

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 5 March 2021 14:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Rights of Nature as An Enabler to Transforming the Food Systems in Africa
CONVENED BY	Nkenglefac Tacha Foretia Divine, Lead, Rights of Nature in Africa Movement - Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/5731/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

16

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

15

31-50

1

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

0

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock
Agro-forestry
9 Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

2 Education
1 Communication
1 Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
Financial Services

Health care
Nutrition
National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
1 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan
Large national business
Multi-national corporation
4 Small-scale farmer
Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
4 Local Non-Governmental Organization
International Non-Governmental Organization
2 Indigenous People
4 Science and academia

Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament
Local authority
Government and national institution
Regional economic community
1 United Nations
International financial institution
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The areas of discussion were crafted in a way as to accommodate inputs from multiple perspectives, different knowledge areas and lessons learnt. The selection of keynote presenters and addresses took into consideration their area of expertise, gender and geographic location.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue respected the principles of inclusivity and trust. Each participant was given a moment to express his/her views and perspective as regard what s/he wants to see happen. All participants declared their continuous support and commitment toward ensuring the summit's vision is met.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Yes, dialogues outcomes are meaningful when they reflect multiple views. This can only be achieved if each participant is given the opportunity to express his or her mind. The process of inviting participants should be carefully planned and should embrace diversity.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

☒

Yes

☐

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue had as focused to elucidate possibilities for advancing Rights of Nature paradigms in Africa while assessing current challenges and identifying opportunities in envisioning a Sustainable Food Systems for Africa.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
✓	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

	Finance	✓	Policy
	Innovation		Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights		Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
			Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

It was agreed by all participants that a clear implementation strategy be design in view to foster the rights of nature while substantially contribute towards a sustainable food systems transformation in Africa.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The discussions identified the following action areas as priorities to foster Sustainable Food Systems Transformation in Africa through the lens of defending the Rights of Nature:

- **Legislation:** Recognizing legally that nature has fundamental rights to fulfill its natural cycles which are the basis of food systems nutrient cycle is critical. Moreover, the right of the population to live in a healthy and ecological balance environment must be view as a fundamental right. Safeguarding nature' rights within the margin of our legal systems and policy making process ensures natural life cycles are respected thereby contributing towards building stronger and resilient ecosystems capable of regressing the effects of climate change while supporting continuous supply of nutritious food.
- **Changing behavior:** Adoption and integration of an ethical approach to food systems transformation through the promotion of ethics of respect and stewardship for nature especially for ecosystems relevant to food and agriculture productions will significantly accelerate food systems transformative process.
- **Ecocide law:** Use Rights of Nature as some of the tools to oppose prominent destructive agricultural practices which clearly are in violation of natural principles and values e.g criminalized ecocide.
- **Promoting and Supporting Indigenous Food Systems:** Native seeds, smaller farms and agroecology generally produce more and healthier foods and the Rights of Nature can support governments to promote these types of Food Systems because doing otherwise means continuous devastation of nature. Based on these understanding, promoting rather displacing food sovereign communities is a good step in securing healthy and nourishing agriculture.
- **Education:** Use formal and informal education to promote awareness, discussion and actions in support of Nature's rights. Relearning Indigenous ideologies and practices is vital because most Indigenous philosophies are eco-friendly and have strong sustainability foundations. We have to transform our culture of exploitation and promoting the Rights of Nature can drive forth the cultural realization that humans are part of nature and the environment and cannot be view separately. The need for higher education in earth and ecological law was emphasized by most of the participants.
- **Policy:** Governments should recognize the protection and preservation of the environment as a public interest because our ability to produce food is directly link to the state of our planet, ecosystems and natural resources. We must use innovative policies tools to give nature a voice in decision making about how we treat the land. Having the right attitudes to align and implement these policies is key. To go about is to take our examples from indigenous knowledge which for over generations have brought out sustainable results.
- **Partnerships:** The process of transforming our food systems through the pathway of recognizing the legal protection and preservation of vital ecosystems will requires a cross-sectoral collaboration across political, environmental, socio-economic and development players.
- **Empowering Indigenous communities, rural women and youth as drivers of change.** This can be done through capacity building on leadership skills, advocacy and knowledge areas relevant in advancing nature's rights in their respective communities.
- **Adoption of nature-based approaches that does not disengaging from nature in the process of food production and consumption.** Nature has to determine how we should produce food.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some areas of divergence stemmed from:

- Agreeing on a suitable approach for the implementation of the Rights of Nature in Africa in view to achieving resilient and inclusive food systems in Africa. Some participants proposed a Top – Bottom approach while other insisted that a Bottom to Top approach will work best.
- Controversies on which group should take leading role as an agent of change; individuals, women, youth, indigenous groups or community-based Organizations.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Twitter**
https://twitter.com/rights_nature
- **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/rightsofnatureafrica>