

PAN-AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Roundup Voices



WWW.PACJA.ORG



Inside this issue

Empowering Africa's Future: Civil Society Unites for Climate Justice and Child Rights Page 4

PRE-AMCEN ACTIVITIES/19th ORDINARY SESSION



Page 5

NON-STATE ACTORS DEMANDS AND REDLINE FOR AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT Page 6

African Leaders Unite in Lilongwe to Forge a Common Front for Climate-Resilient Health

Page 7

Africa's Call for Climate Justice: A Unified Voice for a Sustainable Future

A powerful alliance of non-state actors and climate activists from Africa and beyond issued a resounding call to global government leaders and the affluent nations of the global north. This call to action seeks to ensure that Africa's unique perspectives, voices, and aspirations are considered during global discussions and negotiations on climate change.

The journey toward this pivotal moment

began with the Africa Climate Summit, coinciding with Africa Climate Week in Nairobi, Kenya, from September 4th to 6th, 2023. However, as summit preparations progressed, non-state actors found themselves excluded from critical decision-making processes. Fuelled by disappointment and a shared sense of urgency, they united under the leadership of the African Non-State Actors Steering Committee.

Continued on page 3



Editorial Note

In the context of our work, the current year has proven to unfold at an unusually accelerated pace. Within this demanding environment, we find ourselves confronted with a stark reality—time, an invaluable resource, is anything but a luxury. Our mandate extends beyond mere temporal considerations; it compels us not only to stay abreast of developments but also to consistently deliver tangible outcomes for the communities at the forefront of the climate crisis.

The quarter began with the incredible and esteemed Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice, which exceeded all expectations. With over 1,000 participants from around the world, these young and dynamic climate justice activists and affiliates were enriched with invaluable knowledge provided by highly capable and passionate facilitators from various fields related to Climate Justice.

The pressure increased rapidly as Kenya continued its preparations to host the Climate Summit. We were deeply involved in the non-state steering committee, where we highlighted the priority issues for Africa to be discussed at this pivotal summit. It was disheartening to witness the persistent neglect of adaptation priorities for Africa, with undue emphasis on contentious solutions like carbon markets, which, once again, prioritize mitigation over adaptation.

African non-state actors presented their demands to African and global leaders as the world gears up for COP28, commencing on December 30, 2023. Some key demands include:

1. Demanding Developed countries fulfill their historical responsibility: They must provide adequate and predictable finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to support adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage in Africa. We strongly advocate for grant-based funding mechanisms.

2. Reiterating NSAs' Position on the rejection of the promotion of Carbon Markets: These markets are often unresponsive and fail to serve the imperatives of climate justice in Africa. We call for continued dialogue at all levels to address knowledge gaps regarding carbon markets.

3. Calling for a just and equitable transition to renewable energy: African leaders must prioritize energy access for the poor and marginalized, ensuring community ownership and participation.

4. Urging African leaders to uphold climate justice principles: This includes human rights, gender equality, and inter-generational equity in all climate policies and actions. The flow of climate finance is currently obscured by bureaucratic barriers, hindering economic growth and the resilience of communities most affected by the climate crisis.

In conclusion, our collective anticipation for COP28 is underscored by our unwavering commitment to building momentum through our ongoing Road to COP28 Youth-led campaign, "Keep Your Promise." This initiative not only aligns with the broader global objectives but also serves as a testament to our dedication in shaping the course of climate action. As we stand on the threshold of the fourth quarter, our resolve remains resolute. We are steadfast in our determination to ensure that Africa's pressing priorities, notably the fulfilment of commitments and the augmentation of adaptation finance, are not merely recognized but earnestly addressed during COP28.

Continued from page 1

This diverse coalition of 11 clusters included youth organizations, women's and gender constituencies, academia, faith-based groups, regional civil society organizations, private sector entities, finance institutions, and indigenous communities and others. Together, they expressed deep concern over their exclusion from shaping their continent's response to the climate crisis.

Their call to action quickly gained momentum, with widespread support from Africa-based entities and individuals who recognized the urgency of their demands. Solidarity emerged from Western and Asian regions, forming a global alliance committed to addressing climate change justly and equitably.

The movement began with the formation of 11 interest-based clusters, each tasked with detailing their priority agendas and approaches. This approach allowed for a comprehensive examination of the complex challenges facing Africa in the battle against climate change. Over 70 thematic convenings at the cluster level ignited passionate discussions and yielded innovative solutions.

As the world prepared for COP28, scheduled for December 30, 2023, African non-state actors presented their demands to African and global leaders. These demands included:

1. Historical Responsibility: Developed countries were urged to fulfil their historical responsibility by providing adequate and predictable financing, technology transfer, and capacity

building for adaptation, mitigation, and addressing loss and damage in Africa. Emphasis was placed on grant-based funding mechanisms for fairness.

2. Rejecting Carbon Markets: Non-state actors reiterated their opposition to carbon markets that failed to address climate justice for Africa. They called for continued dialogue to bridge knowledge gaps regarding carbon markets.

3. Renewable Energy Transition: African leaders were called upon to commit to a just and equitable transition to renewable energy, prioritizing energy access for the marginalized and ensuring community ownership and participation.

4. Climate Justice: A strong call was made for African leaders to uphold the principles of climate justice, human rights, gender equality, and intergenerational equity in all climate policies and actions.

The unity and determination displayed by African non-state actors, supported by allies worldwide, serve as a beacon of hope in the fight against climate change. Their call reminds us that tackling the global climate crisis requires cooperation, inclusivity, and a commitment to justice. As COP28 approaches, the world watches with anticipation, hoping that the collective voice of Africa will resonate with those in power and lead to meaningful change. Africa's call for climate justice is not just for Africa; it is a call for all of us to step up our climate actions.





Empowering Africa's Future: Civil Society Unites for Climate Justice and Child Rights

In the heart of Nairobi, Kenya, the bustling city served as the backdrop for a momentous gathering of civil society organizations from across Africa. On the 24th and 25th of August, representatives converged for a transformative two-day training workshop, hosted by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). This unprecedented event aimed to ignite discussions, foster collaboration, and build capacity in areas pivotal to the future: child rights, gender equality, and human rights on climate justice.

The stage was set as individuals from 15 diverse African groups, totalling 25 participants, came together. Their mission was to understand the profound interlinkages between their work and the climate justice agenda. Climate change has already begun to wreak havoc on human health, food security, water availability, and socioeconomic development across the continent. But what was often overlooked was the undeniable connection between climate change and children's rights.

At the heart of the gathering were fervent discussions about the urgent need to ensure that children's rights were at the forefront of climate action planning. Mr. Charles Mwangi, the Head of Programmes and Research at PACJA, eloquently conveyed the importance of comprehending the nexus between human rights, gender, child rights, and climate change. He emphasized that PACJA had been at the forefront of mainstreaming child rights in its climate justice programming and processes.

Solomon Gezahegne, Regional Child Rights Governance Manager at Redbarnet, echoed these sentiments. He passionately asserted that as the battle against climate change raged on, children's rights must remain central to the planning processes. "Children deserve a healthy environment as a basic right," he stressed. "But current decisions impact their future. Let's acknowledge this connection and ensure a greener, safer tomorrow."

Over the course of the two days,

participants delved into a diverse array of topics, establishing a platform for knowledge sharing. The agenda spanned climate change impacts, climate justice, climate change negotiations, human rights in the context of climate change, health and climate change, and the intersection of faith and climate change. Each session served as a stepping stone toward a brighter, more sustainable future for Africa and its children.

As the workshop drew to a close, there was a palpable sense of unity and empowerment among the attendees. Civil society organizations had forged new connections and shared vital experiences, paving the way for enhanced climate action advocacy and programming across the continent. The world may still face daunting climate challenges, but in Nairobi, Africa's civil society has taken a monumental step toward securing a greener, more just future for all.



Empowering Africa's Climate Response: A Unifying Roundtable Sparks Urgent Action

In an electrifying gathering resonating with urgency, the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance orchestrated the African Civil Society Roundtable on Climate Action in Addis Ababa on August 10th and 11th, 2023. This event brought together civil society organizations, governmental bodies, experts, and stakeholders to review the implementation of AMCEN decisions and call for action against the impending climate catastrophe.

Charles Mwangi, Head of Programs and Research at the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance questioned the effectiveness of past AMCEN sessions in achieving climate justice for Africa. The 19th AMCEN session, themed "Seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address environmental challenges in Africa," aimed to foster collaboration in tackling environmental issues.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's March 2023 Assessment Report underscored the role of human activities in global warming, emphasizing the need to limit temperature rise

to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Discussions spotlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable African communities, calling for a 43% reduction in emissions by 2030 to protect them.

Robert Muthami urged participants to transform AMCEN processes for better decision implementation. The roundtable emphasized the balance between mitigation and adaptation, revealing a gap in accountability from AMCEN member states.

As the symposium ended, the African Civil Society Roundtable on Climate Action emerged as a unified voice, ready to examine AMCEN decisions implementation. This unity produced recommendations to expedite decision execution. Dr. Olufunso Somorin of the African Development Bank highlighted the importance of this collective effort for a climate-resilient Africa. The roundtable stands as a beacon of hope, shaping Africa's response to environmental challenges.



African Non-State Actors Unite for Climate Justice Ahead of Nairobi Summit

In the heart of Africa, where the impacts of the climate crisis have struck with brutal force, a collective voice is rising. Non-state actors across the continent are voicing their concerns about the devastating effects of climate change on their lands and people. From droughts to floods, cyclones to desertification, they've seen it all. They're well aware of the historical and current role of developed countries in causing and exacerbating this crisis, and they're fed up with the lack of support to the most vulnerable nations and communities.

The Africa Climate Summit, slated for September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, is being seen as a beacon of hope. It's a unique opportunity for African leaders to sound the alarm on the climate emergency and protect the rights and livelihoods of their citizens. It's also a chance to build momentum and solidarity for the African agenda at COP28 and beyond.

Non-state actors have played a crucial role in advocating for a just and equitable transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future that respects the rights and dignity of all people. They've engaged with governments, the African Union Commission, and the ClimDev-Africa Initiative through an independent Non-State Actors' Committee to ensure the summit truly represents the aspirations of African people. However, they remain concerned that the summit may fall short of their hopes.

To address these concerns, the non-state actors have formulated a set of demands or redlines that they expect African leaders to champion at the summit:

1. Upholding Principles of Climate Justice and Human Rights

- ▶ All climate policies and actions must respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all people, especially the vulnerable and marginalized.
- ▶ Fair, just, and equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate action must be promoted, considering historical responsibility, capacity, and development levels.
- ▶ Empowerment of women and girls as leaders in climate action, ensuring their full participation in decision-making processes and addressing gender-specific climate impacts.

2. Protecting Present and Future Generations

- ▶ Ensure the rights and interests of present and future generations by providing access to a healthy and sustainable environment, adequate resources, and opportunities in a low-carbon, climate-resilient world.

3. Rejecting False Solutions and Narratives

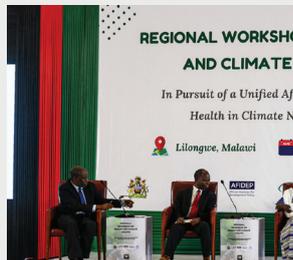
- ▶ Stand against false solutions like carbon markets, geoengineering, nuclear energy, and shared responsibilities, which divert attention from real solutions and often have negative social and environmental consequences.

As the countdown to the Nairobi summit began, the voices of these non-state actors resonated not only with the people of Africa but with the global community. Their demands reflect the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for equitable and just solutions. Africa, through its leaders, has a chance to lead the way toward a sustainable, climate-resilient future, and the world will be watching closely to see if these demands are met.

THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE



African Leaders Unite in Lilongwe to Forge a Common Front for Climate-Resilient Health



Lilongwe, Malawi

August 22nd to 24th, 2023,

Lilongwe, Malawi - The Regional Workshop on Health and Climate Change, held from August 22nd to 24th, 2023, has emerged as a beacon of unity and determination in the face of climate challenges. Leaders, experts, policymakers, researchers, and advocates from diverse backgrounds converged in Lilongwe, Malawi, to address the pressing nexus of climate change and public health.

This three-day workshop witnessed a remarkable coming together of minds, fostering a common understanding and crafting a shared position on the critical intersection of climate change and public health. It proved to be a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration, driving advocacy, and advancing meaningful action to confront the challenges faced by African communities.

Distinguished participants engaged in spirited discussions that spanned vital topics, from the undeniable impact of climate change on health systems to the imperative of integrating data and evidence into global climate negotiations. Robust dialogues, exchange of insights, and knowledge-sharing sessions deepened their collective understanding and catalyzed coordinated action.

The culmination of this workshop marked a turning point, as a shared common position on climate change and health was formulated. This position reflects the views and commitments

of participants, outlining a comprehensive approach that bridges health considerations with climate change policies and negotiations. It underscores the urgency of addressing the health impacts of climate change, advocating for increased funding, data transparency, and cross-sector collaboration.

Dr. Yusuf Nkungula, PS Natural Resources and Climate, Malawi, commented, "The workshop has not only expanded our horizons but has also ignited a unified flame of resolve. By joining forces, we have taken significant strides towards shaping a future where health and climate considerations are harmonized, driving policies that safeguard both our environment and the well-being of our communities."

The workshop's conclusion left participants with renewed purpose, armed with insights, strategies, and connections to champion climate and health priorities within their respective spheres of influence. It has left an indelible mark on the journey towards climate-resilient societies in Africa.

The common position and declaration forged in Lilongwe set the stage for continued collaborative endeavors, building momentum for transformative change. It places health and climate action at the heart of policy-making and global negotiations, showing that when African leaders unite, they can shape a better future for their communities and the world.



African Parliamentarians Unite in Nairobi to Shape Global Climate Action

Nairobi, Kenya - African parliamentarians gathered in Nairobi for the Pan-African Parliamentary Dialogue, a concerted effort to steer global climate action in the right direction. Organized by the Pan-African Parliament and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, this pivotal meeting was set to harmonize the efforts of African legislatures and parliamentarians concerning climate justice and equity. Their goal? To wield influence over the global climate agenda, securing a sustainable future not only for Africa but for the entire world.

This vital dialogue took place on the sidelines of the inaugural Africa Climate Summit 2023, themed "Driving Green Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World," and took place from September 4th-6th. It offered a unique opportunity for African parliamentarians to reflect on and reinforce their significance in the worldwide climate change discourse.

Over two days, parliamentarians from across the African continent engaged in robust discussions, with a focus on implementing resolutions and recommendations crafted by the Pan-African Parliament regarding climate policy and equity within Africa. This endeavor was built upon the groundwork laid during the third Pan-African Climate Summit on Equity in Midrand, South Africa. At that summit, African legislatures developed a comprehensive framework targeting global actions, emphasizing adaptation, urging developed nations to fulfill their commitments, and exerting pressure on them to expedite emission reduction efforts.

Hon. Martha Wangari, representing the Speaker of the Kenyan Parliament, stressed the universal impact of climate change, emphasizing the principle of equity. She highlighted that those with greater capacity must shoulder responsibility for the benefit of those with fewer resources, particularly as Africa, despite contributing the least to pollution, bears the brunt of climate crises.

Senator Moses Kajwang from the Kenyan Senate echoed the sentiment that Africa must assume a central role in global discussions affecting its interests. He emphasized the need for persistent engagement, insisting that it starts with African leadership appreciating their cumulative strength and leveraging it to advance African interests in all spheres, including climate change and climate action.

Senator John Bonds Bideri, Chair of the Pan-African Parliament Permanent Committee on Trade, Customs, and Immigration Matters, affirmed the event's role in reinforcing past climate action initiatives. He expressed confidence that the dialogue would equip parliamentarians with the tools to amplify climate action efforts and strengthen the African voice on the global climate agenda.

The third Pan-African Parliamentary Summit in May 2023 produced a slate of recommendations and resolutions in line with climate policy and equity promotion. Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), emphasized the integration of climate policies with development priorities, underlining the importance of low-carbon development pathways that bolster energy, food, water, and health security while preserving natural resources and biodiversity.

A pivotal outcome of the summit was the adoption of resolutions authorizing the Pan-African Parliament to draft a model law on climate change. This stride is integral to strengthening the continent's response to the climate crisis.

As African parliamentarians fortify their collective stance, their united efforts hold the promise of influencing global climate agendas, driving equitable action, and fostering sustainable efforts for Africa.



Africa's Crucial Role in Climate Action: Insights from CCDA-XI in Nairobi

In a world where climate change looms as an immediate and existential threat, Africa finds itself at a critical juncture. What was once a distant concern has now become a pressing reality, demanding our unwavering attention. Against this backdrop, the eleventh Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XI) conference, held from September 1 to 3, 2023, in Nairobi, emerges as a profound catalyst for climate justice on the continent.

Organized by the ClimDev-Africa initiative and graciously hosted by the Government of Kenya, CCDA-XI promises to be a transformative event. The opening session, led by Dr. Mwenda Mithika, the Executive Director of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), set the tone for the conference. Dr. Mithika's impassioned address underscored the pivotal role of CCDA in a time when civil society spaces are shrinking across Africa. He called for collective action, proclaiming, "In our pursuit of climate action, let us demonstrate global solidarity, for together, we can bring about transformative change."

CCDA-XI is not an ordinary conference; it is a critical forum that will shape the future of climate action in Africa. With participants representing diverse sectors and countries, the conference's objective is to produce data-driven, evidence-based recommendations on vital subthemes related to climate change. Anna Tjarvar, Counsellor/Programme Manager at the Embassy of Sweden Regional Africa, Ethiopia, emphasized the urgency of responding to the climate crisis. She pledged Sweden's unwavering commitment to supporting climate-related projects in Africa, declaring, "The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat but an immediate reality that requires our immediate attention."

These recommendations hold the power to influence outcome statements for African Heads of State, guiding Africa's role in the global battle against climate change, including the upcoming UNFCCC's COP28 in the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Bassy, Secretary of the United City and Local Government in Africa, highlighted the organization's dedication to sustainable development in Africa through climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. He stressed the significance of aligning national climate commitments with local realities and empowering local governments to implement climate-smart projects.

In an era where climate change transcends borders, CCDA-XI sends a resounding message: African nations are uniting for global climate action. It is a call to arms for collective action, innovative solutions, and solidarity in the face of a shared challenge. Africa's destiny in the fight against climate change will be forged through the discussions and commitments made at this conference. Together, they can bring about transformative change, safeguarding the planet for generations to come.

CCDA-XI was organized by ClimDev Africa Partners in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry of the Government of Kenya and with the support of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). The conference serves as a pivotal part of the technical segment of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) hosted by the Government of Kenya from September 4th to 6th, 2023, offering a united front in the battle for climate resilience.



Empowering Communities: The Transformational Journey of Climate Finance

The National Conference on Financing Locally Led Climate Action was not your typical gathering of experts and policy interested parties. It was a vibrant, dynamic, and transformative event that sent ripples through the world of climate finance. From the very beginning, it was clear that this conference was going to be something special.

Dr. Mithika Mwenda's resounding call for creative solutions set the tone for what was to come. His words echoed in the hearts and minds of every participant, sparking a collective commitment to make a difference. Governments, civil society organizations, and community-based groups came together, ready to roll up their sleeves and define a clear path forward.

As the conference unfolded, it became a melting pot of ideas and experiences. Susan Otieno, the Executive Director of Action Aid, brought forth a crucial perspective on ownership in community-led climate action. She spoke passionately about the need for inclusive financing processes that would empower not just landowners but also women and marginalized groups. Her emphasis on open information sharing struck a chord, and it became evident that transparency was the key to nurturing local initiatives.

H.E. Wilbur Otichillo, the Chair of the Council of Governors Environment & Climate Change Committee, painted a vivid picture of the power of inclusive climate change laws. His message was clear: it was time to listen to the voices of marginalized communities and incorporate their wisdom into national climate policies. It was a call for change, for a new way of doing things.

The attendees left the opening session inspired and eager to dive deeper into the conference's central theme: empowering local communities. Dr. Mithika Mwenda's call for commitment

resonated deeply. It was time to abandon the traditional top-down approach to climate finance and explore innovative ways to channel resources directly to those on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Susan Otieno's message on ownership and inclusivity was a breath of fresh air. The participants recognized that true climate action required everyone's involvement, regardless of land ownership or gender. The conference became a buzzing hive of ideas on how to ensure meaningful participation for all.

H.E. Wilbur Otichillo's insights served as a rallying cry for policy changes. His words made it clear that inclusive climate change laws were not just a suggestion; they were a necessity. The conference attendees began to see policy change as a tangible goal, something that could be achieved with collective effort and determination.

The National Conference on Financing Locally- Led Climate Action was not just a talkfest. It was a creative powerhouse where ideas flowed freely, and commitments were solidified. The participants understood that the challenges of climate finance distribution could be overcome through commitment, ownership, inclusivity, and policy change. They left the conference with a renewed sense of purpose, armed with innovative solutions to create a more equitable and resilient future in the face of the climate crisis.

In the years that follow, the impact of this conference would be felt far and wide. It would become a catalyst for change, a turning point in the fight against climate change. It will serve as a reminder that when diverse voices come together with a shared commitment, they can move mountains and change the world for the better.



Rising Voices: Africa's Youth Leading the 'Keep Your Promise Campaign' Climate Revolution

In the heart of Africa, on 7th September 2023, a powerful movement for climate justice ignited. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) launched the "Keep Your Promise Campaign" with unwavering determination. Their mission? To hold the world accountable at COP28, aptly named the COP of accountability, scheduled to take place in the dazzling city of Dubai at Expo City.

Just a year prior, the world had witnessed the electrifying "Climate Justice Torch" campaign which had swept through 13 countries, igniting fires of change, and digitally resonated across borders wherever PACJA had a presence, now, with COP28 on the horizon, the Keep Your Promise Campaign was instinctive, and it was spearheaded by a fearless army of young Africans.

This campaign is a rallying for five pivotal issues that would shape their battle plan. First on the list was the Global Stock Take, an opportunity for structured dialogue and accountability on climate action worldwide. They aimed to broaden the scope beyond the UNFCCC mechanism, envisioning a more inclusive approach.

The second front in their campaign was the "Just Transition." They questioned the motives behind resource extraction and investments in Africa, urging leaders to promote a transition that genuinely benefited the continent.

Next, they turned their gaze to the corporate world. Corporate Climate Atrocities were spotlighted, shedding light on the

actions of companies—both national and multinational—that left frontline communities vulnerable. PACJA called for accountability and justice.

The fourth issue on their agenda was the ominous Climate Financing Gap. African nations had long struggled to secure the resources needed for climate adaptation. With developed countries failing to fulfil their commitments, the campaign demanded that promises be honored.

Lastly, the campaign will champion the Global Goal on Adaptation. It emphasized that adaptation was not a diversion but a crucial aspect of climate action. Developed countries were urged to step up their efforts and provide much-needed funding.

But what set this campaign apart was its leadership. It is driven by the youth of Africa, who refused to accept empty promises and half-measures. Their voices ring out, calling on the global North to honor its commitments and African nations to lead by example.

As the world's attention turned to COP28, the Keep Your Promise Campaign resembles a beacon of hope, a force to be reckoned with. In a world where climate change knew no borders, the African youth stand united, demanding accountability, justice, and a future where promises were not just made but kept. The stage is set for a historic showdown in Dubai, where the world would be forced to confront its promises and face the consequences of inaction.



Botswana: Prioritizing Climate Adaptation through Real Data collection in Botswana

Botswana faces significant vulnerability to climate change due to its reliance on rain-fed agriculture, natural resources, and limited adaptive capacity. In the 2019 ND-GAIN index, the country ranked 94th out of 181 nations in vulnerability. Under high-emission scenarios, risks like malaria are expected to rise until the 2050s.

Africa's emphasis on adaptation, given its immediate vulnerability and limited historical emissions responsibility, aligns with safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and development. While mitigation remains important, prioritizing adaptation is equitable and supports resilience.

Botswana's National Adaptation Plan targets key sectors like agriculture, water, health, settlements, forestry, and disaster risk through 2030. However, the integration of climate policies into a comprehensive framework with clear action plans is essential.

The Botswana Climate Change Network engages communities from grassroots to policy levels, collecting real-time data and promoting community-based adaptation. Capacity assessment workshops and collaboration with stakeholders empower climate responses. The private sector, as a contributor to and victim of climate change, must act proactively. They possess

resources for mitigation and adaptation and should not wait for government signals.

Botswana already faces losses like reduced agricultural yields, livestock losses, and declining water levels. Addressing these challenges requires navigating limited resources and competition with other development priorities.

The newly established loss and damage fund must provide genuine additional support without diverting resources. In disaster risk reduction, integrating policies like the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy is vital to minimize risks and enhance preparedness. The international community plays a crucial role in supporting Africa's adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts. More funding, technology transfer, and policy alignment are needed.

In conclusion, recommendations include improving soil and water conservation, investing in irrigation, diversifying agriculture, facilitating climate-resilient financing, strengthening weather monitoring, promoting clean energy, bridging the policy-action gap, enhancing health adaptation, and empowering youth. The cost of action is smaller than inaction.

Celebrating African Women's Leadership in Climate Action: Thato Mutumba's Inspiring Journey (Botswana Climate Change Network)



On July 31, 2023, the world celebrates Pan African Women's Day, a day dedicated to honoring the strength and tenacity of an African place where natural resources are crucial for women who are leading the charge for climate action and environmental conservation. In disadvantaged residents, growing up in Botswana and beyond, women like Thato Mutumba from Kalahari Research and the respect the older women had for the environment, using traditional knowledge to significantly impact in the fight against climate change and nurture.

This sparked a deep-rooted change and the protection of our planet's passion within Thato to protect these precious resources. Her story is a testament to invaluable resources and ensures that future generations would have access to them. change and inspire generations to come.

She is not only dedicated to her work but also believes in the power of empowering women in conservation. As she strives to make a lasting impact, she encourages others to be passionate about their own contributions to the cause. Her call to action extends to actively supporting initiatives and organizations that promote gender equality and provide women with opportunities in the conservation field.

She emphasizes the importance of continuous education and resilience, reminding her peers that the journey may not always be easy, but every moment dedicated to environmental preservation is a beautiful commitment to our planet and its people. Thato Mutumba's story serves as an inspiration to young women and girls across Africa and beyond. Her determination to protect and conserve natural resources demonstrates the critical role that women can play in addressing climate change and environmental challenges. As we celebrate Pan African Women's Day, we recognize the invaluable contributions of African women like Thato, who are making a positive impact on our world. Pan African Women's Day is a tribute to the unwavering spirit and resilience of African women who are at the forefront of climate action and environmental conservation.

YOUTH-LED 'KEEP YOUR PROMISE' CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM ACROSS AFRICA

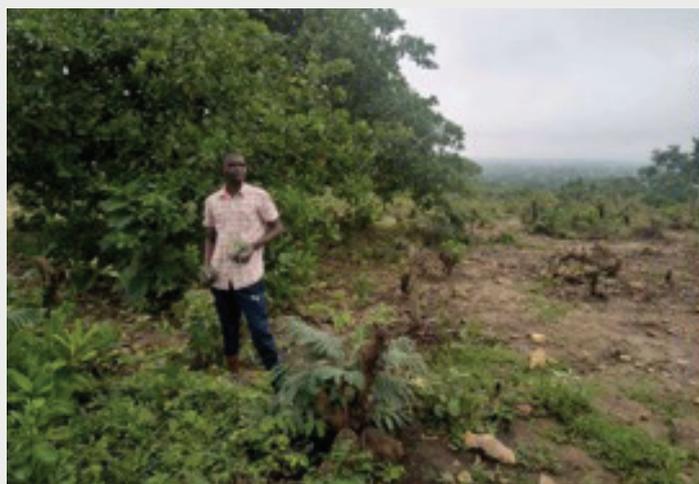
The Keep Your Promise Campaign, spearheaded by youth leaders, is set to generate a series of interconnected training initiatives, mutually reinforcing one another. This campaign has sparked a profound surge of passion and activism among youth across diverse regions of Africa. An illustrative example was witnessed in Togo during an Agro-Bio cultural festival held from the 11th to the 15th of September, just a week after the launch of The Keep Your Promise Campaign.

The younger generation has taken a leading role in driving this movement, and their boundless enthusiasm and unwavering determination are truly remarkable. The campaign's primary focus is on addressing critical climate issues, including the global stock-take, Just Transition, corporate climate injustices, the climate financing gap, and global goal adaptation. It has effectively united young voices from diverse backgrounds, all sharing a common objective: the pursuit of climate justice.

Recognizing that words are insufficient, the Keep Your Promise campaign emphasizes the need for concrete actions to effect meaningful change. It is imperative that our actions align with our commitment to achieving climate justice, and this campaign is at the forefront of driving this imperative forward.

During the Agro-bio culture festival in Togo, held from September 11th to 15th, a significant milestone was achieved. Two hundred young individuals from ten different countries, including Gabon, Nigeria, and Ghana, underwent targeted training in environmental and social justice activism. This training, facilitated by the NGO JVE, equipped these young activists with the necessary tools and knowledge to be effective advocates for environmental sustainability and a just transition toward a greener future which are in line with the campaign, Keep Your Promise.

These newly empowered activists have become integral contributors to the global movement against fossil fuels, highlighting their steadfast dedication to environmental sustainability and a fair transition. Their engagement emphasizes the crucial role that each individual plays in tackling the urgent climate crisis. The Keep Your Promise campaign is committed to amplifying and endorsing youth-led initiatives, channeling their passion into holding decision-makers responsible for their actions, commitments, and pledges. This ongoing effort aims to create a world that is not only improved but also conducive for youth to flourish and succeed.



Roots of Resilience: Empowering Togo's Communities in the Climate Change Battle Through Forestry

The participation of local communities in the fight against climate change. Forestry as a main solution Faced with the disastrous consequences of climate change on the daily lives of local African populations, it is urgent to involve them in the fight against this situation which is undermining the economies of already vulnerable African people.

In Togo (West African country), with a forest cover of 24.24% according to the latest forest inventory, the populations are participating in achieving the objective of 25% forest cover on the horizon. 2030. As such, the government, through the Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources, has launched since 2020 a vast reforestation program of 1 billion trees by 2030. How to achieve this?

With the support of technical and financial partners, economic and environmental projects support local communities in various related actions to deal with the consequences of climate change

It is in this context that the populations of Salimdè (Central region of Togo) with the support of the NGO Education-Development (E-D), member of the PACJA- Togo coordination,

are implementing the "forest landscape restoration project in Salimdè. This project focused on the reforestation of 50 hectares of degraded land is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the UNDP in Togo.

Education-Development NGO, a member of the Pan-African Climate Justice, Alliance for Togo chapter, takes advantage of opportunities to refocus with local communities, to carry out awareness-raising and training actions on this issue of climate change, the causes and the consequences. These are also moments to discuss with these grassroots communities, questions of CLIMATE JUSTICE as a major approach as adequate solutions to the climate crisis. The initiatives and actions of PACJA, present in more than 45 African countries, are shared with populations who initially had difficulty admitting the link between climate change and Climate Justice. According to Eli ATRI, National Coordinator of GEF projects in Togo, "These projects constitute opportunities for local communities and the Togolese government to prepare in anticipation of the climate crises that the world is experiencing."

MALI: THE POWER OF COLLABORATION: ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH NDC IMPLEMENTATION AND ANNUAL REPORTING



Civil society plays a pivotal role in the process leading to the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and it continues to be indispensable in its implementation. They serve as advocates, urging political authorities to design ambitious contributions. Moreover, they monitor the commitments made and actively contribute to on-the-ground actions. Civil society acts as a crucial link between local communities and national actors, ensuring that development issues and climate change measures are aligned for the greater good.

In this context, the PNASC-CED, with support from the Pan-African Alliance for Climate Justice (PACJA), held an exchange workshop on the implementation of Mali's NDC and the production of annual reports. The workshop's overall objective was to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the NDC in Mali and ensure adherence to international commitments through the production and dissemination of annual reports. The Ministry of Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development host the exchange workshop at the former INRSP at the Hippodrome on Monday, July 31, 2023, starting at 8:30 am. This inclusive gathering brought together diverse stakeholders, including member organizations of PNASC-CED, youth and women's groups active in climate change, media representatives, public actors, and Technical and Financial Partners. The workshop aimed to harness collective wisdom and knowledge to advance climate action in Mali, fostering a sustainable and resilient future through collaboration. Mali's commitment to the Paris Agreement and NDC targets reflects the nation's determination to be a part of the solution, and this workshop organized by PNASC-CED and PACJA will be a significant step towards a greener and more sustainable Mali, turning the tide on climate change for generations to come.

Reporting Back from the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice: A Call to Action from Young Congolese Leaders (DRC)

In a remarkable event held at the University of Kinshasa, young leaders from organizations and associations gathered to share their experiences and insights from the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice. The Congolese network on climate change, represented by the DRC Chapter of PACJA, organized this meaningful day of restitution on July 26, 2023.

The restitution was delivered by Martin Milolo, a passionate participant who eloquently discussed three critical themes: adaptation and mitigation, climate financing, and just energy transition. The knowledge shared during the Nairobi Summer School played a vital role in shaping their understanding of the challenges and solutions to combat climate change.

Martin Milolo highlighted the difference between adaptation and mitigation, where adaptation focuses on building resilience to survive climate change, while mitigation aims to reduce greenhouse gases. Africa's unique role in prioritizing adaptation efforts was emphasized due to its low greenhouse gas emissions, which alone would not stabilize the global climate without contributions from other nations. Climate financing, as revealed in the discussion, is not limited to governments and corporations; households can also contribute to climate resilience. This inclusive approach inspired participants to find innovative solutions for combating climate change. In the session on just energy transition, Milolo emphasized shifting away from fossil fuels responsible for over 80% of CO2 emissions. He cautioned against the Global North's energy transition agenda and stressed sustainable management of DRC's abundant minerals for clean energy.

The participants thanked PACJA DRC for organizing the event and suggested integrating youth organizations, creating a national action plan on climate justice, participating in future summer schools, and advocating for a national adaptation policy. The day concluded with renewed determination among young Congolese leaders, promising a greener and more sustainable future for the DRC.



(DRC) Bridging the Climate Divide: Empowering DRC's Communities After the African Climate Summit

In the heart of the Kongo-Central province in the western Democratic Republic of Congo, a vital initiative was set in motion on the 15th of September 2023. The goal? To bridge the gap between global climate discussions and the concerns of local communities in the region. A dedicated team of individuals, led by Martin Milolo from PACJA DRC, took on the task of reporting the African Climate Summit to the people of the DRC.

The gathering began with Martin Milolo, one of the Congolese delegates to the Summit, standing before an attentive audience. He delved into the details of the African Climate Summit, an event that was preceded by various other significant climate-related gatherings. The Parliamentary Dialogue, the Eleventh Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA 2023), and the General Assembly of Young Africans on Climate all emphasized the importance of inclusivity in decision-making processes, particularly regarding climate finance allocation for Africa's most vulnerable regions.

The summit itself had been a beacon of hope, held from the 4th to the 6th of September 2023 in Nairobi. It had attracted nearly 30 Heads of State and Government, all uniting with the shared goal of leveraging climate finance to drive Africa's economic development. The core message was clear: Africa needed homegrown solutions to tackle climate change and usher in a new era of climate action, one based on concrete results. The Nairobi Declaration, a landmark achievement, had emerged as Africa's united stance, set to guide the continent's negotiations on climate issues, notably at COP28.

One of the most pressing issues highlighted in the Nairobi Declaration was the urgent need to reform the current climate finance system. It had become evident that this system did not adequately support African countries relying on commercial debt to fund their climate actions. The Declaration championed measures such as concessional finance, technology transfer, local utilization of natural resources, a just transition to

clean energy, and access to adaptation finance for the youth. Additionally, it advocated for the development of carbon credit markets to stimulate progress.

With the formal presentation concluded, the real heart of the event unfolded—the exchange between the audience and the visiting delegates. Local community members eagerly raised their concerns and questions, sparking a dynamic dialogue that delved into the heart of their worries.

The communities were deeply concerned about their access to climate finance and the operationalization of loss and damage mechanisms. Their most poignant concern, however, was the management of climate finances at the national level. They felt that the Congolese government's approach did not adequately reflect the urgency of climate action. The community members emphasized the vital importance of consultation and active participation of local communities in climate forums and conferences, highlighting their need for a voice in the decision-making process.

As the workshop ended, it was evident that a bridge had been built—a bridge connecting the aspirations of global climate summits with the pressing concerns of local communities in the DRC. The "Keep your promises" campaign, launched in Nairobi, was set to take root in the Democratic Republic of Congo, ensuring that the promises made at the African Climate Summit would not remain mere words but would translate into meaningful action that would benefit the people on the ground.

In this small corner of the world, the path to a sustainable future had been illuminated, and the voices of the communities were now intertwined with those of global leaders. It was a promising step forward, a beacon of hope in the fight against climate change, and a reminder that true progress requires unity, understanding, and action at every level of society.

Rwanda: Youth-Led Initiatives in Rwanda Pave the Way for Climate Justice

The sun hung low in the sky, casting a warm glow over the Gikondo wetland in Kigali. It was a beautiful morning, and the air was filled with anticipation and purpose. On August 25, 2023, the Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network (RCCDN), in collaboration with the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the Youth Climate in Action Initiative (YCAI), embarked on a remarkable journey towards a greener, more sustainable future.

Commonly known as "Umuganda," a cherished tradition in Rwanda where communities come together to clean up their environment, this Umuganda held special significance. The youth were at the forefront, leading the charge against plastic pollution in their homeland.

Under the banner of "Youth Umuganda," more than 250 enthusiastic participants gathered at the Gikondo wetland, ready to embark on a mission of environmental restoration. The RCCDN and the PanAfrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) played a pivotal role in facilitating this transformational event.

The RCCDN, with its unwavering commitment to environmental protection and climate justice, had a vision: to empower local youth and inspire practices that would enhance the well-being of their communities. In the spirit of Umuganda, the young participants scoured the wetland, collecting plastic bottles, plastic bags, and various other waste materials that had marred the landscape.

The Gikondo wetland, once home to industries, warehouses, and garages, had endured severe degradation over the years. It had lost its ability to provide flood mitigation and water quality to the community it served. However, the partnership between RCCDN and its dedicated allies promised to rejuvenate this vital ecosystem. An estimated 100 hectares of land would be transformed into a natural wonder, regulating floods, improving water quality, and providing a lush green space for recreation and tourism in the heart of the city. But this was just the beginning. The youth involved in this project were determined to replicate their success across the country. Their dedication underscored the pivotal role that young people play in addressing the climate emergency, a fact that RCCDN proudly acknowledged and encouraged. The impact of this initiative extended far beyond the Gikondo wetland. The Second Rwanda Urban Development Project (RUDP2) aimed to rehabilitate five degraded wetlands in Kigali, including Kibumba, Nyabugogo, Rugenge-Rwintare, Rwampara, alongside Gikondo. These efforts would benefit an estimated 220,500 people who were currently at high risk of flooding and water-related crises.

Moreover, these restoration projects would contribute to the Kigali City Wetland Master Plan, holding the promise of generating over \$155 million in annual revenue. This highlighted the interconnectedness of our environment and economy, demonstrating that environmental preservation is not just a moral duty but also a pathway to prosperity. The dedication of these young Rwandans to promote the well-being of their environment was nothing short of remarkable. It showcased the incredible potential of our future generations when they are inspired and supported. As the sun continued its ascent, the Gikondo wetland was not only being restored to its former glory but was also heralding a brighter, more sustainable future for Rwanda.

Zambia: Empowering Africa: The Road to Climate Resilience

In a world where the effects of climate change grow ever more pronounced, the urgency to adapt has never been clearer. The Global Center on Adaptation's 2021 report paints a stark picture: rising temperatures, extreme storms and floods, rising sea levels, scorching heat waves, and prolonged droughts threaten our very existence.

Africa stands on the frontlines of this climatic battle. It grapples with a cascade of consequences that jeopardize its economies, infrastructure, water and food systems, public health, agriculture, and livelihoods. The hard-won development gains of the continent and decades of economic progress teeter on the brink of reversal. Amidst these dire challenges, a ray of hope emerged in March 2023. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) unveiled the Needs Based Adaptation for Africa (NBAA) project. This groundbreaking initiative inspired the Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) into action, propelling them to strengthen local capacities, fortify partnerships, and champion innovative, inclusive adaptation solutions.

At the Zambia 95th Agriculture and Commercial Show, ZCCN found the perfect stage to amplify its mission. The exhibition became a vibrant arena for engaging community members from all walks of life on climate adaptation. On the fifth day, the spotlight fell on NBAA as ZCCN officers shared insights with hundreds of eager visitors. Their message was clear: Adaptation for Africa is not just important; it is imperative. Adaptation efforts must harmonize with the values and priorities of the communities they intend to serve.

Ms. Lydia Chibambo, Acting National Coordinator of ZCCN, eloquently underlined the vulnerability of African communities to climate change's harsh realities. From droughts to floods and extreme weather events, Zambia, like many African nations, faces daunting challenges. It's this stark reality that led PACJA to entrust ZCCN with the monumental NBAA project.

A distinguished guest at the ZCCN stand was Former Republican President Dr. Edger C. Lungu, accompanied by his wife Mrs. Esther C. Lungu. They were given a comprehensive briefing on NBAA, with a focus on its central aim: placing communities at the forefront of adaptation initiatives. Mr. Ali Kaunda, ZCCN Project Officer, guided the former Head of State through the world of adaptation and its relevance to Africa. He stressed that adaptation is pivotal in bolstering the resilience of Zambian communities and the broader African context. "In an era of rapid climatic shifts, local communities face unprecedented threats," he added.

Dr. Lungu expressed gratitude for the concerted efforts toward adaptation in Zambia and across Africa. He noted, "Africa stands at a pivotal juncture, and adaptation holds the key to addressing myriad climate-related challenges, from agricultural productivity to governance." The clarion call for Adaptation for Africa necessitates a collective endeavor. We must craft and execute robust adaptation strategies at the grassroots level. It is imperative that all stakeholders intentionally place local communities at the epicenter of these efforts.

The NBAA project is not just a venture; it is a testament to the commitment of PACJA.

BUILD PROJECT: Advancing Climate Justice: Empowering Africa's Sustainable Development through Integrated Action



The interlinkages of Climate and Health and increasingly becoming undeniable. In one dimension of looking into this area, notable effort to address the intricate challenges of population growth, environmental concerns, and climate change in Africa, the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), in partnership with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and other organizations, held a training workshop on capacity building for integrated family planning/reproductive health (FP/SR) and population, environment, and development (PED) action. Held on 04 and 05 July 2023 in Abidjan-Ivotel, this event played a pivotal role in enhancing sustainable development strategies across the continent. The training workshop on capacity building was an integral part of the USAID-funded BUILD project, an international initiative spearheaded by AFIDEP and its esteemed partners, including PACJA, FHI 360, the PATH Foundation Philippine, LEAD Southern Africa, and Guidance. The project aimed to address the multifaceted challenges posed by population growth, environmental degradation, and climate change in Africa. In the pursuit of inclusive and equitable strategies for family planning/reproductive health and sustainable development, PACJA Côte d'Ivoire also played a crucial role in raising awareness among workshop participants about climate inequalities and the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth.

During the event, PACJA Côte d'Ivoire's National Coordinator and several members shared their expertise, emphasizing the vital role of considering climate justice in family planning/reproductive health and development policies. By showcasing the intricate links between population growth, environmental issues, and climate change, they facilitated a comprehensive understanding among participants. This newfound insight paved the way for the development of sustainable and integrated solutions to the complex challenges facing African communities. The training workshop on capacity building for integrated family planning/reproductive health (FP/SR) and population, environment, and development (PED) action was a resounding success, thanks to the contributions of PACJA Côte d'Ivoire and its dedication to climate justice and sustainable development. Through their expertise, commitment, and advocacy, they have laid the foundation for a more inclusive, equitable, and environmentally responsible approach to addressing Africa's challenges.

With climate justice at the forefront of their efforts, Africa's journey towards integrated action on family planning, reproductive health, and sustainable development takes a significant step forward.

Sierra Leone: Empowering Communities for Climate Justice: The CCASE Project Unveiled

To combat the pressing challenges posed by climate change, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) Sierra Leone Chapter celebrated the grand launch of their Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Energy (CCASE) Project. This landmark event marked the beginning of a crucial journey towards a more sustainable future.

Collaborating closely with leading implementing organizations such as the Women's Network for Environmental Sustainability (WoNES), the Civil Society Network on Climate Change and Environment (CAN-SL), and the Environmental Forum for Action (ENFORAC), PACJA Sierra Leone embarked on this ambitious project with the support of Christian Aid.

The primary goal of the CCASE Project is to foster the development of a robust coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) dedicated to championing climate justice. Additionally, the project aims to empower marginalized and vulnerable segments of society, particularly women and youth at the grassroots level, with the knowledge and resources needed to initiate locally driven initiatives that will mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change on livelihoods.

This project's reach extends to twelve communities across two districts, Pujehun and Western Area Rural. It adopts a comprehensive approach, intertwining advocacy and accountability measures with community-level interventions designed to bolster resilience in the face of climate-related challenges.

The grand launch of the CCASE Project heralds a promising future, where united efforts and unwavering commitment will help safeguard our environment and secure a sustainable future for all. Together, we embark on a journey of climate justice, resilience, and hope.

YOUTH-LED 'KEEP YOUR PROMISE' CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM

The Keep Your Promise campaign has ignited a spark of passion and activism among the youth in various parts of Africa. As we witnessed during its launch, the younger generation has taken the driver's seat in this movement, and their enthusiasm and determination are truly awe-inspiring. This campaign has set its sights on several critical climate issues, including the global stock-take, Just Transition, corporate climate atrocities, the climate financing gap, and global goal adaptation. It has successfully brought together young voices from diverse backgrounds, all with one shared goal: achieving climate justice.

The Keep Your Promise campaign understands that words alone will not suffice; we need tangible action to create meaningful change. It is imperative that our actions align with our commitment to achieving climate justice, and this campaign is leading the charge.

In Togo, over a week from the 11th-15th of September, 200 young people from 10 countries, including Gabon, Nigeria, and Ghana, received focused training on environmental and social justice activism during the Agro-bio culture festival, guided by NGO JVE.

These young activists recently joined the global movement against fossil fuels, emphasizing their commitment to environmental sustainability and a just transition for a greener future.

The Keep Your Promise campaign, led by youth, is reminding us that everyone has a role to play in addressing the climate crisis. Their dedication serves as an inspiration to us all.



Photo Gallery

UPCOMING EVENTS

Establishment of a community of practice on an adoption network for the north African region.

A roundtable on adaptation finance to be held at the sidelines of the annual world bank and international monetary fund meeting in Morocco, 7th October 2023

First conference on accelerating agricultural adaptation in Africa (C4A) 16th-19th October 2023

Pre-COP28 30-31 October, Abu-Dhabi

National Campaign Actions (Keep Your Promise Campaign)



PACJA Head of Programmes, Charles Mwangi addressing the ICCF meeting in Nairobi



H.E. The Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua arrives for a PACJA function in Nairobi



High level discussion at the The National Conference on Financing Locally Led Climate Action conference in Nairobi

PAN-AFRICAN JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Continental Secretariat, P. O. Box 51005, J13

Kabarnet Road, Off Ngong Road, Nairobi
Kenya

Phone: +254 20 8075808

E-mail: info@pacja.org