



Agroecology for Biodiversity and Livelihoods

Building Capacity and Partnerships in Africa

Learning Workshop – 22-24.06.2026 – Bomet, Kenya



11 countries
participating

22 participants

- 8 WWF country offices
- 8 Agroecology Organisation
- Bomet county government
- WWF Global Food Practice
 - WWF Netherlands
 - WWF Colombia
 - WWF International (US)
- Biovision Foundation Team



The 3-day journey

Agroeco-WHAT?



How does AE look like concretely?



How to communicate about your work?



DAY 1

Understanding Agroecology

DAY 1

Project fair

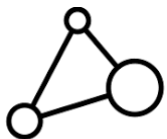
DAY 2

Field visit

DAY 1

Best practices on project communication

How to address biodiversity challenges through agroecology?



How to catalyse change & How to measure it?



What is the broader picture on commitments for AE



DAY 3

Connecting Agroecology and Biodiversity outcomes

DAY 3

Entrepreneurship Measures and Indicators

DAY 3

Understanding policy, finance and global frameworks

Participants' key question at the beginning of the workshop

summary of inputs from participants on sticky notes

Policy and governance

- Why is it difficult for policymakers to adopt agroecology into laws and policies?
- How can governments promote biopesticides and reduce chemical fertilizer use?
- How can advocacy campaigns against pesticides be organized at national, continental and global levels?

Measuring impact

- How can agroecology principles be translated into concrete outcomes?
- What indicators can track progress?
- At what point can improved soil fertility be confirmed in degraded/arid communal land?

Scaling and investment

- How can agroecology feed nations?
- How can agroecology practices be scaled up?
- How can investment in agroecology support both biodiversity and livelihoods?

Biodiversity and conservation

- How can agroecology contribute to biodiversity conservation?
- Can agroecology alone conserve biodiversity?
- How can agroecology–biodiversity conservation be sustained?
- How can forest conversion be avoided through agroecological practices?

Participation and partnerships

- How can more youth be involved in biodiversity conservation decision-making?
- How can partnerships among stakeholders be strengthened?
- How can relevant constituencies be better included?



Session 1

Understanding Agroecology

*Comprendre
l'agroécologie*



PowerPoint Presentation

[1_Session1_Understanding
Agroecology and links to
BD](#)



PowerPoint Presentation

[1_Session 1_AE and other
frameworks_NPP](#)



Session 2

Project fair

Foire aux projets

Project fair: 4 cases, 4 approaches



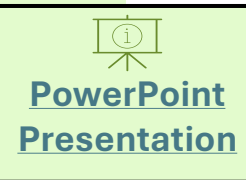
Case 1: Territorial approach to agroecology

- Agroecology blocks
- Madagascar
- By Tolotra (CTAS)



Case 2: Seed diversity

- Community seed banks
- Kenya
- By Gideon (BIBA Kenya)



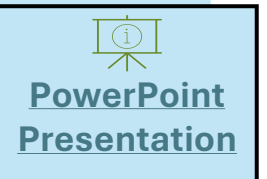
Case 3: Markets for agroecological products

- Value chain and markets for AE products
- Tanzania
- By Reguli + Franck (WWF Tanzania)



Case 4: Human-wildlife coexistence

- KAZA landscape
- Zimbabwe
- By Paul (WWF Zimbabwe)





Session 3

Agroecology and its connections to biodiversity conservation

L'agroécologie et ses liens avec la conservation et la biodiversité

Key lessons on implementation

summary of plenary discussion

1. Put communities at the center

Successful implementation starts with community ownership, builds on local priorities, and relies on long-term co-creation rather than externally imposed solutions.

2. Learn by doing

Participants emphasized the importance of acting despite uncertainty, experimenting with new approaches, and not waiting for perfect conditions before starting (dare novelty).

3. Make transitions visible

Monitoring and documenting the transition process helps maintain engagement, demonstrate progress, and support learning.

4. Respect local knowledge and culture

Implementation should integrate traditional knowledge, cultural values and spiritual dimensions alongside technical agroecological practices.



Key lessons on implementation - *continued*

summary of plenary discussion



5. Invest in knowledge exchange

Peer learning, exchanges, demonstrations and practitioner networks are viewed as among the most effective investments for scaling agroecology.

6. Create enabling conditions

Sub-national policy frameworks, multi-stakeholder engagement and functioning markets for agroecological products are essential to sustain implementation.

7. Engage the next generation

Youth engagement requires modern communication channels and approaches that resonate with younger audiences.

Communication: co-construction

Summary of inputs from participants

How agroecology is communicated was seen as just as important as the message itself

DOs

- focus on practical benefits
- connect to health, income and livelihoods
- use evidence and examples
- keep messages simple and focused
- meet audiences where they are

DON'T

- use jargon and technical language
- start with definitions and principles
- criticize other approaches
- overcomplicate the message
- overpromise outcomes

Simple, practical and evidence-based communication emerged as a common recommendation.



[Workshop Handout](#) & Document
3_Communication_Framing_Traps_extended
available

Discussion points and outcome Day 1

The connection exists

Consensus that agroecology and biodiversity conservation belong together; discussions largely focused on explaining and reinforcing the link rather than questioning it:

- “two sides of the same coin”
- “coexist in nature”
- “agroecology is conservation”
- “agroecology is an inclusive way of conservation”
- “healthy ecosystems and livelihoods”
- “maintaining ecosystem services”

There was little debate on this.



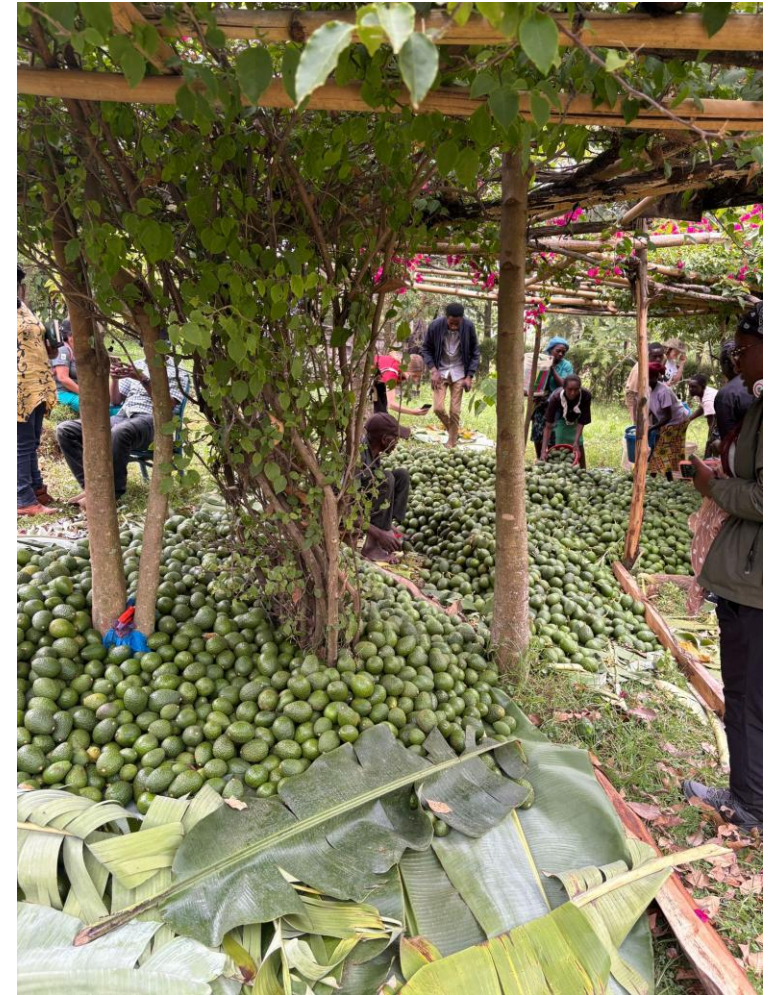
Discussion points and outcome Day 1

Evidence matters

Demonstrating results emerged as essential for convincing practitioners, policy-makers and investors:

- documented success stories
- demonstration farms and field visits
- exchange visits and peer learning
- evidence-based research
- data and measurable outcomes
- business cases and return on investment

The discussion repeatedly returned to proof, not promises.



Discussion points and outcome Day 1

People and communities matter

Successful transitions were consistently linked to community ownership, participation and local leadership.

- community buy-in
- co-creation and long-term engagement
- local leaders as messengers
- cultural and spiritual factors matter
- youth engagement
- communities at the centre of decision-making

Agroecological transitions were viewed as social processes as much as technical ones.



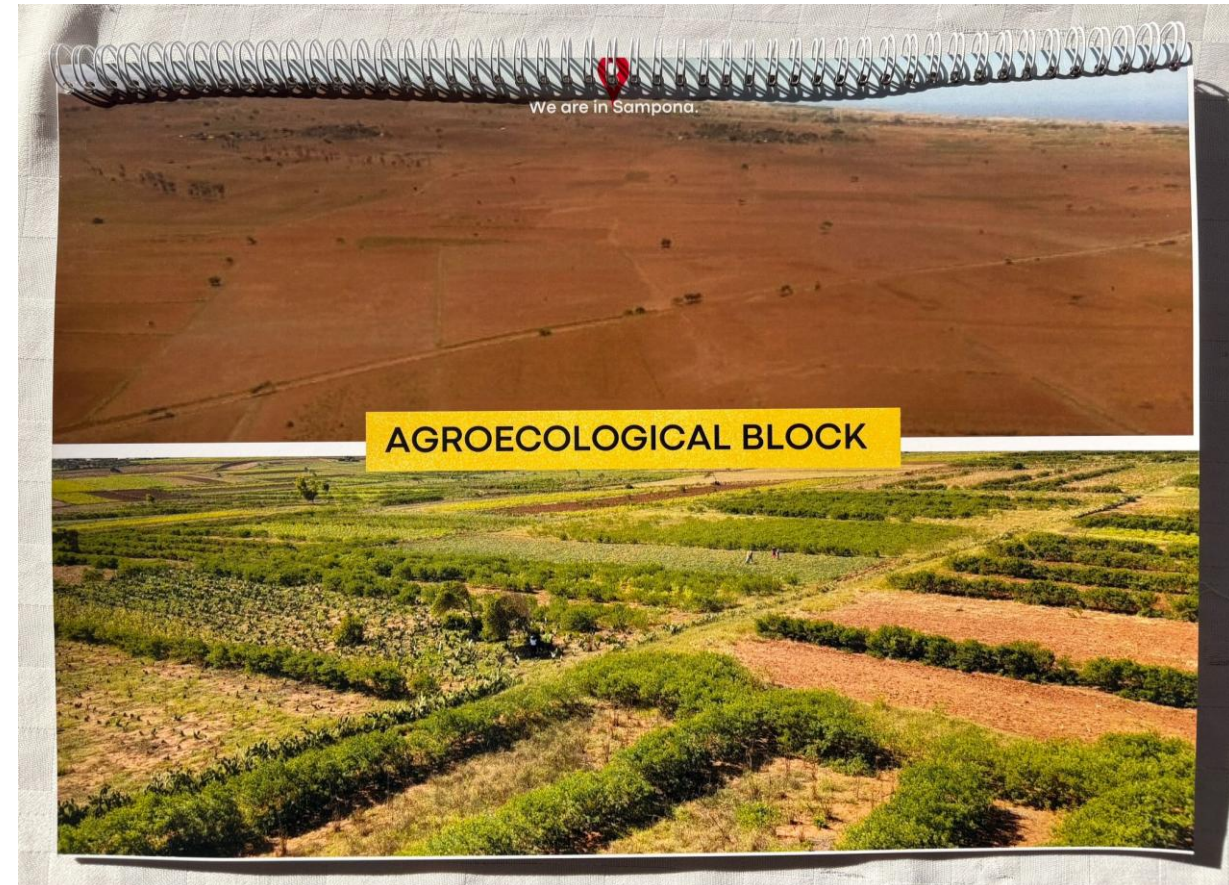
Discussion points and outcome Day 1

Scaling remains the challenge

Agreement on the value of agroecology was strong; questions remain on how to scale and sustain transitions.

- markets for agroecological products
- commercialization and entrepreneurship
- policy integration
- financing and investment
- monitoring progress
- multi-stakeholder engagement
- demonstrating economic viability

The conversation increasingly shifted from "why agroecology?" to "how do we scale it?"





Session 4

Farm visits



Session 5

Co-constructing agroecological solutions for a biodiversity challenge

Construire ensemble des solutions agroécologiques pour relever le défi de la biodiversité

Key insights on addressing biodiversity challenges through agroecology

summary of group exercise and plenary discussion



Conserving
pollinator communities



Restoring
wetlands



Protecting endemic birds
through pastoral systems

Three case studies on how agroecology can support different biodiversity goals were explored. The three groups identified similar enabling conditions that make the connection between agroecology and biodiversity outcomes possible.

Key insight: Agroecology is not a single intervention or practice, it is a coordinated transition requiring multiple, reinforcing actions across the food system.

Enabling conditions that make the connection between agroecology and biodiversity outcomes possible



- Start by understanding the biodiversity challenge (i.e. what is the ecological requirements of the grassland endemic species?, what is the community of pollinators that you want to benefit?).
- Co-create knowledge with local people, including indigenous and traditional knowledge.
- Combine scientific data, local observations and participatory monitoring to guide decisions.
- Use learning-by-doing: trials, demonstration sites and adaptive management.



- Communities are central to both agroecology and conservation. They are not just beneficiaries; they are stewards and decision-makers.
- Build local capacity and confidence through training, exchange and peer learning on both agroecology and the conservation challenge.
- Strengthen community-based organisations, cooperatives and collective action.
- Ensure FPIC and inclusive participation, recognising diverse voices and roles, especially women and youth.



- Understand the policy environment: regulations, tenure systems, and institutional mandates.
- Understand the conservation status of the system (e.g. is it a wetland protected under RAMSAR convention?)
- Address barriers such as HHP use, insecure land and resource rights, or restrictive wetland and grazing policies.
- Advocate for enabling policies and incentives (e.g. PES, land-use plans, agroecology-friendly standards).

Enabling conditions that make the connection between agroecology and biodiversity outcomes possible



- Plan at landscape scale to balance agroecological production, conservation, restoration and connectivity.
- Protect and restore critical habitats (e.g. wetlands, corridors, native vegetation, pastoral routes). Understand the contributions of agroecological practices and designs to each habitat.
- Use participatory land-use planning to align agroecological production, ecosystem services, livelihoods and climate resilience.



- Create demand for biodiversity-friendly agroecological products and services.
- Support local agroecological enterprises, SMEs and cooperatives to add value and create jobs.
- Develop and promote incentives and traceability that reward agroecological practices (e.g. certification, PGS)
- Strengthen short, fair and transparent value chains.



- Build partnerships between conservation and agroecology organisations to combine complementary expertise and achieve shared outcomes.
- Offer transition finance, risk-sharing tools and incentives that reduce the cost of change to agroecological practices and products.
- Start small, learn, adapt and scale: pilots, phased approaches and peer-to-peer diffusion.
- Track progress with M&E and KPIs that capture both ecological and livelihood outcomes.



Session 6

Agroecology deep dive:
entrepreneurship

*Agroécologie approfondie :
l'entrepreneuriat*



PowerPoint Presentation

[6_Agroecological
Entrepreneurship_BV](#)



PowerPoint Presentation

[6_Agroecological
Entrepreneurship_IDP](#)



Session 7

How to measure agroecology

Comment évaluer l'agroécologie



PowerPoint Presentation

[7_How to measure agroecology_BV](#)



PowerPoint Presentation

[7_How to measure agroecology_Landscape Alliance](#)



Session 8

Panel Discussion

From Global to local commitments - Agroecology in policy spaces

Table ronde

Des engagements mondiaux aux engagements locaux - l'agroécologie dans les espaces de décision

Key lessons on policy

summary of plenary discussion

- NBSAPs and biodiversity policies offer important entry points for agroecology.
- Subnational and local policies are often closest to community priorities and implementation realities.
- Successful policy influence requires strong evidence, coalitions, active participation in consultations, and concrete proposals.
- Implementation is often the biggest challenge; alignment across policies, financing mechanisms, and sectors is essential.
- Long-term transition support, youth engagement, labour considerations, and landscape-level approaches are critical for scaling agroecology.
- Food systems should be positioned as a central policy arena for achieving biodiversity goals.





Workshop outcome, evaluation and next steps

Résultats de l'atelier, évaluation et prochaines étapes

Outcome: Communication

The workshop was well covered by a number of media stations, incl. local TV

Home > Agriculture > African Agroecology experts convene in Kenya to tackle food insecurity and biodiversity...

Agriculture News

African Agroecology Experts Convene In Kenya To Tackle Food Insecurity And Biodiversity Loss

June 24, 2026 298 0

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Agroecology, Conservation experts from Africa meet in Bomet for regional exchange forum

Leading agroecology organisations from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, DR Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe are represented

By KBC Digital - June 23, 2026 - Save It



AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT LATEST NEWS TOP STORIES

Agroecology Meeting In Bomet: What's On Agenda, Who Is Attending?

June 23, 2026

The push for common agroecology, conservation and agriculture are...
<https://kassdigital.co.ke/agroecology-meeting-in-bomet-whats-on-agenda-who-is-attending/>

The Children's Climate Risk Report updated by the impact of heatwaves,

African experts unite in Kenya to advance Agroecology remedy

by Clifford Kotiak and Jacob Orendo Dailyko

Participants noted that while food production remains essential for livelihoods and economic growth, agriculture is also among the leading drivers of biodiversity loss globally. The workshop seeks to demonstrate how farming systems can instead become part of the solution by promoting nature positive production approaches. Representatives from WWF's Global Food Practice emphasized that agroecology offers a practical pathway for addressing food security challenges while restoring ecosystems and improving livelihoods. The Biodiversity Foundation highlighted that discussions around agroecology have evolved beyond proving its effectiveness and should now focus on scaling successful approaches and integrating them into broader conservation and development agendas. Agroecology expert Reguli Marandu observed that many communities have prac-

tical agroecological principles for generations through traditional farming systems. "The goal should be to strengthen and scale what is already working rather than replacing it entirely. We must build on the knowledge communities already possess," Marandu said. He further noted that market access remains one of the greatest challenges facing agroecological producers, arguing that sustainable farming must also generate meaningful economic returns if it is to attract young people and remain viable in the long term. County leaders also pledged support for agroecological approaches. Bomet Deputy Governor Shadrack David Bortich said county governments have a responsibility to promote environmentally sustainable agricultural practices through policy support, legislation, and budget allocations.



- African Agroecology Experts Convene in Kenya to Tackle Food Insecurity and Biodiversity Loss
- <https://epaper.peopledaily.digital/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pnum=16&edid=35480f63-c8b3-...>
- African Experts Convene in Bomet to Forge Nature-Positive Farming Policies
- <https://www.kbc.co.ke/agroecology-conservation-experts-from-africa-meet-in-bomet-for-regional-excha...>
- <https://kassdigital.co.ke/latest/agroecology-meeting-in-bomet-whats-on-agenda-who-is-attending/>
- <https://youtu.be/PEo98Hal5QA?si=tVZbqyHN-rFUwO8n>

Outcome: Communication

And LinkedIn

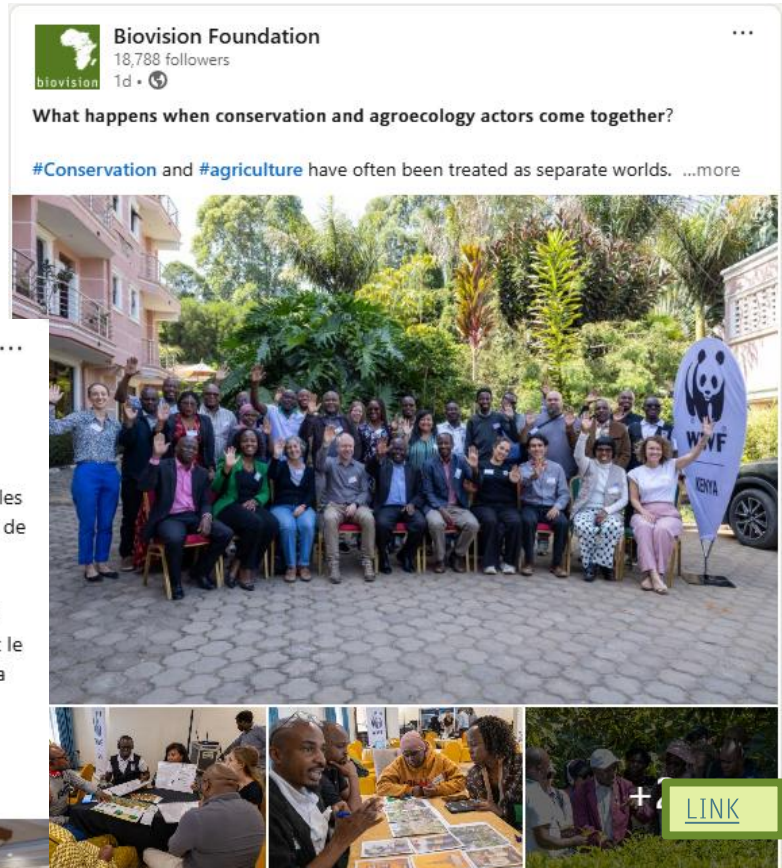
Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)
162 followers
6d • Edited •

Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE) along with other organisations BIBA Kenya (Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya) Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity ZAAB SAILD @Community Sustainable Initiatives Ltd @Centre technique agro-écologique du Sud @Illes de Paix @TSURO were invited to the Agroecology for Biodiversity and Livelihoods learning workshop hosted by Biovision Foundation and WWF. <https://lnkd.in/dGBEeXEv>

SAILD
2,988 followers
6d •

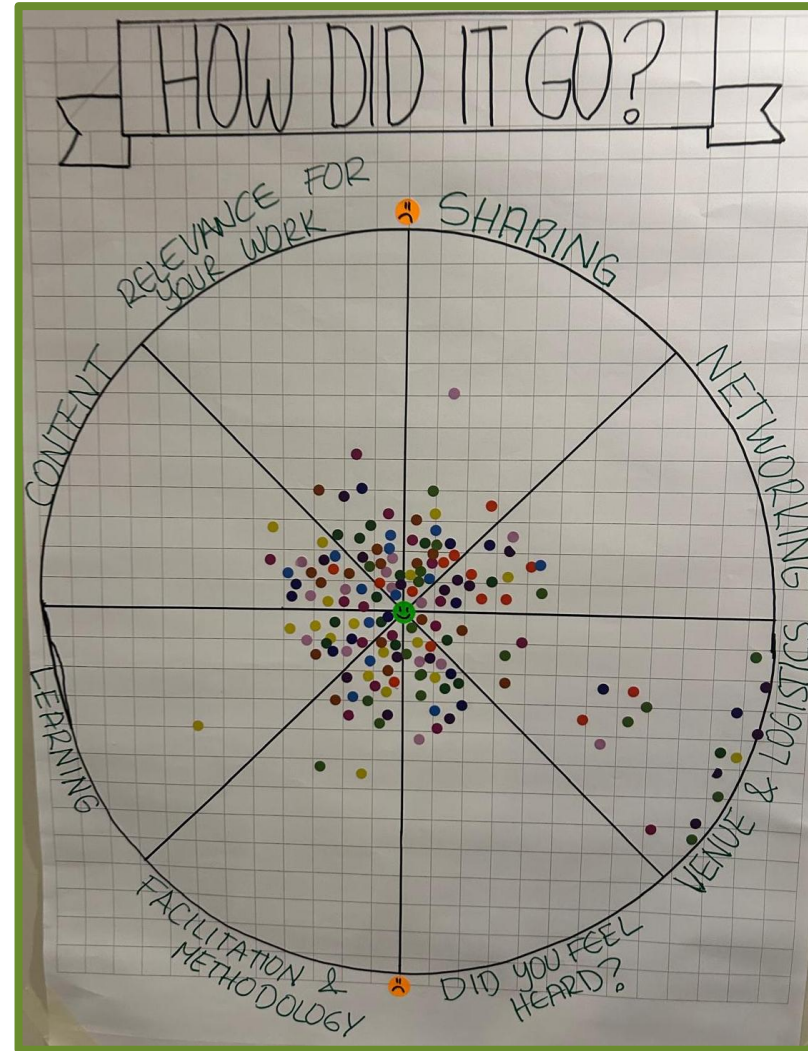
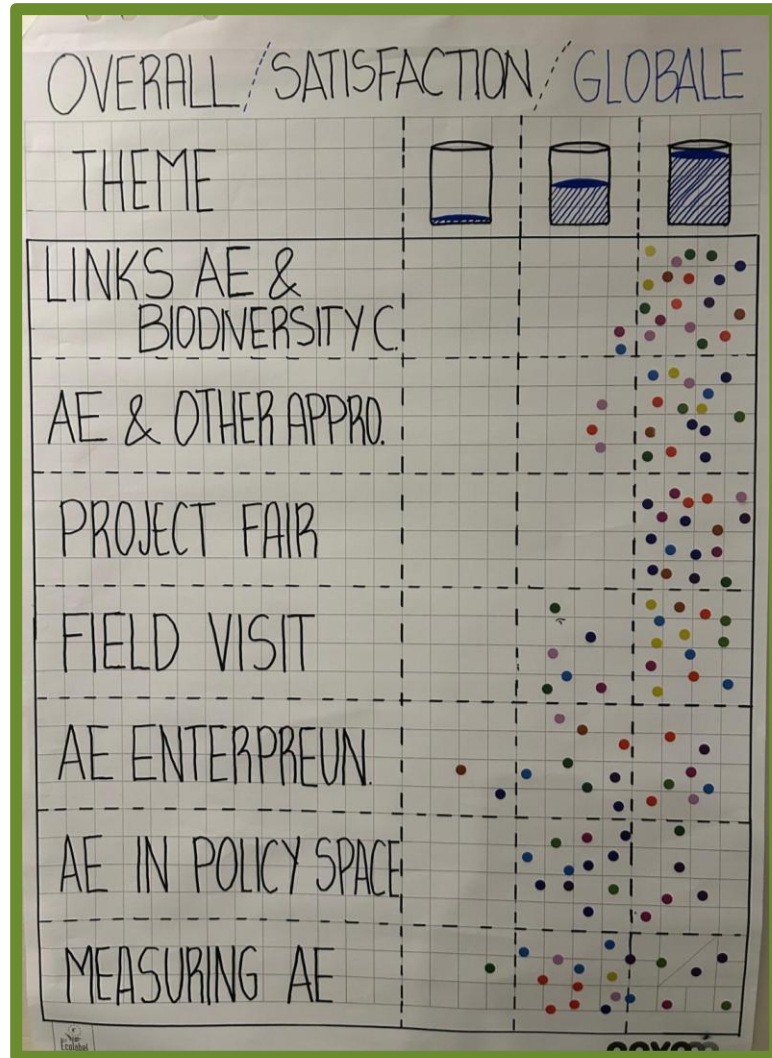
En debut de semaine, le SAILD a pris part à l'atelier d'apprentissage organisé par **Biovision Foundation** et **WWF** au **#Kenya**. Sous le thème "l'agroécologie au service de la biodiversité et des moyens de subsistance: renforcer les capacités et les partenariats", l'atelier régional a réuni une trentaine de participants d'une dizaine de pays africains pour un partage d'expérience sur le lien de l'agroécologie avec la **#conservation** et la **#biodiversité**. L'objectif de ces 3 jours d'échange était de développer des stratégies d'intégration de l'**#agroécologie** dans la conservation à travers le réseautage entre experts de la conservation et de l'agroécologie. Durant le séjour dans le comté de Bomet, il a également été question de toucher du doigt la réalité à travers une descente de terrain dans plusieurs fermes agroécologiques. <https://lnkd.in/dGBEeXEv>

Show translation



LINK to all pictures of the event, source: **WWF Kenya**

Workshop evaluation by participants



Outputs and Next steps

- Network of Conservation and Agroecology actors created (incl. Whatsapp Group)
- Workshop Handout on Communication of Agroecology based on inputs from participants
- Video interviews with selected members to highlight connection between Biodiversity and Agroecology – communication campaign planned for COP17





Contacts

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Resource page: [Agroecology infopool](#)

WWF

Email: phans@wwf.nl

Resource page: www.panda.org