



**Press Release
For Immediate Release June 30th 2019**

Yet another award for Kenyan Climate activist Mithika Mwenda

The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) Executive Director Mithika Mwenda has been selected for the prestigious Sierra Club's Earth Care Award 2019 for his unique contribution to international environmental protection and conservation.

Sierra Club, an environmental organisation based in the United States, presents the Earth Care Award annually to honour individuals or organisations that make unique contribution to international environmental protection and conservation.

Mr Mithika will be presented with the award for his climate justice activism through PACJA during a ceremony at the Marriott Oakland City Center in Oakland, California on 14 September 2019.

“You were nominated for this award by the Sierra Club's International Environmental Justice Team in recognition of your work with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA),” Ellen Davis, the Sierra Club Honors and Awards Committee chair, told Mithika in a congratulatory message.

Mithika told Journalists in Bonn, Germany, where he is attending a climate change conference that he was overjoyed by the nomination. “This is not a singular honour but the recognition of the work by thousands of PACJA members and partners in Africa and elsewhere who have sacrificed all what they have to ensure we reach this level,” he said, adding: “With profound humility, I accept this Award that will no doubt energise my resolve to continue fighting to accord voice to those at the frontline of climate crisis.”

The prestigious award comes only months after Mithika was named one of the world's top 100 most influential people on climate policy by Apolitical, a global network for government.

He beat professionals, world leaders, and other climate policy champions from recognised institutions to make it to the top 100 list. Yesterday, several notable figures on matters climate and environment sent Mithika congratulatory messages.

Ambassador Seyni Nafu, the Spokesperson of the African Group of Negotiators to the UNFCCC, yesterday said: "This is so much well deserved and testimony for your commitment and sacrifice for the cause and for Africa."

He added: "This does inspire all of us to increase our ambition and resolve for the cause as well as our people, so keep up the good work and flame and continue the fight very high as you have always done it!"

Augustine Njamnshi, the Coordinator of the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA) and who is also PACJA's co-founder and Director of Political and Technical Affairs, was happy for Mithika. "This only confirms that others have been seeing what we have been doing as an organisation, especially what Mithika, as an individual, has been doing for the last couple of years since we created this organisation," he said, adding: "But let's say that as an organisation, and even at individual level, we don't do this work to be recognised but for the sake of the people who are at the forefront of the climate crisis, so that they have space for participation in environmental issues on the continent.

James Murombedzi, Chief, UNECA Climate Change Unit and Coordinator of the Addis Ababa-based African Climate Policy Centre was equally happy for Mithika. He said: "Mr Mwenda has led PACJA into a movement that has become central to this interface between problem and solution, working at all levels from the community right up to the multilateral global levels to stimulate practical and policy innovations to address the myriad of environmental challenges that threaten the very existence of our planet in the way we know it. The Sierra award represents a very timely recognition of this effort".

For Prof Seth Osafo, African Group of Negotiators Legal Advisor, it was a moment to reflect on a short past. "I have known Mithika for quite a few years now, and collaborating with him on climate change matters through PACJA, but also through meetings organized by the Economic Commission for Africa.

Tasneem Essop, the Interim Executive Director of the Climate Action Network International, said: "In the period that I have worked with

Mithika and known him, he has been extremely dedicated, firstly by putting African voices into these international processes and also strengthening PACJA. So when anybody thinks about African civil society, you think about PACJA and you know Mithika has led... it is an award he deserves, and finally recognition given to the long, hard and dedicated work that Mithika and PACJA have put into ensuring that Africa's voice is heard in these processes.”

About PACJA

The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) is a consortium of more than 1,000 organisations from 48 African countries, and brings together a diverse membership drawn from Faith-based Organisations, Community-Based Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations, Trusts, Foundations, Indigenous Communities, Farmers and Pastoralist Groups with a shared vision to advance a people-centred, right-based, equitable, just and inclusive approach to climate change response. It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

About Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organisation in the United States, whose main aim is to amplify the power of its 3.5 million plus members and supporters to defend everyone's right to a healthy world.

Name: Mithika Mwenda

Organisation: Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

Position: Executive Director

Award: Earth Care Award 2019

Awarded by: Sierra Club

To be received on: 14 September 2019

To be received at: Marriott Oakland City Center in Oakland, California