

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



WOMEN, RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE





Dear Readers,

2022 was a landmark year for the future of the planet and therefore for the future of every woman, man, girl, and boy, in all four corners of the world. In times of crisis, when resources are strained and institutional capacity is limited, women and girls face disproportionate impacts with far-reaching consequences that are only further amplified in contexts of fragility, conflict, and climate emergencies. At the same time, women are often the leaders, strong networkers, managers, organizers, and caretakers in the community. In this issue, we talk about Women's actions in the context of the climate crisis about, while giving the floor to various development actors on the theme of gender in resilience and climate change. A series of articles make up a dossier highlighting the important role of marginalised rural community members, including women, in the fight against climate change and its consequences. This topic is also central to the work of African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) and the consortium partners and it is with great pleasure that we share not just the Organization's results, but also a range of contributions made by our partners ; the Pan African Climate Alliance (PACJA), Oxfam, Femnet , Natural Justice and the African Youth Commission (AYC),to initiatives, projects and challenges in this area. As we never tire of saying, given their critical role in ensuring household livelihood security, women must be involved in identifying and implementing actions that can contribute to poverty reduction and the protection of the environment.

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter!

Program Management Unit



EMPOWERING WOMEN: AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Women often bear the most responsibility for household food and water supply. They produce roughly 60% of the world's food; in rural communities, they are most dependent on natural resources that are under threat from climate variability and global change. They are frequently exposed and more vulnerable to natural hazards like floods or droughts and to climate-related health risks like under-nutrition and malaria. They also have valuable knowledge on weather and climate, but many cannot contribute to or benefit from weather and climate services.

The AACJ project aims to open that unmistakable window of opportunity. It aims to mobilize actions, to improve outcomes in adaptation and resilience to climate change by dissecting gender-based needs and capacities and those of highly vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, and ultimately to craft strategies that leave no one behind. All voices, especially the invisible and excluded voices, need to be heard and represented in order to have a clearer picture of reality. Not just in project-level activities, but systematically at all levels in governance, in design and in execution.

Formulating solutions that are inclusive and gender-responsive is not a one-time affair. Not only is gender analysis needed at many levels – from household contexts to government structures, but tools and approaches must also touch national policy, sector transformation, and community engagement. Likewise, AACJ is contributing to a human rights-based approach to promote gender equality as a core strategy for increasing resilience. This includes gender-based analysis to understand the nuances of men's and women's experiences, accordingly improving sector adaptation plans, budgets, and decision-making, and building capacity to systematize and mainstream these inclusive and gender-responsive approaches.

Formulating these solutions must also be flexible and evolve as people and contexts are also constantly shifting and the results of our work together leads to improving situations. AACJ is also helping to mobilise new financing which also adopts this approach to transformation through innovation, gender equality, inclusion and empowerment.

The only thing constant in life is change. What is more important than the change itself is how we respond to that change

COUNTRIES OF OPERATION





KENYA

**EMPOWERING
WOMEN TO BECOME
POWERFUL LEADERS
IN AGRICULTURE**

The agricultural sector heavily depends on a female workforce. Estimates show that in some developing countries, women make up over half of the agricultural workforce. In Kenya, for instance, women make up 42% and 65% of the agricultural labour force despite being accorded little attention.

Closing this gender gap is a the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance under the AACJ Project. The project is providing over 6000 farmers, mostly women, with productive resources and opportunities to add value to the agriculture supply chain.

“We envision a sustainable agricultural value chain that will enable people, the economy and natural systems to rebound quickly in the face of adversity. Involving women too in the entire value chain could accelerate the ability of a business to react, respond and adapt to the unpredictable realities of a changing climate. 61% of our farmers are women by value chain design and we look forward to enhancing their resilience” explains Ann Tek, PACJA-AACJ Project Lead.

sorghum is changing the game. As we begin to see the effects of climate change, it is clear that not all crops will be reliable producers in the long term—extreme weather patterns and changing ecosystems pose a threat to many of the sources of food and energy that we rely on. Sorghum, however, is up to the challenge.

Supported by AACJ, PACJA has been training smallholders farmers of which 60% are women , distributing quality seed of sorghum, facilitating agronomic support services, and input financing smallholder farmers across three counties

A survey following the first year of the project revealed that 87 per cent of the participating women reported increased income from the crops sold at the market and that the backyard gardens produced enough food to cover their daily needs.

Smallholders farmers were organized into development and commercially focused smallholder production and marketing groups (SHPMs), bringing together women from both farming and nomadic groups, creating greater social unity and facilitating discussions on the management of natural resources.

“We have benefited so much from the training programmes as well as from the advice provided by the project,” Makena, a member of the aggregation group. “We grow together as women ,learn form each and create a strong movement.”

The project has already been driving change and improving the livelihoods of thousands of farmers across kenya, particularly women. As climate change evolves and continues to create more challenges for those in the agricultural sector, it is imperative that locally -driven support measures are offered to as many farming households as possible to optimize their resilience.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE





ETHIOPIA

STRATEGIES OF WOMEN COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Under the AACJ project, Femnet together with partner NGOs from Ethiopia and environmental associations - has conducted advocacy initiatives, training and raising awareness for women on climate justice. These initiatives have been critical for building their resilience, promoting gender equality, and advancing sustainable development in Oromia and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Climate change has a range of impacts on women in Ethiopia, including decreased access to water and food, increased workload due to changes in agricultural practices, and increased vulnerability to gender-based violence and exploitation. These impacts are particularly felt by women in rural areas, who often have limited access to resources and decision-making power. Despite the crucial role that women play in climate resilience and adaptation, they are often excluded from decision-making processes and resource allocation. This is due to factors such as social norms, lack of access to education and training, and limited economic opportunities. Women face barriers to accessing information, technology, and financial resources that are essential for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

With the support of AACJ Project, Femnet through partners in Ethiopia has been working on climate justice awareness-raising for women in Ethiopia . This includes emphasizing the local impacts of climate change, using culturally appropriate messaging and materials, and focusing

on practical solutions and resources that women can access. Community-based approaches that involve women in decision-making processes and provide space for dialogue and feedback has also been contributing to building trust and engagement.

By prioritizing the needs and experiences of women, climate justice awareness-raising has become a powerful tool for promoting gender-responsive climate action in Ethiopia.

There have been various stakeholders involved in climate justice training and awareness efforts in Ethiopia, including government agencies, civil society organizations, communities, and individuals. This engagement is crucial for climate justice training and awareness efforts in Ethiopia because it enables the participation and collaboration of diverse groups of people with different perspectives, experiences, and expertise. This engagement ensures that training and awareness efforts are context-specific, relevant, and inclusive, and consider the needs and challenges of all members of the community, particularly women

AACJ project has involved evaluating the effectiveness of climate-resilient practices and training on women's empowerment and well-being. The project used a mixed-methods approach that involved surveys, focus group discussions, and community meetings to gather data and assess the impact of the program. The evaluation found that the program was successful in improving women's knowledge and skills in climate-resilient practices and achieving positive social and environmental outcomes.

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To ensure the long-term impact of climate justice awareness and training efforts for women in Ethiopia, it is essential to prioritize sustainability, establish partnerships and collaborations, and integrate gender perspectives into policy and planning processes. This can involve capacity building, developing networks and alliances, and advocating for gender-responsive policies and programs.



Ann Songole, Femnet Project Lead

NIGERIA

**SCALING UP
WOMEN'S ACCESS
TO CLIMATE
TECHNOLOGIES,
PRACTICES
TO BUILD
COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE**



Nigerian women are among the most vulnerable groups affected by climate change. They often have limited access to resources and opportunities, making them more susceptible to the negative effects of changing environmental conditions

AACJ through the consortium partners in Nigeria, PACJA AND csdvnet is empowering women to develop community-based adaptation against the impacts of climate change. Communities in rural areas of Lagos are provided with access to climate information and given tools to innovate their mitigation approaches in response to evolving challenges. This allows the communities to co-design adaptation strategies that can also engage with climate policy at the regional and international levels. This activity works to empower women and increase communities' resilience to climate change, while contributing to sustainable development.

For example, in Lagos state, CSDvnet has established a radio listening group that meets weekly to listen to radio programs on climate change adaptation and mitigation. They also organize community meetings to share information and discuss climate-related issues. Through these efforts, the initiative has helped to improve the climate resilience of farmers in the region.

To also better improve access to technology and information for Nigerian women, advocacy initiatives for gender-responsive policies need has also been put in place.

Lessons in Nigeria show that there's a need for advocacy and campaigning by women's rights organizations and civil society groups to raise awareness of the need for such policies. Government agencies must also be sensitized to the plight of women in rural communities, who are the most affected by climate change.

"Today, thanks to the training, the programs and the access to information, we can adapt our actions to our crops. Thanks also to the meteorological information, we can prepare ourselves in advance, evacuate if necessary and protect our families and our property. " says Winnie, a beneficiary of the trainings.

Community-based approaches, public-private partnerships, and gender-responsive policies are all successful strategies that can improve access to technology and information for Nigerian women. By engaging with communities, working collaboratively with the private sector, and advocating for gender-responsive policies, we can create sustainable solutions that empower Nigerian women and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Access to technology and information can play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of climate change. By providing people with information on sustainable practices, access to clean energy, and tools to manage natural resources, we can build more resilient communities, reduce emissions, and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

SOUTH AFRICA | CREATING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY-BASED BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL



At least a quarter of the world's land area is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by indigenous peoples. But while their knowledge is increasingly being recognized, it is rarely taken into account by researchers and policymakers.

Venda is situated in the Limpopo province, South Africa, and is famous for its outstanding natural beauty, abundant biodiversity and cultural richness. The forests of Venda help to maintain the climate of the region; they are also the source of springs and tributaries which feed into the local river system and provide water for the surrounding land. Venda is one of 19 centres of endemic flora in South Africa, and it plays host to over 594 different species². The area is home to the vhaVenda people, who stand as one of the last indigenous communities in the northern part of South Africa³

Faced with extensive developments in the Musina-Makhado area, including a special economic zone and dam building project, the communities are at risk of having their land, sacred sites, sacred trees and natural areas destroyed.

What is most at stake is the water security in the area, as the special economic zone will use and pollute the local water sources. Currently, villages in the Venda district are already experiencing the ravages of climate change as their water sources are stressed. Further economic development in the area will put added strain on the ecosystem, while also contributing to climate change emissions.

Natural Justice is currently engaging with Mphatheleni's Community Based Organisation, "Dzomo La Mupo" to document their cultural heritage and develop a Biocultural Community.

Protocol, which will be a way of the community showing the world what it is they value – "Mupo" which can be roughly translated as meaning "environment". Biocultural community protocols (BCPs) are instruments that set out clear terms and conditions under which governments, companies, research institutions and non-profit organisations can engage with communities to access their local resources and knowledge.

Indigenous communities have much to teach us. But efforts to integrate indigenous knowledge into western science are often unsuccessful, as it is largely oral or experiential. Researchers and decision makers tend to consult written records of indigenous knowledge, rather than engaging with the people themselves. Even so, there are a growing number of good examples and best practices for collaborations with indigenous peoples around biodiversity research, education, management and decision-making. But these examples often hinge on indigenous peoples being considered equal partners.

It is now time for indigenous peoples to have full control over decisions affecting their lands, water resources and communities, so that they can directly apply their knowledge to implement decisions that are biodiversity-friendly. Where this can be achieved, the benefits to people, the planet, and biodiversity will be considerable, *Natural Justice*

INCREASING WOMEN'S VOICES THROUGH MOVEMENT BUILDING

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa with a population of over 20 million people. Like many countries in the region, Burkina Faso struggles with gender disparities that limit women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. However, locally led adaptation initiatives have emerged as a promising approach to empower women and address gender inequalities in the country. These initiatives involve community-based solutions that are tailored to the specific needs and challenges of local communities.

AACJ has been working with the consortium partners in Burkina Faso (PACJA National Platform in Burkina Faso) to train young African women from poor, marginalised farming communities as Agriculture Guides in the Northern part of Burkina Faso. These young women then help train other young people with the skills and tools to launch and grow climate-smart agribusinesses.

This empowers young women to take the lead in strengthening local food systems, nutritional security and resilience against climate shocks, as well as enabling them to improve their incomes.

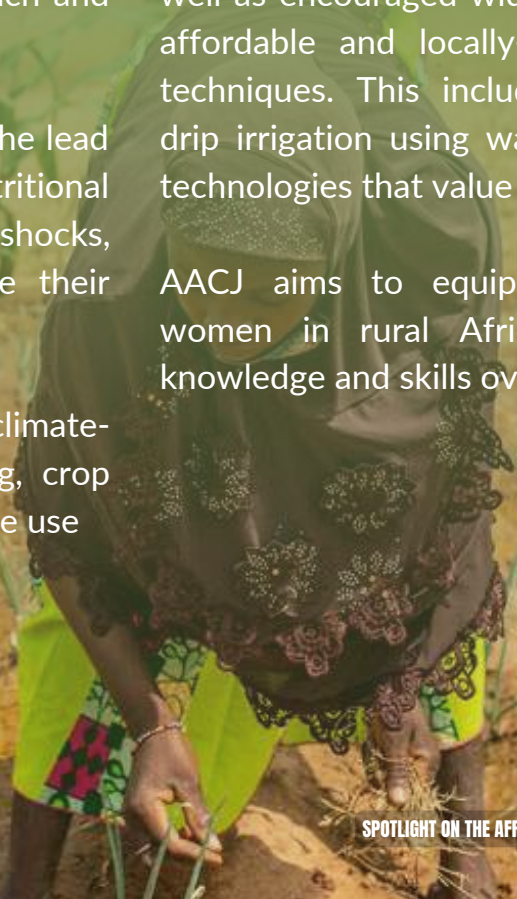
Examples of these sustainable and climate-smart techniques include intercropping, crop and business diversification and effective use

of irrigation as well as food preservation techniques, clean cook stove construction and waste management.

As a result of this initiative, a movement of young women are now leading effective action on climate change through sustainable agriculture in rural Africa. Already, over 300 individuals, mostly women and young people, have been reached through demo-farms, community meetings and mentoring, and Agriculture Guides are continuing to reach young people in their communities to build their resilience to climate challenges.

Through this training, these young women become Agriculture Guides – champions of sustainable agriculture. These young women have improved the productivity, sustainability and profitability of their own smallholdings as well as encouraged wide adoption of practical, affordable and locally-relevant climate-smart techniques. This includes inter-cropping and drip irrigation using waste plastic bottles and technologies that value Indigenous traditions.

AACJ aims to equip 50,000 more young women in rural Africa with climate-smart knowledge and skills over the next five years.



INVESTING IN THE NEXT LEADERS OF THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT



SPOTLIGHT ON THE AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Climate change affects our lives transversally. It is increasingly showing its effects on economies, businesses, livelihoods and jobs. The impact of climate change disproportionately hits young people. They will have to bear the largest share of the burden with substantial consequences on their professional careers and their social and natural environments. This makes it necessary and mandatory for young people to take a holistic view of sustainable development and the actions taken globally and locally.

To successfully shape a just and sustainable future, youth activists, graduate students, and young professionals require a profound understanding of the underlying causes and contributing factors to climate change and the resulting needs and impacts on the economy and the world of work. AACJ have been supporting youth led initiatives such as the African Feminist academy, Nairobi Summer, Academia , especially young girls developing their competencies, analytical skills, and knowledge allowing them to play their role in supporting a rapid shift towards environmentally and socially sustainable economies.

In constant evolution, these initiatives are part of a learning process and transmission of knowledge through a so-called “active” pedagogy: we learn by doing. It aims to encourage cooperation and mobilization in favor of the climate by linking theoretical knowledge with practical applications, allowing new generations to experiment with sustainable solutions, to develop their creativity, their capacity for innovation and their projects. Every year workshops are offered in collaboration with partners and

in collaboration with the young people involved. In just two years, these initiatives have become a hub for climate-related initiatives, projects and commitments. Youth in general and young girls associations involved in climate action have entered the space and developed projects, actions combining environment and solidarity have been launched and a real shared governance has been set up. Several highlights were co-organized at these workshops with a large network of partners committed to the climate.

In the only two years since the beginning of these workshops , these initiatives trained more than 1300 young people . These initiatives proves that investing in the next generation around the world, empowering young people to make the case for climate justice on the global stage and make their communities more climate resilient through action areas is also an investment in the future of our communities and Africa In general.

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To young women in climate action in Africa, I say Please do not stop! Continue to speak and show up and continue to hold the reins and recognize that you are not just doing this for yourself or those in your immediate circles. What you are doing is for all of humanity. Embrace the ideals that you stand on fully. Accept that you're going to meet people who will try to silence you but stand firm on the belief that you're doing this for people who don't have the space, platform, or privileges that you have

zala, Ethiopia

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“ We can solve climate change - if we involve women

Before diving into the core of the discussion, I would like to draw attention to all those I like to refer to as “climate warriors”: the incredible women and girls all over the globe who are now at the forefront of the fight against the climate crisis and its catastrophic consequences. These women play a key role in leading climate change adaptation measures, shaping mitigation strategies, preserving biodiversity, advancing natural resource management knowledge, and promoting sustainable consumption within their communities.

As those experiencing the deepest impacts of climate change, Women also have the knowledge and understanding of what is needed to adapt to changing environmental circumstances in order to determine practical solutions. But women remain a largely untapped resource due to existing biases, including restricted land rights, lack of access to training, technology and financial resources, and limited access to political decision making due to under representation.

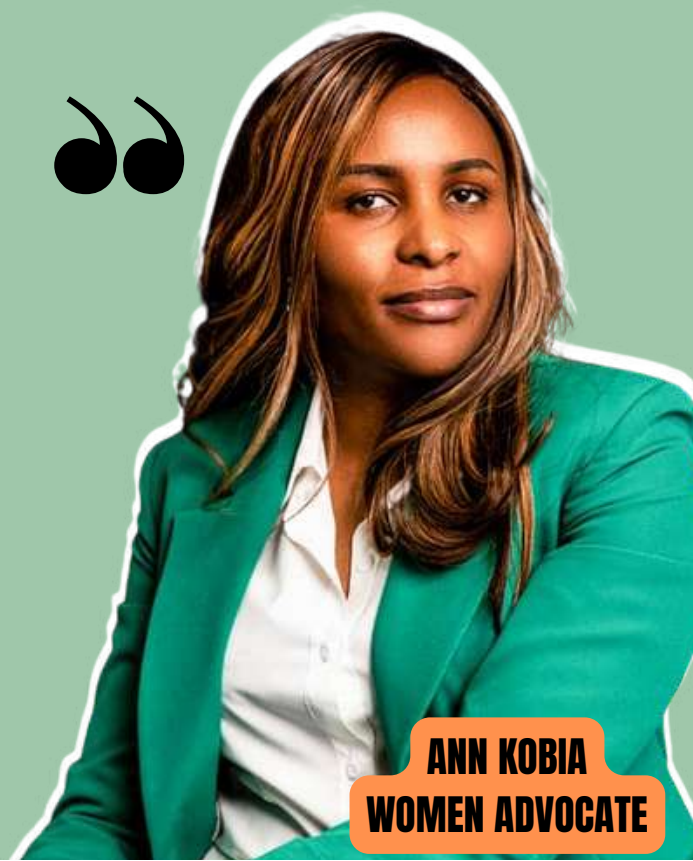
To find sustainable solutions, it is critical to recognize the important contributions of women as decision makers, caretakers, stakeholders, experts and educators across all sectors. African women are already leading the way in not only climate change advocacy but also in crafting sustainable, long-term solutions.

One of the most potent tools for increasing the effectiveness of women in climate change mitigation is renewable energy, which can help transform the lives of women by improving their health, providing them with better livelihood prospects,

improving their education opportunities and more. In fact, it offers women many entrepreneurial avenues for further deployment of renewable energy, which in turn mitigates carbon emissions and rural women will be the primary beneficiaries.

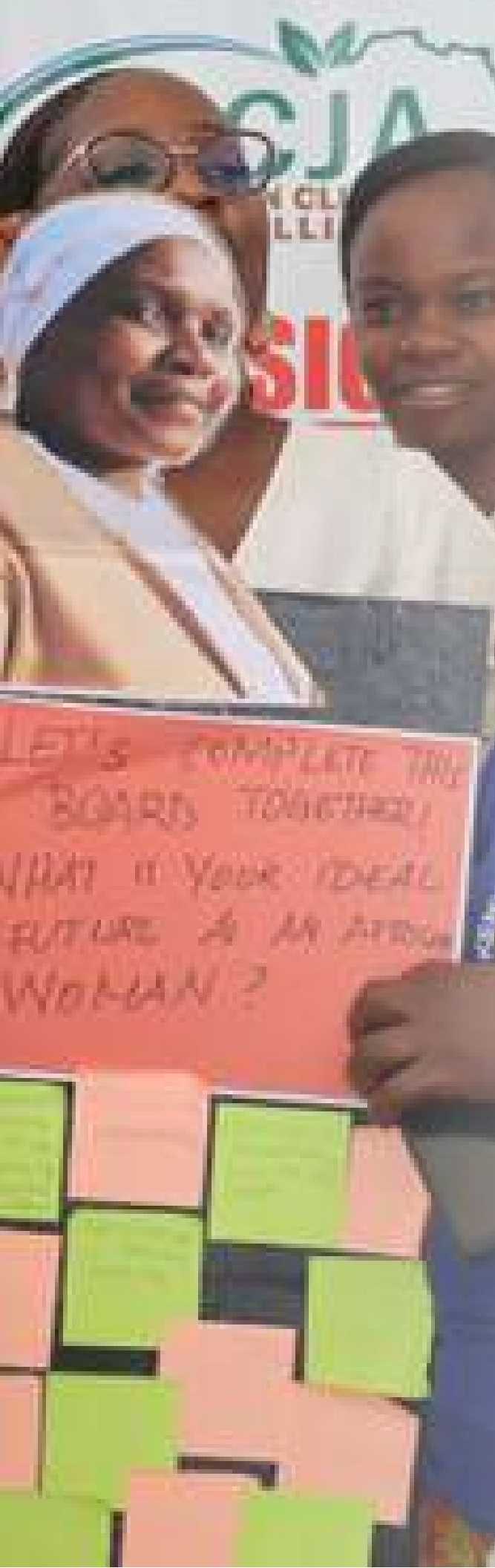
At the national and sub-national level, effective policies, projects and programmes for gender equality must be crafted to ensure equal space and resources for women and men to participate in climate change decision making. There must be investments in multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and participatory Climate Change Gender Action Plans to integrate gender-related concerns and build on the capabilities, unique knowledge and perspectives of women, to not only build their climate resilience but also make them active agents of mitigation. Climate finance should be made available to men and to women to share the mutual benefits, rather than exacerbating existing inequities.

The endeavour to protect the Earth and survive in the Anthropocene stage requires a collective effort, which, as the Agenda 2030 motto says, cannot “leave anyone behind”.



ANN KOBIA
WOMEN ADVOCATE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023



- The Kenya Platform for Climate Governance embraced this year's theme for International Women's Day on Digital: Innovation and technology for gender equality and held a twitter space. 96 participants drawn from different countries participated in the Twitter Space discussions organized by Kenya Platform for Climate Governance(KPCG). Discussions revolved around digital, Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality.
- Natural justice, the other members of the consortium (AYC, OXFAM,/FEMNET, PACJA) and the implementing partners of the African Activists for Climate Justice Project in Senegal mobilized to make their voices heard. **Read more** :<https://naturaljustice.org/journee-internationale-des-droits-des-femmes/>
- PACJA Secretariat women closed the working week with the organization of one day Art Exhibition focusing on framing the future of African Women in the Context of Climate Crisis. The exhibition dubbed: "I.AM. WOMAN" led by an all-female staff is to recognize the contribution of women and girls to achieve gender equality and build a sustainable future. Women from office suburbs attends and shared testimonies of how Climate Change impacts are affecting their families.

Ann Kobia Gitonga, the Human Resource and Partnerships Manager, PACJA, said that the art Expo was organized to create awareness of Climate Change and understand how it is affecting people especially women and children.

"The pursuit of Climate Justice starts from home. That's why we invited women from the suburbs to hear from them and how they are affected by Climate change impacts. The awareness is beyond Africa and we need to see youth, girls and women involvement in the fight against Climate change," said Ann before adding that "We call leaders to take action by consistently embedding women economic empowerment in their development plan", Ann reiterated.

NEWS



AACJ GLOBAL COORDINATION MEETING

"Towards a lasting footprint on climate action"



African Civil Society Statement to the 36th African Union Summit

"We recommend the convening of an African Peoples' Summit on Climate Action at the instance of the AU, the African Group of Negotiators, the Civil Society and other Non-State Actors to reassess the utility of the UNFCCC process to Africa after two decades."

Read more : <https://pacja.org/african-civil-society-statement-to-the-36th-african-union-summit/>

Post-COP 27 Ethiopian Youths Reflection and Brainstorming for COP 28

African Youth Commission had an inspiring post-COP 27 youth reflection workshop. Participants got inspired by the presentation from @jodahip @Helina @yared_abera_int and they plan to strengthen the #ClimateJustice movement their community in leading up to COP 28



The duo you n



AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARFSD)

Under the theme "Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063." FEMNET participated in the regional forum as part of its continued engagement with the African Union.

Click on this link to [read more](#)

UPCOMING
EVENTS

NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL ON CLIMATE JUSTICE COHORT 3

We invites eligible applicants from diverse fields to apply for a two (2)-week long NSSCJ that will take place from July 3 to 14 July 2023 at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya.

The call for applications for the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) Cohort 3, 2023 is now open. [APPLY HERE.](#)



UPCOMING
EVENTS

POWER TO VOICES

What exciting news we have! As we work to unite activists through the power of art, we'll be launching the power to voices digital platform in the upcoming month. Mark April 11th and 13th, 2023 on your calendar.

#Power2Voices

#Art4SocialJustice

THE LAUNCH OF POWER TO VOICES

A digital platform for activists

TIME

13:00 - 16:00 CET
14:00 - 17:00 EAT

REGISTER

bit.ly/launchingp2v

SAVE THE DATE

April 2023

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15

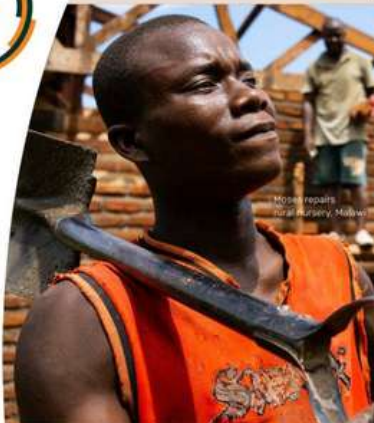
info@powertovoices.org

AFRICAN REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOSS AND DAMAGE

THEME:
CONSOLIDATING AFRICAN RESEARCH AND VOICE IN ADVANCING LOSS AND DAMAGE

DATES:
3-4 APRIL 2023

VENUE:
BICC, LILONGWE, MALAWI



#AfricanLedResearch
#LossAndDamageAction
#FinanceLossAndDamage

Moslem repairs
for a nursery, Malawi



APRIL IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

STORYTELLING

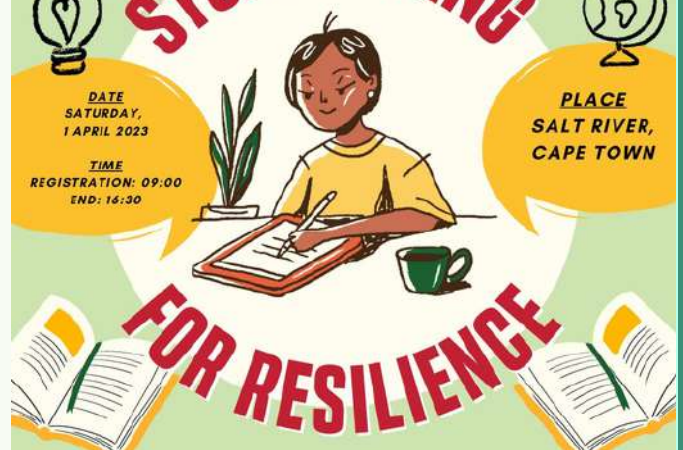


DATE
SATURDAY,
1 APRIL 2023

TIME
REGISTRATION: 09:00
END: 16:30



PLACE
SALT RIVER,
CAPE TOWN



FOR RESILIENCE

UPCOMING
EVENTS



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

We thank our partner, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the consortium partners constituted of ; PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE, OXFAM, FEMMET , NATURAL JUSTICE and the AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION for supporting this critical and exciting project. Issues of climate change are serious and evolving at a time when there is little political will at local and international levels.

Our sincere thanks go to also all the AACJ communication team who have helped to make this newsletter ,a constructive and exciting Newsletter.





FOR A CLIMATE RESILIENT WOMAN

