

# jotoafrika

Adapting to climate change in Africa

November Issue 26, 2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Navigating the Road to COP 28: A Critical Examination of Africa's Climate Commitment	Page 1
Food Systems	Page 2
Nourishing Resilience: Transforming Food Systems through Climate Finance in Kenya	Page 3
Local Climate Innovations Climate Change's Silent Threat to Kenyan Agriculture: The Solar Solution.	Page 4
Green Energy Revolution: A Sustainable Path to Clean Energy through Biomass Pellets	Page 5
Climate action: Seeking alternative solutions to climate disaster: Mwea youth protecting the environment by producing organic fertilizers	Page 6
Championing solidarity funds towards supporting the arid-to-reach groups	Page 7
Neutralizing acidic soil to boost agricultural yields in Rwanda	Page 8
INCLUSION. How Can This be Achieved at the COP Negotiations?	Page 9
Youth Engagement in Climate Actions: From Advocacy to Impactful Change	Page 10
Youth Voices in Shaping Climate Policy	Page 11
LOSS AND DAMAGE Operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund	Page 13
Addressing Loss and Damage: What can we learn from countries' National Adaptation Plans?	Page 14
CLIMATE FINANCE Under-financed Adaptation on the Spot as Africa Heads To COP 28	Page 15
Scaling Up Blended Finance In Developing Countries	Page 16
Climate Finance Drives Action: Solar-powered solutions promoting climate-resilient livelihoods in Makueni County, Kenya	Page 17
CLIMATE JUSTICE. Bridging Realities and Ambition Towards Climate Justice for Africa	Page 18

## ABOUT JOTO AFRIKA

Joto Afrika is a series of printed briefings and online resources about adapting to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. The series will help people understand the issues, constraints, and opportunities that poor people face in adapting to climate change and escaping poverty. Joto Afrika is Swahili; it can be loosely translated to mean 'Africa is feeling the heat'. Future issues will focus on climate change and pastoralism and climate change and energy. Please tell us what you think about this 26th issue of Joto Afrika and what you would like to read in future issues.

## Navigating the Road to COP 28: A Critical Examination of Africa's Climate Commitment

### EDITORIAL

The conclusion of the Africa Climate Summit 2023 saw many governments and other actors commit to a number of issues to be addressed fully and considered at the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties in Dubai. Included was the need for concerted efforts and collective action on increased adaptation finance, loss, and damage fund, harnessing domestic finance, inclusion, greening climate change processes, and the role of youth and children in championing climate actions. Indeed, as leaders meet at COP 28, they are aptly aware of the devastating effects of climate change and the urgency to address this is more pressing.

Recent publications shed light on the crucial milestones and challenges ahead. In this issue, researchers emphasize the need for finding local solutions to address climate change and hence document some of the climate actions undertaken by stakeholders. This Joto Afrika issue calls for a reinvigorated commitment to international collaboration. Climate change knows no borders, and the publication emphasizes the interconnectedness of our planet. It advocates for increased cooperation, emphasizing the need for nations to move beyond self-interest and embrace a shared responsibility for the well-being of the Earth and its inhabitants.

The publication also delves into the pressing issue of climate justice. It highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and urges for policies that address social and economic inequalities.

Furthermore, the editorial places a spotlight on innovation and technology. It acknowledges the strides made in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly practices.

As we approach COP 28, this editorial serves as a call to action. It challenges governments, businesses, and individuals to reassess their contributions to combating climate change. It beckons us to view COP 28 not merely as another conference but as a critical juncture in the fight for our planet's survival.

In the spirit of global cooperation, the publication reminds us that the decisions made at COP 28 will reverberate for generations. The world will be watching as leaders gather to shape policies, make commitments, and set the course for a sustainable future. Let this editorial be a rallying cry for ambition, accountability, and a collective determination to navigate the road to COP 28 with purpose and urgency. Our shared future depends on it.

**Elvin Nyukuri (Ph.D)**

Guest Editor

Climate Change/Environmental Governance and Policy Analysis

**Email:** nyukuri.e@gmail.com

# FOOD SYSTEMS

## Food Systems at the UN Climate Change Conference

Food and land use occupy a unique position, posing both a challenge and an opportunity to address climate change. A sizable contributor to the climate crisis, food systems are also incredibly vulnerable to climate impacts. Food systems, and wider land use also offer hitherto largely untapped adaptation and mitigation potential. Failure to harness this potential and take swift, far-reaching action to radically transform our food systems risks food production and consumption alone tipping us over the 1.5°C temperature target, with cascading impacts for food and nutrition security, as well as livelihoods and income generation.

## What are “food systems”?

The term food system describes the interconnected systems and processes that influence nutrition, food, health, community development, and agriculture. Food systems are critical for the livelihoods and economic development of billions of people worldwide. This is particularly true of developing countries, where agriculture still forms the backbone of many economies and a significant share of GDP. For example, food systems currently account for 62% of employment in Africa. With the global population projected to hit 9.7 billion by 2050, building resilient food systems will be critical for absorbing an estimated 1.6 billion people into the labour market in low- and middle-income countries in the coming years.

## What do we need from COP 28?

As a water-scarce country already experiencing first-hand the effects of climate impacts and changing weather patterns on agricultural production, the UAE has signaled its intent to use the COP 28 Presidency to elevate food systems within the climate negotiations. Below, we set out priority negotiated and non-negotiated outcomes to help ensure that COP 28 turns emergent political will for food systems transformation into time-bound, measurable pathways for action underpinned by adequate investment.

Negotiated outcomes	Non-negotiated outcomes
Emphasis within the <b>Global Stocktake</b> on the critical importance of food systems transformation to meet the mitigation, adaptation, finance, and loss and damage goals of the Paris Agreement and on food systems-specific indicators in Nationally Determined Contributions.	Widespread engagement with—and commitment to—the <b>Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action</b> , particularly from large agricultural producing economies, spearheaded by a dedicated coalition of high-ambition countries to drive implementation.
An agreed workplan for the <b>Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security</b> , including dedicated workshops on agroecology (and on food systems as a whole) and a robust coordination structure to build linkages across the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as with opportunities for financing.	The <b>FAO Global Roadmap to achieving 1.5°C and Sustainable Development Goals 2 Zero Hunger</b> should set out an ambitious package of agrifood actions, as well clear milestones on issues such as methane emissions reductions. The FAO should also set out clearly the process and actors involved in developing future iterations of the roadmap post-Dubai.
Recognition that food systems transformation is critical to achieving a global adaptation target and the need to include food systems-specific targets and indicators in a global framework to measure progress under the <b>Global Goal on Adaptation</b> .	A strong commitment from parties and observers that a <b>focus on food systems transformation must not come at the expense of a focus on the phase-out of fossil fuels</b> and to recognize the interdependency of food and energy systems transformations.

**Claire McConnell**

Policy Advisor on the Agriculture team within IISD’s Economic Law and Policy program.

**Email:** giving@iisd.ca

**Tel:** +1 (431) 441 6190

*Excerpt from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*

# Nourishing Resilience: Transforming Food Systems through Climate Finance in Kenya



Climate-smart soils: testing soil health in Western Kenya ©2016 CIAT/Georgina Smith

**Agricultural and food systems from crops, livestock, fisheries, and the actors involved in every node of each value chain, remain the most important economic activity for Kenya. These account for 27% of GDP through production, manufacturing, distribution, and service sectors, employing over 80% of the rural workforce, and account for 18% of national formal employment. Furthermore, at a county level, agriculture is the dominant economic activity for all 47 counties, accounting for an average of 51% of GDP<sup>1</sup> at the county level.**

Climate change poses a significant threat to food security and livelihoods, especially for small-scale farmers who make up most of the population. The intersection of food systems and climate finance in Kenya showcases a transformative story that not only inspires interest and motivation but also invites global participation in addressing the pressing challenges facing African nations.

## Green Investment in Agriculture

### a) Climate-Smart Farming:

Kenya has embraced climate-smart farming techniques, including drought-resistant crop varieties and sustainable water management practices. This is further enforced by the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy 2017-2026 which has a vision of achieving a climate-resilient and low-carbon growth sustainable agriculture that ensures food security and contributes to the national development goals. Climate finance has played a pivotal role in supporting these innovations.

### b) Irrigation and Water Management:

Investment in irrigation systems and water management projects has reduced the vulnerability of farmers to erratic rainfall patterns, ensuring a consistent food supply. Kenya practices six irrigation approaches which are all sustainable depending on the area's climate. These are drip, furrow, sprinklers, center pivots, rain hose, and button drippers.

### c) Community-Led Initiatives: Smallholder Farmer Cooperatives and Microfinance for Agriculture.

Kenya's success in accessing climate finance extends to community-led initiatives such as smallholder farmer cooperatives and microfinance for agriculture. Smallholder Farmer Cooperatives enable small-scale farmers to access climate finance collectively, ensuring

that even the most marginalized communities benefit from climate-resilient practices. Agriculture cooperatives play an important part in the enhancement of productivity and access to markets for smallholder farmers. Organizations such as Solidaridad come into play in strengthening the capacity of these cooperatives through the provision of farming inputs and training in agronomy.

Microfinance institutions, supported by climate finance, provide loans and credit to small-scale farmers, enabling them to invest in improved farming practices. The collaboration between Faulu Microfinance Bank and GIZ in 2023 allowed smallholder farmers in the dairy and horticulture value chains to access green financing as part of sustainable energy for smallholder farmers projects in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda. This indicates the path communities and corporate organizations are taking to protect the climate while also profiting from the sector.

## Conclusion

As Kenya continues to demonstrate the transformative power of climate finance in food systems, it invites the global community to join in this crucial mission. The story of Kenya is not just a story of adaptation; it's a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the boundless possibilities of resilience in the face of adversity. However, more needs to be done which can include prioritizing climate-smart policies that support agricultural and food sectors in implementing their climate commitments. Initiatives that are coordinated with other existing initiatives and mechanisms are particularly valuable.

Identifying priority government policies and areas of intervention where there are trade-offs that impact climate action and seeking to identify and maximise the co-benefits of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

CI as COP28 approaches, the issue of Adaptation finance for food systems remains critical on the agenda demanding global attention and action. COP28 should emphasize the significance of adequate funding, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives for agricultural resilience, drawing upon Kenya's success as a model for other nations grappling with similar challenges in sub-Saharan Africa. The conference presents an opportunity to reaffirm commitments, scale up financial support, and encourage partnerships to ensure equitable access to resources for climate-resilient agricultural practices. Elevating discussions on climate finance for food systems at COP28 is critical in fostering collaboration among global leaders, policymakers, and financial institutions to safeguard food systems and ensure a sustainable future amidst the impacts of climate change.

### Fiona Kimberly Okiri

Founder, Linda Future Initiative

**Email:** Kimberlyfiona802@gmail.com

**Tel:** +254714949325

### Kiprotich Samwel

Project Officer, Linda Future Initiative

**Email:** kiprotich.sk76@gmail.com

**Tel:** +254743226901

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Policy Paper



© SEAF-K

## Local Climate Innovations: Climate Change's Silent Threat to Kenyan Agriculture: The Solar Solution.

**The devastating impacts of climate change have long been manifesting, and most of these have been felt by communities, most especially those from rural areas. One of the key sectors impacted by climate change, especially in Kenya, has been on small-scale agriculture. The frequent change in weather seasons has affected the quantity and quality of farm produce, further threatening food security and livelihoods.**

Sustainable Energy Access Forum Kenya (SEAF-K) has been working with community groups in Bomet County to promote the use of solar-powered water pumps for irrigation. Through support from WWF-Kenya under the Leading the Change project, SEAF-K has trained over fifty farmers on this sustainable farming practice that has improved their produce and income.

The use of renewable energy for productive uses has been fronted as one of the measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Solar water pumps as one of the greener alternatives are very efficient to use and have a low maintenance cost compared to diesel-powered generators. In this project, farmers under the Mara-Sondu FLID platform were sensitized on the socio-economic and environmental benefits of using solar water pumps. The farmers worked with local financial institutions, securing funds enabling them to purchase the water pumps. SEAF-K also partnered with SunCulture, a solar service provider, to train the farmers on the installation and use of solar water pumps including the connection of irrigation pipes. The intervention recorded great success with 15 farmers acquiring the solar water pumps which have since transformed their farming practices.

In Cheboriot village, for instance, one tomato farmer noted significant cost-savings of up to 30% after transitioning from the diesel generator to the solar water pump. He pointed out that the rising fuel costs coupled with frequent mechanical servicing were affecting his meager profits. On his farm, he harvests his tomatoes on a weekly basis comprising about ten crates per week. On average, one crate retails at USD 13 and during the rainy season, the prices can go up to USD 22.8 as most of the tomato produce is affected by surplus water causing a deficit in market supply. Other farmers have equally reaped additional benefits as the solar kit can power other devices and be used for lighting, thus saving electricity bills.

The overreliance on rain-fed agriculture in Kenya is posing a great threat to food security. With the agricultural sector contributing about 35% of the country's GDP, there is an urgent need to empower our communities with sustainable farming technologies to enable them to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change while at the same time improving their produce. Governments, both at the national and county level, have a duty therefore to support increased access to energy solutions to promote productive uses of energy. This is key in improving the socio-economic status of communities while contributing to the achievement of the country's target of universal access to energy.

### **Brian Omenyi**

Coordinator, Sustainable Energy Access Forum Kenya (SEAF-K)

**Email:** [omenyibrian@gmail.com](mailto:omenyibrian@gmail.com)

**Tel:** +254798400103

**Url -** <https://seafk.org/>



# Green Energy Revolution:

## A Sustainable Path to Clean Energy through Biomass Pellets

**Madagascar, a country where rural areas heavily rely on firewood and charcoal for fuel, faced a significant energy accessibility gap in 2020, with less than 5% having access to clean cooking and only 27% with electricity. In response, the Government of Madagascar has set an ambitious target of achieving a 70% electricity access rate by 2030, as per the International Energy Agency. Addressing this challenge necessitates transformative solutions that not only provide sustainable energy but also foster climate resilience. The prevalent use of traditional fuels such as wood and charcoal has far-reaching negative effects, especially on the health of women and children. Additionally, it contributes to deforestation, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, and a decline in CO2-absorbing trees.**

### **Biomass Revolution by BioPellets Energy**

BioPellets Energy is an initiative that employs a green energy concept in Madagascar by utilizing biomass pellets derived from native grass found in the South of the country. This initiative is a collaboration between AJPER, a youth association in Fianarantosa, and Bio Pellets Energy which has established a renewable energy source but also effectively addresses multiple issues. Their joint effort involves the development and distribution of energy-efficient stoves designed specifically for burning biomass pellets, minimizing emissions, and maximizing efficiency. Rigorous testing and refinement ensure that these stoves cater to the unique needs of communities across Madagascar, adhering to both health and environmental standards without compromise.

### **Beyond Energy: Sustainable Livelihoods**

BioPellets Energy's initiative transcends its role as a mere energy project; it lays the foundation for sustainable livelihoods. By engaging local populations in grass harvesting, the initiative diverts time and effort away from the traditionally arduous task of gathering scarce wood resources. Over a span of

approximately three years, local partners are expected to independently manage a sustainable business, providing affordable pellets as an alternative to charcoal.

### **Tangible Environmental Impact:**

The initiative has already made significant impacts in reducing carbon emissions, with the supply of pellets to 750 households resulting in an annual reduction of approximately 125 tons. This tangible impact showcases the effectiveness of the green initiative in positively influencing the environment.

### **Conclusion**

BioPellets Energy's work in Madagascar exemplifies how community involvement, coupled with innovative ideas, can pave the way for resilient food systems, support climate policy, and drive an energy justice transition in sub-Saharan Africa. This holistic approach not only addresses the immediate energy needs of the population but also contributes to broader sustainability goals, marking a promising step towards a greener and more equitable future for Madagascar.

***Bio-pellet is an alternative energy that can substitute low-grade coal from biomass sources. Biomass waste from palm plantations and the palm industry are challenging as bio-pellet-based material.***

### **Sharone Housenaly**

**Email:** housenaly.sharone@gmail.com

### **Andrew Adwera Ochieng**

**Email:** andrewochiengadwera@gmail.com

**Tel:** +254704893718

# Climate Action:

Seeking alternative solutions to climate disaster:  
Mwea youth protecting the environment by producing organic fertilizers



Youths in the process of making biochar based fertilizers in Mwea, Kenya © Isaiah Esipisu

**Organic agriculture reduces non-renewable energy use by decreasing agrochemical needs (these require high quantities of fossil fuel to be produced). Organic agriculture contributes to mitigating the greenhouse effect and global warming through its ability to sequester carbon in the soil.**

Young entrepreneurs within Mwea Rice Irrigation Scheme in Kenya's Kirinyaga County are currently producing up to 10 tons of Biochar based fertilizer every day - which is a nutrient-rich fertilizer that nourishes depleted soils, but also offers a path to lowering atmospheric carbon. Biochar recovers and stores a large fraction of carbon in the ground, which makes an ongoing and significant reduction in atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions levels.

Biochar-based fertilizers, which are charcoal-like substances made from carbonized organic material such as biomass derived from forest and agricultural waste materials and activated using naturally occurring soil microbes have been found to be instrumental in improving the organic carbon content of the soil, and scientists have also pointed out that its application is key in alleviating the adverse effects of drought and salinity stress from plants.

***"This is our black gold," remarked Samuel Rigu, the founder of Safi Organics, the Kenyan company that is currently producing biochar-based fertilizers from farm wastes in Mwea. "Most of the soils in this country have been depleted due to overuse of synthetic fertilizers, and also through nutrient leaching whenever it floods," said Rigu.***

Rigu's company is therefore employing up to 120 young energetic men and women to collect rice husks from rice milling factories and using locally assembled portable metallic kilns, the husks are carbonized onsite, activated by a naturally occurring soil microbe, and packaged in 50-kilogram bags ready for the market.

***"People who have tried using our product keep coming for more, and now, all we are looking for is funds so that we can step up the production, and also move to other parts of the country line in the Western Region of the country, where hope to start producing the fertilizer from carbonizing maize cobs," said Rigu.***

Erick Maina, a smallholder farmer from Muriru village in Kirinyaga County who has been using biochar-based fertilizer to grow vegetables such as cabbage, spinach, and French beans among others says there is no turning back.

***"This is a game changer in terms of the yields and the cost, compared to the imported synthetic fertilizers," he told Joto Africa.***

Currently, Safi Organics sells a 50 kilogram of biochar-based fertilizer at Sh2500 (\$15), which is half the cost of imported synthetic fertilizers in the country, and only three bags are required for an acre for farmers who are using it on maize farming.

According to Anthony Mugambi, the Country Team Leader at Kilimo Trust, some of the salient beneficial effects of biochar on plant growth and health include improved uptake of nutrients, enhanced water-holding-capacity in sandy soil, better water balancing, boosted thermal economy due to darker surfaces, helps the plant to develop resistance against diseases, revamps microbiological activity and diversity, and binding and decomposition of pollutant among others. Kilimo Trust is one of the organizations that have been promoting the recycling of farm wastes to enhance the uptake of climate-smart agriculture and Regenerative Agriculture among smallholder farmers in Mwea and other parts of the country.

The study, 'titled Potential for biochar carbon sequestration from crop residues: A global spatially explicit assessment' finds that, theoretically, if the total amount of crop residues generated by agriculture globally were converted into biochar, it would sequester a maximum of one billion metric tons of carbon stored annually. The scientists found that at least 12 countries globally have the technical ability to sequester over 20% of their current total greenhouse gas emissions by converting crop residues to biochar, pointing out Bhutan and India, which can sequester at least 68% and 53% respectively.

**Isaiah Esipisu**

International Journalist/Science Writer

**Email:** esipisu@yahoo.com

**Tel:** +254 723 548 267



# Championing solidarity funds towards supporting the hard-to-reach groups

**The climate and environmental changes in the Global South have devastating effects on vulnerable populations. These effects have been exacerbated by socio-economic gaps and political as well as gender inequalities.**

SDI-Kenya implements a program that seeks to amplify the voices and visibility of marginalized urban communities, particularly those affected by the effects of climate change, "Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA)." VCA recognizes and supports the initiatives of young people, who make up most of the urban poor population in informal settlements in three Kenyan cities: Nakuru, Kisumu, and Nairobi. As documented by Muungano wa Wanavijiji, 563 locally driven actions are undertaken by various organized groups within these communities.

As a result, the run-up to COP27, with its theme of "Together for Implementation," championing collective action in climate change. Muungano wa Wanavijiji, Slum Dwellers International-Kenya designed a campaign to demonstrate how communities could be supported in advancing their climate actions through accessing climate financing and building a movement of climate champions pushing for resilient building, mitigation, and adaptation strategies. Working with the federation of slum dwellers, a community-led financing mechanism called "solidarity funds" was designed that set precedence and change how climate financing is done.

## Solidarity Funds

The funds were designed to offer sustainable financial support to local groups to advance their locally led adaptation initiatives. Jointly with the federation coordinators, and youth federation members, SDI-Kenya designed a process that involved creating a simple application tool for groups to seek for solidarity funds. The tool required that each applicant fills a group profile, outline their locally led action, and specify the funding required for their initiative.

Multiple channels were used to ensure a wide coverage of the information including -through daily climate activities, social media platforms, and regular federation-building initiatives, such as peer-to-peer learning. Subsequently, the federation members conducted the selection process and shortlisted 106 groups to receive funding (16- Kisumu, 24 Nakuru, and 66 Nairobi). Notable gaps from the capacity assessment included: Challenges in accessing funds, proposal writing, and relationship building with relevant partners. An award ceremony was organized that provided a platform for all funded and unfunded

groups to exhibit and showcase their locally-led climate action for purposes of learning and knowledge sharing. The youth mobilized partners, including Civil Society Organizations and government representatives, to participate in the event for continuous support.

## Next Level Granting Facility - Making the Invisible visible.

The impact of the Solidarity Fund led to the establishment of the Next Level Grant Facility. . This innovative facility was designed to address the urgent emergencies arising from climate change emergencies and make the invisible local climate actors visible in 16 counties in Kenya focusing on serving the most marginalized communities, informal groups, and individuals residing in remote areas. Despite being significant contributors to climate action, these groups frequently remain unnoticed and underserved.

## Movement building and climate financing

Muungano wa Wanavijiji has skillfully harnessed the granting process to build a cadre of climate champions drawn from all corners of the country. This effort ensures that their initiatives receive the recognition they deserve and are amplified. The groups have also been encouraged to form networks at the ward level. 13 networks, consolidating several groups, have been established across three counties. This collective approach empowers them to pool resources and amplify their impact promotes synergies and prevents climate actors from working in isolation. Additionally, it has led to the establishment of ward-level climate change committees, where community members, civil society organizations, and government representatives collaborate to access climate financing (FLOCCA).

Empowering community members to lead the course of development agendas, including identifying the agenda, setting the agenda, developing the strategies, and implementing the actions to address the need or scaling up, is the best strategy for climate financing.

### Jane Wairutu

**Email:** jwairutu03@gmail.com

**Tel:** +254 725 7764 43

### Stanley Mburu

**Email:** stanleymburu@gmail.com

**Tel:** +254 718 90 5591

Url <https://www.muungano.net/>

# Neutralizing acidic soil to boost agricultural yields in Rwanda

## Case Study: Food Systems

The low productivity of the agricultural sector in many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is largely attributed to low and decreasing soil fertility due to many factors such as soil erosion, continuous cropping, soil acidity, and inadequate sustainable soil fertility management. The application of agricultural lime is an effective approach to neutralizing soil acidity and achieving higher agricultural yields.

According to surveys by the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), over 50% of the agricultural land in Rwanda is highly acidic, leading to over 50 percent reduction in yields depending on the crop. Scientists from AGRA and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in collaboration with national research institutions in Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia have embarked on a research project aimed at addressing key knowledge gaps related to acidic soils so as to enhance crop productivity in the four Eastern Africa countries.

***“Preliminary results have shown that acidic soils, especially those plagued with aluminium toxicity can only be corrected using lime,” said Dr. Frédéric Baudron, the lead researcher for the project known as Guiding Acid Soil Management Investments in Africa (GAIA).***

***“However, we are analyzing it holistically to come up with instruments that will inform agricultural lime manufacturers and policymakers in each of the countries of correct guidelines of acidic soil management,” said Baudron in an interview with Joto Africa.***

So far, even before the science-based guidelines are put in place, Rwanda has already subsidized the cost of agricultural lime production, and most farmers especially in most affected areas are already reaping the benefits.

Mukogatere Verida from Nyagahinga Village of Nyaruguru District in Southern Rwanda says she was able to double her yield of beans last season when she applied lime on her two-acre piece of land.

Faustine Munyakyanza, a wheat farmer from Mujuga Village of Nyamagabe District in the same region said he also recorded a more than double yield from his three-acre piece of land.

According to Dr Vicky Ruganzu of RAB, and the Country Project Lead for GAIA, liming has shown a positive and significant effect on crop yields in the country. “For farmers who have embraced the



application of lime for acid soils, we have witnessed a yield response ranging between 15 - 30 percent for Irish potato, 36 - 44 percent for maize, and 44 - 58 percent for beans,” he said.

However, Dr Ruganzu is quick to caution that lime can only be used alongside fertilizers or manure, with good agronomic practices such as terracing on sloppy landscapes and use of other relevant inputs such as appropriate seeds.

Despite the promising yields, the country is still grappling with the high cost of transportation of lime from places like Musanze located in the North, to places like Nyamagabe in the South due to its bulkiness. According to Dr Ruganzu, the transportation of lime takes the main share of the final price farmers pay for farm input.

### Lesson learnt

The provision of guidelines for acid soil management, a conducive political environment, inclusion of the private sector, and building capacities of smallholder farmers to start managing their acidic soils will double food production in the region.

### Conclusion

Management of acid soils needs strategic research, integrating soil and water management with improved crop varieties to generate prototypes and environmentally friendly technologies for sustainable crop production within appropriate socio-economic and policy considerations. Overall, the adoption of improved soil management practices is essential to adapt to the changing climate and meet the needs of the growing populations for food and raw materials for industries.

### Isaiah Esipisu

International Journalist/Science Writer

Email: esipisu@yahoo.com

Tel: +254 723 548 267



# INCLUSION:

## How Can This be Achieved at the COP Negotiations?

The Conference of Parties (COP) negotiations organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) plays an important role in modelling global strategies to combat climate change. As the world grapples with the adverse effects of climate change and the urgent need to address the issue, COP negotiations must be made to be as inclusive, representative, and equitable as possible. Strategies like diverse representation, gender inclusivity, and capacity building among others are key in enhancing inclusion during negotiations and promoting a collective and effective response to the climate crisis the world is facing.

As COP28 convenes, prioritizing the following strategies will foster a more comprehensive and impactful dialogue and steer the global community toward collectively addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change in a fair, inclusive, and sustainable manner.

### Diverse Representation

Since the initiation of COP negotiations in 1995, there has been a persistent struggle for adequate representation of the global south, leading to a pressing need for diverse voices to be acknowledged. Achieving diverse representation is pivotal for inclusivity within these discussions. But how can this be realized? One approach involves ensuring participation from representatives of all geographical regions and recognizing the varied impacts of climate change on different nations. Moreover, there must be deliberate measures to amplify the voices of marginalized and indigenous communities, which often bear the greatest burdens of climate change's adverse effects. The emphasis on indigenous groups stems from the invaluable traditional knowledge and sustainable practices they possess, crucial for addressing climate change effectively.

### Gender Inclusivity

Gender equality stands as a pivotal strategy for inclusion within COP negotiations. It's crucial to highlight that although women bear a disproportionate brunt of climate change impacts, their involvement in climate decision-making processes is often constrained. Therefore, rectifying this imbalance necessitates establishing gender parity within delegations attending COP negotiations and providing conducive spaces where women can actively contribute to these discussions meaningfully. By integrating the voices and perspectives of women, a more comprehensive and holistic approach toward devising climate solutions can be fostered. This requires not just representation but also an environment that values and amplifies women's contributions in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

### Civil Society Engagement

The active involvement of civil society stands as an indispensable force, serving not just to ensure governmental accountability but also to vigorously advocate for meaningful climate action. Embracing inclusivity within COP negotiations demands an expanded scope for delegation selection, reaching beyond solely national representatives to encompass the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), youth collectives, and grassroots movements. This inclusive approach is pivotal because these stakeholders offer a rich tapestry of diverse viewpoints, innovative concepts, and an unparalleled sense of urgency that goes beyond the formalities of negotiations. Their inclusion infuses dynamism into the discussions, integrating fresh perspectives and solutions that resonate deeply with communities directly affected by climate change.

### Capacity Building

Numerous nations in the global south encounter hurdles when it comes to their comprehensive participation in COP negotiations, primarily stemming from limitations in their capacity. Addressing this disparity demands substantial investments from the UNFCCC towards capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering developing nations with the essential knowledge and resources requisite for their robust engagement. Such initiatives encompass a multifaceted approach, involving the provision of targeted training, facilitating technology transfer, and extending financial support. These efforts aim to equip these nations with the tools and expertise necessary to enable them to contribute to the complex discussions and negotiations surrounding climate change actively and effectively. By bridging these capacity gaps, these nations can elevate their involvement, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their perspectives integrated into the collective efforts aimed at combating climate change on a global scale.

### Conclusion

Promoting inclusivity within the COP negotiations stands as both a moral obligation and a strategic imperative in tackling the substantial challenges posed by climate change. This necessitates guaranteeing a wide array of representation by amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, advancing gender inclusiveness, involving civil society, and offering robust capacity-building assistance. By undertaking these measures, the global community can establish a framework that is more encompassing and representative in the fight against climate change. It's crucial to recognize that inclusivity isn't merely an endpoint but rather a crucial path toward fostering a sustainable and fairer future for all individuals across the globe.

### Ochieng' Jeremiah Karani

Co-Founder, Linda Future Initiative

Email: [karanijerry@gmail.com](mailto:karanijerry@gmail.com)

Tel: +254 702051173



# Youth Engagement in Climate Actions: From Advocacy to Impactful Change

The world faces an unprecedented climate crisis, and the youth worldwide are leading the charge for meaningful change. Youth engagement in climate actions has evolved beyond advocacy, becoming a driving force for tangible, impactful change. The global youth climate movement, inspired by activists like Greta Thunberg, has mobilized millions to demand climate justice and a sustainable future. While raising awareness and demanding accountability are crucial, many young climate activists have recognized the need to go beyond advocacy. They are embracing a hands-on approach, turning their passion and commitment into concrete climate actions.

## Youth-Driven Climate Initiatives

- a) **Renewable Energy Projects:** Kenya, like many nations, faces the dual challenge of meeting its growing energy demand while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Youth-led initiatives are driving the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, in local communities. One of the initiatives is the SolarGen company which focuses on solar energy and its potential through the provision of irrigation solutions, water pumping, and energy across Kenya and Somalia.
- b) **Reforestation and Conservation:** Young climate activists are taking part in tree-planting campaigns and biodiversity conservation efforts. Youth for Green Action Kenya (YGAK), on May 22nd to 28th, 2023, in the frames of the "Future in a Million Trees" project aimed to regenerate the lost biodiversity in Mau Forest, Narok County. The organization mobilized over three hundred volunteers to plant 100,000 trees in five days. The organization envisions a greener future for Kenya and the globe one tree at a time.
- c) **Sustainable Agriculture:** Youth-led projects are promoting sustainable farming practices, including organic agriculture, permaculture, and urban farming, which reduces the environmental impact of food production. UNICEF in partnership

with the Kenyan Government and Generation Unlimited launched a flagship pilot programme 'Engaging Kenyan Youth in Agriculture and Nutrition' (EKYAN). EKYAN recognizes the importance of agriculture to the Kenyan economy and puts a focus on empowering the youth with essential skills in climate-smart and regenerative farming practices.

- d) **Waste Reduction:** Nairobi city produces an estimate of 2.5 tonnes of solid waste daily and less than 45 percent is recycled and re-used. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)'s target for this is 80 percent. The youth are spearheading initiatives to reduce waste and promote recycling and upcycling. Motobrix, a community-centered innovation hub within Mathare slums, run by youths, operates to transform discarded materials into eco-friendly energy. The collective works with a team of about twenty youths comprising informal waste collectors, marketers, and casual labourers, and produces about one ton of briquettes which serves an estimated two hundred families in the area. This is an initiative that converts waste into clean cooking energy solutions. These actions reduce the carbon footprint associated with waste management.

## Challenges and Opportunities:

Limited resources, bureaucratic obstacles, and the complexity of climate-related projects are the major challenges. However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation, education, and awareness creation. Young climate activists actively engaged in climate actions can inspire others to follow suit. Youth-led initiatives are not just about doing the work but also about educating and raising awareness.

## Okiri Kimberly Fiona

Founder, Linda Future Initiative

**Email:** [Kimberlyfiona802@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberlyfiona802@gmail.com)

**Tel:** +254714949325



## Youth Voices in Shaping Climate Policy

Through various global youth movements, young people are raising their voices to advocate for access to decision-making spaces and for mechanisms to enable them to contribute to the design, implementation, and review of climate policies and programmes at all levels. It is imperative for all stakeholders to recognize the ideas, solutions, and expertise young people bring to the table, so their engagement benefits the process and represents a meaningful and worthwhile experience.

Young people have been the link between climate change and grassroots impact, yet they are faced with limited information & resource access to age-based discrimination and token inclusion. This however has not deterred them from participating in negotiations, and collaborations. For the first time, there was the Children and Youth Pavilion at COP 27, a safe space for young people to engage, learn, and network. In addition, the development of inclusivity of youth voices through the Youth Envoy at COP and the development of the Youth Advisory Group to the UN Secretary-General has also provided a platform for youth participation in global climate policy processes. The most notable is the partnerships and engagement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC, YOUNGO. YOUNGO has provided climate platforms for young people to learn and understand the climate change policy processes, and effectively input into these including localization through the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY).

LCOY is a platform to boost youth climate action locally and create input into international conferences. It represents a national version of the International Conference of Youth (COY), which takes place immediately before the Conference of Parties (COP), the annual UN Climate Change Conference.

The 2023 LCOY in Kenya's main theme was 'Building the Gap between Policy and Practice'. This aimed at leveraging on policy priorities from grassroots youth making climate impacts within their community. LCOY had five thematic areas which included loss and damage; adaptation and climate resilience; climate finance; climate-smart agriculture; and just energy transition. On loss and damage; adaptation and climate resilience; climate finance; climate-smart agriculture; and just energy transition. The process included pre-conference engagement and developing the main conference agenda. It leveraged dialogues, and digital advocacy through social media i.e. X (Twitter) spaces, webinars, and hybrid conferencing. The focus was on providing a knowledge-sharing platform while understanding youth priorities for COP 28 and beyond.

COP 28 Kenyan Youth Statement developed during the LCOY 2023 include:

1. Provide substantial investments in climate-resilient infrastructure projects, focusing on vulnerable areas. Reinforcing coastal defenses, upgrading drainage systems, and constructing resilient buildings and roads vital in protecting communities from the escalating threats of extreme weather events.

2. Promote the integration of comprehensive climate education programs in schools and communities. Emphasizing sustainable practices and climate change adaptation and mitigation, enhancing awareness and preparedness to empower communities to face climate-related challenges.
  3. Initiate transparent and accountable green investment policies. Clear guidelines on climate finance allocation are imperative, ensuring funds are directed to sustainable, youth-led projects.
  4. Establish dedicated funds specifically for climate innovation projects led by young entrepreneurs and innovators. These funds should support research, development, and implementation of innovative climate solutions, including building incubation hubs for these innovations.
  5. Intergration of gender-responsive strategies within climate policies. This includes ensuring equal participation and representation of women and gender minorities in the COP decision-making processes. Specific provisions should be developed to address the unique challenges faced by women, such as access to resources, cultural limitations and discrimination.
  6. Safeguard the rights and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Recognize their role as custodians of biodiversity and natural resources, and protect their heritage and livelihoods.
  7. Develop inclusive just transition policies. Investments in retraining programs, green job creation, and community-led renewable energy projects adaptable to various country scenarios. Additionally, ensures social justice and equity in the transition process, especially for communities that are part of the transition.
  8. The government and other state agencies should draft/ develop proper guidelines and frameworks that will ensure youth farmers have access to arable lands while also investing in localised Research Centres and institutions that will increase knowledge based on indigenous food systems and modern-based approaches to agriculture
- Modester Lynn Oburu**  
 Youth Coordinator  
 Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG)  
**Email:** [lynn@kccwg.org](mailto:lynn@kccwg.org)

*The outlook on youth engagement in policy processes leans towards street activism. But it goes beyond just that, in real sense it's the need to voice out for the present and future in a space that limits their voices*





© African Arguments

## LOSS AND DAMAGE: Operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund

In 2022, at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Convention Conference of the Parties (COP 27), State parties made the monumental decision to establish new funding arrangements including a Loss and Damage Fund, for the benefit of countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The objective of the Fund is to assist climate-risk-vulnerable developing countries to respond to loss and damage, which refers to losses such as irreversible harm exemplified by damage to ecosystems or loss of land owing to climate change, and damages which indicate reparable harm, such as damage to infrastructure.

Loss and damage are rampant, particularly in regions of the world facing extreme climate events and suffering the effects of climate disasters. These disasters are further compounded by other adverse socio-economic realities in these countries, heightening loss and damage.

For example, drought particularly in Eastern Africa between 2020 and 2023 affected approximately 31.9 million people across Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia and displaced roughly 2.7 million people internally, cyclones and hurricanes which in 2023 affected 2.5 million people in Malawi, a third of whom were children, and other incidences of floods and rising sea levels which have affected at least 5.5 million people across the Sahel in 2022, illustrates how estimated losses and damages in different vulnerable countries easily runs into millions and sometimes billions of dollars.

However, whilst the historic decision to establish the Fund was made following decades of robust calls for action and demands by climate-vulnerable developing countries for the provision of financial assistance, more action is still needed before vulnerable countries can reap the benefits of this monumental decision. The Fund needs to be operationalized with a clear indication of its form, clarity on which countries should contribute, and how the money will be raised and allocated to compensate for loss and damage. To this end, COP 27 instituted a Transitional Committee, which has over the past year deliberated on the establishment of the Fund and recently concluded its recommendations to COP 28.

The Transitional Committee highlights that the purpose of the Fund is to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events. The Committee also acknowledges the urgent and immediate need for new, additional, predictable, and adequate financial resources to assist developing countries, and establishes the World Bank as the interim host of the Fund for a period of four years.

However, what is most needed is an inclusive Fund with a large representation of recipient countries. Therefore, a clear transition of the hosting of the Fund following the expiry of the World Bank's four-year interim period is necessary, with developing countries given an equal opportunity to operate as host countries for the Fund through an open, transparent, and competitive process.

Developed country accountability is also central to the success of the Fund, and while the Transitional Committee makes no mention of the scale of financing required nor sets out in detail the financial contribution obligations of developed countries, the message must continue to be loud and clear. States have climate obligations to meet, and loss and damage financing should be increased to meet the level of both short-term and long-term needs, with financing constituting new and additional resources to address loss and damage.

Finally, whilst the focus on loss and damage in international climate discourse is a welcome relief for many across the globe, local actors and communities who are at risk should have their voices amplified in any decision-making on the Fund. Overall, the operationalization of the Fund requires the robust input of countries most at risk of climate change, and this needs an "Africanization" of the Fund, to reflect the views, priorities, and needs of a continent that least causes climate change, but most suffers its effects.

**Clarice Wambua**  
University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law  
**Email:** cwambua@uonbi.ac.ke

# Addressing Loss and Damage:

## What can we learn from countries' National Adaptation Plans?

Loss and damage refer to the observed impacts and projected risks of climate change that go beyond what countries, communities, or ecosystems can adapt to. With increasing global warming and more frequent and intense natural disasters, climate change represents an existential threat to some of the most vulnerable countries. Averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage is about protecting and strengthening the resilience of communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems in the face of climate change, ensuring they are safeguarded for future generations.

These actions to respond to loss and damage exist along a spectrum—a layering of approaches to manage the risks of climate change impacts. These approaches include preparing for and dealing with actual losses and damages through disaster risk management (DRM) and humanitarian response, as well as preventing and reducing risks associated with climate change through adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process is fundamentally about minimizing loss and damage through adaptation action. NAP documents are relevant to conversations about loss and damage because:

- They contain information and analysis that facilitates an understanding of country-specific losses and damages.
- Provide insights into countries' understanding of the relationships between adaptation and disaster risk reduction and DRM.
- Include concrete actions to minimize losses and damages.

### Key Findings

Through a systematic review of NAP documents and interviews with key informants, this report showcases the role of NAP processes in minimizing and addressing loss and damage. It provides insights into how loss and damage information is presented in relation to adaptation efforts and how adaptation priorities identified in the NAPs have the potential to respond to loss and damage. The key findings of the analysis are as follows:

**Nearly half of NAP documents make direct reference to loss and damage.** Countries are referencing loss and damage in discussions of risks and vulnerabilities, in their adaptation actions, and in dedicated sections of their NAP documents.

**Almost all of the NAP documents submitted to date include elements of disaster risk management (DRM).** This includes mentions of all of the elements of DRM, including understanding and reducing risks, as well as disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. DRM-related actions in NAPs tend to focus on understanding and reducing risks; fewer documents include specific actions for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The most common actions identified include early warning systems and insurance.

**All NAP documents refer to slow-onset events.** One or more specific slow-onset events—such as increasing temperatures, sea level rise, and loss of biodiversity—are mentioned in all of the NAPs submitted to date.

Less than half of NAP documents refer to human mobility in a more permanent sense. Most NAPs refer to human mobility in one form or another, but fewer refer to more permanent types of mobility beyond seasonal or economic migration.

Very few NAP documents address non-economic losses. Among the few documents that do, loss of cultural heritage is the most identified issue. Recommendations

The following recommendations target governments and international actors engaged in discussions on financing arrangements for loss and damage:

1. Recognize the contribution of NAP processes in minimizing loss and damage. Essentially, NAPs are countries' plans for minimizing losses and damages. Continued and increased investment in NAP processes is critical if countries' efforts to minimize loss and damage are to be realized in an equitable and sustainable manner.
2. Build on the extensive work that has already been done by countries to assess risks and vulnerabilities through their NAP processes. Existing vulnerability and risk assessments should be the starting point for the assessment of loss and damage in particular countries.
3. Support countries in assessing the potential for irreversible impacts. NAP documents contain limited information on scenarios beyond the limits of adaptation. Countries may need support to assess existential threats associated with climate change as a basis for identifying appropriate actions to respond to loss and damage.
4. Allow flexibility for countries to leverage their NAP processes for planning to address loss and damage. Countries may choose to capture and communicate their loss and damage needs through their NAP processes, and/or they may opt to conduct additional assessments and/or planning processes for loss and damage—both options should be made possible, particularly in accessing funding.
5. Focus efforts to address loss and damage on the impacts of climate change that go beyond adaptation limits. Efforts to address loss and damage must not replicate or take resources away from adaptation action. Instead, they should tackle the impacts that go beyond the limits of adaptation.
6. Collaborate and coordinate with the humanitarian system to avoid parallel systems and duplication of efforts. It is important for efforts to respond to loss and damage associated with climate hazards to be undertaken in collaboration not only with adaptation actors but also with humanitarian actors, both within countries and at the international level.

### Jeffrey Qi, Angie Dazé, and Anne Hammill

NAP Global Network Secretariat  
c/o International Institute for Sustainable  
Development (IISD)  
Tel: +1 (204) 958-7700  
Email: [info@napglobalnetwork.org](mailto:info@napglobalnetwork.org)

### See also

Qi, J., Dazé, A., & Hammill, A. (2023). Addressing loss and damage: What can we learn from countries' National Adaptation Plans? (NAP Global Network report). International Institute for Sustainable Development. <https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/loss-and-damage-national-adaptation-plans/>



## CLIMATE FINANCE:

### Under-financed Adaptation on the Spot as Africa Heads To COP 28

Research on climate change adaptation has grown over the past decade as global responses have shifted from avoidance seeking to risk management (adaptation to mitigation). In fact, a recent analysis by the Climate Policy Initiative and the Global Center for Adaptation shows that an annual average of \$29.5 billion in climate finance was committed to Africa in the years 2019 and 2020. Of this amount, about \$11.4 billion, or 39 percent, was for adaptation investments. Further analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) also indicates that the adaptation finance needs for the continent over the period 2020-30 are close to \$580 billion. With this understanding, unless adaptation finance increases substantially in Africa, a gap of \$453 billion will accumulate over this decade.

Dubbed a reflection COP, the 28th Conference of Parties is a moment to take a long, hard look at the state of our planet and chart a better course for the future - in the words of the UN Secretary-General. One of the main areas to take a deep honest and transparent reflection about is the financing element, and most certainly financing for adaptation. While mitigation efforts are on the soar in the global south and Africa in the form of carbon markets, the current and projected severe impacts of climate change in Africa make adaptation an urgent priority.

Nonetheless, adaptation faces many challenges, the main of which remains inadequate financing. To begin with, finance for adaptation to climate change emerges as a huge hindrance to resilience in the African continent. Yet, funding platforms to support adaptation projects are nothing short of numerous. These include the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and most recently the Green Climate Fund. However, access to these funds remains controversial and continues to aggravate animated arguments.

According to the Africa Group of Negotiators, cumbersome procedures, and bureaucratic bottlenecks in some of the funds and their managing agencies make the funds inaccessible. Similarly, southern civil society organizations have cried fault for the dominance of the funds' boards by developed parties and private sector empathizers besides biases in channeling funds to the rightful countries. As a result of the deficit and lack of goodwill to finance adaptation in the continent, the IPCC 6th annual report has reported limits to adaptation leading to rampant occurrences of losses and damages in Africa. For this to be halted, COP 28 makes a critical space not only to take stock of climate finance in general but most specifically to evaluate and re-image adaptation finance for the African continent.

Besides adaptation, key climate finance agenda items that would be very critical to Africa include but are not limited to; funding arrangements under loss and damage (including the governance structure and access modalities of the fund), new collective quantified goal on finance (including its alignment with current science and needs of developing countries), aligning finance flows with article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement (Article 2.1 c, the agreement denotes the centrality of making finance flows, otherwise appreciated as aligning finance flows, consistent with the mission of low carbon climate resilient development pathway), and financing for just transition in consideration of among others; second best-forgone alternative to utilizing fossil fuel resources as well as financing to cushion the effects of the transition.

#### **Collins Otieno**

Climate Finance and Innovations  
Hivos

**Email:** [cotieno@hivos.org](mailto:cotieno@hivos.org)

# Scaling Up Blended Finance In Developing Countries

Blended finance is the strategic use of development finance for the mobilization of additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries. While only one element in the toolbox for Financing for Sustainable Development (FfD), it is an effective approach that leverages development finance to mobilize commercial finance. By deploying development finance in a way that addresses investment barriers and improves the risk-return profile of investments, blended finance operates as a market-building instrument that helps to attract commercial finance for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Despite existing efforts and agreed Principles, blended finance flows are not yet holding up to expectations. Alongside a broader array of efforts by the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) under Indonesia's presidency, this Stocktake Report draws attention to a three-dimensional gap in blended finance efforts, including:

- Missing blended finance policy and practitioner frameworks on how developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) can engage more effectively in attracting, deploying, and scaling blended finance;
- Need for additional insights and guidance on how to scale up blended finance in the context of social sectors, and
- Lack of implementation and capacity challenges that impede blended finance flows reaching scale in developing countries, including in LDCs and SIDS.

These entry points for blended finance actors and policymakers, both at the policy level and at operational level, fall into four broad areas:

1. Target blended finance solutions to local contexts and employ blended finance to catalyse finance in the last mile of commercial profitability.
  - Use blended finance to add value to local development priorities and be aligned with local financing priorities.
  - Choose target sectors for blended finance carefully and ensure that project attributes and context, such as financial sustainability, are considered.
2. Support domestic financial systems and market development for the greatest impact, and to reach the most vulnerable and underserved communities, blended finance operations must be designed to respond to local needs and realities from the very outset.

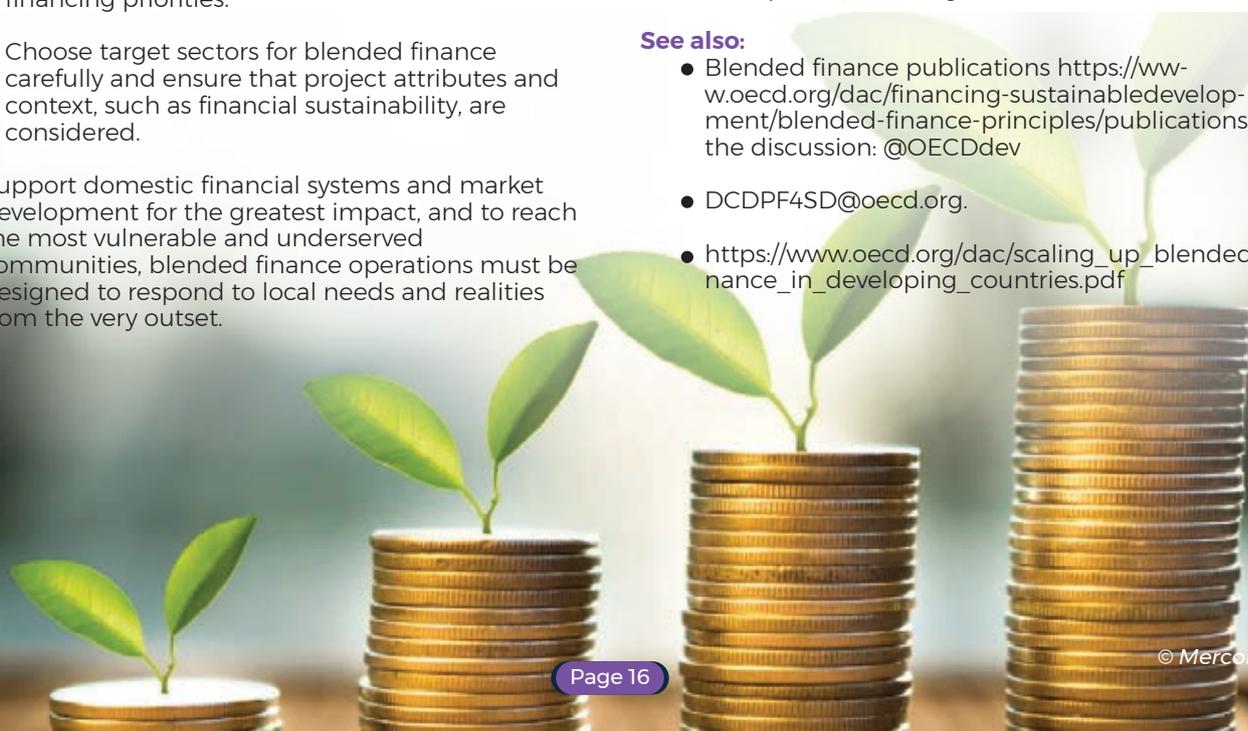
- Ensure that a conducive institutional, policy, and regulatory framework to scale up blended finance is in place.
  - Enable local actors to engage in blended finance transactions, including to mobilize themselves. Build local capacities and create an ecosystem beyond a transaction-based approach.
3. Aim for scale through systemic and transformational approaches. To contribute to building stronger, more resilient, and sustainable economies in developing countries, including in the LDCs and SIDS, blended finance needs to be aligned with the broader policy context of multilateral crisis response and national recovery plans.
    - Ensure that a pipeline of projects stands ready to attract blended finance.
    - Facilitate portfolio and programmatic approaches to unlock private finance at scale.
    - Promote multi-stakeholder coordination while respecting all parties' mandates.
  4. Improve impact management and measurement and promote transparency. Impact management and measurement are at the core of successful and responsible blended finance operations. Hence, developing impact and results measurement frameworks are important elements for the effective engagement of financiers, governments, and development partners.
    - Enable an understanding of the why, where, and how of blended finance, including through sound monitoring and evaluation systems.
    - Promote transparency and accountability in blended finance operations.

*The report was developed under the guidance of Haje Schütte, Senior Counsellor and Head of Financing for Sustainable Development Division, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate.*

**Email:** [dcdpf4sd@oecd.org](mailto:dcdpf4sd@oecd.org)

## See also:

- Blended finance publications <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainabledevelopment/blended-finance-principles/publications/> Join the discussion: @OECDdev
- [DCDPF4SD@oecd.org](mailto:DCDPF4SD@oecd.org).
- [https://www.oecd.org/dac/scaling\\_up\\_blended\\_finance\\_in\\_developing\\_countries.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dac/scaling_up_blended_finance_in_developing_countries.pdf)







# Climate Finance Drives Action:

## Solar-powered solutions promoting climate-resilient livelihoods in Makueni County, Kenya

Kenya has committed to reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030. Decreasing the use of diesel and petrol machines and easing pressure on forests by using less wood fuel, the solar power systems are major interventions that play a big role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, yet a significant funding gap remains to advance the green transition and enhance resilience in developing countries. The government's commitment to invest in clean energy has been bolstered by private companies to bring about real change, especially for those who need it most.

At a place known as Ukia along Machakos – Wote Road in Kenya's semi-arid Makueni County, Jonah Smart Farm, a two-acre piece of land belonging to Jonah Kitetu and his wife Damaris Kitetu stands out from the surrounding dry shrubs, owing to the flourishing evergreen lush vegetables, bananas, and legumes, thanks to a solar-powered water pump he acquired on loan for agriculture production.

"I started by using a petrol-powered water pump, but I was constantly making losses due to the prohibitive and ever-rising cost of fuel, which used to consume nearly all the profits made from the farm. But the arrival of this solar-powered tool has become the game changer. All I need is to wake up and get to the farm to sprinkle water on my crops, while the sun, which is scorching in this area silently and efficiently pumps the water into the overhead 10,000-liter tank," he told Joto Africa.

Jonah and his wife acquired the solar-powered water pump through an ongoing intervention by the IKEA Foundation through the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), which links smallholder farmers to manufacturers and suppliers of such equipment through an affordable credit model. In January 2021, the IKEA Foundation in partnership with EnDev started to promote the Productive Use of Energy (PUE) in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia as a way of improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods and increasing their resilience to climate change while contributing to the reduction of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

In Makueni County, SNV collaborates with solar companies through the initiative to identify potential markets, mobilize farmers, create awareness and promote behavior change, undertake on-site product demonstrations, and build capacities of the farmers to select effective technologies such as the use of solar water pumps. Jonah is one of the over 270 smallholder farmers from Makueni County who had already acquired solar water pumps by August 2023, through a Pay-As-You-Grow arrangement that allows farmers to pay in small monthly installments. This is an arrangement spearheaded by SNV in collaboration with a local solar power solution company known as SunCulture, which uses off-grid solar technology to provide smallholders with reliable access to water, irrigation, lighting, and mobile charging, all in a single package.

### Isaiah Esipisu

International Journalist/Science Writer

**Email:** [esipisu@yahoo.com](mailto:esipisu@yahoo.com)

**Mobile:** +254 723 548 267



© PACJA

# CLIMATE JUSTICE:

## Bridging Realities and Ambition Towards Climate Justice for Africa

The convergence of the world at COP 28 comes at a time when urgent challenges are defining our shared future in the climate change, social, economic, and geopolitical spheres. In this crucial year of the Global Stocktake, it is essential that African frontline community voices are amplified to address their vulnerability, enhance their inclusion in decision-making, and clearly take into account where we are in terms of building resilient and thriving communities against the climate crisis.

At its fundamental core in this fight is the climate justice imperative that the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA<sup>2</sup>) is driving across Africa through engagements with Non-State Actors and other constituents and via impactful flagship programs like the African Activists for Climate Justice<sup>3</sup> Consortium-based initiative that seeks to connect movements, amplify narratives from communities on the frontline, enhance environmental rights of communities while protecting human rights defenders, pivoting communities towards resilience and improving adaptive capacities as well as galvanizing political will to influence inclusive, just and transformative policies. PACJA, in its pioneering role as a convener and voice of Pan-African CSOs, continues to champion climate justice advocacy while navigating the crossroads of climate justice, amplifying the voices of the vulnerable and demanding concrete actions from the global community.

The Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) paints a stark reality illuminating that Africa will be impacted by climate change under all mitigation scenarios. PACJA's clarion call at COP 28 resonates with urgency, echoing the Adaptation Gap Report 2023, which boldly outlines the challenges of underfinancing, inadequate preparation, and slow progress in adaptation efforts across the continent.

Operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation and Doubling Adaptation Finance remains key in this endeavor in line with the heavy burden and devastating damage that the climate crisis has caused for African frontline communities. PACJA's focus at COP 28 centers around operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation calling for a comprehensive framework, complete with matrices and indicators, aligning with the urgency of the Global Stock Take. PACJA demands more than a doubling of adaptation finance, with time-bound commitments, and a robust focus on Locally Led Adaptation Actions that leverage the unique contexts and perspectives of the continent and the rich array of indigenous and traditional knowledge for innovative solutions that are intergenerational.

PACJA acknowledges the transformative power of youth and women in steering the climate justice movement. Our commitment at COP 28 is to amplify

<sup>2</sup> <https://pacja.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://aacj.africa/>

these voices, recognizing them as catalysts for change. PACJA actively supports locally led adaptation initiatives, empowering communities to determine and implement solutions that resonate with their unique contexts through the Climate Justice and Resilience Facility for Africa that disburses small grants to communities across our areas of work to co-create, innovate, and drive toward local initiatives that enable them to build their resilience, improve their livelihoods and scale up albeit with a learning component that builds well-capacitated movements.

The Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice initiative under PACJA remains steadfast in this approach. It builds on the more than 1000 young people who have been trained from across Africa and beyond on climate change and related elements of inclusion, climate justice, sectoral linkages and a broad nexus that connects communities and a call to action forming formidable alliances by the summer schools' alumni. This line of work is encouraged by the Africa Youth Commission (AYC)<sup>4</sup> and the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)<sup>5</sup> under the AACJ project that is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>6</sup> in leading transformative work on youth and women-led advocacy approaches and influencing.

PACJA aligns itself with Africa's common position on health and climate change, recognizing the interdependence of environmental and public health. The convergence strengthens our resolve to advocate for policies that prioritize our planet's well-being and our communities' health. PACJA also acknowledges the intricate linkages between climate change and security, advocating for holistic approaches at COP 28 that integrate environmental sustainability and peacebuilding in close reflection of recent challenges



## What is Climate Justice?

Climate justice is understood in many ways and reflects the causes and effects of climate change, as well as efforts to tackle it and raise ethical, equity, and rights issues. These differences in the understanding of climate justice matter because they have serious implications for those countries, regions, and communities on the front line of the impacts of climate change. They are also increasingly apparent in efforts to accelerate decarbonization.

<sup>4</sup> <https://africanyouthcommission.org/new/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.femnet.org/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs>

<sup>7</sup> <https://naturaljustice.org/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.oxfamnovib.nl/>

on the geo-political front and related interconnectedness of forced migration, stability and the humanitarian crisis exacerbated by the climate crisis.

At COP 28, PACJA emphasizes the imperative of a robust Global Stocktake for evaluation, accountability, and action. Loss and damage, a stark reality for vulnerable communities, demands profound commitment and tangible solutions which the 28th convening of the Parties must address, particularly in operationalizing and replenishing the Loss and Damage fund. Environmental rights of communities and the protection of human rights defenders are critical components towards advancing the push for climate justice in pursuit of frameworks that also support their inclusion in decision-making which are strong suits that Natural Justice<sup>7</sup> and Oxfam Novib<sup>8</sup> are passionate about as the lead partners in AACJ in also providing digital platforms that connect environmental and human rights defenders under the Power of Voices partnerships.

PACJA's position at COP 28 transcends rhetoric, demanding concrete actions that reflect the severity of the climate crisis. It is a call for unity, justice, and a future where the burden of climate change is equitably shared. The challenges are immense, but with unity, resilience, and unwavering commitment, we can transcend the barriers and pave the way for a world that prioritizes the well-being of people and the planet.

### Phillip Dinga

Policy and Advocacy Lead  
African Activists for Climate Justice.

**Email:** [philldinga@gmail.com](mailto:philldinga@gmail.com)



## Why Transformative Climate Justice?

Transformative climate justice focuses on disrupting dominant power relations and shifting decision-making processes that lock in and reproduce injustices. It helps to provide a stronger integration of social justice in relation to the causes of climate change, as well as responses to it in the form of mitigation (just transitions) and adaptation (just responses to disasters and structural drivers behind vulnerability) – moving beyond the 'silos' of mitigation and adaptation. Transformative versions of climate justice engage with the roots of the climate crisis in economic and social injustices and seek to understand how they are affected and enacted at various scales and domains. Addressing structural causes means dealing with historical injustices through loss and damage, and protecting the resource rights of indigenous and marginalized communities, as well as the human rights of environmental defenders fighting at the frontiers of fossil fuel expansion.

# Subscribe to Joto Afrika

Each issue will be available on the ALIN website ([www.alin.net](http://www.alin.net)). You can subscribe by sending an email to [jotoafrika@alin.net](mailto:jotoafrika@alin.net). Please include your organisation and your full postal address.

Please tell us what you think about this 26th issue of Joto Afrika and what you would like to read in future issues



This edition is produced by ALIN with financial support from the SouthSouthNorth (SSN) through the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) Programme. Articles from Joto Afrika may be re-used, provided the materials are distributed free of charge and the author(s) are credited. Please send copies to ALIN. Views expressed in Joto Afrika do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or ALIN, SouthSouthNorth (SSN) and the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) Programme.

**Guest Editor,**  
Elvin Nyukuri (Ph.D)  
Climate Change/Environmental Governance and Policy Analysis

**Chief Editor**  
James Nguo – ALIN

**Editorial Coordinator**  
Bob Aston - ALIN

**Editorial Team Member**  
Paskwalina Morris, ALIN

**Consulting Editor**  
Getrude Lungahi

**Joto Afrika**  
Arid Lands Information Network  
P.O. BOX 10098-00100 G.P.O. Nairobi, Kenya  
**Tel:** +254 20 2731557  
**SMS:** +254 717032322  
**Email:** [jotoafrika@alin.net](mailto:jotoafrika@alin.net)  
**ISSN:** 2075-5562

**Layout and Design:**  
Click Image Press  
**Email:** [info@cip.co.ke](mailto:info@cip.co.ke)

