

Round Up Voices

PACJA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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MULTISTAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON COP28 REFLECTIONS AND COP29 STRATEGY;

Recommendations for Climate Governance in Africa

12th and 13th of February 2024, Addis Ababa

In the wake of multifaceted challenges facing the African continent, a Multistakeholder Consultative Forum was convened on the 12th and 13th of February 2024 in Addis Ababa, bringing together government and intergovernmental representatives, Non-State Actors, the private sector, and experts. The purpose was to address crucial priority issues and solidify strategies to enhance collective efforts in the year 2024. After two days of intensive deliberations, participants crafted a comprehensive statement addressing the urgent need for strengthened governance of climate action in Africa, presenting recommendations for consideration by the 37th AU Heads of States Summit.

The forum acknowledged the interconnectedness of global crises, emphasizing the significant impact events like the Ukraine-Russian War and the Israel-Palestine conflict have had on Africa's economic, socio-political, and diplomatic landscape. Participants stressed the need for international solidarity and collaborative efforts to address the root causes of these crises. Additionally, the compounding effects of the climate crisis, deepening debt burdens, and political fragility on the continent were recognized, with calls for concerted efforts to address these challenges through inclusive and sustainable development pathways.

Key recommendations put forth by the forum included deeper internalization of COP28 outcomes, understanding the continent's position in global climate discourse processes, and establishing a collective way forward for 2024 and beyond. Advocating for strengthened collaboration among African nations and partnerships with global stakeholders, the forum highlighted the importance of a coordinated response to climate change. These recommendations serve as a guide for the 37th AU Heads of States Summit, urging leaders to prioritize climate action and strengthen governance mechanisms to address the multifaceted challenges facing Africa, aiming for a more sustainable and resilient future.

Read and download the statement here: <https://bit.ly/3UJp9lw>



**NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL
ON CLIMATE JUSTICE**
KNOWLEDGE • PEOPLE • PLANET

COHORT-IV

**Theme: Igniting youth power for enhanced global
solidarity on climate justice**



JUNE 23 - JULY 7, 2024



CHUKA UNIVERSITY, KENYA

Register at www.climate-justice.school

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Our journey into 2024 commenced with a thoughtful staff reflection meeting, dissecting the hits and misses of the previous year. From this introspection, we've crafted new and effective strategies, poised to amplify our influence in international dialogue processes. Simultaneously, our focus remains steadfastly fixed on the plights and needs of communities on the front lines of the climate crisis.

In the vast landscape of geopolitics, challenges abound, but what is policy and advocacy work without a bit of spice? Undeterred, we navigate the intricate space, ensuring we are not just strapped up but also firmly strapped in to tackle these challenges head-on.

In COP29, Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Mukhtar Babayev, assumes the role of COP president. However, as a Reuters article pointed out, the trend of individuals with deep ties to the oil and gas industry steering U.N. climate talks persists. Last year's summit in Dubai was presided over by Sultan Al Jaber, the current chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. While this reality remains, our unwavering commitment is to consistently safeguard climate talks from corporate dominance driven by national or personal gain.

Amidst these political landscapes, we are excited to announce the call for

applications for the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice, now entering its 4th year. This time around, we are fostering deeper collaborations with universities and tertiary institutions, promising an even richer two-week rigorous program on climate justice.

Aligned with the African Union's 2063 agenda, now entering its second decade of implementation, the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance operates following select tenets and the ethos of Pan-Africanism, fostering an enduring partnership with the AU and its organs. Emphasizing collaboration and implementation, the alliance identifies key assumptions and critical success factors for the Plan, including the robust integration of resilience in the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP), active engagement of stakeholders, harmonization of National Development Plans with Regional and Continental Plans, fortified human and institutional capacities, and the complete ownership and responsibility of STYIP implementation by AU Member States.

Now, before I lose you in the labyrinth of words, let me provide you with a glimpse into what the first quarter has looked like for the alliance and its partners. Happy reading

PACJA Secretariat and DNP's Retreat

In February, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) convened its annual retreat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, centered around the theme 'Taking Stock Strategy 2021 – 2025'. This gathering brought together the PACJA Secretariat, Coordinators of National Platforms (NPs), Board Members, and Partners to reflect on past achievements and strategize for the future.

The essence of this retreat lies in its role as a platform for comprehensive analysis. Attendees delved into the evolving geopolitical landscape of climate change discourse, dissecting the intricate interplay of political, social, economic, and environmental dynamics. It was acknowledged that despite global efforts, developed countries often prioritize their interests over the common good, thereby exacerbating the plight of vulnerable regions like Africa.

The primary purpose of the retreat was to conduct a thorough assessment of PACJA's progress in implementing its strategic plan. Past milestones were scrutinized, and priorities were set for the next phase of action. Additionally, there was a concerted effort to foster a shared understanding of the operating context, identifying necessary adaptations along the way.

Throughout the gathering, attendees had the opportunity to showcase best practices and success stories from their respective regions, strengthening collaboration and synergies between various stakeholders and committees. Capacity-building needs were also identified, with a focus on outlining development areas to enhance the organization's effectiveness.

Overall, the retreat yielded significant outcomes. Attendees gained a deeper

understanding of strategy performance and aligned their efforts with future priorities. A consolidated report of achievements was compiled, accompanied by work plans for the upcoming year. Collaboration among stakeholders and partners was enhanced, fostering a revitalized and unified team ready to drive PACJA's advocacy forward. Clear priorities for capacity development were established, alongside a validated calendar of events, ensuring continued momentum in the pursuit of climate justice.





Robert Chimambo

Honoring Robert Chimambo

On Women's Day, Women in Conservation paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Robert Chimambo, a revered conservationist, by planting a symbolic tree in Forest Reserve 27. This area held profound significance for Mr. Chimambo, as he ardently championed its protection throughout his life. By honoring him with this act of planting, Women in Conservation not only commemorated his legacy but also reaffirmed their commitment to preserving the invaluable natural resources he dedicated himself to safeguarding.

<https://bit.ly/48R6oA3>

Breaking the Climate Finance Barrier: Africa's Call to Action on Green Climate Fund Reform

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, representing Non-State Actors, has issued a scathing critique of the current state of Green Climate Fund (GCF) financing in Africa. Released during the GCF board meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, the statement highlights deep concerns over the ineffectiveness of GCF funding on the continent. The Alliance expresses dismay at the disproportionately low levels of funding allocated to Africa compared to other developing regions, exacerbating the climate crisis and hindering progress towards low-carbon, climate-resilient development. Moreover, they lament the sluggish pace at which GCF funds are dispersed, which further exacerbates the challenges faced by African nations. Additionally, the Alliance underscores the GCF's failure to provide adequate readiness support to African countries and the difficulties in meeting the fund's stringent criteria for project proposals. They also critique the limited scope of the readiness fund, which largely excludes Non-State Actors from meaningful participation in climate action and undermines accountability in the program's portfolio monitoring. Read and download the statement here:

<https://bit.ly/3Tr1eX9>



Launch of Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice Cohort IV

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice, led by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), has recently unveiled its fourth cohort during PACJA's retreat in Addis Ababa. This initiative, which has seen successful iterations over the past three years, has garnered increasing interest among African youth. The first cohort in 2021 attracted nearly 1000 applicants, with subsequent years witnessing even greater momentum, culminating in the unveiling of the fourth cohort set to convene at Chuka University mid-year.

During the call for applications, Mithika Mwenda, PACJA's Executive Director, emphasized the importance of educating youth on global climate dynamics, while Mr. Mutembei, Vice Chancellor of Chuka University, urged African youth to embrace the program wholeheartedly. The launch event, held during PACJA's retreat, centered on reflecting on past achievements, strategizing for the future, and discussing the challenges and opportunities of 2024.

Alumni Zandisile and Umi Yacin shared their transformative experiences, highlighting how the program enhanced their understanding of climate change and the Paris Agreement. They stressed the significance of well-informed youth in climate negotiations and the program's role in fostering global solidarity. As the fourth cohort prepares to convene, the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice continues to empower young African activists, furthering its mission to advocate for climate justice on the global stage and ignite the power of youth for enhanced global solidarity.



**NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL
ON CLIMATE JUSTICE**
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COHORT-IV

Theme: Igniting youth power for enhanced global solidarity on climate justice



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CHUKA UNIVERSITY, KENYA



AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LOSS AND DAMAGE: Addressing Climate Crisis with Urgency and Compassion



In the serene city of Lilongwe, Malawi, from March 20th to 22nd, 2024, a gathering of hearts and minds convened for the 3rd African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage. Against the backdrop of escalating climate crises, this conference wasn't just about policies and statistics; it was about the people whose lives are deeply affected by the profound losses inflicted by climate change.

Loss and damage, a term that encapsulates the devastating consequences of climate change, transcends mere infrastructure damage. It delves into the realms of human suffering, cultural heritage erosion, and shattered community bonds. The emotional toll and poignant narratives accompanying discussions on loss and damage underscore the urgency for concrete action to alleviate the plight of vulnerable communities.

Hosted by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC), and the Government of Malawi, in collaboration with a coalition of international organizations including Trocaire, Oxfam, Concern Worldwide, and many others, the conference aimed to delve into the heart of the matter. It sought to evaluate the decisions made in COP28 and their ramifications on governance, technical support, and funding for loss and damage initiatives.

Under the theme "Positioning African countries to play an instrumental role in the governance of the Loss and Damage Fund, secure enhanced action at the frontline, and optimize on benefit from the Fund," the dialogue was not just about identifying problems but also about crafting solutions. African stakeholders came together to strategize on accelerating access to loss and damage funds, recognizing the crucial role of the continent in climate governance and resilience building.

Loss and damage, often relegated to the sidelines in climate discussions, took center stage at this conference. It served as a stark reminder that climate change is not just a scientific phenomenon but a deeply human one. From the loss of lives and livelihoods to the erosion of cultural identities, the conference attendees grappled with the multifaceted dimensions of climate-induced suffering.

In the corridors of the conference venue, stories were shared—stories of resilience in the face of adversity, but also stories of desperation and loss. It was a reminder that behind every statistic, there's a human face, a family struggling to rebuild their lives after a climate-induced disaster.

As African nations strive to assert their role in climate governance and seek mechanisms for compensation and assistance, the conference served as a crucial stepping stone. It provided a platform for collaboration, innovation, and solidarity in the face of a common threat.

The 3rd African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage was more than just a gathering of experts and policymakers; it was a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. It was a call to action, urging the global community to confront the climate crisis with urgency and compassion, lest we risk further exacerbating the suffering of those most vulnerable to its impacts.

The convening culminated in a declaration which you can find here: <https://pacja.org/declaration-of-the-third-african-regional-conference-on-loss-and-damage/>

NATIONAL PLATFORMS

IVORY COAST:

PACJA - COTE D'IVOIRE Leads Mangrove Preservation Campaign Across Grand-Bassam Region



In a concerted effort to address the pressing environmental concerns in the Grand-Bassam region, PACJA-COTE D'IVOIRE, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has embarked on an extensive awareness campaign aimed at preserving mangroves. The initiative, which commenced last week, has garnered significant support from the Ministry of Water and Forestry, INADES-FORMATION, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the town hall of Grand-Bassam, and the Ministry of Construction.

Mangroves, vital ecosystems that serve as buffers against coastal erosion, provide habitats for diverse marine life, and play a crucial role in mitigating climate change, are facing unprecedented threats due to human activities and environmental degradation. Recognizing the urgent need to safeguard these critical habitats, the collaborative effort led by PACJA-COTE D'IVOIRE seeks to raise awareness and mobilize local communities to take proactive measures in mangrove conservation.

The ongoing campaign encompasses a series of educational initiatives, engaging community workshops, and outreach programs designed to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of mangroves and the threats they face. Through interactive sessions and informational materials, participants are educated on the ecological significance of mangrove forests, the impact of deforestation and degradation, and the role of collective action in preserving these vital ecosystems.

One of the highlights of the campaign is the mangrove planting operation, symbolizing a tangible commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. By actively involving residents in tree-planting activities, the initiative not only enhances mangrove habitats but also

instills a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community.

Following the successful launch of the campaign last week, efforts are now underway to expand outreach activities to an additional five villages in the Grand-Bassam region. This extension underscores the commitment of PACJA-COTE D'IVOIRE and its partners to reach a broader audience and amplify the message of mangrove conservation across diverse communities.

The collaborative nature of the campaign reflects a multi-sectoral approach to environmental conservation, leveraging the expertise and resources of government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community leaders. By fostering partnerships and collective action, the initiative aims to foster a culture of sustainability and resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

In addition to raising awareness and mobilizing communities, the campaign also emphasizes the importance of policy support and institutional frameworks for long-term mangrove conservation efforts. Through advocacy and stakeholder engagement, PACJA-COTE D'IVOIRE seeks to influence policy decisions and promote sustainable land-use practices that prioritize the protection of mangrove ecosystems.

As the campaign continues to gain momentum, stakeholders remain optimistic about the potential for positive change in the Grand-Bassam region and beyond. By empowering local communities, fostering partnerships, and advocating for policy reforms, PACJA-COTE D'IVOIRE and its partners are paving the way for a more sustainable future where mangroves thrive, and coastal communities prosper.

NATIONAL PLATFORMS

KENYA

Greening Meru: A Testament to Locally-Led Adaptation Initiatives



As the GUARD Africa Project (Galvanising and Unifying Africa's Actions for Resilient Development in the era of Pandemic) approaches its final phase, a recent field visit to Meru County, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), showcased remarkable progress in locally led adaptation initiatives. Led by PACJA (Pan African Climate Justice Alliance), this journey emphasized the tangible outcomes of community-driven resilience efforts.

The visit commenced with a courtesy call to the Office of the Governor of Meru County, His Excellency Bishop Kawera Mwangaza. Coordinated by Chief of Staff Nchamba Mbithi and County Executive Committee Member Eng. Jackson Muthamia, the PACJA team, along with Meru Green Champion representatives, convened at the Governor's Boardroom. This marked the inauguration of the Greening Meru Initiative Programme, situated under the Directorate of Environment of Natural Resources and Climate Change.

One of the highlights was the Kanyenje Spring Restoration project, a beacon of hope for approximately 150 households in the area, spearheaded by the Kanyenje Community-Based Organization (CBO). This initiative underscored the transformative power of grassroots action in fostering resilience against climate adversities.

The visit also shed light on the Kianda aggregation center for Sorghum, a flagship endeavor led by PACJA under the Tutegrated project, guided by James Kanyi. Witnessing firsthand the enthusiasm of local farmers at the aggregation point was a testament to the success of improved value chains resulting from climate adaptation efforts. Farmers expressed gratitude for the support provided by Unity SACCO, a dedicated financial services entity ensuring the empowerment of vulnerable groups affected

by climate change.

Unity SACCO, propelled by the Tutegrated project, extends various services such as farm input support, and crop maintenance loans, and fosters a culture of savings and investment at the grassroots level. By prioritizing inclusivity, participatory planning, and local stakeholder engagement, Unity SACCO exemplifies a holistic approach to climate resilience. Moreover, strategic partnerships and linkages with other services, including off-taking through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), further enhance its impact.

As of March 12th, a total of 271,914 kilograms of sorghum had been aggregated, with projections indicating a surge to over 330,000 kilograms by the week's end. These figures not only reflect the quantitative success of the initiative but also signify the enduring spirit of community-driven adaptation in Meru County.

The journey through Meru County serves as a poignant reminder of the potency of collaborative efforts in combating the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By amplifying local voices, fostering innovation, and nurturing partnerships, initiatives like the Greening Meru Programme exemplify a blueprint for sustainable development rooted in resilience and inclusivity. As the GUARD Africa Project nears its culmination, the legacy of its endeavors in Meru County stands as a beacon of hope for a climate-resilient future across Africa.

This visit culminated also in a review meeting where the secretariat hosted the SIDA team led by Joachim, Counsellor, and head of Section accompanied by Ayele Kabede, Regional Manager. The visit saw the review of the GUARD Africa Program progress & discussed the next steps in enhancing impact. GUARD's role in shaping priority conversations in Africa is undeniable.

NATIONAL PLATFORMS

Kenya

Advancing Climate Action: Highlights from the National Consultative Workshop on 2024 Policy and Advocacy Strategy



Today marked a significant milestone in the pursuit of a sustainable future as stakeholders convened at the National Consultative Workshop on 2024 Policy and Advocacy Strategy. Hosted by the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG), the event served as a platform for diverse voices to come together, strategize, and pave the way forward in addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

Drawing participation from KPCG Members representing various sectors and regions across the country, the workshop fostered fruitful discussions and strategic planning sessions. It was a testament to the collective commitment to confront climate change head-on and drive impactful change.

The presence of distinguished speakers, including H.E Sultan Hajiye, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya & Permanent Representative to UNEP, and Mr. Ayele Joachim Bejmu, Head of Regional Development Cooperation, Sweden in Addis Ababa, elevated the dialogue to new heights. Their insights provided invaluable perspectives on advancing climate action, particularly in the lead-up to COP29.

PACJA Executive Director, Mithika Mwenda, emphasized the significance of such dialogues in shaping policies and initiatives geared towards environmental sustainability and climate resilience. He extended gratitude to the speakers and participants for their

unwavering commitment, recognizing their role in driving tangible progress.

The workshop underscored the collective determination to forge a path towards a greener, more equitable future. Central to this vision is the empowerment of voices from the most vulnerable communities, ensuring that their concerns are not only heard but also acted upon.

As we reflect on the outcomes of today's discussions, it is clear that momentum is building. The insights shared and the strategies formulated are poised to drive meaningful change on the global stage. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we harness this momentum and translate it into concrete action.

In the face of escalating climate challenges, collaboration and concerted efforts are essential. The National Consultative Workshop catalyzed unity, laying the groundwork for a coordinated approach to tackling climate change. The coordinated approach will primarily center on the following thematic working groups to guide the work of the Kenya Platform on Climate Governance (KPCG): Adaptation, Climate Finance, Technology, Information, Knowledge, and Communication (TEKNOCA), Mitigation, Gender, Youth, and Marginalized Communities.

NATIONAL PLATFORMS

KENYA

BUILD Project Launches Groundbreaking PHED Leadership Program in Southern Africa



In a significant stride towards fostering leadership in Population, Health, Environment, and Development (PHED), the BUILD project has initiated a pioneering global PHED Leadership Program. This ambitious endeavor aims to cultivate and empower the next generation of PHED leaders, with a special focus on women and young individuals.

The program, spearheaded by the BUILD project, will identify and engage participants from four key regions, namely East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa, and the Asia Pacific region. Training sessions will take place in designated hub countries, including Kenya, Malawi, Cote d'Ivoire, and the Philippines.

The inaugural cohort for the Southern Africa region, comprising fellows from Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, has convened in Lilongwe for a comprehensive two-week training session. This training marks the beginning of their transformative journey towards becoming proficient leaders in the field of PHED.

Dr. Gerald Malthalu, Director of Policy and Planning at Malawi's Ministry of Health, welcomed the fellows and emphasized the significance of the program. He stated, "This training will equip you with both the advocacy skills and knowledge to engage your governments but also skills to engage your peers and educate them on methods of contraceptives that they can use to ensure they manage their lives, get the best out of their education and have families that they can give the highest quality of lives."

Furthermore, Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), encouraged participants to seize the opportunity provided by the leadership program. He urged them to become advocates for evidence-informed approaches linking population, health, environment, and development issues. Dr. Zulu emphasized the potential of this knowledge to bring about positive transformations at personal, familial, societal, and national levels.

Hon. Dr. Usi, Malawi's Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change, also lauded the initiative and emphasized its importance in the context of national and global development goals. He urged fellows to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired during the program to integrate PHED considerations into policies and programs, thereby contributing to the realization of national development objectives and the global commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The launch of the PHED Leadership Program in Southern Africa represents a significant milestone in the quest for sustainable development and equitable progress. By investing in the development of capable and visionary leaders, the BUILD project is paving the way for a brighter and more inclusive future, where the nexus between population dynamics, health outcomes, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development is effectively addressed and leveraged for the betterment of communities worldwide.

NATIONAL PLATFORMS

Nigeria

CS-DevNet Accelerating Nigeria's Future: Unpacking COP28 Outcomes and Embracing Renewable Energy



On January 17, 2024, the Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet) convened a national consultative dialogue aimed at dissecting the outcomes of COP28, which took place at Dubai Expo 2020 from November 30, 2023, to December 12, 2023.

Professor Ibrahim Choji Mni, the Board Chairman of CSDevNet, inaugurated the event by extending a cordial welcome to dignitaries and participants. Recognizing their presence, he underscored the significance of unified efforts in confronting the pressing challenge of climate change.

Professor Choji stressed the imperative for collective action, emphasizing that mere rhetoric must be translated into tangible actions. He emphasized that genuine commitment to addressing climate change necessitates concrete measures and efficient implementation strategies. [Read More:](https://csdevnet.org/csdevnet-accelerating-nigerias-future-unpacking-cop28-outcomes-and-embracing-renewable-energy/)

<https://csdevnet.org/csdevnet-accelerating-nigerias-future-unpacking-cop28-outcomes-and-embracing-renewable-energy/>

Sierra Leone:

In a recent episode of African Young Voices (AYV), an enlightening conversation unfolded regarding the pressing issue of climate change and the escalating temperatures in Sierra Leone. This platform provided by AYV proved instrumental in fostering dialogue and raising awareness about the urgent need for climate action. With gratitude, we extend a huge shoutout to AYV for facilitating this crucial discussion and for their commitment to amplifying voices on environmental issues. It is through such collaborative efforts and shared determination that we can pave the way towards a greener, more sustainable future. Let's unite in our resolve to make our planet proud by taking meaningful steps towards mitigating climate change and preserving the natural world for generations to come

Ghana

PACJA Ghana, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NADMO), is embarking on a significant initiative aimed at extending support to flood victims in Ghana. The project, backed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), underscores the collective efforts to address the challenges posed by natural disasters in the region.

Floods have long been a recurring concern in Ghana, causing devastation to communities, displacing families, and disrupting livelihoods. With the onset of climate change exacerbating the frequency and intensity of such events, there is an urgent need for

proactive measures to mitigate their impact and provide assistance to affected populations.

Through this joint endeavor, PACJA Ghana and NADMO are poised to offer essential aid and relief to those affected by floods across the country. The project aims to not only provide immediate assistance, including food, shelter, and medical supplies but also to support long-term resilience-building efforts within vulnerable communities.

ECOWAS' support further underscores the regional commitment to addressing the challenges of climate-related disasters and fostering cooperation among member states. By pooling resources and expertise, the initiative seeks to enhance the effectiveness of disaster response and recovery efforts, ultimately contributing to the overall resilience of the region.

Moreover, the collaboration between PACJA Ghana and NADMO highlights the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in tackling complex challenges such as climate change and disaster management. By leveraging the strengths and resources of both organizations, the project aims to maximize its impact and reach those most in need.

As Ghana continues to grapple with the adverse effects of climate change, initiatives like this underscore the importance of proactive measures and solidarity in addressing the pressing needs of vulnerable communities. Through concerted efforts and collective action, we can work towards building a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

NATIONAL PLATFORMS

Botswana

World Wetlands Day (Botswana Climate Change Network Webinar) Advancing Climate Justice: Botswana's Commitment to Wetland Conservation and Resilience

In the ongoing global effort to address climate change and promote environmental sustainability, African nations are taking proactive steps to advance the climate justice agenda. Botswana, in particular, is demonstrating its commitment by aligning with international initiatives and leveraging designated national platforms to drive impactful change.

Recently, the Botswana Climate Change Network, in collaboration with other stakeholders, organized a webinar titled "Wetlands and Wellbeing: Exploring the Potential for Climate Resilience and Adaptation." This event, held in recognition of World Wetlands Day 2024, underscored the critical role wetlands play in preserving the health of our planet and enhancing human wellbeing.

World Wetlands Day, commemorated globally on February 2nd, serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of wetlands in sustaining biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and supporting communities worldwide. This year's theme, "Wetland and Wellbeing," aptly highlighted the interconnectedness between the health of wetland ecosystems and human prosperity.

During the webinar, panelists emphasized the urgency of implementing

strategies for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands, particularly in regions facing water scarcity challenges like Botswana. With its arid climate and increasing pressure on water resources, Botswana recognizes the significance of preserving its wetlands not only for ecological integrity but also for ensuring climate resilience and adaptation.

The discussions during the webinar delved into various aspects of wetland conservation, including the need for collaborative efforts among governments, communities, and civil society organizations. Participants explored innovative approaches to address threats such as pollution, habitat loss, and unsustainable land use practices, which endanger the integrity of wetland ecosystems.

One key takeaway from the event was the recognition that effective wetland management requires a holistic approach that considers both ecological and socio-economic factors. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern scientific methods, Botswana aims to develop sustainable solutions that promote biodiversity conservation, support livelihoods, and enhance resilience to climate change impacts.

Furthermore, the webinar highlighted the importance of raising awareness and building capacity among stakeholders to foster a culture of environmental stewardship and climate resilience. Education and engagement initiatives play a crucial role in empowering communities to become champions for wetland conservation and sustainable development.

As Botswana continues its journey towards a more sustainable future, initiatives like the webinar on wetlands and wellbeing serve as catalysts for action and collaboration. By prioritizing the protection and restoration of wetland ecosystems, Botswana demonstrates its commitment to advancing the climate justice agenda and safeguarding the well-being of its people and the planet.



NATIONAL PLATFORMS

Botswana

Empowering Women in Botswana's Green Economy: A Tale of Community Engagement

In the heart of Botswana's Makgadikgadi Wetlands System, amidst the serene landscapes of Moseitse and Dukwi villages, a transformative initiative is taking root. The Integrating Women Businesses into the Green Economy (IWB-GE) project, spearheaded by the Botswana Climate Change Network with support from the GEF Small Grants Programme and UNDP Botswana, is paving the way for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

At the forefront of this endeavor is the commitment to empower women and integrate them into the burgeoning green economy of Botswana. Recognizing the pivotal role women play in driving socio-economic development, particularly in rural communities, the project aims to break barriers and foster equal opportunities in the energy sector.

On a significant Monday, the 18th of March, the community of Moseitse Village warmly welcomed the Botswana Climate Change Network for a consultative meeting. Led by Kgosi Ntshwarelang, the discussions delved into the intricacies of climate change, green enterprises, and economic empowerment for women. It was not merely a dialogue but an exchange of ideas, perspectives, and aspirations for a greener, more equitable future.

The atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm as community

members and stakeholders shared their insights and experiences. From traditional wisdom to innovative solutions, each voice contributed to a rich tapestry of knowledge and understanding. Through interviews and interactions, the BCCN team gained invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities for green entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.

Later in the day, the journey continued as the Botswana Climate Change Network ventured into Dukwi, where they were graciously received by Kgosi Thwaelang and Kgosi Makgobotla. Here, amidst the bustling community life, the focus shifted to assessing the realities of green enterprise development. Challenges were acknowledged, but so too were the boundless possibilities for growth and empowerment.

The consultative meetings served as more than just gatherings; they were catalysts for change, igniting a spark of enthusiasm and determination to chart a new course toward sustainable development. As Botswana strives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote green enterprise, the integration of women into this narrative is not just a matter of equality but a strategic imperative for success.

The IWB-GE project is not merely an initiative; it's a beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a greener, more inclusive future for Botswana's communities. By empowering women, fostering entrepreneurship, and embracing sustainability, we can forge a brighter tomorrow, where prosperity is shared by all, and the beauty of our natural world is preserved for generations to come.



NATIONAL PLATFORMS

International Women's Day Commemoration

Strengthening Bonds for Climate Justice: PACJA's Courteous Visit to Femnet on #IWD2024



On International Women's Day 2024, the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) embarked on a significant journey, symbolizing unity, respect, and dedication to the cause of climate justice. Their destination? Femnet, a pioneering organization renowned for its unwavering commitment to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, particularly women, affected by climate change.

The air during the courtesy visit was not just filled with pleasantries but resonated with mutual respect and admiration, reflecting a shared commitment to driving forward the agenda of climate justice and empowerment. PACJA took the opportunity to extend heartfelt appreciation to Femnet for their leadership and pioneering efforts in this crucial realm.

Acknowledging Femnet's pivotal role, Mithika Mwenda, representing PACJA, articulated sentiments of deep appreciation, stating, "We recognize that Femnet has truly spearheaded the push for the voices of marginalized people to be heard. Our collaboration transcends the AACJ project, driven by a shared vision of Pan-Africanism, by Africa for Africa. Thank you for your dedication. In this era of synergy, we understand that we cannot achieve our goals in isolation."

This encounter wasn't merely a formality but served as a poignant reminder of the strong bonds forged between PACJA and Femnet. It

underscored the profound understanding that addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change requires collective strength and unity.

The collaboration between PACJA and Femnet goes beyond mere partnership; it embodies a shared vision of inclusivity, empowerment, and resilience. Both organizations recognize the importance of centering the voices of those most affected by climate change, particularly women and vulnerable communities.

Through joint efforts, PACJA and Femnet aim to amplify these voices, advocate for policy change, and drive tangible action towards climate justice. Their collaboration serves as a beacon of hope in a world grappling with the urgent realities of climate crisis.

As the world faces unprecedented environmental challenges, the synergy between organizations like PACJA and Femnet becomes increasingly vital. Their shared commitment to fostering sustainable solutions and empowering communities exemplifies the spirit of International Women's Day and the broader movement for social and environmental justice.

In commemorating #IWD2024 with this meaningful encounter, PACJA and Femnet have not only strengthened their partnership but also reaffirmed their resolve to work tirelessly towards a future where climate justice prevails, and all voices are heard and valued.

PHOTOS AT GLANCE !



PHOTOS AT GLANCE !

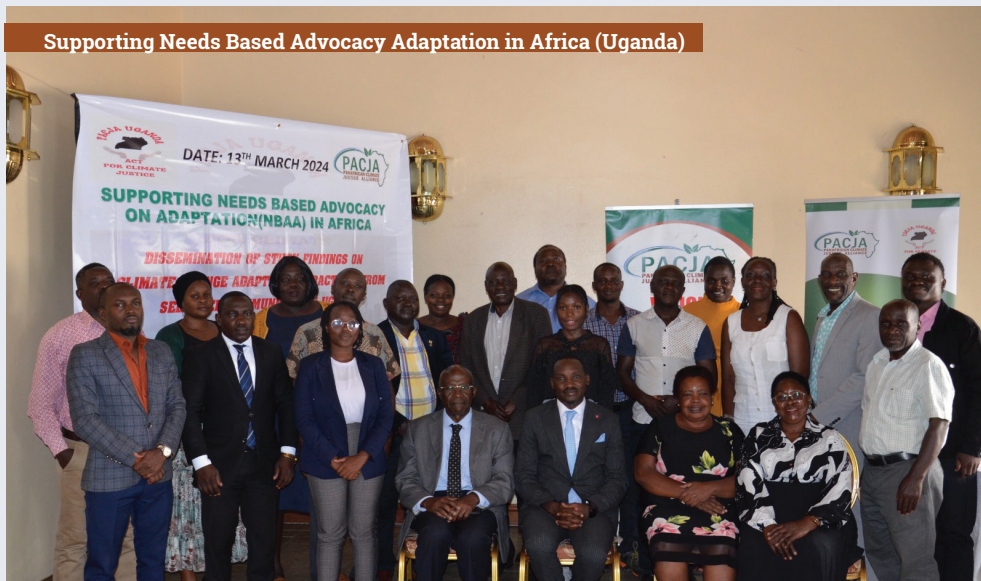
Nebraska Delegation Explores Partnership with PACJA



Senegal



Supporting Needs Based Advocacy Adaptation in Africa (Uganda)



PHOTOS AT GLANCE !

Terra Fund Launch Naivasha



Women in Climate Leadership UNEA 6 Side Event



Youth Print COP28 Reflections



PACJA Staff and DNP Planning Retreat, Addis Ababa



RoundUp Voices is a quarterly Newsletter published by PACJA and accepts blogs, views, written articles related to its mission, vision and objectives. If you have any opinion or suggestions, feel free to contact the editor/publisher evelyne.wandaka@pacja.org.



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