

ACB communications and media report

September 2022 – February 2024



AFRICAN CENTRE
FOR BIODIVERSITY

Programme 1:

GM & Biosafety

Publication web views



3 February 2023

Landmark legal challenge against Monsanto/ Bayer’s “bogus” drought tolerant GM maize finally to be heard in South African High Court

Country	Unique Page Views
	432 % of Total: 2.83% (15,285)
South Africa	226
United States	58
United Kingdom	17
Kenya	16
Germany	14
Australia	8
Canada	7
Ghana	7
France	6
Netherlands	6

Media mentions



News and comment on genetically modified foods and their associated pesticides

News

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Donations

Videos

Contact

About

Date set for legal challenge against Monsanto/Bayer's "bogus" drought tolerant GM maize

Published: 04 February 2023

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Landmark legal challenge against controversial drought tolerant GM maize to be heard



Written by
Mwangi Githahu
Multimedia Journalist

NETWERK24

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KUNSTE

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SPEEL

Monsanto-saad: Hof gevra om besluit tersyde te stel

07 Feb.

Elise Tempelhoff


NETWERK24

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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT

Home

Opinion

Press Releases


GM Maize: SA High Court to hear Landmark legal challenge against Monsanto

Opinion

Press Releases

GM Maize: SA High Court to hear Landmark legal challenge against Monsanto

By News Desk - February 3, 2023



Wednesday, February 8, 2023

HOME

NEWS

HEALTH

RENEWABLE ENERGY

CLIMATE CHANGE & WEATHER


AGRICULTURE & BIOTECH

HUMAN SETTLEMENT

SUSTAINABLE DEVEL

WATER & SANITATION

MORE



COVER

South African court to hear case challenging Monsanto/Bayer's drought tolerant GM maize

FEBRUARY 6, 2023 470

Publication web views

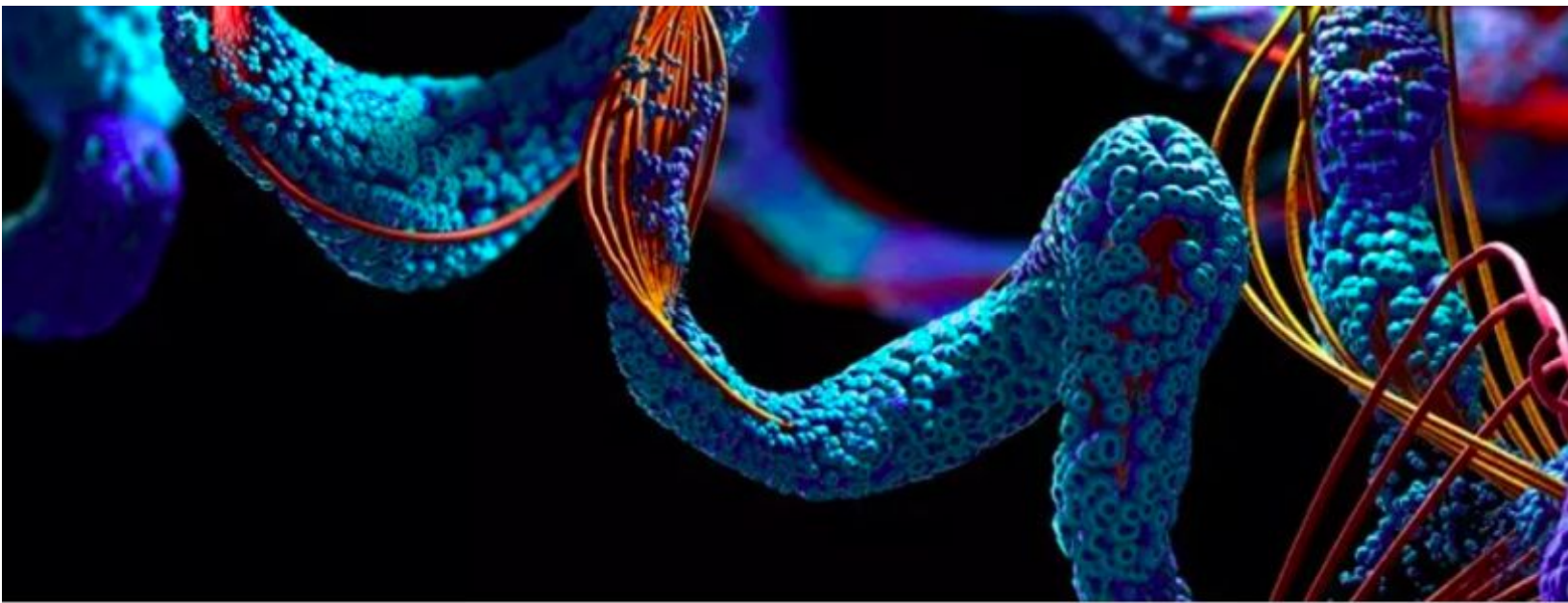


10 February 2023

JUDGMENT ON ACB’S HIGH COURT REVIEW OF MONSANTO’S ALLEGED DROUGHT TOLERANT GM TRAIT PENDING

Country 	Unique Page Views 	
	142 % of Total: 0.93% (15,285)	
 South Africa	79	
 United States	12	
 Germany	7	
 United Kingdom	6	
 Tanzania	5	
 Kenya	4	
 Netherlands	3	
 Singapore	3	
 Eswatini	3	
 United Arab Emirates	2	

Publication web views



3 March 2023

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY: MISSED OPPORTUNITY FOR BIOSAFETY AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION FOR AFRICA

Country	Unique Page Views
	284 % of Total: 1.86% (15,285)
United States	61
Finland	43
South Africa	41
Netherlands	30
France	29
Austria	18
Tanzania	11
Canada	10
United Kingdom	7
Switzerland	4

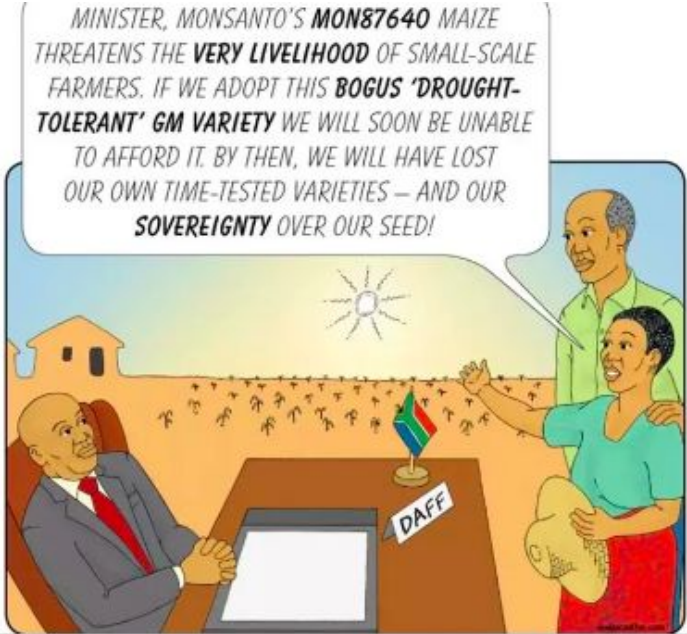
Media mentions



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY: MISSED OPPORTUNITY FOR BIOSAFETY AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION FOR AFRICA

For several years, the ACB has engaged at multiple levels with the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). In the lead up to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conservation's fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP 15), held in Montreal, Canada in December 2022, the ACB published a series of five papers, *The Africa we want? A neo-imperialist food regime reinforced by Agenda 2063, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*, which can be accessed [here](#). ACB's Research and Advocacy Officer Sabrina Masinjila attended COP 15 in person, and Executive Director Mariam Mayet followed the proceedings online. On the agenda was a new deal on biodiversity through the finalisation of the GBF. In this blog, they share their reflections on the proceedings on biosafety and new technologies.

Publication web views



8 March 2023

Resistance against “bogus” drought tolerant (DT) maize in South Africa: a snapshot of two decades of activism

Country	Unique Page Views
	280 % of Total: 1.83% (15,285)
South Africa	131
Tanzania	39
United States	28
United Kingdom	10
Namibia	8
Ireland	7
Kenya	6
Uganda	5
Netherlands	4
Burkina Faso	3

Publication web views



17 March 2023

2,4-D GM MAIZE AND THE REGULATORY ANOMALIES REGARDING GMOs AND ASSOCIATED PESTICIDES

Country	Unique Page Views
	109 % of Total: 0.71 % (15,285)
South Africa	60
United States	16
Kenya	4
Brazil	3
Canada	3
United Kingdom	3
France	2
Eswatini	2
United Arab Emirates	1
Burkina Faso	1

Publication web views



5 May 2023

UNSAFE GM WHEAT TO ENTER SOUTH AFRICA’S FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Unique Page Views
	338 % of Total: 2.21% (15,285)
South Africa	173
United States	46
United Kingdom	16
Kenya	15
Namibia	9
Uganda	9
Zambia	7
Botswana	4
France	4
Netherlands	4

Media mentions

 **Biosafety Information Centre**

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Sections

- ▶ Biosafety Science
- ▶ Agriculture / Organisms
- ▶ Traits in Agriculture
- ▶ Biomedical Applications
- ▶ Assessment & Impacts
- ▶ Trends in Industry
- ▶ Global Agreements and Fora
- ▶ Policy and Regulation
- ▶ Key Regulatory Issues
- ▶ Sustainable Systems
- Biosafety Assessment Tool (BAT)

« **Brazil: "Passion seeds" fertilize semi-arid northeast**

Opinion: The US assault on Mexico's food sovereignty »

Calls for South Africa to Set Aside Its Approval of GM Wheat

TWN Info Service on Biosafety
26 June 2023
Third World Network
www.twn.my

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Calls for South Africa to Set Aside Its Approval of GM Wheat

Focus

New Publications

New Book: Bt Crops Past Their Sell-By Date: A Failing Technology Searching for New Markets?

The Need for Horizon Scanning and Technology Assessment to Address the Evolving Nature of Genetic Engineering

Why Genome Edited Organisms are not Excluded from the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Events

Publication web views



10 May 2023

NO TO GM WHEAT IN SOUTH AFRICA!

Country	Unique Page Views
	349 % of Total: 2.28% (15,285)
 South Africa	234
 United States	39
 Sweden	7
(not set)	6
 Kenya	5
 Tanzania	5
 France	4
 Namibia	4
 Canada	3
 United Kingdom	3

Media mentions



No to GM wheat in South Africa!

May 10, 2023 — 1 Comment

The African Centre For Biodiversity (ACB) are calling on the government to reverse approval of GM wheat in South Africa.

They are [reaching out to organisations](#) to



Publication web views



22 May 2023

GM WHEAT OUT OF AFRICA!

Groundswell support for rejection of GM wheat approval in South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa, May 2023

[\(Haga clic aquí para ver en español\)](#)

[\(Clique aqui para ver em português\)](#)

Country	Unique Page Views
	86 % of Total: 0.56% (15,285)
South Africa	45
United States	6
Canada	5
United Kingdom	4
Tanzania	4
Australia	2
Belgium	2
Germany	2
Hong Kong	2
Japan	2

Publication web views



26 July 2023

High Court Decision on GM ‘bogus’ drought tolerant maize – significant blow to advancement of environmental law in GMO decision making

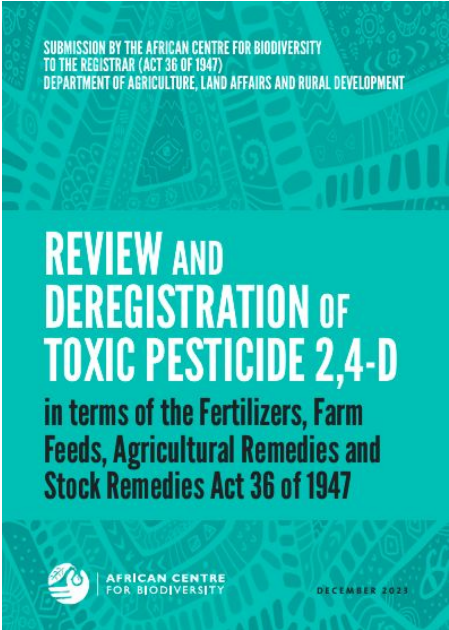
Country 	Unique Page Views 	
	202	
	% of Total: 1.32% (15,285)	
 South Africa	68	
 United States	42	
 United Kingdom	16	
 Germany	15	
 Kenya	13	
 Philippines	10	
 Japan	5	
 Canada	4	
 Tanzania	4	
 Italy	3	

Publication web views



7 December 2023

Call on South Africa to deregister agrotoxin 2,4-D



Country ▾ ×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
	125 0.26% of total	93 0.86% of total
South Africa	112	81
United States	7	7
France	1	1
Nigeria	1	1
Tanzania	1	1
Uganda	1	1
United Kingdom	1	1

Publication web views




30 January 2024

No to GM wheat!



Country	Views	Users
	207 0.89% of total	138 3.18% of total
South Africa	97	51
United States	41	33
Canada	12	9
Tanzania	9	4
Ethiopia	6	3
United Kingdom	6	5
Germany	5	5
Netherlands	5	5
Italy	3	2
Belgium	2	2

Media mentions



News and comment on genetically modified foods and their associated pesticides


NON-GM SUCCESSESGM VIDEOSGM MYTHSMYTH MAKERSSUBSCRIBE TO NEWSDONATE TO GMWATCH


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Organisations around the world warn of GM wheat risks and low yields

Published: 28 February 2024

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GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems

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No to GM wheat! Global alliance seeks UN intervention against GM Wheat HB4 cultivation



13 de marzo de 2024 | Edición impresa | PDF | Newsletter | Asociate | Iniciar sesión

SECCIONES Y SUPLEMENTOS | El país | Economía | Sociedad | Espectáculos | Deportes | El mundo | Ciencia

Sociedad

Trigo HB4

Organizaciones de todo el mundo advierten sobre los riesgos del trigo transgénico

En un documento conjunto, Asia, África y América Latina afirman que el trigo HB4 de la empresa Bioceres. No cuenta con estudios de inocuidad y denuncian que incluso tiene menos productividad que el trigo convencional.

Por **Dario Aranda**

26 de febrero de 2024 - 00:01

TwitterFacebookInstagramWhatsAppTelegramLinkedIn





Publication web views




5 February 2024


Game-changer for regulation of genome editing and new tech as SA’s Ag Minister overrules Industry and Appeal Board


Country ▼ ×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
	594 2.55% of total	406 9.37% of total
South Africa	186	135
United States	77	58
Ireland	46	1
France	29	19
United Kingdom	25	16
Japan	23	17
Kenya	22	10
Ghana	18	14
Canada	17	17
Malawi	15	14

Media mentions



Biosafety Information Centre





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- ▶ Traits in Agriculture
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Informationsdienst Gentechnik

Kritische Nachrichten zur Gentechnik in der Landwirtschaft

[NACHRICHTEN](#) [WISSEN](#) [AKTIV WERDEN](#)

   [UNTERSTÜTZEN](#)

Von 

Bis  



Südafrika: Neue Gentechnik bleibt Gentechnik

13.02.2024

Die südafrikanische Landwirtschaftsministerin Thoko Didiza hat entschieden, dass neue gentechnische Verfahren (NGT) in der heimischen Landwirtschaft weiterhin dem Gentechnikrecht und seinen Zulassungsregeln unterliegen. Wie erst jetzt bekannt wurde, wies sie damit vor sechs Monaten Beschwerden der Agrarindustrielobby gegen eine frühere Entscheidung ihrer Gentechnikbehörde zurück. Für das afrikanische Zentrum für Biodiversität (ACB) ist das ein Wendepunkt für den ganzen Kontinent.

Die südafrikanische Agrarministerin Thoko Didiza 2019 bei einer Pressekonferenz. Foto: GCIS <https://lmy.de/OcLX>, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>

Online-Redakteur*in gesucht!

Der Informationsdienst Gentechnik sucht zum nächstmöglichen Zeitpunkt eine Online-Redakteurin (m/w/d) in Voll- oder Teilzeit.

Bewerbungen inkl. Arbeitsproben bitte

Game-changer for regulation of genome editing and new tech in South Africa

No Environmental Release of Gene Drive Organisms

Gene drive technology uses new genetic engineering techniques including CRISPR/Cas9 to forcibly spread genetically engineered traits, including lethal ones, throughout entire populations and species of organisms. Once released into the environment, gene drive organisms cannot be recalled nor controlled thus preempting and overriding the ability of nations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and future generations to take their own decisions.

Gene drives work against natural rules of inheritance forcing nearly 100% instead of the usual 50% of offspring to inherit their genetically engineered traits. Whereas existing biosafety systems are designed to limit the spread and persistence of living modified organisms to mitigate against adverse impacts, gene drives are intended to spread genetic modifications to alter species and ecosystems. This would undermine the integrity of the UN Cartagena Protocol and international and national biosafety systems, including the procedures for Advanced Informed Agreement (AIA) of countries and Free, Prior and Informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

General media coverage

Kenia lässt genverändertes Getreide zu

Sieg der Gentechnik-Lobby

Mit Gentechnik gegen den Hunger: Kenia will wegen einer verheerenden Dürre auf genmanipuliertes Getreide setzen. Die Entscheidung ist kontrovers. Es geht dabei auch um eine Sorte, die in Deutschland verboten ist.

Aus Nairobi, Kenia, berichtet Heiner Hoffmann
08.10.2022, 13.41 Uhr



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila provides a comment in this article about Kenya's decision to lift the ban against GMO's; and to further allow a GE crop variety, MON810, that is banned in German. Her comment stresses that the ACB has done years of research proving that the GE Crop is a failed solution and will worsen food security in Kenya.

General media coverage



veille citoyenne d'information sur les OGM et les semences

OGM
transgéniques

Nouveaux
OGM

Forçage
génétique

Enjeux

Législation

Étiquetage

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Kenya : Le moratoire sur les OGM sur la sellette

par [Christophe NOISETTE](#)

Date de rédaction / mise à jour : 17 janvier 2023

[VERSION PDF](#)

Les entreprises semencières souhaitent faire de l'Afrique la nouvelle zone d'extension des cultures transgéniques. Mais ce rêve semble difficile à atteindre. Au Kenya, la bataille autour du moratoire sur les OGM est à son comble. L'issue pourrait être déterminante pour la sous-région.

The article discusses how seed companies want to make Africa the new extension zone for transgenic crops and provides. With the focus on Kenya and its moratorium on GMOs to prevent the privatisation of the African seed sector through pushing WEMA onto the continent – on the notion that Kenya is in deficit due to drought, and the GMO varieties will be more "resilient" – the article mentions ACB's research on WEMA drought tolerant maize as evidence showing that planting this GM corn variety is not the solution and has never been demonstrated in any country.

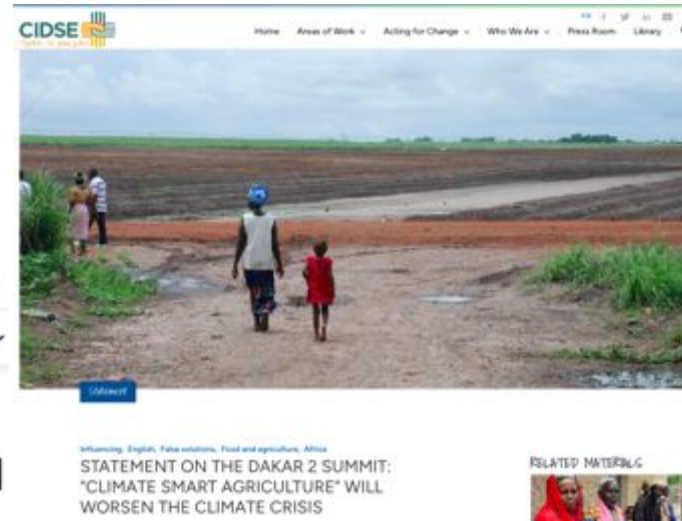
General media coverage



Statement on the African Development Bank's Dakar 2 Summit

"Climate smart agriculture" will worsen the climate crisis

As African heads of state travel to Dakar for the African Development Bank Group's Dakar 2 African Food Summit, 83 African and international civil society organisations have



Statement on the Dakar 2 Summit : "Climate smart agriculture" will worsen the climate crisis



ACB, together with 83 organisations, sign onto the collective statement opposing the Dakar for the Dakar 2 African Food Summit's "climate smart agriculture" approach, which includes the promotion of Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project. The article mentions the ACB, who explains how WEMA aims to build a private-sector seed industry in Africa and spread hybrid maize varieties, and is not a long term solution. The statement was organised by the AfDB and written by the organizations which are part of AfriTAP (the African Tech Assessment Platform).

General media coverage



With the focus on smallholder farmers in Uganda, this article sheds light on the challenges concerning farmers who do not have power to manage their seed system due to the pressure of Ugandan govt putting on scientists to devise ways of ensuring food security through GMOs. ACB is mentioned in the article, to emphasise the Ugandan governments support for GMOs, as a number of GMO crops are already under testing by the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to boost farm productivity and fight hunger.

General media coverage



5. Juni 2023 · 0 Kommentare

Afrika will nicht mehr Versuchskaninchen für die Genlobby sein! Die erschreckende Wahrheit hinter GVO in Afrika! Berufungsgericht bestätigt Verbot von GVO-Anbau in Kenia!- The scary truth behind GMO in Africa! ,We don't want to be guinea pigs' Kenya GMO crops as Court of Appeal upholds ban



How Africa is being considered a test area for genetically modified crops. However, many countries are refusing to grow GM crops because they have seen the negative consequences.

General media coverage

Does the truth about GMOs in food and pharmaceuticals lie in the funding behind the messaging?

Aug 10, 2023 | GMOs, Industry science, media, state-Pharma nexus | 20 comments

Dr Patrick Jones examines the current messaging promoting GMOs and reveals that decades of careful legal work concerning GMO use has been undermined over the past three years, green-lighting a potential surfeit of novel GMOs in both food and pharmaceutical products.

This research is dedicated to those who journey beyond the safety of their algorithmic and social niches.

Opening without closing

The world's populations were informed by authorities, media and experts that Covid is a zoonotic or 'natural' virus and the vaccines designed to combat it would never be engineered to be biologically active in the body. It appears that at least one of these stories was untrue, possibly both. What follows is my research, which has scoured the virtual halls of medical journals, philanthropic, media, scientific and academic institutions, and independent websites over the past three years, to find out.

If I'm reading any of the following inaccurately I'd appreciate your considered feedback in the comments. Only I ask you first read through the post carefully, checking the links and what I'm referring to, and adding to this research positively. Please consider this a working document, a collection of useful links and, more broadly, an information ecology, which I hope will be of some use.

Dr Patrick Jones examines the current messaging promoting GMOs and reveals that decades of careful legal work concerning GMO use has been undermined over the past three years, green-lighting a potential surfeit of novel GMOs in both food and pharmaceutical products.

General media coverage



HOME WHO WE ARE

PRESS REVIEW: AFRICAN MEDIA REPORTING ON GMO POSITIVE

Posted on August 10, 2023

Media sentiment around genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and biotechnological developments in agriculture was generally positive in July 2023, with notable coverage on various African platforms, predominantly in Kenya and Nigeria. Out of 27 stories, 21 projected a positive sentiment while six showed a negative or neutral stance.

In Kenya, President Ruto's plan to support cooperatives and the partnership with county governments in developing the cotton and leather industries was positively highlighted in The Star. This story had a strong reach of 625,000. Other well-received reports include the introduction of a new drought-resistant maize variety in Siaya County (Citizen TV Kenya, reaching 6,080,000) and Kenya's potential to leverage gene editing in combating Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (The Star).

Review on media sentiment in Africa around genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and biotechnological developments in agriculture for July 2023.

General media coverage

Recent advances in cowpea IPM in West Africa



¹ Department of Cowpea Breeding, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Kano, Nigeria

² Department of Entomology, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Cotonou, Benin

³ Department of Entomology, National Institute of Agricultural Research of Niger (INRAN), Maradi, Niger

⁴ Department of Entomology, Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

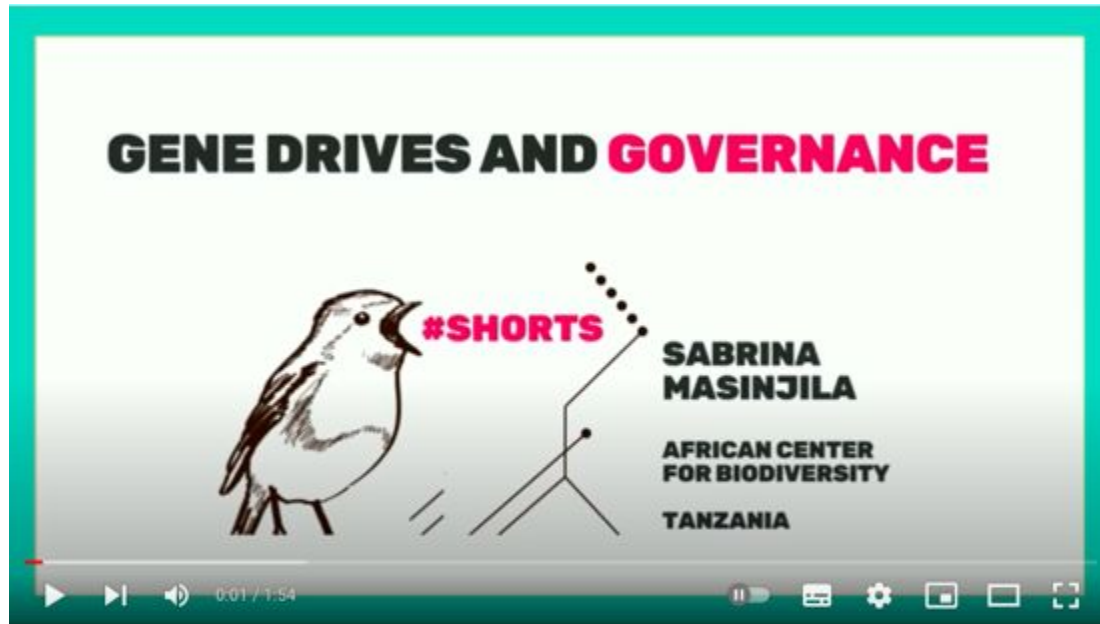
⁵ Department of Entomology, Kwara State University, Ilorin, Nigeria

⁶ Department of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States

Cowpea is an important and climate-resilient grain legume for human and livestock nutrition worldwide. Its grains represent a valuable source of protein for rural families in Sub-Saharan Africa while its haulms offer nutritious fodder for livestock, especially, in the Sahel regions. Cowpea production,

This review examines recent advances in West Africa in cowpea IPM approaches, highlighting research on host plant resistance, biological control, biopesticides, good cultural practices, and on-farm participatory research and training undertaken to support sustainable cowpea production.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



Gene drives #shorts: governance | Sabrina Masinjila



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Gene drives #shorts: governance | Sabrina Masinjila



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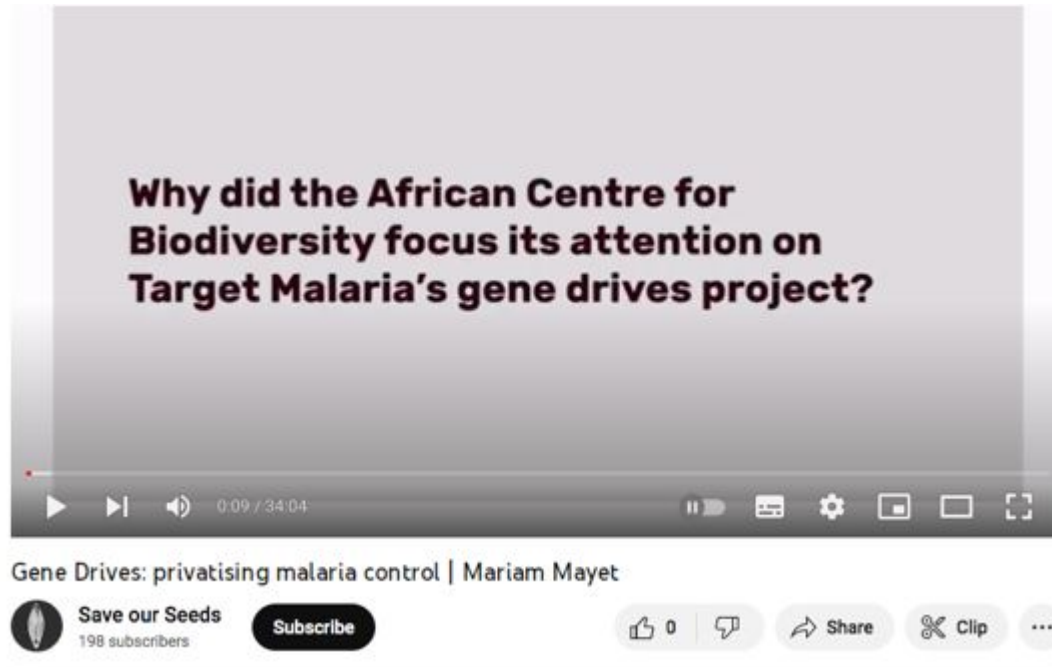


Save



Adam Breasley speaks to ACB's Sabrina Masinjila as one of diverse range of experts in this interview about the challenges to regulate gene drives. As part of Save our Seeds #shorts series, Sabrina shares that text and language a huge problem to have GD regulated, which is why part of the ACBs work is to advocates for the text around horizon scanning and technologies to be safe and appropriate for developing countries, and less risk to humans and the environment.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



ACB's ED Mariam Mayet, in an interview with Adam Breasly (Save our Seeds) questions why African governments have become so deeply indebted that they are unable to deliver basic public health for their populations, and why Africans should continue to suffer from malaria while being trapped in a treadmill of pesticide resistance and dependency on patented vector-control products. Save our Seeds travelled the world speaking to some of the world's leading thinkers, activists and academics on the impact of gene drives and have rated ACB's *The financialisation of malaria in Africa: Burkina Faso, rogue capital & GM /gene drive mosquitoes* (2022), the most in-depth analysis of the financial dynamics underpinning Target Malaria's gene drive mosquito project to date; and that the African Centre for Biodiversity's report is a major contribution to the debate around gene drives.

Regional meetings hosted by ACB



Following on from the SA Agrochemical national meeting convened by the ACB in April 2022, when it was decided that we would host and convene a Peoples' Tribunal on pesticides, further informal meetings have taken place. This meeting was held to formulate a tentative draft of the core focus of the tribunal.

The outcomes of this meeting included ACB commitment to working with Angela Andrews ex LRC and Ricco from Groundwork on the process that the Registrar will be adopting to phase out and ban highly hazardous pesticides; and using the drafted discussion document to begin building the process and necessary building blocks for the convening of a popular people's tribunal by the end of 2024.

Programme 2: Seed Sovereignty

Publication web views



14 Sep 2022

Breaking from the rest of the continent

Country	Unique Page Views
	159 % of Total: 1.04% (15,285)
South Africa	120
United States	11
Tanzania	6
Zimbabwe	4
Switzerland	3
United Kingdom	3
Germany	2
Kenya	2
Zambia	2
Andorra	1

Publication web views



Country	Unique Page Views	
	131	% of Total: 0.86% (15,285)
South Africa	32	
Tanzania	31	
Kenya	19	
Netherlands	15	
United States	9	
Germany	6	
France	4	
United Kingdom	4	
Switzerland	2	
Brazil	1	

Media mentions



[Home](#)

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[Tools](#)

[Yields](#)

European companies capture Kenya's potato seed sector impoverishing farmers

📅 01 DECEMBER 2022



Publication web views



26 Jan 2023

Zimbabwean smallholder farmers show us the way towards alternative food systems



Country	Unique Page Views
	177 % of Total: 1.16% (15,285)
South Africa	45
Zimbabwe	26
United States	16
United Kingdom	13
Switzerland	10
Greece	6
Ireland	5
South Sudan	5
Tanzania	5
Germany	4

Publication web views



28 March 2023

REFLECTIONS FROM ZIMBABWEAN FARMERS ON WEST AFRICA PEASANTS’ SEED FAIR

The 7th annual West Africa Peasants’ Seed Fair, hosted by the West African Committee for Farmers’ Seeds (Comité Ouest Africain de Semences Paysannes – COASP), was held in Zoungbonou, Benin, from 9-11 March 2023, bringing together 75 exhibitors from 25 countries, predominantly from the West African community but also including farmers from East Africa, government officials and academics.

[\(Cliquez ici pour lire la version française\)](#)

Country	Unique Page Views
	259 % of Total: 1.69% (15,285)
South Africa	70
United States	40
United Kingdom	17
Zimbabwe	16
Benin	10
Ghana	9
Zambia	9
Sweden	8
Kenya	6
Germany	5

Publication web views



3 April 2023

REFLEXIONS DES AGRICULTEURS ZIMBABWEENS SUR LA FOIRE AUX SEMENCES PAYSANNES D'AFRIQUE DE L'OUESTSEGEND

La 7e foire annuelle aux semences paysannes d'Afrique de l'Ouest, organisée par le Comité ouest-africain de semences paysannes (COASP), s'est tenue à Zoungbonou, au Bénin, du 9 au 11 mars 2023. Elle a rassemblé 75 exposants de 25 pays, principalement de la communauté ouest-africaine, mais aussi des agriculteurs d'Afrique de l'Est, des représentants du gouvernement et des universitaires.

Country	Unique Page Views
	56 % of Total: 0.37% (15,285)
 Senegal	10
 South Africa	10
 Benin	6
 United States	4
 Burkina Faso	3
 Burundi	3
 Ghana	3
 Mali	3
 France	2
 Italy	2

Publication web views



16 May 2023

The Last Seed – A film produced by Rosa Luxemburg

'The Last Seed', a documentary film produced by Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung in association with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Biowatch, and Participatory Ecological Land Use, Management (PELUM) Tanzania, features ACB's ED Mariam Mayet as one of the key voices advocating for seed sovereignty on the African continent. Through the lived experiences of African small-scale food producers and scientific and political expertise advocating for seed sovereignty, the film outlines the far-reaching consequences of corporate greed on farmer seed; and helps us reflect on the vital importance of seed and the need to protect and support farmer managed seed systems.



Country 	Unique Page Views 	
	85	% of Total: 0.56% (15,285)
 South Africa	31	
 United Kingdom	10	
 Germany	7	
 Switzerland	4	
 United States	4	
 Canada	3	
 Jordan	3	
 Czechia	2	
 Italy	2	
 Mauritius	2	

Publication web views



28 August 2023

Seed harmonisation in Eastern and Southern Africa

Country	Unique Page Views
	91 % of Total: 0.60% (15,285)
South Africa	29
Tanzania	18
United States	12
Zambia	6
Netherlands	4
United Kingdom	3
Angola	2
Germany	2
Ethiopia	2
Sierra Leone	2

Publications



Mozambique is currently developing a new seed policy and new pieces of legislation to regulate its seed sector and to this extent, a draft National Seed Policy and a draft National Seed Law are in the pipeline. The publication finds that the draft seed policy and the draft seed law are embedded in a neoliberal and neo-colonial paradigm that entrenches industrial agriculture.

Publication web views

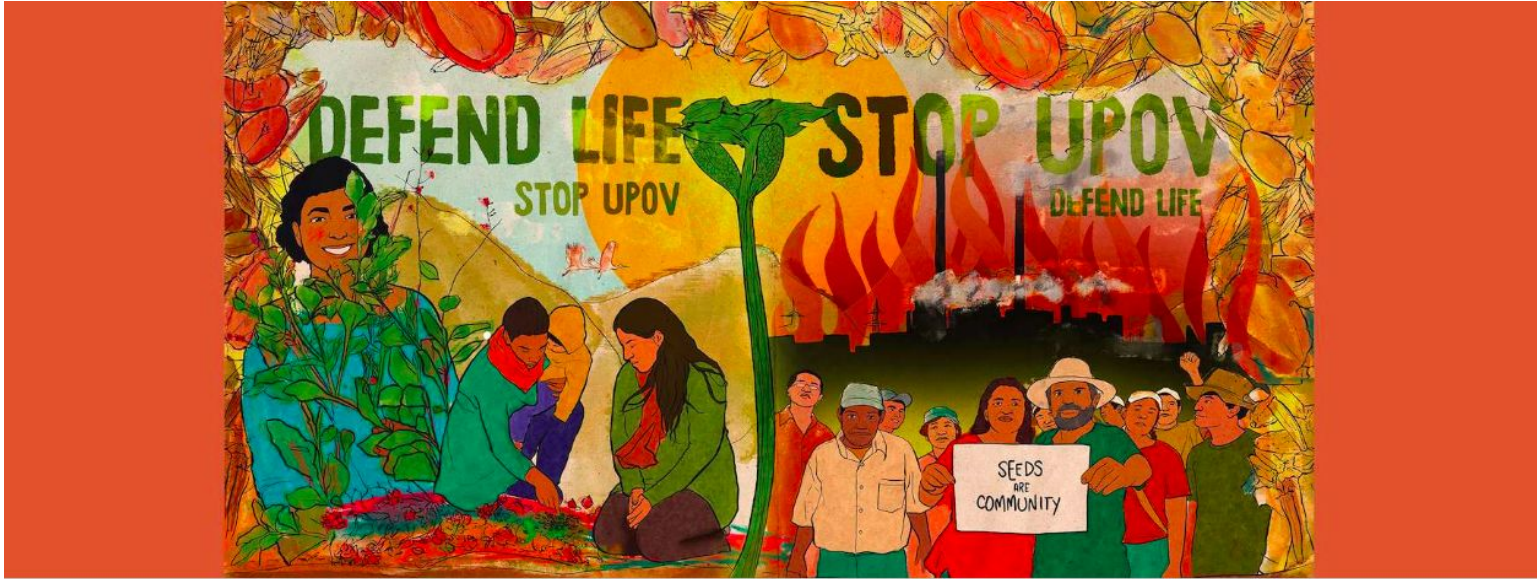


5 December 2023

Draft Plant Breeders' Rights and Plant Improvement Act Regulations

Country	↓ Views	Users
	42 0.1% of total	23 0.28% of total
South Africa	30	13
China	3	1
Ireland	2	2
United States	2	2
Canada	1	1
Italy	1	1
Kenya	1	1
Sweden	1	1
Switzerland	1	1

Publication web views



5 December 2023

UPOV-aligned PVP laws impinge on farmer seed systems

Country <div>×</div>	<div>↓</div> Views	Users
	47 0.11% of total	31 0.38% of total
South Africa	26	13
Tanzania	6	3
Kenya	4	3
Switzerland	2	2
Colombia	1	1
Germany	1	1
Italy	1	1
Spain	1	1
São Tomé & Príncipe	1	1
Tunisia	1	1

General media coverage



ACB's Mariam Mayet is quoted in this article by Enorm, a German magazine dealing with sustainability and climate justice. Mayet's quote provides an explanation for why South Africa state of food security is shaped by the history of racial segregation and discrimination against the non-white population during the apartheid regime.

General media coverage

MEDIAFEED.ORG MONEY LIFESTYLE TRAVEL FOOD HEALTH SMALL BUSINESS AUTOS ENTERTAINMENT TECH

How to end capitalism's grip on what you eat



Features quote from Mariam Mayet on exceptions to seed legislation to allow for farmers' autonomy to preserve Indigenous agriculture that is “the bedrock to ensure ecological integrity, sustainability of nature, biodiversity, landscapes, and ecosystems.”

General media coverage



ACB's Mariam Mayet is quoted in this article, which recognises the threat posed to the livelihoods of African small farmers and their ancestral crop varieties by Western seed companies pushing for legal and financial penalties for farmers who don't adopt foreign-engineered, patented seeds, including genetically modified versions of native seeds.

General media coverage



Home >> Columnas >> Desde los fuegos del tiempo >> Las semillas son comunidades que son semillas

Desde los fuegos del tiempo

Ramón Vera-Herrera Foto: Prometeo Lucero

18 diciembre 2023 0

Las semillas son comunidades que son semillas

Hacia fines de noviembre comenzó de nueva cuenta la semana que marca el aniversario de la fundación/aparición de la llamada Unión Internacional para la Protección de Obtenciones Vegetales (UPOV), que en ningún modo es una celebración sino una renovada señal de alarma por los años que lleva funcionando esa agrupación con el fin exclusivo de restringir de manera grave la libertad de guardar, intercambiar y reproducir las semillas que cada quien, cada familia, cada comunidad ha atesorado por siglos con sus vecinos, familiares y gente conocida.



Ramón Vera

Editor, investigador independiente y acompañante de comunidades para

la defensa de sus territorios, su soberanía alimentaria y autonomía. Forma parte de equipo Ojarasca y Grain

Últimas columnas Desde los fuegos del tiempo:

- Tentaciones genéricas
- Los "derechos de obtención" son un robo
- Buscan romper la memoria de los ámbitos comunales
- Las semillas son comunidades que son semillas
- Nuestra Palestina: ocupación, desesperación, soberanía alimentaria y resistencia
- Atisbos a la reforma agraria colombiana
- Eduardo Llerenas un año después. La

ACB is mentioned as a key organisation in the continued movement against UPOV and the attempted privatisation of seeds.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



This radio interview took place at the Chimanimani Behu Seed festival. ACB's research and advocacy officer Rutendo Zendah shared the purpose of ACB and Pelum hosting the Zimbabwe farmer-to-farmer exchange.

As part of the exchange, the farmers were given a chance to spend time at the seed festival and learn about local varieties of seed from the seed custodians. The core of the interview highlighted how the seed fair was a learning experience to see how Zimbabwe farmers are able to overcome climate change obstacles in producing strong quality seed, how farmers are adapting, and the importance of technical knowledge and skills needs to grow seeds.

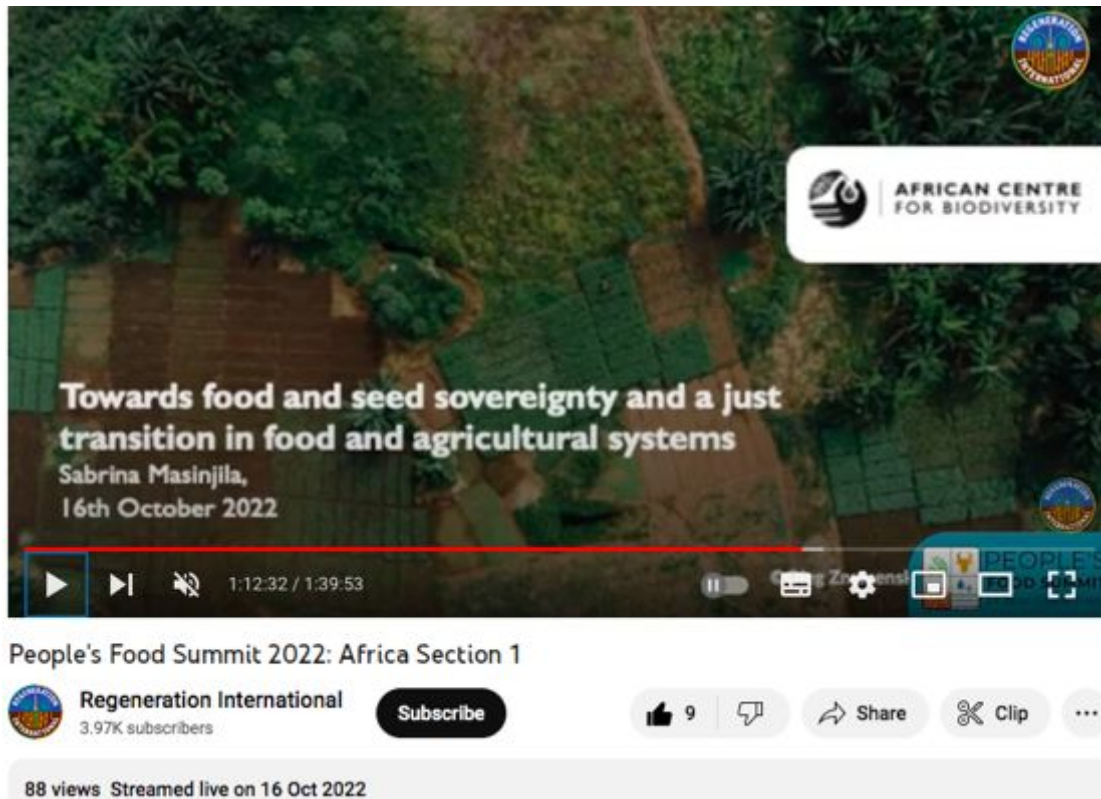
This interview was broadcast on radio on 15 October 2022.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



ZBC news broadcasted the seed market, hosted by Tsuro Trust, that was the ACB – Pelum Zimbabwe Farmer to farmer exchange program. The broadcast featured one of the participants from the exchange, Busiswe Mhlongo who shared her experience of the seed market and the importance of sharing and exchanging seed indigenous seeds. 15 October.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



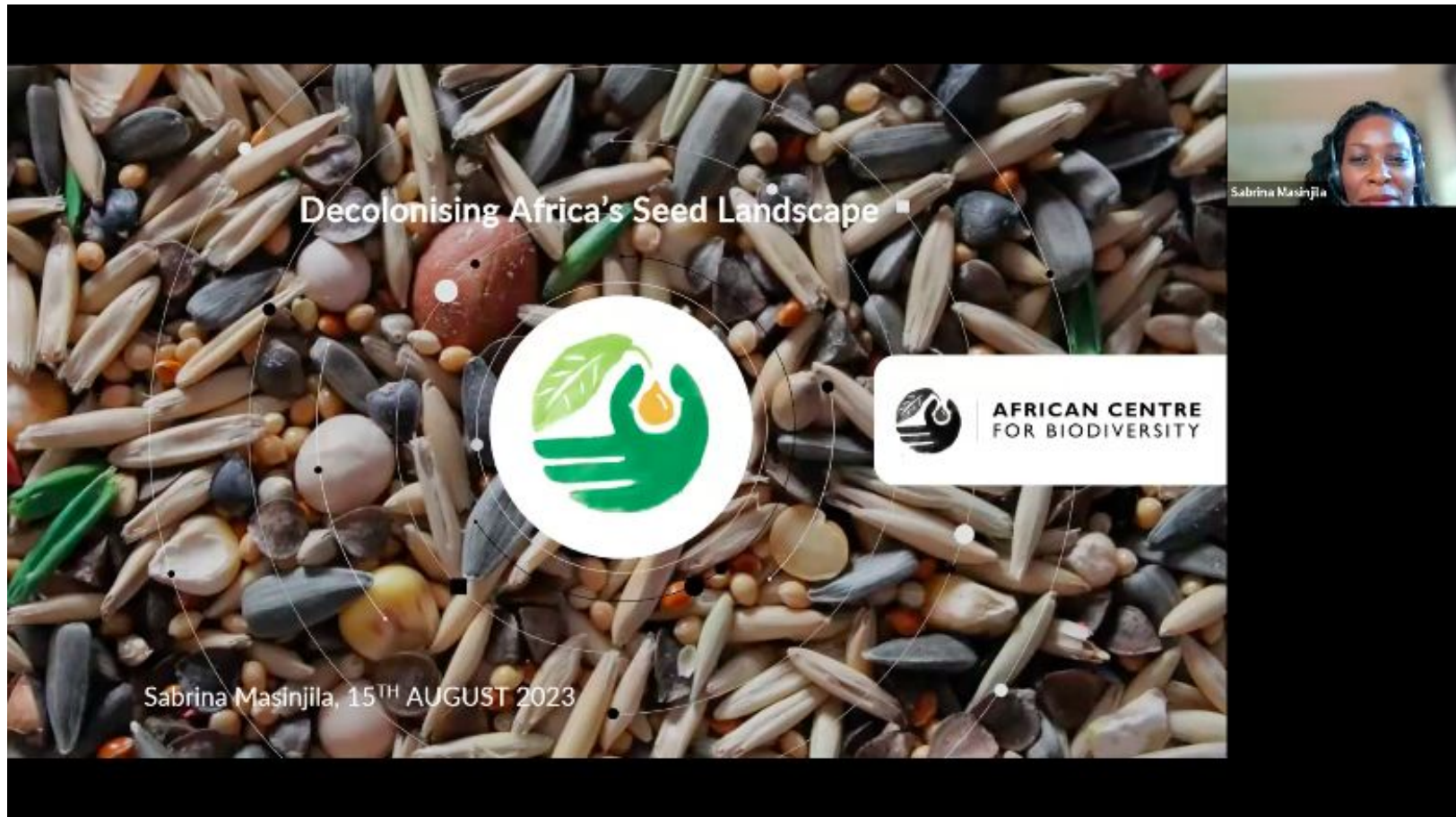
On #WorldFoodDay, Regeneration International hosted a global online webinar featuring ACB's Sabrina Masinjila. The webinar showcased the journey of African civil society including that of the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), in the struggles for seed sovereignty, depicting especially mobilisation against commercial seed laws aligned with the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) 1991, which dispossesses farmers of the right to their seed and criminalises farmers seed and their age-old farming practices.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



‘The Last Seed,’ the latest documentary film produced by @rosaluxglobal in association with the AFSA, Biowatch, and PELUM Tanzania features the ACB’s ED Mariam Mayet as part of the powerful voices advocating for seed sovereignty on the African continent. Through the lived experiences of African small-scale food producers, scientific and political expertise advocating for seed sovereignty, the film outlines the reality of far-reaching consequences of corporate greed in the lives of millions enmeshed in seed; and acts as a map helping us remember the lost meaning of seed.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila was the keynote speaker at AFSA's Seed Webinar which looked at the threat of foreign influence in African policy and development agendas and the massive uptick in efforts to harmonise Africa's seed policies. The webinar explored the importance of preserving and revitalising traditional seed systems in the face of commercial pressures.

Webinars, meetings and events hosted by ACB



INVITATION

THREE SESSIONS OF THE TEACH-IN SERIES

**KENYA SEED
LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE SERIES**

**Tuesday, 4 April,
Wednesday, 12 April
Thursday 13, April**

TIMES

11AM – 12:30 PM EAT (UTC +3)
10AM – 11:30 AM SAST (UTC +2)

**JOIN ALL THREE MEETINGS USING THE SAME
ZOOM MEETING LINK**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81359244865?pwd=dX-ZidWlCWfY1L1d0WGpCRmtMTTFEz09>

MEETING ID: 813 5924 4865
PASSCODE: 580932

Webinars, meetings and events hosted by ACB



ACB hosted a seed sovereignty strategy meeting with its partners to take forward the seed work in 2024 and to come up with a joint framework for our work together.

Meetings attended by ACB



2022 Zimbabwe Farmer to Farmer exchange

The ACB, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe, in collaboration with Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation (TSURO), and Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) Zimbabwe co-hosted a farmer-to-farmer exchange, training, and knowledge sharing with a focus on seed selection, production, storage, and distribution, as part of its overall research and advocacy strategies toward the recognition of farmer seed systems and the implementation of farmers' rights. The exchange and training is took place on the 9–17 October in Zimbabwe.

Meetings attended by ACB



Securing Farmers Rights Seminar in Southern Africa, hosted by Seed Knowledge Initiative (SKI), Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB), and University of Cape Town (UCT)

This event was organised to share knowledge and experiences on farmers' rights in practice, the revival of farmer-led seed systems, and of restrictive policies which undermine their rights and food sovereignty. The dialogue formed part of the SKI Farmers' Rights Campaign, a culmination of 8 years of SKI's work, and many generations of farmers' knowledge, through seed and food celebrations across the region, farmers' dialogues, and seed market days.

Meetings attended by ACB



Africa Group Regional Preparatory meeting for the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, New Delhi, India

ACB's research and advocacy officer Rutendo Zendah, together with a group of representatives from civil society and the IPC addressed the Africa Group at the Regional Preparatory meeting for the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). This group provided interventions on some of the key issues to be negotiated by Contracting Parties which included reaffirmation of the legally binding of all articles of the treaty including Article 9 which addresses Farmers Rights, the challenges that arise from the use of Digital Sequencing Information (DSI) and the implementation of Multilateral System (MLS) obligations and ensure fair and equitable sharing arising from the utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the form of DSI.

Meetings attended by ACB



To ensure continued learning and exchanges for smallholder farmers in the African region, the ACB supported the participation of two Zimbabwean farmers at the West Africa Peasant Fair in Benin. Ngoni Blessing Chikowe, Zimbabwe SmallHolder Organic Farmers' Forum - Zimsoff, Zimbabwe and Simbisai Machava, Mwenezi Development Training Centre, PELUM Zimbabwe, who took part in the Farmer-to-Farmer Learning Exchange organised by the ACB and partners in Zimbabwe in October 2022, attended the Benin seed fair to learn first-hand about farmer managed seed systems in West Africa, and how farmers strive for food sovereignty within the context of increasing GMOs in Africa.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Mariam Mayet and Rutendo Zendah-Chirape attended a multi-stakeholder consultation workshop on Plant Breeders' Rights and Draft Regulations of the Plant Improvement Act in Pretoria on 11 October 2023, hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Rutendo Zendah-Chirape attended from 25-28 October 2023 in Kenya the Africa Group Regional Preparatory meeting ahead of the Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that will be held 18-24 November 2023 in Rome. ACB joined the last three days which were dedicated to policy matters.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Rutendo Zendah-Chirape, together with other CSO groups, attended the International Treaty meeting in Nairobi where they were invited to visit Seed Savers Network's (SSN) community seed bank and training centre in Gilgil on 28 October 2023. SSN works with 74,000 farmers practising agroecology. Their community seed bank stores more than 900 deposits of farmer seed. They do on-site training which is led by staff or lead farmers and the training centre also hosts a youth initiative project for value addition of traditional vegetables.

Webinars and events hosted by ACB



ACB co-hosted a pre-consultation workshop on 7 November with CSO representatives in preparation for a multi-stakeholder consultation meeting with the Dep. of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on Plant Breeders' Rights and Draft Regulations of the Plant Improvement Act in Cape Town.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Mariam Mayet and Dr Stephen Greenberg attended a multi-stakeholder consultation workshop on Plant Breeders' Rights and Draft Regulations of the Plant Improvement Act in Cape Town on 8 November 2023 hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Rutendo Zendah-Chirape presented at this side event at the 10th session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA on how to create space for farmer-managed seed systems. The event brought together perspectives from research, state actors and civil society. ACB's presentation looked at introducing an exemption for smallholders in seed regulation and plant breeders' rights in South Africa.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



Rutendo Zendah-Chirape, on behalf of ACB, attended the 10th session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which took place in Rome, Italy. The theme of the session was “From seeds to innovation solutions, safeguarding the future”, and it was based on the exploration of the links between the GBF and the Treaty and identified relevant GBF targets.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



Mariam Mayet was invited by the Rural Women's Assembly to speak at its General Assembly, presenting on Seeds, food sovereignty and climate justice in Southern Africa during a teach-in “idea” session.

Programme 3:

Corporate Expansion

Publication web views



19 September 2022

ACB comments on the Draft White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa’s Biodiversity 2022

Country	Unique Page Views
	53 % of Total: 0.35% (15,285)
South Africa	35
United States	4
United Kingdom	3
Tanzania	3
Germany	2
Mexico	2
Switzerland	1
China	1
India	1
Eswatini	1

Publication web views



20 October 2022

Global Biodiversity Framework stuck in a paradigm of catastrophic growth: what future for Africa?

A series on the GBF by Linzi Lewis and Mariam Mayet

Country	Unique Page Views
	38 % of Total: 0.25% (15,285)
United States	14
South Africa	14
Tanzania	3
United Kingdom	2
Eswatini	2
Canada	1
China	1
Zambia	1

Publication web views



2 December 2022

Extractive tourism – a case study of biodiversity conservation in Tanzania, a legacy of gross human rights violations, and what the GBF’s 30×30 Target really means for Africa


Country	Unique Page Views
	45 % of Total: 0.29% (15,285)
Tanzania	17
South Africa	12
United States	4
United Kingdom	3
Germany	2
Norway	2
Eswatini	2
Canada	1
Switzerland	1
France	1

Publication web views



2 December 2022

Civil society and farmer network organisations call on the South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to initiate an agroecology strategy and programme

Country 	Unique Page Views 	
	24 % of Total: 0.16% (15,285)	
 South Africa		17
 United States		3
 Netherlands		2
 Brazil		1
 Ethiopia		1

Media mentions

DAILY MAVERICK

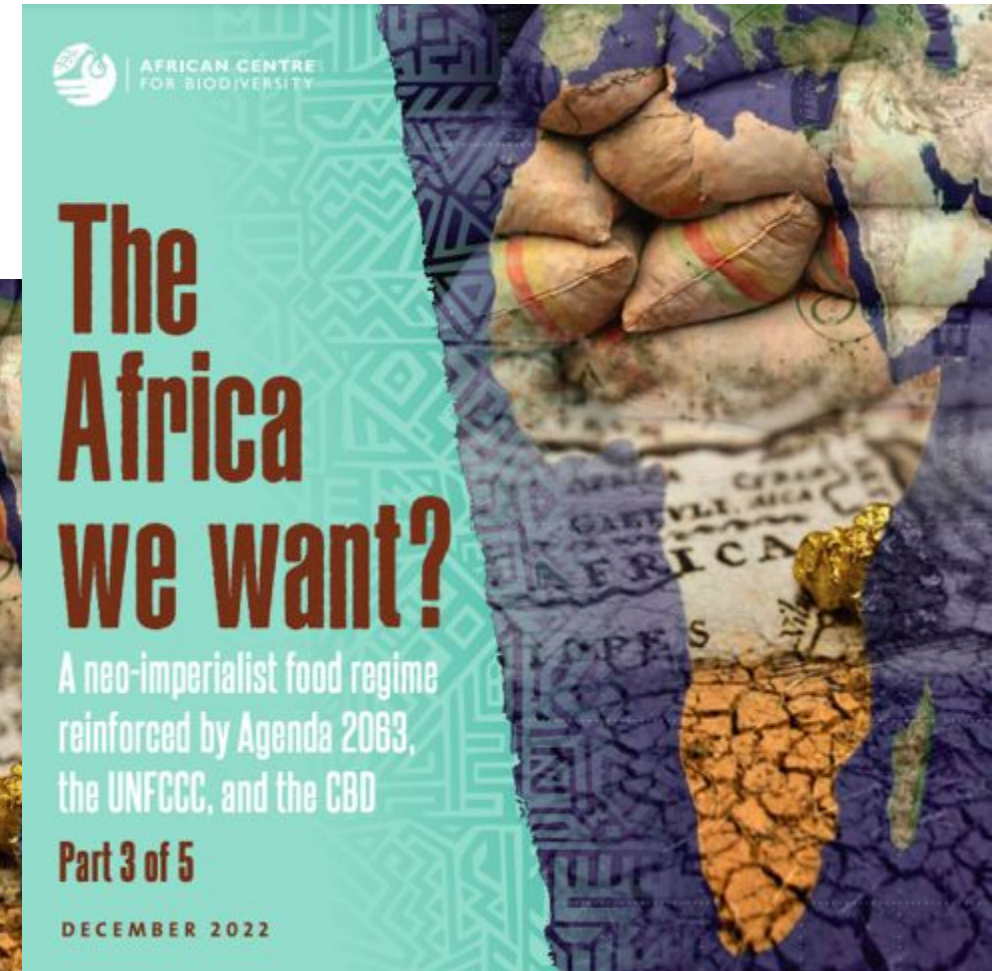
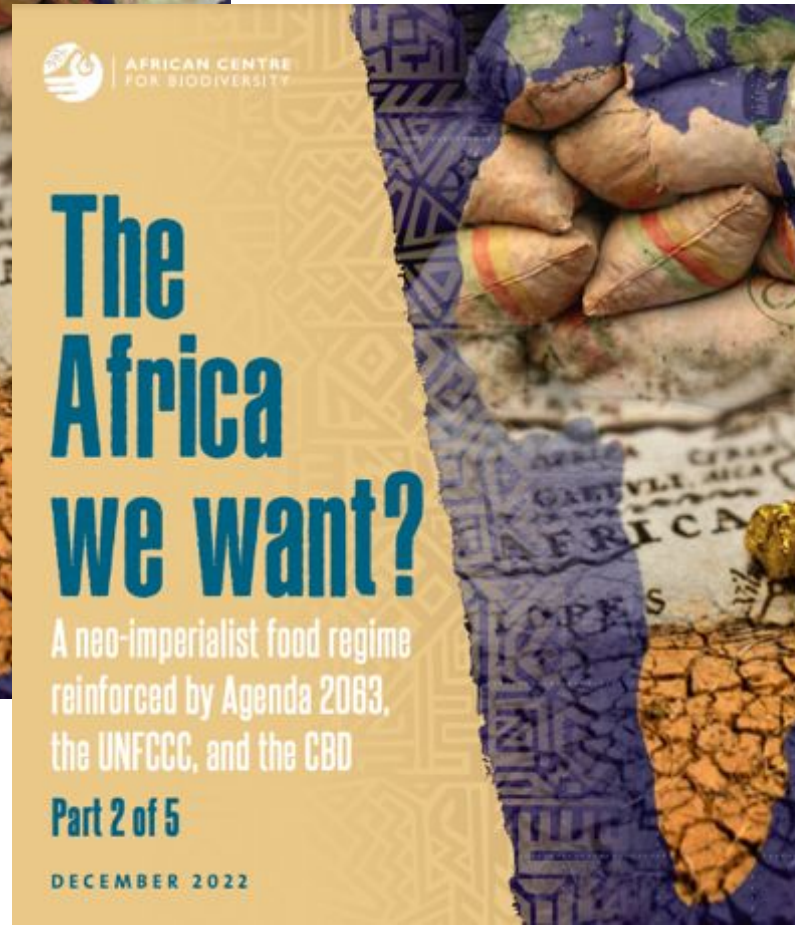
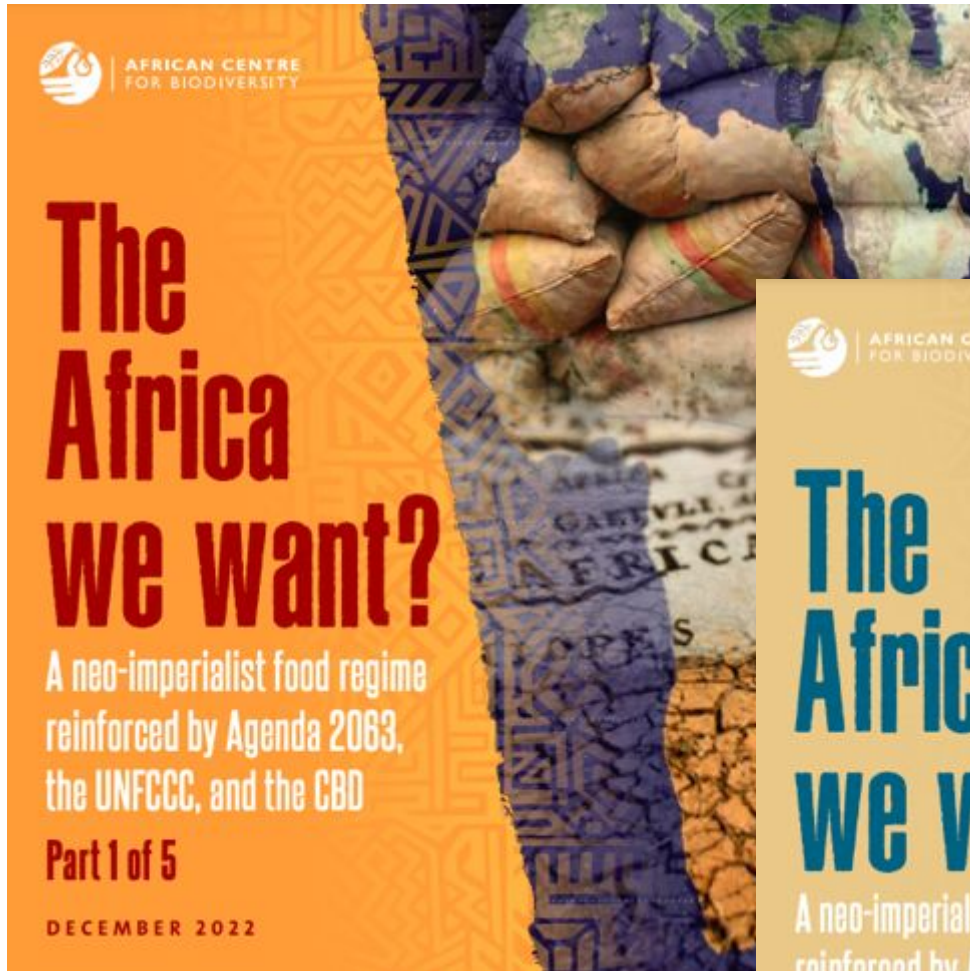
MAVERICK CITIZEN

AGRICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT

State urged to implement agroecology programme 'as a guiding framework for SA's food system'



Publications



Publications



Media mentions

ECO 2022

OEWG 4

ABOUT US · JUNE 26 · JUNE 25 · JUNE 24 · JUNE 23 · JUNE 22 · JUNE 21 · MORE...

June 23, 2022

WHO WILL FUND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA?



By African Centre for Biodiversity

Where adequate funds will come from to reduce rampant biodiversity loss is crucial to ensuring the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. African countries are demanding that developed countries pay for their ecological debt and implementation of the GBF, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

But how will these resources be mobilized?

ECO 2022

OEWG 4

ABOUT US · JUNE 26 · JUNE 25 · JUNE 24 · JUNE 23 · JUNE 22 · JUNE 21 · MORE...

June 25, 2022

THE FAILURE OF MULTILATERALISM – AND RISE OF CORPORATE CAPTURE OF THE CBD



By African Centre for Biodiversity

The current state of the planet, and in particular climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, reflect on the legitimacy of environmental multilateralism such as the CBD.



ECO 2022

OEWG 4

ABOUT US · JUNE 26 · JUNE 25 · JUNE 24 · JUNE 23 · JUNE 22 · JUNE 21 · MORE...

June 21, 2022

WHERE IS AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY IN THE POST-2020 GBF?

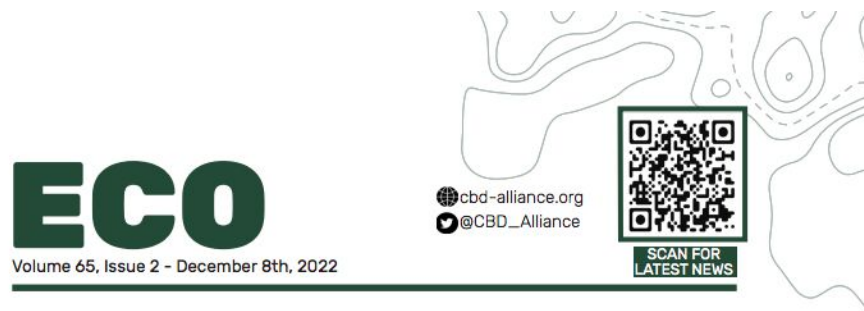


By African Centre for Biodiversity

ACB's research and advocacy officers Sabrina Masinjila and Linzi Lewis attended the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the #Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is underway in Nairobi, Kenya, where parties to the @UNBiodiversity (CBD) are considering how to develop a new blueprint for #ForNature. In addition to ACB publishing one blog drawing concern to the failure of the negotiations to date highlighting global inequalities, and touches on some of the key issues under discussion, and the implications especially for Africa and its food and agriculture systems – three op-eds were submitted to ECO 2022 CBD Alliance.

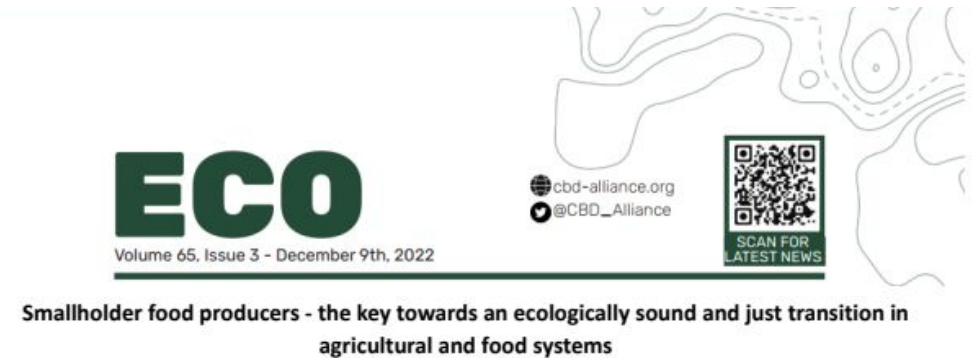
Media mentions

ACB's ED Mariam Mayet, and research and advocacy officers Linzi Lewis and Sabrina Masinjila submitted three articles to the ECO, critiquing the negotiations for failing to recognise and respects traditional and sustainable uses, rights, and practices of all people, and especially Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including smallholder food producers, pastoralists, and fishing communities. ECO is a thought provoking blog organised by the Convention of Biological Diversity Alliance (CBDA) in response to capturing the voices, involved in biodiversity related work on the ground, and those who participate at CBD sessions.



30x30 Target – sanctioning extractive tourism and human rights violations in Africa?

Mariam Mayet and Linzi Lewis, African Centre for Biodiversity (Acbio)



Smallholder food producers - the key towards an ecologically sound and just transition in agricultural and food systems

Linzi Lewis and Sabrina Masinjila, African Centre for Biodiversity (Acbio)



Reject false solutions and uphold agroecology in the Global Biodiversity Framework

Sabrina Masinjila, African Centre for Biodiversity

Publication web views



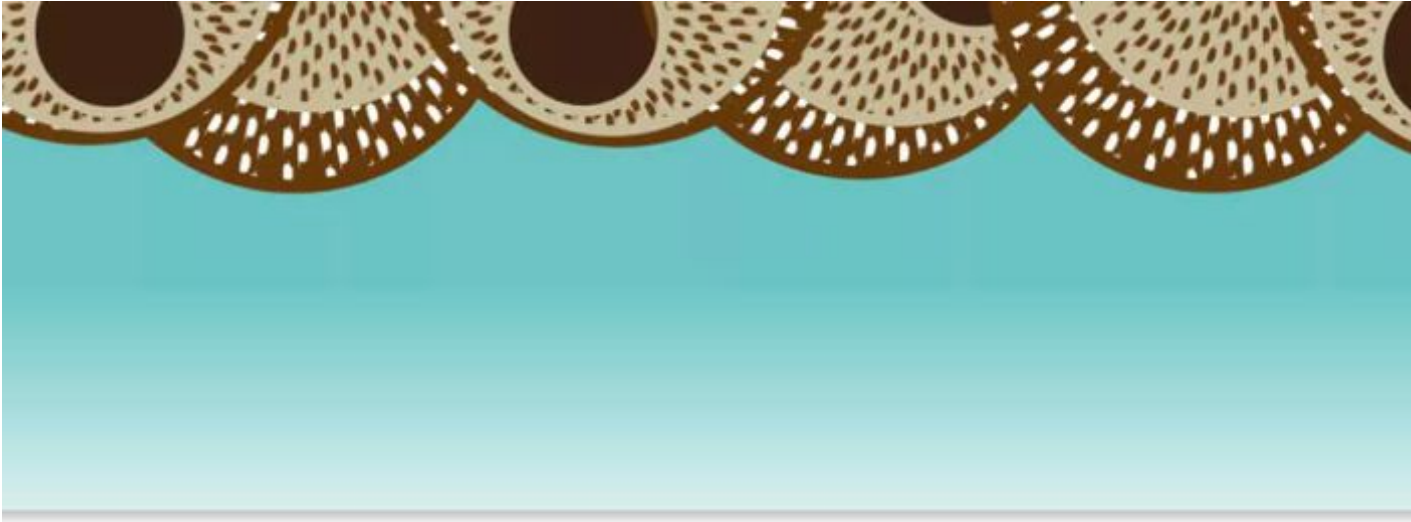
10 May 2023

Rich Appetites

Co-produced by AGRA Watch and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), [Rich Appetites](#) is a five-part series that exposes the corporate capture of African agriculture and food systems, showing how billionaire philanthropists have pushed industrial agriculture around the globe—including in Africa, involving an empire of influence between Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Cornell Alliance for Science, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa (OFAB), African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE), and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). ACB's ED Mariam Mayet is featured in the third film, titled ['Money'](#).

Country	Unique Page Views	
	23	% of Total: 0.15% (15,285)
South Africa	14	
Italy	2	
Spain	1	
France	1	
Netherlands	1	
Nepal	1	
New Zealand	1	
United States	1	
Zimbabwe	1	

Publication web views



26 May 2023

Assessment of support for agroecology in South Africa’s policy landscape

by Dr Stephen Greenberg

[\(Veuillez cliquer ici pour le français\)](#)

Country	Unique Page Views
	149 % of Total: 0.97% (15,285)
South Africa	69
Tanzania	13
France	10
Italy	9
United Kingdom	6
Kenya	5
Mauritius	4
United States	4
Senegal	3
Zambia	3

Publication web views



16 August 2023

Cultivating diversity for a just agroecological transition in Africa

Country	Unique Page Views
	197 % of Total: 1.29% (15,285)
United States	45
South Africa	37
United Kingdom	14
Netherlands	9
Italy	8
Tanzania	8
Germany	6
India	6
France	5
Austria	4

Publication web views



17 August 2023

South African People’s Tribunal on AgroToxins welcomes UN Expert’s assessment highlighting human and environmental rights violations

Country	Unique Page Views
	92
	% of Total: 0.60% (15,285)
South Africa	54
United States	10
United Kingdom	9
India	9
Zambia	3
Bolivia	1
Botswana	1
Ethiopia	1
Finland	1
Ireland	1

Publication web views



21 August 2023

South Africa’s list of highly hazardous pesticides researched and published by the network Unpoison

Country 	Unique Page Views 
	94 % of Total: 0.61% (15,285)
 South Africa	68
 United States	5
 Germany	3
 United Kingdom	3
 Uganda	3
 Brazil	2
 Congo - Kinshasa	2
 Austria	1
 Chile	1
 Spain	1

Publication web views



30 August 2023

The rise of digital agriculture and dispossession in Africa: implications for smallholder farmers



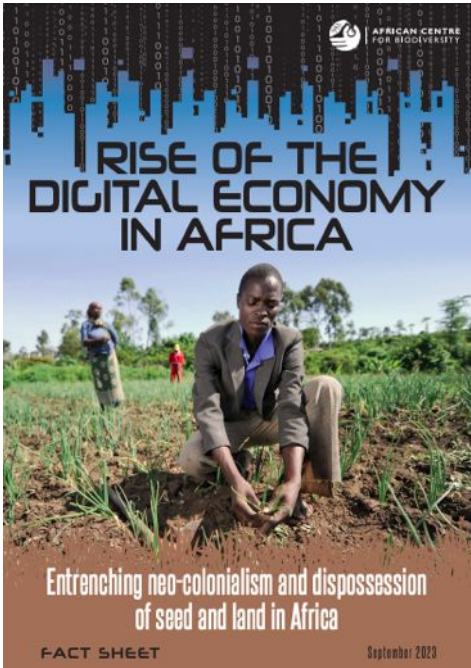
Country	Unique Page Views
	205 % of Total: 1.34% (15,285)
South Africa	47
United States	39
Kenya	21
Tanzania	15
Netherlands	14
Germany	9
Italy	8
United Kingdom	7
India	5
Uganda	5

Publication web views



19 September 2023

Financialisation, dematerialisation, digitalisation & distancing of Africa’s agriculture



Country	Unique Page Views
	134 % of Total: 3.72% (3,599)
South Africa	37
United States	34
Germany	8
Tanzania	8
United Kingdom	5
Eswatini	5
Canada	4
Brazil	3
Ghana	3
Indonesia	3



Just Transition in the South African Food System

Synthesis report on pre-dialogue consultations

SEPTEMBER 2023



AFRICAN CENTRE
FOR BIODIVERSITY



TSHINTSHA AMAKHAYA
Working together for rural change

THE ADAPTATION
NETWORK



NALEDI

National Adaptation and Economic Development Institute



Publication web views



26 September 2023

Ambitious action to phase out world’s most dangerous pesticides urged

Country	Unique Page Views
	94 % of Total: 2.61% (3,599)
United States	43
South Africa	39
United Kingdom	2
Zimbabwe	2
Bulgaria	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1
Germany	1
India	1
Portugal	1
Romania	1

Publication web views



28 September 2023

Just transition and adaptation in the food system: national policy dialogue

Country	Views	Users
	459 3.93% of total	283 13.95% of total
South Africa	277	150
United States	37	23
Germany	16	14
United Kingdom	14	9
Nigeria	12	4
Kenya	10	8
Netherlands	6	6
Canada	5	5
Ethiopia	5	2
Georgia	5	5

Publications



FACT SHEET 01

Towards a just transition in South Africa's food system



FACT SHEET 03

Climate change emissions in the industrialised food system



FACT SHEET 02

The South African food system and the need for a just transition



FACT SHEET 06

Towards a just and climate-resilient food system: agroecology for food sovereignty and climate justice



FACT SHEET 04

Impacts of climate change on South African agriculture and the food system



FACT SHEET 05

Overview of the agriculture sector Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP)

In the lead up to the National policy dialogue on a just transition and adaptation in the food system, a series of six fact sheets highlighting some of the key issues were produced in English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa and Sepedi. Two versions of each were produced - a pdf for web and a pdf for mobile.

ECO

www.cbd-alliance.org
twitter: CBD_Alliance

Follow the daily
online ECO here



NbS, the myth of a solution for our multiple crises

Financialization of nature won't solve the crisis - agroecology will

By the African Centre for Biodiversity

**Governments urged to consider the interconnectedness between
agricultural biodiversity, farmers' rights, food systems, and climate
change.**

By the African Centre for Biodiversity

Publication web views

World Food Day 2023: Working towards a just food system for all

This World Food Day, marked annually on 16 October, we're connecting the dots between agriculture, our wider food system and the multidimensional crises we face, which includes climate change.



Country ▾	×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
		18 0.15% of total	9 0.44% of total
South Africa		14	6
Italy		2	1
Germany		1	1
Kenya		1	1

Publication web views



19 October 2023

ACB attends 25th SBSTTA meeting in Kenya

Country	Views	Users
	24 0.21% of total	12 0.59% of total
South Africa	14	4
Kenya	4	4
Canada	3	1
United States	2	2
Nigeria	1	1
United Kingdom	0	1

Publications

In a new series focusing on ultra-processed food (UPF) on the African continent, we explore the impacts of shifting dietary patterns, with increasing reliance on low-cost UPFs globally, and in Africa in particular, in the context of an urgent call for a just, agroecological food system transition.

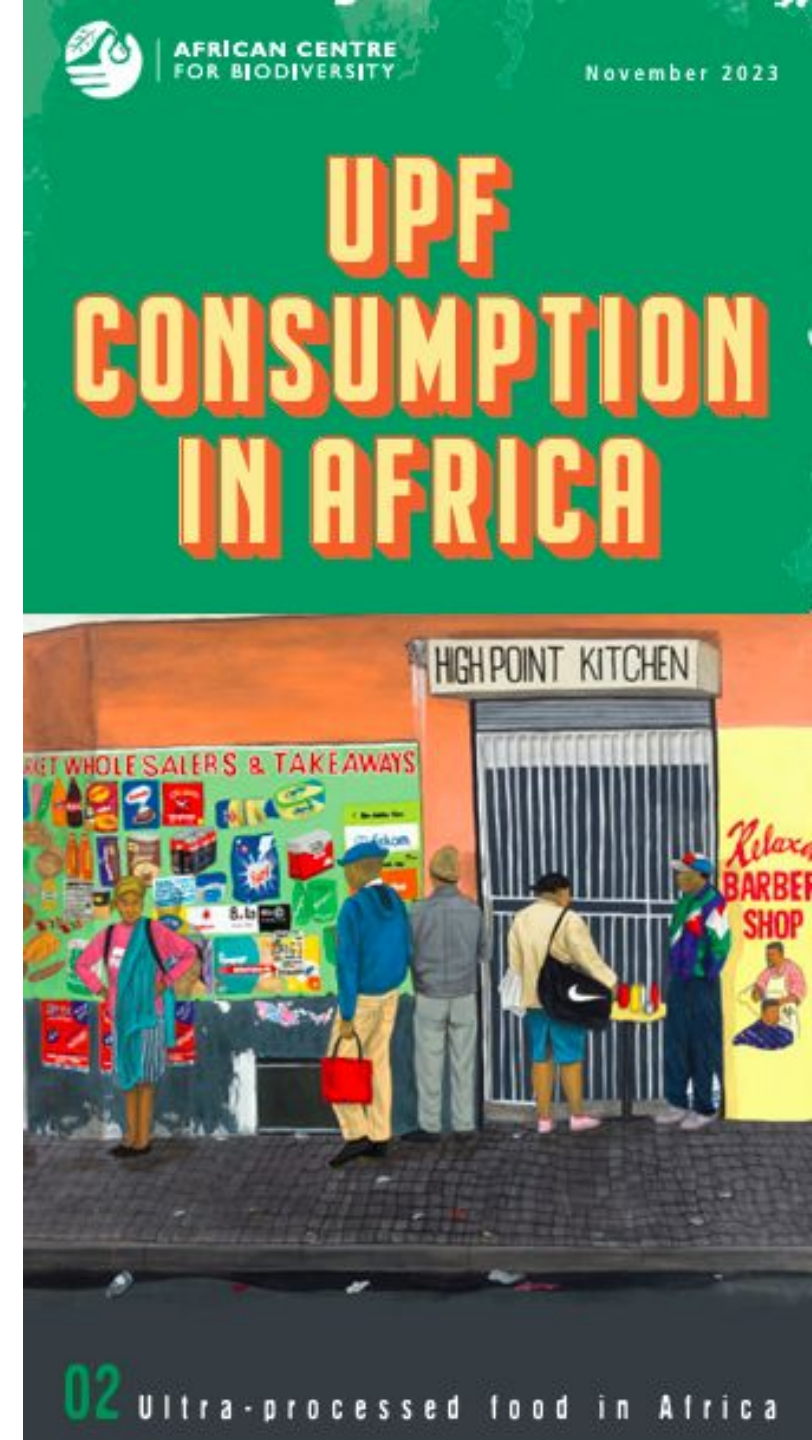
In the first part of the series, we attempt to succinctly describe and define UPF, how it differs from other foods and outline the major concerns with UPF.



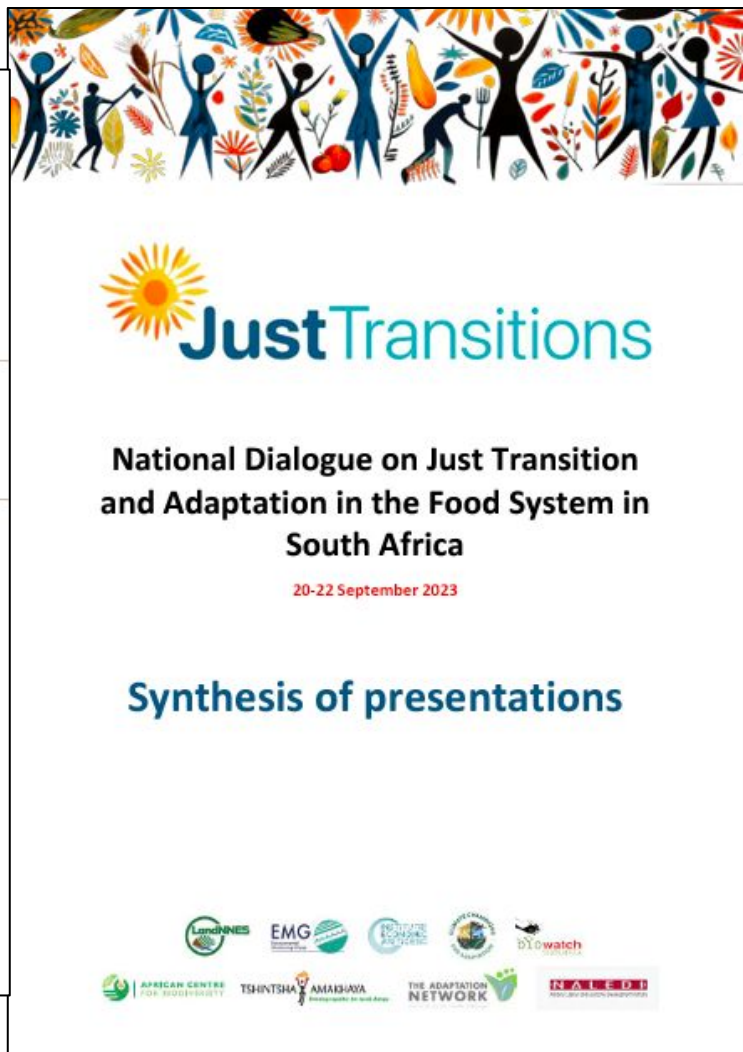
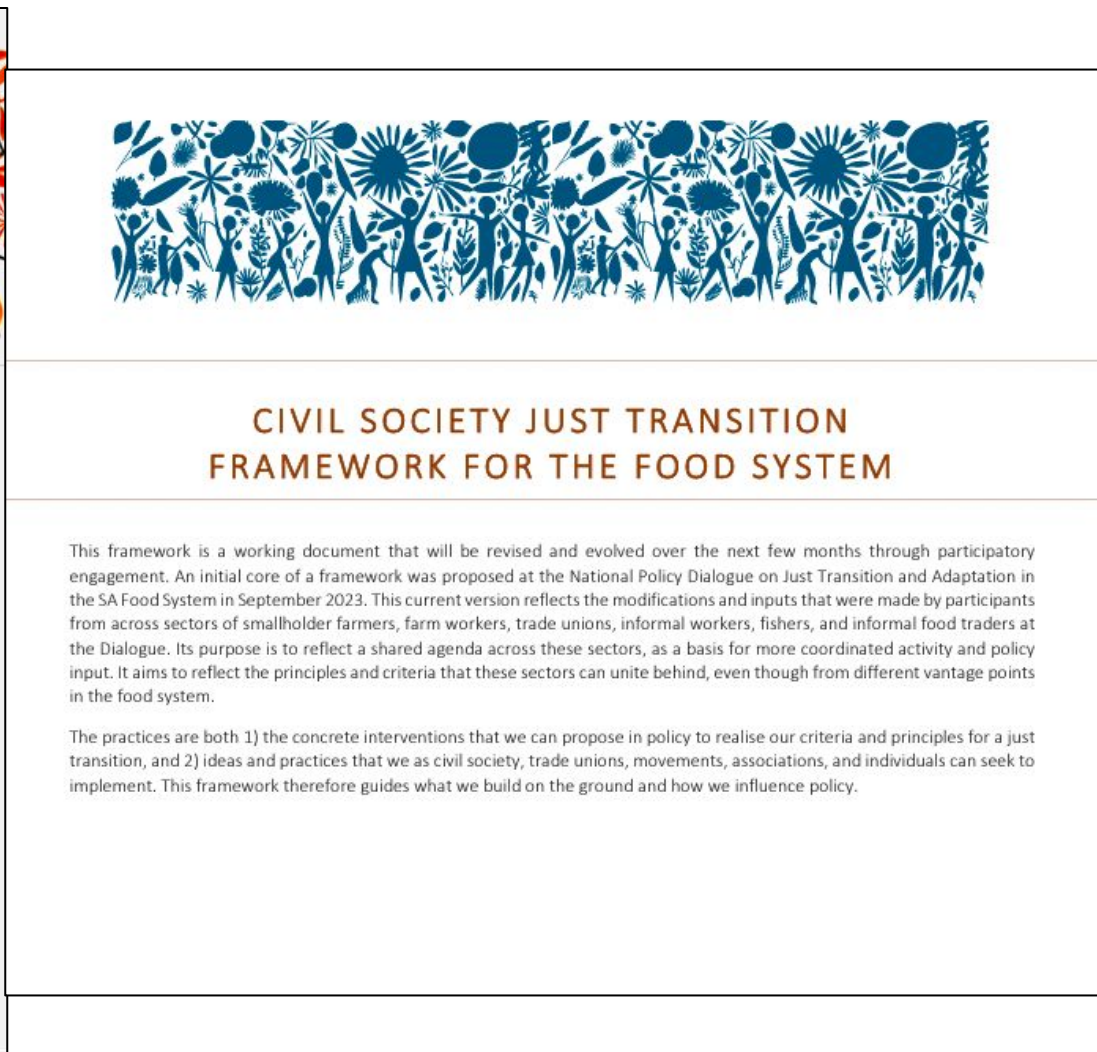
Publications

In the second part of our UPF in Africa series, we delve into the consumption of UPF in Africa: shifting dietary patterns linked to food environments and personal motivations; where foods are purchased and the role of policy in shaping food accessibility and affordability.

This fact sheet explores UPF consumption in both rural and urban areas; the relationship between food environments and food choice; systemic injustices and linkages between production, consumption and trade agreements, as part of the discussion on shifting dietary patterns increasingly dependent on readily available, cheap and nutritionally-void UPF.



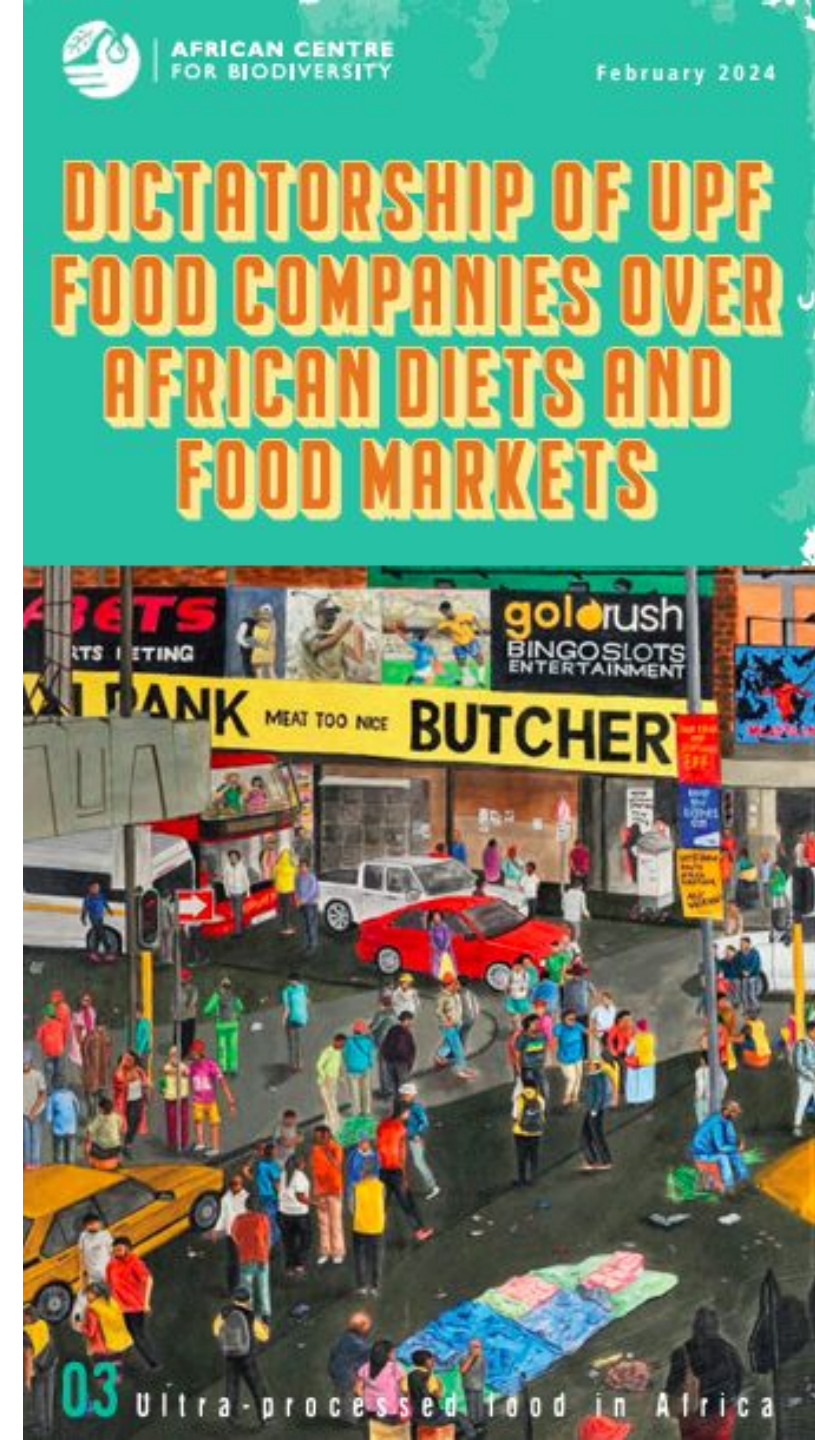
Publications



Publications

The third UPF fact sheet looks at how the ultra-processed food (UPF) market is dominated by corporations, with the most powerful manufacturers being mega multinational companies like Nestlé, PepsiCo, Unilever, Coca-Cola Co, Danone, Mondelez, and Kraft Heinz Co, from the Global North.

These behemoths held 53% of the UPF market in 2019, generating profits from multiple global regions through their own and franchised infrastructure. The UPF industry is already 1.6 times larger than the global food production and processing industry and generated more than US\$1.5 trillion in 2023.



Publication web views



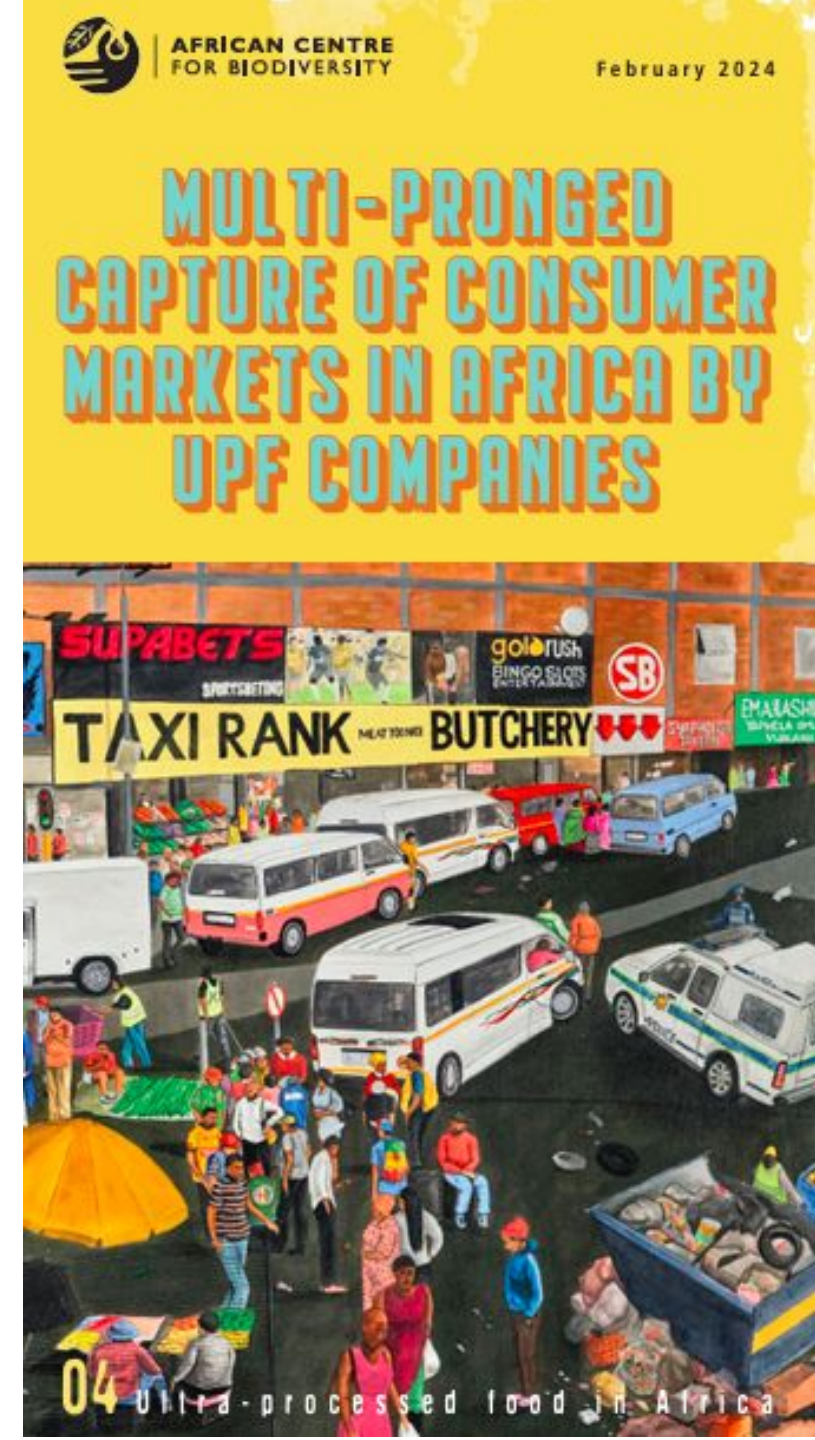
9 February 2024

African Perspectives on Agroecology now available for free online

Country	Views	Users
	59 0.14% of total	50 0.61% of total
South Africa	22	18
Kenya	8	6
United States	6	6
Ethiopia	3	2
Malawi	3	2
Netherlands	3	3
United Kingdom	3	3
Zimbabwe	3	2
Ireland	2	2
Canada	1	1

Publications

In this fourth part of our ultra-processed food (UPF) in Africa fact sheet series, we explore how mega UPF corporations (Nestlé, PepsiCo, Unilever, Coca-Cola Co, Danone, Mondelez, and Kraft Heinz Co, among others) use their excessive and undue influence and financial clout to embed and consolidate their power at the national level and subvert governments' attempts to regulate the advertising, marketing, and consumption of their “fake food” products. The actions of these companies and their products not only undermine public health, but contribute to its related crises.



General media coverage

Chinese, African experts call for adoption of nature-positive food systems

Source: Xinhua Editor: huaxia 2022-09-22 01:38:00



NAIROBI, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- Large-scale adoption of nature-positive food production systems will be key to tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, Chinese and African experts said Wednesday.

The experts said at a virtual forum that a shift from chemical-intensive to eco-friendly agricultural systems could be the answer to habitat loss, rampant pollution and climatic stresses blighting communities in the global south.

This article quotes ACB's research and advocacy officer Linzi Lewis when highlighting key findings from the Protecting Agricultural Biodiversity and Constructing Scientific Food System Security virtual webinar hosted by African CSO Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) on the 21 September, in which Lewis presented in.

General media coverage



29 September 2022. When COVID-19 erupted over two years, Committee on World Food Security (CSIPM) conducted popular peoples' evidence, published in 2020 in the report [Voices from the ground](#) advocated for the strengthening of human rights-based food security (CFS) at the centre. The CFS did not adopt this role, and fuel prices spiralled, exacerbating hunger. In response, it round of [popular consultations](#) on grassroots impacts of COVID which took place by means of an online questionnaire and 20 across the globe. In Thai, Arabic, Urdu, Filipino, Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish.



Webinar and Report Launch: Voices from the ground 2

ACB signs on to the declaration statement calling on the inadequacy of government and multilateral responses that have resulted in increased inequalities, and heightened the fragility of the global food system. The statement was the result of the roundtable discussions from the ‘#VoicesFromTheGround2: Grassroots impacts of COVID-19, conflicts, and crises on the right to food and food sovereignty, hosted by Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism (CSIPM) , which ACB helped organise.

The report outlines clear demands to governments and the UN system, identifying actions which need to be undertaken to transform a dangerously unfair and unsustainable system that is perpetuating hunger and poverty.

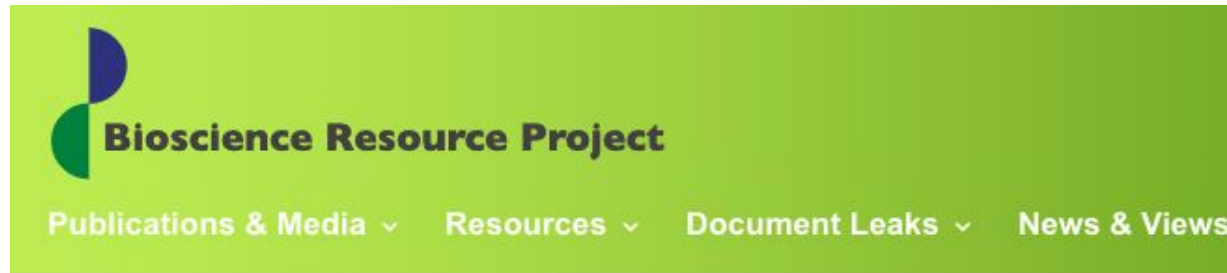
General media coverage



ACB signs on to this CSO letter expressing solidarity with the struggle of the Maasai communities living in Loliondo and in Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Tanzania. Around 160,000 Maasai Indigenous Peoples are currently affected by the unilateral decision of the Government of Tanzania to forcefully evict them out of their ancestral lands. The letter urges the Tanzanian government to halt forced evictions and start consultations with the Maasai in compliance with international human rights.



General media coverage



Did West Africa's Ebola Outbreak of 2014 Have a Lab Origin?

by admin | Oct 26, 2022 | Project News and Views | 0 comments

Published on Tuesday, October 25th, 2022 by *Independent Science News*: "**Did West Africa's Ebola Outbreak of 2014 Have a Lab Origin?**" written by Sam Hussein and Jonathan Latham, PhD

Synopsis: The Ebola outbreak of 2014 was a disaster for West Africa. Over 11,000 lives were lost amidst intense negative social and economic consequences. The 2014 outbreak of Zaire Ebola (as the species is known) is today commonly cited as a *bona fide* example of a natural zoonosis that began in the country of Guinea. However, the 2014 outbreak was puzzling on multiple levels

This online publication lists ACB as one source of information, particularly referring to its work done on Multiple shocks and the Ebola and COVID pandemics in West and Central Africa: extraction, profiteering and shattered food systems and livelihoods.

General media coverage

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DAS NEOHUMANISTISCHE MAGAZIN

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Gastbeitrag | 30. Dezember 2022

Ein offener Brief an Bill Gates zu Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Resilienz

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ENVIRONMENT An Open Letter to Bill Gates on Food, Farming, and Africa

By Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) Staff, originally published by Common Dreams

November 16, 2022



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Alimentos, agricultura y África: una carta abierta a Bill Gates

1 Qósmos 27 noviembre 2022 0 Africa Global, Agencia MICS, Mundo Tierra



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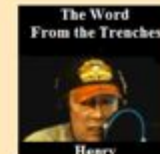
[The Writs for the Mandamus](#)

Posted: [November 22, 2022](#)

Categories: [News](#)

An Open Letter to Bill Gates on Food, Farming, and Africa

[Common Dreams](#)



Common Dreams

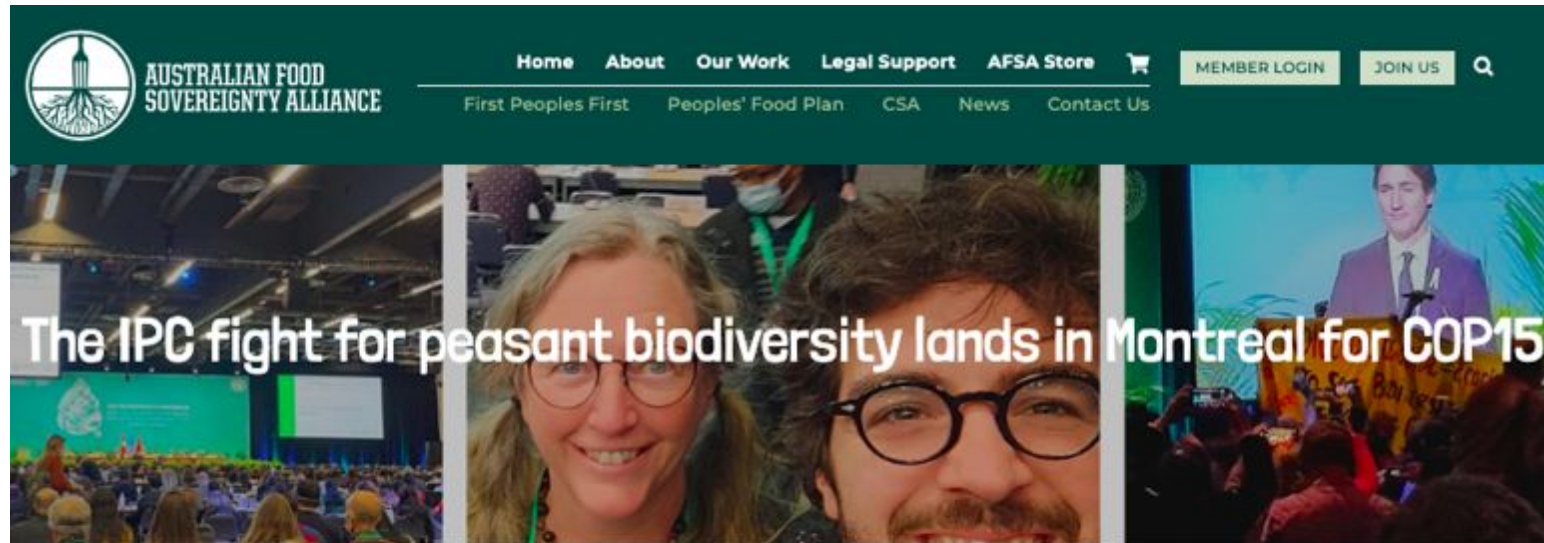


An Open Letter to Bill Gates on Food, Farming, and Africa

We, 50 organizations focused on food sovereignty and justice worldwide, want you to know there is no shortage of practical solutions and innovations by African farmers and organizations. We invite you to step back and learn from those on the ground.

ACB together with 50 organisations, sign the open letter by AGRA Watch responding to Bill Gates' op-ed published in the New York Times by David Wallace-Wells and also in an Associated Press article, which were extremely dismissive of agroecology and his critics. The open letter was submitted to various media outlets which included: Common Dreams, Grist and The Nation.

General media coverage



This blog will be updated regularly with key insights and outcomes from the **15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15)**, currently taking place in Montreal, Canada from 7-19 December. Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA) is there in its role as a coordinator of the agricultural biodiversity working group of the **International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)**, which is negotiating with other delegates on the draft Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

In AFSA's blog about the key insights and outcomes from the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), the ACB is mentioned as one of the speakers AFSA participated with in Missing the Mark? Global Biodiversity Targets Risk Failure without Agroecology and Agricultural Biodiversity – a side event hosted by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and co-sponsored by the ACB.

General media coverage



December 11, 2022

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Español

CBD COP15 needs to reinforce precaution against geoengineering to protect biodiversity and communities

No to climate geoengineering! Open call to CBD Parties and CBD Secretariat

The ACB together with more than 80 national & international CSOs signed onto an open letter calling on COP15 CBD to say no to geoengineering & yes to protecting biodiversity, the environment, human rights and the rights of Indigenous people.

GEOENGINEERING MONITOR

[Home](#) [What is geoengineering?](#) [Reasons to Oppose](#) [Resources](#)

**CBD COP15 NEEDS TO REINFORCE PRECAUTION
AGAINST GEOENGINEERING TO PROTECT
BIODIVERSITY AND COMMUNITIES**

DEC 12 2022



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No to climate geoengineering! Open call to CBD Parties and CBD Secretariat

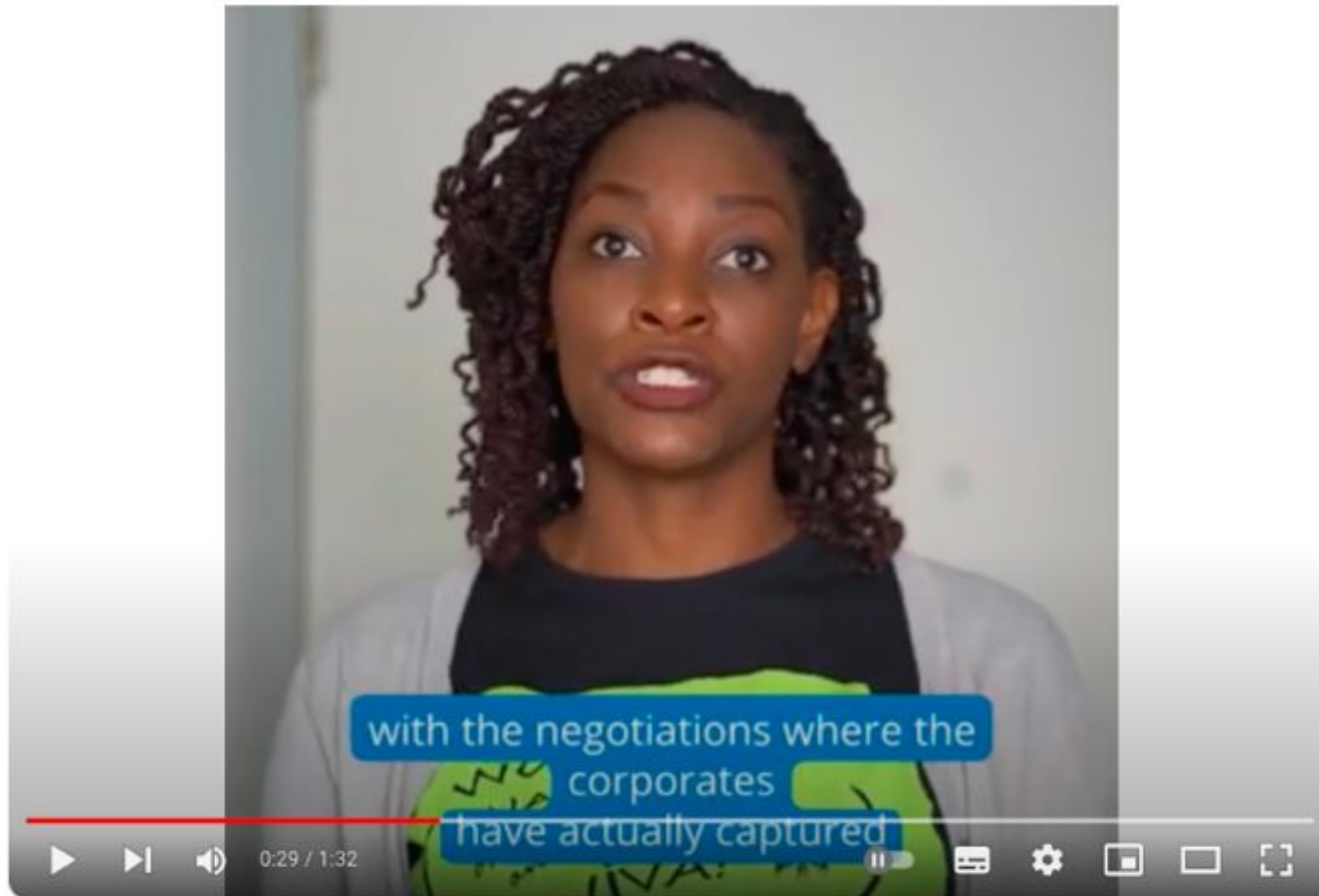
General media coverage



In this press conference, organised by the Convention for Biological Diversity Alliance (CBDA), at the Montreal COP15, ACB's Sabrina Masinjila was one of the partners from four different African CSOs, talking about the risks of #biotechnology for agricultural biodiversity and the need for a #precautionaryapproach.

(English) Four African CSOs on agroecology, biotechnologies and the "free, prior and informed consen

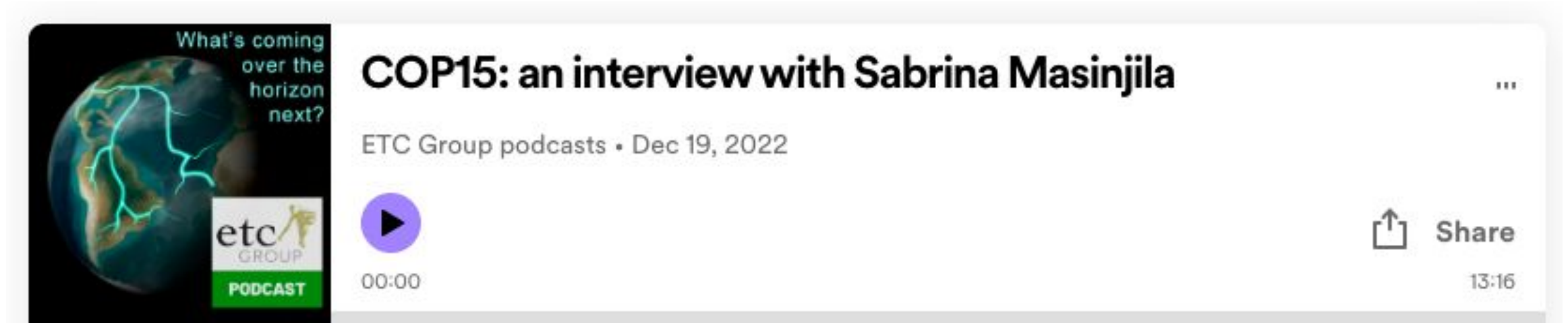
General media coverage



COP15: Voices from the global biodiversity conference with Sabrina Masinjila


Experts in food systems and biodiversity were asked what they hope to see come out of the UN Biodiversity Conference, also known as COP15. One of the experts was ACB's research and advocacy officer Sabrina Masinjila who shared ACB's perspective on what is holding back action when it comes to recognizing the connection between food systems and biodiversity loss.

General media coverage



In this interview, Sabrina Masinjila, from the African Centre for Biodiversity, speaks to ETC Group about some key targets in the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) being negotiated at COP15 in Montreal. She explains the importance of agroecology and agricultural diversity in Target 10 of the GBF, and why these are so important for biodiversity in the future.


General media coverage

Just Rural Transition

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SABRINA MASINJILA

Sabrina Masinjila is the Research and Advocacy Officer at the [African Centre for Biodiversity](#) (ACB), an organization promoting agroecology and championing food sovereignty across Africa.



ACB's research and advocacy officer Sabrina Masinjila was featured in JRT's article written for International Women's Day. The piece showcases a group of women who are playing an important part in a 'just rural transition' – that is, a transition to sustainable farming that is good for the climate, food systems, natural ecosystems and farmer/rural community livelihoods.

General media coverage



The screenshot shows the PMG website header with the logo and navigation links. A green banner below the header states: "Premium content from before 2022 is now available for everyone!". The breadcrumb trail reads: "Committees / National Assembly / Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development". The main title is "Agroecology Strategy and Plan for South Africa: stakeholder input". Below the title, it says "Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development", "14 March 2023", and "Chairperson: Nkosi Z Mandela (ANC)". There is a "Share this page:" section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. The "Meeting Summary" section begins with the text: "The Portfolio Committee convened in Parliament to engage on an agroecology strategy plan for South Africa, and received presentations spear-headed by the Tshintsha Amakhaya network, a national alliance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in solidarity with social movements to advance land, water and food justice."

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Agroecology Strategy and Plan for South Africa: stakeholder input

[Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development](#)

14 March 2023

Chairperson: Nkosi Z Mandela (ANC)

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Meeting Summary

The Portfolio Committee convened in Parliament to engage on an agroecology strategy plan for South Africa, and received presentations spear-headed by the Tshintsha Amakhaya network, a national alliance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in solidarity with social movements to advance land, water and food justice.

The Portfolio Committee by agroecology practitioners and advocates led by the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA), Agrarian Reform for Food Sovereignty Campaign (FSC), Biowatch, the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), the Surplus People Project (SPP), Tshintsha Amakhaya (TA), endorsed by 58 organisations on 2 December 2022 convened in Parliament to engage on an agroecology strategy plan for South Africa. This report provides a summary of the meeting that took place.

General media coverage

AFRICAN AGRICULTURE AND CHALLENGES Welcome to Farming in Africa blog Blog About us

Cash Crops Potential for Africa

April 21st, 2023



This article provides insights on African cash crops and explores some of the top cash crops in Africa, their impact on the economy, and the potential they hold for the future. The article recommends the ACB's work as a resource to learn more about cash crops in Africa.

General media coverage



Leonida Odongo denounces corporate expansion in African countries and shares popular alternatives based on agroecology.

General media coverage

FEATURE

CRISIS OF FAILED AGRARIAN REFORM

SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMERCIAL FARMING SECTOR SINCE 1994

By Stephen Greenberg



The ANC favoured large-scale commercial farming over smallholder farming. They supported "modernisation" of the agricultural economy.

Under apartheid

WHITE FARMERS WERE ONE of the mainstays of the apartheid ruling bloc. They received substantial state support and protection over many decades. Farmers were organised into cooperatives with monopoly control over specific commodities. They supplied to single channel Marketing Boards, controlled by producers and government. They provided price guarantees backed by the state. The agrarian structure was split. On the one hand, well-supported, white, large-scale commercial agriculture. On the other hand, neglected small-scale black farming in the bantustans, mostly producing below subsistence.

Over time, tensions emerged within the apartheid social bloc, including between white farmers and urban financial and business elites. As the national economy industrialised, the social weight of farmers declined. Primary agriculture's share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined from over 11% in the 1960s to under 5% by the end of apartheid.

The main corporations in the food system, in the latter stages of apartheid, were mostly diversified conglomerates: Anglo-American, Sanlam and Liberty Life all had extensive food and agricultural interests. The food system was characterised by vertical integration: the cooperative and board structure facilitated strong interlinkages between production, processing and distribution.

Deregulation was the order of the day in the transition to democracy. Globally, agriculture was introduced into trade negotiations in the 1980s, culminating in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Agreement on Agriculture in 1995.

Internal issues in South Africa also shaped restructuring. These included struggles between different farming interests. On the one hand, more marginal commercial farmers relied on state protection to sustain themselves. On the other hand, export-oriented producers objected to government export restrictions and called for opening of markets to competition. As the apartheid economy entered into an "organic crisis" in the 1980s, the massive farmer subsidy and support programmes became fiscally unsustainable. The apartheid government and white producers also sought to escape any potential future control by a black majority government.

These processes resulted in the corporatisation and eventual privatisation of the cooperatives and removal of the single channel monopoly marketing system, food price controls, and farmer price guarantees. This set the scene for changes in the food system following the end of formal apartheid.

Changes since 1994

Continuity characterised agricultural policy in the transition from formal apartheid: the ANC favoured large-scale commercial farming over smallholder farming. They supported "modernisation" of the agricultural economy. This was based on the exit of "inefficient" farmers unable to sustain themselves in the context of market competition, and the development of a commercial black farming class.

The impacts of agricultural deregulation and liberalisation were not evenly distributed within commercial agriculture. There was a concentrated core of agro-industrial producers and

processors; and there was also a decaying periphery of individual producers. Commercial farm units have declined to around 40,000 from a historical peak of 117,000. The 2007 Census of Agriculture indicated that 57% of commercial farmers had an annual gross income of R500,000 or less: a core of fewer than 250 units accounted for one third of total income from agriculture.

Labour (basic conditions, minimum wages) and tenure legislation was extended to farm workers for the first time, but systems of production were changing. Commercial farmers responded through increasing mechanisation and reducing their workforces. There was a wave of evictions (the vast majority illegal) and workers were moved off farms to circumvent legislation. This resulted in a further decline in employment from a peak of 1.6 million to around 750,000 at present.

A core of higher skilled workers has been consolidated, with a wider periphery of poorly paid casual and precarious labour. They live in informal rural and peri-urban settlements, and are forced to diversify their economic activities in order to survive. Women have experienced the brunt of these processes, as they have never had tenure security on farms, and their employment and housing have been tied to that of male relatives.

Black farmers have also experienced uneven benefits since apartheid. There has been a slow emergence of black commercial farmers, with fewer than 200,000 out of over two and a half million food producers. Commercialising black farmers are heavily dependent on integration into corporate value chains, where they have little negotiating power.

The land reform programme initially

targeted redistribution of 30% of land in the first 5 years after apartheid. It has been a failure. Currently less than 10% of land has been redistributed through this programme, and most of these farms are failing, as a result of fragmented or non-existent support. The state has opted for a "black industrialist" approach, investing heavily in a small number of black farmers, hoping to turn them into large-scale commercial farmers. This leaves the majority of mainly homestead and smallholder farmers without proper support.

New technologies have played a role in restructuring commercial agriculture. The introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the late 1990s resulted in massive yield increases in maize and soya. Maize has increased as a share of overall value of agricultural production, from 12% in 1994/95 to 16% in 2021/22, with a phenomenal increase in value from R5.4 billion to R63.8 billion over this period. Soya's share of total agricultural

Data and farm management companies determine what is produced and when, and this contributes to farmer deskilling.

Restructuring in the food system

Deregulation and liberalisation removed the regulations and controls that strengthened the hand of commercial farmers in relation to food manufacturers and retailers. Power in value chains shifted downstream to retailers and manufacturers, who are able to dictate terms and conditions, including what is produced and how. This coincides with the production and sale of unhealthy, ultra-processed products. These are based on refined carbohydrates (maize, wheat, sugar) that are cheap to produce and generate the greatest profit for retailers and manufacturers.

Meanwhile, corporate restructuring went hand in hand with financialisation. The past two decades have witnessed the rise of ownership by financial institutions

livelihoods, entrenchment of inherited patterns of ownership and control, marginalisation of millions involved in the food system, and a very slow pace of redistribution. More than a quarter of the population experiences regular hunger. Malnutrition is rife. This is strongly fuelled by the rise of ultra-processed products. Per capita consumption of key agricultural products is stagnant at best over the past 30 years and consumption of plant proteins has declined. The food system has failed to respond effectively to the constitutional right to food for all.

Environmental issues have become mainstream in commercial agriculture, in particular climate change impacts. There is excessive water use: commercial irrigation uses more than 60% of total water in South Africa. There is land degradation and biodiversity loss as a result of heavy machinery use, as well as agri-chemical pollution and growing resistance to chemical controls.

South Africa on commercial farmers have responded through environmental initiatives. These include water use efficiency, conservation agriculture to reduce agro-chemical use, and regenerative agriculture to improve soil health. Farmers are also diversifying in response to the multiple pressures on production, for example by moving into game farming, tourism, part-time farming, and other economic sectors such as construction and transport services.

Alternatives

Alternatives are needed. Entry points are the rapid redistribution of resources including land and water, the right to food, and agroecology. We need to place the right to food at the centre of the objectives of the food system. The system should be judged and adapted according to its ability to

produce and allocate healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to every person, every day, to meet their needs, regardless of their ability to pay. This means decommodifying food, and insisting on its use value rather than as a conduit to profit. Agroecology is an approach to food systems that incorporates these elements. It brings social and economic justice elements together with environmentally sustainable production practices.

Stephen Greenberg is a researcher at the African Centre for Biodiversity, working at the intersections of food systems transitions, agroecology, climate change, and biodiversity.

In this feature article, ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg provides an overview of the commercial farming sector in South Africa under apartheid and the changes made since 1994 in the post-apartheid era. He also looks at how the food system has been restructured and potential alternatives, such as agroecology.



300 people evicted from the Klein Akker farm near Wallaceburg in KwaZulu-Natal. There was a wave of evictions (the vast majority illegal) and workers were moved off farms to circumvent legislation. This resulted in a further decline in employment from a peak of 1.6 million to around 750,000 at present.

value has grown from 0.5% to 4.7% over the same period. Maize and soya are both core ingredients of animal feed, and this expansion has consolidated the grain-livestock complex at the heart of South African agriculture. Despite the successes, it is not clear that GM technology can sustain this growth indefinitely. There is rising pest and disease resistance, and growing environmental damage, especially from the use of toxic pesticides.

More recently, technologies based on digitalisation are being used. An example is precision agriculture which gathers detailed on-farm data and generates algorithm-driven production advice.

throughout the food system, with asset managers and pension funds leading the way.

Corporatisation and privatisation of cooperatives and their assets resulted in the consolidation of ownership and control, especially in grain storage, fruit packing, and massive animal feedlots. A few very large corporations, either multinationals or local companies now mostly with majority foreign ownership, dominate food manufacturing, retail, and fast food chains.

The outcomes of this dominant system have not been positive. They include loss of employment and

General media coverage



Critiques of Gates Foundation agricultural interventions in Africa



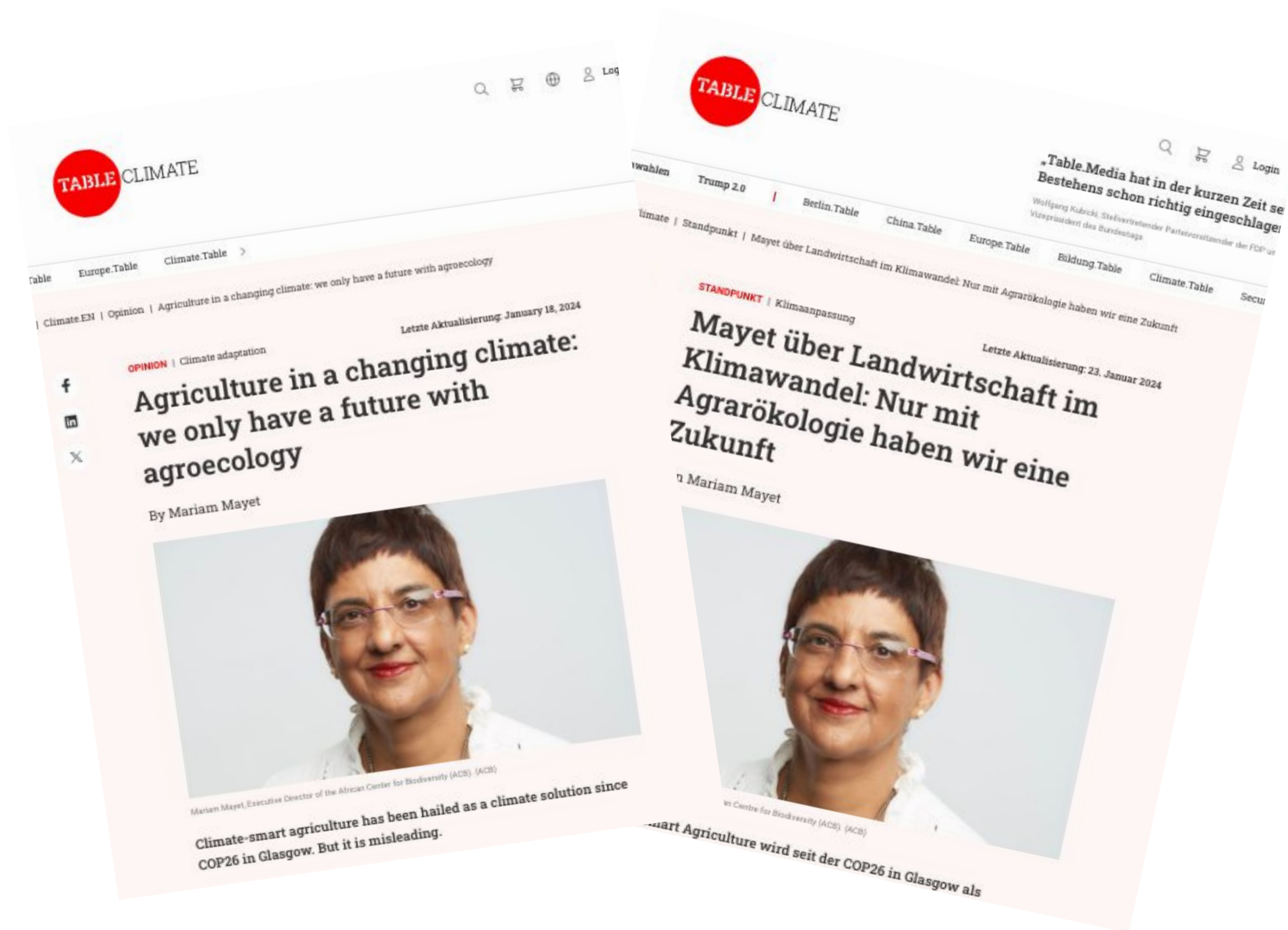
Posted: December 1, 2023 by [Stacy Malkan](#)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is a major influencer and funder of agricultural development in Africa, with little accountability or transparency. Leading experts in food security and many groups in Africa and around the world have critiqued the foundation's push to expand high-cost, high-input, chemical-dependent agriculture in Africa. Critics say this approach is exacerbating hunger, worsening inequality and entrenching corporate power in the world's hungriest region.

In this article, putting forward a critique of the Gates Foundation's agricultural interventions in Africa, the work of experts and expert organisations from around the world is cited, with links to reports and news articles documenting these concerns provided.

The ACB's work over many years, including its most recent publications, are cited in the article, highlighting the numerous problems associated with the Gates-led “green revolution” for Africa.

General media coverage



Mariam Mayet wrote an op-ed for Table Media on how promoting climate-smart agriculture as a climate solution is misleading and noted that agroecology is essential if humanity wants to have a future on the planet.

General coverage

From Local Initiatives to Coalitions for an Effective Agroecology Strategy: Lessons from South Africa

by  Stephen Greenberg ¹ ,  Scott Drimie ^{1,*}  ,  Bruno Losch ²  and  Julian May ³  

¹ Southern Africa Food Lab, Stellenbosch University, Cape Town 7505, South Africa

² Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique Pour le Développement, ART-Dev, University of Montpellier, 34293 Montpellier, France

³ DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, UNESCO Chair in African Food Systems, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town 7530, South Africa

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Sustainability **2023**, *15*(21), 15521; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su152115521>

Received: 22 September 2023 / Revised: 18 October 2023 / Accepted: 26 October 2023 /

Published: 1 November 2023



The paper provides an in-depth case study of the importance of promoting agroecological transitions. Following a qualitative research methodology based on a literature review for context, preparatory discussions with local contact points, and semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with local actors in the field, the paper describes, analyses and characterises the agroecological transitions in the Overberg District in the Western Cape.

General coverage



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Research Article

Justice in nature conservation: limits and possibilities under global capitalism

[Aby L. Sène](#) 

Received 28 Nov 2022, Accepted 18 Oct 2023, Published online: 31 Oct 2023

[Cite this article](#) <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2023.2274901> [Check for updates](#)

In this journal article, in which Aby L. Sène argues that "justice whereby the rights and self-determination of Black and Indigenous peoples are upheld is incompatible with global conservation", ACB is cited as an African-led organisation that is working to protect Africa's biodiversity by resisting corporate-industrial expansion in the continent's food and agriculture systems while working towards food sovereignty and agroecology.

Webinars and events hosted by ACB



Invitation

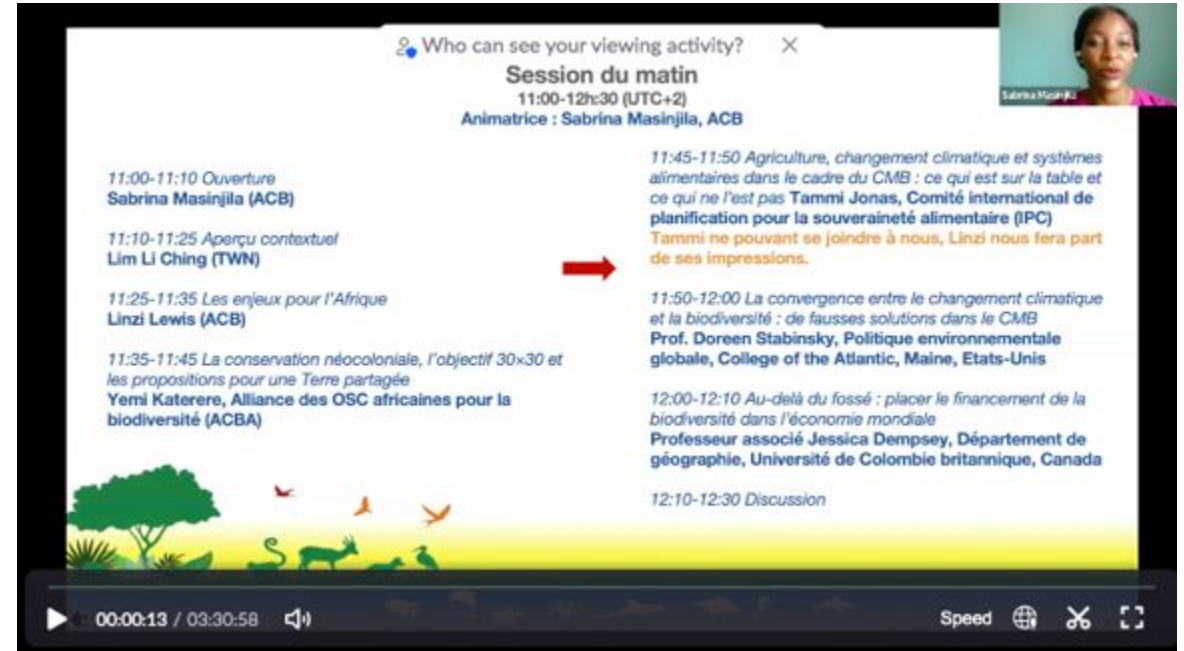
AFRICAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY

TWN
Third World Network

**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA**
**LE CADRE MONDIAL POUR LA
BIODIVERSITE ET SES IMPLICATIONS
POUR L'AFRIQUE**

Two webinar sessions Deux sessions de webinaire
Thursday 3 November Jeudi 3 Novembre

This webinar, hosted by the ACB and the Third World Network (TWN), delved deeply into the debates and talks around the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the future of Africa. The GBF, which is based on the Aichi Targets, is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, with the goal of achieving a 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature. However, the negotiation's objectives continue to be on a collision course with nature and the planet, directing humanity towards a highly managed and techno-driven future. The webinar was attended by 80 participants.



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Session du matin
11:00-12:30 (UTC+2)
Animatrice : Sabrina Masingila, ACB

11:00-11:10 Ouverture
Sabrina Masingila (ACB)

11:10-11:25 Aperçu contextuel
Lim Li Ching (TWN)

11:25-11:35 Les enjeux pour l'Afrique
Linzi Lewis (ACB)

11:35-11:45 La conservation néocoloniale, l'objectif 30x30 et les propositions pour une Terre partagée
Yemi Katerere, Alliance des OSC africaines pour la biodiversité (ACBA)

11:45-11:50 Agriculture, changement climatique et systèmes alimentaires dans le cadre du CMB : ce qui est sur la table et ce qui ne l'est pas Tammi Jonas, Comité international de planification pour la souveraineté alimentaire (IPC)
Tammi ne pouvant se joindre à nous, Linzi nous fera part de ses impressions.

11:50-12:00 La convergence entre le changement climatique et la biodiversité : de fausses solutions dans le CMB
Prof. Doreen Stabinsky, Politique environnementale globale, College of the Atlantic, Maine, Etats-Unis

12:00-12:10 Au-delà du fossé : placer le financement de la biodiversité dans l'économie mondiale
Professeur associé Jessica Dempsey, Département de géographie, Université de Colombie britannique, Canada

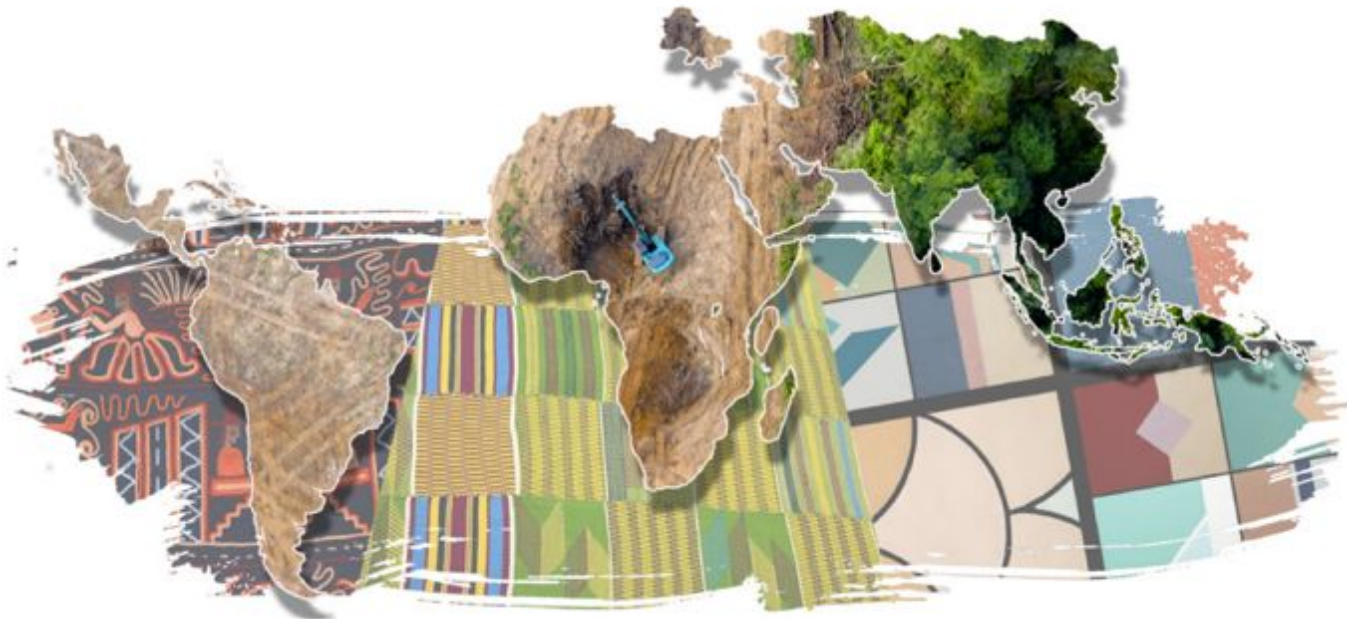
12:10-12:30 Discussion

00:00:13 / 03:30:58

Speed

Webinars and events hosted by ACB

A South-South Dialogue and Exchange



ACB, Acción Ecológica, and Third World Network (TWN) hosted a three-day South-South dialogue and exchange, Sunday 27 – Thursday 31 August 2023 in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Its aim was to provide a safe space for a gathering of activists and thought leaders from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, who connect with the practices and ideological outlooks of social movements, outrightly oppose neoliberalism, and actively resist extractivism/capitalist encroachment, working towards systemic change.

The meeting focused on the intersections between biodiversity, climate change, agriculture and food systems, and aimed to strengthen uniquely Global South understandings and analyses of the structural drivers of these intersecting crises, as well as of the critical alternatives needed.

Webinars and events hosted by ACB



The **National policy dialogue on a just transition and adaptation in the food system** took place in Ekurhuleni. Organisations representing the labour movement, smallholder farmers, farm workers, labour tenants, informal traders, waste reclaimers, food and land justice organisations, civil society, and policymakers came together to discuss building a coordinated understanding and policy approach to a just transition in the South African food system across sectors.

It was hosted by the Alliance for Rural Advancement (AFRA), Biowatch South Africa, Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), LandNNES, Tshintsha Amakhaya, Climate Champions for Adaptation, Adaptation Network, Environmental Monitoring Group, and the National Labour and Economic Development Institute (NALEDI).

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work

A promotional graphic for a webinar. On the left, a circular inset shows a close-up of hands holding various types of beans. The background is a solid blue color. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a person standing on a grassy hill. The text is in white and yellow. The title is at the top, followed by the topic, date, venue, and time. Below this are three circular portraits of the panelists, each with their name and title. At the bottom, there are two logos: CSABC and ACBA.

Theme: Africa-China CSOs Collaboration towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Webinar Topic: Protecting Agricultural Biodiversity and Constructing Scientific Food System Security

Date: 21 September 2022
Venue: Zoom
Time: 2:30PM Beijing Time | 6:30AM GMT | 9:30AM EAT

Zhu Chunquan
PANELIST
Head of the Nature Initiatives
China, World Economic Forum

Linzi Lewis
PANELIST
Research and Advocacy Officer
The African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)

Jiang Gaoming
PANELIST
Researcher
Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences

CSABC
China Society for Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation

acba
African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance

ACB's research and advocacy officer Linzi Lewis shares her expertise on how agriculture is dependent on biodiversity and biodiversity is an essential component of the agricultural landscape and a cornerstone of food and nutrition security, climate change adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods at the Protecting Agricultural Biodiversity and Constructing Scientific Food System Security virtual webinar hosted by African CSO Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) on the 21 September.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work

Co-hosted by ACB, together with African Biodiversity Network, Biovision Foundation, Agropolis Foundation, Coventry University Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), Cultivate!, EcoNexus, Friends of the Earth International, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), IPES-Food, Latin American Scientific Society for Agroecology (SOCLA), Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (Canada), Third World Network (TWN), UNESCO Chair on Food, Biodiversity and Sustainability Studies, and the University of Vermont. This side event sheds light on emerging coalitions and policy actions that are linking agroecology and agricultural biodiversity, as crucial pathways to transform food systems. Sabrina Masinjila is featured in a series of short interviews that were released on social media, talking about the importance of biodiversity and what the ACB hopes to get out of the summit.



COP15 SIDE-EVENT

MISSING THE MARK? GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS RISK FAILURE WITHOUT AGROECOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

08 DECEMBER | 13:15 - 14:45 pm ET

This side-event brings forward the latest evidence in support of biodiverse agroecology as a fundamental basis for a global biodiversity strategy and essential to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Speakers will also shine a light on emerging coalitions and policy actions that are linking agroecology and agricultural biodiversity, as crucial pathways to transform food systems.

This event will be moderated by Alison Blay-Palmer, UNESCO Chair on Food, Biodiversity, and Sustainability Studies.

Snacks and interpretation will be provided.

WHEN

13:15 - 14:45 pm ET, 08 December 2022

LOCATION

Business and Industry Organizations Meeting Room (SI4A), and via [Livestream](#)

HOSTED BY

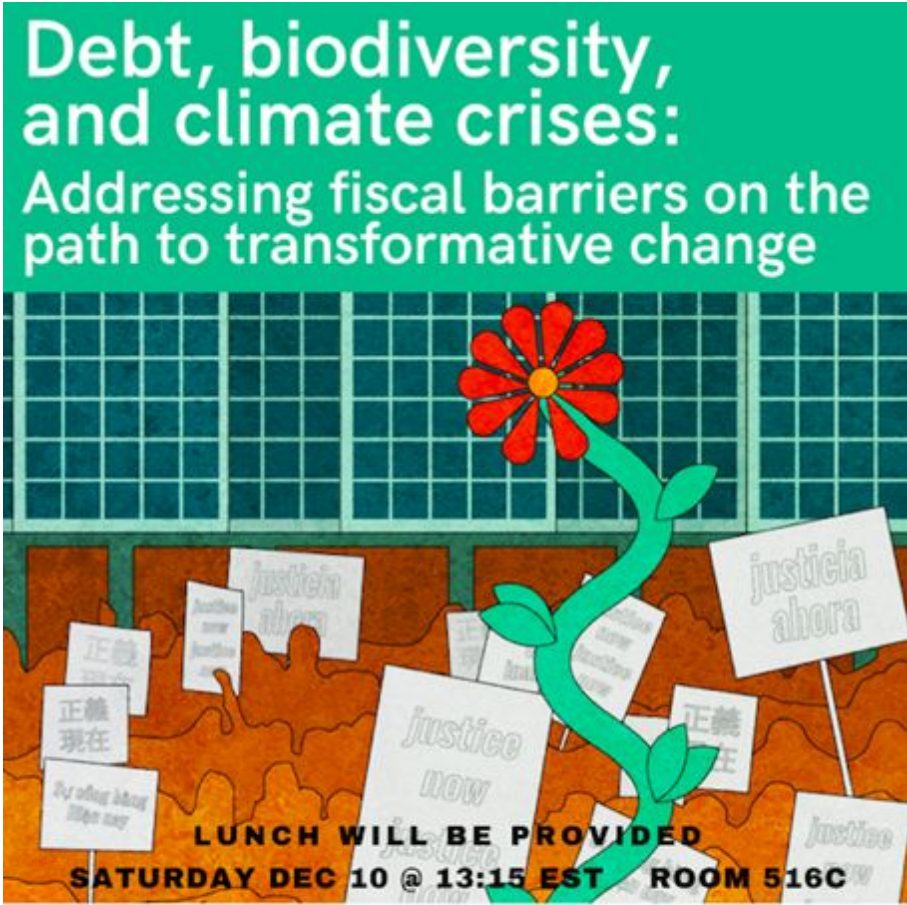
African Biodiversity Network, African Centre for Biodiversity, Biovision Foundation, Agropolis Foundation, Coventry University Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), Cultivate!, EcoNexus, Friends of the Earth International, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), IPES-Food, Latin American Scientific Society for Agroecology (SOCLA), Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (Canada), Third World Network (TWN), UNESCO Chair on Food, Biodiversity and Sustainability Studies, and the University of Vermont.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)


Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work


The debt, biodiversity and climate crises are closely intertwined. For some countries, pressure to repay debt keeps them locked into biodiversity-degrading sectors in order to earn foreign currency, driving biodiversity loss.

ACB's co-hosts the second side event which features experts from TWN, Climate and Community Project, University of British Columbia, African CSO Biodiversity Alliance, and others discussing debt, biodiversity, and climate crises. With a strong focus on addressing fiscal barriers on the path to transformative change, participants at the event will explore how to mobilise resources, eliminate debt, and maintain debt sustainability for CBD goals.



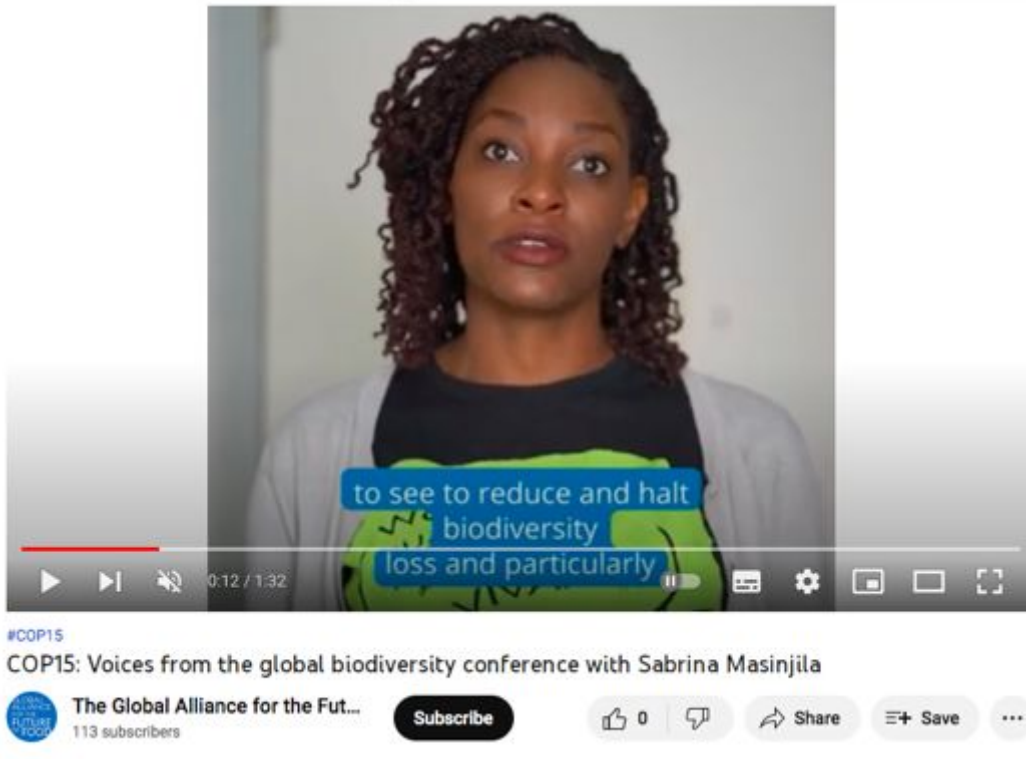
The poster features a green header with the title 'Debt, biodiversity, and climate crises: Addressing fiscal barriers on the path to transformative change'. Below the header is an illustration of a green vine with a red flower growing out of a field of brown, leaf-like shapes. Several white signs with the text 'justice now' and 'justicia ahora' are scattered in the field. At the bottom of the illustration, the text 'LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED' and 'SATURDAY DEC 10 @ 13:15 EST ROOM 516C' is displayed.

This panel will discuss proposals for resource mobilization, debt relief, and debt sustainability frameworks that can create the fiscal space to meet CBD objectives. Read the new debt & biodiversity briefing paper: 



Logos for the following organizations are displayed at the bottom: climate community project, WOMEN4BIODIVERSITY, TWN Third World Network, Latindadd, African Centre for Biodiversity, acba African CSO Biodiversity Alliance, Debt Justice, and The University of British Columbia Centre for Climate Justice.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



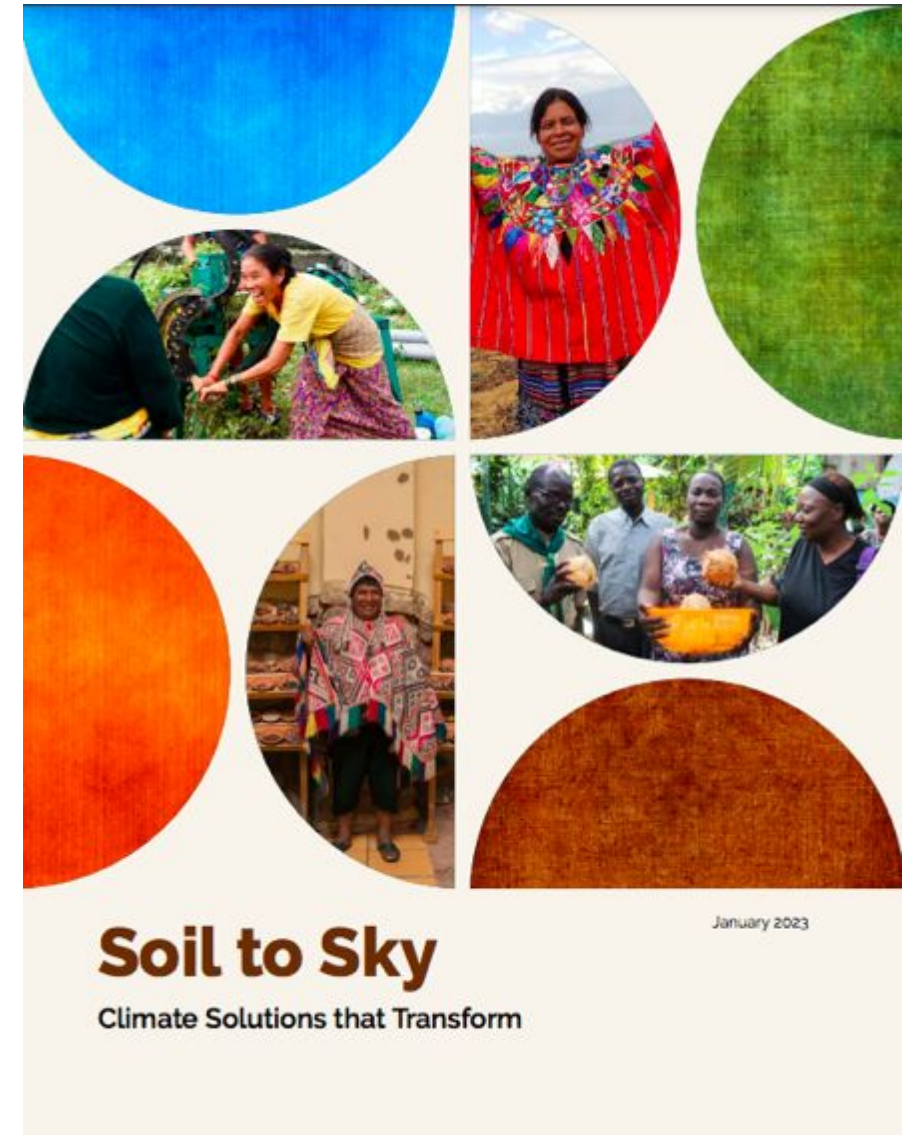
The Global Alliance for the Future of Food: COP15: Voices from the global biodiversity conference with Sabrina Masinjila

Experts in food systems and biodiversity were asked what they hope to see come out of the UN Biodiversity Conference, also known as COP15. One of the experts was ACB's research and advocacy officer Sabrina Masinjila who shared ACB's perspective on what is holding back action when it comes to recognising the connection between food systems and biodiversity loss.

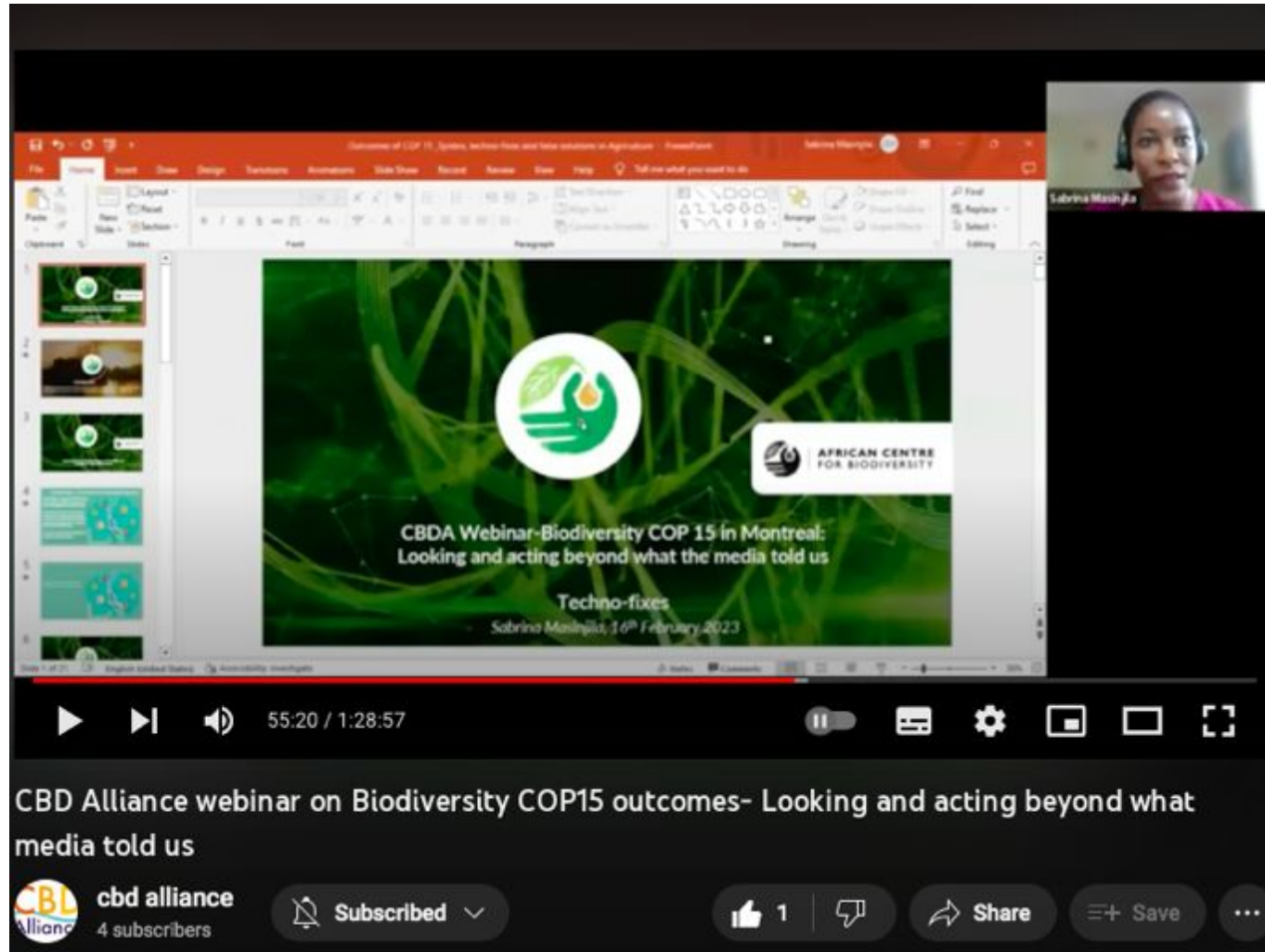
Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



ACB's ED Mariam Mayet was one of the advisors consulted on the the process of overseeing the compilation of evidence and research of ClimaFunds latest report Soil to Sky 2: Climate Solutions That Transform. In a press release about the launch of this report, Mayet comments on the value this report has for substantially increased funding and support for socially just, equitable, and ecologically sustainable food systems to address the converging climate and biodiversity crises, in large part driven by industrial agriculture.



Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



ACB's research and advocacy officer Sabrina Masinjala joins CBDA members to provide an update and critical analysis of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and related decisions adopted at COP 15. Masinjala's presentation will uncover the false solutions of agriculture and synbio techno-fixes, as well as a way forward.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work

FILM 3: MONEY



3: Money
from Rich Appetites

MARIAM MAYET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFRICAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY

“This is a new wave of neocolonialism of our food system”

– Mariam Mayet, Director of the African Center for Biodiversity.

Watch Episode 3 of #RichAppetites
to learn how philanthropists are underwriting the corporate control of African agriculture.

ACTIVIST POST

HOME ECONOMY LIBERTY WAR ACTIVISM HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT VIDEO

HOT TOPICS: JUNE 12, 2022 | PATRICK HOOE, DR. JOSEPH BERCOLA: IT'S CRUCIAL TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

HOME ECONOMY

Video: Gates Foundation Spent Billions Pushing Commercial Fertilizers and Pesticides, GMO Seeds on Small African Farmers

the Defender™

CHILDREN'S HEALTH DEFENSE NEWS & VIEWS

EN CHD COVID BIG PHARMA BIG ENERGY BIG FOOD BIG TECH BIG CHEM

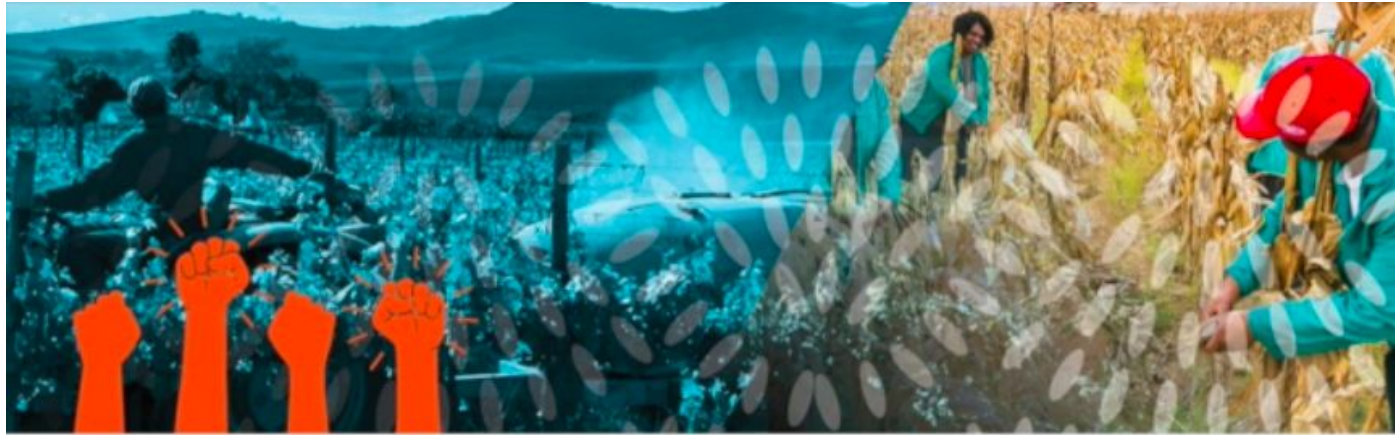
Million Copies Sold — 'The Real Anthony Fauci' — The book that launched the movement

05/06/22 • BIG FOOD • VIEWS

Under Guise of 'Charity,' Gates Foundation Pushes Pesticides, GMOs on Small Farmers

For the third installment of the video series 'Rich Appetites,' a short film series on how big philanthropy is shaping the future of food in Africa, co-produced by AGRAWatch and AFSA, ACB's Mariam Mayet was interviewed about how the empire of influence between AGRA, Cornell Alliance for Science, AATF, OFAB, ABNE, CFS have worked together to create draconian laws facilitating the corporate capture of African agriculture and food systems. Further, Mayet discusses the new wave of neo-colonialism plaguing the African food system, whereby philanthrocapitalists are invading and taking control over policy making spaces and shaping the creation of draconian seed laws to turn Africa into an integrated market that supports the trade of agribusiness corporations.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work



Dignity and Decent Livelihoods through a Just
Transition of the Agricultural System

8 November 2023



Mariam Mayet (ACB)



Women on Farms Project (WFP) hosted its annual **National Farm Worker Platform** (NFWP), 6-8 November 2023. This year, NFWP focused on the current state of landlessness, hunger and health of workers who are precariously employed on farms. The theme was 'Dignity and decent livelihoods through a just transition of the agricultural system'.

ACBs Mariam Mayet joined the panel on alternatives to the dominant industrialised agricultural model practiced in South Africa and shared the thinking and strategy behind the People's Pesticide Tribunal.

Online and broadcast coverage of ACB work

DATE: Wednesday, 22 November 2023
TIME: 10:30am to 12:00pm

Please see registration link below.

Multiple Perspectives, One Goal: Food System Transformation

SPEAKERS:

Tony Gerrans
Who benefits and who pays for industrial animal agriculture—hidden costs of industrial agriculture.

Dr. Andrew Bennie
The necessity of a just transition in the South African food system: key issues and competing perspectives.

Sonia Mountford
Looking at avian flu and encouraging a systemic perspective when defining imperatives and solutions of the One Health approach.

Dr. Stephen Greenberg
Elaborating on the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) 13 principles as a framing for agroecology.

MODERATOR:

Haidee Swanby

The complexity of South Africa's food system needs a complex system approach—bringing diverse skills and perspectives.

This collaborative webinar will explore these interconnected challenges and the goal of sustainable food systems that are not extractive but nourish communities and the environment.

Joining other experts on the South African food system in a collaborative webinar, ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg presented on the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition's 13 principles as a framing for agroecology. The webinar explored the complexity of the food system, its interconnected challenges as well as what type of interventions should be taking place.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



AFSA's Climate convening. Africa's roadmap to adaptation through agroecology: defining Africa's position for COP 27, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The event aimed to provide a space for diverse climate actors to discuss and shape a roadmap for diverse climate actors to discuss and shape a road map for the transition to climate adaptation and community resilience through agroecology. ACB's Sabrina Masinjila was one of the speakers of this event who shared her expertise on how WEMA is a false solution to climate change.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



Agroecology advocacy meeting held in Suurbraak, 27-28 Feb 2023

Co-hosted with the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), TCOE and ACB, we attended the Suurbraak farmers meeting which covered intersecting issues on climate change, agroecology, biodiversity, industrial agriculture. Through the lens of advocacy and the challenges facing smallholder farmers, the meeting was an introductory session that explored the gaps and opportunities of the agroecology climate in South Africa.

Meetings and events attended by ACB

Fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG5) and Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Part 2)
3-5 July 2023, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The ACB, represented by Mariam Mayet and Sabrina Masinjila, attended this meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was hosted by TWN in collaboration SAM. There was also collaboration with other organisations who contributed to the meeting, such as Friends of Earth Malaysia. ACB supported the participation of two other African colleagues, Yemi Katerere and Simangele Msweli from the African CSOs on Biodiversity.

Meetings and events attended by ACB

The **Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights** was organised by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization, 12-15 September 2023. It was attended by more than 500 delegates from 60 countries, including the National Focal Points of the International Treaty, more than 150 farmers, and more than 100 foreign participants. ACB's Rutendo Zendah-Chirape attended the symposium as a continuation of our work on farmers' rights under the Plant Treaty, giving political support to African CSOs and governments on various issues pertaining to farmers' rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.



Meetings and events attended by ACB



Biovision hosted a regional workshop, 11-13 October 2023, on the development of national agroecology strategies (NAS) in East and Southern Africa. Participants included CSOs and government officials involved in the development of NAS in their countries. ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg was in attendance. Countries represented were Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Rwanda, Zambia and Malawi.

The first day was participation in the Global Landscapes Forum in a session on NAS, co-hosted by Biovision, the Agroecology TPP, and the Agroecology Coalition. The next two days were a closed peer-to-peer exchange with the Biovision participants. The agenda included making the case for a NAS; linking strategy to action; prioritising policy interventions; and funding.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila participated in the Convention on Biological Diversity's 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Nairobi, Kenya, 16-19 October 2023. This was an important convening following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022.

Key items on the agenda include biodiversity and climate change. As a subsidiary body of the COP, SBSTTA is to report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work. Multidisciplinary and open to participation by all Parties, SBSTTA comprises government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila spoke at a side event at the 25th SBSTTA meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, 17 October 2023, hosted by the ETC Group and HOMEF Nigeria in collaboration with the CBD Alliance, AfriTAP, and the Hands Off Mother Earth! Alliance.

The event aimed to affirm the CBD's leadership in taking precautionary decisions on geoengineering, urging for the world to take real climate action and avoid false solutions.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



The ACB was invited to attend the Swiss Cooperation Partners meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe, 19-20 October. The meeting agenda included sharing news from the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency; discussing important context developments and emerging priorities; narrow-in outcome orientation, monitoring, and evaluation topics; and fostering collaboration and synergies among Swiss-supported initiatives for the Cooperation Programme for Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2026.

ACB's Rutendo Zendah-Chirape attended the meeting as an SDC partner under the Strengthening Agro-Biodiversity in Southern Africa (SASA) project.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila attended the 3rd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference (NAEOAC), 8-9 November 2023, in Dodoma, Tanzania, and participated in a panel discussion on agrobiodiversity and improved nutrition.

Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Mariam Mayet, Dr Stephen Greeneberg and Sindy Peters attended a meeting of the Agroecology advocacy group in Cape Town, 23-24 November 2023, hosted by partners ACB, Surplus Peoples Project, Trust for Community Outreach & Education, Tshintsa Amakhaya, Biowatch, Association for Rural Advancement Land Rights Advocacy and Environmental Monitoring Group. The meeting, which also hosted small-scale farmers, focused on the way forward for the group in terms of focus work areas over the coming year.