

EARTHWISE SUMMIT'24

Equity, Innovation, and Resilience in
the Face of Climate Change



3rd - 4th October 2024 | Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Clubhouse, Nairobi National Park



Bringing together policymakers, business leaders, scientists, activists, and civil society, the Earthwise Summit fosters collaboration and dialogue aimed at advancing a resilient and sustainable future for Africa and the world.

Introduction

The second Earthwise Summit, organised by Nation Media Group, took place on October 3-4, 2024, at the KWS Clubhouse in the Nairobi National Park. The Summit aimed to catalyse climate action ahead of the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 11-22, November, 2024. Positioned as a response to the defining challenge of our time, the Summit sought to build momentum for a just, equitable, and resilient approach to the climate crisis. Climate change poses imminent and ongoing threat to ecosystems and communities worldwide, manifesting in droughts, floods, heatwaves, and declining agricultural productivity. These impacts ripple through natural and human systems, causing health crises, property destruction, and severe social, environmental, and economic degradation. With global temperatures already 1.3°C above pre-industrial levels—and 2024 marking the hottest year on record—a World Weather Attribution study warns of even more catastrophic consequences if warming continues.

In this critical moment, communities must urgently adapt, mitigate adverse effects, and seek pathways to resilience and sustainability. The 2024 Earthwise Summit centred on the theme *Equity, Innovation, and Resilience in the Face of Climate Change*, building on the foundation laid by the inaugural 2023 Summit, which focused on *Bridging Generations for Sustainable Change*. The previous Summit tackled critical climate issues such as achieving carbon neutrality, enhancing climate governance in Africa, and implementing existing action plans. It also underscored the need to rethink climate narratives by integrating indigenous rights and knowledge while emphasising collective action.

The 2024 Summit expanded the dialogue to encompass climate finance, highlighting the significant investments required for mitigation and adaptation in African nations. Despite global pledges, such as the \$100 billion annual commitment by developed countries to support climate initiatives in the Global South by 2020, many of these promises remain unmet. The 2024 Summit also provided a platform to advocate for climate justice and explore innovative responses to the crisis, including green infrastructure, biodiversity protection, and youth-led climate innovations.

Bringing together policymakers, business leaders, scientists, activists, and civil society, the Earthwise Summit fosters collaboration and dialogue aimed at advancing a resilient and sustainable future for Africa and the world.

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Location: Nairobi National Park

Nairobi National Park was Kenya's first national park, established in 1946, gazetted even before globally renowned reserves like the Masai Mara, Tsavo, or Amboseli. As the only capital city in the world with a major national park within its boundaries, Nairobi offers a striking illustration of the delicate balance between human activity and nature. The park, home to iconic wildlife such as lions, buffalo, zebras, and giraffes, serves as a living symbol of coexistence and the urgent need for sustainable solutions.

Its presence within East Africa's largest and most dynamic city encapsulates the intersection of the local and the global, much like the challenges and opportunities addressed at the Summit, making it an apt venue for these critical conversations. Hosting the Summit in this iconic setting further underscores the importance of grounded, locally driven solutions to address a planetary crisis and reinforces the urgent message that human development and the future of our planet are inseparably linked.



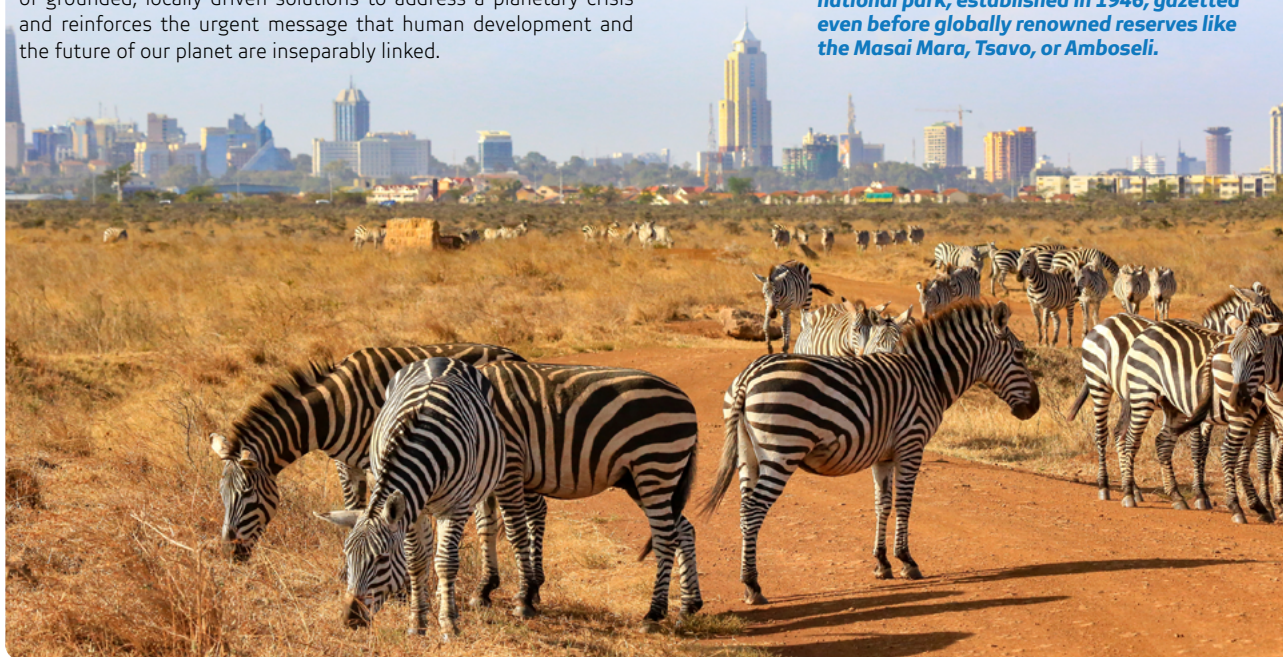
Data Dive

August 2024

The 10 warmest years from the last 74 years on record occurred in the last decade. August 2024 was Earth's warmest August.



Nairobi National Park was Kenya's first national park, established in 1946, gazetted even before globally renowned reserves like the Masai Mara, Tsavo, or Amboseli.



The Stakes Have Never Been Higher:

Driving Equity, Innovation and Resilience in the Climate Crisis



Joe Ageyo,
Editor-in-Chief, Nation Media Group

Joe Ageyo highlighted the pivotal role of communication in shaping environmental awareness and action. Reflecting on the legacy of impactful storytelling, Joe emphasised on media's responsibility to inspire solutions and amplify the voices of those most affected by climate change. He called for equity, innovation, and resilience in the face of the climate crisis, urging Africa to seize its moment as a leader in global climate discussions.



Key Takeaways:

1 The Power of Storytelling: Storytelling has long been a catalyst for environmental change. From Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* to modern climate advocacy, compelling narratives have the power to influence policy, inspire action, and connect global audiences to environmental issues.

2 The Media's Responsibility: The Nation Media Group sees its role not just as an informer but as a mobiliser, shaping narratives that are inclusive, solution-driven, and centred on equity to address the urgent realities of climate change.

3 Africa's Unique Burden: Although Africa contributes the least to global emissions, it bears the brunt of climate impacts. This duality underscores the need for strong African representation in global climate negotiations.

4 Equity in Climate Action: Vulnerable groups—especially women, youth, and indigenous communities—must not

be left out of the climate agenda. Ensuring their inclusion is critical for a just and sustainable future.

5 Africa's Resilience and Innovation: The continent is a hub of climate solutions, from community-driven conservation to youth-led advocacy and renewable energy innovation, proving that Africa can lead the way in sustainable development.

6 Shaping Global Conversations: The Earthwise Summit aims to position Kenya and Africa as key voices in climate discussions, framing priorities for COP negotiations and advocating for climate finance and just transitions.

7 Collaboration for Change: The Summit serves as a platform to align stakeholders, share stories from the frontlines of the crisis, and collectively work towards an equitable and sustainable future.



Urgent Action for Africa's Climate Resilience:

A Call for Bold Partnerships and Local Solutions



Dr. Festus Ng'eno,

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Dr. Festus Ng'eno outlined the devastating effects of climate change on Africa, from catastrophic floods to prolonged droughts. Highlighting Kenya's leadership in climate adaptation and restoration, he called for urgent, collective action to address the escalating crisis. Dr. Ng'eno emphasised the need for stronger partnerships, innovative solutions, and bold investments to build a resilient, low-carbon future for Africa and the world.



Key Takeaways:

- **Africa's Climate Crisis is Escalating:** Rising temperatures and extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and cyclones have devastated African communities, causing loss of lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure. Kenya alone has faced severe impacts, from record-breaking droughts to destructive floods.
- **The Economic Toll is Unbearable:** African countries lose 2-5% of GDP annually to climate-related disasters, with adaptation costs projected to reach \$50 billion annually by 2030. Countries like Kenya are diverting significant portions of their budgets to manage climate crises.
- **Early Warning Systems are Essential:** Programs like *Kenya's Early Warnings for all* initiative are vital for helping communities prepare for disasters. Accurate, timely climate data can save lives and reduce economic losses by enabling better adaptation strategies.
- **Locally Driven Adaptation Strategies:** Kenya is investing in climate-resilient agriculture, water management, and infrastructure. Initiatives include drought-resistant crops, expanded irrigation, and sustainable land management to protect ecosystems and livelihoods.
- **Financing Gap Must Be Addressed:** Kenya's \$40 billion National Adaptation Plan outlines strategies for critical sectors, but funding remains a challenge. Dr. Ng'eno called for adaptation and loss-and-damage financing to come as grants or concessional funding, not loans.
- **Forests as a Climate Solution:** Kenya's ambitious initiative to plant 15 billion trees by 2030 aims to enhance carbon sinks, restore degraded landscapes, and create green jobs, contributing to global restoration and biodiversity commitments.
- **Partnerships Are Key to Success:** Stronger collaboration between governments, international institutions, and the private sector is needed to achieve a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.
- **Action Cannot Wait:** Climate change is no longer a distant threat but an urgent reality. Bold action, collective commitment, and regional cooperation will ensure Africa not only survives the climate crisis but thrives in the face of it.

Turning the Climate Crisis into an Opportunity for Growth, Prosperity and African Leadership



Ambassador Ali Mohamed,

Chairman, African Group of Negotiators; Kenya's Climate Envoy and Advisor to the President on Climate Change.

The COP29 summit held in Baku, Azerbaijan, last year focused on the impact of climate change on vulnerable regions like Africa. Amb. Mohamed's insights highlighted the challenges Africa faces, its leadership in shaping solutions, and the critical priorities for COP29. From innovative green initiatives to calls for equitable financial systems, the message is clear: Africa has both the will and the potential to drive global progress while addressing the unique needs of its people.



Key Takeaways:

1 Africa's Disproportionate Burden: Africa contributes less than 4% of global emissions but faces some of the most severe climate impacts, losing 2-5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) annually and diverting up to 15% of national budgets to respond to climate extremes.

2 Climate Crisis as Opportunity: Africa can turn the crisis into an opportunity by leveraging the continent's renewable energy, fertile lands, and critical minerals to advance sustainable development while supporting global decarbonisation goals.

3 Nairobi Declaration's Vision: The Nairobi Declaration commits Africa to a growth pathway that limits emissions while driving green industrialisation and renewable energy initiatives, such as the Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative and Accelerated Partnership for Renewable Energy in Africa (APRA).





Key Takeaways:

4 Adaptation Finance is Essential: With adaptation needs growing, Africa is pushing for increased, and grant-based adaptation financing to ensure resilience, given that only 28% of adaptation finance was realised in 2022.

5 Loss and Damage Financing: Africa calls for proper capitalisation of the recently launched Loss and Damage Fund to address climate-related destruction, highlighting the inadequacy of initial contributions relative to the scale of losses.

6 Debt and Financial Reforms: The continent seeks reform of the global financial system to address rising debt burdens and create financing instruments that support sustainable development without exacerbating debt.

7 Carbon Market Rules: Finalising carbon market regulations is critical to enabling Africa to attract large-scale carbon financing, a key component of its strategy for green growth and emissions reduction.

8 Africa's Leadership Role: Despite its challenges, Africa is not waiting passively for external solutions. The continent is actively contributing to global climate action through innovative initiatives, strong leadership, and a unified position endorsed by African heads of state and ministers.



Data Dive

2-5%

African countries lose 2-5% of their GDP each year to the extreme consequences of climate change and end up diverting 9-15% of their budgets for climate response measures.



Africa calls for proper capitalisation of the recently launched Loss and Damage Fund to address climate-related destruction, highlighting the inadequacy of initial contributions relative to the scale of losses.



Bridging the Adaptation Gap:

Addressing the Shortfall in Climate Finance



Maarten Kappelle,

Chief of UNEP's Scientific Assessment Branch

Maarten Kappelle highlighted the pressing challenges of climate change, particularly for developing nations like Kenya, and underscores the importance of collective action and innovative solutions. He called for enhanced cooperation, robust local initiatives, and increased financial commitments to build a resilient and equitable future.



Key Takeaways:

1 The Climate Adaptation Finance Gap: Developing nations face a massive gap between the financial resources needed for climate adaptation and what is currently available. Estimates show a global annual shortfall of \$194 to \$366 billion, with public adaptation finance to developing countries declining by 15% in 2021.

2 Kenya's Vulnerability and Plans: Kenya's reliance on natural resources makes it particularly susceptible to climate impacts like droughts and floods. The country's National Adaptation Plan (2015–2030) provides a roadmap for resilience, but funding remains a critical barrier.

3 Innovative Finance Mechanisms: Kappelle stressed the need to explore new approaches to finance, such as climate resilience funds and remittance channels, to scale up investments in adaptation efforts.

4 Local Solutions for Adaptation: County-level climate change funds in Kenya have shown promise by empowering

vulnerable communities to design and implement their own climate solutions. Expanding these initiatives requires more technical and financial support.

5 Private Sector Engagement: Incentives and risk-sharing mechanisms are needed to encourage private sector investment in adaptation projects, complementing public and international funding efforts.

6 Focus Areas for COP29: The summit in Baku provided an opportunity to enhance international cooperation, promote South-South partnerships, build local capacity, and develop innovative financing solutions.

7 A Moral Imperative: Bridging the Climate Adaptation Finance Gap is not just about economics—it's a responsibility to future generations. Collective action is essential to ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against climate change.

Building Bridges:

The Role of Climate Diplomacy in a Changing World

Panelists:



Prof. Amb. Maria Nzomo,

PhD, EBS, MBS,
Professor Emeritus
of International
Relations, Diplomacy
& Governance -
University of Nairobi



Amb. Philip Owade,

EBS - Leading
Expert in Legal
Governance
and Policy
Development



Amb. Boaz Mbaya,

CBS, MBS -
Leading Expert
in Public Affairs
and Policy
Formulation



Amb. Dr. Kipyego Cheluget,

CEO - Nyerere
Centre for Peace
& Research, EAC



**Moderator:
Joe Ageyo,**

Editor-in-Chief,
Nation Media
Group

Climate change is a global challenge that demands collective action. This panel explored how nations must collaborate to pool financial, technological, and human resources, share lessons, and establish best practices for combating its effects, and effective negotiation as crucial to move the needle on climate action. The reality is that key treaties such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) only emerged from multilateral negotiations driven by expert discussions, and ultimately through global consensus.

Kenya already stands out as a global leader in high-level negotiation and environmental diplomacy, exemplified by its successful bid to host the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in 1973. This achievement was the result of strategic and effective negotiation, securing Nairobi as the

home for UNEP despite intense lobbying from more developed nations eager to host the institution, explained Amb. Boaz Mbaya. Kenya's ability to assert itself on the global stage at that critical moment was a testament to its diplomatic acumen and commitment to environmental stewardship, and over the years, maintaining UNEP's presence in Nairobi has required sustained negotiation and advocacy.

Now, that expertise and skill is needed more than ever if we are to change the trajectory of the climate crisis. Amb. Dr. Cheluget highlighted a significant gap in expertise in global climate change negotiations from countries in the Global South, which disadvantages low-income countries on the global stage. To solve this, governments need to invest in strengthening negotiation skills, and deepening understanding of climate finance disbursements pledged by developed nations. He also noted that climate change is now recognised as a critical political issue in Africa, on par with peace and security.



Delegates Following Proceedings During the Earthwise Summit '24 at KWS Club House in Nairobi

"Things have shifted somewhat since Egypt hosted COP27. There has been a noticeable increase in interest and engagement at the regional level. What [Kenya's] President [William] Ruto has achieved is especially significant—he has successfully galvanised Africa to take a strong, unified position on climate change. For the first time, we are seeing these issues being seriously discussed, even at the highest levels of leadership," said Amb. Dr. Chelugot.

"In the past, it was difficult to convene ministers or permanent secretaries to focus on environmental issues. The prevailing priorities were politics, peace, security, and trade," he added. But now, climate change is finally being recognised as a top agenda item, and that marks a major step forward.

Prof. Amb. Nzomo underscored the importance of galvanising support to implement existing agreements, which is often where the problem comes in after legal frameworks have been drafted and even ratified.

"In my view, the greatest responsibility lies with our leaders—the people we entrust with power and resources to manage public affairs on our behalf," said Prof. Amb. Nzomo. "Whether we are talking about national, regional, or global governance, the story is the same: a gap between commitments made and commitments enforced. That is what we need to address. Do we have the political will and the determination to enforce the promises we make? That is the real question."



Data Dive

\$387 billion

The Global Adaptation Gap Report 2022 estimates that the world needs adaptation finance of at least \$387 billion annually by 2030.





Africa's Climate Policy:

Balancing Global Commitments and Local Realities

Panelists:



Dr. Alice Kaudia ,

Africa Environmental
Policy Advisor



Kisilu Musya,

Community
Leader and
Farmer -
Kyavando
Cooperative Kitui



**Prof. Simon
Onywere,**

PhD, Lecturer
- Kenyatta
University Expert
in Geospatial and
Environmental
Planning



Andrew Kinyua,

Director of
Resources -
Ministry of Water,
Sanitation and
Irrigation



**Moderator:
Zeynab Wandati,**

Sustainability
Editor – Nation
Media Group

The agricultural sector contributes 51 % of Kenya's GDP, 60 percent of employment and 65 percent of exports. But this sector is one of the most vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change, with many regions of the country experiencing unpredictable weather patterns, which are detrimental to agricultural productivity. This means that farmers, who are often already struggling to make ends meet, are often on the front lines of experiencing – and mitigating – the impacts of the climate emergency. This panel discussed the importance for global awareness and local action, the necessity of tailored information for different stakeholders, and the importance of coordination and research.

Kitui farmer, Kisilu Musya, spoke about the decline of farming in rural Kenya over a generation, attributing the decline to extended periods of drought. But he added that local communities have valuable knowledge and potential for climate action, even if they might not have the technical scientific knowledge or know the “right” terminology. What they need most is activation and guidance.

“You might think that our communities are hopeless, but they are not. I have that experience - that once you inform them, and they start seeing a glimmer of hope of getting out of their challenges, they are very vigorous in solving their own issues. Many of them have gone farther than I have. What they need is only somebody to lead, and to direct [them].” said Musya.



Data Dive

+0.3 °C

Africa has warmed at a rate of +0.3 °C per decade between 1991 and 2023, which is higher than the global average rate, according to the World Meteorological Organisation's 2023 report on the State of Climate Change in Africa.

Dr. Alice Kaudia stressed that a lack of robust research systems and transparent financial management hinders effective climate action, and that institutional capacity, including qualified personnel, is essential for implementing climate policies and programs. “We do not have well-resourced research systems. Science informs policy, and if you don’t have the correct scientific information, you will have wrong policies. You will have wrong legislations,” she stressed, adding that if a country cannot “prudently, transparently, effectively and efficiently” manage its existing resources, then it may not matter how much climate financing it is able to attract.

On his part, Prof Simon Onywere stressed the need to understand and address the root causes of environmental degradation, such as unsustainable production and consumption practices. Sustainability, society, and development are interconnected, he said, but the problem arises when we keep exploiting these resources without considering the consequences.

“The reality is that development relies on the environment—whether for farming, mining, housing, or other activities, all of which depend on land and its resources. These resources have an incredible ability to regenerate over time: if left alone, damaged environments often repair themselves without human intervention. The problem is, we are using and consuming without thinking about the long-term implications of our actions.”

Ultimately, there is a critical need to shift from the traditional linear economic model to a circular one—an approach that prioritises regeneration over depletion. While the linear model relies on a cycle of taking, using, and discarding resources, a circular model seeks to eliminate waste by promoting the reuse, repair, and recycling of materials and products. This transformative approach not only scales up resource efficiency but also significantly reduces pollution, paving the way for a more sustainable and equitable future. Embracing a circular economy represents an opportunity to redefine progress, ensuring that economic growth aligns with the preservation of our planet’s resources and ecosystems.



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Data Dive

300,000km

UNEP’s Freshwater Challenge aims to restore 300,000km of rivers and 350 million hectares of wetlands by 2030. The Challenge is championed by the governments of Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Mexico and Zambia.



The Paris Agreement:

Does the aspiration match the realities of the world today?



Prof. Patrick Verkooijen,
CEO, Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)

Prof. Patrick Verkooijen reflects on the Paris Agreement's promise and its current shortcomings. While the Agreement aspired to limit global warming to 1.5°C, Verkooijen highlighted the pressing gap between these ambitions and the realities of climate adaptation, particularly in Africa. He outlined the urgent need for transformative action in finance, governance, and innovation to accelerate adaptation efforts and protect the world's most vulnerable communities.



Key Takeaways:

1 The Gap Between Aspiration and Action: While progress has been made in mitigating temperature increases, adaptation efforts remain far behind. Financial and political commitments must match the urgency of the climate crisis.

2 Africa's Unique Vulnerability: Despite contributing the least to climate change, Africa bears the brunt of its impacts. The continent requires a tenfold increase in adaptation funding by 2035, yet it struggles under disproportionate debt repayment burdens.

3 The Role of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP): The AAAP is mobilising \$25 billion to address food security, resilient infrastructure, and youth entrepreneurship in Africa. It is the world's largest adaptation initiative, led by Africa and designed for African needs.

4 Local Solutions for Global Challenges: Successful adaptation must be community-driven, addressing specific challenges. In Mukuru, Nairobi, innovative waste management systems like the Black Soldier Fly Initiative are simultaneously building resilience, creating jobs, and protecting the environment.

5 The Finance Challenge: Less than 10% of global climate finance is directed toward adaptation. Public finance alone is insufficient; private sector involvement must grow through de-risking investments and leveraging commercial banks to mobilise funding for smallholder farmers and local businesses.

6 Economic Benefits of Adaptation: Investing in adaptation not only saves lives but also protects economies and generates opportunities for future generations, particularly through job creation.

7 The Need for Global Solidarity: The Paris Agreement's goals hinge on multilateral cooperation. Partnerships among governments, financial institutions, and communities are essential to driving tangible change on the ground.

8 Transformative Change is Non-Negotiable: Adaptation success requires innovation, robust governance, and scaling financial flows. These efforts must prioritise both speed and scale to meet the urgent challenges of climate adaptation.



Equity and Climate Justice:

Ensuring a Fair Transition for All Indigenous Communities

Panelists:



Hellen Wanjohi,

Opil, Climate and Engagement
Lead for African Countries -
World Resources Institute



Mohamed Adow,

Director
- PowerShift Africa



Mariam Mohamed,

Senior Legal Counsel &
Regional Coordinator
- African Legal Support Facility
of the African Development Bank



Anita Soina,

Climate Change and Community
Development Advocate



Dr. Mithika Mwenda,

Executive Director
- Pan African Climate Justice Alliance



Moderator: Brygettes Ngana,

Science Journalist –
Nation Media Group

Climate change disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities, including women, youth, pastoralist communities, indigenous populations, and other marginalised groups. This panel explored the environmental challenges these communities face and examined potential solutions to address them.

“In my pastoralist community, extreme droughts and floods can devastate our livelihoods, affecting every single aspect of life, from education, to sanitation, and food production,” said climate activist Anita Soina. “While others discuss access to water or economic

growth, we are focused on survival—yet the solutions often fail to address the unique needs of communities like ours.”

She went on to note that even within pastoralist populations, there is further internal marginalisation: women bear a heavier burden. Often responsible for children and household management, they face greater challenges during crises and, unlike men, may struggle to relocate to safer areas. Recognising and addressing these unique vulnerabilities is essential for building effective and inclusive climate resilience strategies.



Data Dive

300,000

The long rains season in 2024 was particularly destructive. More than 300 people were killed and over 300,000 displaced by heavy rains and floods in the three months between 1st March and 29th May 2024, according to the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC). Widespread flooding also resulted in loss of property and disruption of services in various parts of the country.



In my pastoralist community, extreme droughts and floods can devastate our livelihoods, affecting every single aspect of life, from education, to sanitation, and food production,” Anita Soina.

With climate change affecting every aspect of life, a locally grounded understanding of the issue is the only way to have an equitable and just response to the crisis, said Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director at the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance. “The whole discussion on climate action and climate response strategies has [often] been an elitist kind of discourse...because the person most affected by climate change was not often in the room when decisions were being made on their behalf. To simplify the messaging, we need to have discussions that trickle down to the people who are the last mile communities, the youth and indigenous people. This would result in crafting responses that are sensitive to local realities, where policies evolve to accommodate local needs, a sentiment echoed by Hellen Wanjohi-Opil, who is the Climate and Engagement Lead at the World Resources Institute (WRI). She emphasised the need to work closely with frontline communities to design climate solutions that address their specific needs and local realities.

The issue of climate justice took on a broader lens in Mohamed Adow’s framing, who highlighted that despite Africa’s minimal contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, the continent faces some of the most severe impacts of climate change, including prolonged droughts, devastating floods, and worsening food insecurity.



Data Dive

Less than 4%

Africa is home to 18% of the world’s population yet contributes less than 4% of annual greenhouse gas emissions, and cumulatively has accounted for just 0.5% of emissions since 1850. Yet Africa is home to 16 of the 20 countries in the world that are described as most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.



This stark disparity underscores the injustice of expecting Africa to prioritise emissions reductions. “This continent has largely developed in a clean, sustainable manner. We have imprinted the lightest carbon footprint on the planet, yet we are among the first to experience the harsh impact of climate change.” said Adow, Director at Powershift Africa. “The first order of the day for Kenya and for Africa is therefore adaptation – securing ourselves against the worst impact of the situation.” But it makes no sense for Western countries to pressure African countries to cut emissions, “because we have no [meaningful] emissions to cut.”

Instead, Africa’s focus must be on securing adaptation and resilience measures to protect its most vulnerable populations. The emphasis on adaptation is not a deflection but a necessity, given the disproportionate exposure to climate risks that Africa experiences due to limited infrastructure, financial resources, and institutional capacity. Adow criticised the global system for failing to highlight climate injustice in Africa and called for new narratives that accurately amplifies the continent’s voice and conveys the it’s struggles.

An urban response to climate change is crucial, as low-income residents of informal settlements are among the most vulnerable. With 55% of the world’s population living in urban areas—a figure expected to reach 68% by 2050—cities are increasingly on the frontlines of climate impact. In Kenya, where half the population is projected to live in cities by 2030, the floods of April and May 2024 highlighted the disproportionate effect on urban residents, particularly those in informal settlements, as noted by Wanjohi-Opil.



Stronger legal obligations in international climate agreements are needed to address the unique challenges faced by marginalised groups, including food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and disease outbreaks, and those frameworks must prioritise equity for indigenous and marginalised communities.

Discussions on mitigation and adaptation must also address the lived realities of city dwellers. For instance, while governments may focus on rural tree planting to combat the climate crisis, urban communities often prioritise immediate needs like food security. The challenge lies in balancing global climate goals with local priorities.

The panel called for a stronger focus on climate justice, highlighting the importance of a common African voice in global climate talks. These would lead to the availing of climate-conscious grants and the devising of legal frameworks that better protect the rights of vulnerable communities. Stronger legal obligations in international climate agreements are needed to address the unique challenges faced by marginalised groups, including food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and disease outbreaks, and those frameworks must prioritise equity for indigenous and marginalised communities.



Data Dive

68%

With 55% of the world’s population living in urban areas—a figure expected to reach 68% by 2050—cities are increasingly on the frontlines of climate impacts.



Biodiversity Conservation in Face of Climate Change



Hon. Rebecca Miano, EGH

Cabinet Secretary – Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife

Rebbecca Miano highlighted the need to address the intertwined crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. With stark warnings from global reports about the looming environmental challenges, she calls for bold, collective action to reverse the devastating trends. Hon. Miano outlined a number of actionable strategies to conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate impacts, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.



Key Takeaways:

1 Prioritising Habitat Conservation and Restoration: Protecting and restoring forests, wetlands, grasslands, and marine ecosystems is essential to preserve biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration, vital for combating climate change.

2 Expanding Protected Areas: Establishing sanctuaries for species threatened by extinction is critical. The goal of protecting at least 30% of land and oceans in Kenya by 2030 is both achievable and necessary to safeguard global biodiversity.

3 Promoting Sustainable Land Use Practices: Adopting methods like agroforestry and organic farming can reduce deforestation and support biodiversity while contributing to climate resilience.

4 Investing in Renewable Energy: Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy is key to mitigating climate change. With 93% of its energy already from renewable sources, Kenya's goal of achieving 100% green energy by 2030 sets an example for the world.

5 Strengthening Global Cooperation: Addressing biodiversity and climate change requires coordinated efforts among governments, businesses, and civil society. International collaboration is essential for developing effective solutions.

6 Engaging Communities: Community involvement in conservation efforts is key. Local conservancies demonstrate the power of integrating indigenous knowledge and active participation in biodiversity protection.

7 Advancing Research and Advocacy: Strong policies, advocacy, and relentless innovation are required to counter biodiversity loss and climate challenges effectively. Collaborative efforts across all sectors are vital.

8 Moral Responsibility Across Generations: Conservation and climate action demand a moral conviction that transcends borders and generations. The choices made today will shape the future of humanity and the planet.



Data Dive

93% of energy generated in Kenya is from renewable sources. The target is to have it 100% green by 2030.



Building Resilience in African Communities:

Lessons from Local Solutions



Kennedy Ododa,
Coordinator, Adaptation Consortium

Drawing from over a decade of experience, Kennedy Ododa shared insights from the Adaptation Consortium's work, focusing on how funding, collaboration, and community involvement can help people adapt and thrive. Through initiatives like the County Climate Fund Mechanism, his speech emphasised blending traditional knowledge with modern tools, fostering teamwork, and ensuring everyone benefits equally. Ultimately, supporting local communities is crucial in tackling the challenges of climate change.



Key Takeaways:

1 Funding for Local Communities: Communities need direct access to funding to support projects that help them adapt to climate change. Clear systems must ensure that money is used fairly and responsibly.

2 Involving the Public: It's essential to include communities in decision-making so that projects reflect their needs and priorities. Everyone, including marginalised groups like women and people with disabilities, should have a say.

3 Useful Climate Information: Simple, easy-to-understand climate information—like weather forecasts and rainfall patterns—helps communities plan better, from choosing crops to managing water supplies.

4 Combining Old and New Knowledge: Traditional wisdom about the land, combined with modern science, can create powerful, practical solutions for managing climate risks.

5 Working Together: Bringing together local people, government, and businesses ensures that everyone's efforts are aligned and effective. Sharing knowledge and resources makes climate projects stronger.

6 Tailored Solutions: Each community has different needs. Some may need water projects, others better information systems, or tools to protect their livestock. Solutions should fit local challenges.

7 Transparency and Trust: People need to see how funds are used and feel involved in every step of the process. This builds trust and ensures projects succeed.

8 Learning and Improving: Communities must learn from past projects to make future ones even better. Monitoring and evaluating progress helps them adapt and grow over time.



Harnessing Nature:

Solutions for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience

Panelists:



Prof. Charles Musyoki,

Director, Wildlife and Community Service - Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)



Nancy Githaiga,

Country Director - Africa Wildlife Foundation



Susan Jepkemoi,

CEO - Baringo County Conservancies Association



Yvonne Muyia,

Programme Coordinator - REEFolution Trust



Henry Gandhi,

Research Associate - Africa Conservation Centre



Moderator: Smriti Vidyarthi,

Host & Producer – NTV Wild Talk, Nation Media Group

The planet is facing an unprecedented extinction crisis, with biodiversity disappearing at the fastest rate in history—a trend expected to accelerate with climate change. The impacts are already evident at local, regional, and global scales, affecting ecosystems and wildlife across the world. This crisis has immediate consequences for humanity. The loss of species we rely on—or compete with—directly affects our communities and livelihoods. However, biodiversity loss does not have to conflict with development; in fact, the two can complement each other when approached sustainably. This panel explored strategies for protecting ecosystems

and species that supports critical services like clean water, fertile soil, and pollination, which are essential for agriculture, industry, and human well-being. Sustainable development practices, such as reforestation, renewable energy adoption, and eco-friendly urban planning, can drive economic growth while preserving natural habitats. “It’s whether we want to take care of the environment or whether we want to survive,” said Nancy Githaiga, Country Director at the African Wildlife Foundation. “It’s not even a question of ‘do we conserve’ or ‘do we develop’? It is not a dichotomy. We must conserve if we must develop; we have no choice.”



Data Dive

11%

About 8% of the Kenya's land mass is protected area for wildlife conservation, gazetted either as National Parks or National Reserves, according to the Kenya Wildlife Service. If you include the 160 community-owned and private conservancies, that figure rises to 11% of Kenya's land mass that has been set aside for biodiversity conservation.



Climate change is having severe impacts on wildlife and ecosystems, leading to issues like water scarcity, food shortages, and increased human-wildlife conflict.

Prof. Charles Musyoki, Director, Wildlife and Community Service at Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) highlighted the dire consequences of prolonged droughts and other climate-induced challenges, particularly on the availability of food and water for wildlife. "We have seen food and water availability for wildlife become increasingly scarce because of climate change. Prolonged droughts have led to significant wildlife mortality. Poor nutrition weakens animals, making them more vulnerable to diseases that take advantage of their weakened state." This situation has led KWS to create new wildlife water sources by drilling boreholes during droughts, creating additional watering areas for these animals within the protected

areas. These challenges highlight the cascading impacts of climate change on ecosystems.

Coral reefs, often referred to as the "forests of the ocean," also experience the cascading impacts of climate change, explained Yvonne Muyia, Program Coordinator at the REEFolution Trust.

Coral reefs are vital to marine ecosystems, supporting up to 25% of marine organisms. "That 25% might sound small, but it's a massive part of the ocean's productivity, especially as most fisheries depend on these reefs. What surprises many is that corals are not rocks—



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they are living animals.” However, they are increasingly threatened by the cascading impacts of climate change, including ocean acidification and rising temperatures. The ideal temperature for coral reefs is 28-29 °C, but in recent years, ocean temperatures off the Kenyan coast have risen to 33-35 °C.

Corals exist in a symbiotic relationship with algae called zooxanthellae, which give them their colour and provide food. When ocean temperatures rise, corals expel the algae, leaving them without sustenance and causing the vibrant reefs to turn white—a process called bleaching.

“This bleaching not only impacts the corals but also the small fish that rely on them for food, cascading up the food chain to larger marine species. When corals die, we risk losing an entire ecosystem that sustains marine biodiversity.” Muyia further noted. She outlined four key strategies for coral reef restoration: developing heat-tolerant coral varieties, educating communities living near the ocean, practicing coral gardening, and establishing coral nursery trees. By implementing these approaches, it is possible to restore damaged coral reefs within 2-3 years, offering hope for these critical marine ecosystems.

Community-led innovations and solutions are the key to sustainable change. Muyia explained that successful coral reef restoration stories have come from working together with communities living next to the ocean.

Susan Jepkemoi, CEO, Baringo County Conservancies Association, further elaborated that conservation endeavours in Baringo County have thrived because local communities share ownership of the conservancy projects on their land, allowing them to value the rich diversity of bird and animal species they possess.

On his part, Henry Gandhi, Research Associate at the Africa Conservation Centre, applauded efforts to democratise science, breaking down silos and ensuring that researchers, policymakers, and practitioners work collaboratively. “I must emphasise the connectivity of landscapes—marine, terrestrial, and beyond. We’ve moved from a time when science was reserved for a few disciplines to a more democratised approach where everyone is part of the process. There is no excuse now for decisions that aren’t based on evidence.”



Data Dive

6.35 million ha

Today, conservancies in Kenya cover more than 6.35 million hectares, directly impact the lives of 930,000 households and secure the 65% of the country's wildlife that is found outside national parks and reserves.



Youthful Innovation and Leadership:

Shaping the Future of Climate Action

Panelists:



Ethan Joel,

Pupil, St. Mary's School



Mana Omar,

Climate Scientist and Climate Justice Advocate
- Fridays for Future Kenya



Kasisi Daniel,

Teacher and SDG Champion, Co-Founder of the Eco-Change Initiative



Joseph Nguthiru,

Climate Innovator
- Presidential Awardee for Best Innovation



**Moderator:
Zainab Ismail,**

News Anchor
- Nation Media Group

For Generation Alpha, the climate crisis is not just an abstract concept—it is a defining concern that shapes their worldview and aspirations for the future. Born into an era of extreme weather events, rising global temperatures, and widespread environmental degradation, these young people have grown up acutely aware of the planet's fragility. Surveys consistently show that climate change ranks among their top concerns, with many viewing it as the most urgent challenge facing humanity and the world at large.

Aidan Kahiga, a 9-year-old pupil at St. Mary's School is an example of the next generation of climate action, representing young people who are engaged with the environment through grassroots activism and taking ownership of the solutions. Through the environment club at his school, the 9-year-old says, "We plant trees and water them. We encourage people to pick up litter, and we do it too. We also reuse plastic bottles and recycle them. When I go home, I tell my parents to learn from [my

teacher] Mr. Kasisi, and I also talk to them about how they can do things at home—like reusing and recycling—to help the environment."

Kahiga's teacher and fellow panelist, Kasisi Daniel, mentioned that integrating climate change and sustainability education into the curriculum is crucial, but practical implementation is lacking. He emphasised the need for school curricula to focus on global citizenship and active participation in environmental awareness.

"Teaching environmental topics needs to go beyond theory, requiring resources and hands-on activities.. [and this] must align with the curriculum rather than disrupt learning with isolated activities,"



We plant trees and water them. We encourage people to pick up litter, and we do it too. We also reuse plastic bottles and recycle them. When I go home, I tell my parents to learn from [my teacher] Mr. Kasisi, and I also talk to them about how they can do things at home—like reusing and recycling—to help the environment."

said Kasisi. “For example, instead of simply organising tree-planting events, these efforts should integrate into existing lesson plans.” Empowering teachers with the necessary tools and support is key to fostering environmental awareness among students and embedding sustainability into everyday learning.

Still on the question of learning, climate innovator Joseph Nguthiru noted a disconnect between the skills taught in local higher education/ TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) institutions and the skills needed for green jobs of the future. “In my years at university, students in architecture were not taught about green building practices to reduce emissions from the construction sector,” adding that electrical engineering programs rarely included training on designing electric vehicles. Economics and business courses do not capture climate financing, a crucial field for sustainable development. Food science programs do not address methane emissions from food waste or innovations to combat this issue.

These gaps leave graduates ill-prepared for the jobs of the future unless they take it upon themselves to learn skills outside the curriculum, and this disconnect highlights the urgent need to align education with the realities of a green economy and equip students with relevant, future-ready skills.

Climate activist Mana Omar spoke about the necessity for policies that backed youth-led initiatives, noting that these initiatives often face tokenism, with their ideas and solutions not being taken seriously by policymakers. “In most of the spaces that we are in or contributing at, you get [the sense that] we are just there to tick the box of inclusion that the youth contributed.”

But policy reforms are needed to support and empower youth-led climate action, including reducing barriers to entry and providing dedicated funding.

“We ask our leaders to trust youth-led solutions,” said Omar. “Despite how ambitious it is, climate change is also complex, highly changing, and interconnected. So, there’s need for this ambitious youth-led projects to address this complex issue that is constantly changing [and] evolving.”

Ultimately, tokenistic or uncoordinated support, such as randomly providing unsuitable tree seedlings, hinders the effectiveness of youth-led environmental initiatives. The game changer will be collaboration between government, schools, and the private sector to align education, skills, and job market demands in the green economy.



Data Dive

Over 320,000

The renewable energy sector in Africa employed over 320,000 people as of 2020, with expectations for substantial growth as investments in renewable technologies increase. By 2030, Africa could see the creation of up to 3.3 million new direct green jobs across 12 key sectors, with the majority in renewable energy, particularly solar.



Resilient Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future



Hon. Davis Chirchir, EGH

Cabinet Secretary – Ministry of Roads and Transport

Davis Chirchir emphasised the critical role of sustainable and resilient transport systems in addressing climate change. He outlined Kenya's challenges and progress in transitioning to eco-friendly infrastructure, integrating climate considerations into policy, and leveraging the country's renewable energy resources. Highlighting the importance of partnerships and community engagement, he called for collaborative action to build a future where transport systems support both economic growth and environmental sustainability.



Key Takeaways:

1 Transport and Climate Change Are Interlinked: The transport sector contributes 23% of global carbon emissions and is heavily reliant on fossil fuels. In Kenya, the transport sector accounts for 72% of petroleum use and 13% of greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting its significant role in climate mitigation efforts.

2 Kenya's Renewable Energy Advantage: With 93% of Kenya's electricity generated from renewable sources, the country has the potential to transition its transport systems to cleaner energy solutions, reducing both emissions and reliance on costly fuel imports.

3 Resilient Infrastructure is Critical: Transport systems are vulnerable to climate impacts, as seen during the 2024 floods, which caused extensive damage. Building climate-resilient infrastructure, such as reinforced roads and railways, is essential to withstand future climate stresses.

4 E-Mobility Policy Development: The ministry is prioritising the adoption of electric mobility, leveraging Kenya's renewable energy to reduce emissions and lower costs. Policies and infrastructure for e-mobility are under development to support this transition.

5 Green Initiatives in Ports and Urban Areas: The ministry is implementing a Green Port Policy in Lamu and promoting multimodal urban transport systems to reduce emissions in cities. Plans include expanding public transport options like rail to decongest cities and reduce pollution.

6 Community Involvement in Sustainability Efforts: Under Kenya's afforestation program, the ministry has committed to planting 3.7 million trees annually. Collaboration with local communities and organisations ensures tree-planting targets are met while fostering environmental stewardship.

7 Leveraging Innovation for Sustainability: The ministry is exploring technologies such as biofuels, green hydrogen, and low-carbon materials for transport infrastructure. Partnerships with industry and international organisations are key to advancing these innovations.

8 Collaborative Action is Essential: Building a sustainable transport system requires collaboration across government, private sectors, and local communities. The Cabinet Secretary (CS) called on all stakeholders to work together to create transport systems that balance development with environmental sustainability.



Data Dive

\$7.2 billion

Kenya spends \$7.2 billion annually to import fossil fuels and there is an urgent need to leverage renewable energy sources that could cater to our entire transport needs.





Greening Infrastructure:

Building Sustainable Systems for the Future

Panelists:



H.E. Mohamed Adan Khalif,

Governor - Mandera County



Dr. Robert Sangori,

Lead, Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor - Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development



Nasra Nanda, CEO

Kenya Green Building Society and Nominated Member of the County Assembly of Nairobi



Moderator: Zeynab Wandati,

Sustainability Editor – Nation Media Group

Mandera County, located in North Eastern Kenya, has historically faced significant climate vulnerabilities - over 90% of the population in the semi-arid county relies on rain-fed agriculture. This heavy dependence on rainfall makes the county particularly susceptible to droughts, leading to acute food insecurity during dry periods. Compounding the challenges, Mandera has an absolute poverty rate of 89.1%, significantly higher than the national average of 46%. But Mandera is an unlikely success story in active climate action, demonstrating that with good leadership, community buy-in and some resilience, significant progress is possible.

H.E. Mohamed Adan Khalif, Governor, County Government of Mandera, expounded on the greening initiative that earned the County international recognition at the Future Green World

Congress, showcasing Mandera as a leader in innovative and inclusive environmental initiatives.

"Our successful greening initiative in Mandera was built on community involvement and awareness. We launched an extensive awareness campaign and ensured the program was community-driven, with families at its core. Instead of simply planting trees along the streets, we introduced the concept of 'adopting' trees, where families were assigned specific zones to care for." Explains the Governor.

90%

Mandera County, located in North Eastern Kenya, has historically faced significant climate vulnerabilities - over 90% of the population in the semi-arid county relies on rain-fed agriculture. This heavy dependence on rainfall makes the county particularly susceptible to droughts, leading to acute food insecurity during dry periods.

"We targeted mothers because they are often the primary caregivers and breadwinners in Mandera, and their consistent presence made them ideal stewards of the trees. Families were allocated between 30 and 40 trees and received a monthly stipend of 10,000 Kenyan shillings to ensure their care. Each family was responsible for planting, protecting, watering, and nurturing their designated trees."

This approach worked because they emphasised community mobilisation and education from the start. Mothers were directly involved in planting and preserving the trees, creating a sense of ownership and responsibility, and ensuring its success and sustainability.

Moreover, the concept of sustainability is deeply rooted in African traditions and practices, long before it became a global buzzword. Africa has a rich history of using locally available materials and adapting to its environment in ways that align with sustainable principles. However, modernity often brought a shift away from these practices, leading to a misplaced perception that local methods are inferior. Reclaiming and adapting these time-tested approaches can offer innovative, context-specific solutions to today's challenges. "Sustainability doesn't have to follow the model of the Global North—that's a common misconception. Historically, Africa was well ahead in using locally available materials," says Nasra Nanda, CEO, Kenya Green Building Society. "As we modernised, or perhaps regressed, we began undervaluing our own resources and methods. It is time to recalibrate and recognise that by working with what we already have and making small adjustments, we can create solutions that are both practical and sustainable."

In cities, the focus on Sustainable Development Goal 11, which advocates for sustainable cities and communities, is a step toward integrating sustainability into urban growth. This aligns with commitments such as the New Urban Agenda, a 20-year global framework guiding urban development from 2016 to 2036. Additionally, the Paris Agreement remains central to global climate action, emphasising the principle of leaving no one—and no space—behind. These frameworks collectively call for a balance between sustainable growth and Africa's development trajectory.

"Africa contributes less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet we face the challenge of advancing our development without compromising sustainability," says Dr. Robert Sangori, who heads the Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor at the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.





Data Dive

15 billion trees

In 2022, President William Ruto announced an ambitious initiative to plant 15 billion trees by 2032, aiming to restore 10.6 million hectares of degraded land and significantly enhance the nation's forest cover. This goal translates to planting approximately 1.5 billion trees annually, or about 4 million trees each day.

"The pathway forward is clear—we must integrate sustainable principles into our development process. This means adopting renewable energy technologies, incorporating green building practices, and prioritising passive building designs that maximise natural lighting and enhance energy efficiency." These measures ensure that as we grow, we do so in alignment with environmental preservation. A green building index is currently being developed to ensure the standards agreed upon are applicable and practical within the Kenyan context.

Nanda described sustainable cities as urban areas that support both nature and people, and green buildings as structures designed to be energy - and water - efficient, incorporating sustainable materials in their construction, with Dr. Sangori stressing the importance of enforcing green building codes to prevent unscrupulous developers from bypassing these regulations. Collaboration between national and local governments and communities is essential to accelerate

renewable energy generation, particularly solar energy. Solar power, a cornerstone of green buildings, offers a dual benefit: advancing economic development while fulfilling climate action commitments.

The panel called for immediate action to green infrastructure by adopting emerging technologies and implementing locally driven solutions. They emphasised that governments, communities, and the private sector must work together to drive tangible progress, making sustainable cities and green buildings a reality. This is not just a goal but a responsibility—one that demands bold commitments and decisive action today to secure a sustainable future for all.

Kenya Wildlife Service:

A Pillar of Climate Action and Biodiversity Conservation



Dr. Erustus Kanga,

Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)

Dr. Erustus Kanga highlighted the critical role of KWS in combating climate change and conserving biodiversity. He underscored how Kenya's national parks and conservancies, covering 20% of the country, serve as essential climate action areas that sustain not just Kenya, but global ecosystems.



Key Takeaways:

1 Kenya's Unique Natural Heritage: Nairobi National Park, the only park within a city, plays a vital role as a carbon sink, cleaning the air and contributing to climate resilience in Kenya's capital.

2 Extensive Climate Action Areas: Kenya Wildlife Service manages 8.2% of the country's land in national parks and reserves, with an additional 12% under community and private conservancies, making 20% of Kenya's land dedicated to biodiversity and climate action.

3 Dependency on Protected Ecosystems: Key industries, including tea production and hydropower, depend on ecosystems like the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, and the Mau Forest. These areas provide water for cities, sustain agriculture, and ensure energy generation.

4 Economic Impact of Conservation: Ecosystems managed by KWS directly support Kenya's GDP by safeguarding water resources, agricultural productivity, and energy infrastructure. Without these areas, 70% of Kenya's GDP would be at risk.

5 KWS as a Climate Action Institution: By conserving critical habitats, KWS not only protects wildlife but also strengthens Kenya's climate resilience, ensuring the stability of essential natural systems that support human life and livelihoods.

6 Global Responsibility: Kenya's wildlife and biodiversity are conserved not just for the country but for humanity. Protecting species like lions and rhinos ensures these treasures endure for future generations worldwide.



Earthwise 2024 Declarations

Need for clear and compelling messaging on the crises arising from climate change and how they affect our environments, communities, and businesses to activate everyone into meaningful action.



Campaign for political goodwill and commitment in implementing workable strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Galvanise solidarity across African countries and African regional economic blocs with the aim to present a unified voice on our shared issues and concerns in climate change forums.



Broaden the range of participants and decision-makers on issues and concerns arising from climate change to ensure that the voices of the youth, women, pastoralist communities, and people living with disabilities are included.



Expand legal frameworks and instruments to ensure the unique vulnerabilities of those impacted by climate change are identified, captured, and protected.





Build the institutional capacity of our business organisations and government bodies to leverage our diverse expertise and to learn from our key historical wins.



Utilise international legal redress mechanisms to ensure those unjustly impacted by crises arising from climate change are meaningfully compensated.



Change and evolve key national policies to empower people and communities to own and control their energy sources, and to adapt to smart and environmentally-friendly means of production.



Integrate national, community, and individual efforts to protect and conserve our forests, wetlands, grasslands, and our oceans.



The Summit's insights can serve as tangible outcomes to build new connections, and to create a future where equity, innovation, and resilience guide our response to the climate crisis.

Conclusion and Call to Action by Nation Media Group

Joe Ageyo, the Editor-in-Chief at Nation Media Group, highlighted key lessons from the 2024 Earthwise Summit, urging participants to take immediate and inclusive action. He emphasised the urgent need for clear and powerful messaging to awaken communities, businesses, and governments to the realities of climate change and to inspire meaningful responses. The discussions underscored the importance of including diverse voices—youth, women, pastoralists, and people with disabilities—in shaping climate strategies. Political leaders must show commitment and implement solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts, while existing laws must evolve to protect the most vulnerable.

Participants called for stronger solidarity among African nations to present a unified voice in global climate forums. Businesses and governments must strengthen their capacity

to act, drawing from past successes and expertise, and national policies must empower communities to adopt sustainable energy and production practices. Protecting forests, wetlands, grasslands, and oceans must remain a shared responsibility, integrating efforts at national, community, and individual levels. Moreover, Africa must leverage international mechanisms to seek justice and compensation for those disproportionately affected by climate-related crises.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time, demanding bold and collective action. The Summit's insights can serve as tangible outcomes to build new connections, and to create a future where equity, innovation, and resilience guide our response to the climate crisis. The time to act is now, and together, we can shape a sustainable and just world for future generations.





EARTHWISE SUMMIT '24



Equity, Innovation, and Resilience in
the Face of Climate Change