

ZCCN NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2022



Towards Climate and Environmental Justice!

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August 2022

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ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) is a membership - based Organization existing as civil society National platform whose strategic thrust is on climate change justice and sustainable development in Zambia.

The Organization is registered with the Zambian Government under the Registrar of Societies registration NO.ORS/102/35/4365. The Mission of ZCCN is to Coordinate Stakeholder engagement on climate change related issues such as Advocating, Lobbying, Campaigning and Domesticating Practical and Sustainable measures for addressing Climate Change Impacts in Zambia, Africa and Globally in general through increased environmental stewardship and green development.

Its Objective is to Mobilize Civil Society Organizations and Individuals advancing Similar agendas in Climate Change related issues in order to create a platform for affirmative action.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) is a member of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) which is a coalition of civil society Organizations from African countries and that it is registered as an International Organization under the Laws of Kenya.

The organisation's thematic areas are in

- 1. Energy
- 2. Water and Sanitation
- 3. Health
- 4. Land Use and Management
- 5. Food Security and Livelihoods
- 6. Gender

Vision

A Zambia Resilient to the Adverse impacts of Climate Change.

Mission

To Coordinate Civil Society Organisations engagement on Climate Change issues through capacity Building, information sharing, Lobbying and Advocacy.

Motto

Towards Climate and Environmental Justice.



MONICA CHUNDAMA ZCCN BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Climate change effects continue to grow and worsen over time and this is why failure for citizens and the government to act on this pressing matter may pose as a huge risk on future generations.

At the rate at which climate change is impacting on people's livelihood, it is obvious that the country must put more effort toward climate change actions so as to preserve the environment for future generations, and this can only be made possible through introduction of a dedicated climate change legislation.

We are confident that Climate Change fight has received some good attention from the UPND Government and ZCCN is thankful for the efforts that have become more evident through the formulation of a Ministry responsible for Green Economy and Environment.



STEPHEN NYIRENDA NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The year 2022 has been eventful for the Network with huge contributions to the Climate fraternity and the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

As our first issue of the newsletter is unveiled to you, it is my greatest honor to announce to you that ZCCN now sits on the National Technical Committee for Climate Change and the Network makes submissions to the expanded budget committee and the committees of Agriculture and Lands and Natural Resources of the National Assembly as part of our Mandate for Policy influence and Stakeholder Engagement.

The Network is Closely working with Ministry of Green Economy and Environment.

Enjoy your Reading!

ZCCN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



Every passing day that the world continues to evolve, humans are fast and without care killing the only planet that supports life. CO2 emissions are on their highest rise, Forests turning into empty land, Wet Lands fast disappearing and land degradation due to mining on the rise.

These unjust and disturbing activities that humans have subjected Earth to have slowly began yielding results. The results are coming with huge negative impacts, ones that soon or later will not be handled or reversed.

High rise in temperatures, floods, droughts have been the secondary results of the many inconsiderate human activities.

Today, we are calling all these experiences as 'Climate Change'.

Climate Change in its plain context explains the long-term changes in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates. These Changes have come with tremendous disasters.

Lives and Livelihoods have been lost and in certain instances public infrastructure. Sadly, despite all these life threatening experiences, humans are doing less in halting the activities that have brought us to these realities.

As it has been predicted, the future is more likely to have much more deadly effects of Climate Change if nothing is done and it is for this reason that Zambia Climate Change Network ZCCN has focused working with the owners of the future, the young people, in order to find long lasting solutions to the crisis.

The Network has worked and is continuously collaborating with young people from Local Communities in many rural areas of Zambia where information on Climate Change is inadequate. We have involved and got into advocacy and campaigns with Primary and Secondary School learners as well as Environmental Specialist students from various Universities in the country.

Our approach in the fight against Climate Change is centered on Capacity Building, Mentorship and Advocacy through Workshops, Road Protests, Media Campaigns and many others with a firm belief that Young people must be directly involved if we were to attain Climate Justice in the Shortest possible time. As such, we continue committing ourselves in working with the Young people to find proper locally fetched and lasting solutions to the climate crisis.

PACJA DATES ZAMBIA



The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) visited Zambia to monitor the Climate and Environmental programmes and appreciate the various challenges that Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) is faced with.

The Continental body was represented by Head of Finance madam Fathya Abdulmajib who held a meeting with ZCCN Secretariat and its Partners to discuss various issues among them how to further enhance the existing partnership so as to win the climate change fight.

Madam Abdulmajib was delighted with the works that ZCCN through its Young Digital Activists (YDAs) is doing and she described the initiative as a great step in making sure that information on climate change reaches the masses.

PACJA Head of Finance said ZCCN has been a key partner of the Continental body dating far back 2011 and she noted with joy the growth and scope of work that the Network is undertaking to make sure that we save the Earth.

She has pledged that her organization will among other things increase in the financing of existing Youth programmes so as to allow more youths to take part in the just fight.

And ZCCN National Coordinator Mr. Steven Nyirenda thanked PACJA for the visit and described it as an honor and a sign that the Network's effort in the fight is being recognized both locally and internationally. The National Coordinator said the Network's objective of mobilizing Civil Society Organizations and Individuals who are advancing Climate Change related issues can only be realised through support, commitment and trust that PACJA continues to render to ZCCN.

Mr. Nyirenda concluded by thanking PACJA Head of Finance Madam Fathya Abdulmajib and all ZCCN's partners among them: CSPR, PELUM, ZAW, UNZADESA and Green Enviro-Watch.

The meeting was held at the Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia.

A CALL FOR ACTION TO THE AFRICAN UNION 4TH MID-YEAR COORDINATING COMMITEE MEETING TO MITIGATE FOOD CRISIS IN AFRICA

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) joined a consortium of Zambian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to deliver a petition to the African Union (AU) and all Regional Blocks on the call for action to mitigate food crisis in Africa.

The Zambian CSO Consortium which was graced by CSOs from other African States who called on African Governements to address and mitigate the high rising cost of food as this has excacerbated the existing humanatarian crisis such as gender based violations and exploitations among others.

ActionAidZambiaCountryDirectorNaluchaNganga spoke on behalf of the Consortium saying it is high time African governments took policy measures to subsidize food accessibility if we are to save people particular women and children from various forms of abuse.

Madam Nganga disclosed that this year's AU theme of "Strengthening resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent" comes at the right time when the Continent has been harshly hit with high food prices because of the social and economic impacts of Covid-19, Climate induced Droughts and Flooding and subsequently the Rusia-Ukraine war.

She called on African leaders to take Covid-19, Climate Change Effects and the Rusia-Ukraine war as a basis of transforming the continents' food and agricultural systems to protect livelihoods, promote seed and food sovereignty and sustain the planet.'



Dr. Raj Gautam who recieved the petition on behalf of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the AU said his Council understands the call made at the Malabo Declaration on the need for African Governments to work together to improve livelihoods through Agriculture.

"This petition paper shows the collective and united effort being made to address the challenges that the continent is faced with regards food security and nutrition and it also acts as a reminder for African governemts and AU to shift public and private finance away from industrial agriculture and fossil fuels to avoid making the climate crisis even worse". Dr. Gautam.

Dr. Gautam thanked and assured the Zambian CSO Consorium and the visiting CSO representatives from other African States of ECOSOCC fruitful consideration of the petition.



ZCCN ELATED WITH PRESIDENT HICHILEMA'S AFRICA FREEDOM DAY SPEECH



Millions of People across the globe are already suffering from the catastrophic effects of extreme disasters exacerbated by climate change.

In Zambia, these effects range from floods being experienced in the sands of Luapula and Northern Provinces to scotching Droughts in the farming blocks of Southern and Eastern Provinces of our country.

While the public largely understands climate change through the impact it will bring to earth, Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) feels it is the devastation that these impacts have already brought to our people that makes this topic an urgent human crisis.

We feel Climate Change affects will continue to grow and worsen over time and this is why failure of governments to act on this pressing matter may pose as a huge risk on future generations.

ZCCN is however impressed and delighted with Government's stance on climate change as evidently shown through President Hakainde Hichilema's National Address speech on the Commemoration of Africa Freedom Day that fell on Wednesday May 25, 2022.

President Hichilema in his speech recognized the need to put more effort in reversing climate change impacts if the country is to achieve the highly needed Sustainable Development.

The President further highlighted one of ZCCN's biggest campaigns on Forest Protection with emphasis on its protection as forests are a major Wildlife habitat. It is this wildlife that highly contribute to the country's GDP through tourism.

ZCCN would wish to applaud President Hichilema for his sound message on the need to vigorously move towards sustainable agricultural practices such as Smart Agriculture.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) would further love to express its gratitude to the Republican President for retaliating our strategic drive on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

POST-COP26 REVIEW

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) led various CSO's on a 2-day workshop to engage on the deliberations and agreements that were made at the COP-26 which was held in Glasgow, Scotland last year.

World leaders made various commitments in the Climate Change fight and agreed among other issues to reduce on Carbon Emissions, halting and reversing forest loss, aligning the finance sector with net-zero by 2050.

These commitments come at a time that Africa will be holding the next COP summit in Egypt and Zambia having been crowned the mantle to lead the African Group of Negotiators.

It is therefore important that as leaders of the African Group of Negotiators we are able to speak to the need of developing a robust road map for effective engagements as we deliberate on the Post COP-26 and Pre COP-27 scheduled for later in the year.

ZCCN further suggests on the need for CSO's in the Climate Change fraternity to identify locally developed solutions if we are to win the climate change fight.



THE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

For many years now, climate change has considerably impacted negatively on the lives of many around the world and Zambia has not been spared. Locally, the impacts have been largely felt in the Agriculture and Energy sectors with experiences of droughts and floods which has subsequently depressed the country's economic growth.

At the rate at which climate change is impacting on people's livelihood, it is obvious that the country must put more effort toward climate change actions so as to preserve the environment for future generations, and this can only be made possible through introduction of a dedicated climate change legislation.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) with stakeholders from different organisations contributed towards the development of the Climate Change Bill in response to a call for contributions from stakeholders by the Department of Climate Change from Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

With the bill formally formulated and awaiting to be passed before floor of Parliament, ZCCN and its stakeholders can only hope for its enactment into law so as to have a climate change fight that is guided by legislation.

Our role in the Climate Change fraternity cannot be overemphasized and our voice as a Network can only go as far with a proper legal frame work hence urging government to expedite the process of enacting the bill into law.

ZCCN is thankful to the New Dawn government for its efforts in the fight against climate change that has become more evident through the formulation of a Ministry responsible for Green Economy and Environment.





ASACC MEDIA AWARDS LAUNCHED

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) joined the consortium of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Launching the 2022 ASACC Media Awards.

For the past Six years, ZCCN has collaborated with PELUM Zambia, Caritas Zambia, ActionAid, FIAN International, ZAAB, CTDT and others to enhance opportunities for Journalists taking part in the Climate Change discourse, and to appreciate them for the dissemination of Climate Change related information.

Gracing the ASACC Media Awards Launch was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Media Mr. Kennedy Kalunga who thanked and encouraged the consortium to continue with the initiative as a way of enhancing Environmental Protection and Climate Change concerns as a way of promoting Climate Advocacy.

Mr. Kalunga promised the CSOs of government's continuous support and stated that human survival is directly linked to the topics of Agroecology, Environment, and Climate change which the media have been tasked to write on.

And ActionAid Country Director Madam Nalucha Nganga who officially launched the awards called on the media to help the CSOs in the Climate Change fraternity by informing and educating the masses on the effects of Climate Change. Madam Nganga encouraged the media to write on articles that link Zambia's debt to food security among households and communities across the country so as to bring to light issues of social accountability which are key in the advocacy mandate of the CSOs.

The Media Awards are categorized in Agroecology, Social Accountability and Climate Change (ASACC) and are for TV, Radio, Print and Social media platforms with aim of motivating and encouraging Journalists who are communicating and spreading information about climate change to the populace.

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WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY

The International biodiversity day is an annual event that celebrates the importance of biodiversity. It is held on May 22nd each year. The day was first established by the United Nations in 1993. The goal of the day is to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the need to protect it.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and can encompass the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life. The day is celebrated every year with different themes to create awareness about the importance of biodiversity.

The 2022 World Biodiversity Day was commemorated under the theme "Building a shared future for all life".

The theme 'Building a shared future for all life' is in line with our shared desire with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) to see all forms of life being taken care of as we work on saving planet earth.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) acknowledges that Biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges and as such, the network feels our voices in calling for proper care of all forms of life should be a priority.

We are concerned as a network at the rate at which biodiversity is under threat from a number of human activities, i.e. deforestation, overfishing, pollution. These activities are reducing the number of species of plants and animals on Earth.

It is estimated that one million species could be extinct by 2050 if current trends continue and it is thus ZCCN drive to raise awareness and call for action to protect our planet's biodiversity.

Our Continental body AFSA acknowledges Biodiversity as an important aspect for sustaining life on Earth as it helps regulate our climate and provides us with recreation and tourism opportunities.



Sadly, the negative human activities are causing a rapid decline in biodiversity this loss of biodiversity is known as the sixth mass extinction.

From ecosystem-based approaches on climate, health issues, food and water security and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back a better planet.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) therefore calls on government to encourage agricultural practices among our farmers that speak to restoration of biodiversity by practicing sustainable farming methods such as Agroecology or Organic Farming.

GUARD AFRICA PROJECT LAUNCHED



Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) launched the GUARD Africa Project, funded by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) with support from the Swedish Government through SIDA.

The project launch was held on the 17th May, 2022 at Radisson BLU Hotels in Lusaka and was attended by the private sector and various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as WWF Zambia, FIAN International, SNV and CARITAS Zambia.

ZCCN Board Chairperson Ms. Monica Chundama welcomed the representatives of the various organizations and briefly explained on the mandate ZCCN has in the climate change fraternity in the country.

She highlighted the importance of partnerships and collaborations among the continental bodies and local CSOs if we are to win the climate change fight.

Ms. Chundama disclosed that the project is dubbed "Galvanizing and Unifying Africa's Actions for Resilient Development" with an aim of consolidating CSO's efforts in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic and is expected to run for a period not less than three years. "No organization is too small or too big to collaborate with us because of how complex climate change is, hence starting January 2022, ZCCN and PACJA signed yet another partnership with an aim of continuously advancing actions meant to combat the Climate Change Crisis". Ms. Chundama.

The Board Chairperson stressed that in order to turn focus towards investing in Climate Change, ZCCN has put in place a strategic plan with a vision that aims at turning Zambia into a resilient nation with regards climate change and she said the support from PACJA on this project speaks directly to the Network's vision.

Ms. Chundama further expressed happiness with the various CSOs that participated in the GUARD Africa Project Launch and called on all Environmental Actors to add more efforts in promoting and fighting for Climate Justice.

The Board Chairperson concluded her address to the CSOs, the private sector and the media with words of delight to the Continental Mother Body-PACJA for its continuous support being rendered to the network dating far back 2008.

ZCCN AT 2022 MINING INDABA



Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) joined other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Stakeholders at the 9th Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba Policy Forum being held in Lusaka.

The Civil Society Organizations called on Government through the Minister of Mines and Mineral Development Hon. Paul Kabuswe to take account of the minerals and the revenue earned on behalf of the Zambia People.

The CSOs expressed concern over the increase in poverty levels when the country is endowed with numerous precious minerals which should in turn enrich majority of the citizens and not a selected few. A presentation given to the forum by ZCCN Program officer Ms. Lydia Chibambo called on the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development to regulate and warn those being given Mining Licenses against Environmental Pollution which has for a long time affected the lives of many in the Mining areas of the Country.

The two-day Indaba was held under the theme; "Working Towards Enhancing Natural Resource Governance in Zambia".

CLIMATE JUSTICE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cabinet approved the commencement of the preparation of the Eighth National Development Plan in October 2020 to succeed the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) that was implemented over the period 2017 to 2021 and the fourth in the series of National Development Plans (NDPs) towards the National Vision 2030 in which Zambians aspire to live in a prosperous middle-income nation.

The Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) sets out Zambia's strategic direction, development priorities and implementation strategies for the period 2022 to 2026.

Citizens through the Civil Society were able to express their concerns and adequately participate and share their views on what should be included in the current National Development Plan.

The input on the 8th NDP came from different stakeholders, including women, children and youth. The inputs therefore meant to inform further efforts to reduce poverty through tackling climate change through various interventions including promoting resilient food systems and agriculture.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) through its staffer Ms. Lydia Chibambo participated in a Live Call-In Radio Program to offer comparative analysis on the Environmental sustainability pillar component of climate change in the final draft report against the submissions made by the CSOs.

The Program was held at Real Radio FM from 10-11hrs.

ZCCN TAKES PART IN THE EIA | ESS TRAINING PROGRAM



Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) with support from WWF took part in the experts Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Social Safeguards (ESS) training programme that was conducted by the Zambia Institute of Environmental Management (ZIEM).

The course covered the entire EIA process in Zambia and the ESS framework promulgated by the United Nations Cancun Safeguards, World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and the Green Climate Fund Environmental Social Safeguards.

The training empowered ZCCN with necessary skills to better manage environmental planning and design of proposals that will minimize risks and impacts on the environment and people while ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

Among other participants were representatives from various CSOs in the Environment and Natural Resource Management, Municipal and Local Government Authorities, Renewable Energy Sector, Mining Sector and Academicians among others.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS; WORLD WATER DAY & METEOROLOGICAL DAY



International Day of Forests, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day are inseparably linked commemorations in the Climate Change fraternity.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) has always viewed the days as a reminder on the importance of forests and water to both human and animal life. World Metrological Day reminds the network on the metrological department's forecast ability to warn the public on weather changes and what should be done to avoid loss of lives in these prevailing climate change times.

From the Kalahari woodlands in the sands of the upper Zambezi in Western and North-Western Provinces to the Mopane woodlands in the South and East of Zambia, forest covers up to 65% of the country's total land area. Sadly, these forests are disappearing on a very fast rate and its devastating effects on people and wildlife are heavily being felt in many areas around the country and the world as a whole.

This year's theme for the International Day of Forests; "Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption" reminded us as a network on the need for restoration and sustainable management of the forests as it plays a very important role in the fight against climate change by acting as natural carbon sinks. World forests absorb about 16 billion metric tons of CO2 emissions suggesting that the climate change crisis may worsen if more forests are to be destroyed.

Forests influence the water cycle and the subsequent rain fills our streams, rivers dams and lakes with the much needed water. These forests help in keeping the water bodies clean and healthy by improving the quality of water through the reduction in soil erosion and the filtering out of sediments and chemical pollutants.

One of the common natural hazards that have come with climate change are storms like the recently experienced Tropical Ana that displaced many in Eastern, Southern and Western parts of the country. It is therefore critical to note that forests protect us from natural disasters like storms as they act as natural barriers to people's infrastructure.

Water is viewed by many as the most precious resource ever gifted to humans. This is however true as no human activity can be done without direct or indirect use of this resource. In Zambia, our economic activities in the Agriculture, Energy and Mining sectors are solely dependent on the use of water. As such, ZCCN's approach on water has always been on its prudent utilization and management.

The 2022 World Water Day centered its theme on ground water, reminding us on how much of a treasure ground water is to people's lives. As climate change continues to pour its negative effects on people's lives, many water bodies across the country are drying out leaving ground water as the only option for fresh water resource.

The need for government and the citizens to work together in managing this precious ground water cannot be overemphasized as the resource is fast becoming a critical subject. Zambia Climate Change Network recommends for proper and sustainable ways of managing human and industrial waste to avoid contamination of the underground aquifers.

Extreme weather caused by climate change is visibly ravaging the country and the world at large. The country is experiencing intense droughts and floods like never seen before and the warming of the oceans in the far south have brought damaging storms like the Tropical Ana right on our door steps. Survival in these deadly weather conditions has been dependent on the forecasts that give an insight on what the weather will be, what it will do and what people should do in order to save life and livelihoods.

ZCCN abides with the theme "Early Warning and Early Action" as it speaks to the importance of warning the public on the prevailing weather conditions and what action to be taken in order to avoid calamities. Nevertheless, the Network feels more resources should be invested in technology as the need for solutions to the extreme weather conditions is fast growing.

The importance of the three commemorations to climate change are a noble action in accelerating progress that will allow humans and the planet to flourish for many generations to come.

It was on the commemorations of these important events that the Zambia Climate Change Network through its Young Digital Activists (YDA's) took to social media with different messages that called on restoration and sustainable management of forests, proper use of ground water and the need for more investment in weather forecasts.



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