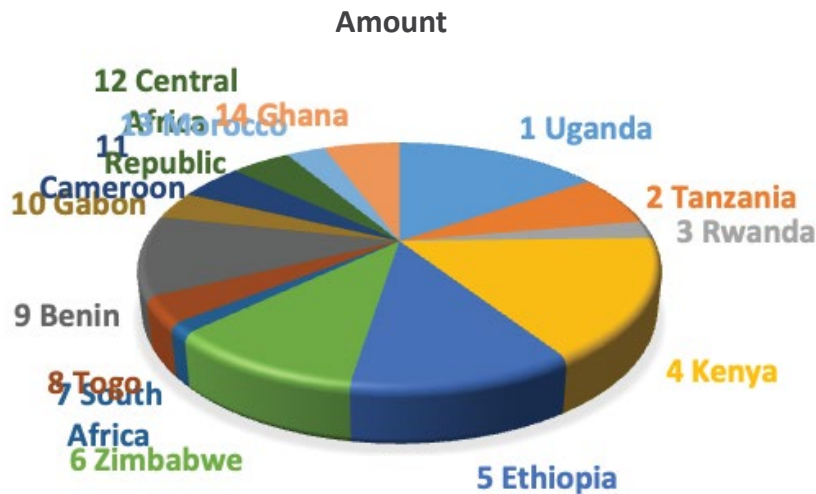
6.4. Micro-Project Support to Partners

A total of \$514,328 (representing 39.38% of the annual costs) was disbursed to **29** partners in **14** countries as micro project support for in-country activities with the communities based on ABN’s methodology; build coalitions to influence policies and hosting Sub-Regional Node activities in their region. The table below outlines disbursement per country.

Table 3: Table outlining disbursement per country

No.	Country	Amount \$	No.	Country	Amount (\$)
1	Uganda	79,480	8	Togo	18000
2	Tanzania	34,731	9	Benin	54460
3	Rwanda	12,150	10	Gabon	18833
4	Kenya	83,193.41	11	Cameroon	24820
5	Ethiopia	60644.1	12	Central Africa Republic	23000
6	Zimbabwe	53664.67	13	Morocco	15000
7	South Africa	7000	14	Ghana	29351.89
					Total: \$514,328

Pie chart 2: Pie chart showing distribution of funds per country



Financial decisions on the amount of support to implementing partners and on determining how and who to host Sub-Regional and Country Node events are made in consultation with partners and should ensure regional balance, cost efficiency, and consider the suitability and partners’ capacity, flight connections and other restrictions to travel requirements per country.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) has made significant strides in its commitment to promoting biocultural diversity conservation, gender equality, and sustainable development across Africa. For example, the establishment of a dedicated Gender Thematic Coordinator within the Secretariat underscores ABN's recognition of the importance of mainstreaming gender in its programs and initiatives. Through the implementation of the Gender Responsive Action Plan (GRAP) 2021-2026, ABN aims to foster equitable and sustainable management of African biocultural resources while advancing women's rights and leadership.

Furthermore, ABN's efforts to enhance resource mobilization and networking reflect its commitment to diversifying funding sources and strengthening partnerships to support the network's development objectives. The recruitment of a staff member dedicated to resource mobilization and partnership demonstrates ABN's proactive approach to addressing funding challenges and expanding its reach.

ABN's engagement with partners and communities through capacity-building activities, such as training sessions and community dialogues, has facilitated knowledge sharing and promoted the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and indigenous knowledge systems. These initiatives have empowered communities to preserve traditional seeds, protect biodiversity, and revitalize cultural practices, contributing to food sovereignty and community resilience.

Additionally, ABN's participation in regional and international forums, such as the Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology and COP28 activities, highlights its advocacy efforts to amplify youth voices and promote agroecological solutions to environmental challenges. By leveraging platforms like art and media, ABN has effectively engaged younger generations in biodiversity conservation and cultural preservation efforts.

Overall, ABN's multi-faceted approach to promoting biocultural diversity conservation and gender equality reflects its commitment to fostering sustainable development and resilience in African communities. Through strategic initiatives and collaborative partnerships, ABN continues to play a pivotal role in advancing its mission across the continent.

Annex 1: List of Partners in Different Sub-Regional Nodes

Partners in Eastern Africa

Implementing Partners		Strategic Partners	
Partners	Country	Partners	Country
Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE)	Kenya	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)	Uganda
Mandeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP)	Kenya	Biosafety and Biodiversity Association of Kenya (BIBA)	Kenya
Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)	Ethiopia	Food Rights Alliance (FRA)	Rwanda
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)	Uganda	Growth Partners	
Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP)	Kenya	PELUM Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Seed Savers Network	Kenya	PELUM Kenya	Kenya
Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development (MPIDO)	Kenya	Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)	Uganda
Emayian Integrated Development Organization (EIDO)	Kenya	Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO)	Tanzania
Society for Alternative Learning and Transformation (SALT)	Kenya	Pesticides Action Nexus (PAN) Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Global Initiative for Environment and Reconciliation (GER)	Rwanda		
African Institute for Culture and Ecology (AFRICE)	Uganda		
Ngatho Community Foundation	Kenya		
Center for Human Rights and Governance	DRC		
Grow Bio-Intensive Center of Kenya (G-BLACK)	Kenya		
Environmental, Human Rights Care and Gender Organization (ENVIROCARE)	Tanzania		

Partners in Western Africa

Implementing Partners		Strategic Partners	
Partner	Country	Partner	Country
Centre d'Éveil, d'Animation, et de Stimulation pour Enfants (CEVASTE)	Benin	Collectif Citoyen pour l'Agro Ecologie (CCAÉ)	Burkina Faso
Nature Tropicale	Benin		
Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour le Bien-Etre au Bénin (GRABE)	Benin		
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)	Togo		
Regional Advisory Information & Network Systems (RAINS)	Ghana		

Partners in Central and North Africa

Implementing Partners		Strategic Partners	
Partners	Country	Partners	Country
Green Development Advocates (GDA)	Cameroon	Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE)	Egypt
Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée (MEFP)	Central Africa Republic (CAR)		
Muyissi Environnement	Gabon		
Réseau des Initiatives Agroécologiques au Maroc	Morocco		

Partners in Southern Africa

Implementing partners		Strategic Partners	
Partner	Country	Partner	Country
Chikukwa Ecological and Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT)	Zimbabwe	Biowatch	South Africa
Earthlore Foundation	South Africa	PELUM Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
Usiko	South Africa		

Annex 2: ABN Funding Partners



Annex 3: Publications from ABN and Partners in 2023

Articles published during the year 2023 including in the ABN Quarterly Newsletter

Harare's Good Food and Seed Festival 2023 Celebrates Agricultural Creativity

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/harares-good-food-and-seed-festival-2023-celebrates-agricultural-creativity/>

The groundnut revival: A journey of farming and community enrichment

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/the-groundnut-revival-a-journey-of-farming-and-community-enrichment/>

Climate and Biodiversity: ABN's Engagement at Climate Summit and Week

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/climate-and-biodiversity-abns-engagement-at-climate-summit-and-week/>

Nature's cry for help: The peril of the Tana River

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/natures-cry-for-help-the-peril-of-the-tana-river/>

Empowering African Youth for climate action: Breaking barriers

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/empowering-african-youth-for-climate-action-breaking-barriers/>

Celebrating 20 Years of African Biodiversity Network: Shaping a Sustainable Future

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/celebrating-20-years-of-african-biodiversity-network-shaping-a-sustainable-future/>

Her Land, Her Rights: Empowering Women for Environmental Conservation

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/her-land-her-rights-empowering-women-for-environmental-conservation/>

Community Seed Fairs: Celebrating Biodiversity and Empowering Farmers in Tharaka

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/community-seed-fairs-celebrating-biodiversity-and-empowering-farmers-in-tharaka/>

ABN joins like-minded networks at 1st African Youth Summit on Food Systems

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/abn-joins-like-minded-networks-at-1st-african-youth-summit-on-food-systems/>

Agroecology: A Sustainable Lifeline for Lake Toho in Benin

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/agroecology-a-sustainable-lifeline-for-lake-toho-in-benin/>

ABN Secretariat's Quarterly Journey of Growth and Impact

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/abn-secretariats-quarterly-journey-of-growth-and-impact/>

Conserving ancestral knowledge: Traditional knowledge transfer in Central Africa

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/conserving-ancestral-knowledge-traditional-knowledge-transfer-in-central-africa/>

Embracing indigenous seeds for climate change adaptation in Uganda

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/embracing-indigenous-seeds-for-climate-change-adaptation-in-uganda/>

Protecting our planet's life support system

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/protecting-our-planets-life-support-system/>

Reviving indigenous seed breeding: Empowering communities for food sovereignty

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/reviving-indigenous-seed-breeding/>

Tales of wisdom and inspiration from Tolon-Daboagshee in Northern Ghana

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/tales-of-wisdom-and-inspiration-from-tolon-daboagshee-in-northern-ghana/>

Agroecology builds sustainable food systems in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/agroecology-builds-sustainable-food-systems-in-kwazulu-natal/>

Ensuring youth take their role in biocultural conservation

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/ensuring-youth-take-their-role-in-biocultural-conservation/>

Over 100 countries attended COP27 to discuss curbing global temperatures by 1.5°C

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/over-100-countries-attended-cop27/>

Women empowerment on land ownership in Gabon

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/women-empowerment-on-land-ownership-in-gabon/>

Events at the Secretariat during the quarter

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/events-at-the-secretariat-during-the-quarter/>

The potential of agroecology to achieve food sovereignty – the experience of the Shashe Agroecology School

<https://africanbiodiversity.org/the-potential-of-agroecology-to-achieve-food-sovereignty/>

Various publications – by Nature Tropicale Benin

Bénin/Saison de ponte des tortues marines 2023-2024: Plus de 60 éco-gardes des villes côtières formés et recyclés par Nature Tropicale Ong.

<https://loeilrepublicainblog.wordpress.com/2023/07/09/benin-saison-de-ponte-des-tortues-marines-2023-2024-plus-de-60-eco-gardes-des-villes-cotieres-formes-et-recycles-par-nature-tropicale-ong/>

Séance de sensibilisation : Nature Tropicale ONG outille les éco gardes.

<https://monde24infoplus.wordpress.com/2023/07/11/seance-de-sensibilisation-nature-tropicale-ong-outille-les-eco-gardes/>

Nature Tropicale ONG : Les fruits de la sensibilisation ont tenu la promesse des fleurs ,139 oeufs d'une tortue olivâtre pondu sur l'une des plages de Grand Popo (Bénin).

<https://monde24infoplus.wordpress.com/2023/08/04/nature-tropicale-ong-les-fruits-de-la-sensibilisation-ont-tenu-la-promesse-des-fleurs-139-oeufs-dune-tortue-olivatre-pondu-sur-lune-des-plages-de-grand-popo-benin/>

Nature Tropicale : 19^{ème} édition de la célébration de la journée Nationale des Tortues ,Acte 2

<https://monde24infoplus.wordpress.com/2023/02/14/nature-tropicale-19eme-edition-de-la-celebration-de-la-journee-nationale-des-tortues-acte-2/>

Bénin/19^{ème} édition de la journée nationale des tortues et 1^{ère} journée des Aires marines protégées: Nature Tropicale célèbre l'événement

<https://loeilrepublicainblog.wordpress.com/2023/02/06/benin-19eme-edition-de-la-journee-nationale-des-tortues-et-1ere-journee-des-aires-marines-protegees-nature-tropicale-celebre-levenement/>

Protection et sauvegarde des espèces marines: L'Aire Marine Protégée de Grand-Popo célèbre la fête des tortues, grâce à Nature Tropicale Ong

<https://loeilrepublicainblog.wordpress.com/2023/02/15/protection-et-sauvegarde-des-especes-marines-laire-marine-protegee-de-grand-popo-celebre-la-fete-des-tortues-grace-a-nature-tropicale-ong/>

Policy papers

Policy briefs

NGO, Bunyoro to partner in protecting sacred natural sites, indigenous foods

<https://www.thealbertinejournal.com/ngo-bunyoro-to-partner-in-protecting-sacred-sites-indigenous-foods/>

CSOs call for organic food laws, ban on herbicides

<https://www.independent.co.ug/csos-call-for-organic-food-laws-ban-on-herbicides/>

Promoting Pro-Development Seed Related Policies and Laws for the Protection of Food Sovereignty, Farmers' Rights and Biodiversity in Uganda and the EAC

<https://seatiniuganda.org/download/promoting-pro-development-seed-related-policies-and-laws-for-the-protection-of-food-sovereignty-farmers-rights-and-biodiversity-in-uganda-and-the-eac/>

Murang'a County Government Enacts an Agro Ecology Policy And ACT

<https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/muranga-county-government-enacts-an-agro-ecology-policy-and-act/>

Murang'a becomes first county to enact Agroecology Policy

<https://youtu.be/tSUjv9u7-o>

Murang'a becomes first county to enact Agroecology Policy

<https://ntvkenya.co.ke/news/muranga-becomes-first-county-to-enact-agroecology-policy/>

News

A call to action for NGOs operating in the field of climate and environment in Togo - Fédérer les actions des OSC intervenant dans le domaine du climat et de l'environnement au Togo

<https://vert-togo.tg/federer-les-actions-des-osc-intervenant-dans-le-domaine-du-climat-et-de-lenvironnement-au-togo/>

ABN position paper to COP28

Enhancing Community Resilience to Climate Change in African Agriculture and a Call to Action to leaders and policy makers by the African Biodiversity Network at COP28

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mN4LRCU2SHPBFrkU8DY9CsbYbbkbVy20/view?usp=sharing>

Press releases

Organic Players Call for Protection of Genetic Resources

<https://businessdayafrica.org/organic-players-call-for-protection-of-genetic-resources/>

Press Statement: The State of Food Safety in Uganda – “From Farm to Fork: The Relevance of Standards in Promoting Food Safety”

<https://seatiniuganda.org/download/press-statement-the-state-of-food-safety-in-uganda-from-farm-to-fork-the-relevance-of-standards-in-promoting-food-safety/>

Press-Statement-on-the-National Budget Framework-for-FY-22/23. Pdf

<https://seatiniuganda.org/download/press-statement-on-the-nationalbudget-framework-for-fy-22-23-pdf/>

Media coverage

LIVE UBC NEWS TONIGHT @10PM I JULY 13, Agricultural Expo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvZVVz4jCJQ>

A student on KnowWhatYouEat camapign in Uganda

<https://twitter.com/SEATINIUGANDA/status/1678770765527928841?s=20>

Ababaka bakukulumye ku nsigo Gav't z'ewa abalimi : 'Za bbeeyi kali, tezibala, ate zoonoona ettaka'

https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/amawulire/ababaka-bakukulumye-ku-nsigo-gavt-zewa-abalim-BUK_143884

Indigenous Seed Farmers Demand Recognition

<https://www.harvestmoney.co.ug/indigenous-seed-farmers-demand-recognition/>

Farmers growing indigenous seeds want govt recognition

https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/agriculture/farmers-growing-indigenous-seeds-want-govt-re-NV_174982

Kaunti ya Murang'a yazindua sera ya kilimo - hai

https://youtu.be/mXuZC7X_dao

Farmers cut out middlemen

<https://www.manicapost.co.zw/farmers-cut-out-middlemen/>

Capacity building training on GMO

<https://youtu.be/pWoorTPSdSc?si=W7tRDKk9V0JEQtkL>-The public to be educated on issues pertaining to general engineering GMO team urges farmers' recognition and Agroecology investment.

Organic Players Call for Protection of Genetic Resources

<https://businessdayafrica.org/organic-players-call-for-protection-of-genetic-resources/>

Government urged to increase agriculture budget

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdxJ5VoYRw0>

Give farmers biological farm inputs, lobby urges government

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/business/article/2001484817/give-farmers-biological-farm-inputs-lobby-urges-government> - The CWG/Symposium feature in the Standard Newspaper

Documentaries

1. Celebrating biocultural diversity among Atharaka Community https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nfaROD5KbJ6-gvWiwyt_vLaeu6l8r_j/view?usp=sharing

2. Our Food is African: The traditional approach to Africa's food systems

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9xR19Cl2wU&t=674s>

Post made for ZIO Women's Cooperative Development Festival (2nd Edition) in Togo

<https://www.facebook.com/jveint/posts/pfbid0LyJ1UDSUh28Pu3zBF2QfzdT8DpuzS6c-c1KfavfDF9nne9oDyWYvgtaPB2RXbAH1VI>



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