



Nation Media Group
Media of Africa for Africa



CLIMATE CHANGE: EXPLORING AFRICAN RESPONSES AND SOLUTIONS

2022

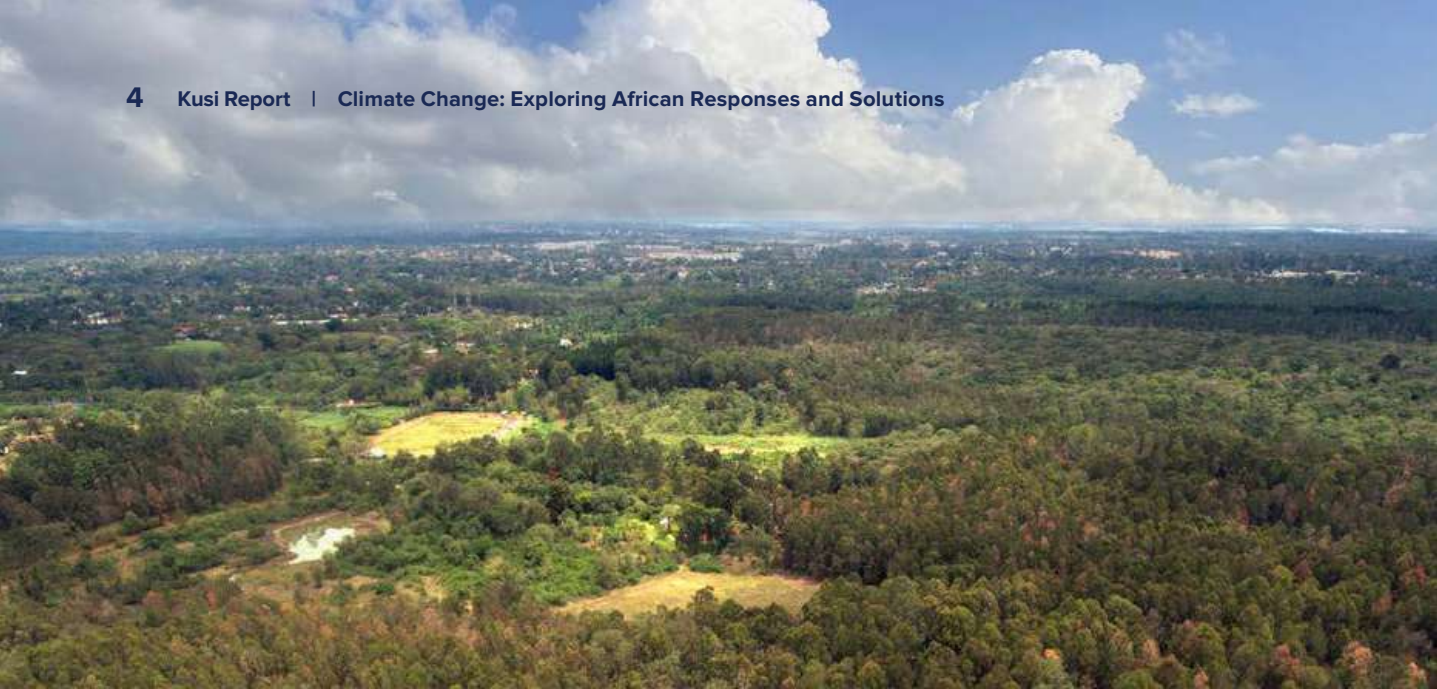
STORIES. INSIGHTS. TRENDS



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Festival in Karura Forest, Nairobi, Kenya

The fourth edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 8-9 December 2022, following three successful editions in Kigali, Rwanda (2019), Kisumu, Kenya (2020) and Accra, Ghana (2021). The Festival continues to be a convening place for Africa's brightest minds, trailblazers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, thinkers, activists and artists, as well as government representatives and Heads of State, to tease out trends in the region and envision the possibilities of the next half-century in Africa.

The Festival takes its inspiration from the powerful winds that shaped the history of East Africa and the Indian Ocean. The Swahili name for these winds, "kusi," symbolises the leadership and direction that propels Africa forward. Just as these winds enabled trade and cultural exchange in centuries past, the Festival aims to bring together diverse perspectives, fostering a space for intellectual and technological exchanges. By connecting ideas, investments and people, the Festival is intended to chart a new course for Africa's future, much like the winds that guided seafarers of old.

“ Overheard at Kusi

As we sit in Karura today, it's quite fitting that we honour the late Prof. Wangari Maathai. We are here because of the battles she fought. Her work reminds us that a better tomorrow is possible if we make some difficult choices in the ways we think and in the ways we act.

~ Makoloo Maurice, Area Vice President,
Africa Habitat for Humanity International

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Kusi IV Theme

The theme of this edition was ***“Climate Change: Exploring African Responses and Solutions.”*** In essence, it scrutinised the threat posed by the global climate emergency and possible solutions that Africa could demonstrate to the world. Much has been written and said about the fact that Africa is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change due to its high dependence on agriculture, which is sensitive to changes in rainfall patterns and temperature, as well as its limited resources to adapt to these changes. The negative effects of climate change are likely to result in food and water insecurity, increased frequency of extreme weather events and displacement of people. These could potentially exacerbate the continent's existing challenges, such as poverty, disease and conflict over resources.

Still, the continent has the potential to overcome these threats, and the Festival was the stage to tease out these possibilities, hosted on the backdrop of the COP27 conference in Egypt. Africa is rich in natural resources and has a diverse population with a wealth of knowledge and skills. This means that it can develop innovative solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change. Additionally, Africa can leverage its potential to be a leader in renewable energy. With the right support and investments, it can overcome the challenges posed by climate change and build a sustainable and resilient future for its people.

Karura Forest in Nairobi was the venue for Kusi IV, the ideal setting for these crucial conversations. The 2,500-acre forest serves as a crucial ecological resource for Nairobi, providing important ecosystem services such as clean air and water, carbon sequestration, and a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. By hosting the Festival in the forest, participants were able to appreciate the effects of climate change on local ecosystems and the importance of protecting them.

Karura Forest also has a rich political history that makes it an ideal location for a conference on climate change. It was originally gazetted in 1932, but in the 1990s was under serious threat from landgrabbers. The Green Belt Movement led by environmentalist, political activist and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, fought to have the land returned to the public and protected as a national park.

This history of community activism and successful advocacy for the protection of natural resources is particularly relevant for a conference on climate change, as it highlights the importance of community engagement and grassroots action in addressing the issue. By hosting the conference in a location with such a powerful history of civic engagement, attendees were reminded of the importance of community involvement and leadership in addressing climate change.



A delegate is taken through the REREC exhibition booth.

“

Together, we will create powerful citizen initiatives that will secure our future from present and impending disaster. In this historic collaboration between the government and the people of Kenya, we will have some powerful mobilisation tools.

”

H.E. Dr. William Ruto
President of the Republic of Kenya

Insights from Kusi Ideas Festival Host President

Climate change is the social, political and economic issue of our time. It is going to define the future of Kenya, Africa, the globe and it is our collective responsibility to participate in shaping how the phenomenon will affect our future.

To respond to climate change, what is needed is leadership with a purpose, vision and urgency. We saw this at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, a few weeks ago, when delegates kept going for three more days after the scheduled close of the conference to adopt 60 decisions, some of which affect vulnerable developing countries like Kenya.

After hours of political negotiations, parties established a fund to address the loss caused by climate change. This is an important step in the right direction and possibly what global leaders need to jolt themselves out of dangerous inertia over climate change.

These are trying times for most African countries. Our societies are still recovering and rebuilding after Covid-19, and now have to deal with the effects of the Russia-Ukraine War, drought and high food prices.

These crises affect our ability to effectively respond to climate change. It is projected that Africa will need to invest over \$3 trillion for mitigation and adaptation by 2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

Africa has the potential to provide solutions for the global climate change crisis. Our vast natural resources can produce sufficient clean energy for local development and export the surplus to decarbonise the global north. Africa can exploit the new carbon market mechanisms to meet most of her development needs. A purposeful collaboration among African States can give us a platform to exploit our strengths for our own development and get the best possible share and bargains with multilateral partners.

In East Africa, our Climate Change Master Plan is woefully underfunded. I challenge this festival to tackle the question of

how to resource Africa's response to climate change without relying on outside help.

I would also like to urge you to think about the most widespread threats of climate change. Some worst-case models, for example, predict that at the current rate of changing temperatures and receding lake levels, Lake Victoria could have no outlet to the White Nile in as little as 10 years. Lake Victoria is a Kenya-Tanzania-Uganda issue, with catchment spanning up to Rwanda, and no single nation can do much to reverse its misfortunes on its own.

Like elsewhere in the world, our coastal infrastructure, ecosystems, cities and livelihoods are threatened by rising sea temperatures and marine heat waves. Four of the seven EAC nations are landlocked, and the Democratic Republic of Congo has a small coastal strip. What complicates the situation is that the landlocked countries are dependent on access to the sea through two countries: Kenya and Tanzania. The situation is quite different in southern Africa. What climate change does to Kenya and Tanzania's ports is a big concern for the East and Central African hinterland. This demands closer regional cooperation and governance arrangements for regional security.

At the domestic level, upwards of four million Kenyans are staring at hunger as a result of acute drought. We have launched an ambitious plan to increase our tree cover from 12.13 per cent to 30 per cent by 2032. We will begin by planting and growing 15 billion trees on 10.6 million hectares of land all over the country at an estimated cost of \$5 billion.

This endeavour can only be achieved through collective action. We will not meet this challenge through top down decrees, but bottom up action.

Together, we will create powerful citizen initiatives that will secure our future from present and impending disaster. In this historic collaboration between the government and the people of Kenya, we will have some of these powerful mobilisation tools.



Hon. Soipan Tuya, CS, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, reads H.E. Ruto's speech at the Festival.

Trees for Birthdays:

I urge every Kenyan to plant trees equivalent to their age on each birthday. Our population is about 55 million and its median age is 20 years. The trees that would be planted through the scheme are 1.1 billion annually. If the world, whose median age is 30 years, were to adopt this strategy, it would result in planting 120 billion to 240 billion trees annually, thus providing the rapid healing the world needs.

Celebrating the Four Mothers:

In Africa, every person has four mothers:

- Mother Earth, our planet
- Mother Africa, our continent
- The Motherland, our country Kenya
- The Mother, our biological parent

If each Kenyan plants four trees every year on Mother's Day, the initiative would yield 220 million trees annually. If once again the world adopts our approach, the number of trees planted would be 32 billion, now that the world's population has hit the 8 billion mark.

The Youth Corps Conservation Green Movement:

This is inspired by the American 3Cs programme that was used to build parks after the Great Depression of 1929-1933. This will create between 10 million and 20 million jobs in 20 years for our young people.

The Square Metre Campaign:

We shall launch an online fundraising platform through which individuals and corporates donate KSh. 300 to restore one square metre of degraded land. The investment will give a return of \$3,600 (Ksh. 432,000) within 25 years, which is a 1,200 percent return on investment in a restored environment. It is estimated that for arid and semi-arid lands in Kenya alone, 10-20 million youths will be employed to grow trees over the 25-year period.

It is my belief that these models can and will move the needle in Kenya's fight against climate change. We can begin a global culture, and ignite a movement while surpassing even our most ambitious goals.



“

What Africa needs right now are result-oriented partnerships within and outside the continent, to translate our ambitions into prosperity for all.

”

H.E. Paul Kagame

President of the Republic of Rwanda

Climate Change, A Global Phenomenon

Allow me to begin by congratulating Dr. Wilfred Kiboro and the entire Nation Media Group team for organising the 4th edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival.

Climate change is a global phenomenon, but the science is very clear that Africa is disproportionately affected by its impacts. The climate crisis is a threat to Africa's development, but we should not lose hope. For one, Africa is rich in sources of renewable energy, making our continent pivotal in the search for climate solutions.

Second, Africa is the home to talented and dedicated youth, spearheading initiatives aimed at building more climate resilient communities. Last and most important, we have a shared vision for a more sustainable and resilient Africa, as is outlined in the 2063 Agenda.

Unfortunately, a major hurdle continues to be climate finance. Big emitters must pay their dues, but we also need to be serious about mobilising greater domestic resources. In Rwanda we have established the Rwanda Green Fund to support public and private projects, and drive our country's green economy. However, no one has everything it takes to face this common challenge alone.

Today we are also faced with a food and energy crisis, deepened by the pandemic and geopolitical tensions. This is yet another blow to Africa's fragile economies. We have the objectives and the timelines, which is a good foundation. What Africa needs right now are result-oriented partnerships within and outside the continent, to translate our ambitions into prosperity for all.

You have Rwanda's full support for this excellent homegrown African initiative. I wish you a productive conference, and thank you for your attention.



H.E. President Paul Kagame speaks to the Kusi Ideas Festival virtually.

DATA DIVE



Africa's share of the big deal

To invest \$3 trillion for mitigation adaptation by 2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement



“

We believe science, innovation and partnerships are key in finding solutions to these (climate change) challenges.

”

H.E. Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango

Vice-President of the Republic of Tanzania

Investments in Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

Tanzania, just like any other African country, is also affected by climate change and variabilities, with extreme events such as droughts and floods causing major economic costs, reducing long-term growth, and disrupting livelihoods of both rural and urban communities.

Climate change impacts continue to affect agricultural production, water resources, marine and coastal zones, public health, energy supply and demand, infrastructure, biodiversity, and ecosystems. It is apparent that the current climate crisis is curtailing our efforts to achieve accelerated economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction targets.

In addressing the challenges associated with climate change, the government of Tanzania has taken several measures, including the following:

- About 361,594 km² equivalent to nearly 40% of the total land area and 7,330 km² of the ocean have been reserved as protected areas, covering forests, marine areas, scientific reserves etc.;
- Tanzania has also been implementing an extensive tree planting programme where each district has a target to plant 1.5 million trees annually. In 2021/2022, a total of 197.8 million trees were planted countrywide;
- We have scaled up investment in renewable energy, including solar power plants, windmills, charcoal made from waste and many others. We are also working on harnessing geothermal energy, targeting to generate about 200 MW by 2025;
- The Government has also established the National Carbon Monitoring Center (NCMC) with the objective of assisting in assessment of carbon sources and sinks;
- We have put in place a structure for implementing the country's climate action commitments (the Nationally Determined Contribution - NDC);
- In June, 2022, the government of Tanzania launched the National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic

Interventions (2022-2032) based on spatial variation and taking on board other strategies such as the National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021-2026;

- Last but not least, we have also launched a vigorous campaign to reduce the use of charcoal for cooking. This encompasses raising public awareness, scaling up supply of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking, installation of biogas and promoting cooking stoves that use renewable energy.

Tanzania applauds all regional and global efforts to address the challenges we face in addressing climate change. However, more needs to be done. We believe science, innovation and partnerships are key in finding solutions to these challenges.



H.E. Dr. Philip Isidor Mpango speaks to the Kusi Ideas Festival virtually.

“

The Network which is present in 30 countries globally and 14 countries in Africa, is making environment and climate a core strategic priority.

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Prince Rahim Aga Khan
Aga Khan Development Network

Together We Can Meet the Climate Challenge



I would like to congratulate the Nation Media Group on holding this fourth edition of the global, award winning, Kusi Ideas Festival.

Since it was founded by His Highness the Aga Khan in 1959, during the struggle for independence and Pan-Africanism, the Group's path has been closely entwined with the history of Kenya, of East Africa, and of the African continent.

Yet again, Nation Media Group has shown thought-leadership in encouraging dialogue on key issues affecting not only the countries where the Group is active, but all of Africa.

The theme of this year's festival, climate change, is timely as climate breakdown is the most crucial existential threat that Africa, and indeed the world, is currently facing. Africa has, in recent times, seen a multitude of natural disasters due to climate change, including floods, locust infestations, water scarcity, and food shortages.

Currently, some 40 million people in the Horn of Africa are facing famine as a result of the drought, which is robbing Africa, whose strength has always been her people and their resilience, of her most valuable resource.

Today, you will hear how temperatures in Africa are rising and are set to rise faster than the global average during the 21st century. You will also hear that while Africa has contributed negligibly to the changing climate, being responsible for only two to three percent of global emissions, it stands out disproportionately as the most vulnerable continent in the world to climate change a vulnerability exacerbated by the continent's prevailing low levels of socioeconomic growth.

This Festival brings together some of the best minds in Africa to take this agenda forward and, most importantly, implement the ideas and solutions that will be discussed here.

The Aga Khan Development Network is also transforming its business and programmatic models to respond to this crisis.

The Network, which is present in over 30 countries globally, and whose agencies have operated in 14 countries in Africa in the sectors of education, health, finance, media, culture, tourism, industry and infrastructure for over 100 years, is making environment and climate a core strategic priority. Our overriding principles, encapsulated in the AKDN Environment and Climate Commitment Statement, are as follows:

- We will exercise responsible stewardship of the environment: AKDN's operations help to restore and protect the natural environment wherever possible and do not contribute to its degradation.
- We will put people at the centre, and focus on improving the quality of life of the poorest and most vulnerable - our key stakeholders.
- We will demonstrate proactive, socially responsible and values-oriented leadership: All AKDN operations, across agencies and institutions, will have net zero emissions before 2030.
- We will lead by example and share our experiences with others to influence policies, raise awareness, increase impact and effect social transformation.

The following are some examples of AKDN's activities across Africa, as our agencies endeavour to meet their target of net-zero emissions before 2030:

- All AKDN agencies have developed activity specific tools to measure their Green House Gas emissions, and are working on their respective road maps and also budgets toward meeting the commitment.
- Each of the Serena Hotels in Kenya has maintained its Gold Eco-rating Certification recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council. In the last five years, thanks to the installation of solar plants in all our properties in Kenya, we have eliminated over 4,500 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, and generated over 6 million KWH of clean energy. In addition, all our lodges actively support eco-tourism, climate resilience, water and energy conservation, reforestation and species conservation projects.
- We work with rural communities, alongside governments and civil society, to strengthen climate resilience, so that in the

face of major climatic changes, they not only survive but also thrive. This is achieved through developing understanding and local ownership for adaptation and mitigation measures.

- We have changed agricultural practices for tens of thousands of farmers, to whom we provide a guaranteed price and market, towards more nature based solutions, and thereby strengthened their resilience.
- Through schools across East Africa, we are advancing a new concept Play, Pluralism and Planet to ensure the next generation of leaders are climate aware, climate empathetic and climate-resilient.
In AKDN schools, multiple environmental projects have been active for many years, including beach clean-ups, Green Clubs, and tree planting.
- Along the Kenyan coast, we will plant over 500 acres of mangroves with local communities, to enable carbon sequestration and encourage new forms of environmentally conscious, community-based development. In Kenya alone, we have already planted over 12 million trees.
- As you will hear, the Nation Media Group has embarked on an ambitious digital transformation journey, which should make a marked contribution to our emissions reduction targets.

The Ismaili Imam and the AKDN are committed to expanding their efforts, in partnership with others, to improve the living conditions, opportunities, and quality of life of people in Africa, underpinned by our strong ethics and values, which include concern for vulnerable people, compassion, generosity and excellence.







Dr. Wilfred D. Kiboro, Chairman, Nation Media Group PLC

Winning the War

The Nation Media Group founded this Festival in 2019 to do mainly three things. First, prepare us better to overcome Africa's challenges and exploit its opportunities. Secondly, to catalyse pan-African conversations and ideas that help to make the best of Africa today, and generate actions to deal with its pressing problems. Thirdly, to contribute in finding and defining our continent's place in the world, and present its best face there.

Our inaugural ideas festival was in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2019, and some of the novel ideas that came out of there that we call "moonshots", have reverberated across many forums since. Among many others, we have seen the thoughtful conversations on open skies in Africa become a reality a few days ago when 17 African nations agreed to pilot the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). These countries are Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, S. Africa, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Zambia, Niger and Gabon.

We opted to host the second festival in Kenya at the lakeside city of Kisumu, in early December 2020, because of global Covid-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions. I am glad to report that a lot of the thinking about Africa's Covid strategy, and collaboration on securing and distribution of vaccines, became the mainstay of the Africa CDC/African Union-led approach.

In 2021, we ventured further afield to Accra, the capital of Ghana, and the home of pan-Africanism, from where we reached more than 17,000 virtual participants from 401 cities and 72 countries from around the world. Again, a lot of the policy actions proposed have grown wings. On this one I would like to note the idea of embedding climate change evaluations in financing, and green standards in permits.

This year we are here in Karura Forest in Nairobi to highlight its status as a monumental symbol of victory for an intense environmental struggle of the 1990s in Kenya. It is the perfect backdrop to the question of the climate change crisis we face. Sadly, it is also a reminder of one of the stark realities of one of the themes this festival will tackle; the spectre of disease caused by a changing climate.

This festival was initially set to be held in Entebbe in Uganda. However, it had to be moved at the last minute because the Ebola outbreak in Uganda presented regrettable logistic and safety problems that we couldn't overcome.

With a different set of circumstances, we wouldn't be meeting here. Karura might not have survived. We owe its survival to many brave Kenyan activists, some of whom paid the ultimate price for their

DATA DIVE



Kenya's Big Green Plan

To increase the country's forest cover from 12.13 % to 30%, and 15 billion trees on about 10.6 million hectares of land

actions with prison and death. Few of them stand as tall as Wangari Maathai, one of the world's and Kenya's most committed environmental and democracy activists. We lost Maathai in September 2011, seven years after she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, in 2004.

I am proud to point out that the Nation Media Group answered the call of duty and offered its muscle to bolster the campaign to save Karura. NMG was a key partner in a years-long project to raise funds for fencing 440 kilometres of the Aberdares Forest, one of Kenya's key water towers and to avert wildlife human conflict in the region.

We have been part of several other actions, including dealing with the problem of plastics waste, promoting tree planting, and providing leadership in reporting the big environmental and climate change issues of our times. It is in this regard that we have established the Nation Media Foundation to partner with entities such as the Government of Kenya, development partners and corporate institutions to advance value creating initiatives in education and literacy, climate change, media development, health, community development through entrepreneurship and humanitarian relief. Yet, nothing in this history would have prepared us for the climate crisis we face today which makes it an urgent subject for our conversation over these two days.

Climate change is as important a reason as any for Africa to come together. Our shared lakes and rivers are either overflowing and causing disastrous floods, or drying out and plunging tens of

millions of our people in hunger. In the Horn of Africa alone, which includes Kenya, nearly 15 million are facing starvation. Ports that serve landlocked nations are threatened by rising sea levels in the face of rising temperatures.

It was cause for joy to see that among the first series of actions of Kenya's relatively new government (after the August 2022 General Election) was the launch of an ambitious plan to increase the country's forest cover from 12.13 % to 30%, and a push to growing 15 billion trees on about 10.6 million hectares of land throughout the country. This is how we win the battles to save our planet from irreparable damage by climate change. However, winning the war will need more, and the work of all of us as Kenyans, as Africans, and as global citizens.

On our part, we formed the Nation Media Foundation, a non-profit organisation, that will allow us to generate resources to bring more Africans into these important conversations. I am appealing to our partners, and everyone else, to support us on this journey. Though it is a worthy journey, it won't be an easy one. As the African proverb says, "There are no shortcuts to the top of the palm tree."

Our hope is that Kusi IV will offer some ideas on how we get there, and build a coalition that pushes us further up on the palm tree. So, let's all rally to that cause.



Dr. Kiboro plants a tree at Karura Forest ahead of the festival's opening ceremony.



H.E. Anne Waiguru, Chair, Council of Governors, Kenya

Counties Fight against Climate Change

Climate Change is real and it continues to affect our day to day lives. This is showcased by an increase in the frequency and severity of disasters such as droughts, floods, landslides and influx of diseases and pests.

In addition, the extraordinary and interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and desertification, ocean degradation and pollution continue to negatively impact our communities. Climate Change is now one of the leading global agendas. Further, a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that Africa is highly vulnerable and adversely impacted by climate change.

In view of these effects and in line with SDG 13, allow me to highlight some of the interventions put in place locally by the County governments:

- 44 counties have established County Climate Change Funds through enacting requisite climate change legislations.
- Prioritised the allocation of resources intended to finance mitigation and adaptation activities from county budgets estimated between (1-3%) of the County development funds.
- 45 counties have established Climate Change Units.
- 47 counties have designated County Executive Committee Members in charge of climate change and,
- 30 counties have ward climate change planning committees.

County governments are in the front-line in the implementation of the critical function on environment, climate change, natural resources management as well as forestry, soil and water conservation.

In light of all these interventions, it is evident that the counties are constrained in terms of financial and human capacity to address the overwhelming challenges of climate change.

I therefore call upon the all partners in this platform to collaborate with the county governments to make Kenya's mitigation and adaptation goals a reality.

I also urge other media institutions to use their platforms to amplify the good stories of climate action from various regions that can be replicated both locally and regionally, for the betterment of our people and the generations to come.

I would like to draw your attention to the Council of Governors Maarifa Centre, an online platform that is a repository for best practices collected from county governments in Kenya. It offers an array of interventions in combating climate change.

There is need to act to ensure we safeguard our livelihoods. It is also my hope that this platform will offer pertinent solutions to the vulnerable situations facing the African Continent.

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Climate Change and the Development Challenge in Africa



H.E. Waiguru



Prof. Verkooijen



G. Attafuah



Hon. Soipan Tuya

Speakers:

H.E. Anne Waiguru, EGH, OGW

Chair, Council of Governors

Prof. Patrick Verkooijen

CEO, Global Centre on Adaptation

Elsie G. Attafuah

Resident Representative, (Uganda) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Hon. Roselinda Soipan Tuya

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forestry

Dr. James Mwangi

Group Managing Director & CEO, Equity Group PLC (Moderator)

Climate change is the imminent development challenge of Africa today. It is estimated that nearly 120 million people could face extreme poverty from the consequences of climate change, and some regions of the continent could lose up to 15% of their GDP by 2050.

However, the grim forecast is not written in stone – with strategic interventions, there could be increased macroeconomic stability, job creation, and prosperity for the continent in the coming decades, even

in the face of climate change. Moderated by Dr. James Mwangi, Group Managing Director and CEO of Equity Group PLC, this panel explored the state of government action in Africa, and the opportunities that exist for collective action.

Africa's vulnerability to the worst effects of climate change has been well documented – nine out of ten of the most vulnerable countries globally are in Africa, said Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation, yet the continent

“ Climate Anecdote

Climate change is real. The butterflies I used to chase as a child – my children can no longer play with, they are no more. ”

~ Dr. James Mwangi



Prof. Patrick Verkooijen gives his remarks during the opening panel moderated by Dr. James Mwangi (L).

is responsible for only 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions. “There’s a profound moral injustice here, that the continent least responsible for emissions is most vulnerable to suffering its worst effects ... Africa is ground zero of the climate crisis,” stated Verkooijen, adding that there still is a great opportunity to couple the climate agenda to the development agenda on the continent. “What’s good for Africa is good for the world, and this is the case in the climate emergency we are living in.”

Verkooijen highlighted the collective action of African governments at the COP27 conference, where they tabled the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Plan (AAP), a joint initiative of the African Development Bank and the Global Center on Adaptation. The Africa-led and Africa-financed plan aims to mobilise \$25 billion over five years, to accelerate and scale climate adaptation action across the continent, which will not just stave off the negative effects of the crisis, but will accelerate growth, jobs and prosperity.

Hon. Roselinda Tuyu, Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, spoke of the local interventions that Kenya is looking to adopt or has already begun to roll out in response to the climate challenge. “We’re looking to adopt climate smart agriculture and early warning systems, so that we are not always firefighting when it comes to drought,” she said.

DATA DIVE



7,900 GW

Africa’s solar photovoltaic (PV) technical potential

Africa’s solar photovoltaic (PV) technical potential is 7,900 GW, the highest for any continent in the world, as well as additional potential for hydropower (1,753 GW), and wind energy (461 GW), as well as in some parts of Africa geothermal and modern bioenergy.

“As a country we’re headed to 100% of our energy mix being renewable sources. Still, 80% of Kenyans rely on biomass [charcoal/firewood] for domestic fuel use, so there’s a big challenge there. We’re looking to encourage the use of improved cookstoves and other affordable alternatives such as briquettes, which will result in reduced forest loss as well as better health for citizens.”

On her part, H.E. Anne Waiguru, Chair of the Council of Governors, highlighted the successes of the County Climate Fund, a locally financed fund which has already mobilised Ksh. 877 million to support climate adaptation mechanisms in the country’s 47 counties.

“At the county level, the Fund has financed the construction of water collection pans and small dams to conserve rainwater, providing drought resistant seedlings across the counties, as well as financing waste management systems that reduce and recycle plastics.”

African countries need to be supported in energy transition in a sustainable way, said Elsie G. Attafuah, Resident Representative, (Uganda) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This will require a paradigm shift in our trade relationship with each other and the rest of the world.



Stephen Gitagama (L) and Dr. James Mwangi at the Kusi Ideas Festival ahead of the opening ceremony.

“Africa is rich in deposits of lithium ore, graphite and rare earths, all of which are crucial in the manufacture of electronics. The current status quo is that they are mined, exported, processed, and brought back to the continent as electronics and other finished products. The question is, how can a country like Kenya or Uganda partner with The Democratic Republic of Congo that sits on a lot of these deposits, in order to create wealth on the continent.”

There’s a clear intersection between climate change and health, climate change and trade, climate change and food security and many more, said Attafuah, underscoring the imperative to deal with these issues not in isolation, but in connection with each other in a synergized way.

“In Uganda, we have the Rwenzori Mountains, arguably the most beautiful mountain range in the world in my view,” said Attafuah. “But the glaciers are melting, which affects those downstream who depend on the glacier waters for agriculture.

It’s impacting tourism too, and there’s a trade dimension as well because of the impact of warming temperatures on coffee yields and revenues.” All these things are interconnected, and interventions have to be created in a way that speaks to all these dimensions, the panel heard.

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Climate Anecdote

When I was growing up, the Nyamindi river in my home county of Kirinyaga was a large river, one of the largest in the region. But today when I go upcountry, it looks like a small stream in a large gorge – even in the rainy season, the water levels never reach the high mark of the past, or come close to what was normal in my childhood. So many other rivers around there are similarly drying up.

~ H.E. Anne Waiguru

”

02

Adaptation and Mitigation: Where is the Money and the Plan?





(L-R): J. Amboko, Amb. Giovanna, J. Gachora, Dr. Munang, G. Omedo & P. Russo discuss climate financing.

Speakers:

John Gachora

Group MD, NCBA Group PLC

H. E. Giovanna Stark

Ambassador & Permanent Representative, UNEP & UN-Habitat Embassy of Costa Rica

Dr. Richard Munang

Deputy Regional Director, UNEP Africa Office

Paul Russo

Chief Executive Officer, KCB Group PLC

Geoffrey Omedo

Portfolio Analyst, UNDP Kenya

Julians Amboko

Business Editor, NTV Kenya (Moderator)

African countries will need to invest more than \$3 trillion in mitigation and adaptation by 2030 in order to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement. Where is the money? This panel explored possibilities around innovative instruments that can be or are being tapped in Africa to finance adaptation and mitigation.

The private sector is invariably motivated by risk and return, but investing in climate action has a long-term horizon that may not immediately be profitable. Is there a compelling return in investing in climate responses?

Speaking as he set the scene ahead of the panel, Safaricom CEO, Peter Ndegwa indicated that more needs to be done to meet the financing goals including fulfilling outstanding commitments and thinking of new ways to fund such as using technology and engaging private sector. He also pointed to the fact that climate action and the shift to a green economy can bring new opportunities for economic growth and job skills, but it must be managed with fair policies to avoid increasing inequality.

"I think it's important for businesses to recognise that addressing climate change is not a 'nice to have', it's a 'need to have'," stated John Gachora, Group Managing Director and CEO of NCBA Group PLC, underscoring the need for banks to invest in climate responses. "NCBA Bank is one of the largest asset financiers in the market, especially for vehicles, which means we contribute significantly to carbon emissions. For this reason, we set aside Kshs2 billion for green vehicle financing, to support purchases of electric vehicles."

Gachora called on the government to provide incentives to private businesses to contribute to this investment opportunity, including by offering tax breaks or credits for banks that invest in climate-friendly projects or technologies.

Governments can also provide grants, low-interest loans, or other forms of financing to help banks cover the costs of investing in climate change initiatives, as well as regulatory incentives in the form of green bond issuance targets or carbon offsetting requirements, the panel heard.



Peter Ndegwa, CEO, Safaricom PLC, sets the scene ahead of the panel discussion.

Ambassador Giovanna Stark shared Costa Rica's successes in reversing environmental degradation. Deforestation in her country had led to the loss of nearly half of its forest cover by 1987. But thanks to a government-led initiative that pays local communities to help protect the natural ecosystem,

it became the first tropical country to have stopped, and subsequently reversed, deforestation. "Costa Rica committed to a national decarbonisation plan in 2018, and a national adaptation plan, indicating a strong political will to address climate change. It has been able to secure significant funding for its climate efforts, such as \$800 million from the Inter-American Development Bank, directed towards policy-based loans and climate change, which helped them to survive the COVID-19 pandemic."

Including the informal sector in climate action is crucial in the African context, where most jobs are in the informal sector, argued Anthony Ngororano, Resident Representative of UNDP Kenya.

"If you think of the small-scale farmers creating organic manure from waste, or the young people making simple solar dryers for farm produce – these people need to be recognised," said Ngororano, urging a paradigm shift from framing ordinary African people as potential climate victims and instead into the climate adaptation champions they already are. The discourse around financing climate change too often revolves among elites, Ngororano argued, but there is an opportunity in retooling the financing mechanisms that are already functional at grassroots level, including the many table-banking and cooperatives that are the funding heart and soul of so many African communities.

"The big money that comes can be channelled through these structures that are accessible to ordinary citizens, because at the end of the day that person is the one who feels the impact of climate change most," he concluded.

DATA DIVE



\$64 Per
hectare per year for
basic forest protection.

In the 1940s, 75% of Costa Rica was covered in rainforests, but by 1987 between a half and a third of the forest cover had been destroyed. The country's current forest cover is a healthy 52%, thanks to a combination of a ban on deforestation with the introduction of a financing scheme that pays farmers to protect watersheds, conserve biodiversity or mitigate carbon dioxide emissions. The scheme pays an average of \$64 per hectare per year for basic forest protection.

03

Green Cities and the Making of Sustainable Urban Communities



L-R: Z. Wandati, Dr. Okunola, S. Araka, M. Maurice deliberate Green Cities at Kusi Ideas Festival

Speakers:

Dr. O. Habeeb Okunola

Humboldt Research Scholar, VARMAP Section, United Nations University – Germany

Susan Araka

Housing & Development expert, UN-Habitat

Makoloo Maurice

Area Vice-President, Africa Habitat for Humanity International

Zeynab Wandati

Science & Technology Editor, NTV Kenya (Moderator)

Africa has the world's fastest rate of urbanisation: in 1960, only 20% of Africans lived in cities; by 2050, that number is projected to be 60%. On average, 50% of Africa's urban population lives in slums where living conditions are poor and have been made worse by increasing floods and increased erosion in coastal cities. This, coupled with forced migration from climate-affected rural areas, and the exploitation of rural ecosystems to meet increased food demands, have increased health risks for urban communities.

This panel explored how cities could transition to sustainable transport, housing, and energy systems that don't turn up the heat.

The notion of a green city is only viable when there is effective and reliable public transportation, argued Humboldt Research Scholar Dr. O. Habeeb Okunola, painting a picture of an ideal African urban future where seamless navigation from Johannesburg to Nairobi to Lagos via public transport is possible, with cities also committed to practising eco-friendly waste management and promoting sustainable urban planning with green infrastructure.

DATA DIVE



228 Million

people in sub-Saharan Africa are living in informal settlements; on average, 50% of Africa's urban population lives in slums where living conditions are poor.

“ Climate Anecdote

I remember when I first moved to Europe, the first question I was asked at my workplace was, “Where is your bike?” I said I don’t even know how to ride a bike and people were very surprised. Where I come from, riding a bicycle is seen as a sign of poverty. But I had to change my mentality – I’m a climate scientist and so it’s important for me to reduce my carbon footprint. I’ve learned how to ride a bike as an adult.

~ Dr. O. Habeeb Okunola

“This is my first time in Nairobi and from what I’ve seen so far, I think Nairobi is leading the way when it comes to having a green city,” said Okunola, a nod to the lush and verdant conference venue that was Karura Forest.

In response, Susan Araka from UN-Habitat argued that a green city needs to have multifunctional public open spaces, meaning green spaces that are not privatised and that can be accessed without paying an entrance fee. “If residents have to pay for access, then your city may look green from the air but local people are actually not able to enjoy that greenery. When we are designing green cities, we must take into account the people living in that city.” Karura Forest entrance fees range between \$0.40 and \$5.

Araka also raised the question of the practicality of tree-planting initiatives. “I’m all for initiatives to plant trees, but the biggest question is where is that space to plant trees? Kenya is about 143 million acres and two-thirds of that is arid. In the cities, most residents live in overcrowded informal settlements. Where do we expect people to plant trees?

Apart from directives, authorities have to provide an enabling environment for these kinds of interventions to work.”

A clean and healthy environment is a constitutional requirement in many jurisdictions, said Makoloo Maurice, Area Vice-President, Africa Habitat for Humanity International. But more than that, “It’s not just a legal imperative, it’s a moral one as well. We have to plan our cities in ways that are inclusive for all users,” said Makoloo. It would mean having efficient, affordable public transportation that is accessible to all city residents.

Sustainable building materials are also crucial in the making of a green city, the panel heard, which means adopting urban design and building principles that are responsive to climate realities, made from eco-friendly materials.

“In our informal settlements, most of the houses are shacks made of iron sheets, which is not comfortable during hot weather or cold weather – and we know climate change will bring on more extreme weather events. We’ve got to think about how we can encourage more recycling of waste, whether agricultural or plastic, and turn it into environmentally conscious construction materials,” said Makoloo.

A green building is not simply installing a solar panel on the roof, it must involve a bigger paradigm shift in design, materials, and energy use. “This can be achieved by ensuring you’re using as little energy as possible to run the house, including by having plenty of natural light and ventilation. Your building materials should also be as close to natural materials as possible,” said Araka.

Ultimately, a shift to green city living will entail concerted efforts between city administrators, funders, urban planners, architects and city residents. It would take commitments to a greener, cleaner future and active investment in innovative solutions for more sustainable living.

DATA DIVE



Cities are ground zero

in the world’s transition to a low-carbon economy, as they account for 65% of global energy use and 70% of man-made carbon emissions.

04

Climate Change Narratives and Mobilising Action





Joanne Clarke joins the panel from the UK via video link.

Speakers:

Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Direct

Karimot Odebode

Gender Equality Activist & Founder,
Black Girls Dream

Otula Owuor

Founding Editor, Science Africa

Joanne Clarke

Senior Lecturer, Department of
Art History and World Art Studies,
University of East Anglia, UK

Joe Ageyo

Group Editorial Director, Nation Media
Group PLC (Moderator)

To galvanise action and get resources, the story about Africa and climate change must be better told. This requires greater reporting by media, documentary making, social media story-telling, and popular visualisation.

This panel explored the opportunities for creating compelling narratives that would advance the documentation of climate's impact on our heritage, and the inspiring work that has been done to both create awareness, and to solve problems on the ground.

Telling stories is a very powerful way of connecting with people, and getting them interested in, and committed to, change, said Paula Kahumbu, CEO of Wildlife Direct. "Unfortunately many climate scientists don't tell stories that people can understand. Storytelling in the form of films and documentaries is a compelling way to inspire people to do their part in climate action."

Unusual Connection: Climate Change and Writer's Block

The environmental and social changes brought on by climate change can provide writers with an abundance of new material and inspiration, but it can also lead to a sense of being overwhelmed and hopelessness, which can contribute to writer's block. In this sense, climate change can both stimulate and stifle creativity.

Climate action has to include cultural heritage, and that goes beyond just archeological sites or buildings, argued Joanna Clarke, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Art History and World Art Studies, University of East Anglia, UK. Heritage encompasses everything that shapes our world views, including natural areas and regions that hold cultural significance.

**Dr. Kahumbu****K. Odebode****O. Owuor**

"In Kenya, for example, sacred forests, coral reefs, and mangrove forests are not only natural heritage but also cultural life spaces, deeply embedded in our traditions. By linking our cultural heritage with the places we live in, we can better understand our role as custodians of our culture and the environment," she said, adding that understanding the connection between cultural heritage and the places we live in will empower individuals and communities to protect their environments and realise that it is their heritage to pass on.

Kahumbu echoed these sentiments, adding that the right story can make a world of difference, but the wrong narrative can have lasting negative effects. "For example, the usual nature documentary set in Africa is devoid of people, giving the impression that the natural environment should necessarily be empty if it is to be termed pristine. This is not right – we must have stories that have African people, to show how connected we are to nature."

On his part, Science Africa's Founding Editor, Otula Owuor, spoke of his many years reporting and shaping stories touching on science, technology and innovation in Africa, and how citizens are now increasingly receptive to stories about climate change.

"When I began this work, even mentioning global warming was taken to be a fringe, alarmist narrative. But today, people understand what climate change is and are much more receptive to the reality and urgency of the moment."

“ Climate Anecdote

When I began this work, even mentioning global warming was taken to be a fringe, alarmist narrative. But today, people understand what climate change is and are much more receptive to the reality and urgency of the moment.

~ Otula Owuor

Some of the most powerful narratives are told in the family setting, and as parents and caregivers, it is our responsibility to instil a sense of environmental stewardship in our children, urged Karimot Odebode, Gender Equality Activist & Founder, Black Girls Dream.

The family is the foundation of society, and by educating and engaging our children in discussions about climate change, we can empower them to make a positive impact on the environment. This can be as simple as teaching them to reduce their use of plastics and avoid littering, actions that may seem small but can have a significant impact in the long term, she concluded.



05

Africa Faces up to Rising Climate-Related Health Emergencies



Chris Hingenyi of NTV Uganda (L) moderates the panel discussion.

Speakers:

Dr. Andrew Kambugu

Sande McKinnell Executive Director,
Infectious Diseases Institute (Climate
Change and Health)

Dr. Elisha Osati, MD, MMED

Ph.D Candidate, Muhimbili National
Hospital

Chris Hingenyi

Host/ Anchor, NTV Uganda
(Moderator)

Climate change is already having adverse effects on human health in Africa in many ways. It is worsening malnutrition and is estimated to account for half of the 19,000 heat-related child deaths per year in Africa between 2011 and 2022. Projections see increased poor air quality, polluted drinking water, and the expansion of the range of infectious disease pathogens and vectors. This panel explored how the worst can be averted, and the ingenious interventions that hold up hope.

"Climate change accelerates different pressures and trends. For example, as rural agriculture struggles, people move to cities and with increasing urbanisation, human beings encounter novel pathogens as they clear the bush for settlement. Climate change thus accelerates the possibilities of zoonotic and infectious disease outbreaks," said Dr. Andrew Kambugu, setting the stage for the panel. "We need resilient health systems that can effectively manage emerging challenges."

Trends to Watch

From being previously endemic, the prevalence rate of malaria in Zanzibar is currently below one percent - the lowest in Tanzania and in Eastern and Central Africa. This was done by committed efforts to encourage widespread use of insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, accurate and prompt diagnosis and treatment, and community education on prevention methods.

With increased temperatures, there's also the risk of increasing incidence of neglected tropical diseases like dengue fever, leishmaniasis and filariasis, as these disease vectors – mostly mosquitoes – see their habitat zones expand with warmer climates.

Rising temperatures can also cause heat-related stress, including heatstroke. "Dar es Salaam is noticeably hotter than it used to be," said Dr. Elisha Osati. "The same goes for Mombasa, Kisumu and other regional cities. A world that's 1.5°C warmer has drastic effects on urban living, and we need to be prepared for that."

Still, there is a lot of health innovation going on in the region, for example at the Academy for Health Innovation and Impact at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, which is taking the lead in developing health innovations for the region. The institute was founded after an MOU between the Ugandan Ministry of Health, Infectious Diseases Institute, Janssen, the pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson, and the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust. "We are a local institute headquartered at Makerere University and so we must create innovations that are anchored in the local context," said Dr. Kambugu. "It would be interesting to see what other universities around Africa are doing to respond to emerging health challenges. In our experience having an autonomous institute challenges the usual ways that universities do things."

Unusual Connection: Climate Change and Mental Health

Climate change has a profound impact on mental health, with rising temperatures and extreme weather events shown to lead to increased stress, anxiety, and depression. The destruction of natural habitats and communities, along with the displacement of people and loss of homes, can result in feelings of loss and trauma. Climate change also exacerbates pre-existing mental health issues and creates new ones, such as increased exposure to air pollution and heat, which can harm brain development and function. The uncertainty and fear associated with the consequences of climate change can cause mental health problems and the need for mental health support.

Kusi Throwback

In 2020, Catherine Kyobutungi, executive director of the African Population and Health Research Center, indicated that although COVAX's initial goal was to deliver vaccines to 20% of the population, ultimately 60-70% of the population needed to get vaccinated in order to achieve herd immunity and break the chain of transmission.

By 2022, Africa's vaccination rates were at a decent 52%, according to the Africa CDC, and some countries had achieved over 80% of the population fully vaccinated, including Botswana, Mauritius, Rwanda, and even Tanzania after its initial fumbling of the pandemic.

The panel also heard a paradigm shift challenge in the consideration of traditional medicine: according to the World Health Organisation, 80% of Africans rely on traditional medicine as primary healthcare, meaning conventional medicine only serves 20%. The question arises: which is truly the alternative healthcare system? Is it really the traditional medicine which is called "alternative" in formal spaces, or is it actually the so-called conventional/Western medicine?

It's important for us to esteem African traditional medicine in health innovation, and authorities should work together to improve its quality and standards. The East African community should be integrating traditional medicine into the formal healthcare system – it is an African solution, the panel heard.



Kusi Ideas Festival panelists take a selfie.

06

Feeding Every African Mouth: Food and the Climate Problem



Amb. Mucavi



J. Kamau



M. Byanyima



Dr. Daba

Speakers:

H. E. Ambassador Ole Thonke

Danish Ambassador to Kenya

Ambassador Carla Mucavi

United Nations Kenya
Representative, Food and
Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Julius Kamau, MBS

Chief Conservator (Forests), Kenya
Forest Service

Martha Byanyima

Chief of Party, Land O'Lakes
International Development

Dr. Tadesse Daba

Director, Agricultural Biotechnology
Research Directorate, Ethiopian
Institute of Agricultural Research

Zeynab Wandati

Science & Technology Editor,
NTV Kenya (Moderator)

Under current climate forecasts, Africa will only be meeting 13% of its food needs by 2050, causing the continent to lose up to 16% of its GDP as a result of malnutrition alone. Higher temperatures could cause total farm yields to drop by 15-20 percent across all African regions. The Russia-Ukraine war has further exposed Africa's overdependence on food imports. From 2016 to 2018, Africa imported about 85% of its food from outside the continent, the cost of which is forecast to reach \$110 billion by 2025. Yet, the continent has 60% of the world's arable land.

What specific actions can be taken by stakeholders to ensure food security for every African mouth while also combating the effects of climate change on agriculture in Africa? This panel discussed the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and the impact of climate change on crop yields, water resources, and food prices.

Julius Kamau, Chief Conservator at the Kenya Forest Service, suggested that farmers could be encouraged to plant trees that also serve as food crops (e.g. avocados) or fruit trees, to discourage them from tree cutting.

"This will not be that difficult considering that farmers already know the importance of trees to healthy agricultural systems. They know that these are agroforestry multipurpose trees that conserve the soil and add nutrients to, and they can also feed livestock and be used as organic manure."

Climate Anecdote

“

When I was growing up, we used to see swarms of bees everywhere. It was common to run into – or run away from – bees. But today that has changed, because of a loss of biodiversity. If you have a farm and you don't see bees or butterflies, you have a problem. In the future, our children might have to rely on artificial pollination of crops.

~ Julius Kamau, MBS

”



Amb. Ole Thonke sets the scene ahead of the panel session.

This is important in habitat restoration, including to reverse the trend of declining bee populations. Bees play a vital role in pollination, which is crucial for the production of food crops, flowers, and other plants. The decline in bee populations is caused by a combination of habitat loss, pesticide use, disease, and climate change. The decrease in bee populations has significant impacts on food production and food security, as well as the overall health of ecosystems.

Kamau emphasised the importance of having different approaches to the people who use and depend on the forests. He said that while criminalising those who try to grab forest land for selfish reasons is necessary, this cannot be the same method used for those who live in these forests. "We can teach [them] how to use the forest but also give back to it, thus creating healthy ecosystems."

Echoing these sentiments, Danish Ambassador Ole Thonke emphasised the need to restore land and conserve water systems, stating: "We must appreciate that our population is growing, but our land is not. Land is finite." It means that sustainable food and water systems are essential for addressing the impacts of climate change and ensuring food security for the continent's growing population. Climate change exacerbates droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events, leading to decreased crop yields and water scarcity.

These challenges threaten the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities and contribute to food insecurity and malnutrition. In addressing these challenges, Dr. Tadessa Daba, Director, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Directorate, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, emphasised that for technology to be effective, it must be informed by local knowledge, otherwise, it would be resisted by the community.

For her part, Ambassador Carla Mucavi, United Nations Kenya Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), underscored the need for investment in sustainable technology, adding: "We need to invest in science and innovation, and teach our communities best practices, including developing sustainable seeds and seed propagation systems."

These interventions would similarly need to be grounded in the local context, the panel heard. Without considering the unique context, history, and perspectives of local communities, the implementation of technological solutions to combat climate change will likely face resistance. It is crucial to involve and listen to the voices of those who are directly affected by climate change in order to create sustainable and effective solutions.



07

Powering Africa Without Burning It: Renewable Energy to the Rescue



Julians Amboko of NTV Kenya (L) moderates the conversation on renewable energy.

Speakers:

Henri Nyakarundi

Founder, African Renewable Energy Distribution (ARED)

Dr. Rebekah Shirley

Director of Research, Data and Innovation, WRI Africa

Eng. Lucy Kariuki

Safety, Health and Environment Manager, Kenya Pipeline Company

Nick Holder

Chief Operating Officer, Prudential Africa

Esther Waititu

Director, Corporate Banking, KCB Bank Kenya

Peter Mbugua, CPA

Chief Executive Officer, RREC

Julians Amboko

Business Editor, NTV Kenya (Moderator)

Africa has seen a push for renewable energy, with significant growth in geothermal and solar power. Indeed, the presumed reserves of Africa's solar energy are estimated to account for almost 40% of the global total, making Africa the most sun-rich continent in the world. However, most of the continent still uses dirty energy, and recently some African countries started looking to invest in coal and expensive fossil fuel pipelines. What is slowing down the transition to clean energy? At COP26 in Glasgow, a lot of commitments were made on Net-Zero transition by the year 2050. How realistic are those commitments? How does Africa get on track?

A shift to a renewable energy-focused system has the potential to tackle multiple issues that Africa faces, such as social, economic, health, and environmental challenges, the panel heard.

Fortunately, the continent is at an advantage because countries like Kenya have an abundance of renewable energy sources that can meet the world's energy demands in the coming decades. "In terms of renewable

energy, Africa has 19 times what the entire world will need by 2050," stated Dr. Rebecca Shirley, adding that falling costs are making this energy more feasible to exploit. Dr. Shirley is the Director of Research, Data and Innovation, WRI Africa. Innovation in financing will be crucial in making a shift to renewable energy a success, stated Esther Waititu, Director of Corporate Banking, KCB Bank Kenya.

She suggested building a financing system to support domestic and industrial LPG gas use, connecting the end-user, LPG provider, and source of funding. An example of this could be a public-private partnership model, where the government provides the initial investment for infrastructure, such as pipelines and distribution networks, and the private sector, such as energy companies and financial institutions, invest in the supply chain, including production and distribution of LPG.

The end-users, such as households and businesses, purchase LPG through distributors or retail outlets. To make the system more accessible, financing options could be offered

**H. Nyakurundi****Dr. Shirley****Eng. Kariuki****N. Holder****E. Waititu****P. Mbugua**

to end-users, such as loans or payment plans, to cover the costs of purchasing and installing gas appliances. The financial institutions, such as banks and microfinance organisations, would provide these financing options and manage the repayment process.

For his part, Nick Holder, Chief Operating Officer of Prudential Africa, emphasised that financial institutions in the global south must consider sustainability in their operations, for example, by offering financing options for individuals and businesses to make energy-efficient upgrades to their homes and buildings. This could include loans for solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and energy-saving retrofits.

Financial institutions must integrate energy sustainability into their risk assessment and underwriting processes, the panel heard. This includes evaluating the environmental impact of energy projects and ensuring that they align with sustainability goals. Still, fossil fuels remain important in Africa's energy mix.

"Renewable energy is a solution for a better future, but for now fossil fuel is what is available on a large scale. They are a current solution, so how do we make it sustainable enough to meet our current needs?" posed Lucy Kariuki, Safety, Health and Environment Manager, Kenya Pipeline Company.

This could be achieved through the implementation of measures such as carbon capture and storage technologies, increased energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources to supplement fossil fuels. Additionally, regulations and incentives could be put in place to encourage companies in the fossil fuel industry to adopt sustainable practices and invest in cleaner technologies, the panel heard.

It is crucial for a sustainable future that prioritises climate safety and meets the goals of sustainable development. Renewable energy is critical in ending energy poverty, supplying energy services that are not harmful to human health or the environment.

DATA DIVE



2% Global Renewable Energy Investment

Despite the immense promise of the energy transition, Africa received only 2% of global renewable energy investments in the last two decades, with the vast majority of these investments flowing to just a handful of countries.

08

The Climate Hackers, Innovations and Solutions



Alice Ruhweza gives her remarks via video link.

Speakers:

Yvonne Nyokabi

Climate Change Specialist,
UNDP Kenya

Prof. Mbaabu Mathiu

Chief Executive Officer, Green
Blue Africa Foundation

Dr. Patrick Omeja

Field Manager, Makerere University
Biological Field Station

Alice Ruhweza

Africa Region Director,
WWF International

Reshma Shah

Group Director, Sustainability, Equity
Group Holdings PLC

Smriti Vidyarthi

Senior News Anchor & Editor,
NTV Kenya (Moderator)

From refugee communities creating forests in deserts, innovators turning plastic into art, boats, and building materials, and 3D printers making homes, saving energy and reducing the emissions of carbons, Africa is awash with new ideas and initiatives that are turning environmental calamities into new sources of life, and adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

This panel sought to highlight some of the ideas and their potential to be scaled up. African youth are constantly innovating apps and tools that are built to help farmers navigate the changing climate. What are some of the success stories across the continent?

Setting the tone for the urgency of the moment, Prof. Mbaabu Mathiu, CEO of the Green Blue Africa Foundation, stated that the time to act is now. "We cannot sit and wait to get money in order to start our climate change initiatives. We need to start drives that will inspire citizens because these are the people who can reverse climate change. It all begins at home."

Climate Change Specialist of UNDP Kenya, Yvonne Nyokabi, argued for the integration of technology into solutions thinking – even though advances in technology have actually partly been responsible for creating the climate crisis in the first place. "We must now focus on how to harness technology to reduce the emissions we are releasing to the atmosphere, and also build the resilience of our communities and ecosystems."

For example, smart grid technologies can optimise energy use and improve efficiency, while carbon capture and storage can capture and store carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes. Additionally, technology can also be used to enhance community and ecosystem resilience, such as through early warning systems for natural disasters, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, and sustainable agriculture practices, the panel heard.

Alice Ruhweza highlighted the fact that 600 million people in Africa lack access to energy, and the \$100 billion promise made

**Y. Nyokabi****Prof. Mbaabu****Dr. Omeja****R. Shah**

by the global north to tackle climate issues in Africa has yet to be fulfilled. To address this, “we need to acknowledge agriculture as a significant contributor to our economy and strive for self-sufficient systems, technology, and innovations.” Ruhweza is the Africa Region Director of WWF International.

Making African agricultural systems climate-responsive would mean adopting sustainable farming practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and drought-resistant crops to increase resilience. It would also involve investing in rainwater harvesting and irrigation systems, to ensure food security and reduce the pressure on water resources in the face of increasing droughts.

For his part, Patrick Omeja, Field Manager, Makerere University Biological Field Station, argued that much of this change will depend on a mindset shift – we have to be confident that our ideas can change the current status quo. “We first need to unlearn all that we have conditioned ourselves to so far,” said Omeja, pointing to the need to always remember that change is possible.

DATA DIVE



41.2 Million

hectares that has the
potential for restoration

89% of Kenya's land is semi-arid and degraded land that can be restored, which amounts to 41.2 million hectares that has the potential for restoration.

09

Climate Change, Water and Resources



Rita Kanya (L) of NTV Uganda moderates the panel session with L. Otieno (R) and E. Naivasha on stage.

Speakers:

Eng. Shimon Tal, Chairman

Water Resources
Management, Water Supply
and Sanitation, Israel

Dr. Olaka Lydia Atieno

Lecturer, Technical University
of Kenya

Eric Naivasha

Associate Director, Equity
Group Foundation

Prof. Christopher Gordon

Founding Director, Institute for
Environmental and Sanitation
Studies, University of Ghana

Rita Kanya

News Anchor & Reporter, NTV
Uganda (Moderator)

Global warming and its climatic upshot are threatening Africa's coastal and marine regions, water resources, and their economies.

Fish resources are declining in some large lakes and rivers due to rising temperatures and overfishing. Excessive rainfall over desert regions has already caused the worst locust swarms to hit East Africa in more than 70 years. Water shortages increase the risk of stranded mining assets as well as interruptions in operations. This panel explored possible solutions to the continent's water resources and blue economy challenges.

"It is widely predicted that the next global conflict will be about access to water," said Eric Naivasha of the Equity Group Foundation, adding that as populations grow and water sources become increasingly scarce, competition for this precious resource is expected to escalate, potentially leading to political and military confrontations.

Managing water resources more sustainably and equitably is crucial now, and will become even more salient to global stability. But about 80% of our water resources in Kenya right now

are straining under the pressure of overuse and mismanagement, said Dr. Olaka Lydia Atieno, Lecturer at the Technical University of Kenya. Loss of freshwater biodiversity also has a direct impact on human health, said Dr. Olaka. "Dragonflies are the natural predators of mosquitoes: one dragonfly consumes 2,000-3,000 mosquitoes in a single day. If we destroy our fresh water systems, we lose dragonfly habitats, and cases of malaria, dengue fever, and other mosquito-borne illnesses are likely to rise."

But all is not lost. The continent has natural resources like mountains and rivers that could provide a much-needed water boost for our agricultural industries and communities, she pointed out,

"We also have to tackle the uneven distribution of water across the region - some areas are blessed with a bounty of food and water while others face devastating drought and floods," she pointed out. To find real solutions, we need to zero in on the unique needs of each area and work towards interventions that are grounded on the local context.



Prof. Gordon joins the panel virtually from Ghana.

Dr. Christopher Gordon, Founding Director, Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana, drew attention to the loss of beaches to rising sea levels caused by climate change. This loss is not just aesthetic but also impacts the livelihoods of the people who live in coastal communities, who rely on the ocean for food, tourism, and other economic opportunities. In addition, the loss of shorelines can result in the destruction of important ecosystems, such as coral reefs and wetlands, which play crucial roles in maintaining the balance of our planet's ecosystems.

The extent of shoreline lost to climate change varies year to year, but on average, it is estimated that global sea levels are rising at a rate of about three millimetres a year. This may not seem like much, but over time it can add up to significant losses of shoreline. Sandy shores, like those all along the East African coast, are more vulnerable to erosion.

African governments can take several steps to protect their water resources in the face of the challenges posed by climate change. One approach could be to implement water conservation policies that promote responsible use and limit waste. Governments could also invest in infrastructure that improves water storage, distribution, and treatment, helping to ensure the sustainability of these precious resources.

Additionally, they could work to preserve and restore critical water ecosystems, such as wetlands, rivers, and lakes, which serve as habitats for important species and play a key role in water regulation.

DATA DIVE



Around 74%
of natural disasters
between 2001 and 2018
were water-related

including droughts and floods. The frequency and intensity of such events are only expected to increase with climate change. By 2040, almost 1 in 4 children will live in areas of extremely high water stress.



Eng. Shimon speaks to the festival via video link from Israel.



10

**Voices of Hope, and the
Good Climate Fight**



(L-R) R. Mujuni, B. Ndirangu, K. Wanjiru, E. Njuguna, J. Babirye and E. Wathuti on the Kusi stage ahead of their panel discussion.

Speakers:

Bilha Ndirangu

Co-Founder, Jacob's Ladder Africa

Karen Wanjiru

Founder, Karyne Forte Environmental Conservation

Eric Njuguna

Climate Justice Organiser

Joanita Babirye

Co-Founder, Girls4ClimateAction

Elizabeth Wathuti

Founder of Green Generation Initiative, Climate Leader, Wangari Maathai Foundation

Raymond Mujuni

News Producer, NTV Uganda (Moderator)

In the face of a climate crisis, and big hurdles, there have still been victories in the push for a safer environment in Africa. Refugee communities turned their desert camps into green oases. Individuals and communities have planted millions of trees and built back mangrove forests. Activism has begun to produce forward-looking climate bills and actions. The dream of the Great Green Wall of Africa refuses to die. This panel explored the possibilities of restoration, and the power to bring change. What futures are possible? Where are the African movements? How do we overcome near-impossible odds?

To start off, Climate Justice Organiser Eric Njuguna argued that we must think of climate change as a practical, not just theoretical issue – it requires not only awareness but also active participation from individuals and communities and must involve daily commitments to climate-friendly choices.

"It's very ironic to talk about planting trees but drive a fuel guzzling car, or each drive our own cars to the same place, instead of carpooling," he said, arguing for a kind of climate praxis that is informed by a deep understanding of the interconnections between the natural and social systems.

The youth play a critical role in the fight against the climate emergency, and their perspectives are essential in addressing this crisis, said Bilha Ndirangu, Co-Founder of Jacob's Ladder Africa. They have a unique perspective on the challenges and impacts of climate change, as they will bear the brunt of its consequences in the future.

"We need to include them in policy spaces, because it's really not easy for them to get access."



Dancers present a performance showcasing the impact of climate change on people and planet.

For her part, Co-Founder of Girls4ClimateAction Joanita Babirye pointed out that the youth demographic has a major influence on the global economy and their choices as consumers have a direct impact on the environment. It's crucial for young people to understand the role they play in the fight against climate change and to make conscious, sustainable choices.

Elizabeth Wathuti echoed these sentiments, underscoring that young people can be the solution – they bring a unique energy, creativity, and passion to the climate movement. They are able to mobilise and raise awareness about the issue, and advocate for change at all levels of society. They are also able to bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the table, and help shape a more sustainable future.

“As young people, we cannot do this alone, we also need the support, guidance, and wisdom of older generations who have been through similar challenges and have a wealth of knowledge and experience,” said Wathuti, Founder of Green Generation Initiative, Climate Leader, Wangari Maathai Foundation. By working together, young and old can create a powerful movement that brings about real and lasting change.

DATA DIVE



70%

Africa's youth are concerned about climate change,

While 70% of Africa's youth are concerned about climate change, less than half are satisfied with how their leaders are tackling it, a survey by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, an African charity, indicated. Among those polled, 85% said their governments should be more proactive in addressing climate change, led by 99% of Rwandans, 95% of Ethiopians and 95% of Malawians



Africa Climate Change Story in the Style of Chinua Achebe

"When the elephant is gone, the bush will be cleared. This is the truth of our times, as the effects of climate change ravage our land and threaten our way of life. But we must not despair, for together we are stronger than the strongest elephant.

In Africa, we know that the burden of climate change falls heaviest on those who are already struggling. It is the farmer who cannot feed his family, the mother who cannot find water for her children, and the community that loses everything in a flood. But we must

remember that "when you pray alone, you pray for yourself. When you pray with your village, you pray for your village."

We must come together as a continent, as a people, and as a global community to face this challenge. We must share our knowledge and resources, and work in partnership with those who have the expertise and technology to help us. The sun will not shine on one without shining on all."

-Generated by Open AI/ChatGPT

Accelerating Adaption Across Africa



H.E. Meg Whitman brings the curtain down on the fourth edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival.

In the business world and in the world of climate science, math really matters. Every 10th degree of warming averted means less drought, less flooding, less sea level rise and less extreme weather; it means losses avoided and lives saved. When COP26 concluded in Glasgow in 2021, nations that represented 65% of Global GDP had committed to 2030 targets in line with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. Then, the International Energy Agency calculated that if all commitments and initiatives that were being made in Glasgow were fully implemented, we could limit global warming to 1.8 degrees.

Following the conclusion of COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh few weeks ago, the IEA now tells us that if the new commitment amounts at COP are fully implemented, we could limit warming to 1.7 degrees. I think this is a journey that we can be proud of. It will take some big ideas to get the number down even more to 1.6 or even 1.

That is why I am impressed with a festival like this seeking to drive ideas. Because climate change is global, we need grassroots efforts combined with big ideas and large initiatives.

At COP27, President Biden took major steps under his emergency plan for adaptation resilience, which aims to help more than 500 billion people in developing countries adapt to, and manage the impacts of climate change. The president announced the doubling of our pledge to the adaptation fund to US\$100m. He also announced another US\$150m to new funding to accelerate adaptation efforts across Africa.

These resources will help to implement early warning systems to reduce impacts and save lives, help companies access climate risk insurance and adaptation finance and help improve food security through climate-resilient agriculture. To help countries manage loss and damage, we contribute US\$24m to the global shield against climate risks.

While ideas are one thing, how do we get things done? What are these new ideas that focus on making real change that young people can see in the next few years? I believe that technology has a huge role to play in advancing the greater good.

Here in Kenya, one great idea is the Northern Kenya Rangelands Trust Carbon Project, which is the world's biggest soil carbon removal project. Officially launched at COP27, this project, ideated more than 10 years ago to sustainably manage livestock raising, benefits the local communities and reduces carbon. We can bet that in 30 years, 50 tonnes of carbon will be removed from the air as a result of this project. An idea like this could be a game-changer for the local communities and the earth as a whole.

We are all in this climate change crises together and no one can choose to be left out. There are plants and animals that I am seeing now in Kenya that my grandchildren may not be able to see. We need to move from intention to action. The fact that you are all here today means that you are big thinkers, change makers, committed people, and men and women of big ideas. I can't wait to see what you come up with and can't wait to attend Kusi next year.



Stephen Gitagama, Chief Executive Officer, Nation Media Group PLC

To the Children of Africa, We Thank You

I want to start by saying thank you to each person that made this fourth edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival possible. As the festival came to a close, we faced two problems. The first was how do we recognise or describe everyone of you who made this 4th edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival possible. We decided that we would recognise you as “Wonderful Children and Friends of Africa”. Among these children of Africa, we want to thank the Kusi Secretariat; they have an unenviable job. And our teams from Uganda and Tanzania. We owe you.

The second problem, which was even tougher, was how to appreciate your remarkable contributions and insights in a sentence. We were lucky. The answer came via a question asked by a virtual participant who commented - “Africa has such an impressive array of clever and talented people, and we saw them on the stage. So, why isn't the continent the world's global leader? Given what I heard, it should be”. I think that should be a theme for a future Kusi. The question, however, summarised just how outstanding you, our distinguished panellists and moderators, were. We appreciate you from a very special place in our collective NMG heart.

With equal heart, we want to appreciate our partners. Without you, Kusi IV would have been impossible – or extremely painful for NMG to hold alone. This is the largest number of partners we have ever had for a Kusi Ideas Festival, and it says a lot about something about you. We are “bigly” grateful – as the Americans say. It means a lot to us because ideas are something few corporates and organisations support because they can be elusive, and it can be hard to get a handle on their value. It is not like sponsoring a football team, or feeding the hungry. That you answered the call says something about you, that you are sublime and have beautiful souls.

Nearly all of you share the DNA – the commitment of working to transform the continent through pan-African values. Someone here shared with us a story about one our partners. I will share the story, though I won't specify the partner. This person was in the Democratic Republic of Congo and went to a city far away from Kinshasa, where there is a big international peacekeeping operation. One of our partners has ATMs in that Congolese city. The ATMs have become a very part of the peacekeeping operation because they do something they don't do in Kenya – you can withdraw US dollars!

In their different ways, many of our partners have spread their wings around Africa and are helping share its blessings. As our chairman said, we have created the Nation Media Foundation to help us spread good African ideas without the constraints of extreme balance sheets. We are praying that you will carry us on your wings too.

I will end with the words of Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai who, as we have heard, made it possible for us to meet in Karura Forest. In her book “Unbowed”, she writes that “There are opportunities even in the most difficult moments.” So, no matter how bleak the picture of climate change's impact on Africa is, in that adversity, there are opportunities.

We wish you safe travels, good health, prosperity, and happiness. There are opportunities in the roadblocks you will encounter in your path. We are hoping those paths will bring you to the fifth Kusi Festival this time next year.

Trends Flagged at Kusi IV



On current trends, global sea levels are rising at a rate of 3mm a year. Assuming a linear rate of sea level rise of 3mm a year and without considering any other factors, Kenya's main port and tourism hub Mombasa could be completely inundated in approximately 166 years.



Some agricultural areas in the US and Europe are reporting bee population losses of up to 30% a year due to Colony Collapse Disorder and climate change. If Africa experienced that rate of decline, bee populations could shrink to 1% their original number in as few as five years.



Energy demand for fans and air conditioning is expected to quadruple over the next decade as urbanisation and climate change rapidly increase the need for cooling in Africa, calling for a strong focus on efficient cooling solutions.

Trends Flagged at Kusi IV



Universal access to affordable electricity, achieved by 2030 according to projections by the International Energy Agency (IEA) requires bringing connections to 90 million people a year, triple the rate of recent years. Countries like Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda are on track for full access by 2030, offering success stories other countries can follow.

Achieving universal access to clean cooking fuels and technologies by 2030 requires shifting 130 million people in Africa away from dirty cooking fuels each year. The improvement rates needed for this are unprecedented, but the benefits are huge – reducing premature deaths by more than 500,000 a year by 2030, according to IEA data, drastically cutting the time spent gathering fuel and cooking, and allowing millions of women to pursue education and employment.



READ OUTS

The *EastAfrican* Special Report



Human Needs Must Remain at the Centre of Efforts to Address Climate Change

There is a need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But in doing so, the green transition must ensure access to renewable energy, not place undue burdens on the most vulnerable, and create new green jobs to address unemployment, especially among the youth.

H.E. Ole Thonke, Danish Ambassador to Kenya, and Wanjira Mathai, Managing Director, Africa and Global Partnerships at World Resources Institute.



Lesson from Termites in Greening Towns as Africa Heads to 2050 with New Cities

Rather than invest in technologies that contribute to our carbon footprint, they can explore alternatives such as electrification or hydrogen-based fuel. The dual benefits of developing mass public transit along these lines are that not only can it unleash the benefits of connectivity that cities require, but in doing so, it does not further compromise the environment.

Astrid Haas, Urban Economist.



Continent's Responsibility in Protecting Biodiversity

Africa's natural assets transcend legal, geographic and political boundaries. Birds have no interest in politics; they care about natural shelter. Elephants don't stop at borders; they seek fresh water. Just as we share a network of rich ecosystems and natural assets, African countries also share the challenge of devising a viable strategy for protecting and preserving them. We will also share in the spoils of success – or the costs of failure. This understanding must underpin a common outlook that facilitates the concessions and expenditure needed in order to bring vast benefits for our people and the planet.

Hailemariam Desalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia. (C) Project Syndicate.



Africa's Heritage Sites in Peril as Planet Heats Up

As climate change threatens the future of Africa's natural and cultural riches, jobs and tourism linked to the heritage sites are also being jeopardized. This could spell disaster for attractions such as Ghana's slave forts, Namibia's indigenous rock art, and the wildebeest migration in Kenya's Maasai Mara, which together draw droves of visitors and millions of dollars in annual tourism revenues.

Nita Bhalla writes for Thomson Reuters Foundation.



COP27 Turning Point for Continent after Reality Dawns on Rich Nations

There is so much going on in the continent despite what seems to be minimal allocation of resources and the need for African nations to keep their promises of allocating at least one per cent of their budgets for research and development. Kenya went further to promise two per cent and needs to revive the much needed Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Above all, Africa needs to give extra attention to the conservation of water resources. In Kenya, a few counties in the arid and semi-arid regions are allocating more money for water conservation, including dams and boreholes.

Otula Owuor, founding editor, ScienceAfrica.

READ OUTS

The *EastAfrican* Special Report



Africa Needs Green Funding Urgently in Race to Mitigate Global Warming Impact

Most international financial support is promised in the form of loans, loading vulnerable countries with debt. According to new research by Oxfam, loans comprise more than 70 percent (\$48.6 billion) of public climate finance. What an irony that countries that have done almost nothing to cause the climate crisis are being pushed into debt to help solve it! This is unacceptable.

Mohamed Adow, Climate Justice Advocate & Director of Energy and Climate Think Tank, Power Shift Africa.



To reverse climate change, trust in God, but tie your camel

Continently, it is estimated that 116 million people in Africa shall face severe risk from rising water levels (oceans, seas, lakes and rivers). Despite this grim picture, there is a ray of hope for Africa if the adoption of the "loss and damages" principle is implemented as agreed during COP27. The sustainable solution shall, however, come from within our continent, which abounds with opportunities. Our own Congo basin can absorb 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide a year – this is equivalent to four per cent of the global emission and interestingly the same amount that our continent is alleged to be contributing annually at four per cent.

Doctor Ali-Said Matano, Emeritus Executive Secretary, Lake Victoria Basin Commission.



Climate change means farmers need more ways to fight fresh pest threats

Rapid climate change, however, means researchers are racing against time to develop the full range of tools needed for a growing threat. The most notable of recent invasive pests to arrive in Africa was the fall armyworm, which spread to the continent from the Americas in 2016. Since then, 78 countries have reported the caterpillar, which attacks a range of crops, including staples like maize, and has caused an estimated US\$9.4 billion in losses a year.

Loko Yêyinou Laura Estelle, Professor of Zoology and Genetics, National University of Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics. The Conversation



Climate Change Adaptation should be Africa's Priority

Africa is the continent hardest hit by climate change. It is also where effective large-scale climate adaptation promises to deliver the greatest lifesaving and life-changing benefits. But the time to act is now. As President William Ruto said, "Africa can lead the world" in climate action.

Patrick Verkooijen, Chief Executive, Global Centre on Adaptation.



Strengthening grassroots initiatives key to addressing climate change disasters

The loss and damage fund that was launched at COP27 is a crucial opportunity to avail funds for local actors to lead climate action and support those affected by climate change. When establishing the fund, local communities that are most affected by climate change should participate in setting priorities for climate policy and funding. To be completely effective, the fund can be structured as participatory funds to serve as a linkage between grassroots initiatives and climate finance donors who can provide long-term grants.

Isaac Kwaku Fokuo, Founder, Amahoro Coalition and Principal, Founder at Botho Emerging Markets Group.

Kusi Ideas Festival Speakers

Name	Designation and Organisation
H.E. Dr. William Ruto	President of the Republic of Kenya
H.E. Paul Kagame	President of the Republic Rwanda
H.E. Dr. Philip Mpango	Vice President of the Republic of Tanzania
Prince Rahim Aga Khan	Aga Khan Development Network
Hon. Roselinda Soipan Tuyu	Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forestry
H.E. Anne Waiguru, EGH, OGW	Chair, Council of Governors
Dr. Wilfred D. Kiboro	Chairman, Nation Media Group PLC
H.E. Ambassador Meg Whitman	U.S Ambassador to Kenya
H.E. Giovanna Stark	Ambassador & Permanent Representative, UNEP & UN-Habitat Embassy of Costa Rica
H.E. Ambassador Ole Thonke	Danish Ambassador to Kenya
H.E. Ambassador Carla Mucavi	United Nations Kenya Representative, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
Peter Ndegwa	CEO, Safaricom PLC
Prof. Patrick Verkooijen	CEO, Global Centre on Adaptation
Dr. James Mwangi	Managing Director & CEO, Equity Group PLC
Paul Russo	Chief Executive Officer, KCB Group PLC
John Gachora	Group MD, NCBA Group PLC
Julius Kamau, MBS	Chief Conservator, Kenya Forest Service
Elsie G. Attafuah	Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Makoloo Maurice	Area Vice President, Africa Habitat for Humanity International
Dr. Paula Kahumbu	Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Direct
Dr. Elisha Osati	MD, MMED, Ph.D Candidate, Muhimbili National Hospital
Geoffrey Omedo	Portfolio Analyst, UNDP Kenya
Dr. Richard Munang	Deputy Regional Director, UNEP Africa Office
Dr. O. Habeen Okunola	Humboldt Research Scholar, VARMAP Section, United Nations University – Germany
Susan Araka	Housing & Development expert, UN-Habitat
Otula Owuor	Founding Editor, Science Africa

Kusi Ideas Festival Speakers

Name	Designation and Organisation
Karimot Odebode	Gender Equality Activist & Founder, Black Girls Dream
Joanne Clarke	Senior Lecturer, Department of Art History and World Art Studies, University of East Anglia, UK
Dr. Andrew Kambugu	Sande McKinnell Executive Director, Infectious Diseases Institute (Climate Change and Health)
Martha Byanyima	Chief of Party, Land O'Lakes International Development
Priscilla Gathungu	Group CEO, JAVA House Africa
Dr. Tadesse Daba	Director, Agricultural Bio-tech Research Directorate, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Henri Nyakarundi	Founder, African Renewable Energy Distribution (ARED), Rwanda
Dr. Rebekah Shirley	Director of Research, Data and Innovation, WRI Africa
CPA Peter Mbugua	Chief Executive Officer, REREC
Eng. Lucy Kariuki	Safety, Health and Environment Manager, Kenya Pipeline Company
Nick Holder	Chief Operating Officer, Prudential Africa
Esther Waititu	Director, Corporate Banking, KCB Bank Kenya
Dr. Patrick Omeja	Field Manager, Makerere University Biological Field Station
Prof. Mbaabu Mathiu	Chief Executive Officer, Green Blue Africa Foundation
Yvonne Nyokabi	Climate Change Specialist, UNDP Kenya
Prof. Christopher Gordon	Founding Director, Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana
Dr. Olaka Lydia Atieno	Lecturer, Technical University of Kenya
Eng. Shimon Tal	Chairman, Water Resources Management, Water Supply and Sanitation, Israel
Eric Naivasha	Associate Director, Equity Group Foundation
Bilha Ndirangu	Co-Founder, Jacob's Ladder Africa
Joanita Babiye	Co-Founder, Girls4ClimateAction
Eric Njuguna	Climate Justice Organiser
Karen Wanjiru	Founder, Karyne Forte Environmental Conservation

Kusi Ideas Festival Organising Committee

Name	Designation and Organisation
Dr. Wilfred D. Kiboro	Chairman, Nation Media Group PLC.
Wangethi Mwangi	Director, Nation Media Group PLC.
Stephen Gitagama	Group Chief Executive Officer, Nation Media Group PLC.
Richard Tobiko	Chief Financial Officer, Nation Media Group PLC.
Clifford Machoka	Head of External Affairs, Nation Media Group PLC.
Charles Onyango-Obbo	Kusi Consultant; Journalist; Former Editor of Mail and Guardian Africa
Monicah Ndung'u	Chief Operating Officer, Nation Media Group PLC
Mercy Kimani	IT Manager, Nation Media Group PLC.
Jackson Mutinda	Managing Editor, The <i>EastAfrican</i> , Nation Media Group PLC.
Hosea Kimani	Finance Manager, Nation Media Group PLC.
Kinya Gitonga	Corporate Affairs Manager, Nation Media Group PLC.
Rodah Mumbo	Events Business Development Manager, Nation Media Group PLC.
Naomy Ikenye	Events Coordinator, Nation Media Group PLC.
Julius Muli	Brand Assistant, Nation Media Group PLC.
Arnold Magenyi	Production Director, NTV, Nation Media Group PLC.
William Sindan	Procurement Assitant, Nation Media Group PLC.
Sheila Adam	Account Manager, TAG Brand Studio
Elizabeth Namaganda	Marketing Manager, Monitor Publications Limited
Dickson Mathenge	Senior Security Officer, Nation Media Group PLC.
Timothy Muthengi	Team Leader, Advertising, Nation Media Group PLC.

Kusi Ideas Festival Moderators



James Mwangi
Group Managing Director
& CEO, Equity Group PLC



Rita Kanya
Host/ Anchor,
NTV Uganda



Julians Amboko
NTV Business Editor



Chris Hisenyi
Host/ Anchor,
NTV Uganda



Smriti Vidyarthi
Senior News Anchor &
Editor NTV Kenya



Raymond Mujuni
News Producer,
NTV Uganda



Joe Ageyo
Group Editorial
Director, NTV Kenya



Zeynab Wandati
Science & Technology
Editor, NTV Kenya



Larry Asego
MC, Kusi Ideas Festival





ABOUT NATION MEDIA GROUP PLC.

Nation Media Group's dream began 64 years ago when the world and, indeed, Africa was going through a great transition. From the challenges of the Cold War to independence across the continent, the wind of change was blowing across the world. It was during this time of political turbulence, struggle for independence, promise, and Pan-Africanism that the Nation was born.

From a small newspaper company, with only one title, Taifa, a Swahili publication, we have grown to become the largest multimedia house in East and Central Africa with operations in print, broadcast and digital media all of which attract and serve unparalleled audiences across the continent and the world.

NMG was founded by His Highness the Aga Khan on the bedrock of a set of core values whose central theme was to

promote independent voices, diversity and freedom of expression as enshrined in our editorial policy.

Another critical element in these values - and the purpose for our establishment - was, and continues to be, a mission to be a trusted partner of African democracies, a champion of the ordinary person, a supportive voice for the rule of law and respect for human rights, and a strong advocate of free market economies. This mission has remained unchanged and has been renewed over the years. As we seek to positively influence society, we shall continue to be guided and to stand by the values of truth, independence, fairness, balance and accuracy.

We remain steadfast in the conviction of our goal to fundamentally improve the quality of people's lives and to contribute to a sustainable world through our business.

We will stay at the forefront, identifying the many issues critical to social transformation such as education, the environment and health, and highlighting solutions to their achievement. We will work with our stakeholders, customers, shareholders, supporters and the communities we serve to pursue a win-win growth.

Strategy by going further together. NMG's pursuit of its mission is driven by its deep conviction that ideas are central to human development. This was the essential purpose of creating the Kusi Ideas Festival.

As a company, we endeavour to deliver good quality journalism - as we have demonstrated over the past 64 years.

This has indeed served as the foundation of our philosophy of serving the continent as we position ourselves as the Media of Africa for Africa.

Thank you for joining us for the fourth edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival

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KUSI 2022 STORY

“Climate change is as important a reason as any for Africa to come together. Our shared lakes and rivers are either overflowing and causing disastrous floods, or drying out and plunging tens of millions of our people in hunger. To win the war against climate change will need the work of all of us as Kenyans, as Africans, and as global citizens. Though it is a worthy journey, it won’t be an easy one. As the African proverb says, “There are no shortcuts to the top of the palm tree.”

Dr. Wilfred D. Kiboro - Chairman, Nation Media Group PLC



50

SPEAKERS
From 19 Countries



524

IN-PERSON DELEGATES



3,449

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS
From 84 Cities and
25 Countries



1.83m

TV REACH



28.6m

USERS
On social media across
31 countries worldwide

• Austria • Belgium • Cameroon • Canada • Ethiopia • Finland • France • Germany • India • Ireland • Ivory Coast • Japan • Kenya • Mexico
• Netherlands • Nigeria • Russia • Rwanda • Singapore • Slovakia • South Korea • Tanzania • Uganda • United Kingdom • United States • United States



About Kusi Ideas Festival

Nation Media Group (NMG) launched the Kusi Ideas Festival in 2019 as part of its 60th anniversary celebrations, and to begin building a “pan African ideas transaction market” to capitalise on the opportunities and innovations available to Africa to help her win in the 21st Century.

The Festival brings together some of the most freespirted and bold people calling out Africa's challenges, and those turning them into opportunities. For many years to come, these will be the people shaping the continent. The Festival allows connections to this valuable cast of players, and gives institutions and businesses a great opportunity to hitch their wagons to the coming African Century.

The first Kusi Ideas Festival was held in Kigali, Rwanda, with subsequent editions being hosted in Kisumu, Kenya and Accra, Ghana. The Festival will continue to be held in different African cities annually in the years to come.

Kusi is the southerly trade wind that blows over the Indian Ocean between April and mid September, and enabled trade up north along the East African coast and between Asia and Africa for millennia. Beyond trade, over the centuries, Kusi and other trade winds made possible cultural, intellectual, and technological exchanges, and considerably shaped the history of the nations on the east side of Africa, its hinterland and the wider Indian Ocean rim.

In the 21st Century, the spirits of the trade winds express themselves in new ways. The Indian Ocean is a rich bed of the fibre optic cables that make the Information Age possible in a large part of Africa. Africa at is at a crossroads, and what it does in the years ahead could leave it a big winner or with the scars of a few half-won victories. We believe it will win.



Nation Media Group

Media of Africa for Africa

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