VCA

VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION

AKINA MAMA WA AFRIKA

Fundación Avina

Hivos people unlimited

sdi.

SSN TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENCE

WWF

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The climate crisis hugely effects nature and has a devastating impact on human life – and rights. We are at a critical juncture. In our fight against raising temperatures and in transforming our societies in a sustainable, just and inclusive manner.

The tipping point is now. There are huge opportunities to effect change. We need to renegotiate unequal rights and reimagine and recover the balance between people and nature.

We believe this is only possible through next level local civil society leadership and ownership. Through innovation, a climate justice approach, and strong coalitions for just climate action.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The climate crisis hits the most vulnerable the hardest. People already living in poverty are far more vulnerable to climate shocks because of their unsafe living conditions, insecure livelihoods, and the lack of access to resources to adapt and build resilience. Nature and biodiversity are at great risk, worsening vulnerable people's situation even more due to their dependence on them. Seen through this lens, the climate crisis exacerbates inequalities, undermines democracy, and threatens development and our ecosystem at large.

The current economic system that brought us the climate crisis persist and is part of the problem. Existing climate governance does not adequately support inclusivity. On the contrary, as the climate crisis worsens, civic space is shrinking. The voices of local people are rarely heard when climate decisions are being made, with women, youth, indigenous people and other marginalized groups being the most noticeably absent - and yet it is these groups, especially in the global South, that will bear the brunt of climate change impacts.

This attitude is pervasive beyond decision making. Climate finance is repeatedly failing to reach local solutions and the people and nature that need it most. Currently, only 1 out of 10 USD of climate finance goes to local-level climate action.

A troublesome trend and missed opportunities as local communities and civil society organizations are often innovative agents of change. They take highly contextualized and integrated development action that benefit from critical local and ecosystem knowledge, yield greater and more inclusive social and economic returns, and are ultimately more sustainable in the long run. Hence, they are indispensable in the global fight against climate change.
We need a new approach that connects these diverse groups and acknowledges their power, agency and voice to lead transformational change. Only when local civil society has ownership over climate action, the transition will be effective, inclusive and just.

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WHO ARE WE?

We are Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA). Our alliance brings together global and local voices by connecting a diverse range of civil society organizations representing women, youth, indigenous people, urban poor, digital activists and more. The alliance is led by four strong Southern CSOs – Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), Fundacion Avina, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and SouthSouthNorth (SSN) – and two Global CSOs – Hivos and WWF-Netherlands.

OUR SHARED VISION

A world where civil society is heard and respected. A world where civil society co-creates locally relevant, inclusive and fundable climate solutions. A world where local civil society is an agent of change and influences policies and practices to the benefit of these solutions. As part of local and global responses to the climate crisis, these climate solutions will deliver real benefits to people and nature.

We will work on this vision through **three strategic interventions:**

1. Mutual capacity strengthening for co-creating alternative scaled climate solutions
2. Agenda-setting and movement in climate action through amplified storytelling
3. Joint lobbying and advocacy to make policy and financial flows responsive to locally shaped climate solutions

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OUR APPROACH

VCA presents a fair, just and solution-oriented agenda that integrates social and economic rights into climate action. Together – alliance partners and local civil society organizations - we create a democratic playing field and amplify the inventive local solutions to spur a broader development. By doing so, we are set to shape a new reality for people and nature.

Local ownership

We build broad societal support for local solutions and stimulate action from diverse perspectives and alternative approaches. We facilitate new unexpected coalitions that protect and expand civic space and engage in inclusive dialogue that builds mutual trust. In doing so, we shift ownership to local civil society and support them in movement building, raising their voice to the global level and challenging power balances.

Climate justice through gender justice

We see women leadership as key to ensuring the voices of marginalized groups are heard. Gender equality is a building block for a powerful approach to climate justice. By acknowledging the root causes of the problem and integrating an intersectional analysis, we seek to address inequalities and transform power relationships based on gender and identity, race, and class, among others.

COUNTRY SELECTION

The countries we work in are strategic choices based on economic importance and challenges faced in terms of climate vulnerabilities and limited civic space. At the same time, many interesting local initiatives and movements are emerging in these countries, providing opportunities to show how we can transition to a just, fair and sustainable world.

Participating regions and countries include:
- East Africa: Kenya
- Southern Africa: Zambia
- Latin America: Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay
- Southeast Asia: Indonesia
- North Africa: Tunisia

JOIN VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION

VCA is set to effect the amplification of locally-shaped climate action and play a pivotal role in the global climate debate. For more information about the program, our agenda and how to collaborate with us, please contact us via info@voicesforclimateaction.org.

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