



**COP29**  
Baku  
Azerbaijan  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



# UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)



Baku,  
Azerbaijan



11 November to  
22 November 2024



SIDE EVENT

**Centering the voices from the frontline communities in carbon markets decisions and regulations: Experience sharing from African communities**

Venue: DRC Pavillion Date: November 15, 2024

Time: TBC (GMT+4)

[COP29.PACJA.ORG](https://COP29.PACJA.ORG)

## Background and contextual issues:

Debate on which way carbon markets for Africa has been ranging on for a while. Flagged as a major dialogue area during the Multi-stakeholder Consultations on the Outcomes of COP29 and the Road map to COP29, a space convened by AUC, UNECA, AfDB and PACJA, the efforts to midwife an approach that is suitable to the continent still remains on. The various technical convenings and the African Carbon Markets Conference in Addis Ababa have all flagged integrity of carbon markets as an issue that require attention, against a backdrop of a continent with constrained capacity for governance of the carbon markets, including its value chains.

Closer to communities, critical concerns relate to whether carbon markets investments, and particularly in our natural assets translates into positive outcomes to our communities. The claims and counter claims of 'forced' land use options for communities still linger and so are isolated cases of land claims by carbon investors, infringing on tenure rights of local communities. These have direct implications on communities who solely depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and who are guardians of biodiversity.

At global level, concerns are rife on whether carbon offsets schemes are contributing tangibly in management of emissions. The climate crisis is increasingly alarming, with 2024 likely to be one of the hottest years on record. Greenhouse gas concentrations have surpassed 420 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>, driving global warming towards a dangerous 2.7°C increase by end of this century. The first Global Stocktake reaffirms the inadequacies of both climate actions and support. There is need for urgent and enhanced action and support, with developed countries taking lead, to close both the implementation and ambition gaps and prevent severe impacts on lives, ecosystems, and economies especially in Africa and vulnerable regions.

There are broad concerns and disconnects in framing of the role of carbon markets in climate action with attempts to overcommit carbon credits to deliver on climate finance commitment. The carbon markets are characterised by contradictions and complexity; they present opportunities and risks too and these require careful navigation to ensure that these markets do not motivate more emissions. Current evidence demonstrates that carbon markets could be part of the green washing, a false narrative as they are not solving the underlying problem of emission by developed countries parties. As an imperative of climate justice, it is important to align the approach to sustainable development and address environmental concerns in securing land tenure issues for local communities, which are increasingly in jeopardy from carbon investments.

There is a deeply seated capacity for action and effective governance concerns with African countries having limited information on carbon markets and are therefore engaging from the point of no information. The need for capacity for engaging in the entire value chains of the carbon markets – raising awareness, developing the products, developing inclusive strategies that contribute to sustainable development, monitoring and verifying the credits is apparent.

It is common knowledge by a vast majority of players in the carbon markets that transparency in project development cannot be guaranteed as there are proponents who collude with validators and verifiers and claim non-existent emission reduction credit. Integrity issues, transparency and violations of human rights continue to be reported among communities where the investments have taken place. Calls to revoke projects where investors are not meeting their targets are becoming a clarion call.

The call for Africa to consider carbon markets as instruments to leverage low carbon and resilient development and deliver meaningful sustainable development impacts beyond emissions reductions is becoming louder. Many African countries are currently engaged in the development of national carbon market frameworks and this offers an opportunity to ringfence communities' interests and strengthen regional collaboration and exchange experiences.

The COP29 climate change event at the DRC Pavilion represents a unique opportunity to highlight the crucial role of local communities in discussions on carbon markets. By integrating their voices and experiences, this event aims to ensure that climate policies are fair, inclusive, and effective while supporting the sustainability and resilience of African communities in the face of climate change challenges.

## **Objectives of the event:**

This event aims to centre their voices in discussions about carbon markets, sharing their experiences and advocating for fair representation.

1. Enhance consciousness of decision-makers on critical issues in carbon markets of significant importance to local communities and how best to incorporate these in decisions in carbon markets discourse
2. Contribute to enhancing the capacity of stakeholders at the country level to negotiate effectively on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement
3. Promote networking and sharing of experiences and best practices among African communities on human rights considerations in the carbon market dispensation
4. Develop concrete recommendations on how decision-makers can integrate the concerns and needs of local communities into carbon market policies.

## **Envisaged outcomes including contribution to negotiations**

- ▶ Strengthening the voice of local communities in climate negotiations, ensuring that their concerns are taken into account.
- ▶ Development of recommendations that are shared with negotiators to influence positions

## **Key Messages**

The voices of local communities are essential for effective and equitable climate decisions. Including community concerns in carbon markets can lead to more sustainable and beneficial outcomes for all.

- ▶ Coordination and collaboration among African nations to avoid the silo approach and have a common approach to carbon markets. This call for sharing experiences and best practices among African communities is crucial to building collective resilience to climate change.
- ▶ Geo-political: The global economic system has never been kind to Africa, and there is a need to interrogate the implications of the geopolitics and how Africa repositions itself

## Partnerships:

---

- ▶ Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo
- ▶ Africa Faith Actors Network on Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ)
- ▶ Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- ▶ DRC Climate Change Network
- ▶ African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance

## Moderator & Key speakers:

---

- ▶ **Moderator:** Charles Mwangi, Head of Programs & Research, PACJA

### Key Speakers:

- ▶ **Government Representative**, Democratic Republic of Congo
- ▶ **Appolonaire Zagabe**, Coordinator, DRC Climate Change Network
- ▶ **Dr. Augustine Njamshi**, Chair of the Political & Technical Committee, PACJA Board
- ▶ **Linus Mofor**, UNECA
- ▶ **Yemi Katerere**, African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance
- ▶ **Anne Samante**, Programme Manager, MPIDO
- ▶ **Dr. Bishop Ezekiel Lesmore**, Director of Programmes, All Africa Conferences of Churches
- ▶ **Sourphana Lahiri**, CLARA



**COP29**  
Baku  
Azerbaijan  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



## CONTACT US

**PANAFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (PACJA)**

Continental Secretariat, Kabarnet Road,

Off Ngong Road J13

P. O. Box 51005 00200,

Nairobi, Kenya