

Dear partners, members and friends of Climate Justice

Welcome to the April edition of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance Monthly Update.

As we reflect on April, we are proud to share key milestones, impactful engagements and collective actions that continue to advance climate justice across Africa. This Month has been marked by strengthened partnerships, strategic advocacy, policy influence, and amplified community voices as we work towards a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for our continent.

From regional dialogues and global policy spaces to grassroots mobilization and knowledge sharing, PACJA remains committed to ensuring that Africa's priorities are heard and acted upon. Every engagement from country to global levels, highlighted in this update reflects the power of solidarity and the urgency of climate action rooted in justice.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our members, partners, supporters, and communities whose dedication continues to drive this movement forward.

We invite you to explore this month's highlights and join us as we continue shaping a climate-just Africa.

Together for people, planet and prosperity

**Warm regards,
PACJA Secretariat**



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ARFSD-12: Driving Policy Influence for Sustainable Development

From April 27 to 30, PACJA joined participants of the 12th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development. (ARFSD-12). The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is held annually to undertake integrated follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. This year, the forum was convened under the theme: **Turning the Tide: Transformative and Coordinated Actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**. PACJA held a series of engagement actions.

ARFSD-12: Harnessing Africa's critical minerals for green industrialisation and sustainable development



On 27 April, PACJA participated in Africa's Critical Minerals Forum, convened by UONGOZI Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The Forum discussions focused on the theme: "Harnessing Africa's critical minerals for green industrialisation and sustainable development".

Under this high-level engagement, PACJA, through its Executive Director, Dr Mithika Mwenda, stressed the Pathways to Beneficiation and Regional Value Chains in Critical Minerals.

[Click here to read Key points raised by PACJA on Pathways to Beneficiation and Regional Value Chains in Critical Minerals.](#)

ARFSD-12: Regional Development Partners Roundtable on Addis Ababa Declaration Implementation and the COP32 Roadmap

On the sidelines of ARFSD-12, PACJA and Sida co-organised the first convergence of non-state actors at a Partner Round Table aimed at catalyzing the implementation of the ACS-2 Addis Ababa Declaration and the roadmap to COP32

This convening brought together PACJA and several development partners to discuss the significance of the Addis Ababa Declaration and the opportunities to drive a transformative agenda for the continent, leading up to COP32, using the declaration and the reform momentum.

Philip Kilonzo, Head of Policy, Advocacy, and Communication, PACJA, presented a detailed analysis to spark in-depth discussions on the issues and approaches for implementing the ACS-2 declaration and its aspirations. Discussions during the forum highlighted the need for local action, strengthening innovation, ensuring the central role of non-state actors (NSAs) in delivering commitments, and securing positive outcomes that are well-anchored and supported. There was also a strong emphasis on catalysing private sector investments in climate action.

While the importance of civil society organisations (CSOs) was recognised and appreciated, the convergence underscored the necessity for the diplomatic community to facilitate dialogues that shape the agenda. A key point of discussion was the partnership between Africa and Europe in promoting an equitable and just transition.



In framing the meeting, Mr. Joachim Beijmo, Head of Regional Development Cooperation in Africa at the Embassy of Sweden, emphasised PACJA's critical role in maintaining effective engagement with non-state actors. He asserted the need for increased innovation and local action in implementing the ACS-2 declaration and highlighted the importance of unlocking private sector investments to drive climate action as essential to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration.

Dr. Mithika Mwenda, in his framing remarks, stressed the importance of concrete approaches that ensure Africa's decisions are effectively implemented, noting the lapses in the implementation of the ACS-1 Nairobi Declaration.

The principle dictates that climate actions should be tailored to national circumstances.

Pointing to CBDR – RC, Dr Mithika said that the first challenge is the gradual weakening of the principle of the common but differentiated Responsibilities and respective capacities (CBDR-RC) principle under UNFCCC. He said that African continues to see climate finance delivered mainly as loans instead of grants, commitments that are unpredictable, and growing pressure for African countries to finance their own survival.

He stressed that Africa must demand climate Finance that is public, grant-based, sufficient and reliable, especially for adaptation. He emphasized that development and climate justice cannot be separated.

Africa is carrying the crisis it did not create

Africa contributes least to the global emissions, and in the current context, the continent is being asked to decarbonise faster than its stage of development allows. This also forces it to absorb worsening climate shocks and navigate financial systems designed elsewhere. Dr Mithika described this as the second injustice of transferring the climate burden to Africa.

“The question is not whether Africa should act, because Africa is already acting. The real question is why Africa is being asked to carry a disproportionate share of the cost”, Dr Mithika Said. He continued calling for more concessional finance, simplified Access to funding, and global trade and energy rules that do not disadvantage African economies.

ARFSD-12: Unlocking climate finance for sustainable development in Africa



In this session, Dr Mithika Mwenda, challenged the global community with a central question: How can Africa elevate climate finance justice by ensuring transparent, equitable and accountable use of both domestic and international Resources?

In his intervention, he noted that if the world is truly serious about climate justice, three major problems in the current system must be urgently addressed.

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Looking back at the Climate finance Responsibility, the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement are dotted with the common but differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capacity (CBDR-RC) principle, which acknowledges that all nations must address climate change, but developed countries bear greater responsibility due to their historical emission and higher capacity.

Financing Based on Needs, not Donor Priorities

African Climate activists have been pointing out that African countries know what they need in line with the local context. Hinting at that, Dr Mithika said that this remains a challenge as the current Climate Finance system prioritises what is profitable, low-risk, or aligned with donor interests rather than what African Communities truly need.

He argued that justice requires a needs-based Approach, one that asks what African countries require to adapt, build resilience, protect livelihoods, and achieve sustainable development.

He urged African countries to push for stronger commitments under the new collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, ensuring resources align with national priorities and reach local communities directly, especially women and grassroots actors.

ARFSD-12: Moving Beyond Extractivism to Care-Centred Approaches to Africa's Just Energy Transitions



Convened by Akina Mama wa Afrika in collaboration with ACPC, TJNA, PACJA, and other organizations, our own Eugene contributed a framing intervention at this important side event of the 12th ARFSD.

Titled "Moving Beyond Extractivism to Care-Centred Approaches to Africa's Just Energy Transitions," the event explored various aspects of the just transition. It examined the issue not only from an energy perspective but also linked it to taxation, the care economy, social sectors, and ideal models for achieving a fair balance.

Eugene Nforngwa provided a deeper analysis of the challenges, emphasising Africa's inability to broaden its approach in engaging with the UNFCCC process. He highlighted the need to strengthen the discourse on equity and justice with robust proposals that focus on trade, industrialisation, technology, and the new economy. Eugene stressed the importance of reprioritising Africa's development imperatives in climate negotiations, advocating for a transition proposition that meets Africa's development needs inclusively.

INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

April was marked by celebrations of important international days, specifically International Earth Day, which was observed under the theme "**Our Power, Our Planet,**" and the International Day of the Forests, celebrated under the theme "**Forests and Economies.**" For both occasions, PACJA DNPs participated in activities both virtually and in-person.

COTE D'IVOIRE: Celebrating the international Forest Day



The International Day of Forests is celebrated annually on March 21st to raise awareness about the importance of forest ecosystems. The theme for 2026 is "Forests and Economies," which emphasises the vital role that forests play in supporting livelihoods and providing economic opportunities across various sectors.

To commemorate this day, the PACJA-Côte d'Ivoire organised a training session highlighting the significance of forests to the Ivorian economy. During the session, we explored various opportunities related to forest conservation and protection. Over 50 participants registered for the event, which was held in Banco National Park—a forest located in the heart of Abidjan, where access requires an entrance fee.

International Mother Earth Day

International Mother Earth Day 22 April. Our Power, Our Planet is Earth Day 2026's theme, reflecting a fundamental truth: environmental progress doesn't depend on any single administration or election. It's sustained by the daily actions of communities, educators, workers, and families protecting where they live and work.



In Tunisia, our DNP took to a social media platform to remind that the urgency of reconnecting nature with lifestyles.

International Mother Earth Day emphasises the need to shift toward a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet and encourages everyone to take part in restoring ecosystems and protecting natural resources for future generations.

Let's take this opportunity to reconnect with nature, promote sustainable lifestyles, and work together toward a healthier, more resilient planet for all. PACJA, through digital engagement, reminded the world that the role of people and communities worldwide in sustaining environmental protections that affect the cost of living, public health, infrastructure reliability, and long-term stability remains important.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the day was celebrated through a workshop which was organised to facilitate exchange and discussion among young people about the benefits of the Earth and the factors that threaten it. Approximately twenty participants attended the session. It is important to note that PACJA-Côte d'Ivoire has included forestry activities among its priorities for 2026, intending to strengthen forest protection and promote opportunities related to forests.

MALI: Community Engagement in Sirakorola: A Winning Strategy Against Climate Change



The project aims to integrate climate issues into community practices while enhancing the involvement of civil society and the research community.

Through an extensive outreach campaign, the initiative reached over 10,000 residents, well above the initial target of 3,000. This awareness effort has encouraged responsible practices, including mulching, reforestation, and water point protection.

The program also conducted a thorough assessment of local vulnerabilities, pinpointing challenges faced by women, youth, farmers, and herders. An advocacy workshop in March 2026 engaged 75 local stakeholders to develop clear messages for decision-makers, further enhancing community awareness.

Partnerships with community radio stations and local authorities have proven essential for effective message dissemination and institutional support. The strong community response indicates increased ownership of climate issues and shows no negative effects from engagement strategies. This initiative highlights how community mobilisation and effective resource management can drive meaningful climate action, laying a strong foundation for sustainability in Sirakorola's future.

SENEGAL: Exploring whether Green Finance in Africa is a "Catalyst for Sustainable Development or a New Debt Trap"

On April 28, 2026, a webinar entitled: Green Finance in Africa: A Catalyst for Sustainable Development or a New Debt Trap?, was organised by the NGO Action Solidaire Internationale, PACJA Designated Platform in Senegal, and explored the complexities of green finance in Africa.

It sought to understand whether these mechanisms represent a crucial opportunity for sustainable development in the face of climate change, or whether they risk exacerbating the debt and economic vulnerability of African countries. The webinar highlighted that green finance is a potential tool for development, but that its current implementation often works against Africa, pushing it into debt.



The key lies in overhauling the global financial architecture to prioritise grants, facilitate access to funds for local actors, and integrate social and governance dimensions (sustainable finance) beyond mere environmental considerations. Constructive dialogue and action geared towards concrete, endogenous solutions are essential if Africa is to truly benefit from green finance without compromising its economic sovereignty.

ZAMBIA: Raising awareness and sharing Experiences on Loss and Damage

that addresses the growing needs of vulnerable communities in developing countries facing the irreversible impacts of climate change.

FRLD was established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), with a mandate to assist developing nations that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.

The purpose of this meeting was to raise awareness about the ongoing processes and key outcomes from the Board meeting organised by the Zambian Government in Livingstone, which took place from April 22 to April 24, 2026.



Ms Lydia Chibambo, PACJA DNP Coordinator, Zambia, handing over artwork illustrating the impact of floods.

During this meeting, we also shared our experiences of loss and damage through artwork created by Women in Media, illustrating the impact of floods.

DJIBOUTI: Advocating for real, structured, and meaningful youth participation in the SDGs implementation

At the 12th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-12), the PACJA Designated Platform in Djibouti, led by Ahmed Mogola, participated in the Youth Pre-Event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Under the theme **“Shaping the Future Now: Youth Leadership for Transformative and Coordinated SDG Action,”** participants had frank and enriching



On April 27, Zambian civil society organisations (CSOs) held a meeting with the Executive Director of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), is an operating entity under the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

discussions with policymakers on youth employment innovation, MSME development, and the promotion of the Pact for the Future.



Ahmed Mogola (second from right), emphasized the role of youth in decision making

During these discussions, Mr Mogola emphasised the importance of moving from symbolic commitment to real, structured, and meaningful youth participation in the implementation of the SDGs and the Pact for the Future. Concrete mechanisms for monitoring, funding, and support are needed to transform youth ideas into concrete actions on the ground.

He proposed the implementation of continental leadership training programs, future skills training, and advocacy programs, with intergenerational mentoring, political negotiation, green finance, and digital innovation to build the future with young people.

NIGER: Engaging Stakeholders in the development of the Niger National Development Plan 3.0.



On April 23, PACJA Niger held a workshop focused on stakeholder engagement in the development of the Niger National Development Plan 3.0.

The workshop gathered civil society organisations, institutions, and communities and was organised in partnership with RINCC/AVICC-Niger, Sida, and PACJA. This event was part of the second phase of the Sida-supported GUARD Africa Plus project, which aims to galvanise and unify Africa's actions during the pandemic era.

Participants included stakeholders who had contributed to the drafting and consultation phases of the plan, as well as young representatives from civil society organisations that had been involved directly or indirectly. The workshop aimed to consolidate the approaches proposed by national and international organisations throughout the process and to gather their expectations.

RWANDA: Transforming lives through the ecosystem Restoration: The story of Mukaniyompungiro Charlotte and TerraFund for the AFR100



The RCCDN TerraFund for the AFR100 Restoration Project in Karongi District is not only restoring degraded landscapes, it is also creating meaningful and lasting change in the lives of community members.

One vivid example is Mukaniyompungiro Charlotte, a resident of Mubuga Sector in Karongi District and one of the 50 community members employed under the project for the past two years.

Through this opportunity, Mukaniyompungiro Charlotte has experienced a remarkable journey of economic transformation, moving from poverty level 2 to poverty level 4 in accordance with Rwanda's poverty graduation process. Her progress is an indication of how such projects contribute to the broader goal of Rwanda's commitment to economic empowerment through sustainable development initiatives. [Learn more here](#)

CHAD: Institutional capacity strengthening



The Réseau des Jeunes pour le Climat (REJECA), which serves as the designated platform for PACJA in Chad, recently held a two-day organisational capacity self-assessment workshop. This successful event marked an important milestone in the institutional strengthening process under the Dambe Funds Sahel program.

During the workshop, the team conducted a thorough self-assessment by assigning scores to various criteria related to internal operations, external connections, and ongoing projects. This participatory exercise allowed the organisation to accurately identify its strengths and prioritise areas for improvement.

Participants also worked on summarising and analysing the results, which helped to establish a clear and shared understanding of the current level of organisational development. This stage encouraged constructive discussions and facilitated a better grasp of the assessment tools used.

BURKINA FASO - Regional practical training workshop on climate-sensitive budgeting



As part of the Justice and Climate Leadership (JLC) Project, the Association for Education, the Environment and Human Rights (A-2E), a member of PACJA, in partnership with OXFAM in Burkina Faso, Organised a regional practical training session aimed at building the capacity of local stakeholders to improve the localisation of climate finance and promote inclusive budget governance. The training benefitted local Bassi; Ouahigouya; Titao and the YAADGA Regional Council.

DJIBOUTI: Advocating for real, structured, and meaningful youth participation in the SDGs implementation



Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet), in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), held a one-day inception workshop and capacity building session in Yola, Adamawa State (Nigeria), on 9 April 2026.

The workshop formally launched the project “Building Climate-Resilient Communities to Counter Illicit Economies and Terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin,” bringing together approximately 50 stakeholders from Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States.

The event was designed to raise awareness of the links between climate stress, livelihood vulnerability, illicit economies, and violent extremism, while also building foundational stakeholder capacity in prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and community-based mediation.

Proceedings were structured around technical presentations, panel discussions, PVE and mediation capacity-building sessions, and group work exercises, with media coverage provided by a local radio station and the [Nigerian Television Authority \(NTA\)](#).

Excerpts from the event

The workshop drew diverse representation from government ministries and agencies, security institutions – including the [Nigeria Police Force \(Adamawa Command\)](#) and the [Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps \(NSCDC\)](#) – community and traditional leaders, civil society organizations, youth and women’s groups, development practitioners, and media representatives. [Click here for more about the project](#)

KENYA: Just Transition and Recognition of Waste Pickers at Africa Urban Forum Session on Sustainable Waste Management



At the Africa Urban Forum side event titled “Financing Sustainable and Inclusive Solid Waste Management in African Cities,” Slums Going Green and Clean, a member of the Kenya National Waste Pickers Welfare Association, presented a submission by Gesore Nyabuti.



This submission called for the recognition of waste pickers as key stakeholders and service providers within the urban waste management value chain, framed within a just transition framework.

The submission emphasized that African cities are increasingly facing complex waste management challenges. Waste pickers have established structured systems that significantly contribute to urban cleanliness and recycling economies. Despite their vital role, waste pickers often remain invisible and undervalued, with existing approaches focusing more on replacing them than on integrating them into formal systems.

It was highlighted that a just transition in the waste sector must ensure that waste pickers are not excluded from emerging green economy reforms. Instead, they should be formally recognized and integrated.

This integration should include providing formal identities, institutional recognition, and inclusion in municipal and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems. Such measures would enable traceability, access to contracts, and improvements in service delivery and financing mechanisms.

Present at the session was Faith Ngige, HSC, who also engaged with the Global Green Growth Institute in Kenya to explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration in advancing the circular economy agenda in Kenya. The SCEJU was also well represented at the session.

