bio watch
SOUTH AFRICA biodiversity | food sovereignty | biosafety | social justice

Annual Report 2011

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SOUTH AFRICA biodiversity | food sovereignty | biosafety | social justice

In the context of multiple global crises (including food, energy and climate change) we envision a country and a world in which people have control over their food, agricultural resources and practices, and other natural resources within a biodiverse, agro-ecological and sustainable system.

Established in 1997, **Biowatch South Africa** strives for social and ecological justice through challenging industrial agriculture and demonstrating ecologically sustainable alternatives by:

- supporting small-scale farmers to make informed choices; have control over their agricultural resources (including land, water, seed, infrastructure); and secure their farmers' rights.
- contributing to building platforms for civil society to develop joint understanding and action in the interests of Biowatch's vision.
- challenging and supporting government to implement policies and practices that promote, facilitate, and actively support agro-ecology, and that safeguard people and land.
- resisting corporate appropriation of natural resources.

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Cover photograph: (Left to right) Benolta Mkhwanazi, Bongekile Msweli and Busisiwe Ngema from Zimele Rural Women's Empowerment Organisation (ZRWEO), a Biowatch project site at KwaHhohho.

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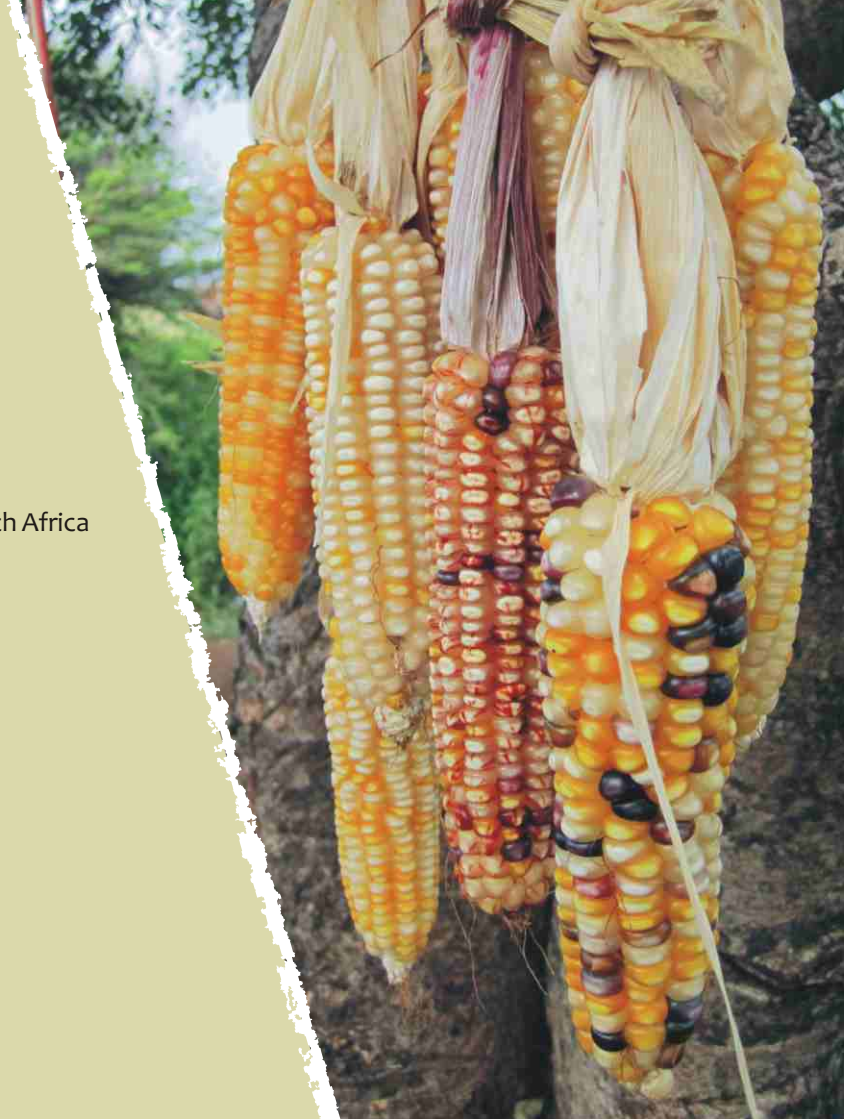


SAY NO to GMO
Agro-ecology
& food sovereignty

Chairperson's Report

David Fig

2011 was the year to think through the impacts of climate change. For Biowatch, the key questions included the impacts on agriculture.

Durban, where Biowatch is headquartered, was chosen to host the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November-December, so the issues came very close to home.

Climate change and agriculture a focus in 2011

Close to the start of the year, Biowatch was able to intervene at the African Climate Change Space at the World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal. Biowatch co-hosted a workshop on how industrial agriculture and the so-called green revolution are not needed for food security in Africa. Biowatch's Lawrence Mkhaliphi was one of the key panellists at the event.

In order to prepare Biowatch's constituency for the end-of-year UN meetings, the organisation produced and distributed useful handouts on agro-ecological principles and climate justice. These helped in educational processes undertaken in Biowatch-linked communities.

Biowatch also prepared submissions of comments to the Green Paper on National Climate Change Response, challenging government's use of GM crops as a strategy to prevent climate change, and the labelling of monocrop timber plantations as carbon sinks.

During the COP17 meetings in Durban, Biowatch participated in the Global Day of Action on 3 December and in the People's Space, a set of venues in which international and local civil society held a series of events highlighting climate change. There, Biowatch co-hosted an event on "Agro-Ecology and Climate", which stressed the promotion of agro-ecological approaches in order to strengthen communities against the impacts of climate change. Biowatch presented on agro-ecology as an alternative to industrial agriculture.

The People's Space also saw the launch of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), joining a series of networks together. Food sovereignty, AFSA claims, is "the

right of peoples to food produced through ecologically-sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations". Biowatch shares these values and looks forward to playing a part in AFSA.

Since Biowatch staff and community representatives had credentials to enter the formal UN conference, we were also able to participate as panellists in a side event organised by the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) and IBON International on "Weathering the Climate Crisis: The Way of Ecological Agriculture".

The results of the COP were disappointing, and a failure in the eyes of civil society. The world is without any binding agreement to replace the first period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Trust in the UN system has broken down, and it will be ever more important for civil society organisations like Biowatch and its networks to be involved in advocacy and in preparing communities to be more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change.

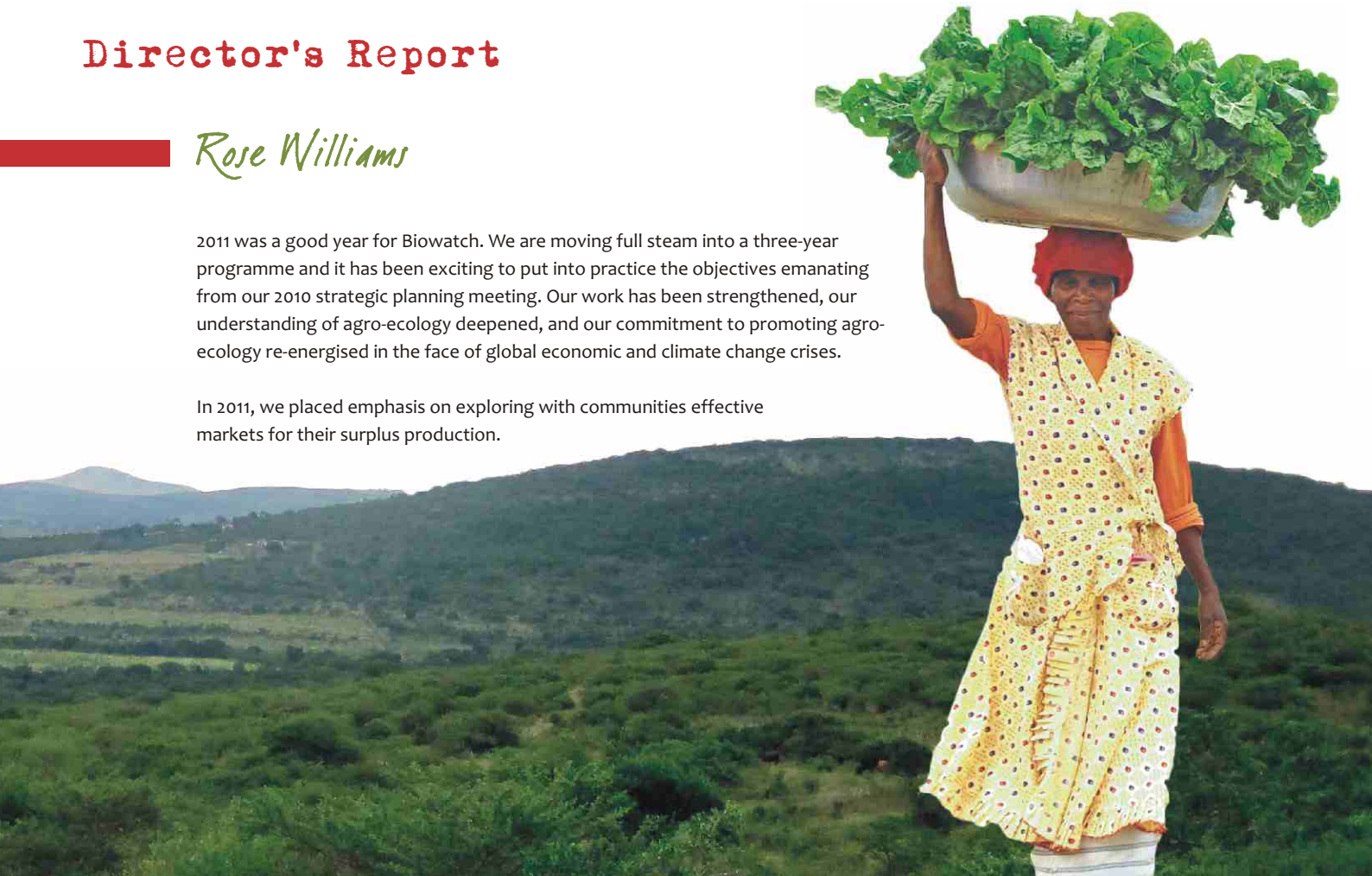
David Fig, Chairperson
Biowatch Trust

Director's Report

Rose Williams

2011 was a good year for Biowatch. We are moving full steam into a three-year programme and it has been exciting to put into practice the objectives emanating from our 2010 strategic planning meeting. Our work has been strengthened, our understanding of agro-ecology deepened, and our commitment to promoting agro-ecology re-energised in the face of global economic and climate change crises.

In 2011, we placed emphasis on exploring with communities effective markets for their surplus production.



This inspiring work is detailed later in this report, as is the work of the community facilitators and the market committees.

At a community level, Biowatch spent much time validating traditional agricultural knowledge, countering its dismissal by many government agricultural extension officers who foist industrial agriculture model practices onto communities. This includes "donations" of fertilisers and genetically modified seed. Even though state support is sorely needed, project members have returned these "donations" as they do not want this type of support.

At a national level, we welcomed the Competition Tribunal ruling refusing a merger between the multinational Pioneer Hi-Bred and the South African seed company Pannar Seed (Pty) Ltd. This was a confirmation of the Competition Commission ruling that was appealed by the two hopeful merging parties. Biowatch was involved at both the Commission and Tribunal levels. Also at a national level, we began the "Farmers' Rights and Seed Sovereignty in South Africa" research project with fieldwork undertaken in two project sites.

At an international level, we critiqued the myth that industrial agriculture and Green Revolution models were needed for food security (World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal) and participated in a Resilience Workshop (African Biodiversity Network partners' meeting in Nanyuki, Kenya) where methodologies around strengthening resilience at the community and ecosystems level was reviewed and analysed. This work fed into the agro-ecology climate event which took place in Durban in November, during COP17. At the event, which took place at the People's Space (the alternative COP17 space), an agro-ecological approach was promoted as a form of community resilience against global food shortages, energy, poverty and climate change impacts.

Participation in the launch of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), which also took place at the People's Space, was a landmark event.

Organisation Development

Staff training during the year included: participation in the Management Leadership Development Programme (MLDP); several workshops on climate change and climate justice; training on ecosystems and community resilience; participation in a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning course; and training on building funds and reserves for

financial sustainability for NPOs. The latter training supported our determination to secure the financial sustainability of the organisation.

Even though Biowatch has been operating for many years and has accomplished much in this time, the financial sustainability of the organisation has not had similar attention. This is something that we are determined to change. It is clear that if we want to be an organisation that can provide on-going support to rural communities and contributions at a policy level to effect broader change, we need a financially sustainable organisation.

At a staff level, time was set aside during the year for learning and strategising, culminating in an end of year "reflection, learning and planning" meeting. This time was critical for us to step back from a year full of activities and to reflect on how we work, where the challenges and successes have been, and how best to move forward.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Following on from a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework established in 2010, a baseline study was completed during the first half of 2011. The study, which included all eight Biowatch project sites, was participatory in nature and was designed to be an effective tool for our M&E and, importantly, a tool for

communities to use themselves to analyse their situation and monitor their progress.

Features measured include agro-ecological compliance, selling of surplus production, and number of traditional seed varieties stored in the household seed bank (an indirect indicator for food sovereignty and good nutrition). Each project member mapped these features for their household, and together they produced community maps for each of the project sites. Qualitative data was also obtained, including information on what project members are able to achieve with the income generated from the sales of their produce.

In a separate exercise, an independent agro-ecology specialist undertook an agro-ecological assessment of two of our sites. This helped us to improve our agricultural practice and gave guidance towards incorporating livestock into the projects.

Thanks

Our thanks go to our donors, without whom our work would not be possible. We thank Comic Relief, DG Murray Trust, the Guiseppe and Rita Raimondo Charitable Trust, International Development Exchange (IDEX), Oxfam Australia and United Support of Artists for Africa. A special word of thanks goes to our long-term partner the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust which, from 2012, will no longer be working in South Africa.

Thanks also go to all community project members, all our partners, and all those who have supported and facilitated our work during the year. I thank the Biowatch staff who are always developing the work further and finding new ways and better ways of doing things. I also thank the Biowatch Trustees for their strategic direction and their wide-ranging and clear support.

Holding our vision high in 2012

Although it has been a good year for Biowatch, the same cannot be said for the context within which we find ourselves. We need to hold our vision high in 2012: "In the context of multiple global crises (including food, energy and climate change) we envision a country and a world in which people have control over their food, agricultural resources and practices, and other natural resources, within a biodiverse, agro-ecological and sustainable system".

Rose Williams, Director

Activities

Our activities in 2011 fell into three main focus areas: advocacy, monitoring and research work; promoting agro-ecology; and international experience sharing. While some of our work overlaps between these three focus areas – with work in one area informing and supporting work in another – they do form distinct areas of focus within the organisation.

Advocacy, Monitoring and Research

A range of activities in 2011 fell within this focus area, including numerous presentations, engagement with government and the Competition Tribunal, monitoring of GMOs, and our research work.

Our emphasis this year has been on farmers' rights and seed sovereignty as well as the strong links between climate change and industrial agriculture. We've worked hard to dispel myths around "climate smart" agriculture and green revolution technology being able to solve global and continental crises.

Presentations

In 2011 we gave a number of presentations to a wide range of stakeholders.

- At the national agro-ecological workshop, which was hosted by Surplus People Project (SPP), the African Centre for Biosafety, and the Food Sovereignty Campaign, a Biowatch community farmer presented on traditional seed (preserving, multiplication and storage), the importance of household food gardens, the nutritional value of traditional food dishes, and the contamination of traditional seeds by GM seeds.

- At the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) policy conference on GMOs, Biowatch presented an invited paper on "GM Agriculture – Promises or Problems for Farming in South Africa?" SACAU represents smallholder and commercial farmers' unions from across Southern Africa. The presentation was well received and generated much debate, but was not uncontroversial, especially given the presence of a strong industry support lobby.

- Biowatch was part of the panel at the UNFCCC side event "Weathering the Climate Crisis: the Way of Ecological Agriculture", hosted by Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) and IBON International.

Materials

In 2011, we produced the following materials:

- Two newsletters in English and isiZulu.
- Handouts on agro-ecological principles and climate justice.
- "M&E Baseline Report: Securing the rights of small-scale farmers to GM-free seeds and access to markets".
- "GM Agriculture – Promises or Problems for Farming in South Africa?", paper given at the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) 2011 conference.
- An article in the South African Enviropaedia giving an anti-GM position.
- "Zimele Rural Women's Empowerment Organisation: Market Access", a document detailing the process of a market access case study.
- "Supporting Agro-Ecology and Exploring Effective Markets", a Biowatch, SPP, EMG national workshop report.

Government

In 2011, much of our engagement with government has been either at the local level or at the provincial level (in the province of KwaZulu-Natal). The latter has been with the Department of Social Development, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Department of Education, as well as with the provincial Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.

Some of the engagement has been positive and reciprocal – there has been government training on co-operatives and access to markets, and Biowatch has given agro-ecological support to various government projects. However, there has also been negative engagement, with the distribution of fertilisers and GM seed by government to communities.

These form part of a package of aid which undermines farmers' resilience as it's premised on supporting an industrial model of agriculture (monocultures, pesticides, GM seeds, high energy and water consumption). Communities receive no explanation of what GM maize is, that refugia have to be planted, that there are environmental and health risks, and that GM maize can contaminate traditional maize varieties. In several instances, communities have returned the GM seed and fertilisers.

GM crops

We welcomed the first publication on environmental impacts of a GM crop in South Africa by the South African National Botanical Institute (SANBI). Titled "Monitoring the Environmental Impacts of GM Maize in South Africa", it was

the first study on environmental impacts of GM crops in South Africa, even though GM crops have been grown commercially in this country since 1997.

The study made several significant findings, many of which related to the significant development of resistance by the insect that the GM maize was meant to "control". However, this study is just the starting point – much more research is needed and decisions of the Executive Council (the permit body under the GMO Act) need to reflect this new information.

In April 2011, regulations to the Consumer Protection Act were published, and become enforceable from October. All goods (food) containing 5% or more of GM crop substances have to carry a label clearly stating "contains Genetically Modified Organisms". If goods contain less than 1% GMOs, then a label can state that "this product does not contain Genetically Modified Organisms". By the end of 2011 there was little evidence of compliance within the retail sector.

Seed merger refused

At a national level we welcomed the Competition Tribunal ruling refusing a merger between the multinational Pioneer Hi-Bred and the South African seed company, Pannar Seed (Pty) Ltd. This was a confirmation of the ruling of the Competition Commission, which had been appealed by the two merging parties.

Biowatch had been involved at both the Commission and Tribunal levels. Biowatch, one of the objecting parties, was concerned that this merger would effectively put control of most of South Africa's seed supply into the hands of two US-held transnational corporations – Pioneer Hi-Bred and Monsanto. Such foreign control would run counter to broader national interests of food security and the conservation of crop diversity.

The Competition Tribunal ruling has, however, been appealed by Pioneer and Pannar and the appeal now sits at the Competition Appeal Court.

Climate justice and COP17

Biowatch was involved in the "People's Space" – the alternative COP17 space where national and international civil society came together around the global issue of climate change. The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) of the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was hosted in Durban, South Africa, in November. Our participation at COP17 is covered in more detail under "International Experience Sharing" (see page 24).

Leading up to COP17, we submitted comment on the South African government's "National Climate Change Response" green paper. Here we focused on the problems of GM crops being used as part of the government's response to climate change, as well as the use of timber plantations (misnamed "forests" in the green paper) being used as carbon sinks – the plantations are associated with a host of environmental and social problems.

Research

In 2011, our research work focused on securing farmers' rights and seed security. This was in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (Environmental Evaluation Unit).

This research forms part of a preliminary study which aims to examine the customary rights and practices of small-scale farmers in KwaZulu-Natal to save, use, develop and share seed, with a view to investigating how these rights and practices can be strengthened. Two projects that Biowatch works with (based in Lindizwe in Ingwavuma, and KwaHhohho near Mtubatuba) participated in the research.

In a different area of work, the Biowatch Research Paper "*The Biowatch Case: A victory for access to information and a landmark decision on costs awards in public interest litigation*" by Josie Eastwood, was completed.

Promoting Agro-Ecology in Rural South Africa

Our work in promoting agro-ecology has involved training and support in eight project sites. This was up-scaled through work with partner organisations, farmer exchanges and new groups linked to the existing eight project sites. The work, which was largely based in the eastern region of the country, linked us with many partners including NGOs, farmers' organisations, women's clubs, faith-based organisations and municipalities.

Our work spanned a range of activities from promoting household seed banks as the basis for food security at a community and household level, to validating traditional agricultural knowledge (as a counter to its dismissal by many government agricultural extension officers), and making key interventions that can open up opportunities for communities.

We also spent much time working towards facilitating effective markets for communities' surplus production and have had excellent success with a pilot market access project.

Details of this work, which has facilitated greater social cohesion and trust, are covered further in this report.

Agro-ecological training

In 2011, the emphasis of our training work was on agro-ecological farming practice and GMO awareness. The agro-ecological training focused on implementing *in situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity, soil erosion reclamation, water harvesting approaches, integrated pest management, soil improvement, vermiculture, water treatment and recycling, resource mapping, and most importantly, promoting seed diversity and seed saving.

The challenge to each household is to have a seed bank with 12-18 different types of traditional seed. These household seed banks are promoted by Biowatch as an excellent way to ensure household food security, agricultural biodiversity, and autonomy for the community.

In total, 36 meetings with associated trainings were held during the year in Ingwavuma, Tshaneni, Pongola, KwaHhohho, Ntandabantu (all in KwaZulu-Natal) and in Bizana (Eastern Cape). This training and support was amplified through the work of community facilitators (see page 18).

Community members also attended a number of climate justice workshops organised by Biowatch, Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), Trust for Community Outreach

and Education (TCOE), Timberwatch Coalition, and SDCEA (South Durban Community Environmental Alliance). Farmer Support Group (FSG) ran a workshop on food security and innovations by farmers.

Several community members also participated in training organised by the Siyavuna Development Centre which covered bookkeeping and financial management, soil improvement techniques, and agro-processing.

Community facilitators

In 2011, the number of Biowatch community facilitators increased from two to five. This has made a huge difference and has amplified our work. Communities now have direct access to on-the-ground support. At some project sites the community facilitator is working closely with government, training government projects on agro-ecological approaches.

Community facilitators and other community representatives participated in two training programmes which included attending an agricultural show, visits to farms showing best practice in agro-ecology and organic farming, as well as a visit to a rural community market.

These visits have opened up new markets for their produce.

An evaluation was done by the community facilitators at the end of the year which fed into the Biowatch staff annual evaluation workshop.

National workshop

In August 2011, Biowatch – with partners Surplus People Project (SPP) and Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG) – hosted a national workshop on "Promoting Agro-Ecology and Exploring Effective Markets". It was a significant event which was attended by 37 small-scale farmers, activists, NGO staff and academics. The aim of the workshop was to deepen our understanding of agro-ecology, develop strategies to promote it as an alternative to industrial agriculture, and explore effective markets for surplus production.

Opinion and support for "Promoting Agro-Ecology" was unanimous. However, when it came to "Exploring Effective Markets" there was a wide range of opinions and concerns. This is an arena that was new for many of the workshop participants and there are many issues to be grappled with.

School Greening Programme

This is a small, but important, component of our work. In 2011 we worked with the Africa Centre, a research centre of

the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The year saw varied results with some positive developments (such as Ekukhanyeni Orphan Care joining the group), but also many challenges (including water scarcity; livestock destroying the vegetables and other crops during the school holidays; and a reluctance on the part of some of the educators for learners to be involved in manual labour).

Biowatch's contribution in 2012 will be assessed, and we will seek the best way forward.

Farmers' exchanges

Farmers' exchanges and seed rituals have stood out as shining examples of what can be done to lead the way in promoting a different model of agriculture – one that supports real food security, is resilient in the face of climate change, affirms traditional practices, and where seed remains in the hands of the farmers.

These are also important sites of exchange between farmers on agro-ecological/low-input agriculture, for affirming traditional practice, and for sharing experiences with other farmers who are finding ways to conserve and use their agricultural biodiversity. Four farmers' exchanges were held during the year – great, celebratory events! These took place in Pongola, Tshaneni and twice in KwaHhohho.

The farmers' exchange which took place in Pongola in July was a highlight of the

SENZANGA

year, with community members from KwaHhohho and Tshaneni as well as small-scale agro-ecological farmers from other projects and parts of the country participating (from Surplus People Project in Northern and Western Cape, Mupo Foundation in Venda, and Transkei Land Service Organisation in Eastern Cape).

Seed festivals

Seed festivals, with their seed displays and exhibitions of traditional food dishes, are sacred events which celebrate the diversity of seed held by the community. This diversity supports community autonomy and household food security. Extraordinary displays of seed diversity were part of seed ritual events hosted in Xholobeni (Eastern Cape) and Pongola, Ingwavuma, Tshaneni and KwaHhohho (KwaZulu-Natal).

World Food Day events

Two events were hosted in Ingwavuma and Tshaneni in October. The wonderful spread of delicious traditional dishes matched the rich seed diversity, and gives pointers towards healthy human nutrition and tasty food.

Market access

In April 2011, Biowatch and a marketing consultant ran a Pilot Market Access Project with Zimele Rural Women's Empowerment Organisation (ZRWEO). The project was kick-started with a workshop to establish capacity, discuss a planting programme, and examine market opportunities. Biowatch then investigated and made contact with potential buyers, including major retailers and local resorts.

The ZRWEO market committee took samples of produce to Spar and Pick n Pay in Mtubatuba (the nearest town). They secured an agreement with Pick n Pay and delivered their first order in June 2011. They continue to supply Pick n Pay with a variety of vegetables in season.

In the second half of 2011, they made sales of over R40,000. Although this income is divided between the project members and excludes input costs, it is an extraordinary addition to their meagre household incomes.

The relatively quick success of this engagement was unexpected. Enabling factors included: the motivation of the community; the establishment of market committees; the development of a marketing plan; the market analysis; and the catalyst role that Biowatch could play with some of the market outlets.

Other successes were the newly established market committees and quality managers in three areas. Training

that proved particularly successful was that on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). This is an alternative system to expensive organic certification, and with a labelling programme, can alert potential customers to the fact that these are healthy vegetables – not genetically modified, not touched by toxic herbicides or pesticides… (This concept will be taken further in 2012.)

Another innovation was the twice-monthly market days in Ingwavuma, where project members sell their produce.

Biowatch hosted a market strategy meeting in Mtubatuba in October with a number of government departments (Economic Development and Tourism, Social Development, Health, Local Economic Development) and two other NGOs, namely Co-operative Rural Enterprise Support Initiative (CRESI) and the Siyavuna Development Centre. This is the start of a formal engagement and exchange regarding the support that government can give to marginalised small-scale farmers.

Infra-structural support

Biowatch again facilitated, in a small way, the provision of agricultural tools to communities. Through SPP and Slow Food Italy's "1000 gardens in Africa" project, one of our project sites received materials to secure household gardens (through fencing and other protective measures). It is hoped that these small measures will act as a catalyst for government support to other communities.

International Experience Sharing

International experience sharing has positioned our work in the context of global struggles and has strengthened links with other organisations working towards environmental and social justice. In 2011, Biowatch participated in five events: the World Social Forum in Dakar; the Oxfam Australia Economic Justice week in Jakarta; an African Biodiversity Network (ABN) partners' meeting and resilience workshop in Kenya; the 17th "Conference of the Parties" (COP17) to the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban; and the launch of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA).

The World Social Forum (WSF)

The World Social Forum took place in February in Dakar, Senegal. Here, Biowatch and IDEX (International Development Exchange) hosted a workshop titled "Industrial Agriculture and the Green Revolution are not needed for Food Security". The workshop was facilitated by the African Biodiversity Network.

Relationships were strengthened with many organisations through the solidarity marches, workshops and forum gatherings. We also had a special opportunity to develop relationships with three other IDEX partners who also participated in the WSF, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA), Positive Women's Network (PWN) and Whole World Women's Association (WWWA).

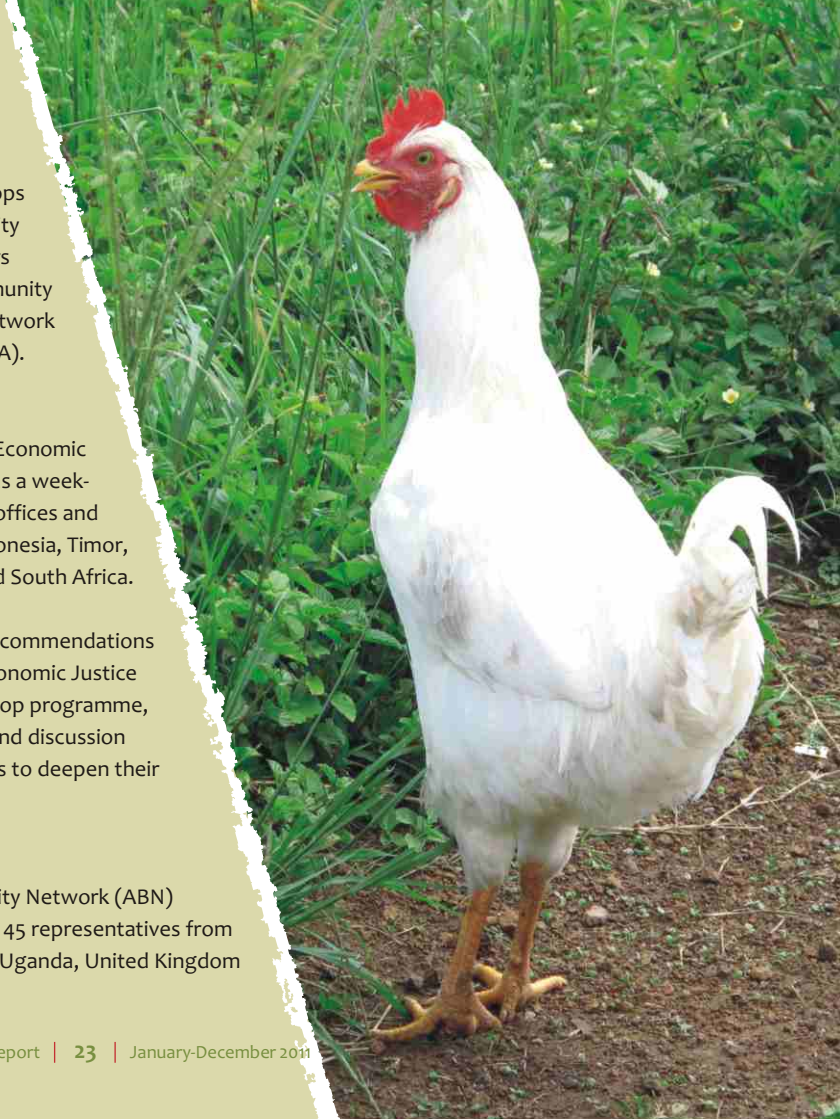
Oxfam Australia Economic Justice Workshop

In April, Biowatch participated in the Oxfam Australia Economic Justice (OAU EJ) Workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia. It was a week-long event with 40 participants from Oxfam Australia offices and partner organisations in Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Timor, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Mocambique and South Africa.

The main objective of the workshop was to develop recommendations for strategic priorities to 2013 for Oxfam Australia's Economic Justice Programme. The wide-ranging and stimulating workshop programme, with its external trend analyses, partner case studies and discussion groups, offered good thinking space for all participants to deepen their understanding of economic justice.

African Biodiversity Network Partners' meeting

In June, Biowatch participated in the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) bi-annual partners' meeting in Nanyuki, Kenya. It drew 45 representatives from Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom



and Zimbabwe. The overall purpose of the meeting was to renew a strong momentum in ABN as a partner-driven network, and to reflect on and review ten years of ABN work. This was followed by training on "Ecosystems and community resilience" – an ABN thematic area since 2009.

ABN is a network of individuals and organisations seeking African solutions to the ecological and socio-economic challenges that face the continent. Biowatch has been part of this network since its inception in 2002.

United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP17

With South Africa hosting the UNFCCC COP17 in Durban (where Biowatch's head office is located), we were able to have a large contingent participating in the People's Space and the "UN space". The People's Space was the alternative C17 space. Here, Biowatch with the African Biodiversity Network hosted a very successful Agro-ecology and Climate event, with Biowatch giving a presentation titled "Agro-Ecology not Industrial Agriculture!"

We also organised a poster-making session for the civil society march on the Global Day of Action, and assisted in the launch of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (see opposite).

Staff and community representatives were also accredited for the UN process. This enabled entry into the "UN space" at the Durban International Convention Centre and attendance and participation in events, press conferences, initial government deliberations, and witnessing of the disastrous end to the UN process with no binding climate agreement being reached.

Launch of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)

Contrasting strongly with the failed UNFCCC negotiations at COP17, the launch of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) at the People's Space was a positive and inspiring event. It was the formal coming together of 14 Pan-African networks (from Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa).

AFSA aims to strengthen the already existing and growing food sovereignty movement in Africa and to demand and implement food sovereignty for Africa.

Financial Statements

Biowatch Trust

for the year ended 31 December 2011
(extract)

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C&S

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the trustees of Biowatch Trust
We have audited the financial statements of Biowatch Trust, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2011, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, and the trustees' report, as set out on pages 5 to 11.

Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Statements
The trust's trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for small to medium sized entities, and in the manner required by the Companies Act of South Africa, 2008. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion
In common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the organisation to institute controls over cash collections from donations prior to the initial entry of the collections in the accounting records. Accordingly it is impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

Qualified Opinion
In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Biowatch Trust as at 31 December 2011, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for small to medium sized entities, and in the manner required by the Companies Act of South Africa, 2008.

Emphasis of Matter
Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to the Biowatch Association - Intercompany loan difference of R7 863.00 on page 13. An adjusting entry had to be passed to balance the intercompany loan account of R99 861.00 at year end.

Other matter
Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to the fact that supplementary information set out on pages 12 to 13 does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. We have not audited this information and accordingly do not express an opinion theron.

C & S Chartered Accountants (S.A)
Registered Auditors

29 August 2012

Biowatch Trust

(Registration number IT4212/99)
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011

Statement of Financial Position

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2011	2010
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	8 246	11 683
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables		4 191	-
Cash and cash equivalents	3	605 675	914 452
		609 866	**914 452**
Total Assets		**618 112**	**926 135**
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Trust Capital		100	100
Accumulated surplus		499 685	799 542
		499 785	**799 642**
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Biowatch Association		99 861	117 738
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables		18 466	8 755
Total Liabilities		**118 327**	**126 493**
Total Equity and Liabilities		**618 112**	**926 135**

Biowatch Trust

(Registration number IT4212/99)
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011

Statement of Financial Performance

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2011	2010
Revenue - Grants			
Centre for International Governance Innovation		45 099	-
Comic Relief		1 036 582	614 188
DG Murray Trust		-	100 000
IDEX		123 062	-
Other donations		2 584	3 838
Oxfam Australia		438 465	443 567
The Guiseppe & Rita Raimondo Charitable Trust		50 000	-
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		332 739	443 651
United Support of Artists for Africa		33 245	-
		2 061 776	**1 605 244**
Other income			
Court case income		-	123 370
Interest received	4	24 789	25 916
		24 789	**149 286**
Expenses (Refer to page 13)		**(2 428 130)**	**(1 402 534)**
(Deficit) Surplus for the year		**(341 565)**	**351 996**

Statement of Financial Performance

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2011	2010
Operating expenses			
Accounting fees		(141 102)	(84 662)
Administration and management fees		-	(13 850)
Advertising		(139)	-
Auditors remuneration	5	(24 678)	(20 200)
Bank charges		(19 920)	(7 017)
Biowatch Association - Intercompany loan difference		(7 863)	-
Cleaning		-	(1 362)
Computer expenses		(43 644)	-
Consulting fees		(71 681)	(103 703)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments		(3 437)	(1 797)
Email		-	(770)
Employee costs		(776 522)	(528 164)
Exchange visits		(110 536)	-
Fencing and nursery		-	(136 467)
Financial services		-	(3 436)
Insurance		(4 139)	(1 745)
Legal expenses		-	(14 982)
Magazines, books and periodicals		-	(11 387)
Office removal		-	(3 784)
Organisational development		-	(37 868)
Per Diem		-	(12 422)
Postage		(3 925)	(3 380)
Printing and stationery		(38 001)	(23 393)
Project costs		(893 126)	-
Rental		(54 005)	(43 326)
Repairs and maintenance		-	(11 051)
Software expenses		-	(10 259)
Telephone and fax		(41 507)	(30 533)
Training		(14 295)	(7 160)
Travel – local		(179 610)	(227 741)
Travel – overseas		-	(18 744)
Utilities		-	(8 916)
Venue hire and refreshments		-	(34 415)
		(2 428 130)	**(1 402 534)**

biowatch SOUTH AFRICA

biodiversity | food sovereignty | biosafety | social justice

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