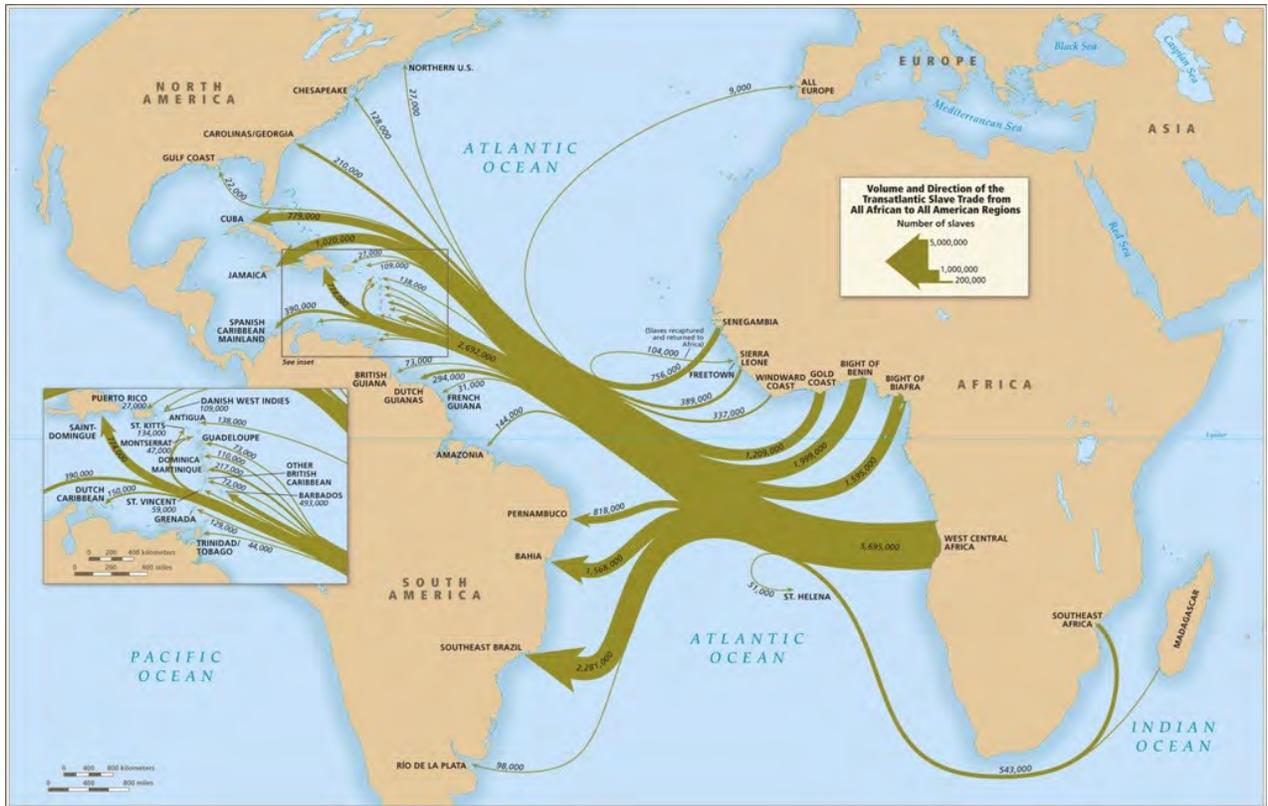


Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Landscape Analysis

A Preliminary Report of Organizations, Movements,
Trends, Gaps, Barriers, and Leadership

Lead Author: Mariama Williams
Contributing Author: Jacqui Patterson
Editor: Kristine Quinio
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Source: The African Diaspora-What is it? | BYTE

Six Regions of the Africa Union

1. North 7 member states

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sahrawi Republic, Tunisia

2. West 15 member states

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

3. Central 9 member states

Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe

4. East 14 member states

Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

5. South 10 member states

Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe



6. Diaspora
Consisting of people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union

Population data: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-africa-subregion/>



Source: Welcome - 6th Region Assembly Elections

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Disproportionately, Afro-Descendant communities continue to face the most devastating costs and impacts of climate change. Afro-Descendants are also leading innovative solutions to what the United Nations describes as “a triple inextricably intertwined crisis, or a ‘triple planetary crisis’ – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.” This innovation is actually rooted in a millennia-long history of deep relationships with Mother Earth and her ecosystem, which many leaders still fail to see. Alas, myopic sensibilities mean we find ourselves stagnating in this planetary predicament.

Unlike many “solutions” developed by extractive systems, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation are not only destinations – they are precedent in Afro-Descendant communities’ relationship with nature. Despite the systemic racism that has long invisibilized our culture, traditions, and long-standing practices of land and water stewardship, recent ground-breaking research¹ provides fresh evidence of how Black Liberation and climate justice are inextricable ingredients of a more promising future.

Even as the international community largely ignores these long-standing intrinsic truths, we have a rich and evolving landscape of Afro-Descendants working at all levels of climate justice. At COP30 in Brazil, Afro-Descendant communities seek formal recognition to eliminate key barriers to caucusing and having a collective voice that harnesses leadership and power in advancing effective solutions to the climate crises. This report examines the leadership of Afro-Descendant communities in the global climate justice movement at local, national, regional and international levels – and what this means going forward. The actors include grassroots movements, local and international networks and alliances from Afro-Descendant communities in Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, North America, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

The report looks primarily at recent developments and employs a mixed-methods approach, including document review, qualitative interviews, and secondary data analysis.

¹ [Afro-Descendant lands in South America contribute to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation | Communications Earth & Environment](#)

Key themes and issues covered in this report include:

Climate Challenges: Specific environmental issues differentially affecting Afro-Descendant communities, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity.

Community Responses: How Afro-Descendant communities are responding to these challenges through grassroots movements, traditional knowledge, and innovative adaptation strategies.

Climate Justice Initiatives: Local, regional, and international efforts aimed at promoting climate justice for Afro-Descendant communities.

Just Transition and Regenerative Economy: Principles and practices of transitioning to a regenerative economy that benefit all communities. Climate justice and the concept of a Just Transition are closely related, as both address the need for equitable and sustainable approaches to environmental and economic change and overall societal transitions.

Policy and Advocacy: Existing policies, gaps, and recommendations for addressing climate change and its differential impact on Afro-Descendant communities.

At the conclusion of this report, we provide a policy platform with demands and recommendations spanning the areas of work and leadership of Afro-Descendant people across the globe. We call for centering our leadership, knowledge, self-determination, and needs in all climate and liberation initiatives. We underscore the necessity of a radical commitment to address the disproportionate impacts of environmental racism, climate change, and systemic oppression – as the foundation for advancing a liberatory system that upholds justice and well-being for all.

In this report, the term **African descendants** or **Afro-Descendants** is used at the broadest level to describe people with partial or full African ancestry regardless of current location. More narrowly, it is associated with the legacy of colonialism and the slave trade, whereby Africans were forcibly removed from their homelands and taken as free labor to the Americas. Many have since dispersed through Europe and Asia. The analysis also includes Africans because people living in the five regions of Africa are impacted by the same factors that led to climate change (and the continuing influence of these factors through neocolonialism and predatory global trade, debt and other macroeconomic policies). Africans along with Afro-Descendants living outside of Africa – the global African Diaspora – are disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS



INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Why are we here? How did we get here? Where are we heading next?

We are here because of layers of intersecting injustices – climate, environmental, racial, social. We are also here because of the exemplary knowledge and leadership of Afro-Descendant peoples who have a historic understanding and practice around being in relationship with the land and seas of our Ecosystem, which industrialized nations' leadership has failed to heed. With thousands of years of refined environmental knowledge that views and values forests as integrated food, medicine, and ecological systems rather than resources to be extracted, Afro-Descendants are leading on the most viable solutions. We may have avoided our climate change predicaments entirely if we had followed the leadership and wisdom of African and indigenous communities in relationship with Mother Earth.

Afro-Descendant communities worldwide are disproportionately affected by climate change. This differential impact is due to historical and systematic socio-economic inequalities stemming from colonialism, slavery, and ongoing racial discrimination. These historical and continuing injustices have left Afro-Descendant communities more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, as well as environmental degradation. Without climate justice, Afro-Descendant and Indigenous people will continue to be invisibilized, displaced, and/or discarded.

Pollution has a race problem.

A landmark 2007 study by Dr. Robert Bullard – recognized as the “father of environmental justice” – found “race to be more important than socioeconomic status in predicting the location of the nation's commercial hazardous waste facilities” in the U.S. The study found that Black Americans making \$50-60,000 a year were more likely to live in polluted areas than their white counterparts making \$10,000. It also showed that African American children were five times more likely to have lead poisoning from proximity to waste than Caucasian children.

In the United Kingdom, a government report found that Black British children are exposed to up to 30 percent more air pollution than white children (UK/European Commission, Endsreport (2009) and Margida (2017).



We see the same trends in South Africa. Millions of residents of the Mpumalanga Highveld breathe a toxic haze of pollutants released from the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants. Many coal mines in the region also pollute the air.²

In Colombia, illegal gold mining causes mercury and trace metal contamination in Afro-Descendant communities and other territories. These communities have forced the government to monitor and evaluate the state of mercury contamination in strategic ecosystems.³

Afro-Descendants are climate justice leaders. Our well-honed skills and deep knowledge play crucial leadership roles in advocating for equitable solutions and addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on racially marginalized communities. Key aspects of our involvement include:

- o Stewardship: The groundbreaking study, “An Uprooted People, A Legacy of Conservation” by Conservation International⁴ provides indisputable evidence of what Black communities have long known— Black people are environmental stewards, not environmental burdens.

² [A Fight for the Right to Breathe Begins in South Africa - Earthjustice](#)

³ [Environmental Pollution by Mercury and Trace Metals in Highly Vulnerable Afro-Descendant Territories in the Department of Cauca, Colombia: Soil and Sediment Contamination: An International Journal: Vol 34 , No 3 - Get Access](#)

⁴ [Afro-Descendant lands in South America contribute to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation | Communications Earth & Environment](#)

The research examined Afro-Descendant community lands across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Suriname, finding deforestation rates up to 55 percent lower compared to similar areas and discovering that more than half of Afro-Descendant lands rank among the top 5 percent globally in biodiversity.⁵ This study reveals that African environmental knowledge did not disappear with the forced displacement of slavery—it adapted and thrived in new environments. As the researchers document: “These time-tested African practices subsequently crossed the Atlantic Ocean with enslaved individuals, ultimately being adapted for the plants, animals and humans of the Americas... enslaved individuals implemented management practices that replicated food forests, creating forest canopy structures that constituted functional reservoirs for dietary, medicinal, ritual and festive purposes.”⁶

- Leadership and Policy Advocacy: Afro-Descendants engage in policy advocacy at local, national, and international levels to ensure that climate policies are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of marginalized communities. Our advocacy efforts contribute to shaping more just and sustainable climate policies.
- Fore-fronting of the issues of Structural Racism and Environmental Justice: Afro-Descendants recognize that structural racism, historical legacies (such as enslavement), and socioeconomic factors contribute to their vulnerability. We emphasize the need to address environmental justice, racial inequities, and socioeconomic exclusion. Afro-Descendant communities are often located near toxic sites or directly affected by climate change due to discriminatory practices like redlining and segregation. Our unique position allows them to lead solutions to climate and biodiversity crises (ibid).
- Intersectionality and Holistic Approach: Afro-Descendants recognize the interconnectedness of climate justice with civil rights, criminal justice, economic justice, housing justice, and food justice (ibid).
- Global Solidarity: Afro-Descendants forge alliances with other marginalized groups, indigenous peoples, and environmental activists to build solidarity in the fight for climate justice. Our collaborative efforts amplify diverse voices and strengthen the movement for a more sustainable and equitable world.

5 <https://thechisholmlegacyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Cultivating-the-Conditions-for-Black-Liberation-and-Just-Transition.pdf>

6 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-025-02339-5>

The Ogoni People and Ken Saro Wiwa resisted Shell in the Nigeria Delta to prevent more climate change – and the work continues:



Source: [Ogoni Women's Climate Justice Was Decades Ahead of Today's Debates](#) - Ms. Magazine

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON AFRO-DESCENDANTS

Challenges Facing Africa and the African Diaspora (Regional, National, and Local Examples)

Afro-Descendant communities are disproportionately affected by climate change due to a combination of geographical, socio-economic, and political factors. In the Caribbean, for instance, frequent and intense hurricanes have devastating effects on infrastructure, livelihoods, and health. In Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, droughts and water scarcity threaten food security and access to clean water. In the United States and Europe, predominantly Afro-Descendant neighborhoods often clustered near toxic dumps linked to 'noxious land-use—predisposing them to significant health impacts including higher rates of asthma, other respiratory diseases and cancer, suffer from urban heat islands, where higher temperatures exacerbate health issues and reduce quality of life. Compared to their white counterparts, Afro-Descendants tend

to dominate in environmentally hazardous jobs. Environmental racism plays a significant role in these disparities leading to lack of access to clean water and safe housing. Due to economic inequities, most Afro-Descendants often lack the resources and political power to advocate for better protection and responses. Climate change can expand the range of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever, disproportionately affecting Afro-Descendant communities in tropic regions (PAHO 2021).

AFRICA

In Sub-Saharan Africa climate change is associated with droughts, particularly in regions like the Sahel, where prolonged droughts lead to food and water shortages, exacerbating poverty and forcing migrations. Afro-Descendant communities in these areas are particularly vulnerable due to limited access to resources and support. In parts of West Africa in countries like Nigeria and Ghana, African communities face severe flooding and coastal erosion due to rising sea levels and heavy rains. These events threaten homes, agriculture, and access to clean water. While in Senegal and Mali communities face the encroachment of deserts, reducing arable land and climate-induced forcing migration.

ASIA AND ASIA PACIFIC

Across the centuries, many African communities have taken root in Asia, and they contribute to the prosperity of societies in the region. Siddis in India, Sheedis in Pakistan and Kaffirs in Sri Lanka are among the largest of these historic communities of African descent. Along with more recent Afro-Descendant arrivals, they face widespread racial discrimination. In the Asia Pacific, Africans have lived in the region since at least the 7th century, including as victims of enslavement. Ancient migration patterns out of Africa contributed to communities across Asia Pacific, including in the “Black Pacific” – Australia, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea – possessing similarities in appearance to Africans.⁷ Aeta people in the Philippines are another example.

Pervasive racial prejudice feeds a sense that people of African descent (or who appear Afro-Descendant) are not full and legitimate members of Asian and Pacific societies. In part, this is the result of the legacies of colonialism and enslavement, “built on toxic notions of racial supremacy that continue to reverberate in the lives of millions of people today.”⁸ This legacy contributes to the disproportionately severe threats that Afro-Descendant communities along with Indigenous populations face from cyclones and rising sea levels. For example, in Fiji and Vanuatu, these communities experience more frequent and intense cyclones, which destroy homes and infrastructure. There is also the complex issue of displacement and migration that face communities in Australia and New Zealand. Here, indigenous and Afro-Descendant communities are increasingly – and disproportionately – affected by climate-induced displacement, disrupting their social and cultural lives and ties.

7 <https://www.aaihs.org/the-borders-of-black-power/>

8 [People of African descent in Asia and the Pacific | OHCHR](#)

THE AMERICAS

Canada

Many Black communities in Canada have historically been situated near hazardous sites like landfills and industrial areas, leading to long-term health and environmental issues. For example, the Black community in Shelburne, Nova Scotia has faced pollution from landfills that operated for 75 years. Afro-Descendant communities in Edmonton are impacted by air pollution from nearby industrial activities. Those in Toronto are vulnerable to extreme heat and poor air quality, exacerbated by urban heat islands. Those in areas such as Vancouver face challenges related to housing vulnerability and displacement due to rising sea levels and increased flooding risks. With regard to climate change vulnerability, there is increased exposure to extreme weather events coupled with limited access to resources for recovery and adaptation.

Latin America

In Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Colombia and Panama, Afro-Descendants experience varied impacts from climate change. Afro-Descendant communities in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro face increased risks of landslides during heavy rains, which have become more frequent due to climate change. While those in Colombia, especially in the Chocó Department, experience prolonged droughts that threaten their livelihoods, particularly in agriculture and fishing. In Panama, Afro-Descendant communities, especially in coastal areas, are vulnerable to rising sea levels and increased flooding, which disrupt their homes and livelihoods.

The Caribbean

Afro-Descendants of Caribbean nations such as Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago are frequently impacted by increasingly severe hurricanes and tropical storms, which cause significant damage to homes and infrastructure and which exacerbates existing socio-economic vulnerabilities. Many Caribbean islands face the threat of rising sea levels, which can lead to coastal erosion, loss of land, and increased flooding. This is particularly concerning for low-lying areas in SIDS (Brown Williams and Charles, 2021).

For example, Hurricane Maria in 2017 devastated Puerto Rico and Dominica, disproportionately affecting Afro-Descendant populations who had fewer resources to recover. Similarly, Hurricane Irma in 2017 left Barbuda uninhabitable. 95 percent of the island's buildings and infrastructure were destroyed. The entire population was evacuated to the sister island of Antigua – leaving the island empty for the first time in 300 years.

In October 2025, Hurricane Melissa – one of the strongest hurricanes to make landfall in the Atlantic (along with Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Dorian in

2019) – devastated Jamaica. About 146,000 structures in Jamaica sustained major damage, including the loss of roof or walls, affecting at least 90,000 families “direly” according to Alvin Gayle, commander of Jamaica’s Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management.

The growing intensity of hurricanes is not the sole cause of devastation. Extractive practices, like bauxite mining in Jamaica between 1952-2021, left tremendous environmental abuse and degradation – creating enormous ecological impact on water, air and soil, health and livelihoods for the men, women and children in communities where the mining took place. During rainy seasons, communities were inundated with flood waters in upland depression areas. Farming and other agricultural livelihoods were no longer productive or profitable to residents even as mining jobs may have brought some income.

Additionally, climate change exacerbates coastal erosion and accelerates sea level rise with implications for loss of land, homes and critical infrastructure. This can lead to relocation and displacement and disruption of livelihood. Drought & water scarcity also occur due to more frequent prolonged dry and severe drought and dry spells. This impacts the availability of drinking water and water for agriculture as climate change causes change in rainfall patterns and rising temperatures, along with other extreme weather that lead to decline in crop yields and hence food security for countries such as Barbados and St. Lucia. In countries such as Haiti and Suriname, climate change accelerates deforestation and soil erosion contributing to decreased agricultural productivity and increased vulnerability.

United States

In the United States, about half of all Black people reside in 11 states in the southeastern part of the country – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia – where exposure to extreme heat, hurricanes, and flooding is particularly high. In cities like New Orleans, Miami, and Baltimore, predominantly Afro-Descendant neighborhoods experience higher temperatures due to the urban heat island effect, increasing health risks such as heatstroke and respiratory issues. These urban heat islands result from a lack of green spaces and higher concentrations of heat-absorbing surfaces, leading to increased health risks. Black communities are more likely to live in flood plains and thus are more impacted by flooding events, too. In the greater Southeast, Black residents are 1.6 times more likely than the U.S. population in the same area to experience a 1-in-100-year flooding event (flooding so severe it only has a 1 percent chance of happening in a given year). In the city of Baltimore, where 62 percent of the population is Black, the risk of exposure to potential flooding from the Patapsco River is correlated to historically redlined areas. Thanks to acceptance of redlining, Afro-Descendant Americans also live in communities near industrial sites, landfills, and highways, exposing them to higher levels of pollution and exacerbating health problems.⁹

⁹ <https://www.mckinsey.com/institute-for-economic-mobility/our-insights/impacts-of-climate-change-on-black-populations-in-the-united-states>

EUROPE

In Europe, similar situations obtain for Afro European as for African Americans. Afro-Europeans are likely to experience environmental racism and live near industrial sites and waste facilities, have poor housing quality in some Afro-Descendant neighborhoods which makes it harder to cope with extreme weather events. For example, in major European cities, such as Amsterdam, Berlin, Birmingham, Bordeaux, Bristol, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Liverpool, London, Lyon, Paris, Manchester, Marseille, Munich, Rotterdam and Stuttgart, Afro-Descendant that live in low-income neighborhoods and are particularly vulnerable due to inadequate housing and infrastructure (poor drainage systems and substandard housing); they also often live near busy roads and industrial areas in densely populated urban areas with limited green spaces, which are susceptible to the urban heat island effect. Thus, the communities are disproportionately affected by air pollution and higher exposure to harmful pollutants. This increases the risk of heat-related illnesses (heat strokes and cardiovascular problems) and exacerbates the respiratory conditions (asthma) and other health problems. Climate change can also lead to displacement and migration which can disrupt social networks and community cohesion, leading to loss of cultural identity and support systems.

Climate Challenges, Impacts, and Intersectionalities Facing Afro-Descendants

Afro-Descendant communities face several specific impacts from climate change, which are often exacerbated by intersecting pre-existing social and economic inequalities and environmental racism. These factors result in increased vulnerability to extreme weather events such as hurricanes and floods. This is especially so for Afro-Descendant communities in coastal areas such as the Caribbean and South America, which are highly vulnerable to hurricanes and floods.

These extreme weather events (EWEs) can devastate homes, disrupt food and water supplies and displace populations (AIFCC & MIT). Afro-Descendant communities in areas such as Brazil and sub-Saharan Africa face increasing risks from heatwaves and droughts which can lead to water scarcity, crop failure, and health issues. Furthermore, historical and ongoing environmental racism means that Afro-Descendant communities are often located near hazardous sites, such as landfills and industrial areas, which can exacerbate the impact of climate change (OHCHR.org).

Generic and specific impacts for Afro-Descendants include:

Health Impacts & Risks

Air pollution: Many Afro-Descendant communities live in areas with high levels of air pollution, which can exacerbate respiratory conditions such as asthma and increase risk of cardiovascular disease.

Increased exposure to heat, air pollution, and extreme weather events can lead to health problems such as heat-related illness, respiratory issues, and mental health stress (McKinsey & OHCHR).

Vector-borne Diseases: Climate change can expand the range of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue, disproportionately affecting Afro-Descendant communities in tropical regions.

Economic Disparities

Livelihood Disruption: Climate change impacts traditional livelihoods, such as agriculture and fishing, and other climate sensitive industries which are crucial for many Afro-Descendant communities. This can lead to job loss and reduced income further entrenching poverty (McKinsey and Conservation.org). Extreme weather events and changing climate patterns can reduce crop yields and fish stock, leading to economic instability (AIFCC & MIT).

Limited Access to Resources: Economic disparities make it harder for Afro-Descendant communities to recover from climate-related disasters. Limited access to financial resources, including insurance and social safety net programs, exacerbate their vulnerability (Flamand-Lapointe et al 2020).

Housing and Infrastructure

Poor Quality Housing: Many Afro-Descendant communities live in substandard housing and in areas that are more susceptible to flooding, hurricanes, and other climate-related disasters. Poor quality housing in these areas can be severely damaged leading to displacement and long-term housing insecurity (OHCHR.org). This increases the risk of displacement and homelessness (AIFCC & MIT).

Infrastructural Deficit: Inadequate infrastructure, such as drainage systems and flood defenses, leaves Afro-Descendant communities more exposed to the impact of climate change (AIFCC & MIT).

Food and Water Security

Agricultural Challenges: Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns affect crop production, leading to food insecurity. Afro-Descendant farmers often lack the resources to adapt to these changes, such as access to drought-resistant seeds or irrigation systems (AIFCC & MIT).

Water Scarcity: Droughts and changing rainfall patterns can lead to water shortages, affecting both drinking water supplies and agricultural activities (AIFCC & MIT).

Social and Cultural Impacts

Displacement and Migration: Climate-induced displacement can lead to the loss of cultural heritage and social cohesion. Afro-Descendant communities may be forced to migrate, disrupting their traditional ways of life and community structures (AIFCC & MIT).

Further, Black migrants face systemic violence and exclusion throughout their migration journey. From the images of Haitian people being chased by U.S. border patrol agents who used their reins as whips – to the images of immigrants from various African nations stuck in Mexico in substandard conditions – one can glean the desperation that drives people from disaster stricken, drought ravaged, or otherwise uninhabitable circumstances to seek refuge in other countries. Structural racism, anti-Blackness, and inadequate legal protections contribute to the compounded vulnerabilities of Black migrants.¹⁰

Cultural Sites at Risk: Rising sea levels and extreme weather events threaten cultural and historical sites important to Afro-Descendant heritage (AIFCC & MIT).

Sources: AIFCC-MIT, McKinsey, Global Citizen, Conservation-AIFCC, Flamand-Lapointe (2020), and Patterson

GAPS IN MAINSTREAM CLIMATE ACTION

Despite the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2022 report flagging the importance of colonialism to climate change, Afro-Descendants are not part of any multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).¹¹ They are

¹⁰ [12_05 Beyond Borders_ Confronting Transnational Violence Against Black Migrants-Brantuo Final](#)

¹¹ [Afro-Descendant Peoples Seek Climate Justice on the Global Stage - Ford Foundation](#)

not recognized as a representative group in constituencies associated with any mechanism of global climate governance, particularly under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

All multilateral environmental and climate policy instruments lack recognition of the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on Afro-Descendants as a specific group or community in the global policy. There is very little to no attention paid to the overlapping impact of these phenomena and the historic racialized marginalization that leave communities all over the world vulnerable to the devastating impact of climate change. Furthermore, there is little recognition of the adverse effects of some dimensions and instrumentalities of climate change policy. Some explicit policy gaps in climate governance include:

Implementation and Enforcement: While many policies exist on paper, their implementation and enforcement are often lacking. This is due to limited resources, political will and bureaucratic challenges (Race and Equality); and

Inclusive Decision-Making: Afro-Descendant communities are frequently under-represented in policy-making processes. As noted above, as a group, Afro-Descendants are not recognized as representative stakeholders either in policy documents or in the governance frameworks of multilateral environmental and climate change institutions. However, ensuring our participation is crucial for creating effective and equitable climate policies (Race and Equality); and

Intersectional Approaches: Policies often fail to address the intersectional nature of the challenges faced by Afro-Descendant communities such as the combined impact of race, gender and socioeconomic status and climate change (Race and Equality). This is despite the United Nations' various initiatives aimed at promoting recognition of Afro-Descendants. For example, the UN Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) which focuses on recognition, justice, and development for Afro-Descendant communities. It is still not the case that multilateral economic institutions, while they provide financial support for climate adaptation and mitigation projects in developing countries, work to ensure that these funds target and reach Afro-Descendant communities in these countries though this is essential for equitable climate action (Race and Equality).

Despite our long history of leadership in advancing environmental and climate change justice, Afro-Descendants continue to face a myriad of challenges having a place of power in design, governance, programming, infrastructure and execution of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

These challenges include:

- o **Underrepresentation:** Despite our significant contributions, Afro-

Descendant communities are often underrepresented in global climate policy discussions, leading to a lack of tailored solutions that address their specific needs, Flamand-Lapointe et al (2020). Effective climate action requires policies that consider the unique vulnerabilities and strengths of Afro-Descendant communities, ensuring that they have a voice in decision-making processes (ibid). Efforts are ongoing to increase our visibility and influence in this space with the creation of the Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative (GADCJC, The Chisholm Legacy Project)

- **Resource constraints:** Many Afro-Descendant organizations face funding and resources constraints which limit their capacity to engage in large scale climate initiatives.
- **Political resistance, economic inequalities, and related social barriers:** These include institutional and structural discrimination, sociolinguistic barriers like language and jargon, underinvestment in public services and infrastructure, and procedural barriers to outright violence and persecution.
- **Domination of Western Knowledge Systems (WKS) over Traditional Knowledge:** Knowledge systems shape economic systems, which determine our relationship with the environment. Extractive WKS inform practices of taking—and create a logic of waste that justifies continued mass extraction while exacerbating carbon emissions and environmental degradation. Afro-Descendant communities possess valuable traditional knowledge and practices that contribute to sustainable and effective climate solutions, but WKS delegitimize other ways of knowing while positioning itself as universal truth rather than one culturally specific knowledge system among many.

AFRO-DESCENDANT-LED RESPONSES AND INITIATIVES

The emerging landscape assessment undertaken in this report shows how Afro-Descendant groups working on climate justice are trending toward an overarching two-fold strategy:

First, elevating the respect, harmony, and care with which Afro-Descendants have lived within the earth and inviting others to do so as well.

Our way of living in harmony with the land predates the climate justice movement. Indeed, the need for climate justice arose because the millennia long history of our relationship with Mother Earth and her ecosystem was displaced by extractive economies and knowledge systems.

Practically-speaking, Afro-Descendant communities often use traditional knowledge and practices to develop sustainable solutions to environmental challenges (Yale Sustainability 2021). Afro-Descendant communities in the global south often live in areas of strategic environmental importance, such as

carbon-rich coastal areas, mangroves, and tropical forests. These ecosystems play a crucial role in climate change mitigation, and the stewardship of these areas by Afro-Descendant community is vital.¹²

Our traditional knowledge and practices are crucial for biodiversity conservation. Living on the frontlines of the climate crisis means we are producing new knowledge vital to resilience. Thus, we also actively engage in climate justice advocacy, emphasizing the urgency of equitable strategies that protect Black communities and other communities on the frontlines.

The environmental justice movement emerged in response to environmental degradation and deep environmental injustice at the micro and meso level, and we have long recognized that climate change is compounding the pre-existing environmental harms that we endure in our day-to-day lives. So strategic imperative also requires responding to environmental and climate harms with whatever additional reparative measures are necessary.

Hence, we – Afro-Descendants – are increasingly the bedrock of the climate justice movement operating at both the grassroots level while also targeting national, regional and international climate governance.

Overview of Afro-Descendant-Led Climate Action

Core Elements of Successful Strategies for Afro-Descendant Communities:	Grassroots Movements	Public Awareness Campaigns	Policy Advocacy
Capacity Building	Coalition Building	Cultural Advocacy	Legal Advocacy

Grassroots Movements

Community Organizing: Grassroots movements often start at the community level, where local leaders mobilize residents to advocate for their rights. In this way, they organize protests, community meetings and awareness campaigns. This for example was the strategy of the Movimento Negro in Brazil which has been instrumental in advocating for the rights of Afro-Brazilians, focusing on issues such as racial discrimination, land rights and cultural preservation (Race and Equality 2024).

Coalition Building

Forming Alliances: Building coalitions with other marginalized groups and organizations can amplify the voices of Afro-Descendant communities. An example of an alliance that work together to address common issues and advocate for broader social justice is the Network of Afro-Latina, Afro-

¹² [Afro-Descendant lands in South America contribute to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation | Communications Earth & Environment](#)

Caribbean, and Diaspora Women (RMAAD) which collaborates with various organizations to address gender-based violence and promote the rights of Afro-Descendant women.

Public Awareness Campaigns

Raising Awareness: Public awareness campaigns can educate the broader public about the issues facing Afro-Descendant communities and build support for their causes. This can include media campaigns, social media activism and public events (ibid). An example is the #BlackLivesMatter movement that has raised global awareness about racial injustice and police brutality, inspiring similar movement in Afro-Descendant communities worldwide (ibid).

Policy Advocacy

Engaging with Policymakers: Effective advocacy involves engaging with local, national, and international policymakers to influence legislation and policies. Tactics and strategies including lobbying, participating in public consultations and providing testimony at hearings (Race and Equality 2024). An example of this is the Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change that advocates for the inclusion of Afro-Descendant perspective in international climate policies and agreements (ibid). This is also part of the mandate of the Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative.

Legal Advocacy

Using Legal Channels: Legal advocacy involves using the judicial system to challenge discriminatory practices and policies. This includes filing lawsuits, representing clients in courts and advocating for legal reforms. A good example is Colombia, where Afro-Descendant communities have used legal channels to secure collective land rights, resulting in significant legal victories that recognize their ancestral territories (Race and Equality 2024). The Pacific island nation of Vanuatu led a campaign for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to clarify states' climate duties. The campaign resulted in an opinion handed down in July 2025, where the ICJ's 15 judges unanimously decided that governments have a legal duty to protect the climate and breach of duty could result in affected countries claiming compensation. Vanuatu is continuing to push for a UN resolution to formally endorse the full ICJ opinion – providing another tool with which to push for political action and living obligations.

Cultural Advocacy

Promoting Cultural Heritage: Cultural advocacy involves promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of Afro-Descendant communities. This includes supporting cultural events, creating educational materials, and advocating for the recognition of cultural sites (Race and Equality 2024). One example is the Garifuna community in Central America which has successfully advocated for the recognition of their cultural heritage, including language, music and traditional practices (ibid).

Capacity Building

Empowering Communities: Capacity-building initiatives focus on empowering Afro-Descendant communities with the skills and resources needed to advocate for themselves. This can include leadership training, education programs, and financial support (National Collaborative, 2015). A good example is the PLACE MATTERS initiative in the U.S., which helps build the capacity of community leaders to address social, economic and environmental factors that affect health and well-being in communities of color (National Collaborative 2015).¹³

The work of Afro-Descendant climate activists intersects with broader issues of racial and socioeconomic justice. They advocate for policies that address systemic inequities and promote sustainable development (GADCJC and The Chisholm Legacy Project). By employing these strategies, Afro-Descendant communities are effectively advocating for their rights, promoting social justice, and building a more equitable future.

Afro-Descendant Local Communities Leading on Climate Action

Local communities, especially those most affected by climate change, are leading initiatives to build resilience and advocate for equitable climate policies. These initiatives often focus on interventions in areas such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and disaster preparedness. The movement on the global level includes youth activism with Afro-Descendant youth activists focusing on ensuring that global attention is focused on addressing the disproportionate impact of climate justice on marginalized communities. Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) chapters in Domenica and Barbados, for example, advocate for strong climate policies to protect vulnerable populations and promote climate resilience strategies at the grassroots level. raises awareness about the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities and promotes climate resilience strategies at the grassroots level. The Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council champions climate justice for people in rural areas and low-income households.

Through **Local and Community-Based Initiatives**, there are growing numbers of community-led mitigation and adaptation projects focused on the agency and the empowerment of local communities to develop and implement their own solutions to climate challenges, ensuring that interventions are culturally appropriate and effective. Success in these ventures often depends on educational and capacity-building programs that facilitate building skills and knowledge grounded in the lived experience of vulnerable communities and their traditional know-how and technologies in enhancing their ability to navigate climate risks and increase resilience.

¹³ https://www.nationalcollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/JC013_Success_040213_revised-R3-3.pdf

Conservation of Coastal Wetlands and Fisheries Across the Caribbean

Environmental scientist, Le'Anne Green, explains her work on seagrass and mangrove carbon assessments in Jamaica:

"I would like the assessments we have done and the results we have produced to highlight the importance and role of these ecosystems and to continue to influence conservation efforts nationwide and inspire the continuation of blue carbon science, not only for Jamaica but regionally. Jamaica, like many other small island developing states, relies heavily on the benefits that marine ecosystems provide, including their role in major economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, and fisheries, that most of our population depends on. So it really is our duty to put in place precautionary measures that protect and preserve mangroves and seagrasses for future generations."¹⁴

In Barbados, women fisher folks are leading the way with resilience and proactive measures to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. They have evolved practices such as eco-friendly fishing gear and participation in community-based adaptation projects (University of the West Indies - Global Institute for Climate Smart and Resilient Development).

As Sargassum seaweed continues to wash ashore, Caribbean countries face complex challenges balancing environmental and economic impacts. Under the SargAdapt project, which began in 2019, the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), has been working with Barbados and other Eastern Caribbean nations, including Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to develop strategies to adapt to and reduce the impacts of Sargassum. By combining environmental science, tourism impact studies, and fisheries management, the SargAdapt project equips the region with knowledge to address one of its most pressing ecological challenges, fostering sustainable practices that protect both ecosystems and economies across the Eastern Caribbean.¹⁵

Other tools include **Public Awareness Campaigns** geared to raise understanding of the links between climate change and social justice and thereby helping to mobilize support for climate justice initiatives. While many initiatives have recognized the historical marginalization and systematic abuse of indigenous peoples there have been less explicit recognition of the role of

¹⁴ [Scientist Discusses Her Mission to Protect Jamaica's Mangroves | The Pew Charitable Trusts](#)

¹⁵ <https://ares1.cavehill.uwi.edu/research/impact/environmental-stewardship/sargassum-adaptation-strategies.aspx>

colonialism, enslavement, extractivism and exploitation of land and labor on Afro-Descendants. By integrating these approaches, the global community can work towards a more equitable and sustainable future, ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change are heard and their needs addressed.

Afro-Descendant-Climate Justice Advocacy

Afro-Descendant communities are leading grassroots movements to advocate for their rights and push for climate justice. These movements often focus on land rights, environmental protection, and sustainable development (Aebersold 2022). More recently they have also expanded their framework to include climate changes impacts on health and education as well as climate-induced migration. These initiatives empower Afro-Descendant communities to lead local climate initiatives that ensure that solutions are culturally relevant and effective, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency (AIFCC). To this end, they form local and national organizations (which then build rooted linkages to regional alliances such as the Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance. These alliances in turn help to support local capacity while at the same time focusing attention on distributive justice (with regard to climate finance flows) and procedural and recognition justice at the global governance of climate change.

Afro-Descendant leaders are active in international forums, such as the UNFCCC, where we push for climate reparations and equitable climate policies. International and transnational advocacy networks such as the Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance and the Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative provide platforms for Afro-Descendant leaders to influence international climate policies and advocate for their communities (Aebersold 2022). These alliances in turn help to support local capacity while at the same time focusing on attention on distributive justice (especially with regard to climate finance flows), procedural and recognition justice at the level of the global governance of climate change.

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and Community-Based Initiatives: Public Awareness Campaigns Ecologically Important Ecosystems Advocacy (Policy, Legal, Cultural) Coalition Building and Alliances 	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underrepresentation Lack of Representation Limited Resources and Resource Constraints Communication Challenges
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political Resistance Fragmentation Inclusivity Challenges Institutional Barriers 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for policy advocacy and increased influence Utilizing technology for communication and data gathering

Increasingly, Afro-Descendant led groups are advancing climate advocacy and activism at home and building out strong collaborative networks with global reach. Afro-Descendant climate justice work is evolving over time to focus on global institutions such as those that govern the MEAs, in particular the CBD and the UNFCCC, where they are focusing attention on ethics, fairness and justness of mitigation and climate finance and the integration of sustainable development and climate justice. We are also engaging in emerging network addressing the interlinkage between education, health, migration, and climate justice; there is also increased youth, and gender activism since the mid-to-late 2020s.

Afro-Descendant climate justice advocates push to integrate racially sensitive policy inclusivity at subnational to national and international scale all while focusing on the inter-relationship between different aspect of climate justices—distributive, procedural, recognition (Parson 2024). They are critically interrogating adaptation, capacity building, sustainability and vulnerability, in new ways.

They are also focusing greater attention on the processes and outcome around the climate strategy of mitigation and its current and likely impacts for the lives and well-being of Afro-Descendants, particularly those living in the global south. Below, we explore how this advocacy is evolving and how Afro-Descendant organizations are digging deeper as well as build out in order to address the multi-dimensionality of climate justice. They are calling for greater attention to distributive, procedural and recognition justice not just in the policy space but in climate research and climate litigation. They are also seeking democratization and racial inclusivity in both the context and approach to adaptation, mitigation, sustainable development, climate finance, and Just Transition (Parsons et al 2024, Bulkely 2013, Kabash et al 2016).

Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Movement Building

Globally, the climate justice movement is strong and growing. Its members are engaged with communities, especially those historically marginalized in decision-making processes. The movement recognizes the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental issues and engages with advocacy on climate justice advocating for equitable policies and systemic change. As a global network, the movement spans across countries and cultures, fostering collaboration, and integrating diverse perspectives.

Africans and Afro-Descendants on the Frontlines of Climate Justice Activism

“Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it, and make it survive, you haven’t done a thing. You’re just talking.” — Wangari Maathai

The Green Belt Movement was founded by 2004 Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai (1989-1999) with the National Council of Women (Kenya). The movement fights to protect the environment, human rights, democracy and for rural Kenyan women to secure and preserve food, fuel and water for food security in the face of environmental degradation. They planted over 30 million trees across Kenya. They used hunger strikes and suffered bodily harm to resist privatization of Karura Forest in Nairobi and mal development projects.

Robert Bullard, the ‘father of environmental justice,’ campaigned against harmful waste being dumped in predominantly Black neighborhoods in southern U.S. states since the 1970s. In 1994, his work was instrumental in the signing of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice in the U.S.

Afro-Descendant individuals and organizations play a vital role in the global climate justice movement. Their efforts not only address environmental issues but also promote broader social justice, making their contributions indispensable to achieving sustainable and equitable climate. Their leadership and perspectives are essential for creating a more just and sustainable world. The creation of initiatives and forums such as The Black Hive initiative, launched by the Movement for Black Lives, unites over 200 Black environmental leaders and organizations. The Chisholm Legacy Project’s landmark report, *Adversity to Advancement*, documents the courage, consistency and fortitude of African American frontline climate justice seekers (Patterson, n.d.).

WHO IS LEADING THE WAY?

Overview of Key International and Regional Advocacy Networks

Afro-Descendant organizations continue to both widen and deepen our organizing to focus more keenly on climate justice as a framework for interrogating policies, programs and projects at international and regional levels. We are increasingly building our power base by creating broad based alliances to complement and expand our work at regional and global levels.

Global

The Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (PFPAD) was formed in 2021. Though part of the UN, PFPAD is grounded in grassroots movement and has expanded their agenda to include Climate Justice.

The Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative (GADCJC)

GADCJC was launched in 2015 by the NAACP and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and it continues to expand and is currently anchored by The Chisholm Legacy Project and PACJA. The GADCJC is dedicated to building vision, unity, and joint action by Afro-Descendants globally.

One of its specific aims is to advance racial analysis and action within the UNFCCC. In 2022, GADCJC proposed a resolution: *'Race, Racism and Climate Reparations in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'*.¹⁶ The resolution calls for the development of a Racial Justice Focal Point and Constituency Group, as well as inclusion of language on colonialism, systemic racism, and climate reparations in the text of the UNFCCC.

GADCJC, which consists of over 200 organizations from over 50 nations and counting, has an agenda that includes deepening research that details the impacts and intersections between race, racism, and climate change, establishing Climate Reparations as a framework, and a governing set of policies and programs to resource nations and communities that are most impacted and least responsible for climate change, to equitably advance Just Transition.

To these ends, GADCJC focuses on:

Advocacy and Awareness Building: Engages in international forums to advocate for the inclusion of Afro-Descendant perspectives in climate policies.

Community Engagement and Innovation: It ultimately aims to support the flow of resources for Afro-Descendant communities to engage in research and community innovation projects.

Policy Influence: Ensures that the voices, policy priorities, and worldviews of Afro-Descendant communities are included in international and global decision-making processes.

A number of regional level organizations have formed in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America.¹⁷ The most consolidated of these include the **Afro-**

¹⁶ [Climate Reparations - English](#)

¹⁷ See for example: Afro-Descendant Environmental Justice Network, Afro-Descendant People's Global Climate Justice Initiative, Afro-Descendant Climate Advocacy Coalition, and Coalition for the Environmental Territorial Rights of Afro-Descendant Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean

InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change, the Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance.

Latin America: The Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change (AIFCC)

The Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change provides platforms for Afro-Descendant leaders to influence international climate policies and advocate for their communities (Aebersold 2022). Co-developed by Afro-Descendant leaders from the Americas, this forum addresses significant environmental issues, including climate risks and biodiversity loss. It highlights the contribution of Afro-Descendant communities to environmental stewardship and global environmental work (TCLP, n.d.). The (AIFCC) has been actively working to elevate the voices and contributions of Afro-Descendant communities in climate change discussions and actions (Aebersold 2022).

Notable actions and recent achievements include:

Launch and Initial Activities: The AIFCC was formally announced at the UN climate conference (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021. This launch aimed to bring greater visibility to the environmental challenges faced by Afro-Descendant communities and their contributions to ecosystem stewardship (AIFCC n.d.).

Participation in COP27: At COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the AIFCC convened leaders from across the Americas to discuss the climate contributions of Afro-Descendant territories. This event highlighted the significant overlap between biodiversity hotspots and areas with high Afro-Descendant populations (ibid). The forum presented research estimating that over 178 million individuals identify as Afro-Descendants in the Americas, emphasizing the importance of their role in climate action (ibid).

Advocacy and Awareness Building: The AIFCC has been actively involved in international forums such as the UN climate change and biodiversity summits, to advocate for the inclusion of Afro-Descendant perspectives in climate policies (ibid). They have worked to make visible the unique climate and environmental challenges faced by Afro-Descendant communities, promoting their expertise and perspectives in decision-making processes (ibid).

Research and Community Innovation: The forum supports on-the-ground resources for Afro-Descendant communities to engage in research and community innovation projects. This includes documenting best practices and successful cases in natural climate solutions (ESI 2022). They have created regional hubs to incubate and accelerate community-based green business initiatives, fostering local solutions to climate challenges (ibid). The AIFCC collaborates with MIT's Environmental Solutions Initiative to conduct research and strengthen the technical

capacities of Afro-Descendant populations. This partnership aims to address the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss (AIFCC, Promoting the expertise and perspectives of Afro-Descendant communities in the Americas in climate change decision-making, conservation.org). They have hosted events and discussions to highlight the needs and roles of Afro-Descendant communities in environmental stewardship and climate action (Ibid).

These actions and achievements demonstrate the AIFCC’s commitment to ensuring that Afro-Descendant communities are recognized and empowered in the global fight against climate change.

In addition to the AIFCC in the Latin American region, there are a number of climate justice organizations operating at national, regional and cross regional. A few organizations of Afro-Descendants crucial in the fight for climate justice and the protection of frontline communities:

<p>Coalition for the Environmental Territorial Rights of Afro-Descendant Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. The coalition includes over 25 Afro-Descendant organizations working together to secure land tenure rights and highlight the role of Afro-Descendant communities in conserving critical biomes (Rights and Resources, n.d.).</p>	<p>Rights and Resource Initiative collaborates with Afro-Descendant organizations to advocate for land rights and environmental justice, emphasizing the importance of Afro-Descendant territories in biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation (ibid).</p>	<p>Nuestra América Verde works on sustainable development and environmental justice projects in Afro-Descendant communities across Latin America, focusing on natural climate solutions and community resilience (AIFCC and conservation.org)</p>	<p>Others include: SUDECC (Sustainable Development and Climate Change), Afro Global Consulting, Universidad Autónoma de Chiriqui, Fundación Panamá Ostensible, Latinas en Poder and Codechocó and Coalizão Negra por Direitos (AIFCC, conservation.org)</p>
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- o See Directory (next section) for a full (and growing) directory of climate justice organizations in Latin America.

The Caribbean: The Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance (CCJA) and other regional Initiatives

Caribbean nations, despite being very low contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, face severe climate impacts. These impacts include water

scarcity, coastal erosion, sea level rise, and threats to marine resources. Climate justice advocates in the Caribbean campaign for a more equitable distribution of climate finance and technology transfer to support the region's transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. This includes efforts to address systemic inequalities and social injustices that exacerbate climate vulnerability, such as poverty, gender inequality, and land tenure issues (Island Innovation).

The Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance is a regional coalition that brings together civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, creatives, and other non-state actors were officially launched in March 2022 through a virtual regional workshop, (Panos and Canari (2022)). Currently, the group is implementing the Caribbean Climate Justice and Resilience Agenda 2023-2030 which outlines priorities for climate justice and resilience in the Caribbean focusing on access to finance, adaptation, loss and damage, gender and human rights and nature based solutions; it also served as a roadmap for collective advocacy and action to influence national, regional and global policies, (Canari, n.d.).

CCJA is focused on Advocacy and Action Projects to amplify the voices of the most vulnerable communities and influence policy decisions to support climate justice in the region. Through its practical Actions and Community Mobilization, CCJA help civil society organizations (CSOs), local communities, and enterprises to take practical actions on climate justice. This includes holding governments accountable for their commitments to deliver climate actions and a Just Transition. It also includes projects that raise awareness and educate communities about the threats posed by climate change and the necessary response at various levels.

The CCJA is invested in regional coalition building and has thus far succeeded in bringing together over 65 organizations and individual activists to collaborate on climate justice initiatives, enhancing the effectiveness and impact of civil society in the Caribbean (CCJA canari.org). These include civil society organizations, academia, creatives, and other non-state actors whose goal is to transform policy and practice, catalyzing action for climate justice and a Just Transition.

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI): CANARI is the sponsor of CCJA and is involved in multiple projects that address climate change impact as well as advocates for climate justice. CANARI works with local communities to promote sustainable development and environmental conservation.

- o See Directory (next section) for a full (and growing) directory of climate justice organizations in the Caribbean.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Has established a Reparations Commission to seek reparatory justice for the descendants of enslaved Africans in the Caribbean. The commission advocates for measures such as debt cancellation, technology transfer, and cultural institutions (AU 2023 and Darity et al. 2024).

Africa: The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

PACJA, Founded in 2008, is a consortium of more than 1000 organizations from 51 African countries that brings together a diverse membership drawn from Grassroots, Community-based organizations, Faith-based Organizations, Non-Governmental organizations, Trusts, Foundations, Indigenous Communities, Farmers and Pastoralist Groups with a shared vision to advance a people-centered, right-based, just and inclusive approach to address climate and environmental challenges facing humanity and the planet. PACJA is committed to promote climate and environmental justice at country, continental and global levels. The Alliance members work on diverse issues and are organized through national CSO platforms. PACJA has been instrumental in supporting its member organizations and platforms to engage decision-makers and duty bearers in strategic policy dialogue processes and interventions at all levels. Its mission is to develop and promote pro-poor development and equity-based positions relevant for Africa in international climate change dialogues, interventions and related processes. PACJA has two thematic areas: Climate Change and Health, and Just Transition and Energy Access.

Key Interventions and strategic Choices for PACJA include:

Health thematic area: To achieve the outcomes envisioned above, PACJA, informed by the gap analysis and the need for strengthened intersectionality has three broad areas for strategic intervention notably Health and nutrition – focusing on strengthening health systems, catalyzing investment in adaption to address adaptation gaps – including in health sector, addressing fundamental food and nutrition issues and cutting on the 4 percent emissions attributable to the health sector Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) – this stream of work addresses the water related challenges and health while bolding out the adaptation imperatives in the broad water sector. Energy work is focused on advocacy and programs interventions in scaling access to clean energy, with attention on the household level to address the disproportionate exposure of women to indoor pollution while advancing for decentralized energy systems for scaling access to energy to health facilities.

Just Transition and Energy Access: To addresses the urgent need for a fair and inclusive shift to clean energy across Africa, ensuring that the continent’s most vulnerable populations are not left behind. The Just Transition and Energy Access thematic area focuses on the following key areas:

Policy and Advocacy: Engaging policymakers, governments, and regional bodies to develop and implement policies that support a Just Transition to clean energy. This includes advocating for inclusive energy policies that address energy poverty and promote social equity. Working through three important pillars of involvement, PACJA has been instrumental in influencing national climate change policies and

mobilizing African citizens to demand action from their governments (PACJA). These three pillars are:

Research and Knowledge Generation: Conducting research to generate evidence-based insights on the impacts of energy transitions on African communities. This includes exploring the socio-economic implications of clean energy adoption, the effectiveness of current policies, and identifying gaps and opportunities for action.

Capacity Building: Strengthening the capacity of local communities, civil society organizations, and government institutions to participate in and influence the energy transition process actively. This involves training, knowledge sharing, and providing the tools needed to advocate for and implement Just Transition strategies.

Community Engagement: Ensuring that local communities are at the heart of the energy transition process. This includes participatory approaches that involve communities in decision-making, planning, and implementing clean energy projects that meet their needs and priorities. The GUARD Africa Project funded with 50 million Swedish Krona (about \$5.1 million), Launched in September 2021 (until 2024), focuses on post-COVID-19 reconstruction with an emphasis on low-carbon, climate-resilient, just, and inclusive development (Wikipedia).¹⁸

Summary of Key Features

Aspects	AIFCC	CCJA	PACJA	GADCJC
Policy & Advocacy	Ensures Afro-Descendant voices are included in decision-making.	Develops a shared Caribbean Climate Justice Agenda and influences policies	Engages policymakers to develop inclusive energy policies and advocates for social equity	Advocates for the inclusion of Afro-Descendant perspectives in climate policies
Research and Knowledge Generation	Supports community innovation and co-creation of knowledge.	Focuses on raising awareness and educating communities about climate threats	Conducts research on the socio-economic impacts of clean energy transitions.	Supports community innovation and research

¹⁸ African Activists for Climate Justice: This five-year program, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is being implemented in eight African countries (<https://pacja.org>).

Aspects	AIFCC	CCJA	PACJA	GADCJC
Capacity building	Provides resources for community engagement and innovation.	Enhances the capacity of CSOs and stakeholders through partnerships.	Strengthens local communities and CSOs through training and knowledge sharing.	Enhances the capacity of CSOs and stakeholders through partnerships
Energy Access	Not explicitly focused on energy access		Prioritizes addressing energy poverty and ensuring equitable access to clean energy.	Not explicitly focused on energy access
Community Mobilization	Engages Afro-Descendant communities in climate action.	Mobilizes local communities to take practical actions on climate justice		Mobilizes communities for practical climate justice actions.

o **A Combined SCOT Analysis of AIFCC, CCJA, PACJA, and GADCJC**

The climate justice alliances discussed—PACJA, CCJA, GACJA, and AIFCC—each play crucial roles in advocating for climate justice and promoting sustainable development in their respective region. **By understanding these differences and similarities, we can better appreciate the diverse strategies employed to achieve a just and equitable transition to a sustainable future.**

	PACJA	CCJA	AIFCC	GADCJC
Strengths	<p>Broad membership (over 1,000 organizations from 51 countries).</p> <p>Strong policy influence at national and international levels.</p> <p>Robust research and development to support advocacy.</p> <p>Effective engagement with grassroots and indigenous communities.</p>	<p>Regional collaboration among diverse CSOs and stakeholders.</p> <p>Focused advocacy with a shared Caribbean Climate Justice Agenda.</p> <p>Effective community mobilization and capacity building.</p>	<p>Focused advocacy for Afro-Descendant communities in climate change decision-making.</p> <p>Strategic partnerships with institutions like MIT and Conservation International.</p> <p>Provides on-the-ground resources for community innovation.</p> <p>Active in global forums like COP conferences.</p>	<p>Focus on Afro-Descendant communities globally.</p> <p>Strong advocacy in international forums.</p> <p>Supports community innovation and research.</p> <p>Partnerships with academic institutions...</p>
Challenges	<p>The challenges of all four organizations are quite similar to different degrees. For example, PACJA has resource limitations similar to other climate justice organizations, coordination challenges across a vast continent, and dependence on external funding. Similarly, the CCJA has limited financial and human resources, fragmented efforts among stakeholders and struggles with visibility and influence in global forums. The AIFCC also has resource constraints, coordination challenges across diverse regions, and may struggle with visibility and influence in broader forums. GADCJC, being a new entity with not much track record suffers from severe resource constraints, visibility in global forum and like the other may face coordination challenges across diverse regions.</p>			

	PACJA	CCJA	AIFCC	GADCJC
	<p>Increasing opportunities for global advocacy.</p> <p>Expanding capacity-building initiatives.</p> <p>Forming strategic partnerships to enhance impact.</p> <p>Utilizing technological</p>	<p>Potential for increased funding from international donors.</p> <p>Opportunity to influence climate policies at various levels.</p> <p>Stronger partnerships with international organizations.</p> <p>Leveraging new technologies and innovative approaches.</p>	<p>Increasing opportunities to influence global climate policies.</p> <p>Expanding capacity-building initiatives.</p> <p>Utilizing new technologies for climate resilience.</p> <p>Forming strategic partnerships with international organizations.</p>	<p>Increasing opportunities to influence global climate policies.</p> <p>Expanding capacity-building initiatives.</p> <p>Utilizing new technologies for climate resilience.</p> <p>Forming strategic partnerships with international groups.</p>
Threats	<p>In terms of threats, PACJA, CCJA, AIFCC and GDCJC all may face political and economic instability including socio-politically motivated attacks in various countries, high and heightened vulnerability to climate change impacts on the ground and competing development priorities for governments. Also, the global economic conditions may affect funding.</p>			

While each network shares common goals, their approaches and focus areas vary, reflecting the unique challenges and opportunities within their regions.

The civil society groups and networks are critical to advancing climate justice in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and the U.S. through fostering resilience, and advocating for fair and equitable climate solutions. Their work highlights the importance of centering local knowledge and communities in addressing both the continents and the diaspora’s climate challenges. These organizations are pushing for climate policies that recognize the social and economic inequities exacerbated by climate change while ensuring that grassroots voices—particularly women, youth, and Indigenous

communities—are central to climate action. Through partnerships, capacity building, and advocacy, these four groups – and the many other organizations and communities in the next section – are paving the way for a more just and sustainable future for Afro-Descendants globally.

Directory Sample: Afro-Descendant Organizations in Climate Justice

The full Directory is a dynamic, growing database and available via the Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative, hosted within The Chisholm Legacy Project website.

Afro-Descendants are often on the frontlines of environmental racism, facing disproportionate exposure to pollution, toxic waste, and climate-related disasters. Afro-Descendant communities are often located near toxic sites or directly affected by climate change due to discriminatory practices like redlining and segregation. Afro-Descendants recognize that structural racism, historical legacies (such as enslavement and subsequent racial discrimination and marginalization), and socioeconomic factors contribute to their vulnerability. They emphasize the need to address environmental justice, racial inequities, and socioeconomic exclusion.

Afro-Descendants often have historical experiences of colonization, slavery, and exploitation that have shaped their relationship with the environment. This historical context informs their understanding of environmental injustice and the need for climate action that addresses systemic inequalities. Additionally, Afro-Descendants have rich cultural traditions and connections to the land that influence their approach to environmental stewardship. Traditional practices, knowledge, and spiritual beliefs are integral to their strategies for sustainable living and resilience in the face of climate change.

Afro-Descendant youths are emerging as powerful voices in the climate justice movement, advocating for bold action to address climate change and environmental degradation that threaten their future. Their perspectives bring a sense of urgency and innovation to climate activism.

Afro-Descendant communities have a long history of resilience and adaptation to challenging environments. They bring this experience to the climate justice movement, enriching discussions and strategies on multiple levels. Their experiences of overcoming adversity and building strong community networks provide valuable insights into strategies for climate resilience and sustainable development.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
International Transnational Global	Taproot Earth	In August 2024, Taproot Earth convened a movement governance assembly of more than 200 frontline community leaders from 22 countries representing Black and Indigenous leaders who bear the impacts of the climate, economic, and political disasters.
Latin America	Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN)	PCN is a Black association that connects more than 140 grassroots organizations, community councils, and individuals. These are constantly working to transform the political, social, economic, and territorial reality of Black, Afro-Descendant, Raizal, and Palenquero communities through the defense and vindication of their individual, collective, and ancestral rights. PCN was consolidated at the end of 1993; it is dedicated to raising black consciousness, fighting racial discrimination, exclusion, and social injustice, and developing a legal and political framework for the recognition and respect of Afro-Descendants' human rights and right to self-determination in Colombia.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Latin America	National Coordination of Articulation of Black Rural Quilombola Communities (CONAQUI)	<p>The National Coordination of Articulation of Black Rural Quilombola Communities (CONAQ) is a Brazilian organization founded in 1996 that represents and defends the rights of quilombola communities—descendants of formerly enslaved people who formed communities of resistance. CONAQ advocates for the territorial rights, environmental protection, and political empowerment of these communities, opposing large-scale economic enterprises that threaten their way of life. It works on issues like land titling, strengthens leadership through training, and engages in political lobbying to protect the rights of quilombolas across Brazil.</p> <p>Learn more: https://climaesociedade.org/en/conaq-launches-a-booklet-mapping-challenges-and-solutions-for-its-territories/</p>
Latin America	Saamaka Uto - Suriname	[To be added - Suriname]
International Transnational	Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative (GADCJC)	GADCJC is dedicated to addressing the unique climate and environmental challenges faced by Afro-Descendant communities globally.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
International Transnational Latin America	Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change (AIFCC)	<p>The Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change provide platforms for Afrodescendant leaders to influence international climate policies and advocate for their communities (Aebersold 2022). Co-developed by Afro-Descendant leaders from the Americas, this forum addresses significant environmental issues, including climate risks and biodiversity loss. It highlights the contribution of Afro-Descendant communities to environmental stewardship and global environmental services (TCLP, n.d.). The (AIFCC) has been actively working to elevate the voices and contributions of Afro-Descendant communities in climate change discussions and actions (Aebersold 2022).</p> <p>AIFCC focuses on elevating the voices and contributions of Afro-Descendant communities in climate change discussions. While it does not seem to have a dedicated Just Transition framework, its activities align with the broader goals of a Just Transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and Awareness Building: Highlights the unique climate challenges faced by Afro-Descendant communities. Community Engagement and Innovation: Supports on-the-ground resources for community innovation. Policy Influence: Works to include Afro-Descendant perspectives in international and national decision-making processes.
International / Transnational Latin America, Caribbean	Coalition for the Environmental Territorial Rights of Afrodescendant Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (CITAFRO)	The coalition includes over 25 Afro-Descendant organizations working together to secure land tenure rights and highlight the role of Afro-Descendant communities in conserving critical biomes (Rights and Resources, n.d.).

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
International / Transnational Latin America, Caribbean	Rights and Resources	Initiative collaborates with Afro-Descendant organizations to advocate for land rights and environmental justice, emphasizing the importance of Afro-Descendant territories in biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation
International / Transnational Latin America, Caribbean	Nuestra América Verde	Works on sustainable development and environmental justice projects in Afro-Descendant communities across Latin America, focusing on natural climate solutions and community resilience (AIFCC and conservation.org)
International / Transnational Latin America, Caribbean	Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SUDECC)	[To be added]
International / Transnational African Groups	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)	PACJA is one of Africa’s leading coalitions working on climate justice. It consists of over 1,000 organizations from 48 African countries and advocates for pro-poor, people-centered climate policies. PACJA engages at both national and international levels, including participating in the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) negotiations, pushing for climate financing mechanisms that favor vulnerable communities.
African Groups	African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF)	AWDF supports African women’s organizations, with a specific focus on amplifying the voices of women in climate discussions. The fund recognizes the intersection of climate change and gender inequality, working to ensure that women’s rights and experiences are at the forefront of climate action.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
African Groups	Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN)	ERA/FoEN works to protect the environmental rights of Nigerian communities, particularly those affected by oil extraction and environmental degradation. The organization also addresses climate justice issues by focusing on the impact of fossil fuel extraction on local communities and advocating for a transition to renewable energy sources.
African Groups	Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)	AYICC is a network of African youth organizations and activists that aims to create awareness of climate change and mobilize young people across the continent to take action. The group highlights the need for intergenerational justice and strives to ensure that young people are included in climate decision-making processes.
African Groups	350Africa.org	350Africa.org is part of the global 350.org movement, working to build a climate movement across Africa that challenges the fossil fuel industry. The organization emphasizes the importance of stopping new fossil fuel projects and transitioning to clean energy sources.
African Groups	Green Belt Movement (GBM)	Founded by Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, the Green Belt Movement is one of Africa's most well-known environmental organizations. GBM focuses on reforestation, community empowerment, and environmental justice, particularly for rural women who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.
African Groups	South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA)	Based in South Africa, SDCEA advocates for the rights of communities affected by industrial pollution and environmental degradation. The group highlights the links between environmental racism and climate injustice, working with marginalized communities that are disproportionately affected by climate impacts.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
African Groups	African Biodiversity Network (ABN)	ABN works with communities across Africa to conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable agriculture, and protect Indigenous knowledge systems. The organization emphasizes the role of community-led solutions in addressing climate change and environmental degradation.
African Groups	African Climate Reality Project (ACRP)	ACRP is the African branch of the Climate Reality Project, founded by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. It works to empower African climate leaders and promote climate action across the continent. The group engages in education campaigns to raise awareness about climate science and policy solutions.
African Groups	Natural Justice	Natural Justice is a pan-African organization that focuses on the intersection of environmental law and the rights of Indigenous peoples. The organization supports communities in advocating for their environmental rights and promotes legal frameworks that integrate traditional knowledge into climate adaptation strategies.
African Groups	African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)	ACTS is a leading African think tank that conducts research on climate change, technology, and sustainable development. It works closely with governments, international organizations, and civil society to provide evidence-based policy recommendations on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
African Groups	Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)	Based in Uganda, AFIEGO works to promote good governance in the energy sector, particularly around issues of oil extraction and environmental degradation. The organization advocates for sustainable energy policies and the rights of communities impacted by energy projects.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
African Groups	African Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC)	CISONECC is a network of African civil society organizations that works to influence climate change policy at both national and regional levels. It focuses on promoting inclusive, transparent, and accountable climate governance in African countries.
African Groups	Farm Africa	Farm Africa works with smallholder farmers across Eastern Africa to promote climate-smart agricultural practices that increase resilience to climate change. The organization helps farmers adapt to changing weather patterns, conserve natural resources, and improve food security.
African Groups	The African Biodiversity Network (ABN)	ABN works with communities to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable land use practices across Africa. The organization advocates for the protection of Indigenous knowledge systems and community-led solutions to climate change.
African Groups	Southern Africa Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI)	SAFCEI is an interfaith organization that engages religious communities across Southern Africa in environmental advocacy. The organization highlights the ethical dimensions of climate change and encourages faith communities to take action on climate justice.
African Groups	Power Shift Africa	Power Shift Africa is an organization based in Kenya that focuses on driving Africa's energy transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy. The group engages in high-level climate advocacy, particularly in influencing African and international climate policies. It also works to ensure that African voices and priorities are represented in global climate discussions, such as the UNFCCC negotiations.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
African Groups	Peace Development Foundation	The Peace Development Foundation (PDF) is based in Sudan and works on peacebuilding and development projects that integrate climate resilience. Recognizing the link between environmental degradation and conflict, PDF focuses on promoting sustainable natural resource management and community resilience in conflict-prone areas affected by climate change.
African Groups	Third World Network Africa (TWN Africa)	TWN Africa is a regional branch of the global Third World Network, which advocates for social justice, equitable development, and fair trade policies. TWN Africa's climate justice work focuses on the intersection of development, trade, and climate policy. The organization critiques neoliberal economic policies that exacerbate inequality and environmental degradation, advocating for climate policies that address the structural causes of poverty and inequality in Africa.
African Groups	Climate Action Network (CAN) Africa	CAN Africa is a regional branch of the global Climate Action Network, one of the world's largest networks of climate-focused civil society organizations. CAN Africa works to mobilize African civil society around climate justice issues and influences African governments' positions in international climate negotiations.
African Groups	Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ)	Based in South Africa, IEJ advocates for progressive economic policies that promote equity, sustainability, and climate justice. The organization emphasizes the need for just economic transitions that consider the welfare of marginalized communities, particularly in the context of climate change and the shift towards greener economies.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
African Groups	SouthSouthNorth (SSN)	SSN is an organization based in South Africa that works across the Global South to build capacity for climate resilience and sustainable development. SSN provides technical assistance, policy support, and knowledge sharing to African governments and organizations to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.
African Groups	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)	AFSA is a pan-African network of organizations that advocates for food sovereignty and sustainable agricultural practices as key solutions to climate change. The group opposes industrial agriculture and advocates for agroecology as a more climate-resilient and sustainable approach to food production in Africa.
Caribbean Groups	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	CANARI works with local communities to promote sustainable development and environmental conservation.
International / Transnational Caribbean Groups	The Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance (CCJA)	Hosted by CANARI, it is an alliance that brings together civil society organizations, academic, and other non-state actors to advocate for pro-poor, just and environmentally sustainable development in the region (Canari.org)
Caribbean Groups	Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance	A network connecting international and regional funders, NGOs, multilateral organizations and regional stakeholders. Its mission is to transforming global philanthropy to work as a community, building upon the unique assets within the Caribbean, and facilitating equitable philanthropic investment to achieve inclusive sustainable development for all, and long-term systems change.
Caribbean Groups	Clara Lionel Foundation (CLF)	Founded by Rihanna, this foundation invests in climate justice initiatives and helps communities in the Caribbean and the U.S. prepare for and withstand natural disasters (Canari.org)

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Caribbean Groups	CAP/RISA Teams	While not exclusively focused on climate justice, these teams support equitable climate resilience in the U.S. Caribbean region. They collaborate with research institutions, nonprofits and local governments (ibid).
Caribbean Groups	Island Innovation	An expert consultancy specializing in innovation, sustainability and development for islands has implemented the Caribbean Climate Justice Leaders Academy (funded by the Open Society) which trains and connects young climate justice activists from the Caribbean Small Island Developing states (Island Innovation n.d.).
Caribbean Groups	Feminist Climate Justice Movement	An emerging feminist climate justice movement in the Caribbean is addressing the intersection of climate change and gender inequality. It is focused on advocacy for policies that support women and gender-diverse people, who are often disproportionately affected by climate change. (Open Society)
Youth	Breadfruit Collective	Involved in organizing climate justice camps and workshops, bringing together youths and other stakeholders to discuss and advocate for criminal justice (Open Society).
Caribbean Groups	Climate Activist Defenders	This group supports environmental defenders and activists in the Caribbean, ensuring they have the resources and protection needed to advocate for climate justice (Open Society).

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Youth	Women Fisher Folk Barbados	This group is part of the Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) Research Framework at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. They examine the livelihood assets, strategies, and outcomes for women in the fishing industry. They also highlight the contributions of women to their families and the fishing industry through various case studies (Joseph, D.D, Pena, M. and Perch, L. (n.d.). Additionally, there is the Six Men's Community Celebration that celebrates fisher folk with various activities, including competitions and storytelling in Barbados. Helen's Daughters focus on sustainable agriculture in St. Lucia sponsor Women Farmers' Academy and UWI.
Caribbean Groups	Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)	A regional network with chapters in many Caribbean countries dedicated to improving the quality of life of Caribbean young people by facilitating their personal development and full involvement in all matters pertaining to the environment and sustainable development. They are champions of climate justice in the region. These organizations are working towards creating a more sustainable and equitable future for the Caribbean.
The Americas	Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) - Black Caucus	A U.S.-based collective of over 70 rural and urban community-based organizations. It focuses on sustainability, development of underrepresented communities and address climate change through a just transition framework (climatejusticealliance.org).
Women and Girls	African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)	FEMNET is a pan-African network that advocates for gender equality in various sectors, including climate justice. The organization works to amplify women's voices in climate policy and action at regional and global levels.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) (Nigeria)	WEDO has a global focus, but it has been particularly active in Africa through partnerships that work on gender-inclusive climate policies and women's participation in international climate negotiations.
Women and Girls	Rural Women's Assembly (RWA)	RWA is a movement of rural women across Southern Africa, advocating for food sovereignty, land rights, and environmental justice. They emphasize the disproportionate impacts of climate change on rural women and promote sustainable agriculture as a solution.
Women and Girls	African Women's Alliance on Climate Action (AWA)	AWA supports African women in advocating for climate justice through leadership development, capacity building, and awareness campaigns. They focus on amplifying women's roles in climate action and resilience building.
Women and Girls	Women Climate Centers International (WCCI)	WCCI works to build climate resilience in rural African communities by empowering women to lead in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and water conservation.
Women and Girls	GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice Southern Africa	GenderCC is a network of women and gender activists that works at the intersection of gender and climate change in Southern Africa. Their work focuses on ensuring gender-sensitive climate policies and practices, advocating for women's rights in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.
Women and Girls	Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)	AAWORD conducts research and advocacy around the impacts of climate change on African women, particularly in rural areas. They focus on integrating women's voices into environmental policy and ensuring gender-sensitive climate strategies.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Green Belt Movement (GBM)	Founded by Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai, GBM empowers women through environmental conservation, focusing on tree planting, climate adaptation, and natural resource management. It's one of the most well-known women-led climate justice organizations in Africa.
Women and Girls	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)	REFACOF advocates for women's leadership in forest governance and climate change mitigation. They promote women's rights to land and resources, aiming to reduce the impact of climate change on forest-dependent communities.
Women and Girls	Women in Water and Natural Resources Conservation (WWANC)	WWANC focuses on empowering women to participate in water resource management, conservation efforts, and climate adaptation strategies. They work in rural areas to build women's capacity in climate resilience and environmental conservation.
Women and Girls	South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID)	SAWID brings together women from various sectors to engage in dialogue on pressing issues, including climate justice. The organization works on promoting gender equality in climate adaptation strategies in South Africa.
Women and Girls	WoMin African Alliance	WoMin is a pan-African feminist alliance that supports women in resisting extractive industries (mining, oil, gas) and fighting for climate justice
Women and Girls	Bharat Behen (Sister India)	This initiative focuses on addressing the impacts of climate change on women in India, advocating for their participation in environmental decision-making and promoting sustainable practices.
Women and Girls	Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)	ARWC advocates for the rights of rural women across Asia, focusing on sustainable agriculture and environmental justice as critical components of climate resilience.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Green Women's Network (GWN)	GWN focuses on empowering women in environmental advocacy and promoting sustainable practices in their communities throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
Women and Girls	Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)	WfWP advocates for women's rights to water and sanitation in the Asia-Pacific region, working to ensure that women's voices are included in water management and climate adaptation strategies.
Women and Girls	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)	AIPP supports Indigenous women and communities in advocating for their rights, particularly regarding land and resource management, and the impacts of climate change on their livelihoods.
Women and Girls	The Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN)	PICAN is a coalition of civil society organizations working to address the impacts of climate change on Pacific Island communities, with a focus on women's empowerment and leadership.
Women and Girls	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	APWLD focuses on empowering women through legal frameworks and advocating for climate justice policies that support women's rights in the Asia-Pacific region.
Women and Girls	Arab Women Water Network (AWWN)	AWWN promotes the role of women in water management and advocacy across the Arab region, focusing on sustainable water practices, climate resilience, and the impact of climate change on water resources.
Women and Girls	Women's Environmental Network (WEN) - MENA Chapter	This network focuses on empowering women in environmental conservation and climate justice in the MENA region, advocating for policies that support women's leadership in environmental issues.
Women and Girls	Arab Institute for Women (AIW)	AIW addresses the intersection of gender and environmental issues in the Arab region, advocating for women's rights and participation in climate action and sustainable development initiatives.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Association of Mediterranean Women for Research (Femmes Méditerranéennes)	This association promotes the role of women in Mediterranean countries, focusing on climate change and environmental issues, advocating for sustainable practices and policies that benefit women and marginalized communities.
Women and Girls	African Climate Alliance	Though primarily focused on the African continent, the African Climate Alliance engages with Afro-Descendant youth and women in the MENA region to advocate for climate justice and sustainable development.
Women and Girls	Gender and Climate Change Network (GCCN)	GCCN works to integrate gender perspectives into climate change policies and programs across the MENA region, emphasizing the importance of women's voices and leadership in climate adaptation strategies.
Women and Girls	MENA Women's Fund	This fund supports initiatives that promote women's rights and address environmental issues, funding projects that focus on the intersection of gender and climate change in the MENA region.
Women and Girls	Green Forum	Based in Tunisia, Green Forum works on promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices, including initiatives focused on empowering women in climate action and advocacy.
Women and Girls	Lebanese Association for the Development of Women (LADW)	LADW focuses on empowering women in Lebanon through community development projects that integrate environmental sustainability and climate resilience, particularly in rural areas.
Women and Girls	Women for Women International - Middle East and North Africa	This organization supports women survivors of conflict in the MENA region, integrating climate resilience into their programs to help women adapt to environmental changes and build sustainable livelihoods.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Tunisian National Dialogue Group on Climate Change	This group engages various stakeholders, including women's organizations, to discuss and develop policies related to climate change in Tunisia, emphasizing the importance of gender perspectives in climate action.
Women and Girls	Women and Environment Network (WEN) - Egypt	This network focuses on empowering women in Egypt to take leadership roles in environmental advocacy and climate action, promoting sustainable practices and policies.
Women and Girls	The Black Women's Network (BWN) - UK	BWN supports Black women in the UK by advocating for their rights, including climate justice. They work on creating awareness of the intersectionality between gender, race, and climate issues, aiming to amplify the voices of Black women in environmental advocacy.
Women and Girls	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (AWNCMF)	While focused primarily on African contexts, AWNCMF engages with African diaspora communities in Europe to raise awareness of environmental issues affecting African women, particularly regarding sustainable land and forest management.
Women and Girls	Black Lives Matter UK	The UK branch of the global Black Lives Matter movement addresses issues of racial inequality, including environmental racism and climate justice. They work to highlight the disproportionate impact of climate change on Black communities and advocate for equitable climate policies.
Women and Girls	The Green Belt Movement (GBM) - UK Chapter	While originally founded in Kenya, the Green Belt Movement has a chapter in the UK that works to promote reforestation and sustainable environmental practices. They advocate for the rights of women in environmental conservation and climate resilience.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Women's Environmental Network (WEN) - MENA Chapter	Based in the UK, WEN focuses on the role of women in addressing environmental issues, including climate change. They engage with marginalized communities, including women of color, to promote sustainability and resilience.
Women and Girls	Afro-Caribbean Women's Network (ACWN)	ACWN works to empower Afro-Caribbean women in Europe, focusing on issues such as climate change and its impacts on their communities. They promote sustainable practices and advocate for climate justice within Afro-Caribbean contexts.
Women and Girls	European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD)	ENPAD brings together individuals and organizations of African descent across Europe to advocate for human rights, including environmental justice. They highlight the intersection of climate change and racial inequality in their advocacy efforts.
Women and Girls	Women in Environment (WIE) - France	WIE focuses on promoting the role of women in environmental conservation and climate action in France. They work on initiatives that empower women to take leadership roles in environmental advocacy and policy-making.
Women and Girls	Collectif des Femmes Noires (Collective of Black Women)	This collective in France addresses the intersections of race, gender, and climate justice, advocating for policies that support Black women's leadership in environmental issues. They engage in activism that highlights the impacts of climate change on Black communities.
Women and Girls	African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)	Although primarily based in Africa, AWDF supports African women in Europe by promoting climate justice initiatives and empowering women to advocate for their rights in environmental contexts.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	EkoNomad	EkoNomad works to empower Afro-Descendant women and youth to lead sustainable development projects and climate adaptation efforts. They promote renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-entrepreneurship in Black communities across Canada.
Women and Girls	Black Women in Motion	While their primary focus is on social and racial justice, Black Women in Motion engages with climate justice issues as part of their advocacy for the well-being of Black women and communities. They emphasize the need for racial and gender equity in discussions around climate change.
Women and Girls	Future Ancestors Services	Co-founded by Afro-Indigenous leaders, Future Ancestors Services focuses on climate justice and decolonization. They provide education and advocacy on environmental and social justice issues, including the intersection of climate change and racial inequality.
Women and Girls	Black Environmentalists in Action (BEA)	BEA brings together Black Canadians who are passionate about environmentalism and climate justice. The group promotes environmental education, community-based climate resilience projects, and the inclusion of Black voices in environmental decision-making processes.
Women and Girls	Sistering – A Women’s Place	Sistering is a Toronto-based multi-service organization that works with marginalized women, including women of Afro-Descendant heritage, to address a range of issues, including homelessness and climate vulnerability. They focus on how climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized women and work to empower them to participate in climate resilience efforts.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	The Ubuntu Community	Ubuntu works with Afro-Descendant communities in Canada to promote environmental sustainability and resilience. They focus on climate justice, food sovereignty, and ecological stewardship, supporting grassroots climate adaptation initiatives.
Women and Girls	Rise Up! The Black Canadian Climate Justice Collective	This collective works to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on Black communities in Canada, advocating for climate policies that are equitable and inclusive. They work at the intersection of racial justice and environmental sustainability.
Women and Girls	Organización Afrocolombiana de Mujeres (AFROMUPAZ)	AFROMUPAZ focuses on the rights of Afro-Colombian women, particularly in areas affected by armed conflict and environmental degradation. They advocate for sustainable land use and climate justice in rural and marginalized Afro-Descendant communities.
Women and Girls	Red de Mujeres Afrocaribeñas y Afrolatinoamericanas	This network unites Afro-Descendant women from the Caribbean and Latin America to address issues of racial and gender inequality, with a strong focus on environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and advocating for policies that address climate change impacts on their communities.
Women and Girls	Centro de Mujeres Afrocostarricenses	This organization supports Afro-Descendant women in Costa Rica by advocating for environmental justice, sustainable development, and the protection of natural resources in the face of climate change. They emphasize the cultural and ecological knowledge of Afro-Descendant women as key to building climate resilience.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Red de Mujeres Afrocolombianas Kambiri	Kambiri is a network of Afro-Colombian women's organizations working on climate justice, particularly in rural communities affected by climate change and environmental degradation. They advocate for sustainable land use, the protection of biodiversity, and the leadership of Afro-Descendant women in environmental governance.
Women and Girls	Asociación de Mujeres Afrodescendientes (AMUAFRO)	Based in Panama, AMUAFRO advocates for Afro-Descendant women's participation in climate change adaptation and resilience building. They focus on protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and addressing the impacts of climate change on coastal communities.
Women and Girls	Colectivo de Mujeres Afrolatinas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora (Afro-Descendant Women's Collective)	This regional collective brings together Afro-Descendant women from various Latin American and Caribbean countries to work on issues of racial, gender, and environmental justice. They emphasize the impact of climate change on Afro-Descendant women and advocate for inclusive environmental policies.
Women and Girls	Movimento Negro Unificado (MNU)	MNU is one of Brazil's oldest Afro-Descendant rights organizations and has increasingly focused on environmental justice issues, including the disproportionate impacts of deforestation, land dispossession, and climate change on Afro-Brazilian communities. They advocate for sustainable development and the protection of Afro-Descendant territories.
Women and Girls	Grupo Ecológico Afrodescendiente (GEA)	GEA works with Afro-Descendant communities in Ecuador to address issues of climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss. They promote sustainable development practices and work to strengthen the resilience of Afro-Descendant communities against climate-related disasters.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Afrodescendant Women's Association of Nicaragua	This organization supports Afro-Descendant women in Nicaragua's coastal areas, advocating for environmental justice, protection of marine resources, and community-based adaptation to climate change. They focus on building women's leadership in environmental and climate decision-making processes.
Women and Girls	Conselho Nacional de Mulheres Negras (CONAMUNE)	CONAMUNE works with Afro-Descendant women in Ecuador, promoting their involvement in climate resilience projects and the protection of biodiversity. They emphasize the importance of women's traditional knowledge in adapting to the effects of climate change.
Women and Girls	Afro-Peruvian Women's Collective	This collective brings together Afro-Peruvian women to advocate for climate justice and environmental sustainability, focusing on coastal and agricultural communities most affected by climate change. They work on promoting women's leadership in environmental governance.
Women and Girls	Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL)	CIWiL is a regional network that promotes women's leadership and advocates for policies that include gender considerations in climate change adaptation and resilience building.
Women and Girls	Sistren Theatre Collective (Jamaica)	A grassroots organization that uses theatre and the arts to raise awareness of social justice issues, including environmental and climate justice, with a strong focus on women and marginalized communities.
Women and Girls	Tambourine Army (Jamaica)	A radical feminist organization that advocates for women's rights, including climate justice as it intersects with the social and economic vulnerabilities of women, especially in rural communities.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	Women's Empowerment for Change (Grenada)	This organization works to integrate climate resilience into women's empowerment programs, focusing on building capacities and creating awareness around the disproportionate impact of climate change on women.
Women and Girls	Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)	WROC advocates for marginalized women in urban and rural communities, focusing on how climate change impacts women's economic empowerment, health, and livelihoods.
Women and Girls	Dominica National Council of Women (DNCW)	DNCW advocates for the inclusion of women in disaster preparedness and recovery planning, recognizing the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in climate resilience and natural resource management.
Women and Girls	Eco-Club Bonaire Women's Division	This organization empowers women in Bonaire to take active roles in environmental conservation and climate change adaptation, promoting sustainable practices and awareness of environmental issues.
Women and Girls	The Global Women's Climate Justice Initiative (Caribbean Branch)	This international organization, with branches in the Caribbean, works to strengthen women's leadership in climate justice movements, with a focus on policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, and capacity building.
Women and Girls	The Black Environmental Collective	Based in Pittsburgh, the Black Environmental Collective works on advancing environmental justice by addressing pollution, climate change, and sustainable development in Black communities. They focus on community engagement and the empowerment of Black youth and women in climate leadership.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	WE ACT for Environmental Justice	WE ACT is a leading environmental justice organization in Harlem, New York. They work to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and low-income residents participate meaningfully in environmental policy development. They advocate for climate justice through community-based initiatives and climate resilience projects.
Women and Girls	Black Millennials for Flint	Black Millennials for Flint is dedicated to addressing the water crisis and lead contamination issues, particularly in Black and brown communities. They focus on environmental justice, advocating for clean water, and creating leadership opportunities for Black youth and women in climate advocacy
Women and Girls	The Solutions Project	Co-founded by actress and activist Afton Vechery and co-led by Black women leaders, The Solutions Project is committed to climate justice, particularly in communities of color. They fund and support grassroots organizations focused on transitioning to clean energy, with a particular emphasis on empowering women and communities of color
Women and Girls	Black Women's Blueprint	Black Women's Blueprint is a social justice organization that works at the intersection of racial and gender justice. Their climate justice work focuses on how environmental racism and climate change disproportionately affect Black women. They advocate for equitable climate policies and the inclusion of Black women in decision-making processes
Women and Girls	The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)	Based in New Orleans, DSCEJ works to promote environmental justice through education, training, and policy advocacy, particularly in Black communities along the Gulf Coast. They focus on addressing the disproportionate environmental and climate impacts faced by marginalized communities, with a strong emphasis on women's leadership

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Women and Girls	The Black Women's Climate Justice Collective	This collective works to center the voices of Black women in the climate justice movement. They focus on climate change impacts on Black women and advocate for policies that support the leadership of Black women in environmental advocacy
Women and Girls	Soul Fire Farm	Soul Fire Farm is a Black-led organization focused on food justice and sustainable agriculture. They work to promote climate resilience through regenerative farming practices, addressing issues of environmental racism, land access, and food sovereignty for Black and brown communities, particularly women farmers
Women and Girls	Black Women for Wellness	Based in Los Angeles, Black Women for Wellness addresses environmental health and justice, focusing on how pollution and climate change affect the health of Black women and their communities. They advocate for clean air, clean water, and climate resilience for communities of color
Women and Girls	The Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) Climate Justice Group	M4BL works on various social justice issues, including climate justice. Their climate justice group focuses on addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on Black communities and advocating for equitable climate solutions that center Black leadership, particularly that of women
Women and Girls	Black Visions Collective	Black Visions Collective works on environmental justice as part of their broader focus on Black liberation. They emphasize climate justice as essential to racial justice, focusing on sustainable development and resilience in Black communities
Youth	African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AIYICC)	A pan African network of youth organizations and individuals from across the continent working on climate change and sustainable development.
Youth	Youth Climate Action Network (YOUNGO)	African Chapter. YOUNGO is an official constituency of the UNFCCC.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Youth	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)	Youth Chapter: focus on amplifying the voices of young Africans in the Climate Justice Movement
Youth	Fridays for Future – Africa	Involved in Fridays for Future
Youth	African Climate Alliance	A youth led network based in South Africa. Focuses on climate activism, environmental justice and youth leadership.
Youth	Green Africa Youth Organization (Ghana)	A youth led organization that promotes environmental sustainability, climate resilience and social equity
Youth	Legal Empowerment Fund for Young Climate Activists in Africa	Supports young grassroots activists in Africa who are working to advance climate justice. It focuses on legal empowerment and capacity building.
Youth	The Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)	A network organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Caribbean young people by involving them in environmental and sustainable development projects such as climate resilience and water and resources management. CYEN’s work spans addressing youth unemployment, enriching climate resiliency, water resource management, notably their “Stay Alive and Thrive” climate action campaign to raise public awareness about the urgent need to mitigate and adapt to climate change across the Caribbean and around the globe, (Clara L Foundation, n.d., and Bachoo, 2024)

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Youth	GirlsCARE	A feminist climate activist movement that aims to create a space that empowers young women to advocate for gender justice in climate action and safeguard the economic, social and environmental rights of women in adaptation and resilience-building efforts nationally. GC is a “merging of girl power, of Jamaican climate scholar activists determined to use our platform and voices to create space and empower young women to advocate for gender justice in climate action.” The group provide mentorship to girls and young women involved or interested in climate action. It uses its platforms to advocate for climate actions that are gender responsive and it provides training and information on climate advocacy, (https://girlscareja.org)
Youth	Black Lives Matter (BLM) UK – Environmental Justice Campaigns	Though primarily focused on racial justice, BLM UK has expanded its advocacy to include environmental and climate justice, emphasizing how climate change disproportionately affects communities of color, including Afrodescendants. Afrodescendant youth and activists in BLM UK have been vocal about the need for equitable climate policies that address historical injustices linked to colonialism and the environment.
Youth	Afropean Climate Network	This emerging network connects Afro-Descendant communities across Europe to engage in climate advocacy and environmental justice. The network is focused on empowering Afro-Descendant voices in Europe’s climate movement, ensuring that the specific challenges faced by these communities, such as environmental racism and access to green spaces, are addressed in the broader climate justice conversation.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Youth	The Wretched of The Earth	A grassroots collective based in the UK, this organization is led by activists from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, including Afro-Descendants. They work on climate and environmental justice, focusing on decolonizing the environmental movement, and advocating for the inclusion of marginalized voices in climate action. The group organizes campaigns, protests, and educational programs to highlight how climate change and environmental destruction disproportionately impact communities of color, including Afro-Descendants, both in Europe and globally.
Youth	Black Environment Network (BEN) - UK	BEN was founded to address the lack of representation of Black and minority communities in the environmental sector. Though it is not specifically youth-focused, it has inspired younger generations of Afro-Descendant environmental activists. The network works to promote inclusive environmental policies and projects, recognizing the role of racial and social justice within the climate movement.
Youth	Fridays for Future (FFF) – Europe (Afrodescendant Youth Participation)	Within the broader Fridays for Future movement in Europe, there is a growing presence of Afro-Descendant youth who are advocating for climate justice. Afro-Descendant youth activists in countries like Germany, France, and the UK are raising awareness about how climate change intersects with issues of racial inequality and historical colonialism, particularly regarding the extraction of resources from Africa and the global south.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Youth	Climate Justice Alliance UK	This alliance includes a diverse group of activists, including Afro-Descendants, working on climate justice from an intersectional perspective. While not exclusively Afro-Descendant-led, the alliance includes strong participation from Afro-Descendant youth who are advocating for racial and climate justice, emphasizing the global impacts of climate change on Afro-Descendant communities in both Europe and the Global South.
Youth	Jóvenes Afrodescendientes y Cambio Climático (Afro-Descendant Youth and Climate Change)	This is a growing movement that brings together Afro-Descendant youth from across Latin America to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on Afro-Descendant communities. Although not a formal organization, various initiatives are emerging from countries like Colombia and Brazil, where Afro-Descendant populations face environmental injustices, such as displacement and lack of access to resources.
Youth	Kilombo Tenondé – Brazil	This Afro-Brazilian organization focuses on defending the rights of quilombola (Afro-Descendant rural communities descended from enslaved Africans) and promoting environmental justice. While not strictly a youth organization, it has a strong youth component that is increasingly involved in climate action, advocating for the protection of ancestral lands from climate impacts, deforestation, and illegal land grabs. They work on climate justice by emphasizing the cultural and environmental stewardship of Afro-Descendant communities.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Youth	Conectando Territorios – Colombia	This initiative involves Afro-Descendant youth leaders who work to connect rural and urban Afro-Colombian communities in the fight against environmental degradation and climate change. Afro-Descendant youth in Colombia have been at the forefront of advocating for climate justice, especially in regions like the Pacific Coast, which are heavily impacted by climate disasters and systemic inequalities.
Youth	Movimiento Afrodescendiente de América Latina y el Caribe (MALC)	Although primarily a political and cultural organization, MALC includes climate justice as one of its focus areas. Afro-Descendant youth within this movement advocate for environmental justice, given the historical marginalization and ecological threats faced by Afro-Descendant communities, particularly in countries like Honduras, Colombia, and Ecuador.
Youth	Afro-Colombian Youth Organizations	Various Afro-Colombian youth groups, such as those from Chocó and the Pacific Coast, have emerged to address climate justice issues specific to Afro-Descendant communities. These groups often focus on protecting biodiversity, fighting extractive industries, and advocating for the rights of Afro-Descendant communities in the face of climate change.
Youth	Zero Hour	Support youth activists to create a clean, safe, and healthy environment and strengthening advocacy for rights and access to natural resources. The group is Advancing Climate Justice and Inclusivity.
Youth	Earth Uprising	A global, youth-led climate movement that focuses on education, advocacy, and direct action to address the climate crisis.

Operational Domain	Name	Overview
Youth	One Up Action	One Up Action empowers youth to take tangible climate action in their communities. They provide resources, mentorship, and support for young activists to implement local climate solutions. Initiative include: Tree Planting campaign, clean-up drives and advocacy for policy changes at the local level.
Youth	Youth4Nature	A global youth-led organization that advocates for nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. They focus on integrating youth voices into climate policy and action. Initiatives include policy advocacy, story-telling projects and educational programs to promote nature-based climate solutions.
Youth	Fridays for Future	A global youth-led movement inspired by Greta Thunberg's climate strikes. It includes many Afro-Descendant youth activists who are pushing for urgent climate action. It organizes global climate strikes, advocate for climate justice policies, and raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities.

The experiences of Afro-Descendants and the breadth of work our groups and communities are undertaking highlight the intersection of race and environmental injustice – underscoring the urgent need for addressing the inextricability of Black Liberation and climate justice.

CONCLUSION: The Way Forward

The following executive summary of the Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice **Policy Platform**, produced by the scores of member organizations that comprise the Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative, emphasizes the inextricable links between gender justice, climate justice, and Black Afro-Descendant liberation –recognizing that systemic oppression disproportionately impacts women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, especially those who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, queer, trans, disabled, and/or low-income.

We call for centering our leadership, knowledge, self-determination/agency, and needs in all climate and liberation initiatives, and underscore the necessity of a radical commitment to address the disproportionate impact of environmental racism, climate change, and systemic oppression and advance a liberatory system that upholds justice and well-being for all.

The full platform is a living document and is available via the Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative, hosted by The Chisholm Legacy Project.

POLICY DEMANDS

I. Reparations and Restitution

We demand full and unconditional reparations for historical and ongoing injustices including slavery, colonialism, imperialism, and environmental racism that have extracted wealth and resources from Black Afro-Descendant nations and communities.

Reparations must go beyond symbolic acknowledgment to include material, structural, and systemic transformation. The global North bears primary responsibility for the climate crisis due to centuries of industrialization fueled by colonial exploitation. Climate finance from the Global North must be framed as reparations, not aid or charity, nor so called loss and damage. This requires debt cancellation, the return of stolen wealth and land, and the creation of mechanisms ensuring lasting justice, equity, and sovereignty.

II. Economic Justice and Self-Determination

We demand economic systems that prioritize people, communities, and the planet over profit. Economic justice for Black/Afro-Descendant peoples means reclaiming sovereignty over land, labor, and resources that have been exploited through centuries of extraction and racial capitalism.

This requires dismantling exploitative trade and investment frameworks, ensuring fair wages and dignified work, and investing in cooperative, community-owned models of production. We call for the recognition of care work as essential labor, equitable access to credit and technology, and the redistribution of wealth to redress historic and structural inequities.

III. Mitigation, Adaptation, and Environmental Justice

We demand urgent, community-led action to address the climate crisis through equitable mitigation and adaptation efforts rooted in environmental justice. Afro-Descendant and African communities bear the greatest climate burdens despite contributing least to the problem.

Mitigation and adaptation must prioritize loss and damage financing, renewable energy transitions, ecosystem restoration, and protection of water and food systems. We reject market-driven false solutions and call for investments in regenerative economies that sustain both people and the planet while centering Black/ Afro-Descendant leadership and ancestral knowledge.

IV. Health and Well-being

We affirm that health is a fundamental human right and that environmental, social, and economic conditions are essential determinants of well-being. Black Afro-Descendant peoples face disproportionate exposure to pollution, toxic industries, and inequitable health systems rooted in systemic racism.

Achieving health justice requires dismantling these structures and investing in community-based care, mental health, and healing practices grounded in cultural and spiritual traditions. Governments must ensure universal access to healthcare, clean air and water, and climate-resilient infrastructure that prioritizes the needs of our most vulnerable.

V. Gender Justice

We demand a global commitment to gender justice as a central pillar of climate and economic transformation. Black Afro-Descendant women, girls, and gender-diverse people have borne the brunt of intersecting oppressions while leading movements for care, justice, and survival.

True gender justice means equitable access to power, resources, and opportunities, and the dismantling of patriarchal and capitalist systems that exploit women's labor and bodies. Centering feminist leadership ensures that climate and economic policies deliver liberation and sustainability for all.

VI. Disability Justice

We demand that disability justice be fully integrated into all social, economic, and climate policies. Disabled Black Afro-Descendant people face compounded marginalization across systems of health, labor, and migration.

True justice requires dismantling ableism and ensuring accessibility, participation, and leadership for disabled people in every facet of climate interventions. We affirm the principle that our movements must be accessible by design, rooted in interdependence and collective care.

VII. Addressing Forced Migration

We affirm the right of Black Afro-Descendant peoples to stay in their homelands and the right to move safely and with dignity when displacement occurs. Climate change, conflict, and economic injustice continue to force migration and uproot our communities.

We demand policies that recognize migration as an adaptive and survival strategy, not a crime. States must guarantee protections, status, and access to

resources for displaced persons, while addressing the structural causes as what they are: colonialism, militarism, and economic exploitation that drive forced movement.

VIII. Address Trafficking and Modern Slavery

We demand the eradication of all forms of modern slavery, forced labor, and human trafficking that continue to exploit Black Afro-Descendant peoples worldwide for critical resources, free labor and extension of corporate greed. These systems are direct continuations of the transatlantic slave trade and racial capitalism. Justice requires strong protections for migrant and informal workers, accountability for corporate and state actors complicit in exploitation, and reparative measures that restore dignity, safety, and freedom. Addressing trafficking must include gender-responsive, community-led strategies that eliminate vulnerability through education, fair labor practices, and economic sovereignty.

IX. Cultural Preservation and Decolonization

We affirm the right of Black Afro-Descendant peoples to preserve, protect, and revitalize our cultural and spiritual heritage. Colonization sought to erase our histories, languages, and worldviews; decolonization demands their full restoration.

Cultural sovereignty requires the repatriation of stolen artifacts, the protection of sacred sites, and the integration of Indigenous and African knowledge systems in education and governance. We call for global recognition of cultural rights as a foundation for identity, resilience, and liberation.

X. Dismantling Systemic Injustice in the Criminal Justice System

We demand the complete dismantling of racist and colonial policing, surveillance, and carceral systems that criminalize and oppress Black Afro-Descendant communities. From mass incarceration to environmental policing, these systems perpetuate violence and dispossession.

Transformative justice must replace punishment with restoration, accountability, and healing. We call for the reallocation of resources from policing and prisons toward education, health, and community well-being, ensuring safety through care rather than control. We demand freedom for all our political prisoners. Bring them home.

XI. Governance, Participation, and International Cooperation

We demand transparent, inclusive, and participatory governance that centers Afro-Descendant leadership at every level. Our communities must have the power to shape policies that affect our lives, lands, and futures. This includes equitable representation in international climate and economic institutions, accountability in global decision-making, and mechanisms that ensure community voices drive implementation. True cooperation requires decolonized partnerships rooted in justice, solidarity, and shared responsibility for the collective well-being of our planet.

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APPENDIX:

TERMINOLOGY, CONCEPTS, AND DEFINITIONS

Climate Justice: For the purposes of this report, ‘climate justice’ refers to the fair treatment of all people and the right to a healthy environment, with a focus on addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities. (See below for further elaboration.)

Colonial legacies: the legacy of colonialism has left many Afro-Descendant communities in environmentally vulnerable areas, with limited resources to address environmental challenges.

Discriminatory Policies: Historical practices such as redlining and discriminatory zoning laws have contributed to the placement of hazardous facilities in communities of color (Cohen 2020).

Environmental Justice: Just Transition aligns with climate justice by emphasizing fairness, equity, and the well-being of affected communities.

Environmental Racism: The disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color. This includes exposure to pollutants, toxic waste sites and other environmental dangers (Cohen 2020). Examples: Communities of color are often located near industrial facilities, landfills, and other sources of pollution. For instance, a study found that the majority of toxic dumps in the US are located in Black and Latinx communities (Cohen 2020).

Integrated Approach: an integrated approach to both climate and environmental justice recognizes that addressing environmental issues requires considering the interconnectedness of social, economic and political factors.

Intersectionality: It considers the intersection of race, gender, class, and other factors in climate impacts and responses. It is the recognition of intertwined multiple identities. For example, the intersection of climate justice with racial, different able-bodiness, social, and economic justice, the intersection of race, gender, and environmental issues; as well as the intersection with other social issues such as social development—poverty eradication, improving health and education outcomes, biodiversity and conservation and support for ecosystem services. An intersectional approach to environmental justice recognizes that addressing environmental issues requires considering the interconnectedness of social, economic and political factors, (Yale Sustainability 2022 and MIT-AFICC (2021)).

Just Transitions: A Just Transition refers to the shift from fossil fuel-based economies to more sustainable, low-carbon systems while ensuring social and economic justice for workers and communities. It must also include issues of economic diversity and sustainable development and the outlawing of unilateral trade measures that create adverse economic and social conditions for developing countries’ citizens.

Sustainable Development: It promotes sustainable economic models that prioritize people and the planet. In summary, climate justice and Just Transition are interconnected frameworks that advocate for fairness, human rights, and sustainability in the face of environmental and economic changes (de Ruyter & Bentley 2024).

Reparations/Reparative justice and Climate Change: Addressing the historical and ongoing harms caused by climate related damage, especially to vulnerable groups, communities and nations. This speaks to the historical and contemporary responsibility of wealth industrialized nations who are primarily responsible for the accumulated emissions contributing to present day global warming. Reparative justice is about restoring dignity, fairness and equity by providing finance, transferring environmentally sustainable and support for capacity building with regard to clean infrastructure, fostering resilience and adapting to climate change. (Please also see appendix on Climate Reparations/ reparations.)

Climate Justice - Evolution key aspects and core principles

Climate justice refers to the fair, equitable and just distribution of benefits and burdens related to climate change. It emphasizes the rights of vulnerable communities, including those disproportionately affected by climate impacts. It is inextricably intertwined with the just transitions frameworks that advocate for fairness, human rights, and sustainability in the face of environmental and economic changes.

Key foundational texts:

- US-centered environmental Justice principles as a blueprint
- Bali Principles of Climate Justice to “redefine climate change from a human rights and environmental justice perspective”
- 2004 Durban Declaration on Carbon Trading, which criticized the way in which markets turned “the earth’s carbon-cycling capacity into property to be bought or sold in a global market”.

Events: 2000 Climate Justice Summit (organized by CorpWatch; COP6, the Hague)

Groups: The Climate Justice Now (created at COP13 in Bali, when Friends of the Earth International split from CAN and joined with global south organizations to form Climate Justice Now!) and the Global Campaign to Demand Climate justice.

Demands: What does the climate justice movement want?

- “Fair shares” of emissions
- Climate debt and climate finance
- No “false solutions”
- Just transition
- End Fossil fuels and “corporate capture”

Core principles of climate justice

Equity and Fairness: ensuring fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, national origin, or income in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policy (UCCJ n.d.) Climate justice seeks to ensure that all people, regardless of their socio-economic status, race, or location, have equal protection and opportunities to thrive in the face of climate change. Recognizing that historically marginalized communities face a triple injustice—they are disproportionately affected by climate change, have less capacity and are often excluded from decision making (UCCCJ, n.d.).

Human Rights: It recognizes that climate change threatens fundamental human rights, such as right to life, health, food, clean air, water, shelter and a healthy environment. It frames climate change as a human rights issue, advocating for the protection of basic rights such as access to clean water, food, and a safe environment. The right to development is also a key human right ¹⁹.

Examples of how human rights and climate impacts are related:

Effects	Examples of affected rights
Extreme weather events	Right to life
Increased food insecurity and risk of hunger Right	Right to adequate food, right to be free from hunger
Increased water stress	Right to safe drinking water
Stress on health status	Right to the highest attain able standard of health
Sea-level rise and flooding	Right to adequate housing

Source: UNHCR, Climate Change Displacement and International Law: Complementary Protection Standards. 2011, Cited in OAS (2017).

The right to development encompasses and is inclusive of all other human rights. It asserts that every person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development. Noting that development is a “comprehensive process aimed at improving the well-being of individuals and the realization of their full human potential. Development should benefit all people and promote equality within and among countries. Development should be:

¹⁹ First articulated in 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development (adopted by the UN GA): “development is an inalienable human right, and that all people are entitled to a global environment in which they can fully realize their development potential. Within the context of climate justice the issues and tensions include balancing the development needs of poor countries with the global imperative to limit emissions and protect the environment; need for climate finance and tech transfer to enable developing countries to pursue low carbon development without sacrificing efforts on poverty eradication, education, health etc.; historical responsibility for the majority of GHGs are the accountability of developed countries hence they have the responsibility to provide climate finance to support the countries that are impacted by it in the global south.

Human-centered (prioritizing the wellbeing and rights of individual—improving health, education, living standards, and social protection);

Participatory and inclusive: individuals and communities should have the right to participate in decision-making processes that affect their development, ensuring that policies are inclusive and reflective of diverse needs and perspectives;

Equitable and fair: the benefit of development should be distributed equitably aiming to reduce inequalities within and between countries. This means addressing poverty, ensuring access to resources and providing opportunities for marginalized groups;

Sovereignty over natural resources: Nations, particularly developing countries, have the right to control their own resources and pursue development strategies that align with national interests and goals; and

International Cooperation and accountability: The global community has a responsibility to assist developing countries in achieving their right to development, through aid, fair trade, technology transfer, and debt relief. Developed countries are expected to provide support as part of global development obligations.

Procedural: Procedural Justice: Emphasizes fair, transparent, and inclusive decision-making processes. It thus ensures that all stakeholders, especially those most affected have a voice in climate-related policies and actions (ibid).

Distributive Justice: Focuses on the fair and equitable distribution of the costs and benefits (allocation of resources and burdens) of climate change and its mitigation efforts. This includes ensuring that vulnerable communities receive adequate support and resources to adapt to climate impacts.

Recognition Justice: the importance of acknowledging and valuing the diverse identities, cultures, knowledge systems, and experiences of marginalized or historically oppressed groups. The aim is to address the misrecognitions or disrespect that these groups often face in climate policy and related decision-making processes, ensuring that their voices, perspectives, and contributions are fully recognized and valued.

Historical Responsibility: Acknowledging that those who have contributed the most to climate change (industrialized countries) have a greater responsibility to address its impacts (ibid).

Global Responsibility: Wealthy nations, which have historically contributed to GHG emissions have a responsibility to lead in reducing emissions and supporting vulnerable countries through financial and technological assistance (Arcaya and Gribkoff (2022)).

Climate Debt & Climate reparations: Wealthier nations and corporations are called upon to pay their climate debt by providing climate and technological support to countries that are most affected by climate change. This includes

meeting their fair share of both mitigating climate emissions and providing finance for climate change adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage (Molesworth, A. 2021, the.conversation.org)

Climate Reparations: compensatory actions, principally, climate finance, capacity building, technology transfers aimed at addressing the historical and ongoing environmental injustices caused by the disproportionate contribution of industrialized nations to climate change. Wealthy nations having contributed and benefitted the most from global warming must bear the burden of its consequences. (Intertwined with 'fair shares, below. Both are based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capacity; but climate reparations has its roots in colonialism and conquest and enslavement).

Fair shares: the equitable distribution of responsibility for mitigating climate change and dealing with its effects. Wealthy countries should contribute to climate actions in proportion to their historical emissions, wealth and ability to respond. High income countries such as the US and the EU members must take on greater share of emissions reductions, and financial commitments, while lower-income and developing (Global South) contribute according to their capacity. Fair shares calculation has the triple elements of: 1) historical responsibility (accounting for emission since the industrial revolution); 2) Capacity to act—given the economic resources and technological capacity; and 3) equitable contributions ensuring that wealthier nations and historical high polluters contribute more to global climate finance and mitigation/adaptation efforts. (Intertwined with climate reparations, above. Both are about addressing the inequalities of climate impacts and responsibilities, with the goal of creating a more just global climate response.)

Key Aspects of Operationalizing climate justice

Participation: Climate justice involves meaningful participation of affected communities in decision-making processes.

Intersectionality: It considers the intersection of race, gender, class, and other factors in climate impacts and responses. It rejects all forms of economic imperialist and false solutions that would perpetuate the continuation of harms to vulnerable communities. This includes a critical approach to net zero emissions. It extends to climate litigation. It seeks to bring a justice perspective to climate science.

Inclusive Policy-Making: By highlighting the voices and experiences of those most affected, climate justice promotes more inclusive and effective policy-making. (Please see also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_justice)

Rejection and fighting against both climate gentrification and carbon colonialism.

Sustainable Development: It supports sustainable development goals by addressing the root causes of environmental degradation and promoting

practices that benefit both people and the planet. In essence, climate justice is about creating a fair and just transition to a sustainable future, ensuring that no community is left behind.

Global and Local Dimensions

Global Responsibility: Wealthy nations, which have historically contributed the most to green house gas emissions, have a responsibility to lead in reducing emissions and supporting vulnerable countries through financial and technological assistance (Arcaya and Gribkoff 2022).

Local Action: Climate justice also involves empowering local communities to lead climate action, recognizing their unique knowledge and capabilities in addressing climate impacts (UCCCJ n.d.).

Climate Justice Movements and Initiatives

Grassroots Movements: Many climate Justice movements are led by grassroots organizations that advocated for the rights of marginalized communities and push for system change. (UCCCJ, n.d.); They advocate for international agreements like the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement to include provisions for climate justice, emphasizing the need for developed countries to support developing nations in their climate efforts, (Arcaya and Gribkoff 2022).