



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

STORIES OF CHANGE

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Empowering communities across Africa, advocating for their rights and sustainable environmental practices through strategic communication, policy influence, locally led initiatives and capacity-building initiatives

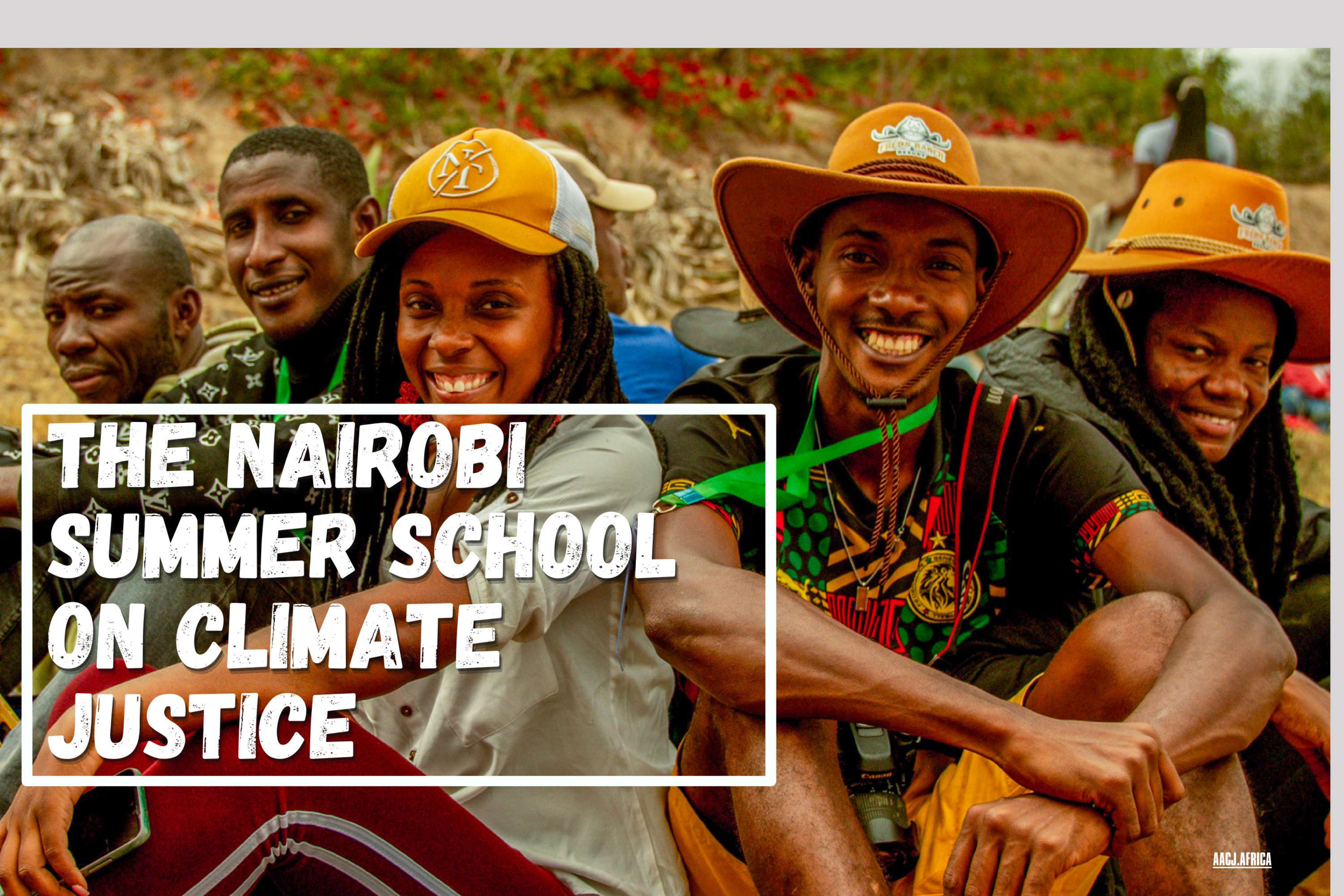




SUMMARY

The African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) initiative, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, unites communities and activists across Africa in a collective call for environmental justice. This initiative spans countries such as Senegal, Somalia, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and the Netherlands, emphasizing the rights and dignities of those often overlooked—women, youth, and indigenous peoples. The consortium; the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, Natural Justice, FEMNET, the Africa Youth Commission, and Oxfam Novib under the AACJ Program, have ignited a movement that demands change and accountability, advocating for policies that truly consider the well-being of every community facing climate challenges.

For this edition, we are highlighting initiatives that have profoundly changed the lives of African youth in the realm of climate justice. At the heart of AACJ are stories of real change—once-unheard voices are now leading conversations about climate. These stories illustrate young communities standing up for their rights, innovating out of necessity, and driving change that respects both people and the planet. By focusing on the lived experiences of those most affected, AACJ has transformed how we discuss and address climate issues, making it clear that the path forward is one we must walk together, respecting every voice on the journey toward a just and equitable future.



THE NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

Empowering the Next Generation of Climate Leaders

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) has emerged as a transformative platform, nurturing young leaders dedicated to advocating for climate justice. Launched under the AACJ (African Activists for Climate Justice) project, this initiative by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) exemplifies how focused educational programs can significantly impact youth engagement and empowerment.

One of the core strengths of the NSSCJ is its commitment to inclusivity. The program brings together young people from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that voices from marginalized communities are heard and amplified. This inclusive approach not only enriches the learning experience but also ensures that a wide range of perspectives are represented in the climate justice dialogue.

To date, the NSSCJ has successfully built the capacity of over 1,300 young people from Africa and Europe. This extensive training has equipped participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in climate justice advocacy effectively. Many alumni have used their newfound expertise to influence policy and drive change at various levels.

The impact of the NSSCJ on its participants has been profound. Many young people who have gone through the program have taken on significant roles in the climate justice movement. For example, several alumni have become negotiators in international climate forums, initiatives like syplactice have been formed and youth using their voices to advocate for more equitable and just climate policies.

The Context of Africa and the Importance of the NSSCJ Initiative

Africa is disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions. The continent faces severe impacts, including extreme weather events, food and water insecurity, and socio-economic disruptions. Given these challenges, empowering young Africans to take the lead in climate advocacy is crucial.

The NSSCJ plays a vital role in addressing these challenges by building expertise, fostering leadership, encouraging innovation, and amplifying voices. The program provides young leaders with in-depth knowledge of climate science, policy, and negotiation skills essential for effective advocacy and policy influence. By equipping participants with leadership skills, the NSSCJ ensures that young Africans are prepared to take on significant roles in climate action, both locally and globally. The diverse backgrounds of the participants foster a rich exchange of ideas, leading to innovative solutions tailored to the unique challenges faced by African communities. Moreover, the program ensures that the voices of marginalized and vulnerable communities are represented in climate discussions, promoting justice and equity in climate policies.

Olumide Idowu's participation in the NSSCJ provided him with the tools and confidence to become a leading voice in climate negotiations. He has since become a prominent figure in international climate forums, advocating for policies that address the specific needs and challenges of African nations. His work has not only influenced climate policies but has also inspired many young Africans to engage in climate activism. Olumide's story highlights the transformative power of the NSSCJ. By providing young leaders with the necessary skills and opportunities, the program is creating a new generation of climate advocates who are driving meaningful change in their communities and beyond. Read more [Here](#)





OLUMIDE IDOWU, FROM PASSION TO IMPACT

“Our work at ICCDI is driven by the belief that young people have the power to create lasting change. By equipping them with the right tools and knowledge, we can build a future where climate justice is a reality for all”

Olumide's path from Nigeria paints a deeply human portrait of Africa's broader battle with climate change. His awakening to the harsh realities of environmental degradation within his community set him on a path toward advocacy and mobilization, a journey that would extend far beyond the borders of his homeland.

His foundational experience at the Nairobi Summer School, an initiative of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) supported by the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) Program, was a critical turning point. It was here, among like-minded youths from across the continent, that Olumide's commitment to climate justice deepened, equipping him with the knowledge and networks necessary to drive change.

Inspired by the collective action and empowerment ethos of the AACJ Program, Olumide returned to Nigeria with a vision. Through the establishment of ICCDI, he sought to harness the energy and passion of Africa's youth, channeling it into a formidable force for environmental advocacy. Recognizing the unique position of legal professionals in the fight for climate justice, ICCDI's Young Lawyers for Climate Justice initiative emerged as a groundbreaking effort to empower young African lawyers with the skills and knowledge to advocate for environmental protection and sustainable development.

Olumide's efforts have not gone unnoticed. His work has inspired a new generation of climate activists who are committed to making tangible changes in their communities. Through partnerships with local and international organizations, ICCDI has been able to launch numerous projects focused on reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy. These initiatives have not only provided practical solutions to environmental challenges but have also created job opportunities and fostered a sense of community resilience. Olumide's journey from a concerned citizen to a leader in climate justice exemplifies the transformative power of grassroots activism and the enduring impact one individual can have on the global stage.





Alumni of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice, Yared Abera, transitioned from being a youth delegate for Ethiopia to becoming a climate negotiator at COP26. Supported by the government's Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Commission, Yared tackled the critical issue of loss and damage, aligning himself with groups like the Least Developed Countries Group and the G77.

Yared's journey began with extracurricular activities such as the Ethiopian Model United Nations and the Youth Negotiation on Climate Change Convention. These experiences, combined with his advocacy at three COPs, equipped him with the skills to contribute effectively to climate negotiations.

As a Global Youth Climate Leader, Yared founded The Youth Print, an Ethiopian youth-led organization creating projects to support the Sustainable Development Goals. His story exemplifies the impact of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice, empowering him to lead in the global fight against climate change.



Tsaone Mokwatso, an alumna of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice from Botswana, has made significant strides in the field of climate advocacy and negotiation. Following her participation in the summer school, she was accredited by the Botswana government as the negotiator for agriculture, a role that positioned her at the forefront of critical discussions on climate resilience and sustainable agricultural practices.

Tsaone has actively participated in numerous international climate conferences, including COP28, where she has served as a panelist. Her contributions in these forums have been instrumental in highlighting the unique challenges and opportunities faced by the agricultural sector in the context of climate change. Through her advocacy, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of farmers and rural communities are heard and that sustainable practices are integrated into national and international policies.

Her journey from a dedicated student to a respected climate negotiator exemplifies the impact of youth empowerment initiatives like the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice. Tsaone's work continues to inspire many young people across Africa, demonstrating that with the right support and training, they can play a crucial role in shaping a sustainable and equitable future.



Yenon Salem Mihindeou, an alumnus of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice - Cohort II, is a leading youth climate advocate. As the Africa Regional Focal Point of the Children and Youth Major Group of UNEP, he organized the first African Youth Environment Assembly in 2022, uniting over 1,000 young people and 146 Civil Society Organizations. Salem's early activism included sanitation, plastic waste collection, and reforestation efforts, and he later launched the ECOL'ECOLO project in Benin to educate youth on climate action.

As a delegate of the Youth Constituency to the UNFCCC (YOUNGO), Salem contributed to global youth consultations and presented findings at COP27. He advocates for the UNESCO Greening Curriculum's launch at COP28. An ambassador of the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, he established NPU Nature and Climate Clubs in Beninese universities, mobilizing students to promote environmental sustainability.



YOUNG LAWYERS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

The Young Lawyers for Climate Justice, spearheaded by ICCDI Africa, made a profound impact on climate advocacy through its innovative use of legal strategies. By bringing together a diverse cohort of young lawyers from across Africa, the program empowered participants with essential knowledge, skills, and resources to champion climate justice in their regions. Focused on practical application, the initiative trained 50 young people from all over Nigeria, equipping them with a deep understanding of climate-related laws and policies for its first cohort. Through immersive workshops, training sessions, and mentorship programs, these young lawyers were enabled to identify legal loopholes, devise groundbreaking solutions, and actively shape impactful climate change strategies.

The program fostered a collaborative environment where aspiring legal professionals could exchange insights and develop innovative approaches to pressing climate issues. Graduates of the initiative went on to raise awareness in their local communities, promote sustainable practices, and advocate for crucial policy changes. Their efforts catalyzed societal transformation, driving the construction of a greener and more sustainable future. This initiative not only equipped young lawyers to become formidable advocates for climate justice but also created a ripple effect of positive environmental change across Nigeria and beyond.

Read the report [HERE](#)



FROM BEHIND THE SCENES TO LEADING THE CHANGE

In 2023, the National "Young Delegates" program, implemented by the Coordination Nationale des Jeunes pour l'Environnement et Climat (CONAJEC) and OXFAM Burkina through the "African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ)" project, addressed the urgent need for enhanced climate advocacy in Burkina Faso, a country severely impacted by rising temperatures and water scarcity. Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Sanitation, the program selected five young women and five young men, providing them with online training and a 10-day national academy for climate negotiators. This initiative empowered these young leaders to participate in local and international climate events, including COY 18 and COP 28 in Dubai. By amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities, these youth negotiators significantly influenced national climate policies, driving deeper climate finance, adaptation strategies, and just energy transitions. Their grassroots mobilization and active participation ensured that those most affected by the climate crisis had a crucial role in shaping policies that affect their lives, fostering a more inclusive and effective approach to climate justice in Burkina Faso.

[Read more](#)



OBJECTIFS  **DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**



AACJ.AFRICA

WHEN YOUTH DEMAND CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY!

In a remarkable demonstration of youth activism and leadership, our recent campaigns advocating for climate justice and accountability have achieved unprecedented success. The "Polluters Pay" campaign, alongside our "Keep Your Promises" initiative to demand robust climate financing at COP28, have mobilized more than 5,000 passionate individuals, showcasing the power and potential of young people to drive meaningful change.

The "Polluters Pay" campaign is a clarion call for holding major polluters accountable for their contributions to climate change. This campaign aims to ensure that those who have significantly contributed to environmental degradation bear the costs of mitigation and adaptation efforts. Simultaneously, our "Keep Your Promises" initiative focuses on pressuring world leaders and stakeholders at COP28 to follow through on their commitments to climate financing, crucial for supporting vulnerable communities and advancing global climate goals.

Young people were strategically placed at the forefront of these campaigns, a decision rooted in the belief that the voices and actions of the youth are pivotal in the fight against climate change. This generation, which will inherit the future, is deeply invested in ensuring a sustainable and just world. Empowering young activists and leaders, we provided them with the platforms, resources, and training needed to amplify their voices and lead these movements effectively. Their participation at COP28 and the Africa Climate Summit further highlighted their critical role, as they engaged directly with policymakers and global leaders, advocating for urgent and substantial climate action.

The outcomes of placing youth at the helm of these campaigns have been nothing short of inspiring. The mass mobilization of over 5,000 individuals, driven by the energy and dedication of young activists, has significantly raised awareness and pressured policymakers to act. These campaigns culminate from various initiatives within our consortium aimed at empowering young people, highlighting the importance of investing in youth leadership for sustainable change. Young participants in these movements come from different empowerment programs within the consortium, showcasing a diverse and dynamic coalition of youth leaders united by a common cause.

This success story underscores the transformative impact that young people can have when given the tools and opportunities to lead. Their involvement has not only energized the movement but has also brought fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the forefront of climate advocacy. As we continue to push for accountability and meaningful action on climate change, the role of youth remains crucial in shaping a more just and sustainable future.



**AUTONOMISER
L'AFRIQUE,
PAS
Les marchés du
Carbone**



“

CLIMATE JUSTICE IS NOT JUST A GOAL; IT IS A NECESSITY FOR OUR SURVIVAL. WE, THE YOUTH, DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS CRISIS. OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN TODAY

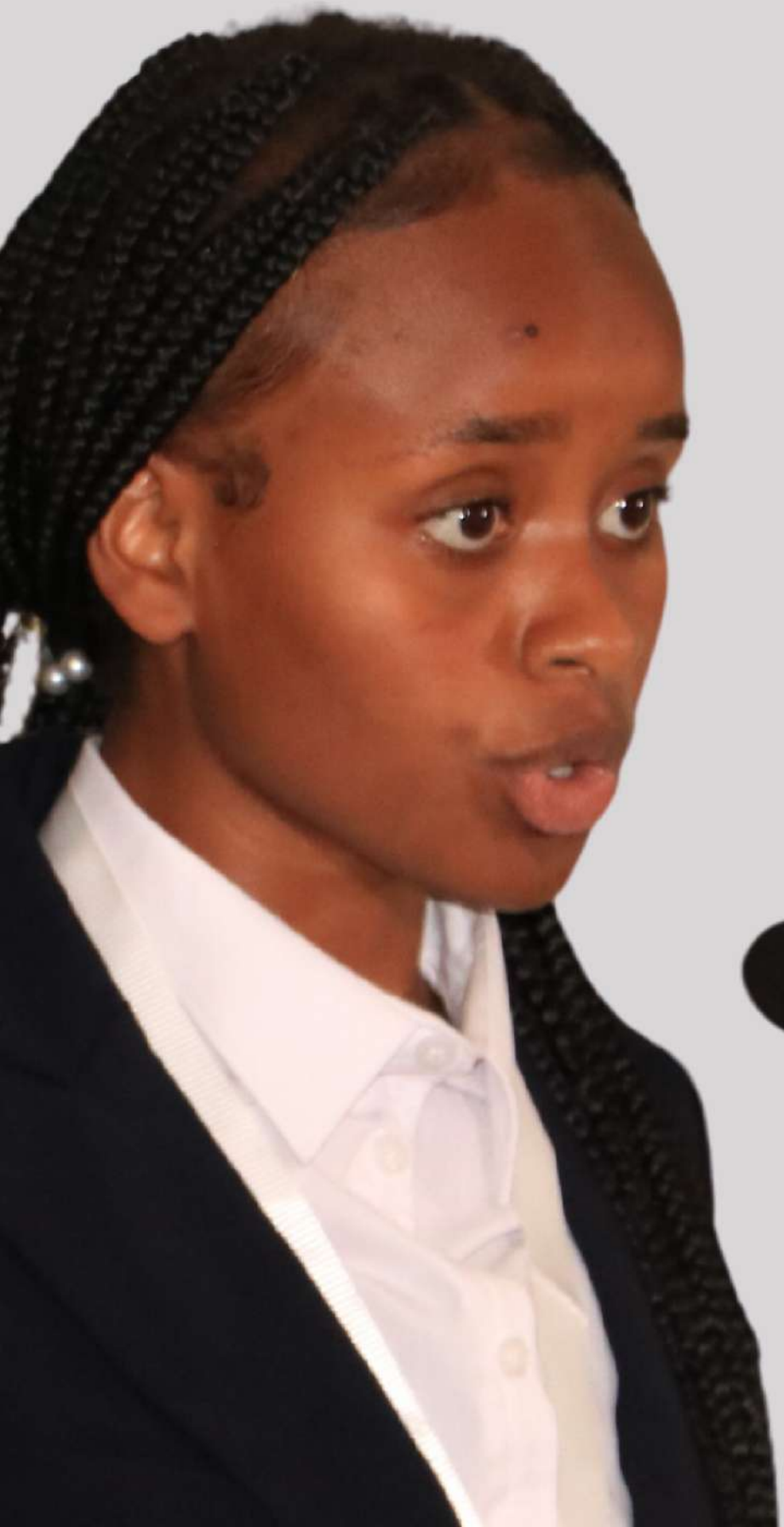
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FATMATA DIALLO, BURKINA FASO

THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MOOT COURT



THERE IS “JUSTICE” IN CLIMATE JUSTICE



The "EcoJuris Mastermind" Moot has proven to be a life-changing initiative for many young law students, transforming their understanding and approach to environmental legal advocacy. Organized by NJ and our esteemed partners, this event was designed to not only foster a deep understanding of environmental law and climate justice but also to provide a platform for students to demonstrate and refine their legal research, advocacy, and argumentation skills. The initiative brought together 86 exceptional students from 19 diverse campuses, each eager to make a difference in the fight for climate justice.

Over two intense days, these students engaged in a rigorous intellectual competition under the watchful eyes of over 30 distinguished advocates who served as judges. The participants were challenged with complex legal scenarios, pushing them to apply their knowledge and think critically about real-world environmental issues. This experience was more than just a competition; it was a journey that instilled confidence, sharpened skills, and deepened the commitment of these young legal minds to the cause of environmental justice.

The impact of the "EcoJuris Mastermind" Moot on the participants has been profound. Students left the competition with a richer understanding of climate justice and a newfound ability to tackle real-world environmental challenges with informed legal strategies. Many participants have reported a significant boost in their confidence and a clearer sense of purpose in their legal careers. The event also facilitated connections with over 30 distinguished advocates, providing

mentorship and networking opportunities that will support their professional journeys. By broadcasting the event on our YouTube Channel, we engaged a broader audience, raising awareness about climate justice and the role of law in environmental stewardship. This initiative has inspired many students, demonstrating the critical role of youth in driving meaningful change and addressing the urgent issue of climate change.

[DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE](#)

NOT JUST YOUNG, BUT FUTURE LEADERS!

In a groundbreaking initiative, the International Climate Change Development Initiatives (ICCDI) Africa has empowered 500 young voices to become passionate advocates for climate justice in Nigerian schools across Bauchi, Kano, Nasarawa, Oyo, Osun, Delta, and Rivers states. The African Activist on Climate Justice Project has not only raised awareness but also fostered action on climate change, making a significant impact on the students and their communities.

The project involved a series of interactive presentations and training sessions conducted by expert environmentalists and climate change educators. These sessions educated students about the science behind climate change and its profound effects on vulnerable communities while emphasizing the principles of climate justice. Interactive discussions encouraged students to actively participate, share their thoughts, and explore potential solutions to climate-related challenges. The enthusiasm and engagement demonstrated by the students were remarkable, showcasing their passion for environmental sustainability.

Beyond the training, ICCDI Africa facilitated project-based learning activities where students applied their knowledge and skills in practical ways. These activities empowered students to develop creative and innovative solutions addressing climate change issues specific to their local communities. Additionally, the project encouraged students to organize awareness campaigns within their schools and local communities, educating others about climate justice, sustainable practices, and the need for collective action. The success of these campaigns, which reached a wide audience, demonstrated the students' dedication and commitment to spreading awareness and inspiring others to take action.

The impact of ICCDI Africa's project extends far beyond the 500 students directly involved. These young voices have become change agents within their schools and communities, leading by example and inspiring their peers, families, and neighbors to adopt sustainable practices. They have also actively engaged with policymakers, advocating for climate-related policies and contributing to the development of a more sustainable future. By creating a network of young climate advocates, the project has facilitated ongoing knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and collective action, enabling these young voices to make a greater impact collectively.

[Read more](#)

“

PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT HAS SHOWN ME THAT EVEN AS STUDENTS, WE CAN LEAD THE WAY IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE. WE MIGHT BE YOUNG, BUT OUR VOICES MATTER, AND WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ADEBIMBOLA, DELTA STATE

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THE AFRICAN FEMINIST ACADEMY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

“SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS MUST ALSO SOLVE THE POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INEQUALITY CRISES.” – SIBONGILE NDLOVU

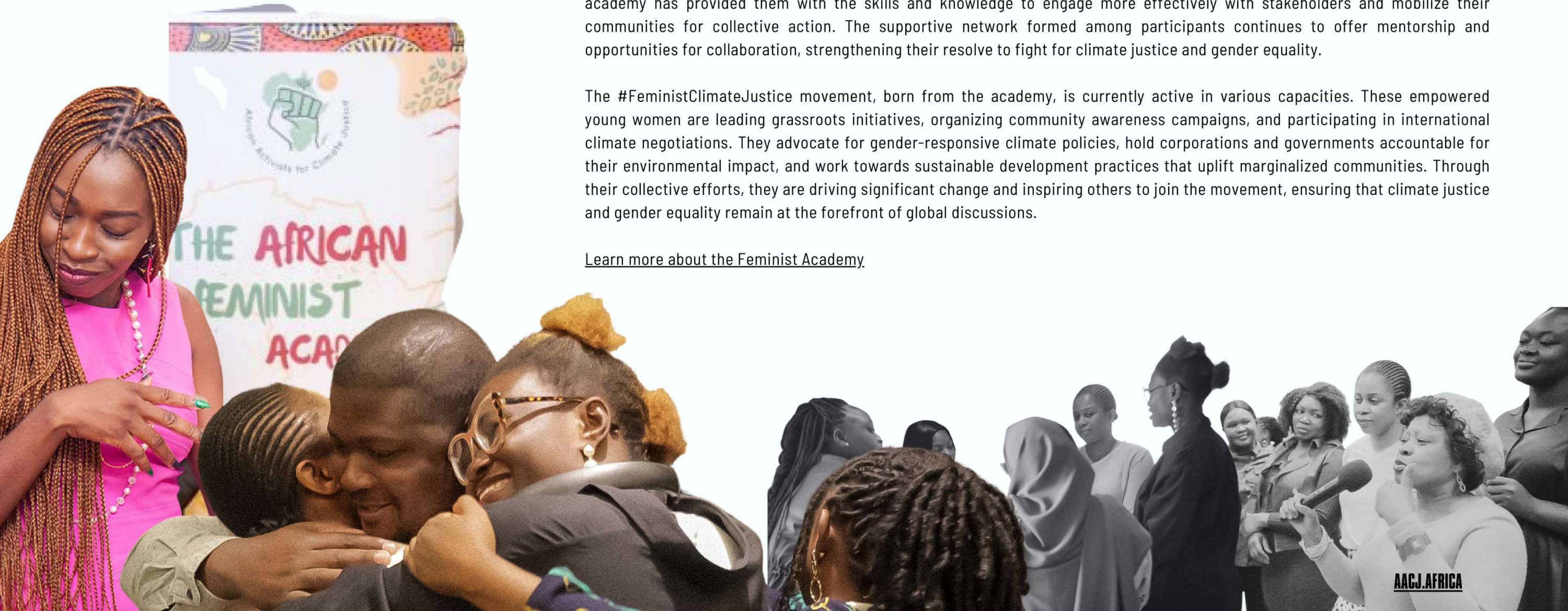
The African Feminist Academy for Climate Justice is a vital initiative launched by FEMNET to empower African Women’s Rights Organizations (WROs), Girls and Young Women Organizations (GYWO), and feminist groups. The academy equips participants with a comprehensive understanding of the science, history, politics, and economics of climate change, uniting them into a powerful feminist movement known as #FeministClimateJustice. This initiative is crucial as it addresses the exclusion of African women and girls from climate discourse and policy processes, despite their significant vulnerability to climate impacts. By providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills, the academy ensures their voices are heard and integrated into climate solutions, fostering a more inclusive and effective approach to climate justice.

The academy's emphasis on the interconnectedness of climate justice and social justice is transformative. Participants learn about the systemic roots of the climate crisis, including colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy, and how these systems perpetuate inequality and environmental degradation. This comprehensive education empowers them to advocate for solutions that address the root causes of climate change, going beyond mere technical fixes. The academy fosters a deep understanding of these complex issues, equipping participants to engage more effectively in advocacy and policy-making processes.

The impact on the lives of young women who attended the academy has been profound. Many participants have gained confidence in their ability to influence policy and drive change, recognizing that their voices matter and their contributions are essential. The academy has provided them with the skills and knowledge to engage more effectively with stakeholders and mobilize their communities for collective action. The supportive network formed among participants continues to offer mentorship and opportunities for collaboration, strengthening their resolve to fight for climate justice and gender equality.

The #FeministClimateJustice movement, born from the academy, is currently active in various capacities. These empowered young women are leading grassroots initiatives, organizing community awareness campaigns, and participating in international climate negotiations. They advocate for gender-responsive climate policies, hold corporations and governments accountable for their environmental impact, and work towards sustainable development practices that uplift marginalized communities. Through their collective efforts, they are driving significant change and inspiring others to join the movement, ensuring that climate justice and gender equality remain at the forefront of global discussions.

[Learn more about the Feminist Academy.](#)



A group of four smiling African children are featured on the left side of the page. They are holding copies of a book titled 'Young Heroes'. The book cover shows a cartoon illustration of a boy and a girl standing on a globe. The children are dressed in casual and school attire. The background is a solid light green color.

AS THE TWIG IS BENT, SO GROWS THE TREE

Young Heroes, the children's climate book,

The book aims to convey important lessons about environmental conservation, sustainable living, and the collective responsibility we all share in protecting our planet. Through a captivating and engaging narrative, the story weaves together the adventures of young protagonists who learn about the importance of preserving nature, reducing waste, and using resources wisely. Each chapter introduces practical tips and actions that children can take in their daily lives to contribute to a healthier environment, reinforcing the idea that even small efforts can make a significant impact.

Complementing the narrative are vivid and captivating illustrations that bring the story to life, making the lessons more relatable and memorable for young readers. These illustrations not only enhance the storytelling experience but also serve as visual reminders of the beauty of our natural world and the importance of safeguarding it.

The book, blending an engaging narrative with vivid illustrations, tells the story of young protagonists who embark on adventures to protect nature, reduce waste, and use resources wisely. Through their journey, children learn that even small actions can contribute to a healthier and more sustainable world.

To further amplify the book's impact, our partners aim to distribute the book widely to children, further spreading its important message. PACJA has also leveraged digital platforms, creating an interactive website with downloadable resources, activity sheets, and educational games. Social media campaigns and collaborations with influencers have raised awareness, encouraging families to adopt sustainable practices.

[Read / Download the Book](#)



A HUB FOR CLIMATE ACTIVISTS

The Power to Voices digital platform, part of the AACJ initiative, serves as a vital safe space for collective learning and skill development among activists. This diverse platform brings together individuals with varied experiences and perspectives, fostering a robust environment for personal and collective empowerment. Here, we emphasize the importance of learning from experiences and stories, offering a vast collection of resources to deepen our understanding and effectiveness as climate justice advocates. By sharing campaigns with like-minded individuals globally, we build solidarity and amplify our messages, ensuring that our collective efforts lead to meaningful change.

Campaigns on Power to Voices unite us in our struggles for social justice, allowing us to mobilize people into action rather than simply generating support. ^{AACJ.AFRICA} With over 3,000 activists joining within a year, this platform has become a hub for sharing ideas, campaigns, blogs, and resources. It is a place where discrimination and inequality are confronted head-on, and where activists fighting for various causes—be it against bad governance or for the rights of vulnerable groups—can come together to build strong, united movements. Through collaboration and resource sharing, we become more informed about the issues we face and the actions we can take to make a difference, collectively envisioning a just world for all. ^{ice} and gender equality remain at the forefront of global discussions.



POWER TO VOICES HAS TRANSFORMED THE WAY WE CONNECT AND ADVOCATE. IT'S MORE THAN JUST A PLATFORM; IT'S A COMMUNITY WHERE OUR DIVERSE EXPERIENCES AND SHARED GOALS UNITE US IN THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE. TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER, MORE INFORMED, AND READY TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT.

SULEY, SENEGAL



JOIN THE MOVEMENT



AACJ.AFRICA



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their unwavering support, which has been instrumental in the success of the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) Program. We also express our deep gratitude to our dedicated consortium partners The consortium the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, Natural Justice, FEMNET, the Africa Youth Commission, and Oxfam Novib, our implementing partners, and the incredible youth activists who are at the forefront of this movement. Thank you for your dedication and relentless efforts in the fight for climate justice.