



**South African
Designated National
Platform National
Consultation
Workshop Report**

15 May 2024

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1. Workshop Summary

The Designated National Platforms (DNPs) are the key Units of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) governance. They serve as the primary interface between the Alliance and its members in African countries and communities. They anchor PACJA work in communities, countries and Regional Economic Integration Blocs. The Ideal DNP framework provides guidelines with which various civil society organizations in countries who are members of PACJA should organize themselves, including the Committees, meetings, relationships, mandate of members, etc.

On May 15, 2024, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) Secretariat organized and facilitated a consultative workshop for the South African Designated National Platform (DNP) and its members. The workshop aimed to familiarize the participants with the Ideal National Platform (DNP) Framework and align the South African DNP with the recommended structure from the 2023 PACJA General Congress in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During the workshop, attendees discussed their roles, reflected on progress towards the PACJA 2024 Strategy, and elected a National Steering Committee to lead the platform.

2. Outreach

The workshop emphasized the importance of the DNPs as the key units within PACJA governance, serving as the primary interface between the Alliance and its members across African countries and communities. With DNPs established in 52 African countries, the South African DNP has been a vibrant and active participant in PACJA's processes since the Alliance's founding in Johannesburg in June 2008. The platform now includes over 70 active members from civil society and community-based organizations across all nine provinces of South Africa.

The workshop's outreach extended to include observers from the PACJA Alliance Continental Executive Board and coordinators from neighboring platforms in Zambia, Namibia, Malawi, and Botswana.

3. Objectives

The primary objectives of the workshop were:

- To provide a platform for open discussion among South African DNP members about their roles and responsibilities.
- To reflect on the progress of their actions in alignment with the PACJA 2024 Strategy.
- To democratically elect a governance structure responsive to their needs, including a National Steering Committee.
- To train and familiarize members with the Ideal DNP Framework and how it applies to South Africa.

4. Attendees

The workshop brought together a diverse group of participants, including:

- PACJA DNP Members in South Africa: Representing civil society and community-based organizations from six (namely Cape Town, Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, North West provinces) out of the nine South African provinces.
- Observers from the PACJA Alliance Continental Executive Board: Providing oversight and support.
- Supporting Members from the PACJA Secretariat: Facilitating the workshop and providing expert guidance.
- Coordinators from neighboring South African platforms: From Zambia, Namibia, Malawi, and Botswana, sharing regional perspectives and fostering cross-border collaboration.

5. Meeting Agenda

Date: 15th May 2024

Venue: Thanda Manzi Country Hotel, Centurion, Pretoria, South Africa

Time	Agenda Item
09:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration/ Tea & Coffee
10:00 am – 10:05 am	Induction
10:05 am – 10:10am	Welcome Remarks
10:10 am – 10:40 am	Setting Purpose of the DNP Workshop

10:40 am – 10:50am	Overview of the Ideal Designated National Platform
10:50 am – 11:20 am	Questions and Answers
11:30 pm - 12:00 pm	(Tea Break)
12:30 pm – 13:00 pm	Sharing of experiences from neighbouring South African DNP Coordinators
13:00 pm – 13:15 pm	Questions and Answers
13:15 pm – 14:00 pm	(Lunch Break)
14:00 pm – 15:00 pm	Election of Thematic Areas Working Groups Members
15:00 pm – 16:00 pm	Election of Steering Committee Members and Chairperson
16:00 pm – 16:30 pm	Discussion
16:30 pm – 16:40 pm	Next Steps
16:40 pm – 17:00 pm	Closing Remarks

5.1 Workshop Proceedings

Welcome and Introduction: Mr. Charles Mwangi welcomed the participants, providing a brief introduction about the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), including its inception and objectives. He explained the format of the workshop and the operational structure of the secretariat.

Prayer: Mr. Angelo opened the meeting with a prayer.

International Introductions: Mr. Charles invited international DNP members to introduce themselves. They are as follows:

Mr. Gift Numeri: Civil Society Network on Climate Change PACJA Malawi.

Ms. Lydia Chibambo: National Coordinator, PACJA Zambia.

Ms. Tracy Sonny: PACJA Board Member, PACJA Botswana.

Mr. Charles introduced and invited **Dr. Kgaugelo Chiloane:** Acting National Coordinator to say her brief introductory message to the participants. He further acknowledged her and her team's support role in this process.

5.2 Expected Outcomes and Outputs

Outcomes:

- Strengthened Governance Structure: Improved institutional capacity and governance within SA DNP.
- Enhanced Skills and Knowledge: Members equipped with the necessary skills to fulfill their roles effectively.
- Common Understanding: Unified understanding of the DNP structure, mandate, and objectives.
- Enhanced Strategy Understanding: Better grasp of PACJA 2024 Strategy among members.

Outputs:

- Framework Understanding: Members to comprehend the Ideal National Platform Framework.
- Strategy Presentation: Clear understanding of PACJA 2024 Strategy.
- Operational Structure: Setting up of Thematic Working Groups and election of the National Steering Committee.

5.3 Overview of PACJA Secretariat

Mr. Charles Mwangi, Head of Research and Programs, presented an overview of PACJA Secretariat, established in 2008 in Johannesburg with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. He discussed PACJA's impact across 51 African countries and highlighted the severe impacts of climate change, covering issues such as poverty, equity, justice, humanitarian concerns, economic, and political issues. He elaborated on the importance of climate justice and youth involvement, mentioning the annual African Climate Summit in Addis Ababa. Furthermore, he elaborated on PACJA's strategic focus areas including resilience and green growth, public engagement, research and communication, policy influence, and government accountability. He highlighted on the thematic areas which included Climate Finance, Just Transition and Energy Access, and Resilient People, Societies, and Economies.

5.4 Overview of the Ideal Designated National Platforms

Ms. Mercy Gicheru, the **Coordinator of Designated National Platforms Strategic Initiatives**, discussed the mission and vision of an ideal DNP. She emphasized a bottom-up organizational approach and the importance of engaging and advocating for climate governance. The objectives include coordinating policy dialogues, building capacity, promoting awareness, and increasing youth and women's involvement.

Ms. Gicheru outlined the structure, governance, thematic working groups, and facilitative functions, highlighting roles such as capacity building, policy advocacy, fundraising, and documentation. She also detailed the host institution's responsibilities, the ideal DNP Secretariat roles, and discussed membership fees and benefits.

5.5 Questions and Answers

Participants posed questions on:

- PACJA's actions without political support.
- How PACJA addresses gender aspects.
- The control of trade in relation to climate change.

5.6 Experiences from Neighbouring Southern African DNPs

Mr. Gift Numeri (Malawi DNP and CISONEC Board Chairperson): Shared insights on the formation of a Civil Society in Climate Change, including establishing guidelines, drawing up a constitution, and promoting member interests.

Ms. Lydia Chibambo (PACJA DNP Zambia): Emphasized the importance of youth volunteer experiences and the value of recognition within the organisation.

Remarks by Ms. Tracy Sonny (PACJA Botswana and PACJA Continental Board Member)

Ms. Tracy acknowledged the speakers and discussed PACJA's objectives and historical engagements, highlighting the establishment of the relationship between the Botswana and South African DNP. She discussed the challenges in organizing South African NGOs and the missed opportunities due to lack of organisation. Ms. Tracy emphasized that PACJA offers organizational guidance without dictating terms.

Structure and Operation of PACJA SA

Mr. Charles discussed the structure and operation of PACJA SA, addressing internal issues and the resolution to employ a new structure for the South African DNP. He explained the proposed structure: General Assembly, Steering Committee, Coordinator, and Thematic Groups, and clarified that current PACJA SA directors would not be in the steering committee.

5.7 Election of Steering Committee Members Process

The election of SA DNP Steering Committee members employed a participatory approach, allowing members to engage in discussions, presentations, and decision-making processes. Key activities included:

- Introduction to the Ideal National Platform Framework tailored to South Africa's context.
- Presentation of the PACJA 2024 Strategy.
- Establishment of Thematic Working Groups.
- Democratic election of the National Steering Committee members for South Africa DNP.

5.8 Election of Steering Committee Members

The SA DNP election of Steering Committee members was facilitated by Ms. Tracy, Sonny. Members were grouped into five thematic groups to choose their representatives:

1. Adaptation & Disaster Risk Management and Reduction
2. Mitigation and Just Transition
3. Climate Finance
4. Gender, Youth, and Marginalized Groups (people with disabilities, indigenous people, etc.)
5. Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

Elected Steering Committee Members

1. Mr. Mandlenkosi Hadebe - Climate Finance (Chairperson)
2. Dr. Julia Mambo - Gender, Youth, and Marginalized Groups (people with disabilities, indigenous people, etc.) (Deputy Chairperson)
3. Mr. Carlos Vilakulu - Mitigation and Just Transition
4. Ms. Khumo Kgalatsane - Adaptation & Disaster Risk Management and Reduction
5. Prof. Elvis Nkoana - Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

5.9 Next Steps

The newly elected committee will work together to ensure fair management of the South Africa DNP in accordance with the Secretariat's strategy.

5.10 Conclusion

The consultative workshop successfully met its objectives, resulting in the election of a new National Steering Committee and enhanced understanding of the Ideal DNP Framework and the PACJA 2024 Strategy among South African DNP members. This initiative strengthened the governance structure and built the institutional capacity necessary for the South African DNP to effectively advance PACJA's mission of climate justice and environmental advocacy across the continent.

5.11 Closing Remarks

Mr. Charles expressed gratitude to the participants for their active participation and contributions, ensuring a smooth and successful workshop. The workshop adjourned.

Gallery



Mr. Charles Mwangi, PACJA Head of Programs, delivers an insightful presentation providing an overview of the PACJA Secretariat.



Dr. Kgaugelo Chiloane, Acting National Coordinator of PACJA SA DNP, emphasizes the workshop's purpose to the participants, clarifying the importance of electing the governance structure for the South African DNP.



Ms. Mercy Gicheru, Coordinator of Designated National Platforms Strategic Initiatives, delivers a presentation on the overview of the Ideal Designated National Platform.



Ms. Tracy Sonny (PACJA Botswana DNP and PACJA Continental Board Member) shares PACJA's objectives and historical engagements, highlighting the establishment of the relationship between the Botswana and South African DNPs.



Th Ms. Lydia Chibambo, PACJA Zambia's Acting National Coordinator, sharing her insights and operational experience with PACJADNP in Zambia.



Mr. Gift Numeri (Malawi PACJA DNP, and CISONEC Board), sharing his insights on the formation of a Civil Society Organizations including the importance of establishing guidelines, drawing up a constitution, and promoting member interests.



The figures above showcase participants actively engaging, offering their valuable insights and perspectives on the pertinent topics under discussion.



The figures above display the newly elected steering committee members for the South African DNP, alongside Mr. Charles Mwangi, Ms. Mercy Gicheru, and Ms. Tracy Sonny from the PACJA Secretariat and Continental Board.



The figures above show a group photo of the workshop participants.