ECOCLIMATE VISION MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
Empowering the Global South in the Fight Against Climate Change
www.ecoclimatevision.org March, 2024

Compiled by EcoClimate Vision Communications Department

Theme for this month

Team Building

Introduction

In this first quarter edition of our newsletter, we shine a spotlight on the cornerstone of our organization: building a robust and cohesive team as indicated in our organogram. From the inception of our advisory board to the expansion of our core team, down to the election of dedicated country representatives and recruitment of more volunteers, our journey towards a sustainable future is powered by the collective efforts of every member. From the past few months to this month has been an amazing journey, as we continue to grow and evolve as an organization, it is essential to nurture a strong sense of unity and identity within our team while also amplifying our brand presence in the climate action sphere.

Amidst the challenges and triumphs, it's the unwavering dedication and collaboration of each individual that propels us forward. Together, we amplify our impact, drive innovation, and foster resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

As we celebrate our progress in team building, we also look ahead with anticipation and enthusiasm for the milestones yet to come. Join us in embracing the spirit of unity and purpose as we embark on the next chapter of our journey towards a greener, more equitable world.

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events

April 1 - June 1	Recruitment of Advisory Board & Open Core Team Positions
April 15 - 21	Country Representatives (VPs) and Volunteers Orientation
April 22 - June 1	Country Teams Recruitment, Partnerships, Team Building and Branding
June 1	Main Climate Information Translation Project
Timely	Virtual Webinars - Research Department
Timely	Country Level Recruitment of Volunteers & Orientations
Timely	Country Level Open Call for Partnerships
Timely	Open Call for Sponsorship and Donors - Core Team and Country Teams
Timely	Fundraising Activities
Timely	Organization Registration in Various Countries
Timely	Translations, Dissemination, Community Level Engagement and Ongrounds Awareness
Timely	Virtual Summit
Timely	Mitigation and Adaptation Onsite Projects - Tangible Projects
Timely	Policy Advocacy and Campaigns
Timely	In Person Workshop

EcoClimate Vision Advertisements

Advisory Board Recruitment

We're seeking passionate individuals to join EcoClimate Vision's Advisory Board. Visit our website www.ecoclimatevision.org to learn more about the qualifications and roles.

Apply directly or refer a candidate using the recruitment form: https://lnkd.in/ev8sgD8c or the referral form: https://lnkd.in/exgdTW23.

Know someone passionate about climate action with the expertise to make a difference?

Nominate them today by emailing careers@ecoclimatevision.org with their details and why they'd be a perfect fit.

Deadline for applications: May 6th, 2024

Open Core Team Positions

Passionate about combating climate change and fostering sustainability?

Explore our open core team positions at EcoClimate Vision and be part of our impactful mission!

Visit our website to learn more about

the positions and how to apply: https://ecoclimatevision.org/home/open-position/

Deadline for applications: May 6th, 2024

Country Level Executive Board or VPs election

Most countries are done with their VPs election or have filled up their country representatives position. Reach out to your country Director Directly or your country email address to inquire about any open positions for country representatives or VPs.

Volunteers Recruitment

All country teams are actively recruiting volunteers, reach out to your country director directly or your country email address to learn more about how to apply.

Communications Department Webinar

The Communications Department is hosting a webinar on 'Sustainable Solutions for Combating Plastic Pollution and Climate Change in the Global South' on May 11th, 2024, at 10AM GMT.

We're calling on all environmental enthusiasts to join us as speakers for our upcomingwebinar.Ifyou'reinterested,reach out to our Communications Department via email at info@ecoclimatevision.org to express your interest. Deadline for speaker submissions: April 29th, 2024.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNERS

Amazon Theatrix Ensemble -Employing The Use Of Theatre In Saving Lake Victoria.

"Voice of Sango"-Lake Victoria

Lake Victoria is one of the freshwater lakes covering Kenya,Uganda and Tanzania becoming a source of livelihood out of the blue economy.

However in the recent past, the lake has experienced pollution ranging from plastic to effluent discharged in the lake causing the lives of aquatic animals. Based on this background and partnering with friends of lake victoria -Osiepe Sango, Amazon Theatrix ensemble ventured in producing a production "voice of sango" that was staged at the county theater fiesta becoming the best artistic piece that qualified for the kenya international theater festival (kitfest) go national and international audience

The purpose of the performance was to create awareness and sensitize communities on climate action with the quest of having lake victoria reclaim its lost glory by becoming fresh again away from human encroachment and activities that has led to its dilapidation leading to low production of fish out of plastic pollution.

Speaking during the curtain call at the kenya international theater festival (kitfest), Millicent Muchilwa -Director Osiepe Sango

-friends of lake victoria hinted out that theater is a powerful and innovative tool to provide authentic communication to communities on plastic pollution on the lake

“Theater is indeed a participatory way of engaging and creating dialogue with communities on effects of plastic pollution in the wake of climate change, we have used it in market and community dialogue activities and it worked “ posed Mrs Muchilwa.

Through this Amazon Theatrix Ensemble has endeavored to create lasting change in conservation of lake victoria through efforts in artivism.

The play will also be performed during the second aquatic resources and blue economy conference (arbec ii) slated for 17th to 20th june 2024 in kisumu kenya.

Green Leaders Initiative - Activism Resurgence.

Green Leaders Initiative founder Russel leads a team of dedicated youths passionate about the environment joined by purpose to touch trodden souls in the society. On the dawn of 28th March 2024 was an historical period for this team as it marked the commencement of activities by officially launching their organization at Gitunduti secondary schools. From mentorship programs to tree planting exercise from that day has shown a sign of our commitment to environmental sustainability. Together, we strive to make an impact and live a legacy. Hongera to anyone who played a role for its success.

EcoClimate Tips: Practical tips for living a more sustainable lifestyle to reduce carbon footprints and strategies to help adapt to climate change.

Embracing Sustainable Living: Practical Steps for a Greener Future

In the face of climate change, individuals around the world are increasingly realizing the importance of adopting sustainable practices in their daily lives. From reducing waste to conserving energy, there are numerous steps each of us can take to make a positive impact on the planet.

People all throughout the world are realizing how urgently sustainable living habits are needed in light of the mounting worries regarding climate change. They are becoming more aware of the critical role they play in reducing these issues as a result of the growing threat of environmental degradation and its far-reaching effects. Everywhere from the busy streets of big cities to the peaceful nooks of small towns, there is a persistent cry for action, imploring people to take proactive measures in the direction of a more environmentally friendly and sustainable future.

How then can you join the struggle to enhance a sustainable living?

Initially and foremost, it is imperative to foster an attitude of "reduce, reuse, recycle". We may greatly lessen our environmental impact by consuming less single-use plastics and choosing reusable alternatives instead. Over time, little adjustments like refillable water bottles and reusable shopping bags can result in large waste savings.

Energy conservation is yet another essential component of sustainable living. Our energy use may be significantly reduced by taking easy steps like disconnecting gadgets, turning off lights when leaving a room, and purchasing energy-efficient products. Furthermore, investigating

sustainable energy options like solar energy might help us become less dependent on fossil fuels.

Additionally, choosing sustainable transportation options is also key. Whether it's walking, cycling, carpooling, or using public transit, opting for alternatives to driving alone can help lower emissions and reduce traffic congestion. By embracing greener modes of transportation, we can simultaneously improve air quality and promote healthier communities.

How about food choices? Adopting a plant-based diet and supporting local farmers can have significant environmental benefits. By reducing our consumption of animal products and opting for locally sourced, seasonal produce, we can minimize our carbon footprint and support more sustainable agricultural practices.

Conserving water is yet another essential component of sustainable living. Fixing leaks, switching to water-efficient appliances, and collecting rainwater for outdoor use are little steps that may contribute to protecting this invaluable resource for coming generations.

Furthermore, supporting eco-friendly businesses and advocating for sustainable policies can drive positive change on a broader scale. By choosing products and services from companies that prioritize sustainability and engaging in advocacy efforts, we can amplify our impact and contribute to building a more environmentally conscious society.

In conclusion, embracing sustainable living is not just about making individual choices—it's about creating a collective movement towards a greener, more sustainable future. By taking proactive steps to reduce waste, conserve energy, and support eco-friendly practices, we can all play a role in safeguarding the planet for generations to come. Together, let's embrace sustainable living and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

Report on Webinars Hosted by the Research Department

Climate Insights: Eco Climate Vision Webinars Unveil Global Perspectives

In an effort to tackle the critical issue of climate change, Eco Climate Vision organized a groundbreaking webinar on Saturday, 24th February 2024. The webinar, titled "Climate Change in the Global South: Issues and the Way Forward," attracted a substantial audience and featured eminent speakers from diverse regions.

Distinguished speakers such as Abeer Sohail from Pakistan, Timothy Ogenyi Emenike from Nigeria, Prime Nkezumakama

from Burundi, and Miriam Akinyi from Kenya shared invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change in their respective countries. Held on Google Meet, the webinar provided a platform for key figures in the sustainability sector to engage in critical discussions on strategies for mitigating climate change and fostering collaboration.

Similarly, the organization in its mission to promote environmental sustainability hosted another webinar on "The Role of Women in Addressing Climate Change" on Saturday, 9th March 2024. The event, held to commemorate International Women's Day, attracted a diverse audience and featured dynamic discussions on the pivotal role of women in climate action.

Esteemed speakers including Dr. Nfor N. Nde Nyambi from Rwanda, Sivaeerkthana Senthilkumar from India, Stella Orengo Aminisi from Kenya, Bisharo Ali Hussain from Somalia, and Claire Lokeris Pedo from Uganda shared their experiences and initiatives in combating climate change. The webinar, conducted via Google Meet, provided participants with an opportunity to raise questions and observations, promptly addressed by the panelists.

The event served as a platform to celebrate the remarkable achievements of women in environmental conservation and emphasized the importance of gender inclusivity in climate action. Through engaging discussions and thought-provoking insights, participants were inspired to amplify the role of women in driving sustainable solutions to address the pressing challenges of climate change.

WORLD CELEBRATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS EVENTS, DAYS & DATES – 2024

- World ESG Summit
  February 19-21, 2024
  Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia

- Economist Impact Energy Transition Summit
  March 4, 2024
  London

- Sustainability LIVE Net Zero
  March 6-7, 2024
  Queen Elizabeth II Centre, London

- The World Future Energy Summit
  April 16-18, 2024
  ADNEC Abu Dhabi

- Innovation Zero
  30 April to 1 May
  Olympia London

- Responsible Business Asia 2024
  May, 2024
  Asia (online)

- Climate week NYC
  September 22, 2024
  New York

- UN Climate Change Conference – UNFCCC COP29
  November 11-24, 2024
  Baku, Azerbaijan

- World Wetlands Day – 2nd February 2024

- World Wildlife Day – 3rd March 2024

- Global Recycling Day – 18th March 2024

- World Water Day – 22nd March 2024

- International Day of forests – 24th March 2024

- International Day of Zero Waste – 30th March 2024

- Earth Day – 22nd April 2024

- World Migratory Bird Day – 11th May 2024
- World Bee Day – 20th May 2024

- International Day for Biological Diversity – 22nd May

- World Environment Day – 5th June 2024

- World Oceans Day – 8th June 2024

- World Rainforest Day – 22nd June 2024

- International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies – 7th September 2024

- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer – 16th September 2024
- World Rivers Day – 22nd September 2024

- International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste – 29th September 2024

- World Migratory Bird Day – 12th October 2024

- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict – 6TH November 2024

- World Soil Day – 5th December 2024

"GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE." OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS GALE, 2023

Though the terms global warming and climate change are often used interchangeably, they have different meanings. Climate change describes long-term shifts in Earth's weather patterns that affect temperature, humidity, wind, cloud cover, and precipitation. Global warming refers explicitly to an increase in Earth's

average surface temperatures caused by human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels. Anthropogenic climate change refers to changes in the climate caused by human activity, particularly industrialization and agricultural practices that release pollutants into the atmosphere.

Overwhelming scientific evidence supports the existence of both global warming and climate change. Through the United Nations' (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), thousands of scientists work together to collect and analyze the latest available research related to climate change, its effects, and potential responses. In an interim update to its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) in 2023, the IPCC estimated that global surface temperatures increased by 1.1°C (1.98°F) between the latter half of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twenty-first century. The IPCC has linked climate change and global warming to the increased occurrence and severity of storms, floods, droughts, and wildfires, warning that such disasters will increase further if temperatures continue to rise. The scientists' group also identifies water availability and food production as well as health and wealth being as experiencing observable, widespread, and substantial changes related to climate change. These threats have led scientists to identify global warming and climate change as a climate crisis. The IPCC recognizes human activity, particularly industrialization and certain agricultural practices that release carbon dioxide (CO2), as the primary driver of global warming and climate change.

Despite substantial evidence and a consensus among the scientific community, a vocal minority continues to challenge the science behind climate change. These critics characterize climate change as a natural phenomenon and dispute assertions that human activity has contributed to rising global temperatures. This position may be referred to as climate denial, and those who reject the scientific consensus are considered climate deniers. Fossil fuel companies often provide financial support to politicians, media campaigns, and organizations that promote climate denial.

MAIN IDEAS

- Climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather patterns. Global warming is the increase in the planet's average surface temperatures caused by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels.
- Causes of climate change related to human activity are referred to

as anthropogenic. Natural causes of climate change are called naturogenic.

- Earth's atmosphere contains several gases that trap heat from the sun and prevent it from escaping into space. These gases are called greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth.
- Global warming has the potential to cause disruptions in the food supply, harm ecosystems and wildlife habitats, and threaten the planet's biodiversity.
- Countries that experience the harshest effects of climate change are often low- and middle-income countries who contribute fewer greenhouse gas emissions than wealthier countries that do not experience the effects so intensely.
- The United States has joined other countries in making commitments to fight climate change, but that commitment has largely depended on the country's leadership.
- Though the administration of President Joe Biden has taken more aggressive steps to combat the climate crisis, critics question whether these steps will meet the administration's ambitious goals and whether those goals are sufficient.

CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Earth's atmosphere contains several gases that trap heat from the sun and prevent it from escaping into space. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect, and the gases are called greenhouse gases (GHGs). The main GHGs in nature are carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Without the greenhouse effect, Earth would be too cold to support life. Over time, the amount of GHGs trapped in Earth's atmosphere has increased significantly, causing worldwide temperatures to rise.

Natural processes on Earth constantly create and destroy GHGs. For example, plant and animal matter decay produce carbon dioxide, which plants then absorb during photosynthesis. This natural cycle stabilizes atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide. Climate change scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other federal and international agencies recognize that natural factors, including volcanic activity and shifts in the planet's crust, continue to play a role in climate change. However, they generally agree that these factors alone do

not explain the substantial rise in Earth's temperature. Natural causes of climate change are referred to as naturogenic, while causes of climate change related to human activity are called anthropogenic.

Earth's vegetation releases and absorbs over two hundred billion metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. Human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, add approximately seven billion metric tons per year. Climate scientists believe the cumulative effect of this additional carbon dioxide has had a dramatic impact on the atmosphere. Deforestation has also contributed to this increase by releasing carbon dioxide stored in trees and eliminating forests that would continue to absorb many tons of carbon dioxide. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as of 2023 the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had increased by 50 percent since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain in the eighteenth century.

Increased levels of other GHGs, such as nitrous oxide and methane, have also resulted from human activity. Several agricultural and industrial processes, such as the use of certain fertilizers in farming, produce extensive amounts of nitrous oxide. Methane emissions come from fossil fuel production, landfills, and livestock. Though much smaller quantities of these gases exist in Earth's atmosphere, some scientists believe they cause more harm than carbon dioxide. Methane, for example, is about twenty-one times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat. Humans have also created and released GHGs that do not occur in nature. These include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). These gases, released during industrial processes such as aluminum production and electrical transmission, trap thousands of times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

CLIMATE CHANGE PREDICTIONS

A broad consensus exists in the scientific community that the consequences of climate change may be devastating, though the exact nature of the changes is difficult to predict. No model to chart climate patterns has had complete accuracy. For instance, most climate models failed to predict a slowdown in rising temperatures starting in 1998 and ending in 2012. The slowdown was attributed to volcanic eruptions that blocked out the sun and cooled temperatures, low levels of solar activity, and naturally occurring variability. Similarly, some predictions have underestimated threats.

In its initial assessment of rising sea levels in 1990, the IPCC initially anticipated a sea level rise of 1.9 millimeters per year from that year onward. However, as of 2023, the IPCC reports that sea levels rose at a rate of 3.7 millimeters per year between 2006 and 2018. Sea level rise contributes to increased flooding and the damage caused by extreme storms such as hurricanes in coastal cities. The IPCC predicts that sea level rise could threaten as many as one billion people living in low-lying cities and communities by 2041, noting the threats to livelihoods, cultural heritage, and the existence of many island nations.

Reference: wwe.gale.com

WHY CLIMATE CHANGE IS STILL THE GREATEST THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH

Polluted air and steadily rising temperatures are linked to health effects ranging from increased heart attacks and strokes to the spread of infectious diseases and psychological trauma.

Workers fumigate for mosquitoes on a city street in New Delhi, India, as a preventive measure against the spread of dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. The impact of vector-borne diseases will increase as global temperatures rise. An editorial co-published in hundreds of medical journals called for urgent action to reduce emissions.

People around the world are witnessing firsthand how climate change can wreak havoc on the planet. Steadily rising average temperatures fuel increasingly intense wildfires, hurricanes, and other disasters that are now impossible to ignore. And while the world has been plunged into a deadly pandemic, scientists are sounding the alarm once more that climate change is still the greatest threat to human health in recorded history.

As recently as August—when wildfires raged in the United States, Europe, and Siberia—World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement that “the risks posed by climate change could dwarf those of any single disease.”

On September 5, more than 200 medical journals released an unprecedented joint editorial that urged world leaders to act. “The science is unequivocal,” they write. “A global increase of 1.5°C above the pre-industrial average and the continued loss of biodiversity risk catastrophic harm to health that will be impossible to reverse.”

Despite the acute dangers posed by COVID-19, the authors of the joint op-ed write that world governments “cannot wait

for the pandemic to pass to rapidly reduce emissions." Instead, they argue, everyone must treat climate change with the same urgency as they have COVID-19.

Here's a look at the ways that climate change can affect your health—including some less obvious but still insidious effects—and why scientists say it's not too late to avert catastrophe.

Air Pollution

Climate change is caused by an increase of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere, mostly from fossil fuel emissions. But burning fossil fuels can also have direct consequences for human health. That's because the polluted air contains small particles that can induce stroke and heart attacks by penetrating the lungs and heart and even traveling into the bloodstream. Those particles might harm the organs directly or provoke an inflammatory response from the immune system as it tries to fight them off. Estimates suggest that air pollution causes anywhere between 3.6 million and nine million premature deaths a year.

"The numbers do vary," says Andy Haines, professor of environmental change and public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and author of the recently published book Planetary Health. "But they all agree that it's a big public health burden."

People over the age of 65 are most susceptible to the harmful effects of air

A family has dinner in their flooded home in Central Java, Indonesia. For over 40 years, they witnessed their productive agricultural land slowl.

pollution, but many others are at risk too, says Kari Nadeau, director of the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford University. People who smoke or vape are at increased risk, as are children with asthma.

Air pollution also has consequences for those with allergies. Carbon dioxide increases the acidity of the air, which then pulls more pollen out from plants. For some people, this might just mean that they face annoyingly long bouts of seasonal allergies. But for others, it could be life-threatening.

“For people who already have respiratory disease, boy is that a problem,” Nadeau says. When pollen gets into the respiratory pathway, the body creates mucus to get rid of it, which can then fill up and suffocate the lungs.

Even healthy people can have similar outcomes if pollen levels are especially intense. In 2016, in the Australian state of Victoria, a severe thunderstorm combined with high levels of pollen to induce what The Lancet has described as “the world’s largest and most catastrophic epidemic of thunderstorm asthma.” So many residents suffered asthma attacks that emergency rooms were overwhelmed—and at least 10 people died as a result.

Climate change is also causing wildfires to get worse, and wildfire smoke is especially toxic. As one recent study showed, fires can account for 25 percent of dangerous air pollution in the U.S. Nadeau explains that the smoke contains particles of everything that the fire has consumed along its path—from rubber tires to harmful chemicals. These particles are tiny and can penetrate even deeper into a person’s lungs and organs. (Here’s how breathing wildfire smoke affects the body.)

Extreme heat

Heat waves are deadly, but researchers at first didn’t see direct links between climate change and the harmful impacts of heat waves and other extreme weather events. Haines says the evidence base has been growing. “We have now got a number of studies which has shown that we can with high confidence attribute health outcomes to climate change,” he says.

Most recently, Haines points to a study published earlier this year in Nature Climate Change that attributes more than a third of heat-related deaths to climate change. As National Geographic reported at the time, the study found that the human toll was even higher in some countries with less access to air conditioning or other factors that render people more vulnerable to heat. (How climate change is making heat waves even deadlier.)

That's because the human body was not designed to cope with temperatures above 98.6°F, Nadeau says. Heat can break down muscles. The body does have some ways to deal with the heat—such as sweating. "But when it's hot outside all the time, you cannot cope with that, and your heart muscles and cells start to literally die and degrade," she says.

If you're exposed to extreme heat for too long and are unable to adequately release that heat, the stress can cause a cascade of problems throughout the body. The heart has to work harder to pump blood to the rest of the organs, while sweat leeches the body of necessary minerals such as sodium and potassium. The combination can result in heart attacks and strokes.

Dehydration from heat exposure can also cause serious damage to the kidneys, which rely on water to function properly. For people whose kidneys are already beginning to fail—particularly older adults—Nadeau says that extreme heat can be a death sentence. "This is happening more and more," she says.

Studies have also drawn links between higher temperatures and preterm birth and other pregnancy complications. It's unclear why, but Haines says that one hypothesis is that extreme heat reduces blood flow to the fetus.

Reference: www.nationalgeographic.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY KARLA GACHET, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Workers pick tomatoes in a field in Los Baños, California, under a scorching sun. Not only are rising temperatures impacting people's health.