



bio watch

SOUTH AFRICA

biodiversity | food sovereignty | agro-ecology | social justice

Annual Report

March 2013 to February 2014



“Developing a solid base of evidence on the ground that an agro-ecological approach to farming is a viable livelihood option for small-holder farmers.”



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 1999, **Biowatch South Africa** strives for social and ecological justice through challenging industrial agriculture and demonstrating ecologically sustainable alternatives by:

- supporting small-holder farmers to make informed choices; have control over their agricultural resources (including land, water, seed and 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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Trust registration number IT4212/99

Non-profit organisation number 032-199-NPO

Public benefit organisation number 930005517

Donors Albert and Molly Baumann Trust, Comic Relief, DG Murray Trust, Foundation for Human Rights, IDEX, the National Lotteries Board, Oxfam Australia and Swiss Development and Cooperation.

Annual Report: March 2013 to February 2014

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ISBN: 978-0-620-64020-6

Design and layout: *Desiré Pelser* | Earth & Oceans Developments

Cover photograph: *Max Bastard* | Oxfam | Biowatch

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A landmark victory for justice.

Chairperson's Report



David Fig

On behalf of the Biowatch Board of Trustees, I welcome readers to peruse the organisation's Annual Report for the period March 2013–February 2014. You will note the many achievements made during the year.

The first is to celebrate our Agro-ecology Manager Lawrence Mkhaliphi's ten years in the organisation. Lawrence has been an inspiration to all who have worked with him. This includes not only colleagues, but also the thousands of community-based farmers who have interacted with him over the years. His modesty and quiet confidence does not disguise his effectiveness as a cherished guide in spreading agro-ecology practices. We wish Lawrence many more years at Biowatch and hope we can all live up to his high standards.

Another achievement was the acquisition of a permanent roof for the head office, being shared with OD Practice. The granting of legal costs to Biowatch by the Constitutional Court – and support from other donors – has helped the organisation to enhance its sustainability, stability and

security of tenure, which helps us get on with the core objectives of our work.

Biowatch adopted a thorough approach to measuring its effectiveness, and there are some very positive changes reported in the way in which small-holder farmers have taken up the use of agro-ecological principles in their farming practices. Measurements include the number of traditional seed varieties saved, the adoption of specific agro-ecological criteria in farming, and so on. You will find the exciting details as you go through this report.

Fellow trustee Rachel Wynberg and I were able to launch our book on the Biowatch case in the Constitutional Court. If you have not seen a copy, please download it from the Biowatch website, or request a copy from the office. We launched in three cities, and made use of these events to draw attention to the work of the organisation. The book gives an organisational interpretation of the events of the case, and one critic called it a “thrilling read”.

The book launches were only three of a number of interactions during the year between Biowatch and its stakeholders, including the general public. This report will itemise these interactions more broadly. Should you wish to be included in invitation lists to future events, please

subscribe to our electronic Bulletin by contacting info@biowatch.org.za to get the most current information.

Our strong promotion of agro-ecological principles as an alternative to industrial agriculture is helping to empower many small-holder and emerging farmers. Agro-ecology is slowly gaining recognition both in South Africa and at the level of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN. In South Africa, Biowatch has made a key contribution in promoting these ideas. Not only has it engaged in advocacy to try to get government to move away from endorsement of an industrial model of agriculture, but extensive training and support programmes have been offered to farmers to adopt agro-ecological methods and principles.

We have also gained enormous inspiration from interaction with our colleagues in other countries. Biowatch forms an

integral part of the African Biodiversity Network and together with other partners we participated in an important five-year strategising meeting in Kenya. Locally we hosted a seed and knowledge exchange programme which included partners from neighbouring countries. The resulting synergies between farmers, researchers and NGO practitioners could make a powerful difference in realising our objectives, while our participation in strengthening civil society demands in Rome at the Committee on Food Security helped place the agro-ecological model on the FAO's agenda.

Thanks go to the entire Biowatch family (cherished staff, Board and partners) for their positive contributions in the year under review.



A person's arm and hand holding a straw hat are visible on the left side of the page. The background is a scenic view of rolling hills and a small house with a red roof in the distance.

Director's Report

 *Rose Williams*

2013/2014 brought to an end a remarkable three-year programme on farmers' rights and saw the start of an exciting and much-needed programme on seed and knowledge systems.

The independent evaluation report on our work to secure farmers' rights (2010-2013) detailed how Biowatch's greatest achievement over the three year project period was its development of a solid base of evidence on the ground that an agro-

ecological approach to farming is a viable livelihood option for small-holder farmers. The work has given these farmers control over production, improved their household food security, and provided them surplus production which they can sell locally. This approach has also promoted the use of traditional seeds and knowledge, and greater biodiversity.

Evaluation participants considered these achievements "invaluable as very few organisations are doing such work in South Africa."

Our work to secure farmers' rights included community work on agro-ecology, accessing local markets, enhancing seed and knowledge systems, site visits and seed celebrations, but also much networking and many in-depth meetings with a range of organisations and individuals, from local to national to international. We also engaged at a policy level with a number of Bills that impact on farmers' rights and engaged with government to help secure support for small-holder/family farmers. Details of this work and more are covered later in this annual report.

The year under review was also marked by two big celebrations. The first was the launch of *A Landmark Victory for Justice: Biowatch's Battle with the South African State and Monsanto*, written by Biowatch founder trustees David Fig and Rachel Wynberg. The second was the celebration of Lawrence Mkhaliphi's 10 years at Biowatch. Lawrence is Biowatch's Agro-ecology Manager, a stalwart of the organisation, who started the Biowatch rural office in Mtubatuba in 2003. He has been an inspiring member of staff and an authoritative champion of agro-ecology.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The final M&E process for the period 2011-2013 took place in five community projects: Ingwavuma, Tshaneni, KwaHhohho, Pongola and KwaNgwanase. Features measured included

agro-ecological compliance (eight criteria), selling of surplus production, and the number of traditional seed varieties stored in the household seed bank (an indirect indicator for food security).

In a similar approach to the 2012 M&E and the 2011 baseline study, these features were mapped by each project member for their household, and together they produced community maps for each of the project sites. These were then compared visually with the 2012 and 2011 maps to see the change.

Qualitative data was also obtained, including information on what project members were able to achieve with the income they generated from selling their produce.

Since the baseline study, community farmers have shown remarkable change in key indicators:

KEY INDICATORS	2013	2011
Selling/having increased income	92%	55%
Having 8 or more traditional seed varieties	93%	29%
Using Biowatch agro-ecological standards	90%	51%

In addition to this M&E process, there was ongoing monitoring and evaluation at a staff level, culminating in the year-end annual staff reflection and planning meeting.

As mentioned earlier, a separate independent evaluation of our work to secure small-holder farmers' rights (September 2010 to September 2013) was also undertaken. This involved staff, Board members, farmers and partners and was timeous and most helpful for the long term strategic planning process that happened after the evaluation.

Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI)

The Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI), which builds on our existing work and ongoing informal collaboration between Biowatch, the University of Cape Town and the Mupo Foundation, was launched in September 2013. Its primary aim is to revive and enhance traditional seed and knowledge systems and agro-ecological practices, which will support ecosystems and human communities to be productive, sustainable and resilient.

An 18-month pilot project will test and pilot activities and partnerships and identify the most effective practices and processes to facilitate and support the strengthening of local seed and knowledge systems for improved food security in the region.

Key components of this work are described later in this annual report and include the first SKI event – a national Agro-ecology, Seed and Knowledge Exchange which brought together researchers, farmers and NGOs and was a first step in developing a community of practice.



Administrative and financial arrangements

During the year, Biowatch prepared to move into new offices in Durban and also secured a larger office in Mtubatuba to accommodate the new Farmer Support Officer position.

The Biowatch Trust received acknowledgement from the Department of Social Development that we had complied with the requirements as stipulated in the NPO Act.

During the year, the organisation changed its accounting policy with respect to the treatment of funds received. Unused funding income is now deferred until the money is spent. It has been classified as income received in advance on the balance sheet. This change has reduced income and profit by R1 049 670 during the year.

Organisation Development

In August 2013, we held a workshop to formulate a clear strategy for Biowatch 2014–2020. The deliberations were informed by the independent evaluation, staff reflections, results from the three-year M&E process, and by partner organisations – groundWork, the Timberwatch Coalition, Tshintsha Amakhaya, Church Land Programme and African Biodiversity Network – who generously provided input on a number of key issues we needed to be aware of in order to remain relevant and contribute to real change.

In November 2013, we held our annual reflection and planning process for 2014, with a specific focus on reviewing our publications, managing growth within the organisation, building a farmers' voice and amplifying agro-ecology. Through both this process and the strategic planning process held earlier in the year, it became clear that Biowatch had to extend its staff complement in order to fulfil its vision. With this in mind, interviews were held for two new Biowatch positions – the Advocacy Practitioner and the Farmer Support Officer. The two successful candidates joined Biowatch in April 2014.

Thanks

Our thanks go to our donors who have supported and engaged with our work – we thank the Albert and Molly Baumann Trust, Comic Relief, DG Murray Trust, Foundation for Human Rights, IDEX, the National Lotteries Board, Oxfam Australia and Swiss Development and Cooperation.

Thank you to all the community project members, our partners, and all those who have supported and facilitated our work during the year. Thanks also to our Board of Trustees who willingly give their time and support. Your continued dedication and insight is much appreciated. Lastly, but very importantly, to the Biowatch staff: thank you for your commitment to the organisation and to our work.

Activities

Our activities fall into three main focus areas: advocacy, monitoring and research work; promoting agro-ecology; and international experience sharing. There is over-lap between these focus areas and work in one informs and supports work in the others. In each of these focus areas we engage strongly with partners.

Advocacy, Monitoring and Research

Our approach has been to target specific areas including: submissions on legislation impacting on farmers' rights and biodiversity; presentations and hosting events; developing and distributing information and education materials; research focussed on securing farmers' rights and seed security; critique of industrial agriculture and GMOs; and the promotion of agro-ecology and food sovereignty.

Presentations

Part of our advocacy, monitoring and research work is giving presentations on request. This year, presentations at key events included:

- “Agro-ecology” – in the Land, Agriculture and Water session at civil society’s “brics-from-below” summit in Durban in March – a counter to the five heads of state meeting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).
- “Agro-ecology” – at the Solidarity Economy Education and Communication Cooperative (SEEC) in Ivory Park in March.
- “Biowatch’s work with small-holder farmers” – at the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF) Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods strategic workshop in May.
- “Biowatch’s record-keeping work with small-holder farmers” – at the partner exchange, with Surplus People Project (SPP), Farmer Support Group (FSG), Church Land Programme (CLP), Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action (PACSA) and Biowatch in May.
- “Climate change and agro-ecology” – at the Oxfam Australia Climate Change Adaption Strategy workshop in May.
- “Agro-ecology” – at the Food Sovereignty Campaign launch during the 2nd national Solidarity Economy Conference, hosted by the Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre (COPAC) in August.



- “The World Committee on Food Security” – at the Diakonia Council of Churches’ World Food Day event “Sustainable food systems for security and nutrition” in October.
- “Food sovereignty” – at the UKZN Food Festival seminar, on the panel with speakers from La Via Campesina, Rural Network and Landless People’s Movement in November.
- “Seed laws and small-holder farmers” – as part of a panel discussion with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) at the Open Source Conference organised by the UCT Intellectual Property Law Unit in December.

Launch of “A Landmark Victory for Justice: Biowatch’s Battle with the South African State and Monsanto”

“A Landmark Victory for Justice: Biowatch’s Battle with the South African State and Monsanto” written by Biowatch founder trustees, Rachel Wynberg and David Fig, was launched in March in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban – three cities that were centres of significance for Biowatch. Cape Town was where Biowatch was founded; the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg was where there was the unanimous judgment in favour of Biowatch; and Durban is where Biowatch’s head office is now located.

These celebratory events brought together the legal teams, the Friends of the Court, the Right to Know Campaign, the farmers Biowatch works with, our civil society partners, our donors, and the many people who supported Biowatch and the issues that we were fighting for.

It was important for us not only to record and analyse the history of the case from a Biowatch perspective, but also to highlight the case because of its wider implications: that organisations acting in the public interest can now litigate for their rights without fear of the chilling effect of costs orders against them, and, for the legal profession, that constitutional rights need to be taken into account when costs orders are made.

The book was made available on the web, through mail order, several book shops in the country and at two book festivals – the Franschhoek Literary Festival and the Jozi Book Fair.

Plant Breeders’ Rights Bill

Biowatch had made a submission in the previous year on the Plant Breeders’ Rights Amendment Bill. In the year under review an updated Bill was made available. Biowatch participated in the Department of Agriculture workshop on the updated Bill and then made a further submission.

Detailed comments were made as well as general comments relating to the broader context where plant breeders' rights are used in tandem with seed regulations to protect the interests of seed companies and private breeders – this at the expense of agro-biodiversity and the independence of farmers. The full submission is available on our website (www.biowatch.org.za) in the Publications and Documents section.

Plant Improvement Policy and Plant Improvement Bill

A submission on the Plant Improvement Policy and the Plant Improvement Bill was made to the Department of Agriculture, following engagement with the registrar and participation in the Department of Agriculture workshop on the policy and bill.

In the submission, the following overarching shortcomings relating to the draft policy were noted:

1. It does not make any provisions for the enhancement and protection of agro-biodiversity;
2. It does not support the realities of small-holder farmers;
3. It runs the risk of further undermining Farmers' Rights;
4. It does not acknowledge or support public breeding systems or conservation activities;
5. And lastly, the harmonisation of seed laws with other SADC countries is problematic.

Detailed comments were made on specific provisions in the Plant Improvement Bill.

In the conclusion of the submission, it was noted that:

“Seed regulations and trade laws have become tools aimed at preventing farmers from producing seeds independently. By evolving into extremely narrow, restrictive and onerous regulating systems, these laws are prescribing uniformity not only in plant varieties but also in farming and cropping systems. Instead of ensuring the genetic superiority that it claims, these laws have led to the erosion of genetic diversity and in the process narrowed down the options for farmers and food security.”

Neither of these two documents gives the required recognition to the vital contribution of the informal seed sector, public breeding and conservation activities. To do so, it would be best at this point to formally recognise this contribution and ensure that there is adequate legal space for these systems to pursue their activities towards agro-biodiversity.”

A copy of our submission is available on our website (www.biowatch.org.za) in the Publications and Documents section.

Draft National Agro-Ecology Strategy

In 2012, the Department of Agriculture released a draft national strategy on agro-ecology on which Biowatch gave detailed comments. In 2013, this was followed by a consultative workshop held by the Department which was then followed by the release of an updated draft strategy. Biowatch participated in the consultative process and also made a very detailed submission on the updated draft. The process needs to be jump-started as it is a vital grounding document for agriculture and livelihoods in South Africa.

Seed research work

As part of the Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI), Biowatch worked together with researchers from the University of Cape Town to develop a framework for a 2014/2015 research study on household seed banks.

Publications, materials and reports

In 2013/2014 the following publications, materials and reports were produced:

- Two Biowatch *Bulletin* newsletters.
- An eight-minute DVD: “Farmer Exchange and Seed Festival – Celebrating Traditional Seed and Agro-Ecology”.
- “Khalesakhe Mkhwanazi’s homestead garden”, an account of an agro-ecological homestead.





Seed festivals – celebrating traditional seed and agro-ecology .

- Mini review of Zimele household producers, a review of the community at KwaHhohho who are supported by Biowatch.
- Submission on the Plant Breeders Rights' Bill.
- Submission on the Plant Improvement Policy and Plant Improvement Bill.
- Submission on the draft National Agro-Ecology Strategy.
- "Securing the rights of small-scale farmers to GM-free seeds and access to markets: final M&E report".
- "Evaluation Report on Biowatch South Africa's work to secure small farmers' rights. September 2010-September 2013 period", an independent evaluation report.
- "Agro-Ecology, Seed and Knowledge Systems Exchange", Biowatch national workshop report.
- "Market Segmentation and Sustainability", a Biowatch report on household consumption and sales in two communities that Biowatch works with.
- *A Landmark Victory for Justice: Biowatch's Battle with the South African State and Monsanto* written by Rachel Wynberg and David Fig.

Promoting Agro-Ecology in Rural South Africa

Biowatch's advocacy work on agro-ecology at national level is detailed earlier in this report. What follows is our work in promoting agro-ecology at five project sites, and the spreading of our work through exchanges with partner organisations. During the year under review, there has been a strong emphasis on marketing and record-keeping, as well as engagements with government to support farmers to secure the support they need. Detail of this is given below.

Agro-ecological training at five project sites

Biowatch project sites are in northern KwaZulu-Natal at Pongola, Ingwavuma, KwaNgwanase, Tshaneni and KwaHhohho. A total of 22 training sessions were held at the five project sites aimed at promoting eight agro-ecological criteria, namely: composting; use of fertility beds; use of grey water; mulching; seed saving; no synthetic fertilisers, no synthetic toxic pesticides; and no hybrid or GM crop use. There was a special emphasis on increasing diversity of seed in the household seed banks. The community facilitators covering each of the project sites played a key role in amplifying the Biowatch staff training.

Over the past three years, farmers have made significant achievements. By the end of 2013, 90% had fully adopted the

agro-ecology criteria (up from 51%) and 93% were saving at least eight different traditional varieties of seed in household seed banks (up from 29%). 10% excelled in having more than 20 different traditional seed varieties. All of this indicates more resilience on the ground, greater food security, affirmation of traditional agricultural practices, and seed remaining in the hands of the farmers.

Winter and summer production plans were devised, and in January 2014 annual assessments and planning meetings were held in each of the project sites. A year-long programme on seed was also planned.

The on-site visits were coupled with training visits to Dovehouse Organic Farm in Howick, Enaleni Farm (“enaleni” in isiZulu implying a place of “agricultural abundance, where there is more than enough”) in Umlaas Road and Ukuvuna Training Centre in Midrand, Johannesburg.

Farmers' exchanges and seed rituals

Farmers' exchanges and annual seed rituals took place in all five project sites. These were inspiring, community-building and learning events that were also opportunities to demonstrate the work and needs of community farmers to local government departments. Representatives came from provincial government departments, including Agriculture,

Environmental Affairs and Health, as well as from district and local municipalities. One representative from the Department of Health noted that “this kind of food that you are eating will help you to fight against diseases”.

Provision of trees and seedlings

Thanks to support from Slow Food Italy's 1000 Gardens in Africa Project, the Surplus People Project (a Biowatch partner organisation) was able to provide communities with indigenous tree and vegetable seedlings.

After much deliberation, the Biowatch pilot nursery which was providing some seedlings to farmers was brought to a close in September 2013. The pilot had started in 2011 with the first seedlings produced in 2012. However in 2013 it was clear that the nursery was struggling – although the aims were laudable, logistically and financially it was not viable and there was insufficient capacity, experience and staff-time to make the nursery a success.

Marketing and record-keeping at the five project sites

Much attention was given to supporting farmers in the five project sites to market their surplus production. The successes of the work on the ground translated into providing food at a household level, with a surplus. Over a three-year period there has been a significant increase (from

55% to 92%) in the number of farmers selling their produce. Biowatch and project members have worked hard to deepen understanding, develop markets, look at procedures and legal frameworks, and to network with other organisations on marketing and educating consumers about the value of agro-ecological produce.

Two key workshops during the year promoted this work. The first was held with project members in KwaNgwanase and covered production planning, market committees and working in teams. This workshop was followed by a market and supply chain analysis. The second workshop was held with members of the Zimele project in KwaHhohho where they celebrated their “marketing journey”, investigated challenges and made plans for the next two years.

Biowatch undertook a four-month market segmentation and sustainability study with the Zimele project in KwaHhohho and the Impisethunjini Project in Pongola. This was done in conjunction with a community record-keeping exercise to identify and develop the best methods for collecting and analysing data. One of the main objectives was to determine the relative volume and value of sales to local and informal markets, and the domestic retail market, as well as that of produce consumed in the household. To collect information on how much produce was consumed at home, how much was shared with family members and neighbours, and how much was sold, farmers used boxes with pictures of the different markets





Pick n Pay

Inspired by you



Okudayisele
umphakathi
nomakhelwane
emholweni



Okudle
ekhaya



1

Okukhile

Farmers adopt an innovative record-keeping system.

(formal, informal and household consumption) and cards with the different vegetables grown. The data was then analysed and farmers were able to see for themselves what they had achieved, and they were able to compare results. The study was challenging but fun, and both groups of farmers continued with the record keeping after the pilot study was completed.

By the end of the period under review all five community projects had a marketing committee and farmers were selling to a range of markets – local, open markets (neighbours, community, schools, vendors/hawkers) and domestic retail markets.

Partner exchanges

Links with many partners, including NGOs, farmers' organisations, women's clubs, faith-based organisations and municipalities, were strengthened during the period under review.

Several learning exchanges have been important in deepening our understanding of agro-ecology and were held in conjunction with the African Conservation Trust; the KwaZulu-Natal Regional Christian Council (KRCC); Woza Moya (a community-based NGO); a combined Surplus People Project/Farmer Support Group/Church Land

Programme/PACSA/Biowatch exchange; COPAC (Co-operative and Policy Alternative Center); and the Farmer Support Group Food Indaba.

Biowatch staff and farmer representatives participated in the Local Environmental Ethical Network Workshop, hosted by the Environmental Monitoring Group. The aim of the workshop was to explore possibilities and challenges around the development of a local ethical and environmental market supporting small-holder farmers.

Biowatch was involved in several activities of the Southern Africa Food Lab (SAFL) and the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) project, as part of the Supporting Smallholders into Commercial Agriculture: A social dialogue and learning project. This was a process that had participation from government, civil society, funders and the private sector.

Biowatch was visited by the group for the Market Access Learning Journey and then participated with farmer representatives in the Limpopo Learning Journey on extension and farmer support. We motivated for agro-ecology, for the rights of small-holder family farmers and the importance and value of informal/local/traditional markets as opposed to formal markets.

Engaging with government

Over the past three years, Biowatch and farmers from the five project sites have achieved some success in engaging with local government. This work focused on gaining stronger support for the concept of agro-ecological farming practices and for direct provision of fencing and water tanks for small-holder family farmers. In May 2013, Biowatch was able to take this further at a meeting with the Directorate of Stakeholder Relations, national Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). This led to a visit by DAFF officials to the project site at KwaHhohho in June 2013. Farmer representatives from all five project sites participated. At the meeting, three farmer representatives presented to government, motivating for agro-ecology and for support to small-holder family farmers. The officials were very impressed with the agro-ecological systems used and requested the details and needs of the farmers. Biowatch then visited each of the project sites to get consent from each group of farmers and detail their list of needs.

Biowatch will continue to play an intermediary role to support the five projects to access resources from the state, but the intention is that in the medium to long term government should work directly with farmers. We intend to keep track and write up the process so that other small-holder agro-ecology family farmers can benefit from such experiences.

International Experience Sharing

International experience sharing positions our work in the context of global struggles and strengthens our links with other organisations working towards environmental and social justice. Key events during the report period were the biannual African Biodiversity Network meeting in Kenya; an Agro-ecology, Seed and Knowledge Systems Exchange in South Africa; the World Committee on Food Security (CFS) in Italy; and a visit to Zimbabwe. Both the exchange and the visit to Zimbabwe were part of the Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI), an initiative with the Mupo Foundation and the University of Cape Town.

African Biodiversity Network (ABN) meeting, Kenya

In September, Biowatch participated in the African Biodiversity Network (ABN) biannual partners' meeting in Nanyuki, Kenya. We joined 28 participants from the different ABN partner organisations for an inspiring meeting and celebration of 10 years of ABN. Representatives came from Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The meeting focused on obtaining agreement on ABN's strategic direction as well as on deepening the network's work in three communities of practice: Youth, Culture and

Biodiversity (YCB); Community Ecological Governance (CEG); and Community Seeds and Knowledge (CSK).

Through ABN, Biowatch links with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). AFSA is a much needed counter to A Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA) which, if allowed to go ahead, will ultimately undermine small-holder agriculture in Africa.

Biowatch also engaged with ABN and AFSA on policy issues and supported both in commenting on ARIPO (African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation) in terms of the Regional Policy and Framework for Plant Variety Protection.

Agro-ecology, Seed and Knowledge Systems Exchange, South Africa

In September 2013, Biowatch hosted a three-day Agro-ecology, Seed and Knowledge Systems exchange in Mtunzini, KwaZulu-Natal. This exchange was the first event for the Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI) with participants from 15 organisations from South Africa, Swaziland, United States and Zimbabwe. The diversity of farmers, researchers and NGO practitioners was powerful and is needed to deal with the complex issues around control of seeds and knowledge.

The World Committee on Food Security, Rome

Biowatch participated in the World Committee on Food Security (CFS) meeting in



Rome in October 2013. The CFS falls under the United Nations and is hosted by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). There were delegations from more than 130 countries and representatives from such groupings as the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), the Private Sector Mechanism, the World Bank, and the UN Human Rights Commission.

The CSM held a two-day meeting before the CFS. At the CSM there were about 200 participants from farmers' associations, social movements and NGOs. Biowatch also participated in two round table discussions on biofuels and on investing in small-holder agriculture for food security and nutrition.

The CSM contribution then fed into the CFS process. In the case of biofuels, both the civil society contributions and the CFS High Panel of Experts report on biofuels were ignored, but in the session on investing in small-holder agriculture for food security and nutrition, civil society was able to make a significant contribution. The contested terrain in the CFS is evident with the right to food and nutrition needing to be highlighted constantly as energy and trade issues dominate.

Biowatch's participation was sponsored through an international agro-ecology exchange programme through one of our funding partners, IDEX (International Development Exchange). This programme provided for the participation in

Rome, where three partners were supported, Biowatch, IATP (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy in the United States) and the Tamil Women's Collective from Nepal.

Visit to Zimbabwe

The trip to Zimbabwe was part of the Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI). It included attending the launch of La Via Campesina's Seed Campaign in Africa and making links with farmers' organisations from Zimbabwe and Mozambique as well as other global players in the seed network. Meetings were also held with government officials, the Gene Bank, FANPRAN, CTDT (Community Technology Development Trust), Afforest, Trees of Life, PELUM, UNAC, and a number of key individuals.

The highlight of the trip was joining CTDT at a seed fair in UMP (Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe) District and to visit CELUCT in the Chimanimani District.

Much learning took place during this visit and we look forward to building on this in 2014/2015.

Financial Statements

Biowatch Trust for the year ended 28 February 2014 (extract)

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Bringing you peace of mind

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Trustees of Biowatch Trust

I have audited the annual financial statements of Biowatch Trust, as set out on pages 7 to 13, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 28 February 2014, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Trustees' Responsibility for the Annual Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these annual financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these annual financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the annual financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the annual financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the annual 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 annual 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 annual financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my 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 was impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

Qualified Opinion

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Biowatch Trust as at 28 February 2014, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities.

Other matter

Without qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to the fact that supplementary information set out on page 14 does not form part of the annual financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited this information and accordingly do not express an opinion thereon.

Other reports

As part of my audit of the annual financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2014, I have read the trustees' Report for the purpose of identifying whether there are material inconsistencies between these reports and the audited annual financial statements. This report is the responsibility of the respective preparer. Based on reading this report I have not identified material inconsistencies between this report and the audited annual financial statements. However, I have not audited this report and accordingly do not express an opinion on this report.


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

Biowatch Trust

(Registration number IT4212/99)

Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2014

Statement of Financial Position

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2014	2013
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	796 791	297 515
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1 156 457	879 807
Total Assets		1 953 248	1 177 322
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Trust Capital		100	100
Accumulated surplus		578 783	1 161 887
		578 883	1 161 987
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Other financial liabilities		309 072	-
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	15 623	15 335
Income received in advance	9	1 049 670	-
		1 065 293	15 335
Total Liabilities		1 374 365	15 335
Total Equity and Liabilities		1 953 248	1 177 322

Biowatch Trust

(Registration number IT4212/99)

Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2014

Detailed Statement of Comprehensive Income

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2014	2013
Revenue			
Baumann Trust		100 000	50 000
Centre for International Governance Innovation		-	30 760
Comic Relief		1 191 429	2 566 413
DG Murray Trust		-	511 000
Foundation for Human Rights		101 226	-
Institute of International Education		-	43 310
International Development Exchange		154 746	22 129
National Lotteries Board		356 740	-
Other donations		-	140 012
Oxfam Australia		274 314	540 701
Slow Food Italy		-	81 425
Swiss Development and Cooperation		899 920	-
		3 078 375	3 985 750
Other income			
Refunds		-	7 824
Donation from non profit organisation – closed down		-	130 912
Other income		96 810	-
Interest received	6	32 821	44 154
		129 631	182 890

(continued on next page)

Biowatch Trust

(Registration number IT4212/99)

Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2014

Detailed Statement of Comprehensive Income (continued)

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2014	2013
Operating expenses			
Accounting fees		(111 932)	(71 024)
Auditors remuneration	7	(29 686)	(34 282)
Bank charges		(20 692)	(35 745)
Computer expenses		(37 587)	(30 265)
Consulting fees		(260 310)	(82 145)
Depreciation		(10 364)	(6 725)
Employee costs		(1 030 459)	(1 241 808)
Insurance		(7 650)	(7 805)
Postage		(27 762)	(7 397)
Printing and stationery		(99 700)	(60 927)
Project costs		(1 936 322)	(1 745 700)
Rental		(68 880)	(103 135)
Stationery and office supplies		(67 206)	(20 997)
Telephone and fax		(50 998)	(58 481)
		(3 759 548)	(3 506 436)
Operating (loss) profit		(551 542)	662 204
Finance costs		(31 562)	-
(Loss) profit for the year		(583 104)	662 204



biowatch
SOUTH AFRICA

biodiversity | food sovereignty | agro-ecology | social justice

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