



Compiled by EcoClimate Communications Department

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

Bernard Birikorang
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Dear EcoClimate Vision Family,
As we embark on this new year, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering commitment each of you, from the core team, various departments, country representatives, selection or recruitment committee, and volunteers, has demonstrated towards our collective mission of Empowering the Global South in the Fight Against Climate Change. Despite the formidable challenges we encounter on this journey, our shared resolve to foster a sustainable future for ourselves and generations to follow remains unwavering. With divine strength guiding us, I firmly believe that we will forge a better world for us all, and the world will bear witness to our efforts - Honor & Recognition. Reflecting on the milestones achieved since September 2023, it is evident that our organization has made significant progress, fueled by your unwavering support, dedication, and passion. From building a global community and establishing dedicated teams to impactful advocacy endeavors and pioneering environmental initiatives, our

collective efforts have left an indelible mark. As we venture into 2024, let us seize this opportunity to amplify our impact, cultivate new alliances, and challenge ourselves to reach even greater heights.

The urgency of our work, underscored by key initiatives such as Climate Information Translation, Awareness and Education,

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Policy Advocacy, and Climate Mitigation & Resilience Projects, serves as a poignant reminder of the critical need for decisive action. May this new year ignite a renewed sense of hope within us, propelling us to redouble our efforts and inspire others to join our noble cause. Together, we possess the power to pave the path towards a healthier planet and a brighter future for generations to come.

Here's to a year filled with purpose, progress, and transformative change.

Warm regards,

Bernard Birikorang - CEO, EcoClimate Vision

Getrude Acquah - COO, EcoClimate Vision

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Advisory Boards

EcoClimate Vision is in the process of establishing advisory boards to serve as the governing body of our organization. These boards will play a pivotal role in providing strategic guidance, overseeing organizational policies, ensuring fiduciary responsibility, and advancing our mission and objectives.

Here's how we plan to proceed:

- We will begin by seeking nominations or recommendations from our Core Team (CTs), Country Representatives (CRs), and Volunteers (Vs).

- Reach out to those beyond our nonprofit, e.g., young people, business owners or qualified individuals from other organizations.
- Communicate the fact that we're recruiting board members through our multiple channels, like our social media handles, newsletter and word of mouth.
- Contact local organizations for recommendations.

Through these concerted efforts, we are confident in our ability to assemble advisory boards comprised of passionate and dedicated individuals who will play a pivotal role in guiding EcoClimate Vision towards its vision of a sustainable future.

Articles

A Global Crossroads- Supporters Rally, Critics Sound Alarms

The significance of COP28 as we head to COP 29 in 2024. In the age where climate change poses one of the world's greatest threats, COP28 took centre stage in the steps towards combating a [global crisis](#). The Conference of Parties (COP) are meetings held annually whose mandate under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to negotiate collective action to reduce global emissions.

The 28th meeting of the COP held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, between 30th November and 12th December was a significant marker in history. The conference held the promise of curving a sustainable future. The conference brought together global leaders, scientists, environmental activists, lobbyists, business leaders and other stakeholders together to commit to a greener planet.

Crucial Agendas and Expectations

One of the expectations for COP28, just like its predecessors, was that nations would commit willingly to combating climate change. While other conferences have seen countries committing to targets to reduce emissions, COP28 was a new hope for reaffirming this commitment.

According to activists the significance of COP28 as a milestone in climate history could not be overlooked. “COP28 isn’t just another conference – it’s a crossroads in our fight for survival. With climate change as the starkest threat humanity faces, we must unite as scientists, activists, leaders, and citizens to forge a sustainable future.” - Greta Thunberg, climate activist.

Frans Timmermans, the Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal added that “Dubai’s desert sand holds the seeds of a greener future. COP28 presents a historic opportunity to transform from fossil fuel giants to climate action pioneers. Together, we can bend the curve of emissions and build a planet that thrives, not survives.”

Importantly, the grapple for the inclusion of the word “fossil fuel” in the agreements was expected to take centre stage in the discussions. This, alongside other concerns such as fighting for justice for the most **vulnerable communities** affected while their contribution to climate change is minimal.

Since the **Paris Agreement** in 2015 at the UNFCCC’s COP21, emphasis on keeping the increasing global emissions well below 1.5°C grows each year. Scientists say that we are running out of time in this fight as global emissions should ideally peak by 2025. The challenge now is to ensure a decline of 43% by 2030 hence the agenda of phasing out fossil fuels.

The Supporters’ Optimism

COPs are essentially a forum for leaders to champion a sustainable future. Previous conferences have yielded positive progress towards net zero. At COP26, parties agreed on the **Breakthrough Agenda** where commitments were made towards making cleaner technologies and making sustainable practices more accessible and affordable.

This agenda is significant as it was signed by countries accounting for about 50% of the global GDP. Notably, the commitment to the agenda was to be foreseen by members of the G7 countries, India, and Morocco among other big contributors to global emissions.

“COPs may be forums for talk, but they’ve yielded real action. The Breakthrough Agenda’s commitment to clean tech accessibility, backed by half the global GDP, shows we’re moving beyond pledges to

concrete plans.” - Patricia Espinosa, former Executive Secretary of UNFCCC.

At COP27, a new partnership was announced to help Indonesia stop using coal. The initiative saw countries committing to mobilizing \$20 billion to enable a smooth and just transition to renewable energy. An achievable target of a period of between three to five years was set to implement the financing.

“Indonesia’s coal phase-out partnership at COP27 proves even major emitters can take decisive steps. \$20 billion for a just transition sets a precedent for collaborative solutions and achievable timelines.” - Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal.

COP28 presented an opportunity for stakeholders to forge efforts towards climate change mitigation by ensuring progress from the previous COPs. For instance, the conversations around the **Global Stocktake** held centre stage as parties were required to give an inventory of their efforts. It was an opportunity to celebrate milestones achieved, discuss challenges and share ideas on possible solutions.

As May Boeve, Executive Director of 350.org put it; “COPs remind us we’re not alone in this fight. Sharing ideas and building partnerships like the Breakthrough Agenda fuel climate action. Open discussion about challenges paves the way for innovative solutions and keeps us moving forward.”

Critics Sound the Alarm

Despite the notable positive progress experienced at the COP28, critics remain sceptical. For example, on the Global Stocktake, the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Saleemul Huq emphasized, “The effectiveness of the Global Stocktake hinges on transparency and accountability. We need clear metrics to track progress, accessible data for independent verification, and consequences for missed targets. Otherwise, it’s just greenwashing dressed up as a progress report.”

On the presidency of the COP28, critics maintain that it is a glaring red flag. The president, Sultan Al-Jaber, is the CEO of UAE’s largest oil company concurrently heading a renewable energy company in the country. That Jaber was the head of the COP28 was seen as bulletproof for the global emitters.

It was argued that Al-Jaber’s presence was a significant show of rejection of the goal of phasing out fossil fuels. Additionally, his stance on the discussions were viewed as one of protecting the economic interests of oil companies despite his comments on clean energy.

“Al-Jaber’s presence at COP28 is a bulletproof vest for global emitters, shielding them from real responsibility. His leadership sends a chilling message: fossil fuels are here to stay,” said Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development

A cloak of cynicism was tied around the effectiveness of the conference. Critics pointed out the fact that previous conferences have failed to attain the goals and targets set while falling behind on pledges. The pledge of \$100 billion to help developing countries in mitigating climate change falls remarkably short of the estimated \$2 trillion needed yearly by 2030.

Additionally, the lack of clear guidelines on accountability for the COP agreements reeked suspicion and bred distrust in the conference. While the conference discussions resulted in countries offering to reduce their emissions, there was no clear-cut way of ensuring compliance. Unless a system of monitoring is put in place, it is unfortunately all talk and “business as usual”, especially for the large emission contributors. Regrettably, the mere feature of the term fossil fuel in the agreement texts is not enough to ensure phasing out.

On this, stakeholders from developing countries feel strongly that lack of accountability is a major threat to climate adaptation and mitigation. “COP28 is awash in a sea of empty promises without life rafts of accountability. Countries pledge emission reductions, but who holds their feet to the fire? This lack of transparency breeds distrust and jeopardizes the entire climate action effort.” - Mohamed Nasr, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators implored. Enter the concerns around major oil companies rejecting phasing out of fossil fuels. That the

biggest oil company in UAE is planning to expand its operations shortly is a bit worrying. Sultan Al-Jaber insisted that the UAE will be at the forefront of funding carbon markets to support developing countries in adapting to climate change.

While this is a step in the right direction towards building resilience for vulnerable communities in the global South, critics fear that it is also fuel for **greenwashing**. The offer by the biggest emitters- who also form part of the strongest global economies-, to buy carbon credits seems like a way to protect economic interests in the short term while risking environmental degradation and unsustainability in the long run.

On this, Terry Pronto, the Executive Director of the Indigenous Environmental Network commented, “The biggest polluters offering to fund adaptation for vulnerable communities is like the arsonist handing out fire extinguishers. We need systemic change, not band-aid solutions that protect their profits while leaving the planet burning.”

The COP28 agreements advanced carbon market trade with potential side effects looming. Countries such as South Korea, Switzerland and UAE have already moved with speed to buy credits from countries with seemingly less carbon footprint. These countries which include Kenya, Liberia and Ghana have thriving biodiversity which attracts polluters who seek to compensate for their “sins” through carbon sequestration projects.

Besides greenwashing, concerns over how the revenue from carbon credits will be shared are now stirring up. Do the participating seller countries have enough time and infrastructure to build frameworks to protect themselves over land rights issues? Are they limiting their future ability to meet their emission reduction targets? Critics fear that this is **neocolonialism** blooming.

World Wetlands Day 2024

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually to mark the anniversary of The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands which was signed on 2nd February 1971 on the shores of Caspian Sea to protect wetland habitats which play such a vital role within our ecosystem.

This year's theme is "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing" which highlights the interconnectedness between wetlands and humans and why the plant life and the organisms which bring ecological health need to be protected. The Wetlands are not only beneficial to human beings, they play a crucial role when it comes to our water bodies and the environment as a whole.

Wetlands act as natural filters however, anthropogenic pressures like pollution, construction and overpopulation, to mention but a few, have led to numerous ecological problems facing the degradation of wetlands owing to a decrease in environmental conservation.

Dr. Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, Convention on Wetlands echoed the fact that wetlands and people are life interlaced.

"Wetlands are central to our wellbeing. Whether it be through the provision of clean water, acting as the source of food or protecting us from extreme weather events, healthy wetlands equate to our wellbeing."

She reminded us that with only six years left to meet the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, there is an urgent need to act now.

The call to action for World Wetlands Day 2024, we are invited to take action in three ways:

- Make conscious choices to stop polluting wetlands;
- Join the global effort to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands; and
- Take part in wetland restoration efforts locally.

<https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>

REPORT: ECO-CLIMATE PILOT PROJECT

We kicked off our pilot project with various interpretations of:

Do you know one of human's greatest threats happening around you which you may not know about?

Did you know that if nothing is done to tackle this threat, we and our generation will have to face the catastrophic incoming effects of this threat, and not even a single life on this planet will be spared.

This threat has changed the weather

patterns, made the temperature of our environment hotter, increased our sea levels, and caused disruptions in agriculture leading to displacement, food insecurity, and health crises.

The threat is Climate Change!

Look out for more information on Climate Change, how to mitigate it and how to adapt to the effects we are already facing.

We would like to appreciate those who participated and those who are still sending in their translations, these will go a long way in helping us forge ahead.

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

Message from the Grants, Development, and Partnership Department

We are thrilled to share updates from our Grants, Development, and Partnership

Department as we continue our mission to drive positive change in the fight against climate change. Our team is working tirelessly to secure funds for the organization, ensuring that we have the resources needed to make a meaningful impact.

Currently, we are in the process of finalizing partnerships with potential collaborators who share our vision for a sustainable future. These partnerships will enable us to amplify our reach and effectiveness in addressing environmental challenges.

As part of our growth strategy, we are excited to announce that we are recruiting a Deputy Director of Grants, Development, and Partnership. If you are passionate about driving change and have expertise in fundraising and partnership development, we encourage you to visit our website to learn more about this opportunity and how to apply.

We are seeking dedicated volunteers and interns to join our department. If you are interested in gaining valuable experience while contributing to our cause, please send your CV to ecoclimatevision@gmail.com with the subject line "Interested to Join the Grants, Development, and Partnership Department."

Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming fundraising initiatives, where we will invite our community to join us in making a difference together. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to a sustainable future.



OPEN POSITIONS

**Opportunity to Represent your Country
in the Media and Design Department as a
VP MARKETING AND BRANDING**

KEY ROLES

- Social Media Advertising
- Social Media Strategy development
- Reporting the Head, Media and Design

ELIGIBILITY

Priority will be given to Country Representatives and Volunteers at ECV



Send all applications to
ecoclimatevision@gmail.com, joniadjason@gmail.com

Empowering the Global South in the Fight Against Climate Change