

CLIMATE JUSTICE AFRICA

Magazine



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INCLUSIVE PATHWAYS TO
CLIMATE JUSTICE





TABLE OF CONTENT

- Editorial Note
- Spotlight
- Green Borders Sustainability Initiative – COWA
- Thought Leadership
- Climate Fact File
- Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
- Advert
- Senegal Coastal Women and the Fight for Climate Justice
- Green Conversations
- World Environment Day Debates for Secondary Schools
- Green Verses - Making it Green
- Green Conversations
- Advert
- Ensuring No one is Left Behind
- IDP Camp Environmental Sustainability Project
- Disability, Albinism and Climate Change
- Climate Justice Missing Piece: Disability Inclusion
- Advert
- Community Power, Youth Innovation and Equitable Water Systems
- Human Face of Climate Change
- L’Afrique en première ligne aux COP
- Building Africa’s Resilience
- Advert
- How Climate Change Intersects with Social Challenges
- Empowering Refugees through Climate
- An Inclusive and Just Energy Transition for Niger-Delta
Extractive - Communities in Nigeria
- Advert

Editorial Note

Dear Reader,

Welcome to Climate Justice Africa Magazine. A confident platform dedicated to spotlighting African voices, visions and victories in the move for climate justice.

Africa stands at a defining moment where climate justice must rise beyond rhetoric to become a movement of inclusion, equity, and purpose. This edition, themed “Inclusive Pathways to Climate Justice,” champions the power of shared voices; the women, youth, innovators, and visionaries shaping our continent’s green destiny.

At Climate Justice Africa Magazine, we affirm that true leadership is measured not by titles, but by impact; not by privilege, but by participation.

Let this issue inspire every reader, policy shapers, advocates, and change makers to walk boldly in the path of justice and stewardship for our planet.

In Shared Purpose,
Joy Ify Onyekwere
Editor-in-Chief
Climate Justice Africa Magazine



SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Othniel Yila

Othniel Yila PhD, is a climate finance practitioner and development professional with interdisciplinary skillsets and a global reach. He is presently the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Uganda, where he provides strategic and technical guidance to the Government of Uganda to enhance and strengthen the country's institutional processes and structures to seek, receive and utilize climate finance. He previously served in the same capacity in Zambia and the Kingdom of Tonga.

Othniel has brought a remarkable record of achievement in mobilizing over USD 142 million in climate finance in the last seven years. He has contributed in supporting the accreditation of many entities as Delivery Partners (DP) or Direct Accredited Entities (DAE) to the Green Climate Fund.

Under the NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) initiative, Othniel delivered targeted support for the enhancement and implementation of NDC in Zambia. Climate finance being a crucial aspect in achieving the ambitious NDC targets, Othniel delivered two landmark climate finance related knowledge deliverable; Climate Finance Mapping for NDC Implementation in Zambia, and the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Climate Finance for Zambia. These works have generated considerable interest in the aspect of enhancing access to finance for NDC implementation as well serving as a comprehensive knowledge base for stakeholders and systems required for financing climate action.

Othniel has over 25 years' experience working across sectors on a wide range of climate change, environment, and sustainable development issues and has held full-time positions in nine countries namely; Uganda, Belgium, Zambia, Tonga, Kenya, Tanzania, Fiji, Thailand and Nigeria in inter-governmental organizations, policy research think tanks, academia, NGOs, government and international non-profit organizations.



Dr. Othniel Yila

Othniel has in-depth knowledge and experience of the landscape of adaptation and mitigation under the UNFCCC. He has contributed towards the evolution of the main instruments for supporting countries on adaptation, such as the national adaptation plans. He has also contributed towards the development of technical tools and methodologies, and the capacity-building of the SIDS and LDCs to effectively lay the foundation for and implement adaptation and mitigation actions.

Othniel is one of the three experts who undertook the “Scoping and design of a Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Hub and Response Mechanism” work for the Commonwealth Secretariat, the report which was endorsed by the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2015 in Malta that led to the establishment in 2016 of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH). In 2015, Othniel also led the Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition sector component on the UNEP Expert Group on Operationalization of the Green Economy transition in Africa. In 2016, Othniel authored an FAO-funded landmark work “Investment strategies for Agroecology & Ecological Organic Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa”.

Cultivating Change: How Mrs. Kikelomo Adeniyi is Planting a Greener, More Prosperous Future for Nigeria's Borderlands



In the often-overlooked spaces where nations meet, a quiet revolution is taking root. Spearheaded by Mrs. Kikelomo Adeniyi, National President of the Customs Officers' Wives Association (COWA), the Green Borders Sustainability Initiative is reimagining Nigeria's frontier communities not as outposts of challenge, but as heartlands of opportunity.

Moving far beyond symbolic gestures, this ambitious project is a holistic blueprint for empowerment, fusing environmental stewardship with economic inclusion for women and youth. At its helm, Mrs. Adeniyi is not just an advocate; she is an architect of a more sustainable and equitable future.



Mrs. Kikelomo Adeniyi,
National President of the
Customs Officers' Wives
Association (COWA)

A Vision Rooted in Action

“This is not just about planting trees,” Mrs. Adeniyi declared at the recent COWA Sustainability and Green Borders Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria. “It’s about planting hope, growing opportunities, and cultivating responsibility.” This powerful statement captures the essence of the Green Borders Initiative. It’s a direct response to stark realities uncovered by a recent Green Barrack Audit, which found that a majority of border communities lack access to fundamental resources like clean water and electricity, while their ecosystems are threatened by deforestation and illicit trade.





Mrs. Adeniyi's vision, however, is defined by its solutions-oriented approach. The cornerstone of this vision is the forthcoming COWA Sustainability and Innovation Centre in Abuja. Designed as a national hub for green excellence, the centre will feature:

- A Green Skills Academy training women and youth in solar energy installation and waste recycling.
- An Innovation and Research Lab dedicated to developing sustainable technologies for local challenges.
- A Green Enterprise Hub incubating businesses in eco-fashion, upcycling, and renewable energy.

This centre is more than a building; it is a promise. It's a promise that the people of Nigeria's border regions will be the primary agents and beneficiaries of their own green economic transformation.



A Leader's Call for Partnership

Mrs. Adeniyi's leadership shines through in her ability to frame this initiative as a national priority. She has positioned COWA as a pivotal bridge between government agencies, local communities, and the private sector. Her call to action is a compelling invitation for collaboration.

This sentiment was powerfully echoed by the Comptroller-General of Customs, Adewale Adeniyi, who championed a paradigm shift in how the nation views its borders. "We need to stop treating border communities like problems to be managed and start treating them like partners to be invested in," he urged, aligning the Nigeria Customs Service's modernization agenda with the initiative's goals.

A Movement, Not Just a Moment

The Green Borders Initiative stands out because it is built for lasting impact. It connects the dots between environmental health, economic empowerment, and national security in a way that is both practical and profound. By equipping women and youth with the skills to build sustainable livelihoods, the project tackles the root causes of poverty and instability, fostering a new generation of "Champions of Sustainable Trade."

Under Mrs. Kikelomo Adeniyi's decisive leadership, the Green Borders Sustainability Initiative is more than a program—it's a growing movement. It's a testament to the power of visionary thinking to cultivate a Nigeria where its borders are not just green on a map, but thriving, prosperous, and secure for all who call them home.

Thought Leadership



Kehinde
Adeyemi

Kehinde Adeyemi is a built industry professional, a digital construction advocate and a climate sustainability champion. As an industry expert, he actively lends effort beyond his core career to advocate sustainable practices in the built environment.

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Human activities remain a major driver of Climate change that impacts every aspect of our daily lives and ecosystems. As of 2025, Sustainability and the future of generations unborn continue to be threatened through activities of fossil fuel combustion, excessive waste generation, deforestation, industrial processes, natural resource depletion, built industry construction and allied infrastructure lifecycle operations and termination.

In a 2022 UNEP report, buildings and transportation demand and operations were shown to be leading contributors both in energy demand and global energy and process emissions, with building related operations, a basic human shelter requirement, contributing about 37% of emissions in 2024 with transportation and other related sources accounting for 63%.

However, this reality is not only global; but decisively African. Over the next quarter-century, Sub-Saharan Africa will contribute more than half of the world's population growth. By mid-century, the continent's urban population is projected to double, from about 704 million today to approximately 1.4 billion, with two out of three Africans living in cities.

This demographic and urban surge — unprecedented in scale and speed — will shape global markets for materials, housing, transport, utilities, and with them, global emissions trajectories.

Africa contributes less than 3% of global CO₂ emissions, yet it shoulders some of the harshest climate impacts—from deadly heatwaves and droughts to floods and coastal erosion. This injustice is also an opportunity: Africa can urbanize and industrialize without repeating the world's carbon-heavy mistakes.

Now is the time to act. African Stakeholders must champion sustainability, rise with resilience, and adopt a climate-first development model tailored to its unique environments. Leaders must make strong policies and standards, Innovators must evolve materials and embrace circularity, financiers should prioritize climate conscious investments, and the entire continent must digitize and explore cross-border climate markets.

Africa must not play second fiddle. This is our moment to lead, to transform, and to secure a climate-smart future for Africa, and for the world.

Climate Fact File

Simplifying Climate Conversations for Everyday People

Climate Fact File is a weekly radio program that breaks down complex climate issues into simple, relatable conversations for the everyday listener. Hosted by the Founder of Climate Justice Africa Magazine, Joy Ify Onyekwere, the show explores climate change impacts, policies, and solutions with insights from experts and changemakers across Africa. It also raises awareness, inspire action, and empower communities to take part in building a sustainable future.

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Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, Backs Vision for Sustainable Borders



Bashir Adewale

Comptroller-General of
the Nigeria Customs
Service (NCS)

The Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, is not just talking about securing Nigeria's borders; he is championing a visionary plan to make them thrive. His philosophy is as simple as it is revolutionary: the path to a secure nation is paved with green enterprise and empowered border communities.

Speaking at the recent Customs Officers' Wives Association (COWA) Sustainability and Green Borders Summit in Abuja, CGC Adeniyi laid out a compelling case for a paradigm shift. He urged a move away from viewing border regions as lawless frontiers to be policed, and instead, to see them as fertile ground for opportunity, investment, and sustainable growth.

A New Vision: From Problems to Partners

At the heart of CGC Adeniyi's strategy is a profound belief in the people of the borderlands. "We need to stop treating border communities like problems to be managed and start treating them like partners to be invested in," he declared. This statement forms the cornerstone of his humane and

pragmatic approach. He recognizes that security is not solely achieved through force, but through fostering legitimate prosperity.

“Every young person that we employ in a legitimate venture is someone we have kept out of the reach of traffickers,” Adeniyi stated, highlighting the proactive nature of his vision. “Prevention is cheaper than enforcement, and it is more humane.”

This perspective reframes the entire challenge. It’s no longer just about intercepting smugglers, but about eliminating the very conditions that make smuggling an attractive option. By addressing the root causes—poverty, lack of opportunity, and environmental neglect—the Nigeria Customs Service, under his leadership, aims to build a more resilient and secure border economy from the ground up.

From Rhetoric to Action: The Call for a “Green Border” Revolution

The Comptroller-General was unequivocal in his call for tangible action. He made it clear that the time for mere discussions is over. “Let me be direct about what we need to do,” he began. “First, we need to move from talking about green borders to actually building them. That means funding, heavy funding, not promises, not committees, not endless panel discussions. We need money that can reach women and young people on the ground, the ones doing the actual work.”

This bold call to action underscores his commitment to seeing real change in the lives of those in border communities. He envisions a future where “green borders” are not just an environmental concept but an economic engine, driven by eco-enterprises, youth employment, and targeted infrastructure.

Lamenting the current state of many border towns, Adeniyi painted a vivid picture of the challenge: “When you drive through our border towns, what do you see? Mountains of waste, young people with no opportunities, communities left behind. Smugglers find recruits not because people are criminals, but because survival looks different when you live on the edge of environmental collapse.”

At The Mercy of Rising Seas: Senegal's Coastal Women and the Fight for Climate Justice



Ramatoulaye
Corr  a

Disclaimer:

This article is based on personal field interviews and additional documented examples from public sources.

All testimonies and scenes described below reflect real events as told by community members and have been documented with their permission and insights.

Introduction

In Mouit, a coastal village in northern Senegal, life by the ocean once meant beauty and abundance: the sound of waves at dawn, the breeze carrying the promise of fish, and generations growing up with the sea as their horizon. Yet for many women, this cherished proximity has turned into peril.

They described to me what it feels like to wake up with the ocean invading your home. Their voices were calm but heavy with loss: one carried her grandmother through floodwater; another held her children as the walls

collapsed. By dawn, their houses had vanished, and families were forced to relocate inland, leaving behind the only homes they had ever known. For them, climate change is not tomorrow's threat, it is last night's reality.

As we listened, together with other volunteers from the Climate Linguère Club, we felt an overwhelming sadness and a quiet rage at the injustice. These families had done nothing to cause climate change, yet they were left to face its worst consequences with little support. The women told us about promises of help that never came, of officials who vowed to relocate them or build seawalls but delivered nothing. Despite this situation, the women of Mouit welcomed us generously. I felt grateful, humbled that they trusted us, strangers, with their stories and hopes. That afternoon, I promised myself to carry their voices beyond that village.

Leaving the office and stepping into the field is sometimes the only way to grasp the true nature of this crisis. Listening to the women of Mouit made one thing undeniable: for our African countries, the most urgent challenge is not abstract debates on carbon emissions or scientific targets, but the concrete question of adaptation. It is about survival, dignity, and ensuring that communities on the frontlines are heard and supported.

Their stories remind us that climate action must start by honouring those already living through disaster, and by fighting alongside them for just and effective adaptation. In these coastal communities, it also became clear that women carry a double burden: protecting both their families and their livelihoods against the climate crisis.

A Double Burden: Gendered Economic Exposure & Informality

In places like Saint-Louis or Bargny, women are the backbone of coastal life. They nurture families, keep communities connected, and sustain local economies through their work. In traditional fishing villages, while men

venture out to sea, it is often women who buy, smoke, process, and sell the catch, ensuring food security and income for households. Yet this vital role makes them especially vulnerable: when floods strike in the middle of the night, it is these same women who rush to rescue their children, and when the ocean advances or fish stocks collapse, their livelihoods can vanish almost instantly. Zooming out to the national picture, we see that Senegal's women are indeed at the heart of its economy, and at the forefront of its vulnerabilities. Women make up nearly half of Senegal's population, and they form the backbone of the informal economy that most families depend on.

It has been reported that roughly seven in ten Senegalese women work in what's termed "vulnerable employment, jobs that are precarious, low-paying, and lacking basic security. Whether it's selling produce in the market, processing fish by the shore, or tending urban vegetable gardens, most of these women work without contracts, insurance, or any formal safety net.

In fact, between 2015 and 2019 about 80% of employed women in Senegal were working in the informal sector, with no protections like pensions or paid leave. Paradoxically, this strong and industrious segment of society is also among the most exposed to shocks. When a flood or coastal erosion event strikes, it is these informal market traders, fish processors, and home-based entrepreneurs who risk losing everything, and who have the least resources to rebuild. A single high tide can sweep away years of savings invested in a fish-drying business.

A sudden flood can destroy stock, equipment, and storehouses that were never insured or registered. Women in the informal sector risk being pushed deeper into poverty, not for lack of effort or initiative or skill but because the system offers them no safety net.

As climate change intensifies, vulnerability cannot be understood through gender alone. Age, disability, and social status often determine who is

most exposed and who has the fewest options when disaster strikes. Older women living the difficulty of fleeing sudden floods or even women living with disabilities are often invisible in adaptation programs, facing barriers to relocation or livelihood support. And for families already living in poverty, the loss of even a modest home or fish-smoking shed can erase years of effort. Men too are affected as fish stocks decline and traditional livelihoods erode, forcing difficult decisions about migration or new forms of work.

As fish stocks collapse along Senegal's coast, men's roles in coastal households are also shifting. Many migrate seasonally to Dakar or abroad, seeking income through construction or informal labor. While remittances help, their absence leaves women with heavier responsibility for feeding families, sustaining local economies, and caring for children and the elderly. This imbalance adds another layer to the injustice: climate shocks are not only destroying livelihoods, they are reshaping households in ways that deepen women's already disproportionate burdens.

Building true resilience in Senegal will mean to support these women with recovery funds, micro-insurance and capacities to adapt. Protecting their livelihoods is protecting the survival and dignity of the entire community.

Climate Justice: Those Who Did Least are Suffering Most

All of this leads us to the heart of the matter: climate justice. For communities, climate change is not an abstract debate about carbon budgets: it is an everyday fight for the right to live and adapt in the face of a crisis they did nothing to cause. These families have contributed almost nothing to the greenhouse gas emissions that drive sea-level rise, yet they are the ones watching their homes and hopes to get washed away by the encroaching ocean. This stark inequality is what climate justice is about. It's not only about cutting emissions in wealthy, industrialized nations; it's about fairness and support on the frontlines of the climate emergency. Climate justice means

recognizing that a mother in Senegal, who never asked for a changing climate, shouldn't have to face its fury alone. It means ensuring that those who are most affected, especially women caregivers and breadwinners at the coast, get the resources and support they need to protect their families and livelihoods as the environment around them shifts.

A fisherwoman from Mouit captured the depth of this injustice: many women risk, and sometimes lose, their lives venturing farther into the sea to gather oysters without training or equipment.

"We've been losing a lot of women", she simply said because they never had the chance at safer work, education, access to finance or inclusion in their community's future.

Inclusive pathways to justice

True climate justice would bridge the gap between the resilience of frontline communities and the resources they're provided. The women and men living through Senegal and West Africa's coast erosion crisis have shown remarkable strength and ingenuity: from organizing local youth to fill sandbags, to creating rotating savings groups to help each other after disasters. What they lack are the funds, infrastructure, and larger-scale support to match their resilience.

Bridging this gap starts with amplifying women's voices so that adaptation funds and policies reach those who need them most.

Access to Adaptation Finance

A persistent barrier for frontline communities is financial exclusion. Women often lack collateral and formal credit, limiting their ability to invest in climate resilience. To Afi Global, nearly 980 million women worldwide are excluded from formal finance systems, contributing to a 9% gender gap in access across developing countries.

To bridge this gap, stakeholders can co-create a locally-led adaptation initiatives that channels adaptation resources directly to women-led community initiatives. Tailored micro-credit schemes, women-focused climate funds, and community cooperatives are proven approaches.

For example, in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire, projects have organized women's savings and credit associations and even set up "climate solidarity" loan lines to fund women's adaptation initiatives. Such gender-informed financing not only empowers women to lead local projects but also yields high returns in community resilience.

Notably, global climate finance remains skewed; observers noted that only 2% of climate finance flows in 2019,2020 were gender-responsive. Prioritizing women's access to adaptation funds isn't just about equity; it makes climate action more effective by unlocking the skills and knowledge of half the population.

Relocation with Dignity

As seas rise, relocation has become inevitable for some coastal communities. However, justice depends on how it is done.

Moving people to higher ground is not enough; schools, jobs, social connection must move with them. Past adaptation efforts in Senegal show why promises often to fall short. A e75 million seawall in Saint-Louis protected the tourist quarter but left fishing families exposed, while more than 10,000 people relocated to Khar Yalla found no schools, clinics, or jobs and reported feeling abandoned.

With camp with no state-run school many children simply stopped attending; Human Rights Watch found about a third are now out of school, with most households pushed below the poverty line. Girls are hit hardest: parents describe daughters leaving studies to work in Dakar or support family

expenses. Without schools or services in relocation sites, displacement forces children, especially girls, out of the classroom and into cycles of poverty and inequality. True climate justice demands relocation with dignity: planned with community's voices at the table and designed to strengthen well-being rather than strip it away.

Sustainable Livelihoods

Building climate justice is also about creating new, resilient ways for families to earn a living. In coastal Senegal, women are pioneering sustainable livelihoods that both adapt to climate change and strengthen the environment.

For generations, women fish processors have smoked and dried fish; in fact, about 90% of traditional fish processing work in Senegal is done by women, often supporting large families. Today, with fish catches declining and wood for smoking scarce, women are innovating. Some have adopted eco-friendly fish processing techniques, such as improved smoke ovens that use 40% less fuel (reducing deforestation and toxic smoke).

Others are diversifying into aquaculture and agro-forestry. In the Sine Saloum delta, a women's cooperative shifted from solely harvesting wild oysters to farming them and added beekeeping to their repertoire. The results are striking: by marketing honey and oyster products, these women quadrupled their daily income (from around e8 to e33) and reduced pressure on mangroves.

Across West Africa, women-led groups are leading mangrove restoration projects, replanting mangroves that shield coasts from storms and serve as fish nurseries. Senegal's authorities, for example, are working with local women to restore parts of the country's 200,000 hectares of mangroves. Yet these changes have also opened space for collaboration. Some men who remain are adapting alongside women, turning to boat-building,

aquaculture, or joining mangrove restoration projects once seen as “women’s work.” In places like the Sine Saloum, mixed groups now replant mangroves and share the income from oyster and honey production.

These efforts create jobs (the oyster sector alone provides ~6,000 jobs in Senegal, with women as 90% of the workforce) and protect livelihoods long-term. When women are supported to launch sustainable enterprises, from eco-tourism to climate-smart agriculture, the whole community becomes more resilient. Ensuring adaptation finance reaches such grassroots women’s initiatives is key to scaling these successes.

Still, resilience on the ground can only go so far without stronger support from above. Communities have heard many commitments over the years, but too often these have faltered because of weak planning, limited resources, or competing priorities.

Past adaptation efforts in Senegal show why so many bold promises have struggled to deliver real change. Expensive seawalls and relocation schemes have often fallen short because planning was weak, services were missing, and governance was fragmented. In Saint-Louis, for instance, a World Bank-backed seawall shielded the city center but left nearby fishing families exposed, while those moved to Khar Yalla arrived to find no schools, clinics, or jobs; and soon felt abandoned.

These experiences reflect deeper challenges: overstretched local authorities, heavy dependence on external donors, and a tendency to favor large investment projects over the needs of vulnerable households. For a Coastal Women’s Climate Fund to truly work, Senegal would need to address these barriers by anchoring the fund in law, ensuring transparent oversight, securing reliable domestic financing, and guaranteeing women a strong voice in its governance. Only then can communities trust that commitments will be honored and resilience on the ground matched by justice in policy.

Conclusion

Senegal's coastal women know their fight is Africa's fight. As a climate activist, I saw this resilience up close. I sat with women who have moved their homes inland twice in a decade yet still refuse to surrender their ancestral shoreline. They spoke of loss, crumbling houses, saltwater invading vegetable plots but also of defiance: planting cassava in sandy soil to make the land hold a little longer.

I imagine a dawn in 2035 where Senegal's coastline is alive with restored mangroves, thriving markets, and laughter. In this vision, every relocation is planned with dignity, not forced by disaster, and the phrase "climate refugee" has faded into history. The sea still rises, but so do the people, united, hopeful, and heard.

But this future will only come if leaders match community resilience with bold policies. Governments must integrate gender quotas into relocation planning, earmark adaptation funds for women-led enterprises, and enforce coastal regulations to curb illegal fishing and unchecked development. Donors and global polluters must honor their climate finance commitments, channeling resources to locally-led solutions rather than distant bureaucracies. Municipal authorities must invest in infrastructure that protects homes, schools, and clinics in vulnerable zones.

The women on the frontlines have already done their part. They innovate, they rebuild, they protect ecosystems that sustain entire nations. Now it is time for governments, regional bodies, and international partners to do theirs, turning grassroots resilience into concrete climate justice, before the next wave arrives.

Green Conversations

Climate Justice Africa Magazine Founder, Ms. Joy Ify Onyekwere Leading the Technical Panel on Green Livelihoods at COWA Green Borders Summit 2025. The conversation was themed “Green Borders: Women and Youth as Drivers of Green Livelihoods”. The session spotlighted innovative approaches to empowering women and youth in advancing sustainable livelihoods and fostering climate-resilient border communities.





Green Conversations





Green Conversations



C-Circle Foundation for Sustainable Health and Environment World Environment Day Debates for Secondary Schools

<https://c-circlefoundation.org/>









Green Verses - Making it Green

By Dr. Tobias Opiyo Arudo (PhD) – Kenya

There is no time I have seen it easy
No time everything turned easy
Turning brown earth green
That cannot be easy
It calls for ease of mind and reflection
It calls for reflection to inject new ideas of bringing change
That is why Janam Model Farm is calling you to join us
As we work in response to climate change

Climate change is real turning green trees into brown sticks and wood
So dry, so brown ready to light
Ready to be chopped and used for fuel
Some days hot, some day's cold
Others flooding, others just too dry
They blame it all on climate change
Traumatic and unpredictable
Still we may do something if only we may try

Don't give up because you want it green
You may think the end has come because there is nothing green
As human you have the capacity to turn it green
As human you may get ideas to respond to climate change
Because you have capacity to bring that change



In need of a
VISA
but don't have
any support?
worry no more

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Climate Inclusion in Nigeria: Ensuring No One Is Left Behind



Debra Ruh

– Executive
Chair, Ruh
Global Impact
& Founder, Bil-
lion Strong

Climate change impacts us all, but it does not affect us equally. In Nigeria, as in many parts of the world, the most vulnerable, poorer communities, older people, persons with disabilities, and children often bear the heaviest burdens. From flooding in coastal areas to droughts affecting rural livelihoods, those with the least resources are the least able to adapt.

That is why climate inclusion is so important for Nigeria's future. Inclusive climate action ensures that every Nigerian, regardless of age, ability, or income level, is part of the solution. This means having accessible early warning systems, disaster responses that reach everyone, and policies that prioritize the needs of vulnerable groups.

By including all voices, Nigeria can build climate resilience that is both equitable and effective.

Looking ahead, artificial intelligence (AI) offers powerful new opportunities. With an AI4Good approach, Nigeria can leverage technology to map climate risks more accurately, enhance agricultural systems, and develop community-based solutions that leave no one behind. AI cannot replace human wisdom, but it can amplify our efforts to ensure that climate strategies work for all Nigerians, not just the privileged few.

If we place inclusion at the heart of climate action, Nigeria can set an example for the world; showing that resilience, equity, and innovation go hand in hand.

Environmental Sustainability Project at Area 1 IDP Camp, Abuja, Nigeria

Project Overview

The Environmental Sustainability Project at the Area 1 IDP Camp transformed lives by addressing environmental challenges such as poor sanitation, unsafe cooking practices and waste management practices. It promoted green innovation and environmental awareness; ensuring displaced persons live in healthier, more sustainable conditions.

Key Project Interventions

1. Eco-Friendly Cook stoves

Improved cook stoves have cut firewood use, reduced indoor air pollution, and improved health outcomes, especially for women and children. The Facilitator from Heela Green trained women on the production of Briquettes.

2. Waste Management and Recycling

Residents received training on waste sorting, composting, and recycling, turning waste into valuable resources. Memz Culture showed the women how to upscale with plastic turning waste to wealth.

3. Environmental Education & Awareness

Community awareness sessions have built knowledge in hygiene, waste management, and sustainable living practices.

Project Impact

Impact Area

Results

Waste Management	Improved sanitation and community-led recycling and up scaling
Empowerment	Increased knowledge on biofuel production
Community Engagement	Over 25% of residents actively participating in Saturday drills and sanitation programme.

Voices from the Camp

“Before this project, I didn’t know that I could use plastic container to make earrings and bangles, now I can make them and sell and make money for my family and I can also make sure the camp is clean”

– Amina, IDP Camp Resident

“The women have learnt how to keep the camp clean and have learnt how to empower themselves, I want to thank you all for empowering the community.”

– Community Leader, Area 1 IDP Camp

Partnerships and Collaboration

This initiative was made possible through collaboration between different Local NGOs and private partners promoting renewable energy solutions.

Sustainability and Next Steps

- Establishing a Community Green Committee
- Expanding recycling and composting programs
- Integrating environmental education into youth programs
- Strengthening partnerships with government agencies and NGOs for long-term sustainability

Conclusion

The Environmental Sustainability Project at the Area 1 IDP Camp demonstrates that displaced communities can lead environmental change when equipped with knowledge and tools. It’s a story of hope, innovation, and community transformation.

We hope to do more for those living in displaced communities together we leave no one behind

Disability, Albinism, and Climate Change in Namibia



Rozaline
Joseph

Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is a reality that is transforming lives and livelihoods across Namibia. While every Namibian is affected, some communities bear a disproportionate burden. Among the most vulnerable are persons with disabilities, whose experiences shed light on the intersection of environmental, social, and health challenges.

Moreover, the impacts of climate change do not fall equally on everyone. According to firsthand accounts, individuals with disabilities in Namibia already face significant barriers to education, healthcare, and employment. Now, worsening environmental conditions are magnifying these challenges. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather events are making it harder for people with physical or sensory disabilities to access essential services. For many, traversing flooded paths or sandy roads to reach clinics or schools becomes nearly impossible, especially in rural areas with limited infrastructure.

In addition, during emergencies, the lack of accessible warnings and evacuation instructions further endangers those with sensory disabilities, highlighting a critical gap in the country's disaster response systems.

Furthermore, being a person with albinism, which is a genetic condition marked by little or no melanin production, brings its own set of health risks. In Namibia's harsh and intensifying sun, people with albinism face daily threats of severe sunburn, skin cancer, and eye damage. Finding affordable sunscreen and protective hats is a struggle, especially during drought or economic hardship, for many families, these essential items are simply out of reach. Lack of public awareness and accessible information about sun exposure risks compounds the problem, leaving those with albinism particularly vulnerable as Namibia's climate becomes hotter and drier.

Simultaneously, women with disabilities, including those with albinism, are at the crossroads of multiple forms of discrimination. Gender inequality remains a pressing concern in Namibia, with women often shouldering the burdens of poverty, resource scarcity, and social exclusion. Climate change only deepens these inequalities. For instance, when water sources dry up, it is typically women and girls who must travel farther to collect water, a task made even harder for those with mobility or visual impairments.

Meanwhile, stigma and myths surrounding albinism persist in many communities, leading to isolation and, in times of crisis, increased vulnerability. As climate pressures mount and resources become scarcer, social tensions can rise, leaving marginalized groups further at risk.

Nevertheless, despite these obstacles, many women with disabilities in Namibia display remarkable resilience. Advocacy is crucial, they say, for ensuring that climate adaptation efforts are truly inclusive. We need our government and NGOs to design strategies that understand and address our unique needs. This includes accessible public health campaigns, affordable sun protection, and emergency response systems that reach everyone.

Furthermore, there is also a call for greater representation in decision-making. “Our voices matter. Including people with disabilities in discussions about the environment and climate solutions will help build a more resilient Namibia for all.

In conclusion, climate change is not just an environmental problem; it is a question of social justice. As Namibia confronts the realities of a changing climate, it must also recognize and address the unique vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities. Only by doing so can the nation ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a sustainable future.

Climate Justice Missing Piece: Disability Inclusion

*Overlooked Vulnerabilities
in a Changing Climate*



Puneet Singh
Singhal - India

Environmental justice discussions often overlook a significant group: people with disabilities. Consider the concept of “range anxiety” — the fear that an electric vehicle might run out of battery. For someone using a motorized wheelchair, range anxiety is just as real, but it’s about a mobility device losing power during a blackout or evacuation. Access to reliable electricity becomes a lifeline. This scenario highlights a broader oversight: individuals with disabilities face unique and heightened risks from climate change and environmental disruptions. Limited resources and lack of representation have made people with disabilities more vulnerable to climate hazards. Unpredictable power grid failures, extreme weather events, and climate-related health threats hit these communities especially hard. Yet the intersection of disability and climate risk remains largely under-researched and receives little priority from either environmental or disability advocacy organizations.

People with disabilities often experience existing health conditions that climate impacts can intensify. For example, certain neuromuscular diseases can leave individuals immunocompromised or prone to cardiopulmonary issues. Air pollution — a top environmental health threat — exacerbates respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, posing an even greater danger to those with pre-existing vulnerabilities. Moreover, adapting to emergencies can be far more difficult for persons with physical or cognitive disabilities. Tasks like finding safe shelter during a heatwave, evacuating during a flood, or enduring a prolonged power outage without medical equipment are significantly more challenging when accessibility is limited.

A study by Harvard Law School found that persons with disabilities are two to four times more likely to be injured or die in climate-related disasters compared to others. In the United States, nearly 59% of Deaf evacuees never returned to their homes after major disasters — over four times the rate of hearing evacuees. These stark statistics stem from factors like inaccessible emergency infrastructure, communication barriers, inadequate healthcare support, and the chronic effects of poverty and discrimination. In short, climate hazards magnify existing social and economic disparities for people with disabilities, turning a crisis into an even more disproportionate burden.

Gaps in Research and Representation

Encouragingly, international frameworks have begun to acknowledge the link between disability and climate vulnerability. Agreements and reports from bodies like the United Nations (including the Paris Agreement and the IPCC) note that climate change impacts marginalized groups — persons with disabilities included. However, acknowledging the problem is only a first step. There remains a significant information gap regarding how climate change specifically affects disabled communities. Few public studies or educational materials address this intersection in depth, especially within local or national contexts. As a result, a substantial portion of the population is left ill-prepared to deal with worsening climate risks.

This gap is compounded by the lack of representation of disabled individuals in climate research and policy discussions. Disabled communities are often excluded from the very research meant to inform climate resilience strategies. Most existing studies on climate vulnerability among people with disabilities are narrow in scope or focused on regions outside of places like the United States. They often emphasize immediate disaster response (such as evacuation and emergency shelter) without covering the full spectrum of climate-related challenges — from chronic health effects to long-term recovery and economic impacts. When people with disabilities are not at the table or in the data, their needs and perspectives can easily be overlooked. This missing context means environmental analyses and climate plans may ignore crucial considerations like accessible evacuation transportation, backup power for medical devices, or tailored public health advisories. In essence, a huge piece of the climate resilience puzzle is absent.

Building an Inclusive Climate Movement

Achieving true environmental justice requires inclusive representation. Having a voice at the table isn't just a token gesture; it ensures that decision-making is fully informed by the lived experiences of all affected communities. Currently, people with disabilities are severely underrepresented in environmental policy and advocacy spaces. This underrepresentation weakens overall climate action, because a community that isn't included cannot effectively engage or benefit from sustainability initiatives. There is a clear opportunity to redesign climate advocacy frameworks to include this historically marginalized group.

One approach is to intentionally integrate disability rights into climate justice efforts. Just as environmental justice campaigns have drawn on civil rights laws to protect vulnerable communities, they can also leverage disability rights and healthcare laws to push for equitable, climate-smart policies. For instance, climate adaptation plans could be aligned

with accessibility standards mandated by laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Cities and organizations might establish dedicated advisory boards or constituencies for people with disabilities within existing climate justice programs. This way, policies on disaster preparedness, sustainable infrastructure, and emissions reduction would consistently consider accessibility and the needs of those with disabilities. By building on existing environmental justice initiatives and deliberately including disability advocates, we can start to correct the oversight.

Toward Equitable Climate Resilience

Filling the information and policy gap will require proactive, solution-oriented steps. Experts recommend several strategies to make climate resilience efforts disability-inclusive:

Better Data Collection: Governments and researchers could conduct a “disability census” focused on climate impacts — gathering data on how disasters and climate stressors affect people with various disabilities. Solid data will highlight problem areas and drive targeted solutions.

Accessible Emergency Planning: Local and national emergency plans should be updated to account for a wide range of conditions. This means planning evacuation routes and shelters that accommodate mobility devices, hearing or vision impairments, developmental disabilities, and medical needs that require electricity (like ventilators or dialysis machines). Practicing these plans with community input can save lives.

Climate and Disability Education: Environmental organizations can develop resources to improve climate literacy within disabled communities, and vice versa. Disability advocacy groups can be equipped with knowledge about climate risks, while environmental groups learn about accessibility and inclusion. This exchange of perspectives will create more robust strategies.

Address Foundational Inequities: Many climate vulnerabilities are tied to underlying issues like poverty and stigma. Policies that reduce economic inequality and combat discrimination will also improve the resilience of disabled individuals. For example, ensuring affordable healthcare and housing for people with disabilities strengthens their ability to cope with heatwaves or hurricanes.

Collaboration is key moving forward. Disability-focused organizations and environmental groups should work together to set specific goals for climate resilience that include metrics for accessibility and inclusion. This might involve joint task forces that monitor how well climate initiatives serve disabled populations, or co-developed guidelines for inclusive sustainable development projects. By intentionally merging these efforts, we can measure progress in a way that accounts for everyone. Such collaboration not only prepares disabled communities for climate challenges but strengthens the overall response for society at large. After all, when infrastructure and systems are designed to accommodate people with disabilities, everyone benefits — think of how curb cuts for wheelchairs also help parents with strollers, or how clear emergency communication helps those with and without hearing impairments alike.

Conclusion

The reality today is that many disabled people are navigating climate dangers with far too little support or recognition. This oversight doesn't only harm those left behind — it weakens the entire environmental justice movement by leaving critical gaps in our preparedness. Climate justice simply isn't justice unless it includes the most vulnerable. Ensuring that people with disabilities are factored into how we plan for and respond to the climate crisis will make our communities safer, more resilient, and more equitable. As the climate continues to change, it's time to fill this missing piece and make accessibility a core part of environmental action.

Sources: Environmental and disability advocacy reports; Harvard Law School Project on Disability; U.S. Census Bureau disaster data via Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies; United Nations climate frameworks and disability rights conventions.

Regards

Puneet Singh Singhal

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Inclusive Pathways to Climate Justice: Community Power, Youth Innovation, and Equitable Water Systems

Alhaji Ibraheem Haruna

Climate justice in Africa cannot be understood solely as a technical or environmental challenge. It is a political, ethical, and human development issue. It asks: Who is most vulnerable to climate impacts? Who decides the policies and solutions? Who benefits from resources and technologies?

Globally, Africa accounts for less than 4% of historical greenhouse gas emissions, yet it bears disproportionate burdens of climate impacts (IPCC, 2022). Communities dependent on rain-fed agriculture nearly 60% of Africa's workforce are highly exposed to drought, floods, and unpredictable seasons (FAO, 2023). Justice therefore demands equity: recognition of Africa's limited contribution to the crisis, responsibility of major emitters, and agency of Africans to define solutions.

Community Power: Indigenous Knowledge and Local Leadership

1. Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in the Sahel

In Niger and Burkina Faso, communities have revived degraded lands through Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR). Instead of costly external interventions, farmers regenerate trees and shrubs from existing root systems, boosting soil fertility, increasing crop yields, and restoring biodiversity (World Resources Institute, 2019). This locally-driven practice has restored over 5 million hectares of land in Niger, sequestered millions of tons of carbon, and improved food security for millions.

2. The Great Green Wall Initiative

Stretching across 11 African countries, the Great Green Wall is Africa's boldest land restoration project, aiming to restore 100 million hectares by 2030. Yet beyond its scale, the initiative highlights inclusivity: women's cooperatives are central in producing seedlings, managing nurseries, and diversifying livelihoods (UNCCD, 2022). It demonstrates that climate justice is not just about ecosystems but about empowering marginalized voices, especially women and rural communities.

3. Traditional Water Harvesting in Ethiopia

In Tigray, Ethiopia, communities have long relied on stone bunds, terraces, and check dams to harvest rainwater and reduce soil erosion. These techniques, adapted and scaled through government-community partnerships, have rehabilitated watersheds, improved groundwater recharge, and sustained agricultural productivity (Gebregziabher et al., 2016). Here, traditional practices meet modern scaling strategies, proving inclusivity is also about respecting indigenous wisdom.



Community members collecting water from a solar-powered water point, demonstrating decentralized water access in rural Nigeria.

Youth Innovation: Africa's Climate Vanguard

Africa's demographic dividend its large and growing youth population is both a challenge and an opportunity. With 60% of Africans under the age of 25, the continent is home to the largest youth population in the world. This generation is not waiting for solutions; it is inventing them.

1. Solar-Powered Irrigation – Kenya

In Kenya, startups like SunCulture are equipping smallholder farmers with affordable solar-powered irrigation kits. By reducing dependence on diesel pumps, these systems cut carbon emissions, lower input costs, and increase productivity, enabling farmers to grow year-round crops despite rainfall variability (SunCulture, 2023). Many of the innovators behind these projects are young African engineers and entrepreneurs.

2. Atmospheric Water Harvesting – Kenya

Another Kenyan startup, Majik Water, founded by young women entrepreneurs, is pioneering low-cost devices that harvest potable water from the air using solar technology. This innovation provides clean drinking water to arid communities, reducing conflict over scarce resources and strengthening resilience against drought (Majik Water, 2022).

3. Digital Platforms for Advocacy

Across Africa, youth movements like Fridays for Future Africa are pushing climate justice to the center of political discourse. In Uganda, activist Vanessa Nakate has become a leading global voice, challenging world leaders to address Africa's disproportionate vulnerability (Nakate, 2021). Digital platforms amplify African youth voices, creating accountability and re-centering the narrative of justice.

Equitable Water Systems: The Lifeline of Justice

Water lies at the intersection of climate impacts, human rights, and justice. Droughts, floods, and poor governance intensify inequality in water access. Inclusive climate pathways must therefore address water as both a survival need and a driver of justice.

1. Sand Dams in Kenya and Tanzania

Sand dams low-cost, community-built structures that store rainwater in riverbeds are transforming water access in semi-arid regions. In Kitui, Kenya, sand dams have provided reliable water for households and livestock, reduced the burden on women and children who walk long distances for water, and enabled dry-season farming (Lasage et al., 2015). By centering community ownership, sand dams embody inclusive, justice-oriented solutions.



A sand dam constructed across a seasonal riverbed in semi-arid Kenya. It captures rainwater and recharges groundwater, supplying communities during dry periods.

2. Working for Water – South Africa

South Africa's Working for Water programme integrates environmental restoration with social justice. It pays unemployed youth and women to clear invasive alien plants that consume scarce water resources, thereby increasing water availability while providing jobs and skills (Turpie et al., 2008). This model demonstrates how ecological restoration can simultaneously advance poverty alleviation and gender inclusion.

3. Solar Boreholes in Nigeria

In northern Nigeria, solar-powered boreholes supported by NGOs and local governments are providing clean water to drought-prone communities. Beyond water supply, these boreholes reduce dependence on unsafe water sources, lower risks of waterborne diseases, and reduce tensions linked to pastoralist-farmer conflicts (WaterAid, 2023). Here, water management becomes a foundation for peacebuilding.

Africa's Position in the Global Climate Discourse

Africa's narratives on climate justice must not be peripheral at global forums like the UNFCCC COP meetings. The upcoming COP30 in Belém, Brazil, offers a critical stage for African leaders, civil society, and innovators to push for stronger commitments on adaptation finance, loss and damage, and fair technology transfer (UNFCCC, 2024). The fight for climate justice is not about charity but about rights, reparations, and recognition.

Africa's progress, however, is undermined by chronic underfunding. While the continent needs e2.8 trillion by 2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), climate finance flows remain grossly insufficient and skewed toward mitigation, leaving adaptation underfunded (AfDB, 2022). Addressing this imbalance is central to justice.

Policy and Action Recommendations

1. **Scale Community Solutions:** Support indigenous practices like FMNR and sand dams with national policy frameworks and financial incentives.
2. **Invest in Youth Innovation:** Expand access to climate financing, incubators, and mentorship programs for youth-led startups.
3. **Gender-Responsive Approaches:** Prioritize women's leadership in climate initiatives, ensuring equitable participation in decision-making.
4. **Water Justice as Policy:** Enshrine the human right to water in climate adaptation policies and allocate funding to community-owned water systems.
5. **Global Advocacy:** Strengthen African bargaining power at COP30 and beyond by building unified continental positions on loss and damage financing.
6. **Private Sector Partnerships:** Leverage African private sector actors in scaling renewable energy and water innovations.

Visionary Outlook: Rising with Resilience

Africa's inclusive climate justice pathway is not about replicating Western models but building from within amplifying local knowledge, leveraging youth creativity, and ensuring justice for the most vulnerable. The continent's resilience lies in its communities, its diversity of ecosystems, and its youthful energy. By centering inclusivity, Africa can redefine what climate justice looks like: not as a reactive struggle but as a proactive blueprint for global sustainability.

As the world looks toward COP30 and beyond, Africa's voice must be louder, clearer, and united in demanding justice not as victims of climate change, but as visionaries leading with resilience and inclusivity.

L'Afrique en première ligne aux COP : vers un leadership mondial en matière de sécurité climatique

Gabriel Lagrange – Directeur du Département Géopolitique de l'Environnement / Institut d'Etudes de Géopolitique Appliquée (IEGA) - France

Parmi les 25 pays les plus vulnérables au changement climatique et aux conflits, l'Afrique est la région la plus représentée, avec huit pays figurant dans les deux catégories. La convergence de ces menaces fait de la sécurité climatique une préoccupation majeure pour le continent. Les implications croissantes des risques climatiques sur la paix et la stabilité attirent désormais l'attention internationale, notamment au sein du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies. Pourtant, malgré un premier débat sur le climat en 2007, les avancées institutionnelles restent limitées. Le veto sino-russe opposé en 2021 à une résolution visant à établir un lien formel entre changement climatique et sécurité internationale illustre les blocages géopolitiques persistants freinant l'action mondiale.

En dehors du Conseil de sécurité, la sécurité climatique a gagné en importance dans la diplomatie climatique internationale. Bien qu'elle ne figure pas à l'ordre du jour officiel des Conférences des Parties (COP) dans le cadre de la CCNUCC, elle a progressé de manière constante grâce aux initiatives portées par les présidences successives depuis la COP26. Le lancement par l'Égypte du programme « Réponses climatiques pour la pérennisation de la paix » (CRSP) lors de la COP27 a marqué un tournant, en positionnant le lien entre climat, paix et développement comme une priorité politique. Cet élan a été institutionnalisé à la COP28 avec l'introduction de la première journée thématique sur la paix et l'adoption de la Déclaration sur la paix de Dubaï, signée par plus de 90 pays, qui met l'accent sur des réponses financières, opérationnelles et collaboratives aux risques climatiques dans les contextes fragiles. À la COP29, l'Appel de Bakou

pour l'action climatique, la paix, l'aide et la relance a conduit à la création du Centre d'action pour le climat et la paix de Bakou, signalant une adhésion politique croissante à cette thématique.

Malgré cette reconnaissance croissante, la sécurité climatique reste absente des résultats négociés des COP. Les références aux conflits, présentes dans les premières versions du bilan mondial de la COP28 et du nouvel objectif quantifié collectif (NCQG) de la COP29, ont été supprimées, car un langage aussi sensible risquait de compromettre un consensus déjà fragile. Cette prudence illustre un décalage persistant : bien que l'élan politique en faveur de la sécurité climatique s'intensifie, celle-ci n'a pas encore été pleinement intégrée aux cadres formels de la gouvernance climatique internationale.

L'Afrique, un acteur légitime pour porter la sécurité climatique

L'Afrique est particulièrement bien placée pour jouer un rôle moteur dans l'intégration de la sécurité climatique aux négociations internationales. Si les États africains ont initialement abordé la diplomatie climatique avec prudence, en raison de la marginalité du climat dans les agendas politiques nationaux car perçu comme un agenda imposé de l'extérieur, leur position a évolué. Face à l'intensification des impacts climatiques, notamment dans les zones de conflit, le climat est devenu une priorité politique. Les récits émergents mettent désormais l'accent sur les opportunités, et non plus uniquement sur la vulnérabilité, permettant aux acteurs africains de se réappropriier l'espace diplomatique et de promouvoir des priorités fondées sur leur expérience vécue. La sécurité climatique s'inscrit dans un plaidoyer plus large pour la justice climatique. Le continent, qui a le moins contribué aux émissions mondiales, subit des risques disproportionnés, aggravant l'insécurité et compromettant les efforts de développement et d'adaptation. En faire une priorité renforce

les appels africains à la justice, à la résilience et à l'équité. Comme l'a déclaré le président du Groupe africain des négociateurs (GAN) lors de la COP29 : « Quand l'Afrique perd, le monde perd en stabilité. » Les États africains disposent d'une légitimité morale et d'une expérience concrète, deux atouts puissants pour faire de la sécurité climatique une priorité mondiale.

Cependant, dans un environnement géopolitique de plus en plus transactionnel, l'autorité morale ne suffit pas toujours. Comme le souligne Nazanine Moshiri, analyste à l'International Crisis Group, établir un lien entre la fragilité de l'Afrique et les risques mondiaux plus larges, tels que les déplacements forcés, l'instabilité régionale ou les perturbations des chaînes d'approvisionnement, peut contribuer à convaincre des donateurs encore hésitants. La sécurité climatique devient ainsi non seulement un impératif de développement, mais aussi un outil diplomatique, renforçant le soft power africain, influençant les normes internationales et transformant le continent de bénéficiaire de politiques en entrepreneur de normes.

Reconnaissant ce potentiel stratégique, les acteurs africains ont progressivement intégré cet agenda dans l'agenda continental. Par exemple, la Position africaine commune (PAC) sur la sécurité climatique, actuellement élaborée par l'Union Africaine (UA) et fondé sur une consultation pluriannuelle et une évaluation continentale, vise à harmoniser les messages entre les États africains. Il complète d'autres cadres tels que la Stratégie et le Plan d'action de l'UA sur le changement climatique et le développement résilient (2022-2032), ou autres initiatives régionales comme la Déclaration de Bamako sur le climat, la paix et la sécurité (2022).

Les pays africains ont également joué un rôle actif dans les initiatives portées par les présidences successives des COP. L'Égypte a défendu le CRSP à la COP27 ; l'Ouganda a coprésidé l'Appel de Bakou à la COP29 ; et 19 États africains ont signé la Déclaration de paix de la COP28. Plusieurs pays participent également au

Réseau d'accès amélioré et équitable, qui plaide pour un financement adapté aux zones touchées par les conflits. Ces actions témoignent d'une capacité institutionnelle croissante à faire de la sécurité climatique une priorité diplomatique et stratégique.

Les défis du leadership africain en matière de sécurité climatique

Malgré ces dynamiques, la capacité africaine à faire avancer ce programme se heurte à des obstacles persistants, tant externes qu'internes.

Le principal frein externe réside dans la structure même de la CCNUCC. Son mandat, centré sur l'atténuation, l'adaptation et le financement du changement climatique, offre peu d'espace aux thématiques transversales émergentes comme la sécurité climatique. L'établissement de l'ordre du jour repose sur un consensus entre toutes les parties, un mécanisme intrinsèquement conservateur qui tend à préserver le statu quo. Les questions politiquement sensibles, telles que les conflits, sont souvent écartées pour éviter de compromettre un équilibre fragile. Le retrait du langage relatif aux conflits dans les versions finales du Bilan mondial et du NCQG en est une illustration. Bien que des événements parallèles et des déclarations politiques reconnaissent les liens entre climat et conflits, les textes officiels demeurent silencieux et la paix ne fait pas partie de l'agenda officiel des COP.

Certaines grandes puissances, à commencer par le Brésil, hôte de la COP30, s'opposent à l'intégration de la sécurité aux COP, estimant que cette question relève exclusivement du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies. Même parmi les États vulnérables et les négociateurs africains, des réticences subsistent : l'introduction du thème des conflits pourrait complexifier les négociations, les politiser excessivement et provoquer des tensions juridictionnelles avec le Conseil de sécurité.

À ces contraintes structurelles s'ajoutent des asymétries de pouvoir qui limitent l'influence africaine. Les pays développés dominent l'agenda des COP et les mécanismes de négociation, reléguant l'Afrique à un rôle réactif. Comme l'a souligné un négociateur africain : « L'accès aux discussions, aux documents et aux espaces de décision est souvent difficile pour nous. Nous sommes parfois les derniers informés. » Ces inégalités se reflètent également dans le financement climatique. Alors que les pays en développement auront besoin de 1 300 milliards de dollars par an d'ici 2035, seulement 300 milliards ont été promis dans le cadre du NCQG à la COP29, principalement sous forme de prêts, et les États fragiles peinent à accéder à une fraction de ces fonds.

Les obstacles internes sont tout aussi significatifs. Malgré des engagements rhétoriques, les politiques africaines intègrent rarement substantiellement les liens entre climat et sécurité. Comme le souligne Nazanine Moshiri, ce thème reste souvent « secondaire, voire instrumental, utilisé lorsqu'il sert d'autres objectifs ». Si la dernière contribution déterminée au niveau national (CDN) de la Somalie constitue une exception notable, la majorité des plans nationaux d'adaptation (PAN) et des CDN manquent de références détaillées à la sécurité climatique. Cette lacune s'explique en partie par des silos institutionnels : les acteurs du climat, du développement et de la paix travaillent souvent de manière isolée, limitant les réponses intersectorielles.

La capacité de mise en œuvre demeure également limitée. Bien que de nombreux cadres africains mentionnent la sécurité climatique, peu se traduisent par des stratégies concrètes et une application sur le terrain. L'adhésion politique varie fortement d'un pays à l'autre, et la diversité interne du continent complique l'action collective. L'Afrique regroupe des États fragiles, des exportateurs de pétrole, des nations insulaires et des pays à revenu intermédiaire, chacun avec des priorités distinctes. Ces divergences ont retardé l'adoption de la Position africaine commune (PAC) sur la sécurité climatique et fragmenté le GAN. Certains États, bien que vulnérables au climat mais sans conflits, rejettent le cadre sécuritaire,

craignant qu'il ne détourne les financements destinés à l'adaptation. Par ailleurs, les pays les plus affectés par les dynamiques de conflit climatique ne sont pas toujours les plus actifs dans les forums internationaux. En définitive, une question centrale demeure : que signifie réellement la vulnérabilité pour le continent, et quelles priorités doivent en découler ?

Enfin, les capacités internes de négociation limitées entravent l'impact africain. De nombreuses délégations africaines disposent de ressources restreintes, parfois réduites à six ou dix délégués, limitant leur participation aux négociations parallèles, aux événements officiels et à la coordination stratégique. La sécurité climatique souffre également d'un déficit d'expertise technique et de mandats institutionnels clairs. Les négociateurs sont souvent issus des ministères de l'Environnement, avec peu d'implication des acteurs de la défense ou de la consolidation de la paix, laissant la sécurité climatique en marge de leur portefeuille. En conséquence, cette thématique reste marginale dans l'agenda officiel de l'AGN.

Que peut faire l'Afrique à la COP30 ?

À l'approche de la COP30, qui se tiendra au Brésil en novembre prochain, les négociateurs africains disposent d'une opportunité stratégique pour consolider les acquis récents et faire progresser la reconnaissance de la sécurité climatique comme enjeu central. Plus tôt cette année, les ministres africains ont adopté une position commune pour la COP30, réaffirmant des priorités clés telles que l'adaptation, le financement, l'énergie propre et une transition juste. Pour que la sécurité climatique devienne un pilier reconnu de l'agenda climatique international, les États africains devront agir de manière coordonnée et stratégique sur plusieurs fronts.

Premièrement, il est essentiel de renforcer les capacités internes et la collaboration intersectorielle. Des programmes de renforcement des

compétences, comme les sessions de l'AGNES consacrées à la sécurité climatique, peuvent contribuer à développer une expertise technique sur les risques et les réponses appropriées. Les délégations africaines devraient inclure des représentants issus des secteurs de la sécurité, en complément des ministères de l'environnement. La PAC constitue un cadre précieux pour favoriser l'alignement institutionnel. Comme l'a souligné Lamine Sidibé, négociateur climat de la Guinée : « Les négociateurs africains ne peuvent que s'aligner sur les directives de l'UA sur la sécurité climatique, surtout si ce cadre résulte d'un consensus continental. » Il conviendrait également d'intégrer davantage la sécurité climatique dans les stratégies nationales, tant les PAN que les CDN.

Deuxièmement, l'Afrique devrait renforcer ses coalitions en forgeant des alliances avec des États et des blocs partageant les mêmes priorités, afin de faire passer la sécurité climatique des marges des événements parallèles aux salles de négociation officielles. Le Groupe des 77 et les Pays les moins avancés (PMA) offrent des plateformes de plaidoyer coordonnées autour de la vulnérabilité. Le Réseau d'accès amélioré et équitable regroupant plusieurs continents constitue déjà un exemple concret de coopération interrégionale.

Troisièmement, les négociateurs africains doivent intégrer la sécurité climatique dans les discussions sur le financement climatique. Les États fragiles restent parmi les moins bien financés, malgré leur exposition accrue aux risques climatiques. Les délégations africaines devraient plaider pour des mécanismes de financement sensibles aux conflits, des critères de vulnérabilité pondérés, et des instruments accessibles dans le cadre de l'objectif mondial d'adaptation et de la feuille de route Bakou-Belém. Présenter la résilience, la paix, la transition énergétique et le développement non pas comme des priorités concurrentes, mais comme des leviers complémentaires, pourrait contribuer à transformer le récit dominant.

Enfin, l'Afrique pourrait promouvoir l'innovation institutionnelle. La création d'un groupe de travail sur la sécurité climatique au sein de la CCNUCC permettrait de formaliser un espace de dialogue sur cette question et d'en faciliter l'intégration progressive dans les textes officiels.

Malgré les défis persistants, la sécurité climatique représente une opportunité stratégique pour l'Afrique. Comme l'a observé Alphonse Muia, directeur des sciences de l'environnement pour le Partenariat pour le changement, pour l'Afrique, « il ne faut pas gaspiller les opportunités qu'offrent une crise. » Le changement climatique n'est pas seulement une menace, mais aussi un catalyseur d'attention, de financement et de réforme. La COP30 constitue un moment charnière : une occasion de transformer l'élan politique en traction institutionnelle, à condition que les États africains parviennent à s'aligner en interne et à s'engager collectivement sur la scène mondiale. Comme l'indique Lamine Sidibé : « Je suis plutôt optimiste. Non seulement la COP30 doit être perçue avec espoir, mais si nous continuons à avancer comme nous le faisons aujourd'hui, d'ici deux ou trois ans, la sécurité climatique pourrait être reconnue comme un sujet de négociation à part entière, avec des projets concrets et des discussions dédiées aux COP ». Le moment est venu pour l'Afrique de montrer l'exemple

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Justice, Equity and Inclusion: The Key to Building Africa's Climate Resilience



**Rererile
Kamohi**

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Africa has proved time and again to be one of the hardest hit continents globally when it comes to the effects of climate change despite it only contributing less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Children, women and youth – a vast majority of vulnerable persons – are the first to often feel the heaviest and most devastating impacts of climate change and yet with the relevant support, they are also key players in advancing inclusive climate justice and sustainable development.

The transition to green has become even more of an urgent call today considering the continuously increasing and varying threats to climate resilience for these select groups and as majority of people with lived experiences are within these groups, empowering women and youth led sustainable solutions and innovations may just be the alignment Africa needs to build its resilience to climate change. We need to recognise the critical role that climate-displaced persons, women and youth play in advancing climate action that is rooted in justice, equity and inclusion, all based on the Sustainable Development Goals.



How can we achieve climate justice through inclusive pathways?

Assessing and Understanding Vulnerabilities

Climate vulnerability differs across regions which means that the approaches to climate change will also differ as the effects are not linear for all. Taking Lesotho as a case study – with women being the focus group on the height of their vulnerability to climate change – women in the highlands are more likely to experience more severe impacts of climate change than the women in the lowlands because in the highlands, most women rely on subsistence farming to meet theirs and their families' daily nutritional needs.

As part of the communities with lived experiences, we need to promote gender-inclusive decision making i.e girls and women must be included in formulating/ designing, implementing and evaluating national policies and programs as these decisions affect their livelihoods and wellbeing whereas they are often underrepresented in these settings. Women-led initiatives must be put at the

forefront for any gender issues related to climate change as they are the key players in achieving a just, equitable and inclusive environment for all.

Vulnerability assessments should be undertaken with intent to form long-term forecasting, policy and planning because the current vulnerability assessments and other policy development tools used do not consider other social impacts of climate change. Climate Action should adopt both Horizontal and Vertical integration approaches to maximize impact at the local, sub-national, national and even at the transboundary level.

Capacity Building and Support

Capacity building and the creation of enabling environments are the core to building individual and community resilience through climate mitigation and adaptation. Africa needs investment – and not just financial investment but skill/capacity building and technical support for youth and women led initiatives in support of technology and innovations that can advance the green transition. Youth inclusion needs to be prioritized by making youth-inclusive processes integral to climate action and implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, highlighting the importance of youth participation and engagement. There needs to be more focus on training and capacity building to strengthen youth participation in decision-making processes as well as make climate information easier to disseminate by localizing it and adapting it to the context of youth, especially youth without formal education who would like to make meaningful contributions to climate and environmental action as well as achieve a just transition. Building the capacity of youth-led organisations can be seen through, for example, Plant One Tree – a Lesotho based youth-led environmental organisation focused on greening Lesotho through planting indigenous, fruit and forest trees, climate education, advocacy and policy influencing. Plant One Tree has recently received expert-led training from the Global Center on Adaptation and been selected as the In-Country Focal Point for the African Youth Adaptation Network to “strengthen the adaptive capacity of youth-led organizations across Africa”. This translates to the empowerment of young people through the training-

of-trainers program that was designed to equip young delegates to replicate national-level initiatives in their home countries to strengthen community resilience worldwide thus recognising their efforts in building climate resilience internally (locally) and externally (internationally).

Climate Finance

Access to resources, particularly green finance, has been one of the biggest challenges when it comes to climate action globally. Structural barriers have hindered the movement of innovative and sustainable solutions from the ideation stage to prototyping, implementation and scaling. The finance systems need to be reviewed so as to allow easier access for youth-led and women-led climate action, mobilising individuals and communities where change is needed the most. A structure/ system needs to be established to ensure equity, transparency and accessibility so as to shape climate action that is responsive to needs, vulnerabilities and builds on the strengths of the affected communities as well as implementation parties.



Equity and Equality

Equity and Equality

Africa has, over the years, reached newer heights in advancing gender mainstreaming and achieving equality through inclusive action, with the development of frameworks laid out to formulate new policies as well as review and amend existing ones. Such policies – in Lesotho – include the Gender and Development Policy (2018-2030) to empower women as a means of mainstreaming gender into all aspects of national development and addressing some of the following gender gaps: limited awareness on gender inclusion, lack of gender-focused budgeting and insufficient research on the effects of climate change on girls and women. Gender reports need to be guided by data from sectors that specialise in gender-focused research and analysis as there is a need to understand gender and climate change on a level deeper than statistics. This will enable accurate data collection with contributions from lived-experience populations and gender experts. Women have a powerful and pivotal role to play in climate action. When we support and invest in them—through education, leadership, and jobs in clean energy or farming—we make the world stronger and fairer. By fighting for gender equality and youth-led climate solutions together, we can protect both people and the planet.

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

In the journey to achieving a just and green energy transition, investment, transparency and accountability need to be made priority for not only African leaders but global leaders. Having recently researched and analysed the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), we have to acknowledge our different contributions and responsibilities for global emissions even though the goal to reducing these emissions may be shared for all countries. Partnerships and collaborations have been key to catalysing and achieving inclusive pathways for climate justice in Africa but looking at the conditional and unconditional emission reduction targets, African leaders need to reflect and review the existing mechanisms because the reliance of Africa on foreign investment is astounding.

Yes, this does not take away from leaders' efforts of meeting unconditional emission reduction targets by themselves due to parties not taking adequate responsibility for their emissions but we need to look further into decreasing the conditional reduction targets and increasing our very own revenue and investments so that we meet our unconditional emission reduction targets without falling victim to external factors that may go awry or cease altogether - like we have seen happening to HIV services aided by the United States of America in Africa.

In as much as foreign investments, partnerships and collaborations can be beneficial, they also put in question our ability and capacity to become a revolution in climate justice, all achieved on our own as Africa. This begs the hypothetical question: If all donor funding were to cease at once in all African countries, could Africa stand on its own or collapse? We can all assume the answer to this.

Accountability

Follow-up on the implementation processes should become mandatory so as to analyse the reach and impact of the measures put in place to ensure inclusive climate action, and leaders need to be held accountable for the implementation and success/failure of the commitments they make thus ensuring transparency in the green transition. Policies pertaining to energy need to be formulated, reviewed and implemented to mitigate the current levels of energy consumption with measures being put in line to hold each sector responsible for their emission contributions. African leaders must invest in the transition to green, promote the rehabilitation and protection of biodiversity, with indigenous groups, women and youth being made central to these developments as well as encourage and promote sustainable development in all its forms if they want to create an Africa that they can be proud to leave behind for the coming generations. Building climate resilience is a collective effort and just like an automotive, when one gear moves, the rest will follow.

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Exploring How Climate Change Intersects with Social Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities and How we Can Make Inclusive Decisions



Ambassador
Ruby Kryticous

As the world continues to evolve and grapple with global issues, so is climate change becoming a global threat to the survival of humanity and biodiversity.

Climate change is the change of weather patterns over a long period of time with impacts including threats to food security due to poor weather patterns that destroy crop yields. It has affected water sources from warming seas that have destroyed marine ecosystems, to drying up of rivers due to high temperatures levels. This has also contributed to the loss of energy supply to countries that rely heavily on hydropower to produce electricity.

Globally, more than 1 billion people experience disability, representing about 15% of the world's population. Let's remember that some disabilities are not heritable, some are developed over the course of our lifetime and others are caused by different forms of influencing factors such as accidents, illness, injury or conflict induced disability.

Conflict induced disability is becoming more prevalent among people in war zones who are becoming more vulnerable to loss of mobility due to injury from crushes or air strikes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines a person with a disability as someone who has a problem in body function or structure, an activity limitation, movement, hearing, speech, understanding or a restriction in participation. The number of people with disabilities is increasing due to factors like population aging and rising chronic health conditions.

The term “disability” covers a wide range of conditions that limit a person’s ability to do certain activities. There are many types of disabilities, including those that affect vision, hearing, sight, speech, cognition, and mobility. Some of these disabled individuals are not born with these conditions but over time due to illness they affect their ability to do many things.

Disability can occur from genetic conditions and congenital issues at birth, such as Down syndrome. It can also be acquired later in life due to chronic illnesses like heart disease or cancer, accidents, traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries, strokes, or mental health conditions. Human Rights Council resolution 41/21 (A/HRC/RES/41/21) requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare “an analytical study on the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change...” and a panel discussion at the 44th session of the Human Rights Council on the same topic.

Every year on December 3rd, the world commemorates the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD) — a day set aside to celebrate achievements, promote understanding, and advocate for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. But beyond celebration lies a deep and urgent call to action: as the effects of climate change intensify, so do the barriers that persons with disabilities face every day.

Climate Change: A Growing Inequality

Climate change is often described as the greatest threat to humanity. Yet its impacts are not felt equally. Across the world, extreme weather events from floods and droughts to heatwaves and cyclones are worsening living conditions, displacing millions, and deepening poverty. For persons with disabilities, these impacts are multiplied by existing social, physical, and economic barriers.

When disasters strike, many persons with disabilities are among the last to be evacuated, not because they are unwilling, but because emergency systems are not designed with accessibility in mind. Shelters lack ramps and accessible facilities, early warning messages are often not available in sign language or braille, and response teams are rarely trained to support diverse needs. As temperatures rise we are noticing that persons with albinism are more susceptible to skin diseases due to their sensitivity to Ultraviolet rays. However lack of information and protective clothing makes it more difficult for those with albinism in rural communities to access affordable or free sunscreen for protection.

In rural communities, where poverty and disability intersect, climate change also disrupts livelihoods. Small-scale farmers with disabilities may lose crops and income, while facing greater challenges in accessing recovery assistance or credit. Rising heat and poor air quality can worsen certain health conditions and disabilities, while damaged infrastructure cuts off access to essential medical and rehabilitation services.

The Intersection of Climate Justice and Disability Rights

Persons with disabilities make up an estimated 16% of the global population, roughly 1.3 billion people and yet they have no seat at the decision table. Yet they remain underrepresented in national and international climate discussions.

Their exclusion from planning and decision-making processes not only violates their rights but also weakens our collective response to the climate crisis.

True climate justice means more than reducing emissions or planting trees. It means ensuring equitable access that no one is left behind especially those whose voices have been historically silenced. Disability inclusion is not charity; it is a matter of human rights, equality, and resilience.

Climate policies that ignore the needs of persons with disabilities risk deepening inequality and vulnerability. But when inclusion becomes a centralized policy that strengthens equality such as we design accessible evacuation routes, inclusive travel, invest in inclusive infrastructure, sign language, braille, digital assistive communication systems that involve persons with disabilities as leaders we build entire communities that become stronger and more resilient.

Inclusion in Action: What Must Be Done

To achieve an inclusive and sustainable future, governments, organizations, and communities must work together to embed disability inclusion into every climate action strategy. This means:

Inclusive Policy Design: All national climate policies and disaster management frameworks should recognize persons with disabilities as key stakeholders. Their participation must be guaranteed in consultations and decision-making spaces.

Accessible Information and Infrastructure: Early warning systems must include sign language interpretation, captioning, and messages in easy-to-read formats. Climate-resilient infrastructure — from schools to shelters — must be physically accessible to all.

Capacity Building and Empowerment: Train local authorities and responders to understand the diverse needs of persons with disabilities during disasters. Invest in education, technology, and employment opportunities that empower them to take part in adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Data and Research: Collect disaggregated data on disability and climate impacts to inform better planning and funding. Without accurate data,

persons with disabilities remain invisible in climate programs.

Inclusive Financing: International donors and climate funds should allocate resources for disability-inclusive adaptation and resilience projects, ensuring accessibility is not an afterthought but a built-in priority.

A Call for Global and Local Leadership

In Zambia, across Africa and the Global Community, where climate change threatens food security, health, and livelihoods, disability inclusion must move from talk to action. Civil society groups, youth movements, and policymakers should collaborate to ensure that persons with disabilities are not just beneficiaries of climate programs but active leaders and innovators within them.

We must also challenge societal attitudes the idea that persons with disabilities are passive or dependent. Many are already leading change: designing adaptive technologies, championing sustainable farming, and driving awareness in their communities. What they need is not sympathy, but support, accessibility, and visibility.

Conclusion: Inclusion Is the Heart of Climate Action

As we mark the International Day of People with Disabilities, let us remember that the fight against climate change is also a fight for equality, dignity, and justice for those that may have no voice. Every climate policy that fails to include persons with disabilities is incomplete and disadvantages the next generation; every adaptation strategy that excludes persons with disabilities weakens our

fight to inclusion. This world is not created for persons with disabilities but when we make changes in the social system, economic development and political agendas we make each day easier to bear for them to thrive.

Now is the time for bold action inclusive action at all levels, communities, schools, bus stations, football fields, airports, playgrounds, work places and more. Governments, NGO organizations, private sector, philanthropists and individuals must rise together to this challenge – not just by recognizing persons with disabilities, but by empowering them as partners and decision-makers in building a resilient, sustainable future for the next generation.

Because climate justice is disability justice, and the world we save must be a world where everyone regardless of ability can live, thrive, and belong, we must work together by ensuring that we make it a priority.

Kindness starts with you and me being able to create a place and show respect to others.

Empowering Refugees through Climate-Smart Agriculture

Dalitso Mvula is a young environmentalist/ Climate Justice advocate who is currently serving as the vice coordinator of the Zambia Youth Environmental Network. As Climate change is intensifying food insecurity in Zambia, and refugee communities remain among the hardest hit. At the Makeni Transit Centre on the outskirts of Lusaka, displaced families grapple with erratic rainfall, recurring droughts, and depleted soils that undermine their ability to grow food or earn a stable living. To confront these challenges, Ms. Mvula and her team of young people, the Zambia Youth Environmental Network (ZYEN) has introduced climate-smart agriculture (CSA), a forward-looking approach that boosts food security, rehabilitates degraded land, and equips refugees with the tools to adapt to a changing climate. CSA not only addresses today's hunger but also lays the foundation for long-term resilience and self-reliance.

From Awareness to Action

ZYEN's journey with Makeni residents began through community sensitization and mobilization, ensuring that refugees, particularly women and youth, understood the value of CSA for both survival and empowerment. Families were organized into small learning groups and trained at demonstration plots, which served as open-air classrooms for hands-on learning. Here, participants practiced sustainable techniques such as composting, mulching, intercropping, and drip irrigation, while also cultivating drought-tolerant crops like cowpeas and sorghum. Beyond farming, households were introduced to complementary livelihoods including poultry rearing and beekeeping, initiatives that provide nutrition, income, and renewed hope, while reducing reliance on humanitarian aid.

Cultivating Resilience and Hope

The impact has been remarkable. Refugee households at Makeni have embraced CSA practices, establishing flourishing gardens that now provide fresh produce for daily meals and modest sales. These initiatives have improved nutrition, promoted environmental stewardship, and strengthened bonds both within the refugee community and with nearby host communities.

Despite persistent hurdles such as limited land access and scarce resources, ZYEN's work proves that climate-smart agriculture is far more than an agricultural practice, it is a pathway to dignity, resilience, and empowerment. It enables vulnerable populations not just to endure the climate crisis, but to shape their own futures with confidence and hope.

Policy Paper: An Inclusive and Just Energy Transition for Niger-Delta Extractive Communities in Nigeria

Olumide Onitekun, Rashidat Sanusi, Chibuikem Agbaegbu, Opeyemi Dairo

Nigeria's clean-energy pivot is accelerating, yet the country's energy heartland—the Niger-Delta extractive communities that generate 75 percent of national export earnings—remains largely outside the transition's decision rooms and benefit streams. Decades of oil spills, gas flaring, and uneven revenue sharing have produced 4 000 km² of contaminated land, flare-linked infant-mortality rates twice the national average, and unemployment that spikes when international oil companies divest.

A justice audit of eight flagship policies and six major programmes, conducted with an adapted Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP) Scorecard Assessment, exposes four systemic gaps:

Justice pillar	Findings	Consequence if unaddressed
Distributive	< 15% of Energy Transition Plan (ETP) and Host-Community Development Trust (HCDDT) flows reach host communities.	Revenue loss and widening poverty as oil jobs decline.
Recognitional	Core documents rarely name oil-bearing communities, women, or youth; no gender-disaggregated targets.	Community priorities invisible in national budgeting.
Procedural	No voting seats for community trusts on ETP working groups or NERC tariff panels.	Policies decided in Abuja, legitimacy deficit on the ground.
Restorative	Only 8% of Ogoni clean-up sites completed; new licenses issued while legacy pollution persists.	Health crises and litigation risks escalate.

1. INTRODUCTION

The global energy landscape is at a crossroads, shaped by the competing imperatives of climate action and energy security. While the urgency to mitigate climate change has driven commitments to transition away from fossil fuels, recent geopolitical and economic shifts underscore the complexities of this transition. For instance, the United States President, Donald Trump has recently signaled a pro-fossil fuel stance, advocating that prioritizing domestic oil and gas production is essential for energy security and economic growth. Similarly, some developing countries face mounting pressure to balance climate commitments with the immediate need to expand energy access and industrialization. These tensions highlight a critical challenge: how to transition to a low-carbon future without deepening socio-economic inequalities, particularly for communities historically reliant on fossil fuel extraction.

In sub-Saharan Africa, these global tensions between energy security and climate action take on an added dimension, as the transition must also address widespread energy poverty. With over 600 million people lacking access to electricity¹, the shift away from fossil fuels presents both opportunities and risks. Nigeria, as one of the world's top oil producers, faces a particularly complex challenge: while fossil fuels account for 65% of government revenue and 90% of export earnings², only 60.5% of its population has reliable electricity access³. Power outages remain frequent, and rural areas, where over 90 million Nigerians depend on traditional biomass and fossil fuels for daily activities, are disproportionately affected. This dependence not only exacerbates environmental degradation but also entrenches socio-economic inequalities, particularly in extractive communities. As Nigeria progresses on its energy transition, it must navigate the delicate balance between reducing emissions, sustaining economic stability, and ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left behind.

Recognizing these challenges, Nigeria launched its Energy Transition Plan (ETP) in 2022, targeting net-zero emissions by 2060. The plan includes transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, using natural gas as a transitional fuel, and achieving universal energy access by 2030.⁴ Nigeria's energy transition holds profound implications for extractive communities, particularly in regions like the Niger Delta, which is one of Nigeria's most productive areas for oil and gas extraction. For instance, approximately 2 million barrels (320,000 m³) are extracted daily in the Niger Delta, with an estimated 38 billion barrels of reserves.⁵ These communities in the Niger-Delta have faced decades of environmental degradation from oil spills and gas flaring, which have destroyed livelihoods, polluted water sources, and displaced populations. Therefore, if left behind the energy transition could deepen these challenges.

As Nigeria reduces its reliance on fossil fuels, extractive communities risk losing the limited economic benefits they currently receive. Declining oil revenue may also reduce financial allocations. Section 162, sub-section 2 of the Nigerian Constitution allocates 13 percent of Country's oil revenue to the oil producing communities as part of a benefit transfer scheme for the resources extracted from the state⁶. Despite this, the transition presents an opportunity to address historical injustices by prioritizing the inclusion of extractive communities in shaping the country's energy future. For example, deploying decentralized renewable energy systems—such as solar mini-grids—in these communities could enhance access to reliable electricity and catalyse rural economic potential.

This policy brief offers an evidence-based assessment of how Nigeria's energy transition will affect extractive communities in the Niger Delta—highlighting both risks and opportunities—and frames all findings through the four pillars of energy justice (distributive, recognition, procedural, and restorative). It proposes strategic, people-centred interventions such as robust community-engagement frameworks, sustainable financing windows, and community-driven energy models that guarantee fair sharing of costs and benefits, acknowledge

legacy harms, embed local voices in decision-making, and fund environmental and livelihood restoration. By uniting policymakers, civil-society actors, and frontline communities around these justice principles, the brief aims to advance SDG 77 while ensuring the transition is genuinely inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

2. NIGERIA'S ENERGY TRANSITION LANDSCAPE

2.1 Overview

The Nigerian energy landscape is undertaking a significant transition, driven by the urgent need to mitigate climate change and address energy poverty. The country's economy has long been heavily reliant on fossil fuels, particularly oil and natural gas, which together account for approximately 65% of total government revenue.⁸ Fossil fuels also play a central role in electricity generation, with thermal power plants contributing about 8,457.6 MW of the nation's installed capacity of 12,522 MW, while hydroelectric plants provide an additional 1,938.4 MW⁹. Despite this substantial capacity, only around 60.5% of Nigeria's population has access to electricity.¹⁰ and those who are connected often experience frequent outages due to the instability of the national grid. This highlights the pressing need for a more resilient and sustainable energy system in the country.¹¹

2.2 Government Responses to Energy Transition and Energy Access

The Nigerian government has developed a wide range of climate and energy policies to support its shift from fossil fuel dependence to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. These frameworks reflect a growing commitment to addressing both global climate goals and domestic energy poverty challenges.

Climate Commitments and Strategic Frameworks

Nigeria's climate journey began with the ratification of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994¹², laying the foundation for subsequent participation in global agreements, including:

- Kyoto Protocol (ratified 2004): Committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through mechanisms like the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation (JI), and Emissions Trading, which were designed to assist countries in meeting their emissions reduction targets¹³.
- Paris Agreement (signed 2016, ratified 2017): Committed Nigeria to limiting temperature rise to below 2°C, with efforts to cap it at 1.5°C.

Nigeria also adopted Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate action in 2015 and became a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), committing to multi-hazard, resilience- based planning.

In line with its Paris Agreement obligations, Nigeria submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2015 and updated it in 2021, targeting:

- 20% unconditional GHG emission reduction by 2030.
- 47% conditional reduction with international support.

Complementing this, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2021–2030 outlines a low-carbon development path and adaptation/resilience priorities. The Climate Change Act (2021) provides a legal foundation for these efforts, establishing the National Council on Climate Change Secretariat (NCCCS) and setting a net-zero emissions target between 2050–2070.

Renewable Energy and Efficiency Policies and Plans

To operationalize climate objectives, Nigeria has launched several renewable energy and efficiency policies:

- National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP) – 2015: Targeted over 23 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, including large hydropower.
- National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) – 2015–2030: Aligned with ECOWAS regional policy and Nigeria’s Vision 30:30:30; aims to deliver: 5,000 MW solar PV; 2,000 MW small hydro; 800 MW wind; and 400 MW biomass.
- National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) – 2015–2030: Focuses on demand-side measures, such as: Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), Efficient appliances, and Industrial and building retrofits
- Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Action Agenda – 2016: Integrates NREAP and NEEAP and sets targets like reducing traditional firewood use by 80% by 2030¹⁴.
- Renewable Energy Master Plan – 2019: Seeks to achieve 30% of electricity generation from renewables by 2030.

Nigeria’s Energy Transition Plan (ETP) – 2022

The Energy Transition Plan (ETP) represents the most comprehensive framework to date, providing a roadmap to net-zero emissions by 2060 while addressing energy poverty and development goals. Its core priorities include:

- Achieving Net-Zero by 2060 across five sectors: Power, Cooking, Transport, Oil & Gas, and Industry.

- Lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty through job creation and clean energy access.
- Universal access to modern energy by 2030.
- GHG reduction targets: 45% by 2030, and up to 90% by 2050.
- Ending traditional biomass dependence and scaling LPG and electric/biogas cookstoves.

The ETP promotes a phased shift from petrol/diesel to renewable-backed electrification, with natural gas as a transitional fuel. In the transport sector, the plan aims for a 97% reduction in emissions via the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs), while in oil and gas, it targets reduced flaring and fugitive emissions. Since its launch, the ETP has introduced several inclusive initiatives:

- Women-in-Energy Dialogue (May 2023) to address gender-specific barriers¹⁵.
- Data Stakeholder Session (July 2023) to establish shared M&E frameworks¹⁶.
- Community clean-cooking pilots (e.g., Petti village, FCT) ¹⁷ and a solar-cookstove showcase (Iponri Market, Lagos) ¹⁸.
- World Bank-supported DARES programme, targeting 17.5 million beneficiaries with solar mini- grids and home systems¹⁹.
- ETP Help-Desk, providing direct access to technical support for households and cooperatives.

Yet none of these initiatives is expressly ring-fenced for the Niger Delta and other extractive heartlands that have endured decades of oil spills, gas flaring and withheld royalties. The ETP still lacks a finance window, benefit-sharing rule-set or decision-making seat for host-community trusts, leaving the very regions

that powered Nigeria's fossil economy at risk of watching the renewable boom from the sidelines. Without explicit targets and governance hooks for these communities, the transition could swap petrol for solar while repeating the same old pattern of exclusion.

Key Institutions Driving the Energy Transition

Federal Ministry of Power (FMoP): As Nigeria's lead policymaker for the electricity sector, the FMoP coordinates national strategies to deliver inclusive, sustainable, and climate-aligned power infrastructure. It supervises key agencies such as: Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA).

National Council on Climate Change Secretariat (NCCCS): Created by the Climate Change Act (2021), the NCCCS oversees implementation of national climate policies, including: Rolling five-year carbon budgets, Climate Change Fund management, and Public-private sector compliance. The NCCCS also partners with UN agencies to design Nigeria's Just Transition Framework, facilitating: Green job creation, Social inclusion, and Carbon credit markets.

Rural Electrification Agency (REA): Established under the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (2005), the REA drives electrification of underserved areas through off-grid and mini-grid systems. Flagship initiatives include Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP), Energizing Education Programme, Solar Power Naija, Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-Up (DARES), Africa Mini Grids Programme (AMP), and Rural Electrification Fund (REF). These interventions contribute to universal energy access and align with the ETP's targets, particularly in reaching rural and low-income communities.

Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC): Nigeria's independent power regulator is crucial for turning energy-transition targets into bankable projects. Since the passage of the Electricity Act 2023, NERC has:

- Updated the Mini-Grid Regulations (2023) to streamline licensing and performance standards for systems up to 5 MW²⁰.
- Adopted the AFUR cost-reflective tariff tool to give developers clear, uniform pricing templates— reducing investor risk for rural solar and hybrid grids²¹.
- Expanded net-metering and embedded-generation rules, enabling households and SMEs to export surplus solar power to the grid.

Together these steps lower entry barriers for decentralised renewables and help align power-sector economics with the Energy Transition Plan (ETP).

Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN): As the government's think-tank for long-range energy planning, the ECN:

- Leads national energy-balance and demand-forecast studies that feed directly into each update of the ETP.
- Steers R&D partnerships with universities and private firms to localise solar-PV component manufacturing and green-hydrogen prospects.
- In 2024 launched a knowledge-exchange bulletin linking state energy ministries, researchers and investors on transition topics.

By supplying data, modelling, and technology roadmaps, ECN gives policymakers the analytical backbone needed for evidence-based transition decisions.

Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC): The NDDC operates as a regional intervention body focused on development and environmental remediation in the Niger Delta. It plays a growing role in Nigeria's energy transition through:

- **Lighting Up the Niger Delta:** Over 56,000 solar-powered streetlights installed.
- Plans to solarize entire communities and develop industrial clusters powered by renewables.
- Launching a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) training and conversion programme for 10,000 technicians by 2027.
- Targeting up to e2 billion in climate finance through clean energy initiatives.

While these efforts represent important steps, their integration into national frameworks like the ETP remains limited, reducing opportunities for synergy and scale.

Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC): The upstream oil-and-gas regulator now embeds decarbonisation in core licensing:

- **Upstream Petroleum Decarbonisation Template (UPDT)**—from 1 Jan 2025, every field licence applicant must show a low-carbon plan, methane-management measures and a renewable-energy component²².

- A 2024 strategic decarbonisation drive links flare-gas commercialisation, CCS pilots and nature-based offsets to national net-zero goals²³.

These requirements push operators to cut flaring and integrate clean-energy solutions, aligning hydrocarbon activity with the ETP's emission-reduction pathway.

Nigerian Midstream & Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA): Tasked with gas infrastructure and fuel markets, NMDPRA is pivotal for transition fuels:

- Co-authored the National Clean-Cooking Policy (2024), anchoring LPG and CNG scale-up to replace firewood and kerosene in 30 million households by 2030²⁴.
- Issues pricing and safety guidelines that make LPG bottling, bulk storage and CNG conversion centres commercially viable.

By expanding gas-based cooking and transport fuels, NMDPRA provides the “bridge fuel” layer envisioned in the ETP.

Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA): Beyond managing sovereign-wealth capital, NSIA has become a green-finance catalyst:

- Co-launched the US \$500 million Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) Fund with SEforALL, Africa 50 and ISA to crowd-in local pension-fund capital for mini-grids, SHS and storage²⁵.
- Through its subsidiary RIPLE, co-invests in hybrid solar-hydro IPPs such as the 20 MW Shiroro extension.

These vehicles mobilise long-tenor, naira-denominated finance that utility-scale renewables and rural electrification both require.

State Governments (Post-Electricity Act 2023): With the new Act devolving power regulation, states are emerging as frontline transition actors:

- Lagos State Electricity Law (2024) empowers the state to license mini-grids, set feed-in tariffs and create a state-level market operator—an early template for sub-national energy governance²⁶.
- Other states (Kaduna, Enugu, Edo, Ekiti) are drafting similar laws or renewable-energy policies, opening space for local PPPs and climate-adaptation projects.
- State Ministries of Energy can now earmark portions of Internally Generated Revenue and climate funds for solar schools, agro-processing mini-grids and electric-bus pilots.

This decentralisation, if matched with capacity-building and finance, can accelerate the rollout of clean, reliable power—especially in underserved rural and peri-urban areas.

2.3 Policy–Community Disconnect in Extractive Regions

Nigeria now boasts a dense web of climate- and energy-policy instruments, yet oil- and gas-producing communities still struggle to see or shape the transition on the ground. Most frameworks reference “stakeholders” in general terms, but only a handful build in clear seats, budgets, or grievance channels for the people who have borne the brunt of spills, gas flaring, and lost livelihoods. The two tables below map (i) how far the flagship climate-energy policies embed community-inclusion safeguards and (ii) whether community-level programmes actually advance clean-energy and climate-resilience goals.

Table 1: National climate-energy policies through a community-inclusion lens

Policy / Plan	Year	Stated community-inclusion provisions	Inclusion rating*
Energy Transition Plan (ETP)/ETO	2022	The ETO's CSO/CBO, women-and-youth, and data workshops—and its clean-cooking pilots—have all taken place in Lagos and Abuja; wider “awareness roadshows” are promised, yet extractive-region CSOs and host-community representatives still have no formal seat in transition-plan governance .	Low-Medium

Climate Change Act	2021	Requires a public-engagement strategy and annual carbon-budget hearings	High (on paper)
National Climate Change Policy (NCCP)	2021	Drafted via nationwide consultations; calls for community-based adaptation projects	Medium-High
Electricity Act	2023	Permits states license mini-grids and set feed-in tariffs; guidelines for host communities pending	Low-Medium
NDC (Rev. 2021)	2021	Pledges “participatory implementation”, but no dedicated finance window	Medium-Low
NREEEP	2015	Encourages NGO & civil-society partnership on demo projects.	Medium
NREAP / NEEAP	2015	Rural/off-grid focus; envisages state & LGA input, but lacks enforcement	Medium
Renewable Energy Master Plan	2019	Targets 30 % RE share; silent on benefit-sharing rules	Low

*High = binding duties and earmarked resources; Medium = some provisions but weak on enforcement; Low = aspirational only.

Table 2: Community-level programme & instruments—alignment with clean energy and resilience

Programme / Instrument	Lead agency	Clean energy / resilience content	Alignment rating
Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP)	REA	Uses a published community-engagement framework for >1 000 solar mini-grids	Medium-High
DARES mini-grid scale-up	REA / WB	Results-based grants for 17.5 m beneficiaries; targets rural SMEs	Medium-High
“Light-Up the Niger Delta”	NDDC	>56 000 solar streetlights; plan for solar industrial clusters	Medium
Host Community Development Trusts (HCDDT) under the PIA	NUPRC / Operators	3 % OPEX levy for social projects; <i>no clean-energy mandate</i>	Medium (development) / Low (energy)
RUWES clean-cooking project	Federal Ministry of Environment	Targets 1.3 m rural women with efficient stoves	Medium
Upstream Petroleum Decarbonization Template (UPDT)	NUPRC	From 2025, license bids must include low carbon & RE plans	Emerging-High

What the tables reveal

- Inclusion is still event-based. The ETP hosts high-profile dialogues, but extractive-region residents have no standing place on sector taskforces, nor a share of the ETP's financing pipeline.
- Legacy host-community vehicles lag the transition. HCDTs capture billions of naira each year, yet have no obligation to fund solar, clean cooking, or climate-resilience projects.
- Pilot success, weak feedback loop. REA and NDDC pilots confirm that mini-grids and solar streetlights can succeed in oil-bearing areas, yet the insights and revenues seldom loop back into national planning and the projects remain largely top-down interventions, not solutions co-designed with the communities that critical to the production and consumption of energy.

Why this matters for a just transition

Without explicit finance windows, benefit-sharing rules, and governance seats for extractive communities, Nigeria risks replacing diesel with solar while repeating the same pattern of exclusion. Bridging this gap requires:

1. Ring-fenced funding: dedicate a share of ETP and HCDT funds to community-led renewable projects in oil- and gas-producing LGAs.
2. Institutional seats: guarantee host-community and CSO representation on every ETP sector working group.
3. Score-card transparency: publish an annual Just Transition Scorecard tracking how policy targets translate into on-the-ground benefits—jobs, emissions cuts, and resilience gains for Niger Delta and other extractive regions.

Embedding these measures across all major climate and renewable-energy policies—not just the ETP—will turn abstract decarbonisation goals into tangible, inclusive progress for the communities that have powered Nigeria's economy for decades.

2.4 The Case for a Just Energy Transition for Nigeria's Extractive Communities

Nigeria's energy transition has yet to sufficiently integrate the realities and interest of extractive communities into its policy implementation strategies. While national policies such as the ETP set ambitious decarbonization goals,

they often fail to address the socio-economic vulnerabilities of communities that have historically depended on fossil fuel industries. Extractive regions, particularly in the Niger Delta, have endured decades of environmental degradation, economic marginalization, and limited energy access. Without deliberate efforts to incorporate their needs and perspectives, the transition risks deepening existing inequalities rather than fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

The concept of a Just Energy Transition (JET) offers a framework for ensuring that climate action does not come at the expense of the most vulnerable populations. Originating from labour movements in the 1980s, JET emphasizes the shift towards sustainable energy systems that prioritize social equity, economic inclusion, and environmental sustainability. It seeks to mitigate the adverse effects of moving away from fossil fuels by actively involving all stakeholders, especially workers, marginalized communities, and local populations—in decision-making processes.

At the core of a just transition is the principle that no group should be treated unfairly, particularly by public policies. A 2024 ODI working paper²⁷ provides a framework for incorporating justice in the energy transition. It comprises four

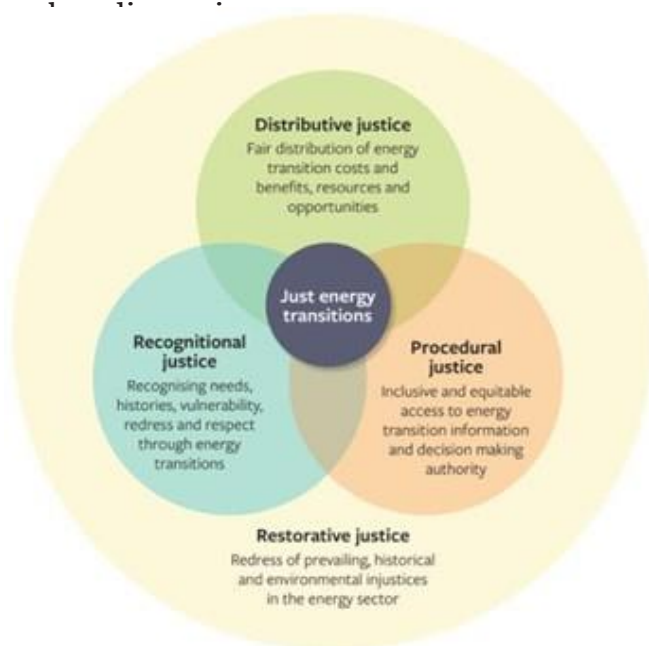


Figure 1: Four Key Dimensions of Justice Pillar Source: Steadman et. al. (2024)

- **Distributive Justice:** Ensuring the fair distribution of the costs and benefits associated with the transition. Extractive communities should not bear the burden of economic displacement while others reap the advantages of renewable energy investments. Policies must guarantee equitable access to resources, opportunities, and financial support for alternative livelihoods.

- **Recognitional Justice:** Acknowledging the unique needs, histories, and vulnerabilities of oil-producing communities. These populations have suffered from decades of environmental degradation, and a just transition must prioritize their economic and social well-being rather than treating them as an afterthought in climate policies.
- **Procedural Justice:** Guaranteeing that all stakeholders—especially those in extractive regions—have equitable access to information and decision-making processes. Energy transition plans must incorporate transparent, participatory governance mechanisms to ensure that affected communities can shape policies that impact their future.
- **Restorative Justice:** Addressing historical injustices and environmental harms caused by past energy practices. This includes funding for environmental remediation, investments in sustainable local economies, and direct compensation for communities that have suffered from pollution and resource extraction.

Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) does not incorporate these dimension of justice: extractive-region CSOs and host-community trusts hold no recognition in decision-making and public awareness remains patchy. Yet realities in the Niger Delta are mixed. Some enclaves already enjoy gas-fired power, royalties, CSR scholarships and jobs, while others face chronic pollution and see those rents captured by local elites or armed groups. A truly Just Energy Transition (JET) must therefore (i) safeguard existing livelihoods while hydrocarbons remain, (ii) provide bankable alternatives before any phase-down, and (iii) embed a permanent justice architecture— compensation funds, clean-up timelines and statutory representation of host trusts facilitated access to renewable energy on all transition-finance and project-approval boards.

Since oil's discovery at Oloibiri in 1956²⁸, spills, flaring and weak governance have devastated farmland and fisheries in places such as Bodo and Ogoniland²⁹; UNEP estimates full remediation could take three decades³⁰. These historical harms, together with the Ogoni struggle of the 1990s and today's illicit mining conflicts³¹ elsewhere, underscore the need for restorative and distributive justice—not a simple exit.



Figure 2: Oil from a leaking pipeline burns in Goi-Bodo, a swamp area of the Niger Delta (October 12, 2004) Source: Austin Ekeinde/Reuters

A JET can still turn crisis into opportunity. Decentralised solar, wind and mini-hydro schemes—tied to reforestation and environmental-service jobs—can expand clean power, build skills and diversify incomes, advancing SDG 732. But success hinges on procedural and recognitional justice: town-hall consultations that include youth, women and other vulnerable groups; transparent benefit-sharing that reaches households, not just gatekeepers; and retraining programmes for workers whose livelihoods depend on oil and gas.

Targeted social-service spending, capacity-building and strict accountability for both government and companies will convert Nigeria's green ambitions into genuine social equity. Without such institutional safeguards, communities can rightly ask: "You polluted our land for decades—now you want to leave without remedy; where is the justice?"

2.5 Where the Justice Gap Persists for Extractive Communities

Decades of oil spills, gas flaring, and royalty disputes have left Niger-Delta and other extractive communities with damaged ecosystems and precarious livelihoods. A just energy transition must therefore be judged against four justice principles—Distributive, Recognitional, Procedural, and Restorative—not merely against national emission curves.

Table 3: Do Nigeria's flagship policies respect *justice for extractive regions*?

Policy / Programme	Distributive (<i>income, jobs, infrastructure</i>)	Recognitional (<i>Explicit mention of Niger-Delta needs</i>)	Procedural (<i>seats, votes, data-access</i>)	Restorative (<i>cleanup, compensation</i>)
Energy Transition Plan (ETP) 2022	△ – Poverty-reduction goal but no ring-fenced finance for host LGAs	✗	△ – One-off dialogues (Women-in-Energy, CSO sessions) but <i>no standing seats</i> for host trusts.	✗
Climate Change Act 2021	△ – Climate Fund can <i>in theory</i> target impacted zones	△ – Mentions “vulnerable groups”	✓ – Mandates public-engagement strategy & CSO partnership §25-30	✗
NREEEP / NREAP / NEEAP 2015	△ – Rural/off-grid focus; no host-community clause	✗	△ – State/LGA consultation suggested, not enforced	✗
Electricity Act 2023	△ – States may reserve tariffs for affected LGAs	✗	△ – Devolves licensing; host voices depend on state law	✗
Host-Community Dev. Trusts (PIA)	✓ – 3 % OPEX levy to host funds	✓	△ – Trustees picked by operators; limited transparency	△ – Allows remediation spending but no clean-energy mandate
REA Mini grid / DARES	✓ – Results-based grants; 17.5 m beneficiaries targeted	△	△ – Uses published community-engagement framework	✗
NDDC ‘Light-Up’ Solar Streetlights	✓ – 56 000 solar lamps in Niger Delta	✓	△ – Community input unclear	△ – No direct remediation budget

Key: ✓ = strong provision | △ = partial / aspirational | ✗ = absent

Justice diagnosis

1. Distributive justice: Flows of climate and energy finance still bypass oil-bearing LGAs. The only automatic channel—the 3% Host-Community levy—has no obligation to fund renewables or clean- cooking projects, and ETP financing dashboards list zero host-community earmarks.
2. Recognitional justice: Extractive-region needs are seldom named. Apart from the PIA, national strategies refer generically to “vulnerable” or “rural” groups, glossing over the unique legacy burdens borne by Niger-Delta communities.
3. Procedural justice: Engagement is event-based, not institutional. The ETP’s Women-in-Energy Dialogue and stakeholder workshops are welcome, but host-community trusts hold no voting seats on ETP sector taskforces, NCCC carbon-budget hearings, or NERC tariff reviews.

4. Restorative justice: Environmental cleanup and livelihood repair remain peripheral. Neither the ETP, NREEEP, nor mini-grid programmes link new energy investments to soil-and-water remediation or compensation for decades of extraction damage.

Why these matters

Unless distributive, recognitional, procedural and restorative justice are baked into every major policy, the transition risks swapping diesel for solar while repeating old patterns of exclusion. Extractive communities could again shoulder environmental scars—this time without the meagre royalties that once compensated them.

Justice-centered reform for policymakers

Justice pillar	Immediate action	Responsible body
Distributive	Earmark 15 % of ETP and Climate-Fund capital for host-community clean-energy and remediation projects; allow HCDTs to count such spending against levy obligations.	MoF, NCCC, NUPRC

11

Recognitional	Amend NREEEP & Electricity Act regulations to <i>name and prioritize</i> extractive communities for mini-grid and clean-cooking subsidies.	FMoP, NERC, State Governments
Procedural	Guarantee two host-community seats on every ETP sector working group; publish minutes in local languages.	Energy Transition Office
Restorative	Create a Just Transition Remediation Window —funded by carbon-credit revenues and HCMT surpluses—for oil-spill clean-up, mangrove restoration, and livelihood grants.	NDDC, NOSDRA, NSIA

Embedding these justice levers will convert Nigeria's impressive stack of policies into a people-centered, extractive-region-inclusive energy transition—one that repairs the past while securing a sustainable future.

3 EVIDENCE-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION ON EXTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES IN THE NIGER-DELTA

3.1 Introduction and Methodology

The energy transition in Nigeria presents both significant challenges and potential opportunities for extractive communities, such as the Niger Delta. Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP), which aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060, marks a crucial shift toward renewable energy and low-carbon development. While this transition poses socio-economic risks—such as job losses and economic disruptions in oil- and gas-producing regions—it also creates new prospects for sustainable livelihoods and economic diversification. Drawing on recent analyses, policy documents, and direct engagements with local communities, this section explores both the challenges and opportunities that the transition presents for these communities.

The analysis employs a mixed-method approach, drawing from empirical evidence in the form of reports from international organizations, government agencies, and civil society groups; case studies from affected communities; statistical data on economic trends, employment, and energy access; and perspectives from key stakeholders, including local community members, industry players, and policymakers. In addition, this study incorporates insights from focus group discussions held during the Yar'Adua Foundation event on Shaping an Inclusive Energy Transition in the Niger Delta³³. The study engaged local communities, including and Eteo Eleme in Rivers State; Koroama, Ikarama, Gbarain, and Ekpetiama in Bayelsa State; as well as Akpet Central, Boki, and Biase in Cross River State. Participants included community leaders, women leaders, youth, and other residents, whose lived experiences provide critical insights into the socio-economic and environmental realities of the transition.



*Figure 3: Focus Group & Interactive Session Held During the Yar Adua Foundation Event
(Read more in the full report)...*

7.2 Final Word

A just transition cannot emerge organically from market forces or elite filled conference halls. It must be negotiated in village squares, tracked in public budgets, and felt in cleaner air, new pay-packets, and restored creeks. The roadmap is now clear; what remains is political will. If federal ministries, state governments, investors, and communities act together, guided by the justice benchmarks set out here, the Niger Delta can become a global show- case of community-owned clean power and ecological recovery. If they delay, the region risks even more fragility fueled by a new carbon divide: green energy for urban centers, lingering poverty for the oil patch. The moment for decisive, collective action is now.

(Read more in the full report; An Inclusive and Just Energy Transition for Niger-Delta Extractive - Communities in Nigeria)...

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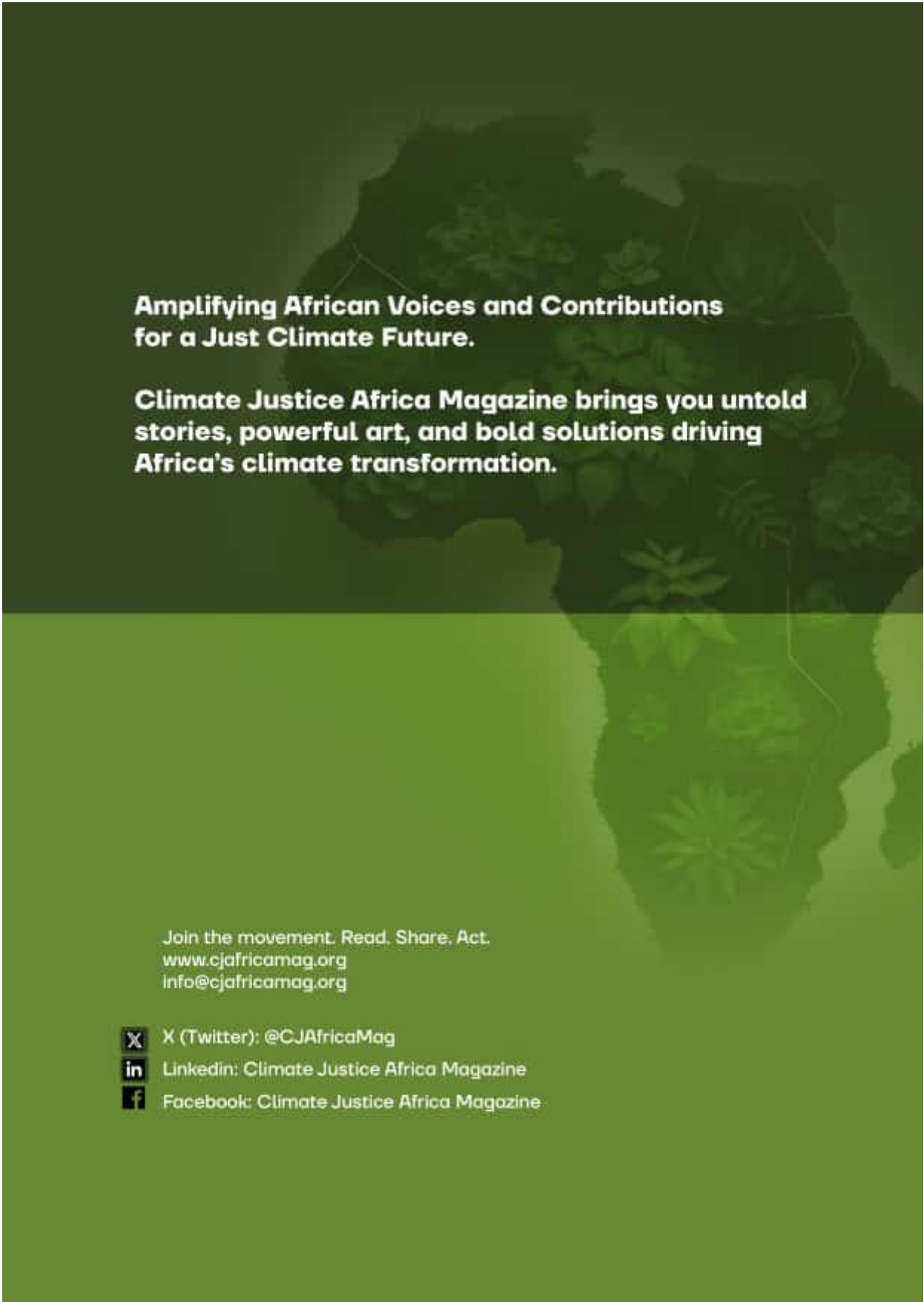


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