



NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL
ON CLIMATE JUSTICE
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3RD-16TH JULY, 2023

NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

*HOT TOPICS AND CONTEMPORARY
SOLUTIONS*



CONNECTING IDEAS AND SHAPING NARRATIVES



The Opening High Level Symposium

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and Kenyatta University opened the third Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice (NSSCJ) in Nairobi, Kenya. The symposium attracted over 500 participants, including 250 students from across the continent. Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of PACJA, emphasized the importance of the Summer School in equipping young leaders and activists with the knowledge and skills to promote climate justice.

Amb. Ayele Kabede from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) praised the program for fostering intergenerational knowledge on climate change. HE Amb. Maarten Brouwer, the Dutch Ambassador to Kenya, commended the initiative as a groundswell of youth climate activists. The Cabinet Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, stressed the need to integrate climate change education into the curriculum to empower the younger generation.

Africa possesses the capacity to make significant contributions to climate action

The special Climate Change Envoy of the President of Kenya, Mohamed Ali, believes that Africa has tremendous potential to contribute to global climate action. During a speech at the Nairobi Summer School, he highlighted Africa's untapped opportunities in renewable energy, such as geothermal, wind, and solar power, which can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He emphasized that despite the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, temperatures have already reached that level, necessitating immediate action. Ali stressed the importance of training and mentoring the younger generation in climate justice to drive positive change. Dr. Mithika Mwenda, The Executive Director of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance called for pragmatic climate action and urged Africa to transition from dirty energy to clean energy, aligning with global trends. With Africa possessing 60% of the world's best global resources, investments in solar photovoltaics and low-carbon biogas production could provide cost-effective electricity and sustainable solutions for millions of Africans. The Africa Climate Summit 2023, scheduled to be held in Nairobi, will bring together global leaders, policymakers, activists, and stakeholders to address climate challenges and work towards a sustainable future.





THE PROCESS

Insightful and detailed modules on the climate justice school module program

Dr. Peter Wangai, an expert in environmental studies, captivated participants at Kenyatta University with an enlightening presentation on climate change and its components. He introduced the concept of climate change, vulnerability, and the intricate components of the climate system. Delving into history, he highlighted the significance of fossil fuels like coal, gas, and oil and their contributions to the carbon cycle throughout different periods, such as the Industrial Revolution and the present era.

Dr. Wangai emphasized the link between anthropogenic activities and the escalation of greenhouse gases, resulting in global warming. He stressed the urgency of addressing the root causes of climate change, promoting the transition to green energy sources like solar and geothermal power.

The eminent scholar underlined the grave threat climate change poses to humanity, wildlife, and ecosystems. He emphasized the need for transformative changes in human behavior, including lifestyle modifications and reduced consumerism, to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.



Enhancing Climate Resilience: Insights from Shivaji Malesi

Shivaji Malesi, an expert in climate change adaptation, delivered a compelling presentation on the concepts of resilience and adaptation. The session focused on various approaches to adaptation, typologies of adaptation measures, adaptation within the UNFCCC process, the significance of the community-based approach, and the importance of an effective framework. This article provides a summary of Malesi's presentation, shedding light on key aspects of community-based adaptation and resilience strategies.

There was an underscoring that adaptation is a global challenge requiring action at various levels. The Paris Agreement recognizes the significance of adaptation as a key component of the global response to climate change. It emphasizes the need for a country-driven, participatory, and transparent approach that considers vulnerable groups, communities, and ecosystems.

The community-based approach to adaptation, emphasizes community participation, engagement, and empowerment. Malesi stressed the importance of understanding and addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by communities. Vulnerability risk assessment was identified as a crucial step in developing effective strategies tailored to each community's unique vulnerabilities and risks.

Shivaji Malesi's presentation provided valuable insights into designing and implementing community-based adaptation and resilience strategies. The session emphasized the significance of understanding resilience and adaptation, adopting different approaches to adaptation, and implementing specific measures to address climate hazards. The community-based approach, coupled with a comprehensive and effective framework, was highlighted as essential for successful adaptation and resilience building at the community level. By considering Malesi's valuable insights, stakeholders can foster climate resilience and empower communities in the face of climate change.



"An effective community-based adaptation and resilience framework is crucial. It must be comprehensive, taking into account all relevant aspects, and deliver tangible and measurable outcomes. Moreover, it should be satisfactory, meeting the needs and expectations of the communities involved."

Participants Engage in Group Discussions on Adaptation Strategies

A series of group discussions brought together youth participants to address various sectors and causes of vulnerability, focusing on developing adaptation strategies and identifying responsible institutions. The aim was to foster learning, collaboration, and scaling up of good practices within the wider community and regional levels.

The participants recommended sustainable mining practices, stakeholder engagement, community development, and improved transparency and governance. Ministries of Mining or equivalent government agencies and environmental agencies were recognized as responsible institutions to enforce regulations and ensure sustainable mining practices.

In the health sector, the causes of vulnerability were identified as inadequate healthcare infrastructure, disease outbreaks and pandemics, and socioeconomic factors. To address these challenges, the participants suggested strengthening healthcare systems, disease prevention and surveillance, and healthcare workforce training. Responsible institutions such as Ministries of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), and local health authorities were identified as key actors in implementing these strategies.

Creative art and culture discussions focused on limited funding and resources, social and economic changes, and natural and human-made disasters as causes of vulnerability. To adapt and preserve cultural heritage, the participants suggested strategies such as cultural preservation and promotion, cultural heritage protection, and cultural education and awareness. Ministries of Culture, cultural organizations, and international organizations were identified as responsible institutions in this domain.

The group discussions provided a platform for youth participants to voice their concerns and contribute to the development of adaptation strategies across various sectors. The engagement of responsible institutions is crucial in implementing these strategies and fostering a resilient and sustainable future.



FACILITATOR'S GEMS



Dr. Dorcas Otieno, UNESCO Chair HEDGES, Kenyatta University

Dr. Dorcas Otieno's presentation on sustainable development in the African context highlighted several case studies. These included Morocco's Noor Solar Power Complex, agroecology and sustainable agriculture in Senegal, South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Program, Ethiopia's Green Economy Strategy, the Nordic Model of Sustainable Development (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), eco-tourism in Rwanda, and Kenya's M-Pesa mobile payment system. These case studies exemplify successful approaches to sustainable development in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, green economy strategies, tourism, and financial inclusion.



Yared Abera- Young Climate negotiator from Ethiopia

Yared Abera, a young climate negotiator from Ethiopia, shared his journey and experiences as a government negotiator at the Conference of the Parties (COP) with the participants of Summer School cohort III. Yared highlighted his focus on the crucial issue of loss and damage during the negotiations.

Despite working as a researcher, he demonstrated his determination by interning for free at the Ministry of Environment to become part of the government delegation. Yared emphasized the significance of commitment and active engagement in organizations like YOUNGO, which helped him build a portfolio that convinced the government to include him in the delegation. His story inspired the youth to pursue their goals, acquire knowledge, and make a positive impact in their communities, ultimately opening doors to represent their governments in climate change negotiations.

Prof Seth Osafo- Legal Advisor, AGN

Professor Seth Osafo, Legal Advisor of the Africa Group of Negotiators to the UNFCCC, presented a comprehensive history of international climate change awareness, multilateral dialogue, and interventions. The report highlights key points discussed by Professor Osafo, starting from the emergence of global awareness at the Stockholm - Rio Conference. The UNFCCC was subsequently established to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations and allow ecosystems to adapt.



The principle of common but differentiated responsibility guides the UNFCCC, recognizing varying levels of responsibility among developed and developing countries. The Berlin Mandate and Kyoto Protocol set commitments for Annex 1 Parties, while the Durban Plan of Action led to the Paris Agreement, which requires NDCs from all countries. The Agreement entered into force in November 2016, with 185 parties ratifying it to date.

Dr. Stephen Chege, a lecturer at Kenyatta University



A magazine is a periodical publication, which can either be printed or published electronically. It is issued regularly, usually every week or every month, and it contains a variety of content. Dr. Chege also highlighted climate denialism as a significant obstacle to climate action. Climate denialism involves denying the existence, causes, or severity of anthropogenic climate change.

Different forms of denialism, such as science denial and crisis denial, aim to downplay the urgency of climate action. This can include articles, stories, photographs, and advertisements. In countering denialism and delay, Dr. Chege emphasized the importance of truth and continuous public education.

The professor delivered a comprehensive presentation on Introduction to Climate Justice. The presentation covered a wide range of topics, including principles, analyses, strategies, tactics, alliance, credibility of climate agreements, the role of civil society, just energy transition, climate debts, and managing UNFCCC progress by climate justice criteria.

The notion of climate debts was addressed, highlighting the importance of redressing social injustices and providing financial support for planetary and social survival. Progressive and fair carbon taxation and pricing were proposed as alternatives to failed emissions trading and offset mechanisms. Historical responsibilities for climate debts, compensation for low-emission countries and communities, and covering loss and damage reparations and adaptation costs were also emphasized.



Professor Patrick Bond, Distinguished Professor and Director of the University of Johannesburg Centre for Social Change



Julius Ng'oma's presentation emphasized the importance of gaining political will, understanding climate change impacts, and mapping ongoing activities as preparatory steps for adaptation planning. He highlighted the need to establish an adaptation team and promote institutional cooperation. By following these steps, communities can effectively design and implement resilience strategies that reflect local needs and contribute to sustainable development. Julius Ng'oma's comprehensive framework provides a roadmap for communities to navigate the complexities of climate adaptation and build resilience in the face of environmental challenges.



Julius Ng'oma Coordinator, PACJA Malawi (Civil Society Network on Climate Change)



Driving Change: The Power of Policy Advocacy and Communication in Climate Justice

In one of the modules, policy, advocacy and communication was well covered. Participants gathered to delve into the essential aspects of sustainability in energy policy decision-making. The focus was on striking a balance between economic interests, environmental concerns, and social equity. Through lively discussions, diverse perspectives emerged, shedding light on the significant role energy policy plays in shaping the sector and guiding actions. The session revolved around core advocacy strategies, providing valuable insights into effective campaigning. Presenters emphasized the importance of setting clear and measurable goals to achieve long-term results. They stressed that well-designed policies are crucial for promoting efficient and sustainable energy use.



One expert provided an analytical guide to policy analysis, highlighting the importance of mapping key policy stakeholders. Participants explored the dynamics of power and critical pathways in planning and implementing successful advocacy campaigns. Strategies such as organizing, capacity building, networking, coalition building, and legal actions were presented to create a comprehensive advocacy plan. Additionally, communication's pivotal role in advocacy was addressed. Participants learned about the significance of persuasive messaging, transmitting and receiving information effectively. They were encouraged to adopt a SMART approach for goal setting and four strategic communication cycles to reach their intended audiences. The seminar concluded with a compelling presentation on the power of social media in climate justice advocacy, showcasing its ability to connect people across borders and amplify marginalized voices.

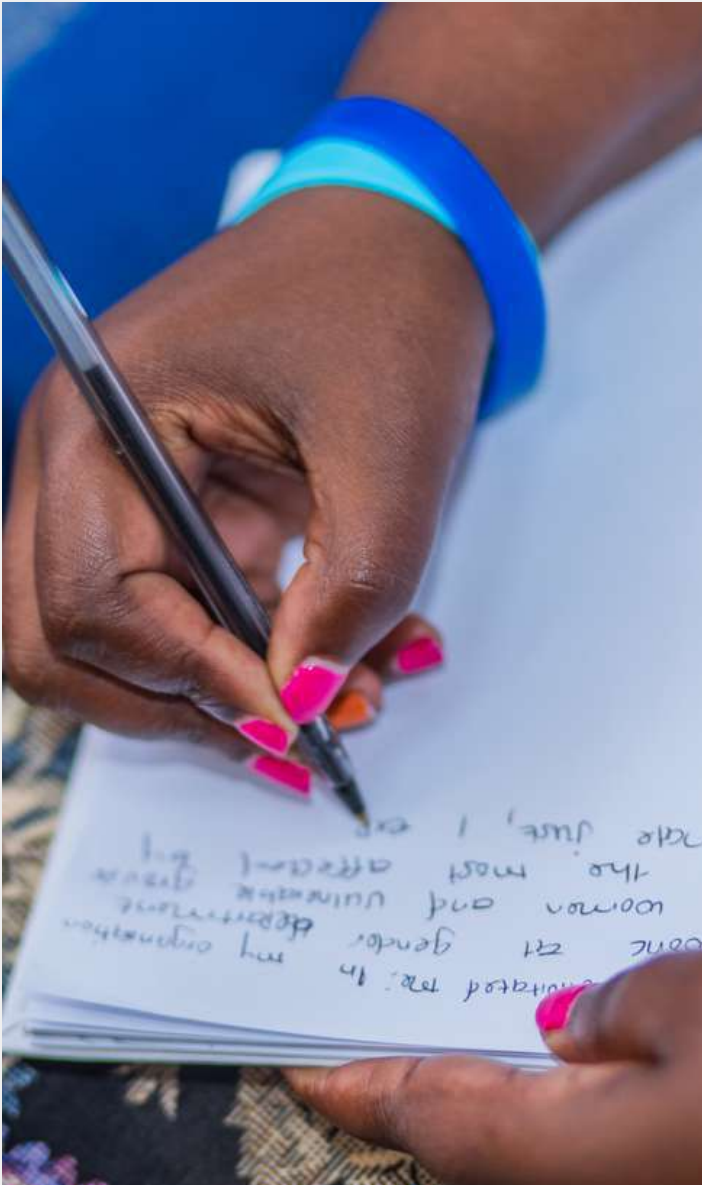


Balancing Energy for All: Crafting Sustainable Policies with Economic, Environmental, and Social Equity



In the pursuit of sustainable energy solutions, the sessions focused on balancing economic interests, environmental concerns, and social equity in energy policy decisions. The session proved to be a lively exchange of ideas, with participants offering diverse perspectives on the selected energy policy issue. Underscoring the importance of well-designed policies, the discussion highlighted how they shape the energy sector and promote efficient, sustainable energy usage.

The participants critically examined various dimensions of the policy issue, acknowledging the intricate interplay between stakeholders, interests, and objectives. Benson, the expert presenter, shared seven principles of sound energy policies: recognizing energy's role in human flourishing, considering the environmental impact of all energy sources, understanding the significance of scale in energy production, emphasizing reliability for effectiveness, acknowledging the time required for change, ensuring affordability for utility, and recognizing the harmful effects of fossil fuel energy subsidies. Through expert insights and encouragement, the participants were inspired to explore potential solutions and find compromises for a greener, more sustainable future.



Exploring Climate Justice Through Thematic Parallel Tracks: Nairobi Summer School 2023



As the Nairobi Summer School reached its conclusion, the organizers recognized the importance of delving deeper into the topics that resonated with the students. To facilitate this, they introduced Thematic Parallel Tracks, which provided an opportunity for the participants to engage with experts on a more personal level. These tracks were designed to tackle climate justice as a multi-sectoral issue, encouraging attendees to view it through a holistic lens rather than solely as an environmental concern.

The Thematic Parallel Tracks covered a wide range of critical subjects, allowing students to choose the sessions that aligned with their interests and expertise. One of the tracks focused on the intersectionality of Climate Justice, Gender Justice, and Feminism. Understanding that climate change disproportionately affects marginalized communities, this track explored the crucial role of gender in climate-related issues and emphasized the need for feminist perspectives in addressing climate justice.

Another track delved into the relationship between Climate Justice and Faith. Recognizing the powerful influence of religious beliefs and values, this session examined how faith-based communities could contribute to sustainable solutions and inspire action on climate change.



The intersection of Climate Justice and Health was another crucial track that shed light on the intricate linkages between the environment and public health. Participants explored the various health impacts of climate change and discussed strategies to build resilience and adapt to these challenges.

Issues within Cities and Local Authorities were also highlighted in a dedicated track, recognizing that the majority of the global population lives in urban areas. This session addressed the unique environmental, social, and economic challenges faced by cities in the context of climate change and sought innovative solutions to create sustainable urban environments.





Climate Security, a pressing concern in the face of increasing migration, conflicts over resources, and natural disasters, was given its own track. This session examined the far-reaching consequences of climate-induced security threats and how international cooperation and policy measures could mitigate potential crises.



The essential topics of Human and Environmental Rights were not overlooked. This track emphasized the intrinsic connection between environmental preservation and human rights, underscoring the need for equitable and just solutions that protect both people and the planet. Finally, Climate Finance was explored as a critical aspect of tackling climate change effectively. The track addressed the financing challenges associated with climate-related initiatives and explored innovative funding mechanisms that could accelerate progress toward a sustainable future.



Throughout these Thematic Parallel Tracks, participants had the invaluable opportunity to engage in one-on-one discussions with experts who are at the forefront of their respective fields. This interaction fostered a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of climate justice issues and equipped the students with the knowledge and inspiration to effect meaningful change in their communities and beyond. The Nairobi Summer School's commitment to exploring climate justice through these diverse thematic tracks exemplifies the understanding that solving the complex challenges of climate change requires a collaborative and multi-faceted approach. By bringing together experts and participants from various disciplines, the Summer School nurtured a collective effort towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. As the students return to their homes, they carry with them not only knowledge but also the conviction that individual actions, no matter how small, can make a significant impact on the global fight against climate change.



The Conclusion



Over 500 youth, both from Africa and beyond, successfully completed a rigorous 14-day training program on Climate Justice in Nairobi, Kenya. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) organized the training in collaboration with Kenyatta University, marking the third Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice (NSSCJ) cohort.

During the closing ceremony, Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of PACJA, applauded the participants for their active engagement throughout the intensive learning experience. He urged them to take up the next challenge of advocating for Climate Justice. Dr. Mithika emphasized that the youth hold immense power and are instrumental in advancing Climate Justice Advocacy across the continent. He encouraged the cohort, stating, "With the knowledge and skills you've gained from this program, you can become the driving force behind Africa's climate justice agenda. Climate change is not solely an environmental issue; it is also social, economic, and political."

Dr. James Koske, Executive Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Science at Kenyatta University, affirmed the university's commitment to supporting the ongoing process. He urged the youth to enhance their climate change and environmental skills, emphasizing the undeniable reality of climate change's effects. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts in climate action. Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, HE Caroline Vicini, recognized the crucial role played by PACJA in equipping youth with skills on climate justice and climate change. She emphasized the power of information and expressed hope that this generation would surpass its current leaders.

The completion of the Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice marks a significant milestone in empowering African youth to tackle the challenges of climate change with knowledge, determination, and collective action. With their newfound skills, these young individuals are poised to shape a sustainable and just future for their continent and the world.



Discovering Sustainable Agricultural Methods: Building Climate Resilience Amidst the Climate Crisis



NSSCJ Participants at Fred's Ranch on 8th July, 2023



Fred's Ranch: Pioneering Sustainable Agriculture in the Climate Crisis

Participants of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice visited Fred's Ranch in Isinya, Kajiado County—a shining example of sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change. Through practices like agroforestry, conservation agriculture, efficient water management, and renewable energy utilization, the farm showcased ways to adapt and thrive. Organic farming, mulching, crop rotation, and integrated pest management further highlighted their holistic approach. Recommendations from the participants, including grafting, fruit tree expansion, and dairy optimization, contributed to the farm's continuous improvement. Fred's Ranch inspires resilience, productivity, and sustainable livelihoods amidst the climate crisis.

Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice Moments



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NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL ON CLIMATE JUSTICE COHORT III



2023

