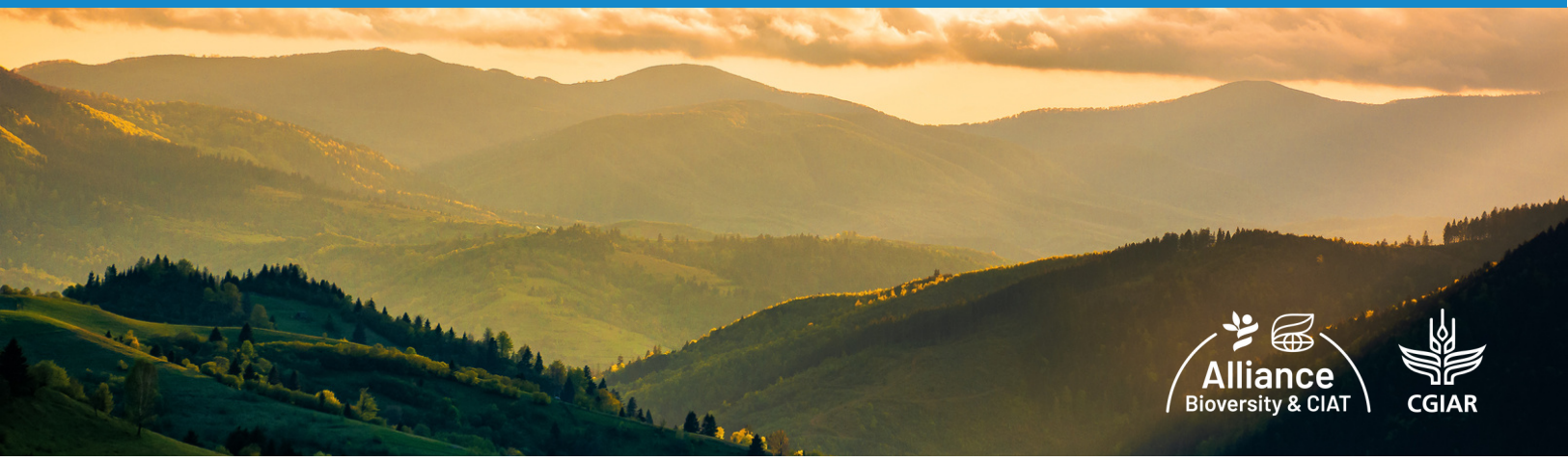

PART 1: Description and all information of the outcome/impact reported

TYPE
OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

TITLE
The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) endorses creation of a regional network for the conservation and use of Crop Wild Relatives

STATUS
On-going

YEAR
2021

OUTCOME IMPACT CASE REPORT
Study #4689
Stage of Maturity of change reported: stage 2

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: MULTI-NATIONAL

COUNTRIES: Botswana / Mauritius / Eswatini / Angola / The Democratic Republic of the Congo / Seychelles / Malawi / Madagascar / South Africa / Mozambique / Tanzania, United Republic / Zambia / Lesotho / Comoros / Namibia / Zimbabwe

OUTCOME STORY/IMPACT STATEMENT
The Alliance led the development of a regional network for the conservation and use of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This network was formally endorsed by the SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food security, Fisheries, and Aquaculture. The network will serve as a platform for CWR stakeholders (researchers, gene bank curators, breeders, conservationists and farmers) to promote effective conservation and use of CWR.

On May 7, 2021, the Darwin Initiative project 26-023 achieved a milestone by gaining approval for a white paper proposing the creation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) Regional Network. This network, supported by the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre, is the world's first regional initiative for conserving crop wild relatives, setting an example for other regions to follow in establishing a global CWR network.

LINKS TO ANY COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS RELATING TO THIS OUTCOME

- http://www.cropwildrelatives.org/sadc-cwr-net/latest-news/
- https://tinyurl.com/y2c9yxrb

Contributing external partners:

- NPGRC - National Plant Genetic Resources Centre of Tanzania
- UOM - University of Mauritius
- ZARI - Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
- DAFF - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)
- SADC-SPGRC - Southern African Development Community Plant Genetic ResourcesCentre
- University of Birmingham
- MPGRC - Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre

CGIAR INNOVATION(S) OR FINDINGS THAT HAVE RESULTED IN THIS OUTCOME OR IMPACT

The Alliance in partnership with its partners University of Birmingham, SADC Plant Genetic resources Centre and national partners, developed and tested an innovative conservation planning toolkit which helps to identify hotspots of diversity of CWR for in situ conservation and helps in the preparation of National Strategies and Action plans for the conservation and use of CWR

GENDER, YOUTH, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- **CapDev relevance:** 1 - Significant. Main achievements with specific CapDev relevance: Toolkit is used for train people in conservation planning.
- **Climate Change relevance:** 1 - Significant. Describe main achievements with specific Climate Change relevance: Innovation can help assess impact of climate change on wild populations of CWR.

POLICIES CONTRIBUTION

908 - Establishment of SADC CWR Network

ELABORATION OF OUTCOME/IMPACT STATEMENT

Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) species hold immense significance in maintaining agricultural progress and food security. They possess genes that resist pests, diseases, and adaptive traits for changing climates. However, these species are at risk and haven't received sufficient research attention. Only a few have been preserved in gene banks, and their genetic diversity in their natural habitats remains poorly understood. Global initiatives such as the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture have stressed the need for CWR conservation to counter biodiversity loss and sustain agriculture. The Alliance conducted projects in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. These initiatives aimed to showcase collaborative strategies among SADC countries for conserving CWR diversity and facilitating their utilization. The projects involved activities like national CWR inventories, identification of hotspots, training participants in conservation techniques, and assisting partner nations in creating National Strategic Action Plans. They also explored mechanisms to incentivize farmers for CWR conservation. By utilizing innovative conservation planning methodologies the projects identified 271 priority areas spanning 13 SADC countries for in situ and ex situ CWR conservation. To create an enabling policy framework for this conservation network, the Alliance partnered with the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC), which already maintained a network for ex situ conservation. This collaboration aimed to establish a more integrated regional conservation strategy. A white paper and policy brief were formulated and approved from SADC secretariat committees and ministers responsible for agriculture, food security, and fisheries. This formal endorsement led to the establishment of the SADC CWR network.

REFERENCES

1. FAO. 2019. The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, J. Bélanger & D. Pilling
2. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES)- Summary for policymakers of the Global Assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services
3. Willis, K.J. (ed.) 2017. State of the World's Plants 2017. Report. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
4. Dulloo M.E. and Maxted N. (2019). Editorial Special Issue Crop wild relative. Plant Genetic Resources: Characterization and Utilization 17(2)
5. Allen, E., Gaisberger, H., Magos Brehm, J., Maxted, N., Thormann, I., Lupupa, T., Dulloo M.E., Kell, S. (2019). A crop wild relative inventory for Southern Africa: A first step in linking conservation and use of valuable wild populations for enhancing food security. Plant Genetic Resources: Characterization and Utilization
6. Magos Brehm, J., Kell, S., Thormann, I., Gaisberger, H., Dulloo, M.E, & Maxted, N. (2019). New tools for crop wild relative conservation planning. Plant Genetic Resources: Characterization and Utilization
7. Magos Brehm J. et al (2022). Planning complementary conservation of crop wild relative diversity in southern Africa. Diversity and Distribution.
8. Dulloo M.E, Maxted N., Shava J., Pungulani L., Hamisy W., Munkombwe G., Magos-Brehm J.,Bissessur P., (2021). Crop wild relatives in south Africa Development Community. Policy Brief 49.
9. Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. 8pp. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/113692
10. SADC (2021). Record of Joint meeting of SADC ministers responsible for agriculture and food security, and Fisheries and Aquaculture. 07 May

PART 2: Mapping to Alliance strategy and structure

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Lever 4 - Agrobiodiversity

SDG TARGETS

- **15.5 -** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- **2.5 -** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
- **15.9 -** By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

FUNDING SOURCES:

(FS5958) Bilateral - UK - Darwin (UK - DEFRA) Bridging agriculture and environment: Southern African crop-wild-relative regional network

CONTACT PERSON

Ehsan Dulloo
Principal Scientist and Team leader, Agrobiodiversity
Production System Team
Bioversity International | Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT | CGIAR
e.dulloo@cgiar.org

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

http://alliancebioversityciat.org www.cgiar.org