

PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE VOICES ROUND UP

VOLUME 2





EDITORIAL NOTE



Another quarter has passed and we remain unwavering in our pursuit of climate justice. This period has been marked by a flurry of activities across continents, with significant global awareness days like World Health Day, World Environmental Day, and World Biodiversity Day. As a premier coalition of Civil Society Organizations in Africa, our mission is clear: to educate, inform, inspire, and ignite sustainable change for our continent.

Challenges persist, such as the ongoing battle to have Al Jaber step down as COP28 president, despite the recognition from the EU and American Congress of his compromised position. Meanwhile, Africa continues to bear the brunt of catastrophic climate effects, exemplified by recent floods in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These conditions have hindered our development for centuries, and though they are not of our making, we must survive and overcome them.

Nevertheless, our alliance persists in partnering with key stakeholders and influential figures in the fight against climate change across Africa. The involvement of H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda, as the Global Ambassador for our recovery efforts after the devastating Cyclone Freddy, is a testament to our collective dedication. Additionally, the 3rd Pan-African Parliament Summit on Climate Policy and Equity in South Africa showcased global legislators sharing ideas and the passionate address by H.E. Dr. William Ruto, the president of Kenya, demanding more respect and action from entities like the African Union.

We acknowledge the challenges and frustrations encountered in our fight for climate justice, yet we stand tall, fortified by the belief that true justice will prevail. In this issue, you will witness the unwavering efforts of men, women, youth, marginalized communities, fisher folks, pastoralists, FBOs, CBOs, private sector, government, and other non-state actors in their collective pursuit of an equitable and just future.

Join us in celebrating these remarkable endeavors, as we embrace the vision of a thriving Africa. Together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable world for all. Happy reading!

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Discussions on Loss and Damage have long been neglected, despite being a major challenge for Africa and the world. However, a recent symposium organized by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance and partners shed light on the urgency of the issue. The event brought together stakeholders in Lilongwe, Malawi, to establish an African position on Loss and Damage.

A significant step forward was made at COP27 in 2022, where negotiations resulted in the establishment of a loss and damage fund. Although this was a positive development, operationalizing the fund and providing grants for climate-affected countries remains pending, leaving Africa eager for progress.

Dr. Micheal Usi, Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change, called for collaborative efforts to generate and disseminate knowledge, enabling communities to combat the devastating effects of climate change.

Augustine Njdamnshi, Chairperson of the Technical and Political Committee of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, emphasized the need for the global community to take responsibility for addressing loss and damage and supporting the victims. The symposium addressed policy recommendations, community-based solutions, and the inclusion of marginalized groups. Participants emphasized the importance of increased funding, policy interventions, and community-led approaches like sustainable agriculture and youth initiatives. They stressed the need to engage with marginalized communities, especially women, to develop effective solutions.

While challenges persist, there are opportunities for innovative solutions and international cooperation. By investing in addressing loss and damage, Africa can build a sustainable and resilient future. Acknowledging loss and damage as a critical issue and ensuring access to relevant data are crucial steps towards informed decision-making and effective action against the impacts of climate change in Africa and beyond.

AFRICA'S CSOS CALL ON GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO ACT FAST AND MAKE LOSS AND DAMAGE FACILITY OPERATIONAL WITH ADEQUATE AND HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE FUNDING

Joint Statement between PACJA and Her Excellence, the Former President of Malawi, Joyce Banda, Good will Ambassador for Cyclone Freddy Recovery



Executive Director PACJA and H.E Joyce Banda at the PACJA Secretariat signing joint statement

Former President of the Republic of Malawi, Joyce Banda, and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) have jointly released a statement highlighting the devastating impact of cyclone Freddy on Malawi and calling for urgent action to address climate change. They emphasize that cyclone Freddy was not just a humanitarian issue but a climate change-triggered catastrophe, and they reference the loss of lives and property caused by Hurricane Kenneth in 2019.

The statement acknowledges PACJA's efforts in advocating for loss and damage, and expresses concern over the delay in international climate policy processes to address the impacts of climate change. The most vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, are being disproportionately affected, and the global community needs to agree on modalities to establish a Loss and Damage Facility that can help communities overcome the increasing frequency of such events.

The statement concludes with a call for action, urging the UN to mobilize resources to support Malawi and other African countries facing climate-triggered disasters, and to deliver on financing for loss and damage and adaptation actions. They propose carbon-based taxation measures for corporations responsible for climate change, with the funds going towards the Loss and Damage Facility. They emphasize the importance of equity, justice, and common but differentiated responsibilities, and call on powerful countries not to delay the functionality of the Loss and Damage Facility. Banda and PACJA commit to working together to address climate emergencies in Malawi, Africa, and globally, and express gratitude for Banda's new role as Goodwill Ambassador for Loss and Damage for Africa, which they hope will amplify the voices of women leaders and ensure their priorities are not overshadowed.

THIRD PARLIAMENTARIANS' SUMMIT ON CLIMATE POLICY AND EQUITY IN MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA

Parliamentarians from across Africa gathered in Midrand, South Africa for the third parliamentarians' summit on climate policy and equity. from the 15th-16th of May 2023. The event, organized by the Pan African Parliament and Pan African Parliament brought together over 200 members from 54 African countries, including representatives from civil society organizations, academia, and youth groups.

During his address, Dr. Mithika Mwenda, the Executive Director of Pan African Climate Justice, emphasized the need for justice in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change faced by Africa. He reminded the participants that Africa is the most vulnerable region to climate change, despite contributing the least to its causes. Dr. Mwenda highlighted the visible impacts of climate change, such as frequent droughts, floods, heatwaves, and extreme weather events, which pose threats to food security, water availability, health, infrastructure, biodiversity, and peace.

President Ho. Chief Fortune Chirumbira of the Pan African Parliament called for action and a shift from mere speeches and conferences to concrete implementation. He stressed the importance of strong institutional arrangements and leadership to achieve tangible results. President Chirumbira urged participants to avoid repeating past commitments and instead examine why developed countries have not honored their commitments.

HE William Ruto expressed the desire for Africa to move away from being associated solely with problems and instead actively contribute to solutions. He highlighted Africa's wealth, young population, and growing emerging market as the necessary elements to combat climate change and promote a green revolution. Ruto emphasized the abundant potential of solar, wind, and geothermal energy in Africa, noting the paradox of being in a resource-rich continent but experiencing scarcity.

This summit marks a significant step in Africa's efforts to combat climate change and promote equity. With the collective determination of parliamentarians, civil society, and other stakeholders, Africa is poised to create impactful changes in climate policy and pave the way for a more sustainable future.



THIRD PARLIAMENTARIANS' SUMMIT ON CLIMATE POLICY AND EQUITY IN MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA



"EMPOWERING COLLABORATION: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE"



Participants at the meeting stressed the need for customs-related capacity enhancement and harmonization in the region to facilitate renewable energy product trade. They emphasized the role of CSOs in fostering socio-economic development through partnerships with the private sector. Harmonizing the East African Common Customs Management Act was a focal point, aiming to create a fair business environment for the renewable energy sector. CSOs were recognized as valuable sources of information and facilitators of dialogue, playing a vital role in evidence-based decision-making. Collaborating with the private sector and regional organizations was deemed crucial for driving positive change in the energy sector and achieving sustainable development and climate action goals.

The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF) organized a three-day meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, with the aim of addressing the bottle-necks in the transboundary movement of renewable energy products within the East African Community (EAC). The meeting aimed to foster a constructive dialogue between EAC officials, civil society organizations (CSOs), and stakeholders in the renewable energy trade spaces to identify and agree on appropriate solutions that promote energy access and advance the use of renewable energy sources in the region. The discussions focused on challenges faced by the private sector in trading renewable energy products, such as customs procedures, documentation requirements, and high compliance costs. The participants recognized the importance of addressing these challenges and committed to follow up on the proposals made during the meeting.



The meeting highlighted the importance of capacity building, harmonization of customs regulations, and the role of CSOs in driving the transition towards renewable energy in the East African region. By addressing these issues and fostering collaboration between stakeholders, it is hoped that the region can overcome the challenges in the renewable energy trade and unlock its full potential for sustainable development and climate mitigation.

CALL FOR URGENT ACTION: ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN CLIMATE TALKS

In response to growing concerns over the integrity and effectiveness of the upcoming COP28, we emphasize the need for immediate action. Firstly, we demand the unconditional withdrawal of Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the President-designate of COP28, due to his close ties to the fossil fuel industry and alleged obstruction of climate action.

Moreover, we call for the establishment of a robust conflict of interest policy, limiting the participation and access of polluting industries, particularly those incompatible with the 1.5°C limit, in UNFCCC meetings. Fossil fuel companies and their lobbying groups should be excluded from official delegations, side events, sponsorships, and exhibitions.

Transparency and accountability must be prioritized in UNFCCC processes.

This includes the disclosure of both financial and non-financial contributions from private sector entities and their representatives. To ensure openness, all parties and observers must report their funding sources and amounts, with this information made publicly available.

We urgently urge the UNFCCC Executive Secretary to take these crucial steps, enabling COP28 to be a resounding success, where the voices of the most vulnerable and affected communities are heard and respected, free from the influence of corporate interests.

In standing united with millions worldwide demanding climate justice and a livable future for all, it is imperative that we act now. Together, let us strive for transparency, accountability, and a sustainable future.



PACJA Statement in Support of US and EU Law Makers' Letter On Cop28 Presidency.

PAN-AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE IN BONN SB58



A Call for a Transformative Climate Talks to Fast Track Climate Action

Bonn, Germany; June 6, 2023 - The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) has issued a resolute statement during the Bonn Climate Change Conference 2023 SB 58, representing the civil society from Africa. With an unwavering voice, PACJA has articulated the concerns and demands of millions of Africans who are bearing the brunt of climate change's impacts. The statement emphasizes the moral and legal obligations of the Parties to the UNFCCC to protect both the planet and its people from the existential threat of global warming. Moreover, it holds these Parties accountable for their actions and inactions that have perpetuated and exacerbated the current climate crisis.

Africa finds itself on the frontlines of this climate emergency, grappling with its dire consequences despite having contributed the least to its causes. The continent is confronted with severe water scarcity, crop failures, malnutrition, diseases, displacement, conflicts, heatwaves, and loss of life as a direct result of climate change. Additionally, African natural resources and ecosystems are under immense pressure from both climate change and other human activities. Unfortunately, the development prospects and aspirations of Africa are being undermined by insufficient support and finance from the international community.

The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) firmly demands justice and equity, rejecting any notion of charity or sympathy. They urge Parties, particularly those from affluent nations, to abandon procrastination and heed the voices of the most vulnerable. Immediate action is necessary, guided by scientific evidence and principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Developed countries must honor their commitments under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, providing comprehensive progress reports by the end of 2023, thereby demonstrating solidarity and partnership with Africa.

Lastly, PACJA stresses the immediate need for decisive action and expedited negotiations on the global goal for adaptation. Since 2015, discussions on this vital agenda have lacked a clear plan of action. This year presents a critical opportunity as the work program on the global goal for adaptation concludes at the Glasgow Sharm-El-Sheikh conference. Parties are called upon to establish strong targets under a comprehensive framework to enhance adaptation ambition. Additionally, a standing agenda item should be established beyond the conference to ensure continued progress on the global goal for adaptation.

AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY REJECT COP28 PRESIDENT



Pan African Climate Justice Alliance Rejects Meeting with COP28 President Designate Over Oil Ties

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) has recently announced its decision to decline the invitation for a meeting with Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, the President-Designate of COP28. The alliance cites concerns over Dr. Al Jaber's close affiliation with the fossil fuel industry, specifically as the CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). PACJA firmly believes that his oil ties present a serious conflict of interest, thereby undermining his credibility as a leader in global climate negotiations.

PACJA has previously called for Dr. Al Jaber to step down from his role as President Designate of COP28. The alliance reiterates this demand for several compelling reasons. First and foremost, as the Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and the Group CEO of ADNOC, Dr. Al Jaber's positions represent the interests of the fossil fuel industry, which is widely recognized as the primary driver of the ongoing climate crisis. It is deemed unacceptable that an individual with such close ties to this industry holds a prominent position within the COP process, which is intended to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement and limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Moreover, Dr. Al Jaber's involvement in the COP process raises serious concerns about the integrity and legitimacy of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). There is a genuine worry that his position could lead to undue influence over negotiation outcomes, potentially favoring the oil and gas sector at the expense of more ambitious and equitable climate actions sought by developing countries and civil society.

In response to the invitation to meet with Dr. Al Jaber in Nairobi, PACJA views it as a mere public relations tactic aimed at improving his image and bolstering his credibility as the COP president. The alliance refuses to be used as a token representation of engagement with civil society while policies and projects that are detrimental to the environment and human rights persist.

PACJA calls on Dr. Al Jaber to step down from the COP28 Presidency, demonstrating a commitment to climate justice and impartial leadership. The alliance emphasizes the need for a President who embodies integrity, impartiality, and genuine climate action, advocating for a fair transition away from fossil fuels towards a sustainable future.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR ADAPTATION SIDE-EVENT BONN SB58



The current and potential benefits of renewable energy for adaptation and resilience in Africa and other regions of the global south are numerous and significant. Renewable energy access can address the challenges posed by climate change and strengthen the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy can mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as droughts, floods, heatwaves, and sea-level rise, which threaten the livelihoods and well-being of millions of people in the global south.

Additionally, renewable energy can enhance energy security and access, particularly for rural and remote communities that lack reliable and affordable electricity from fossil fuels or centralized grids. This improved access can lead to better social services, including healthcare, education, and communication, while also fostering economic development and poverty reduction.

Moreover, renewable energy can diversify energy sources, creating local jobs and income opportunities, especially for women and youth who often face barriers to employment in traditional energy sectors. This diversification can reduce dependence on imported fuels and increase resilience to external shocks and price fluctuations.

Furthermore, renewable energy supports community-based and participatory approaches to energy planning and management. This strengthens local capacities, governance, and ownership of energy solutions, fostering social cohesion, trust, and collaboration among different stakeholders and groups.

Lastly, renewable energy enables innovative and context-specific solutions tailored to the diverse needs and challenges of different regions and communities in the global south. Solar-powered irrigation systems can enhance food security and water efficiency in arid areas, wind turbines can provide electricity for coastal fishing villages, biogas digesters can produce clean cooking fuel from organic waste, and micro-hydropower plants can supply power for mountainous regions.

A collaborative effort from governments, businesses, civil society, and international partners is needed to realize the benefits of renewable energy. Mobilizing finance, technology, and policy while ensuring a just transition is crucial to unlock its potential and take urgent action for a sustainable future.

SB58 EXIT STATEMENT BY THE PAN-AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (PACJA)



A Call on developed countries to free energies of their negotiators

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) has taken a strong stance on the direction Africa should pursue in the complex realm of climate talks. In our first press briefing at SB58, we highlighted key messages that amplify our mission. These messages include the urgent need for an overhaul of the climate finance architecture, ensuring proper attention to the global goal on adaptation, scaling up funding for adaptation based on needs, demanding increased mitigation ambition from polluters, and discouraging any delaying tactics.

PACJA is deeply concerned about the wastage of time in negotiation rooms, where developed countries' negotiators lack the necessary vision to move the discussions forward. These negotiators are ill-equipped to address the means of implementation, turning the SBs into mere dialogues without any serious outcomes. PACJA has made several crucial observations that are pertinent to the next steps in negotiations:

A. Global Stock Take (GST):

While the GST process must proceed this year as stipulated in the Paris Agreement, we are alarmed by the casual nature of conversations surrounding it. Parties need to acknowledge the existing data from IPCC reports, which clearly indicates that we are off track in achieving the temperature goal. To get back on track, a significant 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is needed by 2030.

Therefore, the GST decision should encompass comprehensive and balanced content, addressing equity and including pre-2020 gaps. Developed countries' insistence on a mitigation-centric approach neglects the clear financial implications of adaptation measures. PACJA emphasizes:

B. Adaptation:

While the COP26 two-year work program on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) presented an opportunity, the actualization of this goal has been long overdue due to delaying tactics by developed countries. PACJA has consistently advocated for a comprehensive framework with targets and indicators. Unfortunately, as the window for progress closes, little has been achieved on this agenda item. Similarly, the lack of progress on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) is concerning, as they are crucial for vulnerable countries to take action.

C. On Loss and Damage:

The direction of conversations around the loss and damage agenda in SB58 is concerning to PACJA. The introduction of language on philanthropies shifts the responsibility for response from governments to non-state actors, deviating from the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the prominence of business models such as insurance as a response mechanism for loss and damage



EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION: JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance recently participated in a Youth Engagement Breakfast Dialogue, led by esteemed individuals such as Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Ambassador Maarten Brouwer, and Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuyu. In their opening remarks, they emphasized the immense potential of young people in shaping Africa's development agenda, especially in response to the pressing climate crisis.

This ongoing dialogue series aims to bring together dynamic young voices, using art and creativity as powerful tools to advocate for climate justice. Witnessing diverse youth leaders and ambassadors come together for this common cause is truly inspiring.

Let's work together and generate momentum as we approach the upcoming Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, scheduled for this September. Stay tuned for more updates and join us in our mission to build a sustainable future! [#YouthClimateAction](#) [#ClimateJustice](#) [#AfricaClimateSummit](#) [#ACS2023](#)

FOCUS ON DESIGNATED NATIONAL PLATFORM



Kenya Platform for Climate Governance : "Empowering Kenya: Public Engagement and Carbon Market Potential in the Climate Change Amendment Bill 2023"

The Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (PACJA) hosted a significant public participation forum aimed at gathering input on the Climate Change Amendment Bill 2023 and exploring the benefits of carbon markets for Kenya and Africa. This event, held on May 22nd, 2023, brought together key stakeholders, including members of the Climate Change Caucus and enthusiastic members of the public.

The forum, facilitated by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, provided an opportunity for citizens to engage in discussions surrounding the amendment bill. This legislation seeks to bridge existing gaps and promote engagement in carbon markets, ultimately working towards a more sustainable future. As the deadline for public participation approaches, organizations like the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance are actively encouraging citizens, civil society groups, indigenous communities, and Members of Parliament to contribute their valuable insights and help shape this crucial process.

During the forum, the Executive Director of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance highlighted Kenya's position as a pioneer country in enacting and operationalizing a climate change act. He emphasized the need for climate change to be addressed comprehensively, beyond the confines of the Ministry of Environment, and urged urgent action on this cross-cutting issue. Delegates at the event also stressed the importance of including frontline communities and adopting a feminist perspective when considering carbon markets. Women, who are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, must have their voices amplified and their involvement encouraged.

The proposed Climate Change (Amendment) Bill 2023 aims to align Kenya's climate change efforts with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. One significant focus is the development and implementation of carbon markets, which facilitate the transfer and trading of emission reduction units and mitigation outcomes. The Bill emphasizes adherence to global standards and introduces benefit-sharing mechanisms within carbon markets. It also calls for comprehensive guidance and policy directions for national and county governments, as well as the public and other stakeholders.

The public participation forum organized by PACJA and other initiatives like it is an essential step toward shaping a greener and more resilient future for Kenya and Africa. The collective efforts of stakeholders, combined with inclusive decision-making processes, will help pave the way for effective climate governance and sustainable development.

Botswana Climate Change Network (BCCN)



The Botswana Climate Change Network (BCCN) organized a remarkable event on June 3, 2023, to mark World Environment Day. The event, held at the Main Mall in Gaborone, focused on addressing plastic pollution under the theme #SolutionsForPlasticPollution set by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The "Plastic Collection Exhibition on Plastic Solutions and Innovative Recycling" aimed to showcase innovative approaches to plastic recycling and highlight the importance of sustainable waste management practices.

The presence of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Botswana, and the Department of Waste Management and Pollution at the exhibition was crucial in garnering policy support and engaging stakeholders. It emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts between the government, private sector, and civil society in combating plastic pollution and promoting sustainable waste management practices.

The exhibition featured a beautiful display of art, ornaments, jewelry, and locally-produced items made from recycled materials and leather. This showcased the creative potential and economic opportunities associated with sustainable practices. Attendees from various segments of society, including the general public, businesses, government officials, environmental organizations, and students, showed great interest in finding solutions to plastic pollution.

Enviro Recovery Botswana played a key role as an exhibitor, demonstrating their commitment to addressing plastic waste in the country. The company specializes in collecting and sorting plastic waste, manufacturing plastic pellets, and producing recycled items such as plastic chairs. By effectively managing plastic waste and transforming it into valuable resources, Enviro Recovery Botswana is making a significant contribution to reducing plastic pollution and promoting sustainable waste management practices.



Civil Society Groups Collaborate to Tackle Climate Change Ahead of COP28

The Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDDevNet), along with other civil society groups, recently convened in Abuja to discuss strategies for addressing climate change. The National Consultative Workshop on the 2023 Climate Action Advocacy Strategy was jointly organized by CSDDevNet, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). With preparations underway for the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), set to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) later this year, the workshop aimed to foster collaboration and develop effective approaches to combat climate change.

Optimism in Collaborative Efforts:

During the workshop, Prof. Ibrahim Choji, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CSDDevNet, expressed optimism regarding the collaborative initiatives to address climate change. He highlighted the funding received by CSDDevNet as a Sub-Grantee of PACJA for the SIDA Deepening Nigerian Civil Society Engagement in Post-Paris Agreement and SDGs Dialogue and Response Strategies grant. The project, initially planned for 2018 to 2020, was extended to 2021 due to the global health pandemic of COVID-19. Prof. Choji mentioned the positive outcomes achieved through activities conducted under the project. Notably, .

Prof. Choji commended the leadership role played by PACJA on the African continent. Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of PACJA, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to implementing strategies that address the climate crisis. Dr. Mwenda stressed the disproportionate impact of climate change and the urgent need to tackle this global challenge collectively.

Mr. Ayele Kanede, Regional Programme Manager on Environment and Climate Change at SIDA emphasized the importance of addressing climate change at the grassroots level. Recognizing that communities bear the brunt of climate change's impact, Mr. Kanede pledged SIDA's commitment to working jointly with stakeholders to mitigate its effects. By focusing on the local level, it becomes possible to empower communities, enhance resilience, and foster sustainable development in the face of climate challenges.

The National Consultative Workshop on the 2023 Climate Action Advocacy Strategy, organized by CSDDevNet, PACJA, and SIDA, brought together civil society groups to discuss and strategize on ways to tackle climate change. With COP28 approaching, these collaborations and initiatives provide a platform for diverse stakeholders to contribute collectively towards addressing climate change. The workshop highlighted the importance of inclusive civil society engagement, partnerships with governments, and grassroots efforts to combat the climate crisis. As the international community prepares to convene in the UAE later this year, there is growing optimism that concerted actions and collaborative approaches can pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.

Somali Green Peace Association



Biodiversity Day 2023

On May 22, PACJA Somalia organized a one-day roundtable event to mark the celebration of International Biodiversity Day. The event, held in line with the global day's theme of "From Agreement to Action: Build back Diversity," aimed to explore ways to effectively implement the global Biodiversity framework in Somalia.

The participants engaged in fruitful discussions centered on the significance of biodiversity conservation and the urgent need to translate international agreements into tangible actions within the Somali context. The roundtable brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community leaders, and environmental experts.

The discussions revolved around finding practical solutions and strategies to ensure the successful delivery of the global Biodiversity framework in Somalia. The participants acknowledged the importance of community involvement in conservation efforts and emphasized the need to raise awareness among local communities about the significance of biodiversity and its benefits.

As a result of the collaborative discussions, the participants reached a joint agreement to prioritize a community-based conservation awareness campaign in Somalia.

They recognized that engaging and educating local communities about the value of biodiversity conservation is crucial for achieving long-term success in preserving the country's unique ecosystems.

Furthermore, the roundtable emphasized the importance of ongoing government engagement and commitment to biodiversity conservation. Participants highlighted the need for policymakers and relevant government agencies to actively support and implement conservation initiatives, including the integration of biodiversity considerations into national development plans and policies.

The roundtable served as a platform to foster collaboration and coordination among stakeholders, aiming to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in biodiversity conservation. Participants also discussed the potential for partnerships and resource mobilization to support conservation efforts in Somalia.

In conclusion, the one-day roundtable organized by PACJA Somalia on International Biodiversity Day was a significant step towards translating global agreements into actionable measures within the Somali context. The joint agreement to prioritize community-based conservation awareness campaigns, along with the commitment to continuous government engagement, demonstrates the collective determination to safeguard Somalia's biodiversity for future generations. By taking these steps, Somalia is moving towards building back diversity and ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for its unique ecosystems.

COTE'D'IVOIRE

The PACJA-COTE D'IVOIRE chapter organized a presentation and training workshop on the assessment tool for Nationally Determined Contributions (CDN) on Friday, May 19, 2023. This workshop brought together 17 participants, consisting of 15 national platform members and 2 members from the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, representing the Directorates for the Fight against Climate Change (DLCC) and the Cooperation Directorate. Dr. Anicet Durand OBOUE, the National Coordinator of PACJA COTE D'IVOIRE, presented the tool for evaluating NDCs in line with the campaign. A thorough evaluation of Côte d'Ivoire's NDCs was conducted. Following the presentation, participants recommended that such evaluations be conducted regularly to provide recommendations to the government regarding the implementation of NDCs at the national level.



Launching NDCs Campaign

TUNISIA

Mr. Mounir Bahri, President of Tunisia Green Building Council (TGBC), and Mr. Lotfi Ben Slimane, Executive Board member of TGBC responsible for professional relations, participated in the international conference on investment for implementing Tunisia's NDC on May 25, 2023. The conference was held under the distinguished patronage of the Head of Government. During the event, interviews were conducted with important figures such as Minister of Environment Mrs. Leila Chikhaoui Mahdoui, who expressed her willingness to meet with TGBC members and consider incorporating the construction and building sector into Tunisia's NDC. The aim is to promote sustainable and green buildings, aligning with the stated objectives. Furthermore, a meeting was arranged with Mr. Mohamed Zmerli, the National Focal Point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment, to explore the possibility of including the construction and sustainable buildings sector in Tunisia's NDC. This sector plays a significant role in energy consumption, with 51% of the industry sector's final energy consumption dedicated to building material production and 16% of the transport sector's energy consumption allocated to material transportation. Tunisia aims to reduce its national economy's carbon intensity by 45% by 2030 compared to the 2010 baseline, with a major contribution expected from the energy-intensive construction and building sector.



BURKINA FASO



On World Environment Day 2023, oratorical debates on climate change were organized among Avée Maria, Bambata, and Nongremassm high schools. The debates focused on corporate responsibility for waste management, the achievability of a zero waste lifestyle, and the environmental sustainability of modern agricultural practices. These debates empowered young individuals to discuss and address critical environmental issues, fostering a sense of collective responsibility and inspiring action for a greener and more sustainable future.

RWANDA



Over the course of May, a tragic incident occurred where heavy rains resulted in the loss of over 130 lives in the Western, Northern, and Southern Provinces. This devastating downpour led to floods and mudslides during the night of Tuesday, May 2, and the early hours of May 3. The occurrence of such events highlights the urgent need for increased efforts to address the causes of climate change.

In an interview with the Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), Faustin Vuningoma, the Coordinator of RCCDN, was asked about the necessary measures to address the impact on human lives and the capacity of the Sebeya River. Vuningoma pointed out that the Sebeya River travels through extensive mountainous areas prone to soil erosion, making it crucial to plant more forests in areas where cultivation activities are taking place. Further details can be found in the provided link.

Read more:

CAMEROON

On the 24th of May, a one-day training session was conducted in Yaounde by ACSEA, in collaboration with PACJA, focusing on empowering civil society organizations in the analysis and assessment of climate policies. The participants were provided with in-depth knowledge on various topics such as Climate Change Vulnerability and impacts in Cameroon, the existing Climate Change Policy framework in Cameroon, and the Framework for assessing climate change policies.

Read More:



SIERRA LEONE



Christian Aid met with several organizations to finalize a three-year proposal focusing on climate change policy advocacy, community resilience enhancement, and strengthening the climate change movement in twelve communities across two districts, with WONES leading the project and ENFORAC leading media engagement.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

QUARTER 3 JULY-SEPTEMBER



FIRST CONFERENCE FOR AGRICULTURAL ADAPTATION ACCELERATION IN AFRICA C4A- 14TH-18TH AUGUST

The purpose of the Conference is to mobilize a significant number of participants who are committed to expediting agricultural adaptation. This includes encouraging smallholder farmers to actively participate in international discussions and initiatives related to climate change. The aim is to foster an inclusive dialogue that prioritizes agriculture in Africa's response to climate change by implementing enhanced adaptation measures and promoting a fair transition.

ACCER AWARDS

The African Climate Change and Environment Reporting (ACCER) Awards recognize and celebrate the contributions of African journalists who have exemplarily covered issues around environmental and climate change issues. These awards pay homage to the journalists whose articles have been critical for Africa to advance its accountability at national, continental and global levels. In 2023, PACJA holds the 8th edition of the ACCER Awards.



AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN) 14TH-18TH AUGUST

From 14th to 18th August 2023, the Nineteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

QUARTER 3 JULY-SEPTEMBER

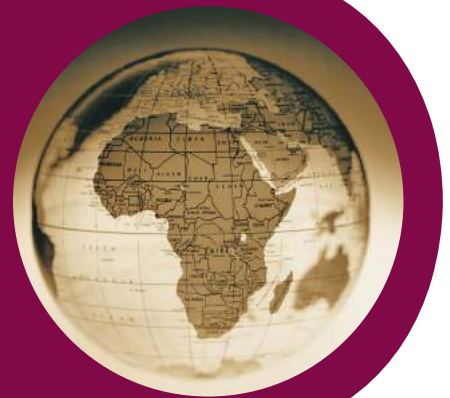


AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT- 4TH-6TH SEPTEMBER

The African Climate Summit, scheduled from 4th to 6th September 2023, is a collaborative effort between the Government of Kenya, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and GCA (Global Center on Adaptation).

AFRICA CLIMATE WEEK-- 4TH-6TH SEPTEMBER

ACW 2023 is one of four Regional Climate Weeks happening this year. It aims to build momentum for COP 28 and the initial Global Stocktake, which set the direction for the Paris Agreement's goals. Kenya will host ACW 2023, running alongside the African Climate Action Summit (4-6 September).



CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CCDA)

The CCDA conference, organized by ClimDev-Africa, is a significant annual event that serves as a platform for various stakeholders, including policymakers, climate researchers, civil society, women, and youth, to come together and discuss climate change issues in Africa. The conference acknowledges that the rural and urban communities, whose livelihoods, health, and security are affected by climate change, are the ultimate beneficiaries of the outcomes produced by ClimDev-Africa.

GALLERY



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Quotes from the Pan-African Parliament Summit on Climate Policy and Equity :



H.E Dr. William Ruto- President of the Republic of Kenya

"Our voices are limited and Africa is only discussed for problems. We do want to be in that corner. We want to be part of conversations for solutions. Our continent's abundant wealth, youthful demographic profile, and increasing emerging market consist of what is required to reverse climate change and drive a green revolution. Solar wind and geothermal potential are superabundant. The paradox is that we are in the land of plenty, yet leaving in scarcity"




H.E. Hon Chief Fortune Charumbira- The president of the Pan African Parliament

"We need a strong institutional arrangement out of this summit and leadership must play a big role in this. Without leadership, nothing will be achieved. Let's avoid repeating what we have said in the past. We need to interrogate why Development countries are not respecting what they have committed to. "





Josefa Sacko- African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE)

"Accountability, not tourism, should be the core focus of COP! We are prepared to contribute, but we require the support of those who bear responsibility. Prioritizing the distinct needs and circumstances of Africa is crucial and should guide climate assistance for our region."



**PAN AFRICAN
CLIMATE JUSTICE
ALLIANCE VOICES
ROUND UP
VOLUME 2**



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