

# Round Up Voices

PACJA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## PACJA'S MULTILATERAL APPROACH:

# Strengthening Partnerships for Climate Justice



*PACJA Executive Director, Dr. Mithika Mwendwa giving his remarks during the conference*

In the realm of climate justice advocacy, collaboration stands as a cornerstone for effecting meaningful change. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) exemplifies this ethos through its robust network of partnerships and alliances with various organizations committed to addressing the climate crisis. In the second quarter of 2024, PACJA engaged in a series of impactful meetings with like-minded entities, reaffirming its dedication to a multilateral approach in tackling climate justice issues.

One notable collaboration occurred with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as part of the Need-based Advocacy on Adaptation in Africa project (NBAA). Representatives convened to delve into PACJA's advocacy efforts and the tangible benefits they bring to grassroots communities. Emphasizing adaptation as Africa's greatest need, PACJA commended the foundation for its distinct approach and highlighted transformative initiatives aimed at bolstering resilience.

Moreover, PACJA seized the opportunity to engage with the United Nations Civil Society Organizations (CSO) committee, tasked with organizing the forthcoming UN CSO Conference in Kenya. This gathering presents a vital platform for PACJA to amplify voices on climate justice and address pressing issues such as shrinking civic spaces and the persecution of rights defenders. Through mobilization efforts, PACJA aims to galvanize the human rights movement and contribute significantly to the upcoming Summit of the Future.

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# EDITORIAL NOTE

The second quarter has seen The Alliance buzzing with activity, marked by regional convenings and national engagements across various platforms. We've been attentive to significant calendar events, such as World Earth Day and World Health Day, alongside participation in international gatherings like the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, and SBSTA in Bonn, Germany. However, amidst these endeavors, our hearts go out to those affected by the devastating floods in the East African Region, a result of heavy rainfall attributed to the El Niño phenomenon.

The urgency of climate action, adaptation finance, and the operationalization of the loss and damage fund cannot be overstated. Notably, the first meeting of the Loss and Damage Fund's Board commenced today in Abu Dhabi, UAE, as the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage proposed establishing the fund's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Nevertheless, the harsh reality persists: Africa bears the brunt of climate impacts. The urgency is crystal clear, particularly in East Africa, where lives are at stake and communities grapple with nature's forces for survival.

As the world confronts the repercussions of climate change, it's imperative that we respond with urgency. Urgent aid, sustainable infrastructure, and global solidarity are not optional but essential. Let's bridge the gap between rhetoric and action for the sake of those most affected by our planet's upheaval.

Looking ahead on the Road to COP29, we carry forward the legacy of previous COP meetings, prioritizing the goals of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Our advocacy strategy remains steadfastly aligned with these objectives while staying true to our strategic focus areas. We trust this issue provides a transparent and engaging read. Enjoy!

## AFRICAN REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

# Highlights from the Pre-Events of ARFSD-10 in Addis Ababa



The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance hosted and co-hosted pre-events from April 17 to 22, leading up to the 10th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-10) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The sessions were marked to tackle various themes in and around the theme of the 10th African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development; "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions"

The week-long events were marked by insightful discussions and significant initiatives aimed at addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing Africa today. Key among these was the high-level session on Climate Change and Health, which emphasized the importance of integrating health considerations into climate policies to promote health equity. This session highlighted the need for a collaborative approach, leveraging the collective strength of TROIKA, to deliver impactful results for Africa.

Another major focus was the innovative approach to tracking climate finance

across the African continent. This session underscored the critical role of transparent and integrated financial tracking in achieving sustainable development goals and combating climate change.

A significant milestone of the pre-events was the official launch of the 630 Campaign, led by the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA) and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). This ambitious campaign aims to address energy access challenges in sub-Saharan Africa by mobilizing \$630 billion to provide energy for 630 million people by 2030. The launch was met with enthusiasm and support, marking a pivotal step towards ensuring sustainable energy access for millions.

A detailed summary of our actions and outcomes from these pre-events. This summary is available for download and we encourage you to share it within your network, amplifying the impact of our collective efforts.

Read the PACJA at AFRSD newsletter from this link  
<https://pacja.org/arfsd-newsletter-2024/>

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## Uniting African Civil Society: Driving Global Change



In a separate partnership meeting with Elimu TV, PACJA explored avenues for collaboration to advance climate education and advocacy. Discussions centered on digital transformation, wherein PACJA's "Young Heroes Children Book" will be translated into digital format, broadening its accessibility and impact among youths. Additionally, collaboration for Elimu TV's National Conference presents an opportunity to raise awareness about climate justice issues and foster dialogue among attendees.

PACJA also engaged with the Kenya Girl Guides Association, reaffirming their commitment to empowering children as advocates for climate action. Through collaborative efforts, both organizations strategized on initiatives aimed at educating and inspiring children across the nation, including the integration of specialized climate education content into educational programs.

These partnerships underscore PACJA's commitment to fostering synergies and leveraging collective strengths in the fight against climate change. By collaborating with diverse stakeholders, PACJA continues to advance its mission of promoting climate justice and building a sustainable future for all.

African civil society organizations (CSOs) are poised to make their mark on the global stage, gearing up for the 69th UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi. Recognizing their pivotal role in shaping development paradigms and fostering inclusivity, stakeholders are gathering for pre-conference discussions to consolidate African perspectives.

The recent African CSO Official Pre-Conference served as a pivotal platform for discourse, collaboration, and advocacy toward advancing sustainable development. Esteemed figures such as Carole Ageng'o, Co-Chair of the UN Civil Society Conference, emphasized collaboration as a central theme, stressing the need for inclusive partnerships to address global challenges effectively.

With climate change a pressing concern, CSOs advocate for the integration of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices into resilience efforts. Promoting climate justice and safeguarding the rights of marginalized communities emerged as top priorities.

In a landmark moment for Kenya and the global community, the Pre-Conference CSO Mobilization Day and Fun Run highlighted the critical role of civil society in shaping a sustainable future. Conference Co-Chairs, in partnership with organizations like the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, underscored the need for civil society to actively engage in global decision-making processes.

As the world faces complex challenges, African CSOs stand ready to contribute insights, experiences, and solutions for a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable world. By uniting in purpose and action, African CSOs are driving positive change that resonates across continents, shaping the future for generations to come.

# Unlocking Industrial Diversification: The Role of Green Hydrogen in Kenya's Energy Transition

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) has underscored the pivotal role of Green Hydrogen in fostering industrial diversification within Kenya. As discussions unfolded during the UN Civil Society Organizations (CSO) conference, PACJA emphasized the transformative potential of Green Hydrogen, produced through water electrolysis, as a sustainable energy source devoid of harmful emissions.

Amidst the conference's panel discussions, Mr. Charles Mwangi, Head of Programmes and Research at PACJA, alongside representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, private sector entities, the EU delegation, and H2-diplo, articulated the pressing need to slash emissions by 43%. This urgent call to action reflects the gravity of the current emissions landscape and positions Green Hydrogen as a viable solution.

Central to Mr. Charles's discourse was the imperative to address energy poverty, affecting approximately 630 million individuals across Africa. He emphasized the importance of fostering social equity and justice through enhanced energy accessibility, framing the energy discourse within an adaptation perspective necessitating substantial investments.

Moreover, Mr. Charles stressed the nuanced nature of the energy transition, asserting that a one-size-fits-all approach is inadequate. Instead, he advocated for a focus on access, affordability, and reliability tailored to the African context, echoing sentiments of localized solutions.

Key to the successful integration of Green Hydrogen, Mr. Charles outlined, is the deployment of suitable technology, a skilled workforce, accessible finance, and support for localized production. Leveraging initiatives like FloCCA can bolster grassroots efforts and amplify the impact of green energy adoption.

As the UN CSO conference draws to a close, with participation from 1,500 attendees, the groundwork laid in Nairobi sets the stage for the Summit of the Future slated for September 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York. This collaborative endeavor underscores the urgency of addressing climate challenges and harnessing innovative solutions such as Green Hydrogen to propel sustainable industrial development in Kenya and beyond.



## CULTIVATING HOPE: Collaborative Efforts Drive Reforestation and Agroforestry in West Pokot



The sun was just beginning to cast its warm glow over the rolling hills of West Pokot County as the PACJA TerraFund for AFR100 project team arrived for a day of pivotal meetings. Becky Kalume, Samuel Ashitiba (MEAL), James Kanyi (Programs), and Flora Cherop, a representative from the local implementing partner PRESAD, were eager to discuss the ongoing reforestation and agroforestry activities in the Pokot South constituency. Their first stop was a crucial meeting with William Lepto, the County Executive Committee (CEC) member for Water and Environment.

Gathered around a sturdy wooden table, the team and CEC Lepto delved into discussions about three key restoration sites: Kapkoris, Karas, and Parua. The air was filled with enthusiasm as they talked about the significant role local farmers could play in this environmental transformation. Grevillia trees, Hass avocados, and mangoes were among the fruit trees they planned to introduce, each chosen for its potential to thrive in the local climate and soil.

Lepto emphasized the need for community entry meetings, known locally as Barazas. These gatherings would be essential for engaging and educating farmers, ensuring they understood the benefits of the project and felt a sense of ownership. This approach was vital for the long-term sustainability of the reforestation efforts.

After the productive session, the team proceeded to another important meeting with Mr. Leonard, the Chief Officer for Environment and Natural Resources. Leonard, a seasoned environmentalist with a deep understanding of the region's ecological challenges, welcomed the team with a firm handshake and a hopeful smile.

In the sunlit conference room, they discussed the establishment and expansion of tree nurseries, particularly in the forest areas of Parua and Kapkoris. Leonard was passionate about involving youth groups and farmers, recognizing their potential as key drivers of change. Coordinating with local administrators to manage grazing and other

activities that could impact reforestation efforts was also a priority.

The conversation shifted to the landslide-prone areas, where the integration of various tree species, such as giant bamboo, was proposed to stabilize the soil. Leonard nodded in agreement, appreciating the comprehensive approach the team was taking to address the environmental challenges.

With community engagement being a recurring theme, the discussions concluded with plans for immediate interventions in Parua, follow-up visits, and continued coordination with local chiefs and communities. The team left Leonard's office with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to tackle the next meeting.

Their final meeting of the day took place in Parua with Assistant Chief Andrew Kipchumba and six village elders representing different villages. Sitting in a circle under the shade of a large acacia tree, the team outlined their restoration work in the sub-location and emphasized the community's involvement. The elders listened attentively, their weathered faces reflecting years of wisdom and experience.

Samuel Ashitiba of the MEAL team explained the necessity of collecting data at the project sites to ensure robust geo-spatial monitoring throughout the project cycle. This data would help track the community's needs and priorities, ensuring that the project remained aligned with its goals.

The planned activities were extensive: visits to nurseries, training community monitors on the Flority and Greenhouse apps, courtesy calls to the County Department of Agriculture, and two community Barazas in Parua and Kapkoris restoration sites. Each activity was designed to foster community engagement and ensure the success of the environmental restoration initiatives.

As the day drew to a close, the team reflected on the discussions and the collaborative spirit they had witnessed. The road ahead was challenging, but with the unwavering support of local authorities and the active participation of the community, the dream of a greener, more sustainable West Pokot County seemed within reach. The PACJA TerraFund team left Parua with a sense of fulfillment and determination, ready to continue their vital work.

## NATIONAL PLATFORMS

NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL ON CLIMATE JUSTICE (NSSCJ)

# Igniting Youth for Global Solidarity: Fourth Cohort of NSSCJ Kicks Off with International Symposium



Kenya, June 24, 2024 – The fourth Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) began with an international symposium on Climate Justice, attracting dignitaries, government officials, diplomats, and hundreds of youths from 87 countries. The symposium's theme, "Igniting Youth Power for Enhanced Global Solidarity on Climate Justice," set the stage for empowering the next generation of climate advocates.

Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, highlighted the critical role of youth in the climate justice movement. He emphasized the significant interest from applicants as a positive sign of youth readiness to tackle climate issues. "This is the perfect time for the youth to step forward and advocate for Climate Justice," Dr. Mwenda said, stressing the importance of young voices in driving climate action globally.

Since its inception in 2020, NSSCJ has produced over 1500 alumni who have become influential climate advocates. These alumni have secured roles in prominent climate organizations such as the African Group of Negotiators, the Commonwealth, and the United Nations. The fourth cohort aims to further equip young climate advocates, activists, policymakers, and community leaders with the necessary skills to champion climate justice.

Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Kenya, praised the initiative for providing youth with a platform to engage in climate change dialogues. She stressed the essential role of education in fostering climate justice. "Education equips our young people with the

knowledge, skills, and values needed to drive sustainable development and resilience," Dr. Inyangala said. She described the Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice as a "beacon of hope and a catalyst for change," offering opportunities for learning, collaboration, and innovation.

Ayele Kabede, Programme Manager for SIDA, Regional Office, Africa, praised the youth attendees and underscored the importance of building their capacity in climate justice. He highlighted the focus of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) on fostering knowledge and capacity in climate justice and climate change. "The future belongs to the young generation," Kabede said, emphasizing that decisions affecting the future should be made by and for the youth. He noted that discussions during the symposium would include preparations for COP29, set to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, focusing on advancing the goals of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

By fostering a collaborative environment, the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice aims to empower the next generation of climate activists. The program emphasizes the importance of global solidarity and collective action in achieving a just and sustainable future.

As the fourth cohort embarks on this transformative journey, the hope is that these young leaders will ignite a passion for climate justice in their communities and beyond, driving meaningful change on a global scale.

Watch highlights here: <https://youtu.be/9xq8nX19NDg> and read newsletter here <https://bit.ly/4c4auXk>

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2024:

# A Global Call to Action for Environmental Restoration

World Environmental Day 2024 was commemorated in the various outlined countries: Uganda

Morocco, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia.

On June 5th, 2024, World Environment Day celebrations took place in various locations across Africa, including City Park in Nairobi, Kenya; Jimma in Oromia Region, Ethiopia; and Central Buganda Diocese in Uganda. These events, embracing the theme "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," highlighted the urgent need for ecosystem restoration and decisive climate action.

### ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

#### Nairobi, Kenya under the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG)



The Green Nairobi Sector, in collaboration with over 53 stakeholders, hosted a vibrant event at City Park, Westlands Sub-county. Activities included:

**Tree Planting:** Participants planted trees along the Kibagare River to restore the riverine ecosystem. **Exhibitions and Showcases:** Exhibitors presented best practices in environmental sustainability, focusing on recycling, waste repurposing, and promoting biodiversity through the planting of fruit trees. **Presentations and Speeches:** Keynote speeches underscored the importance of environmental restoration and collective climate action.

#### Jimma, Ethiopia:

The Consortium for Climate Change of Ethiopia (CCCE) organized a tree-planting event in collaboration with the Jimma Town Environmental Protection Authority. Activities included:

**Tree Planting:** Over 150 participants planted over 200 seedlings to combat land degradation and enhance drought resilience.

**Community Engagement:** Residents, government officials, and environmental activists came together to foster a sense of community responsibility toward environmental conservation.

#### Central Buganda Diocese, Uganda:

PACJA Uganda, in partnership with faith-based leaders, commemorated World Environment Day with a focus on climate change adaptation. Highlights included:

**Dialogue with Faith Leaders:** A dialogue on the role of faith leaders in climate change adaptation, attended by representatives from various denominations. **Tree Planting:** PACJA donated 200 tree seedlings and participated in a tree-planting exercise to demonstrate commitment to environmental preservation.

Across all events, the key messages emphasized the necessity of collective action, personal responsibility, and preventive measures against environmental degradation. Stakeholders included:

**Organizations:** Child Fund, JICA, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), Danish Refugee Council, Hand in Hand East Africa, KEPRO, Kenya Alliance of Residents Association, Safari Park Hotel, NEMA, Magnate Ventures, UN Habitat, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Standard Chartered Bank, Kenya Girl Guides Association, Kenya Defense Forces, National Youth Service, and Taka Taka ni Mali.

**Community Members:** Significant involvement from children and youth underscored the theme's focus on securing the future for upcoming generations. **Government and Faith Leaders:** In Uganda, faith leaders played a crucial role in mobilizing communities for climate action.

World Environment Day 2024 celebrations across Africa were a resounding success, emphasizing the critical need for ecosystem restoration and climate action. The active participation of various stakeholders and the involvement of children highlighted the comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability. These collective efforts are essential in creating a sustainable future and addressing the challenges of climate change.

PACJA's effective mobilization of the public and collaboration with local governments showcased their commitment to providing accurate and coherent information on climate justice. This holistic approach to environmental stewardship underscores the importance of community collaboration in achieving long-term sustainability and resilience.

# Urgent Call for Climate Justice: Setting Priorities for SB60



Across Africa, we stand united as representatives of millions: smallholder farmers, women, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous communities, and local businesses, all grappling with the relentless impacts of climate change. As we prepare for SB60, our voices echo with urgency and determination to secure meaningful outcomes at COP29 in Baku.

Recent climate-fueled floods have unleashed unprecedented devastation across our continent. From East to West, millions of families face ruin, thousands have tragically perished, and billions of dollars in property lie in ruin. In the Horn of Africa, entire communities have been obliterated by floods and landslides, underscoring the imperative for immediate and effective climate action.

We are deeply troubled by escalating climate-related debts and adaptation costs that burden our communities unfairly. To address these challenges, it is imperative to establish a robust global climate finance compact tailored to the needs of frontline communities. SB60 must dismantle barriers hindering progress, building upon the principles laid out in the Dubai Declaration and the UAE-Belem Work Programme.

The commitments made under the UNFCCC must be upheld, with a renewed focus on securing public financing through the New Collective and Quantified Goal (NCQG). This framework is not just a pathway but a lifeline for millions of Africans striving to adapt to a changing climate.

Crucially, SB60 must deliver tangible progress on framing the Global Goal on Adaptation. This initiative is pivotal for our survival, enabling us to bolster our resilience against climate impacts that threaten our very existence.

We call upon developed nations to fulfill their obligations by providing transparent and adequate public finance. Efforts to shift the burden onto vulnerable communities through mislabeled aid

commitments must be unequivocally rejected. Double-counting and misallocation of climate finance only exacerbate our plight and undermine global climate efforts.

The outcomes of SB60 must reflect the collective ambition championed by the UAE, Azerbaijan, Brazil, and other forward-thinking nations. The time for action is now. Our survival depends on the decisions made at SB60. Together, let us forge a future where climate justice prevails and where every community can thrive in a sustainable world.

Read the statements here: <https://bit.ly/45iKeqg>, <https://bit.ly/3VAOSMU>, <https://bit.ly/4c8WKlj>





# Empowering Africa's Climate Champions: A Collaborative Effort to Track and Achieve NDC Goals

In the heart of an ambitious initiative to tackle climate change, a diverse team from the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), and the Women's Action for Gender Equality and Development Initiative (WAGEDI) recently gathered. Their mission: to provide specialized training on the implementation, monitoring, and tracking of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to a group of dedicated focal points from twelve African countries. Among these were representatives from eight countries – Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia – who are key players in their respective national networks for climate action.

The scene was set for a crucial exchange of knowledge and skills, with the aim of empowering these focal points to navigate the complexities of NDC implementation. Each country has established frameworks that align their NDCs with broader national development priorities. However, a significant challenge looms large: the limited awareness among stakeholders about the ambitious targets set by their governments. This gap in knowledge often hampers the collective effort required to meet these targets.

Furthermore, some countries have struggled with collecting the necessary secondary data, an essential component for effective monitoring and tracking of progress. Without accurate data, it becomes increasingly difficult to assess whether the implemented measures are steering the country toward its climate goals.

The focal points, selected from a variety of sectors and bringing a wealth of expertise, are tasked with a pivotal role. They will be utilizing a specialized monitoring tool designed to streamline the tracking process, ensuring that each country's efforts are consistently evaluated and aligned with their NDCs. This tool is expected to be a game-changer, providing a structured and systematic approach to monitoring progress and identifying areas that need attention.

As the training unfolded, it became clear that this was more than just a technical exercise. It was a confluence of minds and hearts united by a common cause. The room buzzed with the shared commitment to drive their nations toward a sustainable future. The exchange of ideas, experiences, and strategies created a rich tapestry of knowledge that each representative would carry back to their home country.

One of the highlights was the discussion on aligning NDCs with national development priorities. This alignment is crucial because it ensures that climate action is not seen as an isolated endeavor but as an integral part of a country's development trajectory. The representatives from Ethiopia shared their success in integrating climate resilience into their national development plan, serving as an inspiration for others grappling with similar challenges.



**NDC IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND TRACKING SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Join us to gain essential insights into **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** implementation, share experiences, and develop actionable plans to drive climate action.

**About The Workshop**  
The Stakeholder Sensitization Workshop is a crucial event under the project "Building the Capacity of Selected sub-Saharan African Countries to Effectively Measure Progress in their Nationally Determined Contributions" Implementation Using Tracking Tools and Indexes" funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the African Climate Change Fund (ACCF). This project aims to enhance the implementation and monitoring of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) across selected African countries, ensuring alignment with the Paris Agreement targets.

**Note the date**  
📅 26 June, 2024  
🕒 10:00am – 1:30pm UTC/GMT  
Join the conversation using the link: <https://meet.google.com/wnc-uskb-aptk>

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP  
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT

In another session, the issue of data collection was tackled head-on. Representatives from Kenya and Tanzania shared innovative solutions they had employed, such as leveraging technology to gather real-time data and engaging local communities in the monitoring process. These practical insights were invaluable, offering actionable steps that other countries could adapt to their contexts.

The training was not without its moments of introspection. The representatives were encouraged to reflect on their roles and the importance of their work. They were reminded that they are not merely monitors but catalysts for change, bridging the gap between policy and practice.

By the end of the training, there was a palpable sense of optimism and determination. The focal points left equipped not only with new skills and tools but also with a reinforced sense of purpose. They knew that the road ahead would be challenging, but they were ready to champion their countries' NDCs with renewed vigor.

In the grand scheme of the global fight against climate change, these focal points represent the frontline warriors. Their work, often behind the scenes, is critical to ensuring that Africa's voice and actions are part of the global narrative on climate justice. As they returned to their respective countries, they carried with them the hopes and expectations of a continent striving for a sustainable and equitable future.

## NATIONAL PLATFORMS

### BOTSWANA

## Tree Planting at the 2nd Botswana Built Environment Conference and Expo

*By Boitumelo Pauline*

The Botswana Climate Change Network (BCCN) played a pivotal role in the 2nd Botswana Built Environment Conference and Expo, hosted by 360 Events Affair at Ba Isago University in Gaborone. This notable event centered on promoting circular economy principles, sustainable development within built environments, and overall environmental well-being.

Highlighting their commitment to environmental conservation, BCCN donated 50 trees, with nine being ceremonially planted at the Peolwane community park in Block 7, Gaborone, on April 24, 2023. The tree planting ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Honorable Sebereko, the area Councillor; Mr. Nkaelang Matenge, CEO of BHC; Mr. Darlington, Dean of the Faculty of Built Environment at Ba Isago University; and Ms. Tebogo Modisagape, President of the Botswana Green Building Council.

This event underscored the cultural significance of tree planting in Botswana, where participants engaged in the tradition of speaking to the trees, expressing wishes for their growth and resilience. BCCN's Programs Officer, Tshepiso Masilonyane, highlighted the importance of nurturing the planted trees, emphasizing the network's dedication to their long-term care. The initiative was widely appreciated, particularly by BHC's CEO, who noted the positive impacts of such green efforts in urban planning.

Attended by 21 conference delegates and five representatives from BCCN, the ceremony reflected BCCN's holistic approach to environmental stewardship and community involvement, aligning with the broader goals of sustainable development discussed at the conference.

<https://www.botswanaclimatenetwork.org/blog>

### RWANDA

## RCCDN's Earth Day Virtual Meeting on 'Planet vs Plastic'

On April 22, 2024, the Rwanda Climate Change Development Network (RCCDN) held a virtual meeting themed "Planet vs Plastic" in celebration of Earth Day. The event focused on the severe impact of plastic pollution on ecosystems, wildlife, and human health, highlighting the ongoing global struggle despite various efforts to mitigate the issue. Rwanda was showcased as both a leader and a participant in the ongoing battle against plastic pollution.

The primary aim of the meeting was to raise awareness about the environmental damage caused by plastics, fostering a dialogue to inspire collective action towards a plastic-free future. Participants discussed the persistence of plastic pollution and the need for innovative solutions, particularly in reducing plastic use in product packaging.

A significant highlight was Rwanda's proactive approach, notably its 2008 ban on single-use plastics, demonstrating progress yet acknowledging ongoing challenges. The meeting emphasized the role of youth in driving

change, with young Rwandans sharing their ideas and commitments to combat plastic pollution through community engagement and digital advocacy.

The summit showcased various strategies in plastic waste management and circular economy practices, encouraging the development of policy recommendations tailored to Rwanda's needs. A youth statement on "Planet vs Plastic" underscored the next generation's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The meeting concluded with a call for unity and collaboration, equipping participants with the knowledge and tools to contribute to a plastic-free future. By harnessing innovation and collective wisdom, the event aimed to move Rwanda and the world closer to a sustainable and resilient future, where plastic pollution is significantly reduced.

### SOUTH AFRICA

## PACJA's New Board Selection in South Africa

On May 15, 2024, the members of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) platform in South Africa successfully selected a new team of five Board members. This newly formed Board is entrusted with overseeing the platform's operations and guiding it towards achieving its goals and the broader vision of the Alliance. The Board members bring a mix of expertise, diversity, and commitment, ensuring effective leadership and progress.

The selected Board members and their thematic responsibilities are:

1. **Mr. Mandlenkosi Hadebe** - Board Chair and Climate Finance Lead
2. **Dr. Julia Mambo** - Deputy Board Chair and Lead for Gender, Youth,

Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and Marginalised Groups

3. **Ms. Khumo Khotsokhoane** - Adaptation Lead
4. **Prof. Elvis Nkoana** - TECKNOCCA Lead

This diverse and skilled team is poised to guide the organization towards its objectives, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and comprehensive climate action.

Regarding the recent workshop organised by the head of program outcome of the day we managed to elect the steering committee that will ensure the operation of the South African DNP move ahead.

## NATIONAL PLATFORMS

### Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG)

# Summary of Recent Activities by the Kenyan Platform on Zero Waste Management and FLOCCA Elections

The Kenyan platform has been actively engaged in a series of impactful events and initiatives, reflecting its commitment to environmental sustainability and community empowerment. The recent season has been particularly busy, with activities ranging from commemorating Zero Waste Management Day to participating in the FLOCCA elections across various counties.

### Zero Waste Management Day:

On April 5, 2024, the platform commemorated the International Day of Zero Waste in partnership with the Slums Going Green Association at Kibera Slums. The event kicked off with a vibrant procession from the Kibera DC ground to Sarang'ombe Ward, where Chief Nehemiah officially opened the ceremony. The event was marked by a strong presence of local environmental officers from Laini Saba, Woodley, and Sarang'ombe Wards, who delivered speeches underscoring their commitment to collaborate with the Slums Going Green Association and KPCG to advance zero waste initiatives.

Participants also heard from the Junk Bins Garbage Collectors, who played a crucial role in educating the community on waste segregation. The Area MCA of Sarang'ombe, in his remarks, lauded the efforts of KPCG and the Slums Going Green Association under the leadership of Faith Ngige. He pledged ongoing support to enhance waste management practices and emphasized adherence to the Waste Management Act of 2022.

The event featured inspiring speeches from the National Coordinator for KPCG and the founder of the Slums Going Green Association, highlighting the potential of transforming waste into valuable resources. This commemoration not only celebrated zero waste practices but also served as a motivational platform for many, illustrating how community efforts can lead to significant environmental benefits.

### Collaborations and Partnerships:

In addition to the zero waste activities, Faith Ngige, the KPCG National Coordinator, engaged in strategic discussions with Mr. Kennedy Ouma, the Communication Advisor of GIZ. Their conversation focused on potential partnerships to drive locally led climate action and enhance policy engagement. This collaboration included organizing climate change town hall meetings to disseminate the outcomes of the African Climate Summit to communities across Kenya.

A key aspect of their discussion was the need to strengthen last-mile engagement under the FLOCCA (Financing Locally Led Climate Action) initiative. They emphasized the importance of effective communication, awareness creation, and providing oversight to ensure successful implementation of climate resilience solutions at the community level.



### FLOCCA Elections:

The platform's involvement in the FLOCCA elections has been extensive, with significant victories and strategic gains across multiple counties. The elections aimed to establish strong local leadership to oversee climate action initiatives. The platform achieved notable successes in counties such as Nandi, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nyamira, Isiolo, Trans-Nzoia, Kiambu, Kajiado, Makueni, and Kisii.

In Machakos County, Joseph Mwaniki from KPCG emerged victorious against Ruth Mwendu of KCCWG in a closely contested election. Similarly, in Makueni County, a partner VSO focal point secured a win, reflecting strong support and effective campaigning.

However, some counties faced challenges, particularly Kisumu, where the election process highlighted the need for consensus on representation. Discussions are ongoing between KPCG focal point Brian Odeny and the management of SusWatch to determine the best representation for CSOs in Kisumu. This underscores the complexities and dynamic nature of local elections and the importance of achieving a representative consensus.

In Vihiga County, the elections were notably straightforward, with Michael Khasindu, known as "Vuvuzela," winning decisively. His reputation as a climate champion, demonstrated by his past efforts such as cycling from Nairobi to Cape Town, significantly bolstered his support.

County Leadership:

In Kajiado County, the newly nominated CSO representatives for the County FLOCCA steering committee include:

- Eve Merin from Enkakenya Sidai Initiative as Chairperson
- Alais Lenana Momoi from Matonyok Organisation as Treasurer
- Ken Matampash from Neighbours Initiative Alliance as Secretary
- Joyce Nasambu from Survivor Members as a Member
- Eugene Simiyu from Youth Governance for Action as a Member

Overall, these activities underscore the Kenyan platform's dedication to fostering environmental sustainability, effective waste management, and robust local climate action through collaborative efforts and strong community engagement. The platform's achievements in zero waste initiatives and strategic electoral victories illustrate its capacity to lead and inspire positive environmental change at both the local and national levels.

# NSSCJ-IV PHOTOS



## PHOTOS AT GLANCE !

BUILD AT IPC Lilongwe Malawi



NDC Tracking and Implementation.



EALA Roundtable Water and Climate Change Forum Arusha Tanzania 29th June 2024

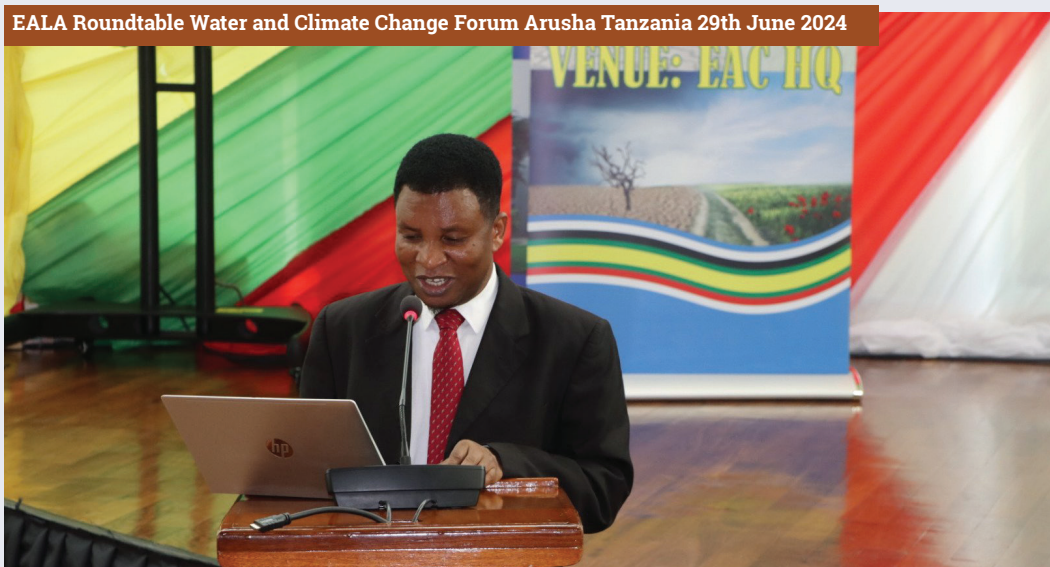


## PHOTOS AT GLANCE !

EALA Roundtable Water and Climate Change Forum Arusha Tanzania 29th June 2024



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## PHOTOS AT GLANCE !

International Energy Access Pre-Conference Nairobi Kenya



GIZ Hydrogen Meeting Nairobi Kenya



The Net Zero+ Nexus: Geographies of Just Climate Transitions Workshop



Terra Fund Workshop





NSSCJ-IV Graduands at Chuka University, Tharaka Nithi, Kenya

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