

United Nations
Climate Change

Africa Climate Week

Nairobi, Kenya, 4-8 September 2023

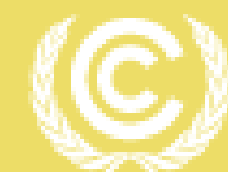
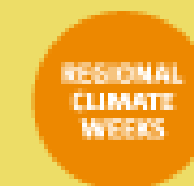
Hosted by the government of Kenya

Overview and Outputs

Africa Climate Week 2023

Africa Climate Week 2023 explored resilience against climate risks, transition to a low-emission economy and collaboration on climate change solutions. Working together opens opportunities to address social inequality and invest in development that is good for humanity and nature.

ACW 2023 was Africa's platform to enable regional collaboration on climate action, contribute to the first Global Stocktake and accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement.



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ACW 2023 Partners

Africa Climate Week 2023 was made possible through collaboration by the host government, global partners and partners in the region. Thank you to all our partners for your ongoing cooperation and support.



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REPUBLIC OF KENYA



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP





You have entered the future, a future driven by global partnerships committed to African prosperity, inclusive growth and a liveable planet for all of us. This is no ordinary summit.

**President of Kenya
William Ruto**

*At the Opening Ceremony
of Africa Climate Summit 2023
and Africa Climate Week 2023*



This week, we'll... discuss how to build resilience to climate risks, transition to a low-emission economy and collaborate on solutions. Transforming our economies through a just transition that benefits all sectors of society.

**UNFCCC Executive Secretary
Simon Stiell**

*At the Opening Ceremony
of Africa Climate Summit 2023
and Africa Climate Week 2023*



Nairobi, Kenya

This year's Africa Climate Week was held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya from 4 to 8 September 2023. ACW 2023 was held in parallel with the Africa Climate Summit 2023.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony featured President of Kenya William Ruto, more than 12 Heads of State of and Government, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, incoming COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 Director-General Majid Al Suwaidi and US climate envoy John Kerry.





The cultural heritage of Kenya was showcased during the ACS 2023 and ACW 2023 Opening Ceremony.

ACW 2023 and ACS 2023

The **Africa Climate Summit 2023** convened leaders from Africa and the world early in the week to agree the Nairobi Declaration.

Africa Climate Week 2023 ramped up mid-week to connect policymakers, experts and stakeholders for discussions on solutions that inform the first global stocktake.



A Quick Look...

13,000+ Registered Attendees

144 Countries of Origin

22 Thematic Track Events

38 Affiliated Events

122 Side Events

49 Action Hub Events



UN KENYA

African Union

UN@ environment programme

WORLD BANK GROUP

REGIONAL CLIMATE WEEKS

Africa

Nairobi, Kenya | 4 - 8 September 2023

Climate change knows no borders

Africa is responsible for only a fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions but is suffering disproportionately from climate change.

Global partners

UN DP environment programme

The Africa Climate Week will be organized around four major systems-based tracks to inform the global stocktake at COP28, taking place in November and December 2023 and showcase solutions from the continent.

Energy systems and industry

In Africa, 43% of the population lacks access to reliable electricity. We must invest in renewable energy.

Cities, urban and rural settlements, infrastructure and transport

Around 56% of the African population lives in informal housing. We need locally adapted sustainable and resilient construction.

Land, ocean, food and water

Agricultural productivity growth has declined by 34% since 1961 due to climate change. We need to promote sustainable agriculture.

Societies, health, livelihoods, and economies

Young people, local groups, Indigenous communities, businesses are all embracing climate solutions.

Every

An exposition hall, cultural awareness tent and open air market engaged participants on global issues and local customs.

ACW 2023 Events

Africa Climate Week 2023 featured more than 200 event sessions held in the KICC and in climate-controlled tents on the Conference Centre grounds. Hosted by partner organizations, events were advanced discussions on key topics, showcased climate action and facilitated the UNFCCC process.

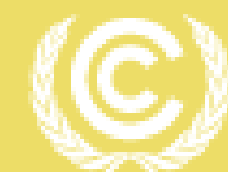
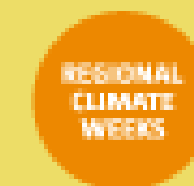


ACW 2023 Thematic Tracks

Africa Climate Week 2023 offered a platform for policymakers, business, practitioners, and civil society to exchange on climate solutions, overcoming barriers and opportunities for Africa. Discussions were designed to inform the GST with region-focused contributions around four major system-based tracks:

- 1. Energy systems and industry**
- 2. Cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport**
- 3. Land, ocean, food and water**
- 4. Societies, health, livelihoods and economies**

22 Thematic Track Events were held at ACW 2023.



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ACW 2023 Events By the Numbers



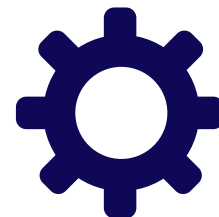
122 Side Events

Side Events covered critical topics in detail. Organizers hosted events with experts to engage key stakeholders and constituents.



49 Action Hub Events

The Action Hub was held in the Climate Activation space to showcase inspiring and scalable action on the ground.



38 Affiliated Events

Affiliated Events advanced the UNFCCC process by engaging specific groups as directed by governments.



Virtual Participation

Select events were streamed to the UN Climate Change YouTube channel and MS Teams allowed for virtual participation for all events.



Opportunities to Engage

Each event opened space for discussion on critical topics for Africa. Side Events aligned with Thematic Tracks. Action Hub featured action on the ground and Affiliated Events advanced multilateralism.



ACW 2023 Thematic Track Outputs

Track 1 – Energy systems and industry

Discussing the energy transition to efficient and low-emission energy systems, barriers to action investment and innovation for sustainable development.

Track 2 – Cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport

Covering all aspects of cities and human settlement, infrastructure, transport, nature-based solutions, waste and social impact of policy and investment.

Track 3 – Land, ocean, food and water

Exploring challenges and opportunities in leveraging land for adaptation, collaboration on oceans, the water-climate nexus and resilient food systems.

Track 4 – Societies, health, livelihoods and economies

Discussing the circular economy, whole of society approaches to transformation, human health and livelihoods, including decent jobs and skills building.

Thematic Track 1

With focus on Energy and Industry, Track 1 showcased opportunities and discussed challenges related to Africa's energy transition. Sessions under this track were well-attended with many stakeholders in the room.

We heard that bold targets, long term strategies and ambition are critical to guide the energy transition. These need to be reflected in NDCs and LT-LEDs. Financial solutions that reduce the cost of capital and allow for easier access need to be scaled to ramp up renewables. In some countries, lack of regulatory and transparent frameworks hamper progress, so clear policies are needed.

Critical minerals, if managed properly, hold great potential for resource rich countries in Africa. Local empowerment is essential to ensure a successful Just Energy Transition. We heard of many initiatives, activities and collaborative models of partnership emerging on and for the continent towards ensuring the energy transition is just, inclusive and sustainable.

Thematic Track 1

This Track also explored the important and cross-cutting role finance plays in the energy transition. The transition needs finance at scale. The sources, quality, form and purpose of the finance matters. It is important to ensure the broad transition of energy and distributed access, including through dedicated finance for transition infrastructure, interconnectivity, distributed energy systems and also for the establishment and enhancement of institutional frameworks that allow for regional power trade and power pool sharing, a critical aspect for Africa.

Finally, we exchanged on benefits and challenges of carbon markets as a potential source of finance to enable the energy transition on the continent and learned that Africa is well placed to leverage and build on existing experience and capacities to benefit from carbon markets.



Thematic Track 2

Track 2 focused on cities, settlements, infrastructure, transport and waste – decisive sectors in promoting the system transformation to achieve the Paris Agreement goals.

Robust discussions showed that African sub-national governments have the plans and the projects to translate national climate change targets into effective local policies and action on the ground.

Climate actions should be tailored to the needs of local communities. In Africa, 86 cities have comprehensive adaptation and mitigation plans, 56 city-scale projects are currently being supported and 280 million EUR are committed for direct finance. But more needs to be done. Increased grant funding needs to be made available for projects already developed by African cities, regions and towns. This benefits communities and plays a role in strengthening NDCs in 2024 and beyond.



Thematic Track 2

Sub-national government representatives attended Africa Climate Week at unprecedented levels and called for multi-level governance processes to be mandated for the revision of NDCs, and for sub-national governments to have direct access to climate finance for scaled local action.

The track took a deeper dive into the role of the construction industry and buildings, which are responsible for 37% of energy- and process-related emissions and 50% of materials consumption. We heard that the buildings and construction sector is not on track to achieve decarbonization by 2050, so the GST process should recognize the built environment as a key cross-cutting sector that can deliver the transformative change.

The track also discussed shipping, a significant part of some national economies. Marine GHG fuel standards and a maritime GHG emissions pricing mechanism were discussed, not just to green the maritime sector but to also grow economies. Green hydrogen investment can spur large scale renewable energy deployment, with collaboration across both public and private sectors – energy, climate and transport – essential to ensure the pace and scale is realized.

Thematic Track 3

Track 3 focused on water, food, land, and oceans, and system transitions that enhance human well-being, achieve economic and social resilience, and attain planetary regeneration. The track kicked off with Africa's vision for transformative adaptation and long-term resilience and then explored how to achieve this vision.

Panelists acknowledged that Africa remains a hotspot for climate impacts and challenges – hence the urgent need to accelerate adaptation action. Speakers highlighted the need to examine impacts on people, sectors, basic needs and the economy.

We heard strong emphasis on the need to change mindsets and ensure that adaptation guides how societies, communities, and countries plan their future. Transformation requires bold actions accompanied by commensurate investments and agile policies aimed at integrated risk reduction, managing trade-offs and leveraging multi-sectoral opportunities.

Thematic Track 3

Participants reflected on the specific challenges farmers face, especially small-scale farmers, who play a critical role in global food systems and are also particularly impacted by climate change. We were reminded that farmers, herders, pastoralists and displaced populations in Africa are often overlooked and need to be better engaged.

Steady progress toward transformative adaptation was highlighted, including efforts such as the Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa, the Blue and Green Wall Initiatives and even collaboration with local radio stations and communities on early warning services. Long-term resilience in Africa relies on protecting what has been achieved through deliberate investments. For example, experts say multi-hazard early warning systems provide a 10-fold benefit by anticipating and responding to climate impacts.



Thematic Track 3

It is critical to leverage the potential of Africa's youth to change mindsets for transformative adaptation. Local and indigenous knowledge and wisdom works and is trusted by the people. Capacity needs to be built and strengthened to innovate and transform systems. Collaboration at all levels on and beyond the continent was strongly acknowledged as critical for success.



Thematic Track 4

Track 4 on economies, societies, livelihoods and health took a closer look at shifts in economic and social systems towards sustainable and climate resilient development, centered on the value of human and planetary health.

Productive discussions featured the need for economic models and scaling of financial instruments that deliver on climate, nature, economic and social goals. Sustainable, innovative and regenerative finance can point investments towards bioeconomy and encourage the regeneration of the natural capital. Africans act as guardians and stewards of the continents' vast natural capital. There are successful examples of African-owned bioeconomy approaches that can be scaled up to enhance and increase resilience.



Thematic Track 4

We further heard that high debt, trade deficits and wealth extraction practices require global finance and trade system reforms as well as a reflection on current economic models.

The track also examined enhanced civic engagement and finance for African youth, green and decent jobs and skill building for a Just Transition, and the climate, health and air pollution nexus. We heard that frontline communities must be put at the heart of climate-related problem identification and solutions development. They must be brought to the table – and listened to - as the ones who develop solutions, often without sufficient finance or other resources. Across all discussions, the need for finance to reach the local level was identified as a major gap.



Thematic Track 4

Building a skilled energy transition workforce requires measures to both increase the talent pipeline as well as enhance the quality and availability of education and training provisions. International collaboration is needed to strengthen curricula, educator capacity, skills and occupational standards, and skilling policy.

Finally we learned that integrated action on air pollution, climate change, and sustainable development is essential to increasing wellbeing and creating employment in Africa, as well as to reducing costs and relieving pressure on African countries' health care systems.



ACW 2023 Recognition

Africa Climate Week 2023 successfully brought together leaders and stakeholders for solution-oriented discussion. UN Climate Change would like to recognize the leadership of the Government of Kenya, collaboration by global and regional partners and the participation of dignitaries, delegates and stakeholders.

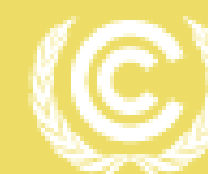
The success of ACW 2023 is your success to share.



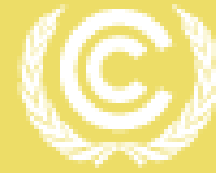
ACW 2023 Resources

Africa Climate Week 2023 featured more than 230 sessions, four Thematic Track discussions and virtual participation. More information on ACW 2023 can be found at the following links:

- [ACW 2023 Webpage on the UNFCCC.int site](#)
- [ACW 2023 Session Details](#)
- [ACW 2023 on Flickr](#)
- [Africa Climate Summit 2023 Website](#)
- [ACS 2023 Nairobi Declaration](#)



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Thank You