

Attendee statistics:

Total attended: **170** (ca 110 active online at once)

Total registered: **221**

Webinar summary

The webinar, "Unpacking Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) - Exploring Interlinkages between Biodiversity, Climate, and Community Resilience," held on September 12, 2024, was a collaborative effort hosted by Kenya4Resilience, WWF Kenya, and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry. The event aimed to break down the NBSAP, addressing its local and global relevance, and focusing on biodiversity's role in resilience and climate action. It examined the critical interlinkages between biodiversity policies, climate action, and community resilience, while offering insights into global biodiversity frameworks and their implementation at the national level.

Emma Berglund from LM International/Kenya4Resilience opened the session, emphasizing biodiversity our planet's "natural defence force against calamities and disasters". She highlighted the session's goal of exploring the interconnections between policy, resilience, and climate action within Kenya's newly revised NBSAP targets. Faith Jelagat of WWF Kenya followed with insights into WWF's key objectives in conservation and the role of non-state actors, including civil society, in advancing biodiversity goals.

The first presentation was held by Innocent Maloba from WWF International, who gave a detailed overview of the global biodiversity frameworks, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and detailing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's goals and targets for halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030. He provided the background of NBSAP and Global Context. Kenya's NBSAP is anchored on the framework set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was established in 1992 along with two other significant global agreements on climate change and desertification. These frameworks aim to address global environmental challenges by guiding nations in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of its components, and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. At the heart of this global biodiversity movement is the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (GBF), adopted at COP 15 in 2022. It sets ambitious targets, including halting biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems by 2030. The framework consists of 23 targets, classified under three categories:

1. Conservation targets to reduce threats to biodiversity.
2. Targets addressing sustainable use of biodiversity.
3. Targets related to enabling conditions for biodiversity action.

Dr. Lucy Nganga, Deputy Director of Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the Ministry of Environment, shared Kenya's progress in revising its national biodiversity targets and the ongoing process to align them with global biodiversity frameworks. She highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral integration, stressing the need for mainstreaming biodiversity into Kenya's economic and governance frameworks to secure resources and foster resilience. She highlighted that Kenya has embraced the GBF and revised its national biodiversity strategy. The revision process involved

stakeholder consultations across various sectors, supported by resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Kenya's revised national targets have been submitted, although the full NBSAP document is still under review and expected by the end of 2024.

Key objectives include:

- Halting biodiversity loss by 2030.
- Restoring 30% of degraded terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030 (commonly referred to as the “30 by 30” target).
- Integrating biodiversity into national development policies and ensuring resources for biodiversity conservation.

Dr. Lucy Nganga from Kenya's Ministry of Environment emphasized the need for inclusivity in developing and implementing the NBSAP. She pointed to the active involvement of youth networks, women's organizations, and indigenous communities through representative bodies. This ensures that these groups' concerns are reflected in the final strategy.

Mary Githiomi, Country Director of International Aid Services Kenya and Chairperson of the Kenya4Resilience Board, emphasized the vital role of community-led efforts in resilience and biodiversity, highlighting how Kenya4Resilience collaborates with local communities, including youth, women, and indigenous groups, to address the intersection of biodiversity, climate change, and disaster resilience across Kenya. She stressed on the role of Non-State Actors in NBSAP Implementation Non-state actors, including civil society, private sector, academia, and local communities, play a critical role in implementing Kenya's NBSAP. They contribute by:

- Aligning their activities with national and global biodiversity targets.
- Participating in policy review processes and monitoring biodiversity conservation progress.
- Advocating for resource allocation and policy reform to support biodiversity conservation.
- Raising awareness and building community capacities on biodiversity and resilience.

The Interlinkages Between Biodiversity, Climate, and Resilience:

One of the key messages of the webinar was the strong linkage between biodiversity and community resilience, especially in the face of climate change. Biodiversity supports ecosystem services such as water purification, flood control, and soil fertility, all of which are essential for climate adaptation and resilience. The protection of biodiversity also contributes to disaster risk reduction by preserving natural buffers, such as wetlands and mangroves, which mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.

According to Mary Githiomi from Kenya for Resilience, community-led efforts are crucial in fostering resilience. Kenya for Resilience is a network working across Kenya's counties to empower local communities in resilience-building. Through their efforts, they have engaged youth, women, and indigenous groups in climate change adaptation activities, further underlining the interconnectedness of biodiversity and resilience.

Jonathan Odongo from WWF Kenya discussed how CSOs can support Kenya's biodiversity efforts by engaging in capacity-building, contributing to national reporting on biodiversity, and facilitating collaboration across sectors. The session concluded with a discussion on civil society's role, led by Jonathan Odongo from WWF Kenya, who offered practical advice for non-governmental actors on how to engage with the NBSAP process, particularly in terms of advocacy, monitoring, and community

inclusion. The event underscored the critical role of biodiversity in climate resilience and the importance of inclusive, locally led efforts in achieving national and global biodiversity targets.

The webinar identified several challenges to biodiversity conservation in Kenya, including:

- Limited financial resources for biodiversity projects.
- Lack of effective mainstreaming of biodiversity into development policies.
- Capacity gaps in some sectors and communities.
- Climate change, which exacerbates biodiversity loss and impacts ecosystem services.

Opportunities highlighted include:

- The growing involvement of non-state actors, who bring expertise, resources, and innovative solutions.
- The possibility of leveraging Kenya's strategic positioning as a biodiversity hotspot to attract international funding.
- Ongoing collaborations between government, CSOs, and international organizations like WWF, which are instrumental in driving policy reform and resource mobilization.

Conclusion and Way Forward The revised NBSAP marks a critical step in Kenya's efforts to align its biodiversity conservation strategies with global frameworks. The whole-of-society approach adopted in the process ensures broad-based participation, while the emphasis on interlinkages between biodiversity, climate, and resilience presents a comprehensive pathway for sustainable development. Moving forward, the successful implementation of Kenya's NBSAP will require sustained engagement of stakeholders, adequate resource allocation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity across all sectors of the economy.

The session was highly engaging where participants posted questions in the chat and shared feedback on the interventions of all participants. A large portion of the questions were centred around the level of participation of civil society actors in the preparation and dissemination of the targets. The role of community, youth and women led groups were highlighted as part and parcel of the solutions for successful implementation of the NBSAP, and that they need to be considered and included in the consultations. The speakers, particularly Dr Lucy and Jonathan, agreed with such statements and highlighted also the importance of civil society collaboration in sharing information and joining in towards the joint reporting and coordination mechanism for biodiversity and to share their work in alignment with the NBSAP targets. Finally, the webinar was noted as important step to prepare for the upcoming high-level meetings such as the CBD COP16 and UNFCCC COP29 later this year. A total of 35 participants also shared their email addresses with which to further connect and to receive the PPTs used after the session.