ANAES KIGALI DECLARATION

Kigali-Rwanda, Wednesday, 05/06/2024

ANAES members commit to empower communities for accelerating ecosystem restoration agenda in Africa

On this World Environment Day 2024, the African NGOs Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (ANAES), raises a unified and powerful voice. The theme, "Our Land. Our Future. We are #GenerationRestoration," compels urgent action. We acknowledge the environmental crises afflicting Africa—land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss. However, we are undeterred. Today, ANAES issues an unequivocal call to action: a restored Africa is not just a dream, but also our collective mission!

Africa's hurting, but Africa's rising

The reality is stark. Desertification, deforestation, and unsustainable practices threaten 65% of Africa's productive land. Climate change exacerbates this crisis, with soaring temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events. This endangers not only our environment, but also the very bedrock of our economies and societies.

Yet, Africa is resilient. Across the continent, restoration initiatives like the Great Green Wall, Ethiopia's Green Legacy, and Farmer-managed Natural Regeneration showcase our collective spirit and resolve.

ANAES Commits a Partnership for Change

ANAES recognizes the transformative potential of AFR100, the African-led initiative to restore 100 million hectares by 2030. We pledge to be not passive observers, but active and vital partners in this critical endeavor, aligning with the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Montreal-Kumming Framework on Biodiversity.

Here's our concrete action plan:

- **Mobilizing with Force:** We will harness the collective power of our vast network of NGOs across Africa. Together, we will amplify awareness about AFR100 and the UN Decade, inspiring widespread participation in restoration efforts.

- **Knowledge for Action:** We will bridge gaps by facilitating the exchange of best practices among member NGOs. Effective restoration techniques, shared and disseminated, will become powerful catalysts for change.

Towards a Restored Africa, ANAES's Commitment

On this World Environment Day, ANAES makes a resounding declaration. We are committed to significantly contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Africa's Agenda: "The Africa We Want." Our strategic actions include:

- **Empowering Local Champions:** We will establish ANAES National Platforms as part of empowering local champions. We will also prioritize and support community-based restoration projects across the continent as local communities are the true custodians of the land, and their active participation is essential.

- **Sustainable Practices, Enduring Future:** We will champion the widespread adoption of sustainable land management practices. These practices will enhance soil health, conserve water, and protect Africa's irreplaceable biodiversity, aligning with the goals of the Montreal-Kumming Framework.

- **Investing in the Future:** We will invest in building the knowledge and skills of African communities in ecological restoration. Education is the seed from which a restored Africa will flourish.

- **Introducing the Endokwa Programme:** We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Endokwa Programme in Kigali, Rwanda! This initiative, spearheaded by the African NGOs Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (ANAES) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD/AFR100), aims to combat land degradation and promote sustainable development across Africa. The programme seeks to restore degraded ecosystems and improve community well-being through empowering local restoration champions, implementing integrated landscape restoration, enhancing community livelihoods via nature-based businesses, and fostering knowledge sharing and partnerships. We extend our gratitude to the Earth Bezos Fund for funding the pilot phase of this initiative to be implemented in Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the government of Rwanda for providing a friendly environment and demonstrating exemplary stewardship in environmental preservation. Their support is invaluable as we embark on this critical mission. By 2030, Endokwa aims to engage at least 3 million households in ecosystem restoration and developing nature-based businesses, and restore at least 5 million hectares of land across 25 African countries, with at least 2 model restoration sites per country.

A Call to Action

The future of Africa rests on our ability to heal its land. We cannot afford to be mere observers. Through the collective strength of ANAES, and every committed African initiative, we will be the generation of restoration. Let us unite, scale up our efforts, and reclaim our land—one seed, one tree, one hectare at a time.

About ANAES

The African NGOs Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (ANAES), is a collaborative effort dedicated to addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges in Africa. Founded, by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) in collaboration with the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance (CBA), The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), Bezos Earth Fund, Livelihoods Funds, Reforest'Action, One Tree Planted, Mountain Partnership and a coalition of 34 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to environmental sustainability and community well-being across the continent.

ANAES Members

Coordination

- Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)

Benin

- Amis de l'Afrique Francophone (AMAF)

Burundi

- Association Burundaise pour la Protection de la Nature (ABN)
- Réseau Burundi 2000 Plus (RBU)

Cameroon

- Foundation for Environment & Development (FEDEV)
- Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS)

DR Congo

- La plate-forme Diobass du Kivu (DIOBASS)
- Organisation Congolaise des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature ASBL (OCEAN)
- Congo Basin Conservation Society (CBCS)

Ethiopia

- Ethiopia Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA)
- Afromontane Biodiversity Conservation in Ethiopia (ABCE)
- Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS)

Guinea

- Association de Plaidoyer, Recherche et Renforcement de Capacités des ONG (PRONG)

Kenya

- Nature Kenya (NK)
- Taita Hills Kenya/ Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF)

Malawi

- Action for Environmental Sustainability (AfES)
- Centre for Applied Systems Analysis (CASA)

Madagascar

- Impact Madagascar (IM)

Morocco

- Mountain Coalition in Morocco (CCM)
- Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association (MBLA)

Nigeria

- Environment and Tourism Support-Initiative (EATS)

Rwanda

- Nature Rwanda (NR)
- Rural Environment and Development Organisation (REDO)
- Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organisation (RECOR)
- Action pour la Protection de l"Environnement et la Promotion des Filières Agricoles (APEFA)

South Sudan

- South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation (SSNCO)
- Centre for Environmental Advocacy and Development (CEDA)

Tanzania

- Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG)
- Nature Tanzania (NT)

Uganda

- Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST)
- Nature Uganda (NU)
- Uplift the Low Poor Uganda

Zambia

- Wildlife & Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WECSZ)
- Green Living Movement (GLM)