

POST APAC MEETING

“Developing a strategy for implementation of Kigali Call and creating an inclusive Pan African voice and agency”

19th-22nd Dec 2022, Ibis Styles Hotel -Nairobi Kenya

Organised by IMPACT Trust Kenya



Figure 1: Post APAC IPLCs Meeting 19th-22nd December 2022 Nairobi, Kenya



Background:

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

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

Objectives of the Nairobi Post APAC convening

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

Specifically, convening will seek to:

- a) Unpack the commitments made under the [Kigali call to action](#) and the IPLC's declaration and prioritize commitments and recommendations for short, medium and long term implementation and agree on engagement strategy for each of the prioritized commitments and recommendations.
- b) Develop mechanisms for implementation and a work-plan
- c) Agree on the IPLC pan Africa body, technical reference group among other key outfits to facilitate effective monitoring of the commitments and follow through the agreed work-plan
- d) Propose possible funding opportunities to support the implementation of work-plan. Fundraising & resource mobilization will be critical to enhance IPLCs capacity to pursue activities at the national level; lobbying for government support in the inclusion of some of the prioritized recommendations in National Development Plans.
- e) Agree and develop a Communication strategy to enhance IPLCs visibility and APAC-1 and identify opportunities for engagement on the outcomes of CBD and UNFCCC-COPs and other Africa specific events.
- f) Develop strategy for advocacy and lobbying focusing on creating a unified platform and voice for IPLCs that will spearhead advocacy and lobbying various key stakeholders on past, emerging and prevailing pertinent conservation issues affecting IPLCs
- g) Agree on a plan to engage and participate in upcoming World Parks Congress (WPC)-2024-taking some of IPLCs messages from APAC to the WCP through a side event, having an IPLCs African Pavilion etc.

Meeting Proceedings

Session 1: Opening Plenary



Fig.2 Mr. Mali Ole Kaunga (CEO – IMPACT KENYA)

The introduction of the meeting was done by the CEO of IMPACT Kenya Mr. Mali Ole Kaunga.

In his opening remarks, Ole Kaunga CEO – IMPACT Kenya provided an overview of the objectives and the intended outcomes, and urged for an active engagement during the two-day meeting.

Session 2: Understanding the history of Protected Areas in Africa

In trying to understand the history of protected areas in Africa, Malidadi Langa gave a brief history of conservation terming it as a foreign concept that is based on foreign values. That conservation has continued to adversely affect IPLCs as experienced through evictions, dispossession and disempowering them. He emphasized that conservation had proved to be a foreign concept since it has its roots in Europe’s feudal past, then spread to America, and then entered Africa during colonization, it was a Strictly hierarchical class society based on power and wealth where the noble and the ruling class owned land and natural resources including wildlife. The Subjects faced access restrictions and heavy penalties and could only use the land in return for some obligations. After independence, the new leaders inherited this concept from their colonial masters. Today, the tendency of conservation has been perpetuated through funding models since the governments needs money to manage the protected areas. The major source of such funding is international conservation partners and international NGOs. Due to the provision of these funds, the international conservation partners, and international NGOs have remained with more power and influence on conservation in Africa.

He urged African IPLCs representatives to start putting people firmly at the center of conservation as the African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) provided helpful pointers

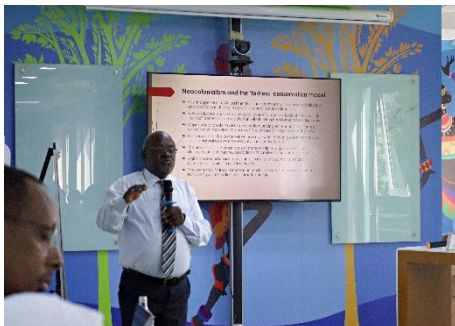


Fig.3 Mr. Malidadi Langa (Malawi)

“We have surrendered our natural resource sovereignty to powerful conservation funders from the Global North. African governments have to reclaim their natural resource sovereignty and control the conservation narrative in line with their development aspirations, they must design NRM policies and laws that put people at the centre of conservation ”

Session 3: Reflections from APAC

This session sought to unpack the commitments made at the Africa protected areas congress and the Kigali call to action and help the IPLCs to get clarification and a better understanding while figuring out the key issues missing.



Fig.4 Ms. Kendi Borana (Kenya)

As stated by Ms. Kendi Borana, a fundamental rethinking of conservation models is needed at all levels, beginning with securing land rights and respecting community conserved areas.

She also emphasizes on the need to link IPLCs with scientific communities and the media and film industries for documentation of their conservation practices.

Session 4: Understanding APAC and relevant institutions

The first ever Africa Protected Areas Congress was held in July in Kigali, Rwanda which provided a chance for African Countries to discuss emerging issues, highlight the role of IPLCs and Youth, Impact of Zoonotic diseases as well as importance of PCAs for wellbeing. It also provided an opportunity for Africa to take stock of actions taken in implementation of the “Promise of Sydney.

- Over 140 IPLCs delegates from 42 African countries participated in a pre-congress workshop to prepare and engage effectively in APAC.
- Delegates produced an IPLCs Kigali Declaration themed “We are nature” and “People must be at the centre of conservation”.
- Delegates had a session with APAC Patrons/Former Heads of States and shared their key issues and asks
- Delegates committed to setting up a Pan African IPLC platform for shared concerns, actions, programs and cross learning amongst states
- Delegates recommended the development of Conservation models, to be promoted by Africans, with Africans and for Africans
- Delegates recommended Africa’s planning process for Protected & Conserved Areas management should be informed by Science and Indigenous knowledge from IPLCs on Climate Change



Fig.5 Ms. Fiesta Warinwa

Ms. Warinwa as she explained the Kigali Call to action for people and nature mentions the need for critical actions for effective governance and management of protected and conserved areas in landscapes and seascapes informed by Africa's context and in ways that benefit African people, the need to promote inclusive and equitable governance, putting people at the centre of effective and equitable conservation, mobilizing the economic value of PCAs as natural solutions to the biodiversity and climate change crises and sustainable financing .

Session 5: Group discussions



Fig.6 Group discussion (Francophones)

The participants were divided into four working groups cognisant of their language and regional needs to consolidate inputs. Through guided breakout sessions they delivered diverse inputs into the Kigali call to action and the IPLC Kigali declaration, while mapping out actors and engagement strategies.

Session 6: Brainstorming on IPLC institutional arrangements at the Sub-regional level

In trying to understand the IPLC institutional arrangements at pan-Africa, we brainstormed on the existing structures, the IPLC's continental leadership structures and the technical reference groups i.e REPALEAC.

- i. The Proposed names for the IPLC'S forum in Africa are:
- ii. ARISEC
- iii. Network of IPLCs in Africa
- iv. Pamoja Africa
- v. IPLC Pamoja
- vi. Alliance of Indigenous People and Local Communities in Africa
- vii. Ushikamano
- viii. Muungano
- ix. Framework of reflection of CSOs and IPLCs in Africa on Conservation

Closing Remarks

After coming up with an implementation plan and allocating tasks, Ms. Eileen Wakesho of Namati mentioned the need to synthesize all declarations and concepts as an agent action to be taken.

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

List of Annexes

Annex I: The Kigali Call to action

Annex II: The IPLC Kigali declaration

Annex III: The Meeting Agenda

Annex IV: The Meetings Participants' List