

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

From Africa's heart, we raise our voices for climate justice, sowing seeds of resilience that will bloom into an ecologically harmonious future.



Greetings to our valued partners, supporters, and friends,

As we step into the second quarter of 2023, we are thrilled to share a new edition of the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) programme newsletter. This quarter, our spotlight shines brightly on the incredible work and impact we are creating in collaboration with the youth of Africa.

At the core of our efforts lies a powerful conviction - that the voices and energy of young people hold the key to shaping a more just and sustainable future for our continent and beyond. This edition underscores our commitment to empowering youth and engaging them as leaders, change-makers, and advocates for climate justice.

In the heart of Nairobi, a monumental milestone was achieved as More Than 500 Youths Graduated from the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice. This transformative initiative provided a platform for young minds to delve into the complexities of climate issues, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to drive meaningful change in their communities. The resounding success of this school serves as a beacon of hope and a testament to the potential of youth engagement.

Our commitment to gender equality and social justice is further exemplified by the remarkable endeavor of the *African Feminist Academy on Climate Justice*. With 50 participants hailing from 12 countries across the continent, this academy fosters a nurturing environment where young women can amplify their voices, share their experiences, and champion an inclusive approach to climate advocacy. The stories emerging from this academy are a source of inspiration and a powerful reminder of the indomitable spirit of African youth.

But our journey with youth doesn't stop there. We are proud to introduce a truly innovative collaboration - the FSport for Climate Academy. This exciting initiative taps into the passion for sports to inspire and educate young individuals about the urgency of climate action. Through this unique platform, we are harnessing the universal language of football to drive home the message of environmental stewardship, fostering a generation of climate-conscious citizens.

As we navigate through the narratives that follow, we invite you to immerse yourself in the transformative stories of young leaders who are rewriting the script of climate justice. Their determination, creativity, and unwavering commitment serve as a powerful reminder that together, we are not only shaping the future, but we are actively creating it.

Thank you for your continued support, unwavering dedication, and shared enthusiasm. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder with the youth of Africa, championing their voices and driving forward a movement that is fueled by passion, guided by knowledge, and bound by the promise of a better tomorrow.

**With hope and inspiration,
The Program Management Unit**

NURTURING CLIMATE ADVOCATES: NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL CHAMPIONS YOUTH-LED CHANGE

In a resounding testament to the power of youth and collective action, the Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice (NSSCJ) has successfully empowered over 500 young minds from diverse corners of the globe. This immersive 14-day training program, held in Nairobi, Kenya, is a pivotal initiative orchestrated by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) in collaboration with Kenyatta University. As part of the overarching AACJ project, this school exemplifies a robust commitment to nurturing youth-led climate advocacy.

The NSSCJ's impact resonates far beyond its training duration. As a core activity within the AACJ initiative, the school serves as a dynamic platform for young individuals to deepen their understanding of climate justice. It equips them not only with knowledge but also with practical skills that empower them to drive change within their communities and beyond. The curriculum goes beyond traditional environmental concerns, acknowledging that climate change is inherently intertwined with social, economic, and political aspects. Graduates emerge with a comprehensive perspective, poised to champion a more just and sustainable world.

Established in 2020, the NSSCJ has rapidly evolved into a transformative force. It has equipped more than 900 young leaders from various backgrounds across Africa and beyond. These graduates are the embodiment of the AACJ project's ethos – amplifying the voices of those often marginalized. The support from African climate justice activists underscores the importance of youth-led initiatives within the broader context of climate advocacy.

As the AACJ project lends its unwavering support, the NSSCJ serves as a beacon of hope for the future. By awakening, equipping, and inspiring a new generation of climate justice advocates, the school plays a pivotal role in advancing the agenda of intra and intergenerational equity. Its impact reverberates through local, national, regional, and global interventions, demonstrating the power of a unified youth voice in shaping policies and actions.

The ripple effect of the NSSCJ is tangible. Graduates are translating their newfound knowledge and skills into tangible actions within their communities. They are strengthening the capacity of localities to address climate change challenges and advocating for change at both grassroots and international levels. Some have even become integral to their governments' climate change negotiation processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The synergy between the NSSCJ and the AACJ project highlights the inherent connection between knowledge and action. As African youth embrace their roles as present and future leaders, the AACJ project remains committed to fostering a network of empowered voices that stand at the forefront of climate justice advocacy. The Nairobi Summer School stands as a beacon, illuminating the path towards a more equitable, sustainable, and just world.

Read more: <https://pacja.org/nairobi-summer-school-on-climate-justice-newsletter/>



Congratulations to NSCCJ COHORT III

AAJ



CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION
THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO
Reem Mustafa Abdalla
For the successful completion of the Nairobi
Summer School on Climate Justice training held
from 2nd - 11th, July, 2022 at Kenyatta University.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION
THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO
Ivan Perrin Syapze Tchapi
For the successful completion of the Nairobi
Summer School on Climate Justice training held
from 2nd - 11th, July, 2022 at Kenyatta University.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION
THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO
Domingas Samouá
For the successful completion of the Nairobi
Summer School on Climate Justice training held
from 2nd - 11th, July, 2022 at Kenyatta University.

POWER TO VOICES

In the face of adversity, where governments seek to muzzle the cries for justice and stifle the voices of climate activists, a powerful revolution is underway. The African Activist for Climate Justice (AACJ) program has risen to the challenge and birthed "Power to Voices," an awe-inspiring digital platform designed to bolster the courageous endeavors of social justice advocates across Africa.

Power to Voices provides a secure alternative to mainstream social media platforms, safeguarding activists' voices against censorship and restrictions. It serves as a hub for networking, campaign support, and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, offering tailored learning opportunities through training materials and toolkits. The platform unites activists from diverse backgrounds, rallying solidarity to create a more equitable and just world.

Excitingly, Power to Voices now comes in a mobile app version, granting activists even greater flexibility in their endeavors. With this powerful tool at their fingertips, activists can amplify their voices and demand climate justice more effectively than ever before. The app's convenience ensures that activists can connect, learn, and campaign from anywhere, overcoming barriers to participation and fostering a more robust activist community.

This formidable digital space, now accessible through its mobile app, emerges as a response to the shrinking civic space and curtailed online freedoms. By fostering connectivity and resilience, Power to Voices empowers activists to raise their united voices and demand climate justice. Together, they march forward, embracing the mobile era to create a sustainable future for all.

Download the app: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.oxfamnovib>





In the embrace of an atmosphere charged with purpose, the African Feminist Academy for Climate Justice (AFACJ) unfolded as a monumental force, bringing together women from diverse backgrounds to rally for climate justice and forge a path towards a shared, sustainable future. Over the course of five transformative days, AFACJ transcended conventional boundaries, delving deep into themes that struck at the very essence of existence. This experience etched an indelible mark on hearts, minds, and souls, showcasing the evolution of feminism in Africa from the struggle against stereotypical gender roles to the assertion of a resolute "I am here."

Opening Hearts to Collective Power:

The inception of AFACJ heralded a process of profound healing and care, one that dared to celebrate vulnerabilities and harness collective strength. Compassion and empathy filled the space as participants courageously shared their personal stories, creating a tapestry of interconnected journeys bound by the climate crisis, debt crises, and the pandemic's shadow. Embracing the Ubuntu philosophy of 'I am because we are,' African women, youth, and indigenous individuals harnessed unity as a vital rallying point to confront the climate crisis, epitomizing the essence of collective resilience.

Confronting Climate Crisis and Power Dynamics:

AFACJ's second day presented an unvarnished encounter with the unyielding realities of the climate crisis during the 'Opening our Eyes' Session. Participants confronted its disproportionate impact on women and girls in the global South, revealing climate change not merely as an environmental concern but as a deeply rooted facet of the global socioeconomic system. Led by the rallying cries of activists like Idongesit Umoh from Nigeria, the echoes of "Women, Women!" and "Power! Power!" reverberated through the room. This acknowledgment of the pivotal role of power dynamics ignited a fervent determination to address the climate crisis head-on.

The Intersectionality of Climate Crisis and Economy:

On the third day, AFACJ ventured into the intricate dance between the climate crisis and the economy. Personal experiences were interwoven with the fabric of broader social structures, as participants shared stories of resilience against economic challenges exacerbated by climate change. It was a call to dismantle systems perpetuating inequality, and in their place, to nurture sustainable practices that uplift communities while preserving the delicate balance of our planet.

From Introspection to Collective Action:

As the academy journeyed forward, a pivotal shift unfolded – from introspection to unshakable action. The fourth day delved into the realm of feminist transformative narratives, illuminating pathways for collective action. Through group sessions, the potent power of storytelling came alive, weaving narratives infused with hope, resilience, and unwavering determination. These stories became the seeds of movements, capable of mobilizing communities towards a future deeply rooted in feminist principles.

Crafting a Collective Blueprint for Urgent Change:

AFACJ reached its crescendo with an electrifying culmination. Reflecting on the profound lessons and experiences of the week, participants united their voices to demand immediate and transformative change. A collective plan of action emerged, reverberating through the corridors of governments, corporations, and society at large, laying the foundation for a more just and sustainable world.

Beyond an Event: A Force of Empowerment:

Yet, AFACJ exceeded the boundaries of a mere event. It stood as an embodiment of empowerment, resilience, and unity for all who bore witness. From this gathering, a formidable force emerged – an African feminist movement unwaveringly committed to protecting the environment, uplifting marginalized communities, and advocating relentlessly for gender justice. Recognizing that climate justice is inextricably linked to social justice, these participants stand as beacons of hope, illuminating a path toward an equitable and just world.

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Our voices are limited and Africa is only discussed for problems. We do want to be in that corner. We want to be part of conversations for solutions. Our continent's abundant wealth, youthful demographic profile, and increasing emerging market consist of what is required to reverse climate change and drive a green revolution. Solar wind and geothermal potential are superabundant. The paradox is that we are in the land of plenty, yet leaving in scarcity



H.E DR. WILLIAM RUTO- PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRD PARLIAMENTARIANS' SUMMIT ON CLIMATE POLICY AND EQUITY IN MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA

Parliamentarians hailing from across Africa convened in Midrand, South Africa, from May 15th to 16th, 2023, for the third parliamentarians' summit on climate policy and equity. Hosted jointly by the Pan African Parliament and Pan African Climate Justice, the event brought together more than 200 members representing 54 African nations, alongside voices from civil society organizations, academia, and youth groups. Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of Pan African Climate Justice, stressed the urgency of justice in addressing Africa's vulnerability to climate change impacts. President Ho. Chief Fortune Chirumbira of the Pan African Parliament urged practical action and robust leadership to fulfill commitments, while HE William Ruto emphasized Africa's potential to drive climate solutions, transitioning from problems to innovation, particularly in renewable energy. This summit marks a significant stride toward a sustainable future, demonstrating Africa's determination to effect transformative changes in climate policy.

Read more: <https://pacja.org/igniting-change-the-power-of-collaboration-at-the-pan-african-parliamentarians-summit-on-climate-policy-and-equity/>:



CLIMATE FINANCE SHADOW REPORT 2023 ASSESSING THE DELIVERY OF THE 100 BILLION COMMITMENT

The delay in rich countries fulfilling their \$100 billion annual climate finance commitment is jeopardizing global climate negotiations and impeding effective climate action. Oxfam's 'Climate Finance Shadow Report 2023' reveals that despite reported claims of mobilizing \$83.3 billion in 2020, the actual value of support provided was at most \$24.5 billion. Worse still, much of the support is in the form of loans, exacerbating debt burdens for already vulnerable countries. This financial approach not only hampers local communities but also undermines climate negotiations. Gender-blind funding is another concern, with only 2.9% prioritizing gender equality. Oxfam emphasizes the need for increased, grant-based financing for climate adaptation and mitigation, while highlighting the urgency of addressing loss and damage. As ongoing discussions shape new climate finance goals, the report underscores the imperative to rectify past errors for meaningful progress.

Read more: [Climate Finance Shadow Report 2023](#).



#SPORT4CLIMATE:

UNITING LAGOS STATE SCHOOLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Lagos State, Nigeria, is embarking on an inspiring journey of climate advocacy and awareness through the transformative project, #Sport4Climate. With sports as a unifying tool, this initiative aims to rally citizens, particularly students, to join the fight against climate change. Supported by the Africa Youth Commission (@AYCommission) and the African Activists for Climate Justice Program (@aacjinaction), #Sport4Climate is creating waves of change in the context of the larger movement.

At the heart of this project lies a profound commitment to fostering awareness and advocacy for climate action among the youth. By engaging schools across Lagos State, #Sport4Climate leverages the power of sports to build solidarity among the next generation of leaders and climate advocates. The potent combination of sports and climate action sparks a unique synergy that captivates young minds and unites them under a shared purpose. Through various sporting events, workshops, and interactive sessions, students not only learn about the pressing environmental challenges but also discover their role in driving positive change.

The African Activists for Climate Justice Program lends unwavering support to #Sport4Climate, recognizing the potential it holds to drive grassroots action and effect real change. As the continent grapples with the effects of climate change, youth engagement emerges as a formidable force, capable of shaping a sustainable and resilient future for Africa and beyond. The initiative's core objective is to instill a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship in the hearts of young citizens. By nurturing this awareness at an early age, #Sport4Climate plants the seeds for a generation that values the planet's health as an integral part of their lives.

As Lagos State schools enthusiastically embrace this novel approach, a transformative ripple effect takes shape. Students who once cheered for their favorite teams now cheer for nature's preservation and rally for a climate-conscious future. Through the lens of sports, #Sport4Climate opens up new avenues for dialogue, collaboration, and collective action. Students become ambassadors of change, inspiring their families, communities, and policymakers to take climate action seriously.

The Africa Youth Commission through ICCDI (International Climate Change Development Initiative) unwavering support for this initiative underscores the importance of youth empowerment in the fight against climate change. As the voice of Africa's youth, the commission recognizes that this generation holds the key to a sustainable future and must be equipped with the tools and knowledge to create lasting impact. In the grand tapestry of the African Activists for Climate Justice Program, #Sport4Climate stands as a vibrant thread, interweaving passion, unity, and resilience. Together, they propel the climate justice movement forward, casting a vision of hope and progress for Africa and the world.

Watch video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4dL_Rtt7ns





COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

Vhavenda Community and Natural Justice Unite to Safeguard Sacred Sites in Limpopo

SOUTH AFRICA



In South Africa's Limpopo province, the Vhavenda community's sacred sites are under siege from mining and development. Natural Justice's Biocultural Community Protocol (BCP) is a rallying cry, emboldening these custodians to protect their heritage. Collaborating with local organization Dzomo La Mupo, the BCP process includes training on Living Heritage and the vital principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Together, they're erecting a shield of resilience against looming threats. As ancestral echoes reverberate, the Vhavenda's deep-rooted connection to their land fuels their determination. Amid challenges, their spirit remains unbreakable, and Natural Justice stands as an unwavering ally in their quest to safeguard the sanctity of their sacred sites for generations to come.

Empowering Kenyan Youth: Youth Senate's Innovative Roundtable for Climate Action

KENYA

In a dynamic stride towards combating climate change and amplifying youth involvement in policy decisions, the Youth Senate Kenya orchestrated a pivotal event on May 4th, 2023. The "Youth in Climate Change Roundtable" not only scrutinized the intricacies of the Climate Change (Amendment) Bill, 2023, but also fostered a profound understanding of carbon markets and brainstormed strategies to bolster the legislation's efficacy. Beyond its tangible outcomes, the event echoed Kenya's commitment to intertwining the ideas of the younger generation into the country's policy-making fabric. The recommendations drawn from this engaging discourse were presented to the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, solidifying the event's impact on the nation's climate agenda. To read more about this transformative initiative,



SENEGAL

A workshop focused on formulating a locally-led adaptation campaign and establishing a collaborative framework for Civil Society Organizations named the 'Senegalese Climate Actors Network (RESAC)' for climate justice took place from May 2nd to 5th, 2023, organized by OXFAM Senegal. The workshop aimed to provide civil society organizations with a coordinated platform to harmonize collective efforts in advocacy and awareness-building directed towards national and international decision-makers regarding the adaptation requirements of local communities by the time of COP28. Oxfam and its partner organizations aimed to unite their endeavors in support of local communities' climate adaptation needs, underpinning the pursuit of climate justice.

Read more:

<https://naturaljustice.org/communique-de-presse>

From May 19th to 21st, 2023, Natural Justice (NJ), the Network of Parliamentarians for the Environment in Senegal (REPES), and the Laboratory of Studies and Research in Environmental and Health Policies and Law (LERPDES) jointly organized a knowledge-sharing workshop on the draft environmental code with parliamentary members. Over the course of three days, this workshop aimed to foster dialogue and exchange between representatives and parliamentarians, shedding light on the significance and content of the impending environmental code prior to its parliamentary review and vote. This event also facilitated an in-depth comprehension of national and global environmental concerns among the deputies, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the implications of adopting the new code. Notably, the workshop gathered valuable recommendations that were subsequently communicated to both the government and parliamentarians, thereby contributing to the groundwork for the forthcoming review of the legislation in committee and plenary sessions.

Read more: <https://naturaljustice.org/communique-de-presse-formation-des-acteurs-judiciaires-au-senegal-au-burkina-faso-et-en-guinee-sur-lapplication-du-droit-de-lenvironnement/>

BURKINA FASO

In a significant initiative, AYC actively participated in a workshop aimed at enhancing judicial expertise in environmental law application across Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Guinea. The training, organized by Natural Justice Senegal from April 25th to 28th, 2023, sought to empower legal practitioners in effectively implementing environmental laws, particularly within the realm of environmental litigation. The workshop's focal point was to bolster participants' capacities, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental legal nuances. Through this collaborative effort, AYC and Natural Justice are contributing to the advancement of environmental justice and legal proficiency in these nations.

Read more: <https://aps.sn/des-acteurs-judiciaires-africains-outilles-sur-le-droit-de-lenvironnement/>

NIGERIA

Under the AACJ Programme, The Climate Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet) organized a two-day workshop at Grand Central Hotel Kano on July 24th and 25th, 2023, aimed at promoting climate-smart agriculture as an adaptation strategy against climate change in Kano state, Nigeria. The event, attended by various stakeholders including government officials, civil society representatives, and agri-entrepreneurs, featured presentations that highlighted the urgency of climate adaptation in the face of diverse regional challenges. Read more: <https://csdevnet.org/csdevnet-sensitises-kano-farmers-and-multi-stakeholders-on-climate-change-adaptation/>



SOMALIA

The Somali Greenpeace Association (SGPA) and Natural Justice have joined hands to empower indigenous communities, particularly women and youth, in their fight against climate change in Somalia. Through training and legal empowerment, they aim to equip these communities with tools to protect their environment, enhance access to land and resources, recognize traditional knowledge, resist harmful projects, and engage in environmental decision-making. Natural Justice's expertise and SGPA's advocacy form a strong partnership to drive positive change for climate and environmental justice



Read more:<https://pacja.org/sogpa-trained-indigenous-communities-on-climate-justice/>

BONN REFLECTION - BRIDGING THE CLIMATE FINANCE GAP BY DR.MITHIKA MWENDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PACJA

Mithika Mwenda, the Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), recently highlighted the urgent need for adequate climate financing during the Bonn Climate Change Conference 2023. Reflecting on his experience at the conference, Mithika shared his demands and vision for a fair and sustainable future.

"First, we have to understand what closing climate finance gap means. There is a difference between what is in the papers and what is supposed to be delivered," Mithika emphasized. The climate financing commitments made by wealthier nations, as mandated by the Paris Agreement and the climate convention, have not been fulfilled as required. Mithika stressed that the scale of resources needed to repair the damage caused by climate change is massive.

"On the scale of what is being delivered on the controversial 100 million USD per year, the reality on the ground is completely different," Mithika revealed. While reports claim that nearly \$100 million per year has been provided for climate financing, Mithika challenges this assertion. The funds are seemingly invisible, leaving the countries that need them the most questioning where the money has gone.

"In terms of closing the climate finance gap, we need to match the challenge with the resources," Mithika asserted passionately. Climate justice imperative demands that those responsible for the climate crisis must provide the necessary resources for adaptation and resilience building. He highlighted the pressing need for Africa and other vulnerable countries to receive the support they deserve.

"When it comes to adaptation, there is a complete imbalance between what is provided for the nations and the adaptation," Mithika stated. The interests of donors and industrialized nations often prioritize mitigation projects, where profitability is a driving factor. Mithika stressed that adaptation, which is vital for Africa and frontline communities, must not be neglected.

"Polluters must pay for their emissions and reduce them in line with scientific recommendations.," Mithika asserted. "Climate finance should be newly funded, accessible and must respect the plight of the people," he emphasized. Current funding mechanisms often prioritize investments rather than fulfilling the principles of climate justice.

"The Dutch government should use their influence to support African positions," Mithika requested. Recognizing the progressive nature of the Netherlands, he urged the Dutch government and public to champion African interests on finance, adaptation, resilience building, and emission reduction. He also appealed for the Netherlands to fulfill its fair share of climate finance, acknowledging the suffering caused by its actions.

Mithika's demand for climate justice and adequate climate financing serves as a wake-up call to the world. The urgency to bridge the climate finance gap and support vulnerable nations, especially in Africa, cannot be ignored. It is time for wealthier nations to fulfill their obligations, prioritize adaptation, and uphold the principle of polluters paying for their actions. Together, we can build a more just and sustainable future for all.

