



IMPACT

Indigenous Movement For Peace Advancement & Conflict Transformation

SwedBio

A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre



2ND POST APAC MEETING

“Validating the strategy for implementation of Kigali Call and creating an inclusive Pan African voice and agency”.



15th-18th March 2023, The Boma Hotel -Nairobi Kenya
Organized by IMPACT Trust Kenya



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BACKGROUND:

In July, 2022, more 2400 participants from about 70 countries representing African leaders, Indigenous and local communities, citizens and interest groups participated in the inaugural Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC.) The congress was convened to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving nature, safeguarding Africa's iconic wildlife, delivering vital life-supporting ecosystem services, promoting sustainable development while conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions. Considering the critical role that Indigenous People and Local Communities, IPLCs play in conservation, a pre-congress consultative meeting was held focusing on IPLCs and the nexus to conservation.

Two key documents: the Kigali Call to Action and the IPLC's declaration were presented and endorsed as key outcome documents of the APAC. These two documents capture aspirations and commitments of IPLCs, Africa governments, Conservation organizations and practitioners, Civil Society Organizations and other interested groups present towards People and Nature.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NAIROBI POST APAC CONVENING

The Nairobi Post APAC convening sought to bring together selected participants of APAC to build a strategy for engagement with the Kigali Call to Action and the IPLC's declaration and develop mechanisms for implementation.

Specifically, convening sought to:

- a) Unpack the commitments made under the **Kigali Call to Action** (<https://rb.gy/02drd>) and **The IPLC's Declaration** (<https://rb.gy/o9haw>) and prioritize commitments and recommendations for short, medium and long term implementation and agree on engagement strategy for each of the prioritized commitments and recommendations.
- b) Develop mechanisms for implementation and a work-plan
- c) Agree on the IPLC pan Africa body, technical reference group among other key outfits to facilitate effective monitoring of the commitments and follow through the agreed work-plan
- d) Propose possible funding opportunities to support the implementation of work-plan. Fundraising & resource mobilization will be critical to enhance IPLCs capacity to pursue activities at the national level; lobbying for government support in the inclusion of some of the prioritized recommendations in National Development Plans.
- e) Agree and develop a Communication strategy to enhance IPLCs visibility and APAC-1 and identify opportunities for engagement on the outcomes of CBD and UNFCCC-COPs and other Africa specific events.
- f) Discuss the strategy document developed by a few of us and validate it; then hopefully it can be used in our engagement with governments, conservations and international actors on issues to deal with land, territory and natural resources.
- g) Agree on a plan to engage and participate in upcoming World Parks Congress (WPC)-2024-taking some of IPLCs messages from APAC to the WCP through a side event, having an IPLCs African Pavilion etc.



MEETING PROCEEDINGS

SESSION 1: Opening Plenary

In her opening remarks, the principal secretary at the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Heritage: State department for Wildlife in Kenya, Hon Sylvia Museiya said they are aware of the issues affecting IPLC'S around conservation and her office is pushing for policies that address the interests of the Indigenous people.



Fg.2 Hon. Sylvia Museiya (Principal secretary, Department of Wildlife)

SESSION 2: Understanding the Objectives of the Meeting

The journey to the IPLCS' Strategy document;





The introduction of the meeting was done by the CEO of IMPACT Kenya Mr. Mali Ole Kaunga by giving an overview of why the meeting was convened; to primarily review the strategy for the implementation of the Kigali Call to Action and the Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' Declaration.

He intimated that the strategy document had been developed by a few of the IPLCS' and APAC participants and upon review and validation, the strategy document becomes a tool for engagements with government, conservation, and international actors on issues of land, territories, and natural resources.

The APAC brought all IPLCs together, clustering all declarations from different African regions. The IPLCS' strategy document contains issues from across Africa, grouped thematically as Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Governance, Mobilizing the economic value of protected and conserved areas and sustainable financing, and Law Enforcement.



Fg.3 Mr. Mali Ole Kaunga - Executive Director IMPACT Kenya

“The capacity we have in this room is extremely vast and therefore we have the resources to draft our own document in our own words and language informed by our cultural values without influence from external actors. Today, it is us developing our strategy ourselves. We would rather have something faulty but developed by us for us, rather than having so pretty on paper that we cannot recognize it.”

SESSION 3: Key Highlights

Some of the key issues under the theme **‘Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Governance’** include the specific call to set up a Pan African ward and coalesce IPLCs one voice in Africa. Other primary considerations include securing IPLCs land tenure, recognition of conserved areas, establishment of a robust grievance, redress mechanism to address historical and existing challenges including recognition and compensation. Further, another specific action is empowering IPLCS so they can conserve and manage their resources effectively; effective governance of IPLCs.



Key considerations under the theme **'Mobilizing the economic value of protected and conserved areas and sustainable financing'** is requiring the African Governments to take charge and lead the conservation narrative; because currently western foreign entities dominate and control funding and conservation. Consequently, these entities are working for their interest not African interest; and re- indigenizing funding to make funding available at the point of impact. This essentially means funding IPLC organizations directly.

Finally, the specific actions under the **'Law Enforcement'** theme are calls to stop militarization of protected areas, calls for donors to stop funding organizations that are involved in human rights abuses around protected areas and establishment of a mechanism for compensating human-wildlife conflict and resultant damages. To respond to a concern, Mr. Malidadi noted the need to include seascapes in the land rights actions. He further noted that while the Strategy Document does not have an implementation timeline, that shall be developed as part of the workplan.



Fig.4 Malidadi Langa (Malawi)

“Against the backdrop of these issues, what we are doing today is exploring a mechanism to ensure that we engage with processes to ensure that these issues are addressed and that the issues we raised are implemented”

SESSION 4: The Draft Strategy

This session focused on a brief overview of the six chapters of the draft strategy. The facilitator intimated that this document has been shaped by different actors and is still being corrected so that we end up having a strategy that not only addresses our concerns but also that reflects all of us from across the continent.

Mr. Aquilas further outlines some of the cross- cutting challenges experienced in this work which include but not limited to;

- 1) Insecure and territorial rights;
- 2) Conservation policies that entrench exclusion;
- 3) The fortress conservation model;
- 4) Increased land degradation and climate hazards;
- 5) Inaccessibility of finances;
- 6) Human-Wildlife Conflict

“This document still needs your input so that it reflects our concerns within our communities; that we will have the willingness to fulfil and fight “



Fig.5 Aquilas Koko (DRC)



SESSION 5: IPLCs priority areas, challenges and opportunities for engagement

This session was focused on discussing the four priority areas;

Priority Area 1: Establishment and operationalization of a Pan – African body

This priority is premised on the need to help operationalize the Kigali Call to Action, to harness and amplify IPLC voices across Africa with the goal of sharing concerns, promoting cross-learning, and following up on the implementation of the two major declarations; anchored on sub-regional networks and coordinating all IPLC networks at continental level and at international level.

Priority Area 2: Advocacy Campaigns and Strategic Engagement

The need to decolonize and deconstruct the current conservation model which essentially excludes IPLCs is of primary importance. To correct this narrative will require concerted efforts and documentation of lived experiences of IPLCs in conserving nature.

Campaigns and advocacy with relevant actors and bodies are tools that will help us to address and correct injustices around side-lining indigenous communities in conservation strategies such as considering biodiversity conservation as a main concern.

“Are we focusing only on protected areas? Protected areas cover a limited percentage of conserved areas, and this is only known because they are State protected areas and have been marketed as such. However, there is a lot of conservation happening among different communities with different strategies; conserving biodiversity and contributing to community livelihood. The thinking therefore is to harness the whole diversity of conservation and that would include mapping and documenting conservation knowledge of marginalized conservation systems, and **proactively engaging with them to ensure just and inclusive conservation; **just** that is actually realized not promised.”**

Priority Area 3: Putting people at the Center of conservation

The dominant conservation model puts at the forefront exclusive actions, violence, militarization, proliferation of small arms and massive human rights abuses. Further, natural resource conflict, gender inequality, political corruption and an overall marginalization of IPLCs, yet the territories on which conservation is being promised are all community lands.

Under this priority area, actions that endeavor to challenge this neo- colonial model and advocate for full ownership and tenure rights of community conservation areas and strong co-management for protected areas surrounded by IPLC communities are a central focus.

Priority Area 4: Promoting Inclusive Governance and Mobilizing the Economic Value of Conserved Areas for IPLCs

The focus under this priority area is to advocate for equitable sharing of cost and benefits accrued from conserved areas, an effective grievance and redress mechanism; and meaningful, effective intergeneration and gender-responsive participation of IPLCs in processes related to land and land-based resources.



i. Opportunities for engagement in conservation

- a) Securing community land tenure rights for IPLC; inclusive of the full bundle of rights-strategy includes advocating for legislation that recognizes community land rights, implementation of legislation where it exists, and consolidating community governance.
- b) Training more IPLC lawyers, social scientists, anthropologists and ecologists to ensure a large knowledge base within communities.
- c) Addressing historical land injustices and present injustices; documenting, communicating them and pursuing restitution within national, regional and international spaces.
- d) Advocating for a robust and effective grievance mechanism for addressing past and present IPLC grievances.
- e) Supporting community led conservation models through documentation, and articulation of Community led conservation models illustrating how it interlinks with diversity conservation and livelihood, and building the governance of IPLCs organizations so that they can effectively play their role and responsibilities.
- f) Forging respectful relationships with communities around already existing protected areas.

So, what is the alternative to National Parks? National Reserves? There is need to document and articulate these alternatives clearly.

While concluding this session, Ms. Kendi intimated that RRI is working on a study to uncover alternative conservation models across Africa, to document them and launch the study in a conference to be held later in the year.

SESSION 6: Strategic Framework and Risk Analysis

In this session, it was highlighted that the models of conservation communities are pushing for are anchored on;

- Justice;
- Respect of Indigenous Knowledge, indigenous culture, beliefs;
- Collaborative in a way that is meaningful, genuine;
- Peace; and
- Human dimensions.

Ms. Eileen discussed a potential risk of names used such as 'protected areas' which could potentially exacerbate exclusion if not rightly defined. She further highlighted other risks such as;

- * Insecurity of land and territorial rights; reaffirming the need to advocate for secure land tenure.
- * Political and protracted instability;
- * Lack of political will denoting that there is no genuine political commitment from most political leadership.
- * Structural challenges within the proposed Pan African body.
To address this challenge, considerations ought to be made to what an inclusive and cohesive IPLC continental body looks like and how to build it together to ensure everybody is invited on the table.



Mr. Malidadi: We are trying to create a space for IPLCs to engage, enabling environment. Sure, we will have litigation and BCPs, but for now we just need to create an enabling environment for IPLCs to engage.

Secondly, there are quite a number of issues from other conventions yet to be addressed.

So, what we can do is probably expand the strategy beyond Kigali Call to respond to CBDs, UNFCCC, CBD etc. If we broaden it, we might need to even change the title of the Pan- African body.

Regarding conservation models, we have these State protected areas, some of which interact with IPLCs some don't. We also have those termed protected areas where communities are annexed to them. These we need to advocate for co- management. Government should not manage these alone yet IPLC s are adjacent to them. Let us not forget Private Sector players who own large conserved areas. We ought to think through how to engage them.

Why do we need a regional body? At the APAC in Kigali, it was clear there is no connectivity among IPLCs; no collective body that represents IPLCs continental voice. What we had are regional voices denoting a glaring gap. This is what then we are talking about, a regional voice that represents coherence, comprehensive.

This does not purport to exclude the existing platforms/networks but however, this body becomes a coordinating body of all these regional and national platforms.

PLENARY

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SESSION 7: Strategic Framework and Risk Analysis

This body will represent IPLCs' interest in Africa, unify the IPLCs' cause, and present the issues affecting them on different platforms. Suggestions were made on the name to give this entity that will satisfy and be relevant to everyone and all the participants settled for:

"ALLIANCE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES (IP&LCS) FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA"

IPLCs should also identify a resource groups and be included in the technical governing body as well as identify an IPLC focal contact in each region. People who are not IPLCs should not be in the technical reference group but rather should be resource partners/ Allies.



SESSION 7: Strategic Framework and Risk Analysis

The Alliance Structure:

**Members => Governing council => Interim/technical steering committee (non-IPLCS mainly)
=> The secretariat/hosting organization**

To form the **governance structure** of this body including the technical reference group; the existing regional and sub-regional networks are to form a kind of governing council, and the technical reference group will be identified according to expertise from a combination of IPLCs and non-IPLC who will advise and support the governing council.

It was agreed upon that the interim work of the steering committee is to temporarily facilitate the process of putting up the structures after which their tenure ceases to exist.

For those organizations without a network, we will identify one organization based in that region without a network that would then work with the steering committee and that organization would be supported to form a network.

Finally, participants present were tasked to identify resource groups and persons to be included in the technical governing body as well as identify an IPLC focal contact in each region.

SESSION 8: Identification of the interim steering committee to discuss and establish the structure

The responsibilities are allocated to all interim steering committee members, with Malidadi Langa nominated as the Interim chair and Maimuna Umaro the Interim vice-chair

1. Southern Africa group

Roles:

- 6 months to coordinate and establish the process as the interim
- Develop a constitution, functions, operational guidelines, working plan and Fundraising Strategy
- A council to ensure documentation is well done

2. Central Africa group

Roles:

- To operationalize the body and Coordinate activities
- And develop the strategy that will guide the implementation

3. Eastern Africa Group

Nominated 2 interim organizations

- i. The main – Lekipa Saitabau, UCRT (Tanzania)
- ii. The alternate – Tezera Getahun, Pastoralist Forum of Ethiopia

Roles:

- Coordinate the development and functions of the structure
- Report to members of the region and seek consensus
- Define roles of the governing body
- Take stocks of members in the regions for strength and expertise identification



4. Western Africa Group

Nominated - Forest Watch Ghana

IMPACT-Kenya was nominated as the hosting organization whose main role is mobilizing resources, coordinating communication within the region and mapping out initiatives for the body.

SESSION 9: Mapping out the network

Noting the need for concerted efforts and a coordinated strategic development for conservation issues at all levels within the region, it was important to map out relevant target networks as below;

- i. REPALEAC
- ii. CLN
- iii. Pastoralist Forum of Ethiopia
- iv. Eastern and Southern Africa Pastoralist Network
- v. AYBN
- vi. PINGOS
- vii. HUGAFO
- viii. PARAN
- ix. IWO – hosted by the IIN
- x. IPNSCCC (33 members)
- xi. ACBA - African CSCs Biodiversity Alliance (80 members)
- xii. IPACC – The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (135 reps from 21 countries)
- xiii. TRF – Tanzania Resource Forum
- xiv. Forest watch of Ghana
- xv. ABN - African Biodiversity Network
- xvi. CFCN - Community Forest Conservation Network
- xvii. PACJA - Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- xviii. ICCA Consortium
- xix. AWF - African Wildlife Foundation
- xx. RRI - Rights and Resources Initiatives
- xxi. International Land Coalition
- xxii. IUCN
- xxiii. CI – Conservation International

It was also noted that there is a need to develop IPLCs action demands for these organizations. Further, it was agreed upon that the list ought to be expanded to include unidentified NGOs & Church-Based organizations, Donors and Allies.

1. RRI - Kendi Borana
2. NAMATI – Eileen Mwangi
3. Satau Gakemoto – Botswana
4. Natural Justice – Lawyers network on issues of conservation
5. Dr. Hassan Roba – TCF
6. Dr. Liz Alden
7. Global Green Grants Funds
8. Global Forest Coalition – Congo
9. Forest People's Programs



It was agreed that this list can be expanded to include

- i. Academia's
- ii. Resource mobilizers
- iii. Legal support.

SESSION 10: Prioritization of Activities

To kick off the work, it was agreed upon that in 2023, organization and institutional building which includes clarification of various roles and membership remains a priority.

Specifically, the activities include;

1. Registration of the Alliance- This essentially includes drafting and developing the instruments of governance, it was agreed that the registration of the Alliance be put on hold and allow the technical group to look into the pros and cons of registration, meanwhile fundraising will be tasked to different organizations; spreading out the risk and duties to fundraise.
2. Letter writing to relevant donors and other stakeholders on key asks
3. Launch of the body after the approval by members
4. Development of a resource mobilization strategy
5. Establishment of a team to clean up the strategic engagement document and make it a simplified document;
6. Strategic campaigns and drawing a communication strategy which would include preliminary social media engagements. Salatou and Maimuna to come up with a communication strategy i.e mailing lists, WhatsApp groups for thematic concerns and virtual meetings.
7. A continental survey that looks at conservation models across the continent as proposed.

CLOSING REMARKS

Participants were informed that Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) is undertaking a study across Africa on different conservation models. It was further intimated that the two aspects of this are:

1. Commissioning a study which will look at different models of conservation with the objective of answering the question 'are there other models besides national parks that contribute to livelihoods of communities?' and
2. A Community Conservation Congress which proposes to bring communities together to share and learn about community led conservation models. The conference will offer an opportunity to launch the study.

As such, the conference would create an opportunity to launch the Pan African Alliance. Ole informed the team that the Alliance will co- host the conference together with RRI in October/November

He further outlined a list of potential funders and current supporters;

- Swedbio
- Henry Luce Foundation
- Wellsprings
- Forest Peoples Climate (FPC) under CLUA
- Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
- GlobalGreengrants



Noting that while some of them were present, we would need to share the outcome documents and the final strategy with the potential partners.

Final remarks proposed Ramson and Maimuna to coordinate the conversation and also Salatou and Maimuna to come up with a communication strategy.

Upon successful coverage of all the items on the agenda, the meeting was due to officially end with remarks from Ole Kaunga, who took his time to appreciate all the participants for their fervent engagements and contributions during the Post-APAC meeting.

List of Annexes

Annex I: The Kigali Call to action

Annex II: The IPLC Kigali declaration

Annex III: The Meeting Agenda


Annex IV: The Meetings Participants' List


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