



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
Contributors	4
Acknowledgement	5
Executive Summary	7
Message from the Board Chair	9
Message from the General Coordinator	11
Who we are- ABN	13
Updates from the Secretariat Level	16
Achievements in 2024	19
Report on the ABN Sub-Regional Nodes Activities in 2024	32
Table of Results Achieved in Relation to Strategic Plan (2022-2026)	36
Summary Financial Statement	39
Conclusion	43
Annex	44

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

ABN:	African Biodiversity Network
AFRICE:	African Institute for Culture and Ecology
BftW:	Bread for the Word
BIBA:	Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya
BoT:	Board of Trustees
CCAÉ:	Collectif Citoyen pour l'Agroécologie
CEG:	Community Ecological Governance
CELUO:	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
FMSS:	Farmer-Managed Seed System
GDA:	Green Development Advocates
GER:	Global Initiative for Environment and Reconciliation
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
IMS:	Information Management System
ISD:	Institute for Sustainable Development
JVE:	Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement
MEB:	Multi-Evidence Based
MEFP:	Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée
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 Programme
SEATINI:	Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
SIDA:	Swedish International Development Agency
SRN:	Subregional Node
YCB:	Youth, Culture and Biodiversity
WW:	Walking Workshop

CONTRIBUTORS

ABN Implementing and Strategic Partners

ABN Secretariat

Fassil Gebeyehu Yelemtu
General Coordinator

Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane

Regional Program Coordinator

Hannah Kigamba

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

Jane Kinya

CEG and Gender Coordinator

Joseph Kamau

Finance Manager

Dennis Mwange

Partnership and Resource Mobilization Coordinator

Janet Mwikya

Human Resource and Administration Officer

Venter Mwongera

Communication and Advocacy Coordinator

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The African Biodiversity Network (ABN) extends its deepest gratitude to all our partners, supporters, and collaborators whose steadfast commitment and shared vision made 2024 a remarkable year of growth and resilience. We express special thanks to our implementing and strategic partners across Eastern, Western, Central, Northern, and Southern Africa for their dedication and innovative contributions to our shared mission. Your efforts on the ground, from seed preservation to community governance, youth empowerment, and biodiversity protection, have been instrumental in shaping sustainable futures rooted in African values and knowledge systems. We sincerely appreciate the generous support of our funding partners: SIDA, Bread for the World, SwedBio, Tudor Trust, Swift Foundation, and Re:arc Institute. Your belief in our mission has provided the vital resources needed to amplify community voices and scale agroecological transitions across the continent.

To our Secretariat staff, Sub-Regional Nodes, Board of Trustees, and the late Mrs. Ngoumou Edima Jah Evejah, your leadership, passion, and resilience are the bedrock of ABN's ongoing success. We also honor the communities and young people across Africa whose courage, knowledge, and spirit continue to inspire transformative change. Together, we are building a future where biodiversity thrives, and the wisdom of our ancestors lights the path forward.

With gratitude,

The ABN Secretariat



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2024 was a pivotal period for the African Biodiversity Network (ABN), marked by significant progress, resilience, and renewed commitment to community-driven ecological and cultural renewal across the African continent. Despite facing global uncertainties and local challenges including political transitions, climate disruptions, and economic pressures, ABN and its network of partners, communities, and youth movements continued to champion African-led solutions rooted in indigenous knowledge, ecological governance, and biocultural diversity.

Operating in 18[1] countries across Eastern, Western, Central, Northern, and Southern Africa, ABN made strides in deepening its impact across its thematic areas, guided by its Strategic Plan (2022–2026). Through a holistic approach combining community empowerment, policy engagement, capacity building, and intergenerational learning, the organization worked to regenerate landscapes, reclaim cultural heritage, and enhance the sovereignty of local communities over seeds, knowledge systems, and biodiversity.

One of the year's major highlights was the revitalization of community seed systems. Over 150 indigenous and local seed varieties were documented and preserved through collaboration with more than 1,900 smallholder farmers. Sixteen Community Learning Centers served as hubs for agroecological training, while sixteen seed and food fairs brought together over 20,000 participants from diverse sectors, fostering exchanges on food sovereignty, seed conservation, and sustainable farming practices.

In the realm of Community Ecological Governance, ABN supported 200 communities in reclaiming their ecosystems through traditional governance structures, ecological mapping, and spiritual-cultural practices. Initiatives across countries such as Kenya, Zimbabwe, Benin, and Egypt included sacred site restoration, customary law revival, and innovative collaborations between indigenous knowledge holders and scientists to enhance climate resilience.

ABN placed a strong emphasis on youth engagement, reaching more than 4,000 young people through leadership programs, environmental clubs, experiential learning, and agroecological initiatives. The 2024 AgroBioCulture Festival in Togo emerged as a defining moment for youth advocacy, culminating in the launch of a continent-wide Youth Declaration on Biocultural Diversity. Youth were also supported to document local knowledge, participate in intergenerational learning, and launch community-led enterprises rooted in ecological values.

[1] Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Morocco, Central Africa Republican (CAR), Gabon, Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Togo, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Zambia, Burkina Faso

Gender mainstreaming remained a cornerstone of ABN's strategy. Through its Gender-Responsive Action Plan (GRAP 2022–2026), ABN facilitated inclusive training and leadership opportunities for women, particularly in Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Benin. Women increasingly led seed-saving initiatives, participated in customary governance dialogues, and engaged in value-added agroecological markets, enhancing both their economic agency and ecological stewardship.

Advocacy and media engagement efforts reached new heights. ABN amplified community voices through strategic policy dialogues, digital campaigns, and media collaborations. Policy briefs and workshops informed legislators across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania on the importance of Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS), while community radio and storytelling platforms shared success stories of ecological justice and traditional knowledge revival.

At the organizational level, ABN strengthened its internal systems through strategic planning, digital infrastructure development, and capacity-building workshops. The implementation of an Integrated Information Management System (IMS) marked a significant step in enhancing performance tracking, knowledge management, and accountability. Sub-Regional Nodes (SRNs) played an essential role in localizing ABN methodologies, fostering cross-country learning, and cultivating strong grassroots leadership.

Financially, ABN recorded a total available fund of \$1.35 million in 2024, a reduction from 2023. The network achieved an absorption rate of nearly 90%, with over half of the annual budget directly supporting grassroots activities. SIDA, Bread for the World, SwedBio, Swift Foundation, Tudor Trust, and Re:arc Institute were among the key donors whose continued partnership enabled ABN to pursue its mission effectively.

In conclusion, 2024 was a year of renewed purpose and tangible impact for ABN and its network. The organization's integrated approach to ecological governance, seed sovereignty, youth leadership, gender inclusion, and advocacy has contributed to meaningful progress in biodiversity conservation and community resilience. As ABN looks ahead to 2025, it remains committed to scaling its influence, deepening its partnerships, and nurturing an Africa-led movement that values life, honors heritage, and envisions a sustainable and equitable future for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) Board, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to all our funding and development partners for their unwavering commitment, solidarity, and visionary support. Your collaboration has been central to ABN's continued advancement in promoting ecological justice, seed sovereignty, and the regeneration of Africa's biocultural diversity. As we reflect on the year 2024, we recognize that our overall achievements have made us stepping on significant milestone in ABN's broader journey of transformation and movement-building across the continent.

Our gratitude goes to SwedBio, whose support began even before ABN's formal registration, and whose foundational contributions have helped shape the values, strategies, and impact of our work. We also acknowledge our longstanding partnership with Bread for the World (since 2009), Tudor Trust for its crucial support in grounding our Sub-Regional Node (SRN) structure, and the Swift Foundation, which has been instrumental in anchoring our seed-related work. SIDA's partnership, which concluded its first project phase in 2024, has been particularly impactful in strengthening ABN's institutional systems and enabling deeper community engagement.

With all your support, ABN has witnessed the rise of powerful community-led movements and a growing network of partners rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems and ecological stewardship.

These grassroots actors; women, youth, elders, and traditional custodians, are leading the way in seed and food sovereignty, ecological governance, and biocultural resilience across more than 18 countries.



The year has also seen significant investment in knowledge generation. Our growing repository of case studies, policy briefs, seed catalogues, and community stories offers not just documentation, but evidence of transformation. These resources continue to influence practice and policy across Africa and beyond, advancing our shared agenda for just and sustainable futures.

Institutionally, ABN has made remarkable progress in strengthening internal systems. .

From strategic governance and financial management to monitoring, evaluation, and communication, we have enhanced our ability to deliver, adapt, and scale impact while remaining grounded in our core values.

As we look to the future, ABN remains committed to growing a pan-African movement grounded in ancestral wisdom, ecological consciousness, and community agency

We will continue to strengthen our Sub-Regional Nodes, invest in intergenerational learning, and advocate for policy spaces that honor Indigenous worldviews and local voices. With your continued partnership, we are confident that the path ahead will be one of deeper transformations, resilience, and regeneration.

We thank you for walking this journey with us and invite you to continue shaping this collective vision for Africa's people, cultures, and landscapes.

With gratitude and commitment,

Sulemana Abudulai (PhD)

ABN Board Chair

WORDS FROM THE GENERAL COORDINATOR

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I share this reflection on the collective progress we have made through partners of the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) and the communities they are working with. This report captures not just outcomes and achievements, but the deeper story of resilience, renewal, and commitment that has defined our journey over the past year. At the heart of ABN's work is a conviction that real change begins in the community, on the land, in the seed, and within the lived experiences of people. Through implementation of all projects in ABN, we have witnessed a powerful resurgence of Indigenous knowledge, cultural identity, and ecological consciousness. From the revival of local seeds and the flourishing of agroecological practices, to the strengthening of customary governance and the inspiring leadership of youth and women, this has been a period of transformation that speaks to the spirit of self-determination and solidarity across Africa.

We celebrate not only what has been achieved, but how it was achieved; through participatory processes, dialogue, and deep respect for the wisdom held by communities. In doing so, communities are not simply implementing project activities; they are reweaving the fabric of values, reconnecting with roots, and registering new pathways of regeneration, justice, and hope. Our work has not been without its challenges.



Political uncertainties, climate shocks, cultural erosion, and limited resources continue to test the resilience of African communities. Yet, these very challenges have revealed the strength of our collective spirit and the importance of standing together. It is in this unity that we find the power to resist, to adapt, and to transform.

I extend heartfelt thanks to all our partners, community custodians, elders, youth, and women who have led the way. Your courage, creativity, and commitment are the cornerstone of this movement. I also thank our donors, for their trust and continued support, and to all stakeholders who have walked this journey with us.

As we look to the future, ABN remains committed in its mission to grow a critical mass of communities that will drive forward the vision of biocultural diversity conservation, ecological justice, and community sovereignty. We are not just conserving biodiversity; we are healing relationships, with the land, with each other, and with the generations yet to come.

Let us move forward with renewed clarity and conviction. The seeds we have sown are strong. The roots are deep. Together, we will continue to nurture this growing movement for Africa and for the Mother Earth.

Fassil Gebeyehu (PhD)
ABN General Coordinator

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. OUR 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

- **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 Mainstreaming

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) 2022-2026 in order to steer its way forward.

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.



2.0. UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

2.1. Personnel

With support from SIDA, a Finance Assistant officer was recruited in July 2024. This helped to ease the workload at the finance department. The security Guard retired in July 2024 and was replaced in September 2024. After the end of some of the projects, some staff were released (Communications Coordinator, Advocacy and Programmes Coordinator and the Finance Assistant).

2.2. Policies and Manuals

Some manuals and policies were reviewed given the emerging issues related to specific policies like the HR policy and the Finance & Procurement guideline manual.

2.3. Trainings & Capacity Building

Staff participated in several trainings and capacity building through learning exchanges together with partners including: Gender mainstreaming and Budgeting, Policy advocacy, Seed cataloguing, Monitoring and Evaluation, Communication (Cyber security awareness, digital communication), Resource mobilization, Reporting and Documentation, Risk monitoring and development of a risk register, Information Management System (IMS) training, Strategic governance and leadership

2.4. IMS System

The ABN embarked on the development of an integrated IMS system to support its performance management, track the progress of achieving deliverable for projects and at the overall organisational level, knowledge management including information retrieval while providing feedback through the system. The staff were trained on how to engage with the system. The implementation is ongoing and once fully operational, it will help streamline and ease the operations.

2.4. Board of Trustees updates

Sadly, ABN lost one of the board members in April 2024, Mrs. Ngoumou Edima Jah Evejah (Mere Jah). She was the ABN Board Vice Chairperson. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Tributes and Celebrations: ABN also took moments to honor significant contributors to the biodiversity conservation in Africa.

A tribute was paid to the late board member, Sister Mere Jah, recognizing her lifelong dedication to biodiversity conservation. Additionally, ABN commemorated the International Day of Biodiversity by planting indigenous seedlings, reinforcing its commitment to agroecological practices and sustainable community engagement. On the positive side, The ABN kicked off the constitutional review process initiated at the 2023 Biennial General Meeting. The process reflects a constitutional moment for the ABN that required revision of the ABN's legal framework and the deed to align with current realities, including retirement of founding trustees, inclusion of SRN committees, and overall governance inclusivity.



3.0 Achievements in 2024

3.1 Achievements under Community Seed Knowledge (CSK)

Championing Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS), strengthening revival of local community seed and seed banking for food sovereignty and livelihood

In 2024, over 150 indigenous and local seed varieties were revived and documented by across 18 countries where partners directly working with over 1,913 smallholder farmers on community seed revival and seed banking and selling the excess to earn income that supplements other household needs. Partners such as RIDEP (Kenya), AFRICE (Uganda), ENVIROCARE (Tanzania), Muyissi (Gabon), and CELUO (Zimbabwe), Grabe Benin (BENIN), RAINS (Ghana) led the development of catalogs reflecting detailed seed characteristics, ecological contexts, and cultural significance. Link with Seed Catalogs developed by partners; <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rANBCFoujnI-ca2BPcsd-av3N0grRIXN?usp=sharing>

Increased adoption of agroecological and sustainable land use practices:

Through multiple comprehensive training sessions and farmer to farmer exchanges, smallholder farmers increasingly continued to adopt agroecological practices that improve soil health, pest management, and water harvesting. As a result, they have experienced higher yields and reduced post-harvest losses due to the new skills acquired. Key practices adopted by farmers include composting, seed saving, mixed cropping, liquid manure application, use of natural pesticides, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), crop rotation, cover cropping, agroforestry, terracing, and fruit tree planting—making their agricultural systems more resilient to climate stresses.

Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in all sixteen countries served as training hubs, while over 9000 households (majority women-led) practiced agroecology and seed saving

In Tanzania, farmers working with Envirocare drawn from six communities - Italagwe, Ngaromesse, Mese, and Magoroto reported a substantial increase in yields for crops including beans, maize, yams, cassava, and sweet potatoes. USIKO in South Africa engaged ten additional families in growing their own food by providing training and support in seedling production, compost making, and urban/backyard gardening and seed bank construction.

Mutsinzwa, Masasire, Gangare, and Nebarwe rooted in their indigenous knowledge and seasonal rhythms, to prepare farmers for the rainy season while supporting ecological restoration.

Aside of community trainings, ABN in collaboration with partners organised Training of Trainers (ToTs) to support champions of community seed initiatives. In Kenya G-BIACK also organised agroecological and seed saving training for training of trainers to enhance their skills on these agricultural techniques. In Zimbabwe, Earthlore held a Training of Trainers (ToT) across six communities in Bikita, Chiroorwe, Mamutse, Mutsinzwa, Masasire, Gangare, and Nebarwe rooted in their indigenous knowledge and seasonal rhythms, to prepare farmers for the rainy season while supporting ecological restoration.

Successful organization of seed food fairs and experiential learning events

Communities successfully organized 16 seed and food fairs, drawing more than 20,000 visitors gathered from diverse stakeholders including extension officers, representatives from government departments, academia, business, local communities, women groups and youths. The seed fairs showcased diverse seed varieties, and are increasingly facilitating knowledge exchanges on seeds and post harvest losses management, agroecology and traditional farming systems. Farmers also reported improvements in seed storage, pest control, and income generation. Notably, ABN partners Muyissi (Gabon) and RIAM (Morocco) hosted seed fairs for the first time in their respective communities. These fairs not only promoted the use of indigenous seeds but also raised awareness about their cultural significance, nutritional and medicinal value, and ecological suitability.

Market linkage and development:

Smallholder farmers accessed better markets for agroecological produce, with 218 trained across three countries. This opportunity empowered farmers economically and increased visibility of agroecological products. Market linkage and access emerged as a significant need identified in previous years. The focus of market development was on increasing access to markets for smallholder farmers, particularly for products with short shelf life. ABN supported five partners Pelum Kenya, Pelum Ethiopia, GER, Rwanda, MEAP to facilitate trainings on market development approaches tailored to the specific contexts and needs of the communities.

Key marketing strategies adopted include collaboration with producers to develop value-added agroecology products and create strong branding that emphasizes sustainability and unique benefits, establish partnerships with local businesses, cooperatives, and organizations to broaden market access and participating in trade shows and fairs to showcase agroecology products and engage potential buyers.

Documentation of case studies and best practices on Community Seed and knowledge and and role of Women:

ABN supported three partners to document real-time stories of resilience in traditional farming practices and the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge in the face of modern agricultural challenges. ABN along with partners produced over 52 documents including case studies, success stories, and videos on indigenous seeds and farming practices documentaries and showcasing women's knowledge and farmer-led seed preservation efforts. In Uganda, SEATIN documented 11 case studies focused on traditional women's knowledge related to local seeds and practices. These were compiled into a publication accessible here:

<https://seatiniuganda.org/download/seed-stories-indigenous-seed-saving-sovereignty-and-stewardship-in-uganda/>.

3.2. Achievement under Community Ecological Governance (CEG)

Strengthening Traditional governance institutions and promoting the meaningful inclusion of local communities in conservation efforts:

Partner collaborations with traditional institutions expanded, enhancing legitimacy and support for community-led conservation. Cross-sectoral partnerships increased in Cameroon, Egypt, and Zimbabwe. A total of 95 communities to reclaim and manage their ecosystems through revitalized traditional ecological governance structures. The ABN worked alongside the partners and communities to revive endangered plant and animal species including regeneration of landscapes. Grabe Benin, revived of 1,000 medicinal plants, training on non-timber livelihoods e.g., beekeeping, setting up nursery beds for native trees. The role of women and youth emphasized in all the initiatives.

Community-led ecological mapping, dialogues, customary law revival, and sacred rituals (e.g., rainmaking in Zimbabwe, Kenya) were actively practiced, enhancing spiritual-ecological relationships, biodiversity conservation and facilitating reclamation of ancestral lands and cultural identity. Community leaders and elders guided reflective dialogues, reinforcing the value of traditional practices in managing seed diversity, restoring soil health, and enhancing climate resilience.

In Egypt, NCE supported the creation of ecological maps of Burullus Lake by blending community narratives and artwork. These visual tools documented environmental change and helped shift local hunters toward birdwatching tourism, while also raising awareness on protecting species such as crocodiles and spiny-tailed lizards. Additionally, NCE established seven native tree nurseries targeting them for hotel landscaping, private property gardens and the university campuses. The rituals reestablished stewardship over Sacred Natural Sites (SNS) as in the case with communities in Zimbabwe, Benin and Tharaka-Kenya.

Collaborations between indigenous knowledge holders and scientists led to new hybrid models for climate resilience, such as weather forecasting partnerships between AFRICE and Uganda's Meteorology Department. The successful advocacy for legal recognition of SNS continued, including efforts in Uganda where AFRICE supported the amendment and potential enactment of the Buliisa District Ordinance continue to inspire communities locally in Uganda and other countries. For example, In Uganda, AFRICE expanded restoration efforts to the Bubeke Cultural Forest by holding dialogues with the Bakatonya clan and setting up nursery beds for native trees. Community members committed to continued involvement in forest rehabilitation., Additionally, In Zimbabwe, CELUO facilitated two dialogues with Chikukwa community leaders and traditional authorities. These gatherings emphasized the cultural value of sacred sites and led to commitments to draft by-laws for natural resource protection. In Kenya, reconnaissance visits to the Kaya forests, led by Kaya elders with community members and stakeholders assessed the conservation status following previous rehabilitation efforts.

Community-led lobbying, especially through the lens of ACHPR Resolution 372, emphasized the rights of custodial communities to protect ancestral territories and biodiversity. In Uganda, NAPE deepened community-level engagement where large infrastructure projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline threaten community lands. Sixty representatives from the Kihagya/Kakindo and Kigaaga communities were sensitized on the resolution's provisions, FPIC protocols, and strategies for navigating compulsory land acquisition. Another milestone has been on co-creation of new knowledge through collaboration of Indigenous and Local Knowledge-Partners and communities organised multi-stakeholder forums and dialogues to demonstrate how traditional ecological knowledge contributes directly to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use, and community resilience.

PELUM Ethiopia organized an experience-sharing programme between the Regional Research Council and local farmers to explore innovative methods for managing the Beles pest (Cochineal). This pest threatens the survival of the Prickly Pear Cactus—an important naturalized plant valued for human and animal nutrition, soil conservation, fencing, and drought tolerance. Additionally, PELUM Ethiopia collaborated with the Sidama Agriculture Research Institute, the Regional Biodiversity Institute, and the agriculture bureau to conduct a training and sharing forum. The event focused on enhancing Enset and root crop production through the use of local knowledge. Experts from the research institute also presented complementary technical perspectives. In Uganda, AFRICE, in collaboration with the Banyabutumbi communities, is working to integrate Indigenous weather prediction knowledge with scientific forecasting from the Uganda Meteorology Department.

Follow-up of Indigenous Future Thinking dialogues (IFT) conducted, which is a process supported by Swedbio alongside four ABN partners: ICE, Grabe Benin, RAINS, and ISD. In 2024 ISD conducted a Capacity building through linking the previous experience of IFT process and Multiple Evidence Base (MEB) approach with community seed, advocacy and bio-cultural revival works to enhance youth inclusivity. ISD embarked on tree nursery management; school greening was also given for school environment club teachers and students selected from seven schools in Mekedela wereda. A total of 17 teachers (including 4 women) and stakeholder and students 42 (including 20 women) have participated. The club teachers and students were given a very brief presentation on the approaches of Youth Culture and biodiversity and the specific activities carried out under this program. The concept of biodiversity conservation, the value of understanding local biodiversity vis-à-vis local traditions and practices highlighted to enable training participants understand the relationships.

Concerning Indigenous Food and Traditions (IFT), and to enhance the exchange of knowledge between Elders, Custodians, Spiritual Leaders, Farmers, Researchers, and Agricultural Experts, SALT facilitated a complementary Multi-Actor Engagement and Bridging (MEB) process in which eight ABN partners attended namely, Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE), Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP), Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP), Seed Savers Network-Kenya, Ngaatho Community Foundation, Grow Bio Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK), Growth Partners Africa, and Kenya Food Rights Alliance.

Documentation on Community Ecological Governance Methodologies

The ABN and Partners used a range of tools, processes, and frameworks to document their experiences in community ecological governance. In Kenya, ABN collaborated with media editors and journalists to produce six publications highlighting the importance of Sacred Natural Sites (SNS) and other customary practices. These stories, shared widely across the network and beyond, helped catalyze broader awareness and advocacy efforts: ABN Publications:

- a) <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/2024-12-24-preserving-tharaka-nithis-sacred-sites-a-cultural-and-environmental-imperative>
- b) <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/eastern/2024-12-24-preserving-heritage-the-tharaka-communitys-cultural-revival>
- c) <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/eastern/2024-12-23-reviving-traditions-indigenous-seed-preservation-in-tharaka-nithi>
- d) <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/central/2024-12-25-lessons-from-around-the-world-communities-advocate-for-recognition-of-their-cultural-systems>

e) <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/eastern/2024-12-26-how-african-traditions-are-helping-preserve-biodiversity>

f) Sacred Natural Sites: Custodians of Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage - Africa Science News

3.3. Achievements under Youth Culture and Biodiversity (YCB)

ABN strategically invested in youth leadership and inter-generational learning. Over 4,000 youth were actively involved in agroecology, seed saving, tree planting, and environmental advocacy initiatives. Young people led watershed management efforts in Zimbabwe, set up agroecology demo farms in Tanzania, and advanced seed preservation campaigns in Rwanda and Kenya.

Despite progress, challenges remain. Greater stakeholder engagement is needed to influence education curricula, and youth-led enterprises face limited financial support. Still, youth collectives, particularly in Tanzania—launched income-generating activities rooted in cultural heritage.

ABN provided support to eight partners (NCE, MEAP, Envirocare, GER-Rwanda, Muyissi, RAINS, CEVASTE and CELUO Trust) to initiate youth-driven activities. These included experiential learning, cultural festivals, and documentation of best practices. Examples include:

- **Egypt:** NCE and Aswan Protectorate organized World Wildlife Day exchanges, training 20 students on conservation and digital innovation.
- **Kenya:** MEAP trained 241 youth in Molo on agroecology, seed saving, traditional recipes, and forest-based experiential learning.
- **Zimbabwe:** CELUO Trust supported the formation of two youth groups and development of a seed demonstration center.
- **Gabon:** Muyissi led a cultural food festival with 39 youth and elders engaging in traditional cooking and seed storage techniques.
- **Tanzania:** Envirocare held cultural events in Morogoro and Kilimanjaro with 50 youth, resulting in new youth groups focused on traditional arts and organic farming.
- **Benin:** Nature Tropical engaged 46 youth in agroecological training and cultural exchange through the METODOUKPO Festival.
- **Rwanda:** GER hosted a two-day intergenerational workshop involving 35 participants and promoted mentorship strategies.

RAINS supported formation of environmental clubs in schools

In Benin, CEVASTE organized an intergenerational dialogue between youth and senior environmental practitioner involving 31 young participants (13 girls and 18 boys) from the Young Allies of Nature (JAN) and the School of African Heritage (EPA) which reinforced youth dedication to environmental action.

A defining moment of the year was the 2024 AgroBioCulture (ABC) Festival in Togo, where youth from across Africa launched the "Youth Voices in Biodiversity and Agroecology in Africa" report. This publication, commissioned by ABN, captured youth perspectives, challenges, and solutions. The forum concluded with a youth declaration on biocultural diversity presented to local authorities and the African Group of Negotiators. The Youth Declaration on Biocultural Diversity, presented at the same forum, affirmed their commitment to leading Africa's conservation future. Youth voices were also featured in media through platforms like RFI, Agridigitale, and TikTok. Additional communication materials relating to youth led initiatives by JVE Togo are in the links below

· <https://linfoexpress.com/la-lutte-pour-la-justice-climatique-les-jeunes-volontaires-africains-donnent-de-la-voix/>

· <https://rfi.my/AvpE>

· <https://agridigitale.net/article/biodiversite-lappel-du-gardien-des-us-et-coutumes>

· <https://agridigitale.net/article/la-biodiversite-culturelle-expliquee-en-francais-facile>

· <https://agridigitale.net/article/biodiversite-et-culture-une-messe-en-cours-a-tsiko>

· <https://ruralinfos.tg/agripreneurs/protection-de-la-biodiversite-long-jve-emballe-les-jeunes/>

· <https://levisionnaire.tg/archives/3948>

· <https://chroniquedelasemaine.tg/singlepost-fin-de-la-6eme-edition-de-l-eclat-du-bien-etre-au-mont-klot-----il-existe-des-plantes-naturelles-pour-eclaircir-et-entretenir-la-peau-sans-danger-et-a-moindre-cout---sena-alouka-56-2022>

· <https://vm.tiktok.com/ZMrnq8KVp/>

Experiential exchanges, youth caravans, and policy engagements empowered young leaders to participate in local and regional advocacy. These platforms nurtured ecological literacy and leadership among young Africans, further embedding their role in biocultural resilience.



Group photo of participants to the regional cartographic study validation workshop.



Women training on biofertilizer production



Young entrepreneurs training on nature positive actions in line with use of raw materials

3.4. Achievements under Advocacy, Publications and Media engagement

In 2024, the ABN's key milestone was on enhanced media engagement which significantly increased its visibility, advocacy and communication efforts, promoting community-led solutions for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and food sovereignty. Through strategic engagement with policymakers, media, and grassroots communities, ABN emphasized the importance of indigenous knowledge, farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS), and nature-based solutions in shaping sustainable policies and practices. Community radio programmes were used effectively to amplify outreach and promote community learning, ABN partners supported the production and dissemination of radio and media content focused on agroecology, seed sovereignty, and biodiversity conservation.

Policy Advocacy and Community-Led Conservation

ABN has led a strategic regional initiative to advance policy dialogue and grassroots advocacy in support of Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) across Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Working closely with national partners—BIBA in Kenya, TABIO in Tanzania, and SEATINI in Uganda, among others—ABN spearheaded efforts to empower farmers, engage policymakers, and elevate awareness on the critical role of FMSS in ensuring food security and conserving agricultural biodiversity. This initiative, supported by Bread for the World (BftW), has strengthened regional solidarity and advocacy for more inclusive and supportive seed policies.

As part of its advocacy efforts under this project, ABN and lead partners led targeted engagement with policymakers, farmers, media, and the broader public to advance the recognition of Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) in East Africa. A total of 45 policymakers from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania participated in FMSS advocacy workshops, contributing to meaningful discussions on seed policies and farmers' rights. A key output from this engagement was the development of a policy brief on the recognition of FMSS, which was presented to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

In parallel, farmer and media engagement played a crucial role in amplifying grassroots voices. A total of 416 farmers (205 men and 211 women) actively participated in the advocacy process, raising concerns over restrictive seed laws that threaten traditional practices. Media outreach was equally robust, with 53 media houses involved in the policy dialogue, resulting in broad coverage through television, radio, and online platforms.

To complement these efforts, a regional digital campaign was launched using a unified hashtag to raise awareness and promote public discourse on FMSS. Through this multi-pronged advocacy strategy, ABN continues to challenge corporate influence over African seed systems while championing policies that protect and promote traditional seed-saving practices.

Elevating Youth and Community Voices

ABN prioritized youth engagement as a key strategy for sustaining conservation efforts and ensuring inter-generational knowledge transfer.

Youth-Focused Highlights:

- **ABC Festival 2024:** Over 100 young climate leaders from across Africa gathered to discuss biodiversity conservation, agroecology, and climate action.
- **African Youth Forum on Biodiversity:** A landmark event connecting young conservationists with traditional elders and policymakers.
- **Regional Study on Youth and Biocultural Diversity:** This research, supported by ABN, highlights youth-led solutions for conservation and climate resilience.

Protecting Water Sources and Marine Ecosystems

Recognizing the growing threats to Africa's water resources, ABN expanded its advocacy for watershed conservation, marine biodiversity, and sustainable fishing practices.

Key Actions:

- Raised awareness on ocean acidification's impact on coastal communities, particularly in Benin, where marine biodiversity and livelihoods are at risk.
- Partnered with Nature Tropicale ONG to train fishers and promote sustainable coastal management.
- Advocated for stronger regional policies on water conservation and ecosystem protection.

Strengthening Digital Advocacy and Media Engagement

Media Engagement, Storytelling, and Outreach

Media relations were among the strongest achievements of the period, particularly in Kenya, where ABN partnered with BIBA Kenya and five other organizations to convene a two-day workshop. This forum engaged journalists and media personalities to co-develop strategies for amplifying messages on biocultural conservation. Participants committed to establishing local media forums, producing community-relevant stories, and conducting a media needs assessment to sustain collaboration. ABN leveraged digital platforms and strategic media partnerships to amplify conservation narratives and influence policy discussions.

Media and Digital Highlights:

- Trained 53 media houses in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania on FMSS, agroecology, and biodiversity conservation.
- Increased visibility of FMSS advocacy efforts, with key discussions featured in blogs, TV, radio, and news articles.
- Expanded ABN's social media reach, using storytelling to engage wider audiences in conservation efforts.

Strengthening community advocacy and joint actions

ABN projects significantly enhanced grassroots advocacy through multi-stakeholder engagement and campaigns:

- **Tanzania:** Envirocare collaborated with other partners during Green Action Week in Gairo District. Activities included a seed fair showcasing 30+ local varieties and a workshop on sustainable farming, reaching 30 participants (18 youth, 12 elders). The campaign promoted traditional seed saving, exchange, and ecological farming practices.
- **South Africa:** USIKO partnered with the Jamestown Heritage Committee and other local actors to advocate against land loss from property developers. Efforts highlighted cultural and ecological value through public awareness and commemorating sacred baptismal sites. The network expanded to include Idas Valley Community Trails, Living Soils Organic Farm, and Stellenbosch Civil Society Advocacy Network.
- **Benin:** Nature Tropical ONG led campaigns with ministries, fisher groups, women, and spiritual leaders to protect marine biodiversity. Events like the 20th National Marine Turtle and Marine Protected Area

Days raised awareness. Fish farming emerged as a proposed alternative to overfishing.

- **Ethiopia:** Pelum ET facilitated advocacy for an enabling policy environment for Enset, a key staple food. An advocacy visit to the Agriculture Affairs Standing Committee led to the establishment of an Enset Platform with seven member organizations from government, NGOs, and research institutions.

Participation in Global Policy Processes

ABN's engagement in global forums continued to grow. In April 2024, the General Coordinator participated in the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Ottawa, Canada, which aimed to develop a legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution, including marine environments. This participation highlighted ABN's contribution to global efforts addressing biodiversity loss and the climate crisis linked to plastic waste mismanagement.

UNEA-6 Conference in Nairobi (Kenya)

ABN participated in UNEA6 conference. The UN Environment Assembly served as the premier forum for shaping global environmental policy, convening all 193 UN Member States biennially to chart the course for environmental action. Against the backdrop of recent international climate negotiations at COP28, President Ruto emphasized the urgent imperative for UNEA-6 to deliver on its ambitious agenda, navigating the intricate web of interconnected threats facing nations worldwide. Acknowledging the urgency of the situation, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged delegates to harness the collective strength of the Assembly to drive forward multilateral solutions. With more than 7,000 delegates and over 170 Ministers in attendance, UNEA-6 deliberated on 19 resolutions and two decisions, encompassing critical issues such as circular economy initiatives, climate justice, the sustainable management of chemicals and waste.

3.3.1. Overcoming Challenges and Looking Ahead

Despite significant progress, ABN faced key challenges in its advocacy efforts: Policy Resistance – Initial skepticism from policymakers required direct advocacy and engagement strategies to build trust.

Resource Constraints – Funding limitations restricted outreach, but ABN successfully collaborated with partners - to expand activities.

Market Barriers – Farmers struggled to sell indigenous seeds due to restrictive seed laws; ABN addressed this through training on value addition and market access.

Looking Ahead to 2025:

1. Strengthen policy influence and farmer advocacy on FMSS and seed sovereignty
2. Expand youth and community-led conservation initiatives.
3. Enhance digital storytelling and media partnerships to amplify impact.
4. Deepen advocacy for nature-based solutions in climate policies.

Through continued collaboration, ABN will champion community-led conservation, food sovereignty, and biodiversity protection across Africa.

3.3. Achievements under Gender Mainstreaming

The Gender Responsive Action Plan (GRAP 2022–2026) guided ABN's gender mainstreaming efforts across all program components. Over 55% of active participants in agroecology training and seed initiatives were women. Women increasingly emerged as key leaders in seed custodianship and ecological governance, particularly in Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Cameroon. Targeted trainings on gender mainstreaming, budgeting and leadership were held at Sub-Regional Nodes (SRNs), strengthening partners' abilities to embed gender in project design and implementation. Case studies from Uganda and Zimbabwe showcased how women's traditional knowledge, especially around seed storage and food preparation, was being recognized, documented, and institutionalized.

Women-led initiatives in agroecological markets, including value-added products and traditional food processing, contributed to household income and increased visibility of women as economic and environmental stewards. For example, in Benin, Nature Tropical assisted 10 women to launch income-generating activities to supplement fishing livelihoods. Five ABN partners conducted community dialogues with customary leaders on women's roles and leadership, fostering conversations around barriers to participation and advancing women's engagement in local governance.

In Zimbabwe, CELUO Trust convened a dialogue on women's empowerment in Chikukwa attended by 87 participants, including youth, law enforcement, social workers, and judicial representatives. Discussions covered gender-based violence, health, inheritance rights, and constitutional protections. Participants emphasized challenges linked to customary law and resource access.

A platform for women to receive professional support was created with ZAACH, an NGO in the area offering to provide free services for GBV cases in Chikukwa. Additionally, to promote economic empowerment, a Solar dryer was purchased for the women's group to enhance longevity of their produce sales.

MELCA Ethiopia held three dialogues with customary leaders in Wereilu District to discuss women's employment and empowerment. Elders and religious leaders were urged to challenge harmful practices and promote girls' education. Women were also advised to form self-help groups and join local associations (Edir).

In Uganda, NAPE facilitated a series of community dialogues in Hoima District—specifically in Kihagya, Butimba, and Kigaaga—to address women's rights and empowerment. During these sessions, women openly shared their experiences of discrimination and gender-based violence. In response, local leaders made concrete commitments to support women-led initiatives. These included promoting fundraising and small group savings, encouraging women's active participation in community decision-making processes, regularly monitoring progress and adjusting strategies as needed, and continuing inclusive community dialogues to ensure sustained engagement and accountability. ABN also supported documentation of traditional knowledge led by women on seeds, ecological governance, and biodiversity, reinforcing women's role in knowledge systems and conservation.

3.2. Report on the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) Sub-Regional Activities in 2024.

Overview:



ABN Partners and Secretariat at the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Node Workshop in Kenya

In 2024, the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) achieved significant advancements in its strategic engagement across multiple sub-regions of Africa, underscoring a pivotal year in its mission to advocate for bio-cultural diversity conservation. ABN's sub-regional node approach, refined over the past years, has proven instrumental in tailoring efforts to local environmental and socio-economic conditions, maintaining alignment with the network's overarching goals and ethical guidelines.

Capacity Building and Training Initiatives: Throughout the year, ABN hosted several capacity-building workshops aimed at strengthening advocacy, policy dialogue capabilities, and gender-responsive programming within its network. One such initiative was a comprehensive training session held in Kenya, focusing on enhancing evidence-based advocacy and developing robust policy dialogue practices. This training was pivotal in equipping participants with advanced techniques for analyzing trends in public policies relevant to ABN's mission, thereby fostering effective leadership, commitment, and innovation among its members.



ABN Secretariat and Partners participating in a gender program and budgeting training in Thika, Kenya

In Benin, ABN conducted a workshop in collaboration with GRABE-BENIN ONG, focusing on "Fostering partnerships for the global implementation of ABN approaches." This workshop emphasized inclusiveness and sustainability, with sessions on gender analysis in programming and budgeting, advocacy and political influence, and seed cataloging. The workshop notably enhanced participants' ability to integrate gender considerations into their programs and highlighted the critical role of digital communication platforms in enhancing connectivity and engagement among conservation efforts.

Learning exchanges, Field Engagements and Practical Insights: A significant component of ABN's activities included practical field engagement, such as the session on seed cataloging at the GRABE-BENIN Learning Center, CELUO center and at G-Biack. These sessions allowed partners exchange with host organisation, local farmers and women producers to showcase traditional seeds, emphasizing their food, medicinal, and cultural values, and provided insights into the conservation and enhancement of local seeds and related practices.

Strategic Communications and Media Engagement: The presence of media throughout these events significantly elevated ABN's visibility and underscored the importance of public and media engagement in amplifying the reach and impact of its conservation efforts. Effective communication strategies were emphasized, with training on how these can be leveraged to foster greater community involvement and support.

Challenges and Future Directions: The workshops highlighted the need for ongoing funding to support advocacy activities and the application of workshop knowledge to real-world scenarios. The integration of indigenous knowledge and practices in gender-responsive programming was also identified as a priority area for future focus. Discussions underscored the importance of maintaining the momentum gained from these capacity-building efforts through continuous learning and application of the concepts discussed.

On partnership, ABN continued to strengthen its Sub-Regional Nodes (SRNs) by facilitating collaboration and expanding regional partnerships. In the Southern SRN, EarthLore invited the Environmental Management Trust (EMT), a local initiative based in Bikita, to participate in the annual Seed and Food Festival held in September. EMT is actively involved in the restoration and protection of the Chivaka River, including its upstream wells, springs, and associated customary governance systems. As a potential ABN partner, EMT has been introduced to the ABN Secretariat for consideration, with promising prospects for collaboration to safeguard the entire Chivaka River ecosystem.

In 2024, ABN's sub-regional nodes effectively navigated complex environmental challenges by leveraging local knowledge and enhancing collaborative efforts across borders. The strategic approach adopted by ABN not only supported the network's expansion but also solidified its presence and impact at the grassroots level.

Looking ahead, ABN is committed to continuing its capacity-building initiatives, developing sustainable partnerships, and enhancing its strategic communication efforts to ensure that its conservation activities remain aligned with the dynamic needs of the communities it serves. The year's activities have laid a robust foundation for future initiatives aimed at conserving bio-cultural diversity and promoting sustainable practices across the African continent.



3.2. Table of results achieved in relation to the Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

The following table highlights the key results achieved in 2024, in alignment with the ABN's Strategic Plan (2022–2026). These results reflect the collective efforts of ABN's Secretariat, its Sub-Regional Nodes, and partners across Africa in advancing the network's strategic objectives. The milestones span critical areas including organizational development, advocacy, knowledge sharing, integrated programming, and communication—each contributing to the strengthening of biocultural diversity, community resilience, and ecological governance across the continent.

Strategic Area	Strategy	2024 Milestones
Strategic Area One: Organizational Growth and Development	Devolution of Secretariat Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Capacity building workshops on Advocacy, Seed Catalogue, Gender, M&E, and Communication were conducted for each Sub-Regional Node (Eastern Africa SRN, Southern Africa SRN, Western Africa combined with North and Central Africa SRNs). These leading to improved partner ability to localize and implement ABN's methodologies within their regions. ➤ Co-supported the AgroBioCulture (ABC) Festival, a youth event, through sub-regional support to Western Africa SRN hosted by JVE in Togo. This included the launch of a Youth Report. The event mobilized youth from across the region and culminated in the launch of a Youth Report, amplifying youth voices in biodiversity conservation and agroecology.
	Capacity Development of Staff, Governance Organs and Network Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Workshop on risk management for Secretariat staff, covering risk identification and mitigation. Through this training, It has enabled Secretariat staff to proactively identify and address potential operational and programmatic risks. ➤ Training on Resource Mobilization and Reporting & Documentation for staff and SRN leaders. ➤ Capacity building on Leadership and Corporate Governance for the senior management team contributing to improved strategic oversight and accountability.
	Strengthen Stakeholders' Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaborated with over 20 stakeholders including development organizations, media, and faith-based institutions in events such as the ABC Festival, Kwanza Festival (Benin), Millet Festival (Zimbabwe), and joint advocacy on Farmer-Managed Seed Systems in Eastern Africa. This significantly increasing visibility and legitimacy of its campaigns.

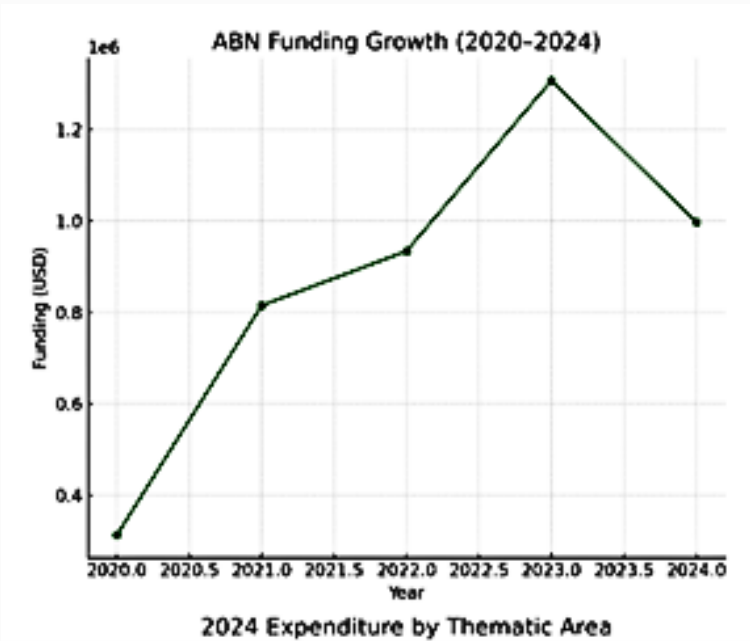
	Management of Network Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hosted virtual feedback meetings with partners engaged in common projects. ➤ Held a physical partner sharing and learning workshop in July 2024 in Tanzania for 21 partners under the SIDA-funded project. These platforms fostered cross-country learning, peer accountability, and enhanced program synergy.
Strategic Area Two: Communication and Networking	Documentation, Dissemination of Knowledge, and Sharing of Experiences and Innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ABN published and disseminated four newsletters (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct), providing consistent updates and insights across its network. ➤ The release of a video documentary on the SIDA project (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO1F5UzjRHA) and the <i>Roots and Resilience</i> magazine significantly expanded ABN's outreach and highlighted tangible outcomes of its programming https://africanbiodiversity.org/downloads/4622/?tmstv=1746019371
Strategic Area Three: Integrated Programming	Community Resilience and Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 4,890 households were directly reached through project activities, strengthening community resilience and knowledge on agroecology, food sovereignty, and livelihoods.
	Ecological Governance and Seed Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strengthened community-led forest governance through dialogues, Kaya forest visits, and joint action plans, resulting in increased protection of sacred forests and restoration of degraded areas. ➤ Promoted sustainable forest use through training on non-timber livelihoods like beekeeping, reducing pressure on forest resources. ➤ Facilitated dialogues on indigenous foods and soil restoration, deepening ecological knowledge and stewardship. ➤ Documented ancestral seeds and traditional practices in Benin, producing a seed catalogue and visual materials that support seed sovereignty and cultural preservation.

	Inter-generational Dialogue and Biocultural Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ABN engaged 2,650 youth in biocultural initiatives, facilitating the transfer of indigenous knowledge from elders. ➤ Three learning exchanges and cultural expeditions were held, deepening appreciation of cultural heritage and ecological stewardship across communities.
	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Three project-based feedback meetings conducted. SIDA project learning workshop held, fostering reflection and ideation for future collaboration. ➤ Mid-term internal review for Bread for the World-supported project conducted. ➤ Organizational capacity assessments conducted for the Network and four partners under the Bread for the World project.
Strategic Area Four: Advocacy and Social Mobilization	Advocacy and Lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Six policy briefs developed during key advocacy moments, helping shape discourse on seed sovereignty and agroecology. ➤ The publication "<i>Building Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) and Preserving Indigenous Seeds in East Africa</i>" provided critical evidence for lobbying national and regional governments to support FMSS.
	Gender Mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ABN delivered gender-focused capacity building to partners, laying a foundation for more inclusive programming and enhancing sensitivity to gender dynamics within biocultural and biodiversity conservation. ➤ Supported two women-led seed collectives in Benin, resulting in documented indigenous knowledge on biocultural diversity and strengthened women's roles as custodians of seeds and cultural heritage. Link to documentary; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RdSCpiyq0A

4.0. Summary Financial Statement

4.1. ABN Year 2024 Financial Highlights, 24th March 2025

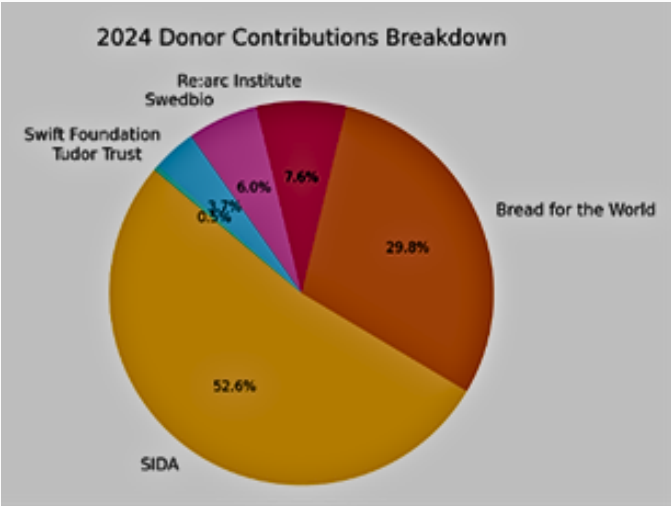
Over the past few years, the organization’s overall budget and income has grown significantly. However, in the last financial year (2024), there was a reduction in the budget to US\$ 996,872.53, marking a decline from the previous year. This decrease was primarily due to the expiration of the project period for the SIDA project, which ended on September 31, 2024, with a no-cost extension until December 31, 2020. Currently, the organization follows a project-based funding model, with each funder having specific reporting requirements. Below is a summary of funding from year 2020 to year 2024.



Year	Funding (\$)
2020	313,237.00
2021	814,945.00
2022	933,919.00
2023	1,306,115.29
2024	996,872.53

4.2. Year 2024 Financial Performance

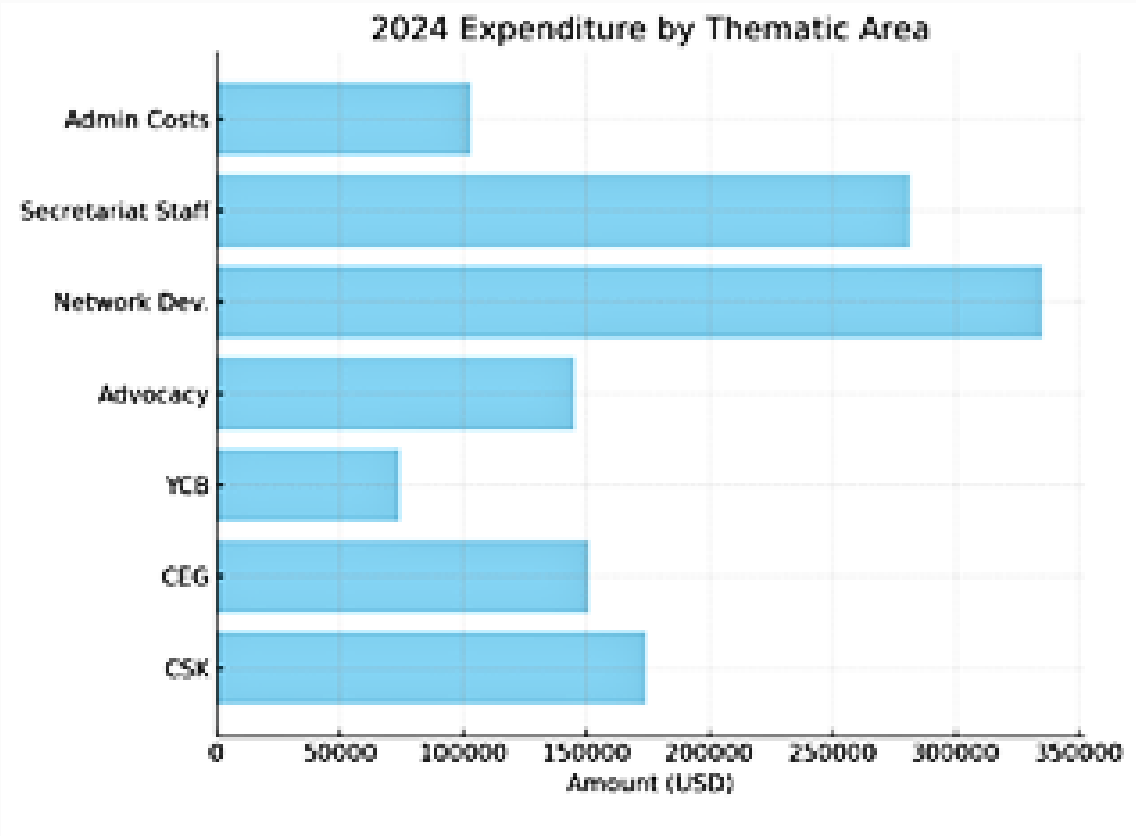
Available funding - The year 2024 began with an opening balance of \$341,446.97 being the funds that remained in 2023 for activities spanning to the subsequent year. The total income received during the year was \$996,872.53 (a drop of 23.67% from 2023) making the total available funds for the year 2024 to be \$1,338,557.68. The income received comprised mainly of continued support from Bread for the World \$296,666.29 (29.8%), Swedbio, \$59,364.03 (6%), Tudor Trust \$4,551 (0.5%), Swift Foundation \$36,656.67 (3.7%), Re:arc Institute \$75,455.00 (7.6%) and SIDA-contribution no.14883, \$ 524,179.54 (52.6%).



DONOR	YEAR 2024 (\$)	YEAR 2024 (%)
SIDA	524,179.54	52.60%
Bread for the World	296,666.29	29.80%
Re:arc Institute	75,455.00	7.60%
Swedbio	59,364.03	6.00%
Swift Foundation	36,656.67	3.70%
Tudor Trust	4,551.00	0.50%
Total	996,872.53	100

4.3. How the funds were spent

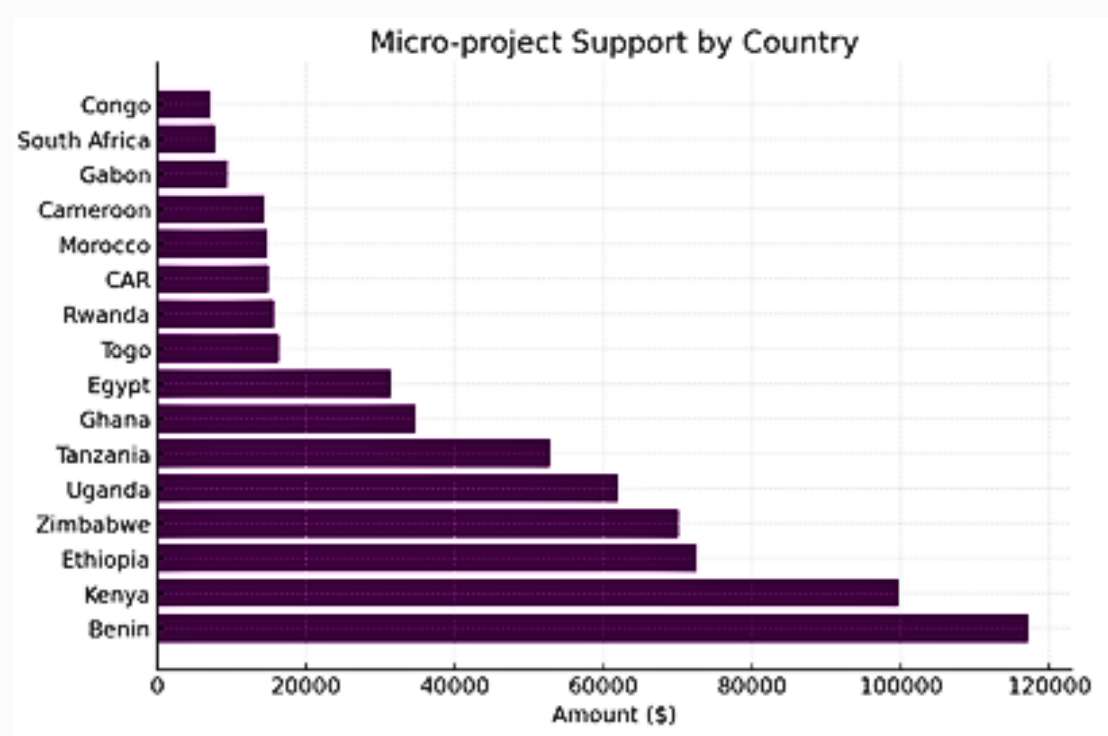
In terms fund utilization, the total expenditure for the year was \$1,268,828.96, an absorption rate of 94.8% of the available funds and a 26.47% rise in costs compared to year 2023 (\$1,003,275.73). Overall, 27.03% of the annual cost (\$ 342,958.28) was spent on secretariat core costs while the balance of (\$ 925,870.96) (72.97%) 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.



Expenditure by Thematic Area	Amount	%
Community Seed and Knowledge (CSK)	174,223.51	13.77
Community Ecological Governance (CEG)	151,079.65	11.94
Youth Culture and Biodiversity (YCB)	74,326.08	5.87
Advocacy, Communication & Regional Collaborations	145,469.56	11.5
Network Development & Practices	335,602.26	26.52
Secretariat Staff	281,611.17	22.26
Admin Costs	103,038.72	8.14
Total	1,265,350.95	100

4.4. Micro-project support to partners

A total of \$ 640,834.75 (representing 52.58% of the annual costs) was disbursed to Thirty-three partners in sixteen countries as micro project support for in-country activities with the communities based on ABN methodologies, build coalitions to influence policies and hosting sub-regional node activities in their region. The table below outlines disbursement per country.



Country	Amount (\$)	Partners
Kenya	99,672.20	9
Uganda	61,987.61	3
Ethiopia	72,521.18	3
Tanzania	52,815.45	2
Rwanda	15,624.00	1
Congo	7,108.50	1
Zimbabwe	70,105.98	3
South Africa	7,772.97	1
Togo	16,350.00	1
Benin	117,160.62	3
Ghana	34,716.86	1
Morocco	14,747.14	1
Cameroon	14,386.00	1
Gabon	9,484.96	1
Central Africa Republic	14,969.14	1
Egypt	31,412.14	1
TOTAL	640,834.75	33

Financial decisions regarding the allocation of support to implementing partners and the determination of hosting Sub-regional and Country Node events are made in consultation with partners.

4.5. These decisions prioritize:

Regional Balance -Ensuring equitable distribution of resources across Sud Regional Nodes.

Cost Efficiency - Maximizing impact while optimizing financial resources.

Suitability & Partner Capacity- Evaluating the ability of partners to effectively implement/ host programs.

Logistical Considerations- Assessing flight connections, travel restrictions, and other country-specific requirements that may impact event hosting.

These guiding principles help ensure fairness, efficiency, and effectiveness in financial allocations and event planning.

Conclusion

The year 2024 has been a powerful testament to the strength of community-led movements and the importance of honoring African knowledge systems in addressing ecological and climate crises. Across the continent, the African Biodiversity Network (ABN), together with its vibrant membership and partners, has advanced a bold and holistic agenda rooted in seed sovereignty, ecological governance, youth empowerment, and advocacy for justice in biodiversity and food systems.

Through collaborative efforts in all five African sub-regions, ABN has supported transformative grassroots actions that are restoring ecosystems, reviving indigenous seed and food cultures, and amplifying the voices of farmers, women, and youth in decision-making spaces. Whether through regional advocacy on Farmer-Managed Seed Systems, participatory ecological mapping in Egypt, or agroecological innovation in Togo, ABN's work has been driven by the shared belief that African solutions, informed by ancestral wisdom and community values, are essential for a just and sustainable future. As we look ahead, ABN remains committed to deepening its impact through stronger policy engagement, strategic partnerships, and continued capacity strengthening of its members. We will expand our investment in youth as the torchbearers of this movement, and we will continue to push for a paradigm shift that centers life, community, and resilience in Africa's development pathways.

Together with our supporters and allies, ABN will continue to nurture a vibrant and growing movement—one that reclaims agency, restores ecosystems, and rebuilds hope. The journey continues, and with it, our unwavering resolve to protect Africa's rich biocultural diversity for generations to come.

Annex

Implementing Partners	
Partners	Country
Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE)	Kenya)
Mandeleo Endelevu Action Programme (MEAP)	Kenya
Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)	Ethiopia
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)	Uganda
Rural Initiatives Development Programme (RIDEP)	Kenya
Seed Savers Network (SSN)	Kenya
Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development (MPIDO)	Kenya
Emayian Integrated Development Organization (EIDO)	Kenya
Society for Alternative Learning and Transformation (SALT)	Kenya
Global initiative for environment and reconciliation (GER)	Rwanda
African Institute For Culture and Ecology (AFRICE)	Uganda
Ngatho Community Foundation	Kenya
Centre for Human Rights and Governance	DRC Congo
Grow Bio-Intensive Center of Kenya (G-BIACK)	Kenya
Environmental, Human Rights Care and Gender Organization (ENVIROCARE)	Tanzania
Centre d'Eveil, d'Animation, et de Stimulation pour Enfants (CEVASTE)	Benin
Nature Tropicale ONG	Benin
Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour le Bien-Etre au Bénin (GRABE-Benin)	Benin
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)	Togo
Regional Advisory Information & Network Systems (RAINS)	Ghana

Implementing Partners	
Partners	Country
Green Development Advocates (GDA)	Cameroon
Maison de l’Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée (MEFP)	Central Africa Republic (CAR)
Muyissi Environnement	Gabon
Réseau des Initiatives Agroécologiques au Maroc (RIAM)	Morocco
Chikukwa Ecological and Land Use Community Trust (CELUO Trust)	Zimbabwe
Earthlore Foundation	South Africa
Usiko	South Africa

Strategic Partners	
Partners	Country
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)	Uganda
Biosafety and Biodiversity Association of Kenya (BIBA)	Kenya
Food Rights Alliance (FRA)	Rwanda
Growth Partners	Kenya
PELUM Ethiopia	Ethiopia
PELUM Kenya	Kenya
Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)	Uganda
Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO)	Tanzania
Pesticides Action Nexus (PAN) Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Terre A Vie	Burkina Faso
Biowatch	South Africa
PELUM Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
RESCOPE	Zambia
Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE)	Egypt

A. ABN Funding Partners

The Tudor Trust

re:arc

Brot für die Welt
Brot für die Welt –
Evangelischer
Entwicklungsdienst

Sweden
Sverige

SWIFT
FOUNDATION

SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

