



VOICES IN ACTION

February 2025 Newsletter

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR 2025!

We are excited to share the latest updates from the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) programme and its partners.

This edition highlights transformative climate initiatives, funding opportunities, and impactful community projects worldwide.

"As we enter the final year of this transformative programme, we reflect with pride on the collective achievements of our diverse and growing network—one that transcends national boundaries and amplifies the voices of the "hard to reach" and those at the forefront of climate action. By elevating local perspectives, we have contributed to significant governance shifts, ensuring that climate policies and solutions reflect the realities of those most affected. The impact of providing rapid funding for locally led climate adaptation is becoming increasingly evident. These pioneering initiatives are already demonstrating tangible results, and with the right support, their scalability and replication can drive lasting change."

Looking ahead, we remain committed to leveraging our strengths, resources, and partnerships to extend our reach, enhance visibility, and deepen our impact beyond 2025. However, we recognise that this mission cannot be achieved in isolation. We call on like-minded organisations, donors, and philanthropists to join us in sustaining and scaling this vital work. We invite you to be inspired by the powerful stories emerging from our implementing countries and to collaborate with us in driving just, inclusive, and community-led climate action."

Thandiwe Chikomo, VCA Programme Director

IN THIS EDITION

► GLOBAL PROGRAMME UPDATES

featured is the Next Level Grant Facility - a small grants mechanism implemented within the VCA.

► PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

read about the initiatives and collaborations that were the highlights for our programme.

► FROM OUR COUNTRIES

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PARAGUAY | TUNISIA | ZAMBIA

follow the stories and achievements from our implementing countries

► PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

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browse upcoming opportunities, international days and online events



The Next Level Grants Facility (NLGF)

The **Next Level Grant Facility** (NLGF) is a small grants mechanism to the value of Euro 3.5 million within VCA that fosters a bottom-up decision-making approach, where communities and local allies play a key role in identifying priorities and defining solutions to climate change.

These small funds are granted to local partners or organisations in the programme's seven implementing countries, namely Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Paraguay, Tunisia and Zambia, to quickly respond to emergencies, unforeseen activities or emerging opportunities that contribute to the overall Theory of Change of the VCA. Such emergencies and activities can take many forms and depend on the local context.

Lessons from Implementing the VCA's Next Level Grants Facility



Since the conceptualisation and inception of this small grants mechanism, the **Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA)** programme has disbursed over € 1 million to local groups and communities. In **a reflective piece** some of the key lessons in implementing the NLGF thus far are highlighted.

These lessons have been drawn from several cross-regional learning sessions that facilitated

knowledge sharing and adaptative management between the NLGF's Fund Managers.

NLGF Activities in our Countries



Pantanal: "The water factory is running out of water"

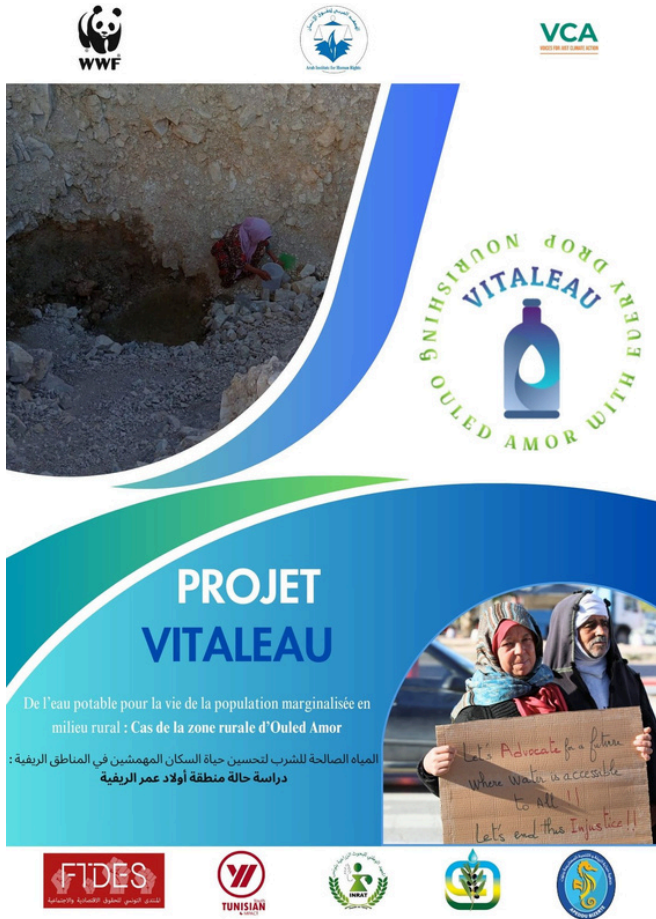


The Bolivian Pantanal is a natural jewel, a veritable "water factory" that sustains the lives of countless species and communities. However, its importance remains poorly understood, and its future is increasingly uncertain. The lack of clear and accessible information has led managers, authorities and society to pay insufficient attention to the fragility of this ecosystem.

Aware of this reality, Doly Leytón and the scientific-technical team (photographers, illustrators, animation, journalists and web development) of La Región decided to act through the Next Level Grant Facility - NLGF and its opportunities fund in Bolivia. **Read more...**

TUNISIA

NLGF Vitaleau Project



The Vitaleau project, implemented in the Ouled Amor region, represents a transformative step toward addressing water scarcity and enhancing community resilience. Supported by the Arab Institute for Human Rights, WWF, and local partners, the project delivered 16 water tanks to benefit individual households and community facilities. This initiative addressed urgent needs and laid the foundation for long-term development.

Listen to the short video stories of two women, Radhia and Eya, and the impacts the project has had on their lives.

Want to learn about further impacts of the project? **Download the Vitaleau Project newsletter.**

ZAMBIA

Launch of the Next Level Grant Facility

The Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) Alliance in Zambia was proud to launch the Next Level Grant Facility at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

This momentous event was graced by the Director of Climate Change, Her Royal Highness Chieftainess Muwezwa the First, and other distinguished stakeholders in the climate space.

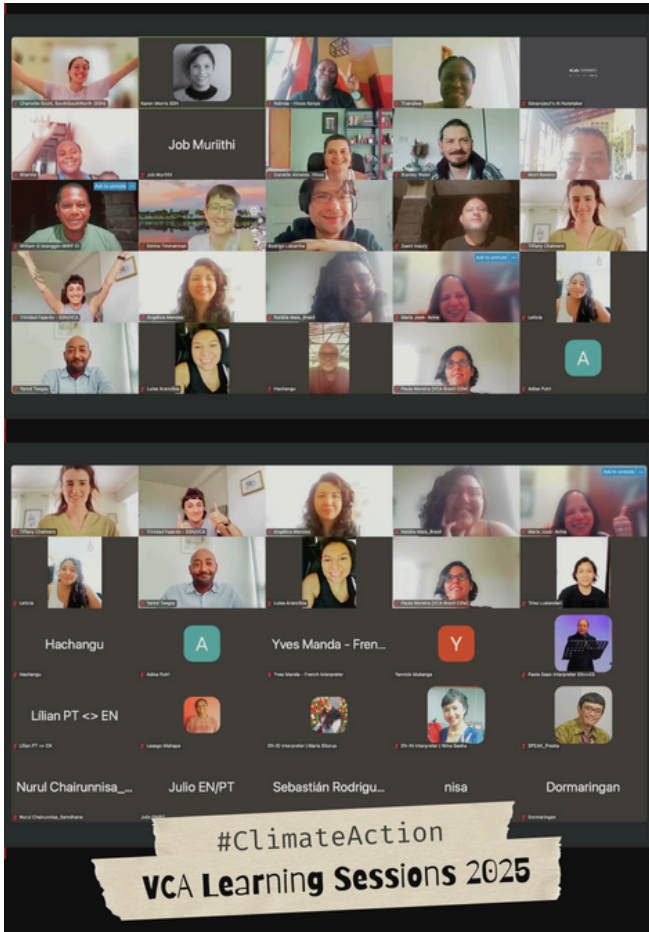
The discussions have highlighted the importance of locally-led adaptation in addressing the impacts of climate change. All speakers reaffirmed their commitment to climate justice and have officially signed an agreement to continue supporting community-driven climate solutions. **Read more about the launch in this blog.**



In a related topic, VCA Zambia congratulates those selected for the first phase of the **Voices for Just Climate Action - VCA Zambia** Next Level Grant!

Watch Mama Alice Phiri from the Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation explain to **Mary Mulinda** on **Know Your City TV Zambia** how this initiative puts climate financing directly in the hands of communities with locally-led adaptation solutions for the climate crisis.

REFLECTIONS AND INSIGHTS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VCA VIRTUAL LEARNING WORKSHOP



In the last week of January 2025, the VCA held a successful virtual learning workshop that brought regional teams together for deep reflection and knowledge-sharing.

The event focused on reviewing lessons learned and discussing programme successes, challenges, and actionable insights. Alliance members engaged in interactive sessions, exploring how best to strengthen local ownership, amplify citizen voices, and enhance advocacy strategies for climate action. Valuable takeaways were shared, helping shape future programming.

Thank you to all who contributed. This workshop provided a powerful platform for cross-regional dialogue, reinforcing our commitment to collective growth and deeper impact.

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MONITORS TRAINING PROGRAMME



The **Community Environmental Justice Monitors Training Programme** was successfully completed and developed in partnership with the Bolivian Society of Environmental Law (SBDA). More than 250 people enrolled in this initiative, with the active participation of 80 leaders and environmental defenders from over 15 municipalities across the country. Over four months, participants acquired key tools to defend their rights and strengthen environmental justice in their territories.

This programme was made possible thanks to the support of Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) of WWF Bolivia, along with the valuable collaboration of SBDA and Universidad Nur. Its impact reflects the growing need for initiatives that empower communities in the fight against environmental crimes and promote fairer and more sustainable development.

TEDXTOBORACHI: VOICES OF CHANGE



TEDxToborochi, organised by SBDA on November 28, with the support of WWF Bolivia under a TED license, brought together 20 inspiring voices from the Pantanal, Chiquitanía, and Chaco regions for the “Voices for Change” conferences. Following the TEDxCountdown format, the event promoted solutions to the climate crisis and highlighted stories of community leadership, social participation, and environmental conservation. Key topics included the role of Indigenous youth, women's empowerment, and the importance of biodiversity knowledge in addressing climate challenges.

Held at the Spanish Cooperation Training Center (AECID) with more than 150 participants, the event featured the participation of women leaders, youth, Indigenous representatives, defenders, activists, scientists, and communicators, among others.

“We believe that ideas have the power to transform realities, and each story shared at TEDxToborochi is a step toward change for the conservation of our resources,” said Alfonso Llobet, interim representative of WWF Bolivia.

A DREAM COME TRUE: SAN JOSÉ DE CHIQUITOS ESTABLISHES ITS FIRST MUNICIPAL PROTECTED AREA



What began as a dream of the Quituquiña Indigenous Community is now a reality. Thanks to the leadership of Zoila Zeballos, an environmental leader and defender trained in the Community Environmental Justice Monitors Programme, and the collective effort of local leaders and community members, San José de Chiquitos has taken a historic step in protecting its territory. In December, the **Municipal Council approved Municipal Autonomous Law /211**, officially establishing the Los Piyos Pedagogical Forest Municipal Protected Area. Spanning 717 hectares, this space helps regulate the local climate, safeguards water sources, forests, and medicinal plants, and offers significant opportunities for community-based tourism, handicraft production, and essential educational values for the region.

This achievement is a victory for the community and sets a precedent in environmental governance and sustainable development. Driven by the Bolivian Society of Environmental Law (SBDA) with the support of the VCA - WWF Bolivia project, this milestone highlights the power of community organisations in preserving their environment, strengthening their identity, and ensuring a greener and more sustainable future for generations to come.

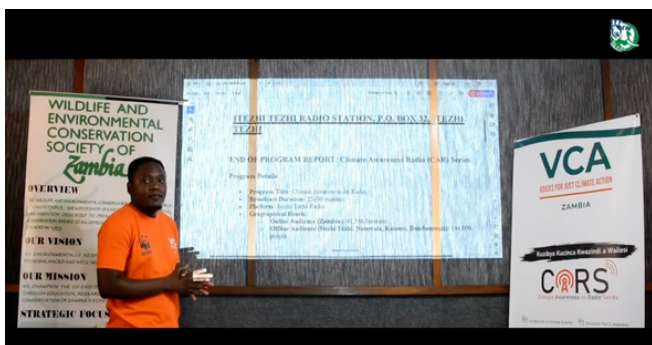
JOURNEY TO BELEM/COP30: AMPLIFYING INDIGENOUS VOICES FROM THE AMAZON



In the heart of the Amazon rainforest, where Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru converge, the Hivos team recently participated in a transformative event that reinforced the critical importance of Indigenous leadership in climate action. The CUIDA initiative (CARE - Amazon Incidence by Climate), supported by Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA), brought them to Brasília and Xapuri in Acre, Brazil, gathering more than 50 participants from VCA coalitions across Brazil's North, Northeast, and Southeast regions to share advocacy strategies for climate action.

Read more about this immersive journey in the blog...

CLIMATE AWARENESS ON RADIO SERIES REACHES OUT TO 185000+ LISTENERS



In the quest to reach out to a broad spectrum of young people in the Itezhi-Tezhi District with environmental education/awareness, the **Wildlife and Environmental Conservation**

Society of Zambia - WECSZ partnered with **ITT Radio 90.9 FM** to air the 'Climate Awareness on Radio' Series – CARS. The radio programme aired every week on Thursday for 25-50 minutes. What is key to note is that it was garnished with live phone calls at the end of every session to facilitate active engagement with the audience. This allowed listeners to call in and give feedback or share sentiments on environmental or climate change-related issues.

During a field assessment exercise on 6 December 2024, the Station Manager - Mr Joseph Kapandula, gave a report presentation on the performance of the radio programme from January to October this year. He disclosed that the radio programme reached 185000+ listeners, with 34% accounting for young people aged 18 to 30 years.

The presentation recording is available on the WECSZ Facebook page.

STRENGTHENING PEER LEARNING BETWEEN GRASSROOTS WOMEN IN LUANGWA



In the heart of Zambia, grassroots women's groups are leading the charge toward sustainable community development. Through a unique exchange programme, the Katondwe Alliance of Women (KAW) and the Kanyama Women's Federation have come together to share knowledge and innovative practices, transforming environmental challenges into opportunities for growth.

Read more about this unique learning exchange.

THE LOMA COMMUNITY RECOVERS ITS ANCESTRAL TERRITORY



5 February 2025 marked a turning point for the Loma Indigenous community of the Guaraní Ñandeva people in the Paraguayan Chaco, as they finally received title to 10,000 hectares of their ancestral territory. This achievement comes after 41 years of sustained struggle in the face of invasions and state indifference.

With VCA's support, in April 2024, representatives of the community travelled to Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, located 800 km from their territory, to ask, once again, for their claim to be heard. At that time, they obtained a commitment from President Santiago Peña, which finally came to fruition this month.

This title recognises their right to live in their home harmoniously with their identity and culture. For the women of Loma, land is life and justice: it means food for their families and protecting the forests they have cared for for generations.

However, the challenges are not over. Despite this progress, threats persist: the invaded territory resulted in the destruction of more than 3,000 hectares of native forest, putting their livelihoods at risk. The land title is just the beginning of a long road to defend the land, the environment and a dignified future for the community.

AN EDITION TO CELEBRATE



In December, the Emancipa Paraguay team prepared a special edition of the monthly newsletter, Echoes of VCA. In the material, they summarised the most significant achievements of the project throughout the year, which served as a reminder and also as a celebration of achievements that are not usually taken into account.

Emancipa Paraguay, **SouthSouthNorth**'s local partner, produces this material on a monthly basis as a way of connecting local partners and expanding the scope of their activities and achievements within the project. **Download your copy.**

WOMEN IN CLIMATE SPACES



With the support of Akina Mama wa Afrika under the Voices for Just Climate Action programme, the Lamu Women Alliance brought together various women from different locations in Lamu for a groundbreaking exhibition under the theme "Women in Climate Spaces." The event celebrated women's role in addressing climate change through sustainable and community-driven initiatives. [Read more...](#)

TUNISIAN YOUTH IMPACT'S EDUCATIONAL CLIMATE CARD GAME



Tunisian Youth Impact (TYI), an NGO founded in 2018, focuses on governance, democracy, and climate justice under the VCA programme. Through the Resilient Tunisian Cities 2.0 project, TYI developed an educational climate card game in collaboration with Yajoura Games to simplify climate justice concepts and engage youth civil society, and municipalities. The game, tested and refined through regional workshops, has gained

significant traction, leading to ongoing collaborations with Les Scouts Tunisiens, NGOs, and municipal representatives.

Tunisia faces severe climate injustices, including water scarcity, desertification, and biodiversity loss, disproportionately affecting youth through unemployment, migration, and exclusion from decision-making.

TYI, supported by Hivos and VCA, continues to expand its climate education efforts, advocate for youth participation in climate policies, and develop a digital version of the game despite challenges such as funding limitations, political instability, and extreme weather conditions.

[Read more about this educational initiative.](#)

INDONESIA CLIMATE WEEK 2024: CELEBRATING LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL IMPACT



In December 2024, Indonesia Climate Week emerged as a dynamic platform amplifying the voices of those at the forefront of the climate crisis. Held at the iconic Taman Ismail Marzuki in Jakarta, the event carried the theme "Celebrating Local Climate Action for Global Impact", bringing together policymakers, activists, artists, and local communities.

Through a fusion of discussion, art, and grassroots initiatives, the festival showcased the power of locally-led climate solutions and called for urgent, equitable action. [Read more...](#)

BOLIVIA

"ABUELA GRILLO" RETURNS WITH A MESSAGE OF STRUGGLE AND HOPE



Fundación Avina, in collaboration with PICA Bolivia, is proud to announce the return of Abuela Grillo, a symbol of resistance and the fight for water in Bolivia. This new animated adventure continues the powerful story of the awicha (grandmother in Aymara language), inspiring society to reflect on the importance of fair access to water—a fundamental right for life and sustainable development.

This project seeks to raise awareness among new generations about the urgency of protecting our water resources. With her return, Abuela Grillo reminds us that water is not a commodity but a common good that must be defended to ensure a fair and sustainable future for all.

FROM FEAR TO ACTION: OJO DE AGUA'S FIGHT FOR CLEAN WATER AND SOIL

In the heart of the Gran Chaco Autonomous Region of Tarija, Bolivia, the community of Ojo de Agua has long faced an environmental crisis that threatens its health, livestock, and crops.

For years, families observed oil upwelling in their lands, raising concerns about soil and water contamination without the means to confirm their suspicions. Determined to uncover the truth, community leaders Romina Urzagaste and Dina Aliaga spearheaded an environmental monitoring initiative. Their findings - high levels of fecal coliform in the water - provided crucial evidence to inform residents and local authorities.



Armed with data, the community advocates for sustainable solutions to safeguard their water, land, and future. [Read more...](#)

AYOREOS OF THE GRAN PANTANAL ACHIEVE FAIR CONTRACTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR FORESTS



In the Bolivian Gran Pantanal, the Pilay and Manantial communities of TIOC Guayé faced challenges in controlling the harvest of their forest resources due to a lack of oversight in timber harvesting. With legal assistance from ORE, they established a mixed forestry committee and developed a model contract to ensure fair payment and transparent resource management.

This initiative, supported by training in the native Zamuco language, empowered the communities to speak Spanish and provided a tool that protects their legal rights and contracts in favour of the community. [Read more...](#)

INDONESIA

BUILDING LOCAL LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ACTION



Aryani Newa Humba, a young leader from Mondu Village, East Sumba, is making a significant impact through environmental conservation and sustainable farming. As a Sunday School teacher, she educates children about climate change while leading regular beach clean-ups. She also chairs the Luri Panamu Farmers Group, encouraging alternative crops and traditional farming methods to adapt to changing weather conditions.

Supported by Koppesda and the Adaptation Coalition, Aryani inspires her community, proving that small, consistent actions can drive meaningful change. [Read more about her inspiring initiatives.](#)

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MELAN, MOUNT LEWOTOBI, AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Meilany Wungubelen's days in November and December 2024 were notably busy. She moved from one post to another, volunteering and assisting survivors of the eruption of Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki.

Along with her friends from the Coalition of Young People's Groups for Climate Change (KOPI), she became a storyteller for children and the elderly. [Read more about her work...](#)

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND VULNERABILITY OF SANITATION ACCESS ON ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED URBAN WOMEN

Climate change affects women, particularly economically disadvantaged urban women. Their vulnerability to decent sanitation has been exposed due to the impact of the climate crisis.

During the Indonesian Climate Week (ICW) in December 2024, a workshop led by SPEAK Indonesia (VCA Partners) and Jejaring AMPL (WASH Network) facilitated an interactive discussion between practitioners and participants, addressing the voice of women living in the underprivileged urban neighbourhood to be heard and shared among many. [Read more...](#)

BUILDING LOCAL LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ACTION



In December 2024, Jakarta witnessed the importance of community leadership in facing the challenges of climate change in the "Community Climate Leadership" session, which was part of the Indonesia Climate Week event series.

One of the main speakers in this session was Yuni from the C4Ledger and Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), who presented her research results on climate vulnerability and the role of local leadership in climate action. [Learn more about the research findings and the role of local champions in climate action.](#)

WOMEN'S MOBILISATION IN WASTE MANAGEMENT MAPPING



In 2023, Yogyakarta faced a significant challenge: a waste emergency that called for the community to take charge of their household waste management. Rising to the occasion, residents adapted swiftly, rallying to activate the Waste Bank and enhance their organic waste processing skills.

A remarkable development occurred in May 2024 when the Women Federation Gedongkiwo (WFGK) stepped forward, honing their abilities and teaming up with the Waste Bank Association to conduct innovative training on waste facility tagging. [Read more...](#)

206.641 HECTARES OF FOREST OFFICIALLY ALLOCATED TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN INDONESIA



Great news from Indonesia! An area around three times the size of New York, 206.641 hectares, has received official recognition as land belonging to Indigenous communities who have lived there for centuries. But why is this important for you and me? To understand, we need to explore the global importance of Indonesia's forests and the relevance of the local communities living in them. [Read more...](#)

VOICES OF THE ASMAT



In this video, the Pomar Sirau Indigenous community speak about the struggle to protect and recognise their customary territory rights as an effort for a local nature-based solution through participatory mapping.

KENYA

WOMEN LEADING THE WAY IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY



Through the Women Inclusion in Climate Justice project with the support of Akina Mama wa Afrika under the VCA programme, Lamu Women Alliance has enabled women in Lamu to embrace sustainable business that not only uplifts their families but also champions climate justice. By fostering these innovations and eco-friendly practices, these women are leading change towards a greener future. [Read more...](#)

THE VOICE OF NATURE



For years, schools in Kilifi County relied on smoky, firewood-hungry three-stone stoves, contributing to deforestation and health hazards. But change is here!

Thanks to a partnership between CCAK, Kilifi County Government, and WWF-Kenya, schools are transitioning to clean cooking stoves, reducing fuel consumption, cutting costs, and creating healthier cooking environments. Katana Ngala Secondary School is leading the way!

Watch how clean cooking is transforming lives and protecting our environment.

PARAGUAY

CAMP FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEER PARK RANGERS



This summer saw the 13th edition of the Volunteer Support Programme in Protected Areas (PAVAP). With support from the VCA, OPADES, the project's local partner, was able to select 80 young people for a total of four camps held in the Ybycuí National Park Reserve, some 145 kilometres from Asunción.

During this camp, the volunteers participate in a training programme for park rangers, recognition of the local fauna and flora, as well as helping with the cleaning, maintenance and beautification of the trails and common areas of the park.

Rosa Benítez, Ybycuí's first female head ranger, highlighted the great help that this activity represents for the park administration, which has limited resources for the renovation of signage and other improvements that are usually carried out during the days.

THE SECOND EDITION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM PROGRAMME



Addressing the climate crisis and promoting informed and effective journalistic coverage is an urgent need in Paraguay. For this reason, the second edition of the 'Journalism for Climate Action' initiative is underway. To make it possible, local partners VCA Global Infancia, El Surtidor and Emancipa Paraguay have joined forces, with the support of WWF-Paraguay, Fundación Avina and SouthSouthNorth.

The great impact of the first edition of this action agenda motivated the partners to carry out a second edition, seeking to strengthen the capacities of press workers in addressing global warming and its impacts in Paraguay and combat the misinformation that hinders climate action.

A series of activities will be carried out to promote journalism committed to the environment and sustainability, including training courses in the Paraguayan Chaco, reporting funds for Paraguay and the region (Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina and others) and, to top it all off, the Paraguayan Environmental Journalism Award will be announced.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN ALTO PARAGUAY'S COMMUNITIES

In the Paraguayan Chaco and Pantanal, access to banking is limited, and several remote towns and communities do not have a bank or its services. Actions are being undertaken to bridge this gap through an MOU signed between WWF-Paraguay and the National Bank (Banco Nacional de Fomento, BNF).

Pro comunidades Indígenas (PCI), one of VCA's local partners, collaborates with several productive associations from rural and Indigenous communities in the Pantanal, dedicated to traditional handicrafts, fishing, beekeeping, and diverse small-scale food production. With the support of VCA, PCI has co-designed a training process with them, including basic accountability, digital marketing, and entrepreneurship.

These efforts are leveraged by financial education and banking services provided by the Social Bank of BNF. A first field trip was organised in November, addressing local and Indigenous communities around Fuerte Olimpo, providing access to banking tools, such as a bank app and a bank card. A second field trip in February was focused on communities around Carmelo Peralta.

The gatherings gathered with a lot of interest and enthusiasm from community members, as for many of them it was the first time they accessed these services. Access to banking services facilitates efficient and secure payment mechanisms in a context where digital transactions are becoming increasingly frequent. It also reduces the difficulties associated with transferring money, and the additional costs financial entities impose.

This collaborative work will strengthen the financial autonomy of rural and Indigenous people and their associations and give them resources to make informed financial decisions. As the programme continues, more communities will gain the tools to strengthen their financial autonomy and resilience.

TUNISIA

ECHOES OF THE OASIS: ART, ACTIVISM, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Gabès, a city in southeastern Tunisia, was once a thriving oasis where nature and tradition wove an intricate dance of sustainability. Farmers cultivated the land with wisdom passed down through generations, artisans shaped raw materials into works of beauty, and fishermen lived in harmony with the rhythm of the sea. But that harmony was disrupted. In its place now stands the imposing Tunisian Chemical Group, an industrial giant with towering red-and-white chimneys that loom over the city like silent sentinels of a broken promise. [Read more...](#)

"GREEN NESS" PODCAST SERIES



"Green Ness" is a podcast series that gives a voice to young people committed to a greener planet. Each episode highlights inspiring initiatives and passionate voices working towards a more sustainable future.

Through insightful discussions with activists, experts, and project leaders, we explore concrete solutions to protect our planet. Together, let's amplify their message! **Discover and subscribe** now.

CRAFT YOUR STORY



As part of an innovative learning journey, students and teachers engaged in a participatory sketchnoting process to visually document and narrate success stories from the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) programme. Collectif Creatif partner has collaborated with Hivos to implement this activity. [Read more...](#)

ZAMBIA

'THE TALKING TREE SCULPTURE'

The Talking Tree Sculpture – an innovative environmental art project by NewZambian Innovations under Hivos-supported by VCA – is taking shape in Lusaka. Spearheaded by Alexis Phiri of Kachere Art Studio, the sculpture repurposes reclaimed materials to spark climate awareness. Supported by artists, sculptors, and

community members, this evolving masterpiece embodies creativity, sustainability, and collective action.

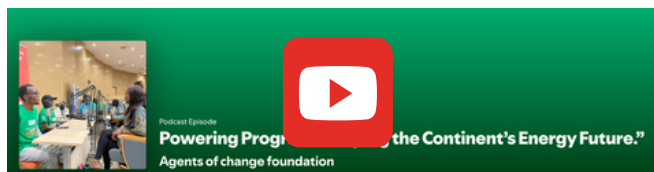
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SUCCESS STORIES FROM LUANGWA



Grassroots communities are increasingly recognised as critical stakeholders in the fight against climate change. Their unique insights into local ecosystems and their capacity for collective action make them valuable contributors to climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. A community-to-community exchange programme between the Kanayama Women's Federation and the Katondwe Alliance of Women has demonstrated how community linkages can significantly enhance grassroots climate action.

[Read more about this successful initiative...](#)

POWERING PROGRESS: SHAPING THE CONTINENT'S ENERGY FUTURE



In this podcast, speakers dive into Africa's sustainable energy future. Featuring insights from Kenya's own Cherop, we discuss innovative pathways, challenges, and solutions for a resilient energy landscape across the continent.

[Join the conversation](#) and be part of the change!

COCCA PROJECT CHANGING LIVES IN ITEZHI-TEZHI DISTRICT

Since December 2021, the **Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia - WECSZ** has been implementing the 'Community Coined Climate Action' - CoCCA Project in Itezhi-Tezhi District, with support from the **Voices for Just Climate Action - VCA Zambia** programme through **WWF Zambia**.

Having concluded the project's implementation phase, WWF and WECSZ conducted a 2-day joint Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Field Exercise from 19th - 20th December 2024. The M&E exercise aimed to assess the project's environmental and socio-economic impacts/outcomes in the communities. [Learn more about this project.](#)

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE COLLABORATION IN AMPLIFYING CLIMATE ACTION

Among the many activities in Zambia are dialogue sessions to foster knowledge exchange between youth and community leaders on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). The exchange combines traditional environmental practices with innovative ideas for sustainable climate action.

The activity in Mazabuka sought to promote collaboration between youth and community leaders in developing and implementing community-led NbS initiatives, such as reforestation, water management, and sustainable agriculture. The goal was to empower the Mazabuka community to take ownership of climate action by identifying local challenges and NbS solutions.

By involving youth and leaders, the dialogue aimed to ensure that climate solutions are inclusive, relevant, and sustainable, addressing the community's specific needs and priorities.

YOUTH-LED INITIATIVES IN BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS



The **People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia** promotes youth-led **sustainable agriculture** initiatives to build more resilient food systems.

Listen to Theresa Piri, a beneficiary of the hydroponics initiative, as she talks about hydroponics for urban farming.

EMPOWERING VOICES: HOW ART AND MUSIC ARE TRANSFORMING CLIMATE AWARENESS

On 24th January 2025, Zambian musician Moses Sakala performed 'Kowela', a new song produced under the Voices for Climate Action (VCA) initiative by NewZambian Innovations, supported by Hivos, at an art and music exhibition in Lusaka.

According to Moses, the song is a parable about a bird which visits a village to inform them of the onset of rain. In the song, the community cuts

the tree, and the bird disappears, leading to drought and environmental catastrophe. Moses is one of Zambia's leading musicians whose approach seeks to discuss biodiversity and climate change from an Indigenous Zambian perspective to identify with the complex issue in an authentic African way. **Read more about his collaboration with other artists...**

ART AND ACTIVISM: CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVISM THROUGH ART



In the Voices from Cities room, young people came together to explore and express their emotions and ideas through various art forms, showcasing the unique power of creativity in social change. This session highlighted the importance of providing young people a platform to channel their inner voices, often filled with raw emotion, curiosity, and a desire for change, into advocacy for their communities' issues. Art is a powerful vehicle for young individuals to address inequality, environmental challenges, and social justice.

By fostering spaces that allow young people to use their artistic talents as a form of activism, we enable them to communicate their struggles and hopes in ways that resonate deeply with others, encouraging dialogue, understanding, and collective action. **See more on the KnowYourCity. TV Facebook page.**

COMMUNITY YOUTH IN MEDIA COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE



Meet **Isaac Mwendo**, a passionate youth Reporter from Chongwe. He is a beacon of hope for his community through his inspiring initiative promoting reforestation. His journey began when he attended training under the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) programme. The training focused on equipping young people with basic media skills and theatre for development techniques.

During the training, Isaac learned how to effectively use media and drama to communicate crucial messages about climate change. The programme encouraged participants to advocate for environmental sustainability creatively and proactively through role plays and community engagement strategies.

[Read more about this story from the field...](#)

SIGNING FOR CHANGE: LEADERS AND COMMUNITY UNITE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

In a historic moment, Her Royal Highness Chieftainess Muwezwa I stepped forward, her presence commanding attention. With a firm pen stroke, she signed a pledge to champion local climate action. This act was more than symbolic—it was a rallying cry for communities, leaders, and policymakers to unite against climate change.

[Read more about the momentous occasion...](#)

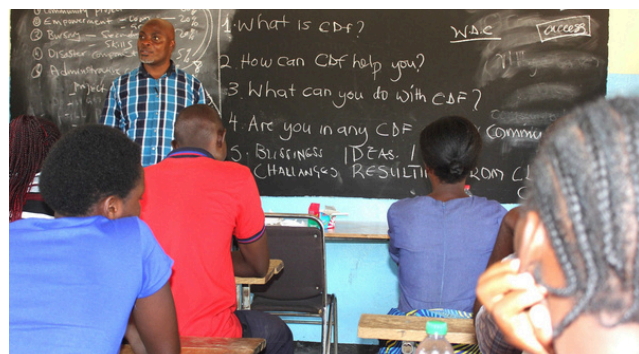
CLIMATE AWARENESS ON RADIO SERIES PROVES FRUITFUL IN ITEZHI-TEZHI DISTRICT



Climate Awareness on Radio Series (CARS) is one of the environmental initiatives implemented by the **Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia - WECSZ** in the Itzhi-Tezhi District under the 'Community Coined Climate Action' (CoCCA) Project. Initiated in January 2024 with support from **WWF Zambia** through the Voices for Just Climate Action programme, the initiative seeks to champion environmental education/awareness among children and Youths in the district using the Radio Platform.

[Read more about this here...](#)

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)



A quiet transformation is taking root in the heart of Mazabuka, where agriculture and fishing sustain livelihoods. Through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), local communities are discovering new pathways to economic empowerment while championing environmental conservation. [Read more...](#)

KENYA



SouthSouthNorth (SSN) is thrilled to announce a new project in partnership with the **Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)** and the **Kenya Institute of Puppet Theatre (KIPT)** focused on empowering Kenyan communities to tackle climate change!

This initiative builds on the VCA programme, strengthening climate justice from the ground up. A blend of edutainment, legal empowerment (through LRF), and community mobilisation will be used to amplify grassroots voices and drive meaningful policy change.



SSN is joining forces with **SusWatch Kenya** and the **Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)** to support communities in Kisumu County in navigating climate finance. This new initiative will focus on deepening understanding of climate finance mechanisms, increasing community influence on related policies, and amplifying the voices of marginalised groups, particularly youth and women.



SSN is partnering with the **Adaptation Consortium** to highlight how local communities in Kenya shape climate adaptation and resilience investments.

The project will showcase the mechanisms for devolving climate finance, including the legal and institutional frameworks, and how marginalised groups are actively participating in decision-making.

BOLIVIA



SSN is excited to welcome **Muy Waso**, a new local partner from Bolivia, to the VCA alliance.

This intersectional feminist communication organisation is dedicated to raising awareness around climate change, media literacy, women's rights, and environmental issues.

Muy Waso is working with VCA to bridge the gap between local realities and global climate conversations. Through this collaborative effort, they amplify local knowledge and empower communities to act on the climate crisis.



SSN is pleased to announce the **Bolivian Society of Environmental Law** (SBDA) as a new local partner in the VCA alliance. SBDA will develop and implement a strategic communication campaign to share the results of the Voices of Resilience project in Bolivia's Pantanal and Chaco regions.

This initiative will spotlight the efforts of local communities, particularly youth and Indigenous groups, working on climate action, conservation, and biodiversity preservation.



We're thrilled to introduce **Fundación para el Periodismo** as a new local partner working with SSN in the VCA programme. Fundación para el Periodismo will play a pivotal role in amplifying the impact of climate action in Bolivia's Pantanal and Chaco regions by producing creative communication materials and building the capacity of local journalists.

Through training workshops, media campaigns, and powerful storytelling, the foundation will highlight the actions of youth groups, Indigenous communities, and local organisations in response to the climate crisis.

WELCOME TO NEW COLLEAGUES



JAËL POELEN

Hi, I'm Jaël Poelen, the new Advocacy and Communications Officer for VCA at Hivos.

Previously, I worked as a News Editor for a platform focused on Dutch sustainability policy, covering topics such as the energy transition and climate adaptation. I joined Hivos in November and look forward to meeting those I haven't connected with yet.

Want to get in touch? You can reach me at jpoelen@hivos.org.



SHIKANDA KAWANGA

I am a dynamic Communications and Advocacy Officer with over ten years of experience in advocacy, corporate communications, media, marketing, and public relations. I have worked extensively with civil society movements and the public sector, championing impactful campaigns and strategic messaging.

As a storyteller, I have honed my writing expertise through more than five years in print media and bring a wealth of experience from both print and broadcast journalism. With a strong background in public speaking, event management, branding, and digital campaigns, I am dedicated to amplifying voices, shaping narratives, and driving meaningful change.

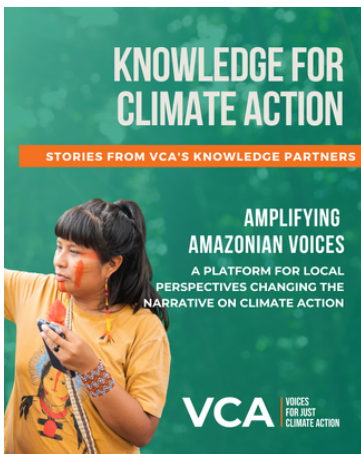


LAURA LÓPEZ TORRES

Hi, I'm Laura, the new Program Manager for VCA at WWF-NL. With a background in environmental governance and natural resource management, I've spent the past nine years working at the intersection of conservation, governance, and social impact. My experience spans land use, deforestation, and nature-based solutions, always with a strong focus on empowering local communities to lead climate action. I'm excited to contribute to VCA's mission and look forward to collaborating with you.

Feel free to contact me at llopez@wwf.nl.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES



POWERFUL STORIES FROM VCA'S KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

Discover inspiring stories from VCA's Knowledge Partners as they mobilise local knowledge and solutions to drive climate action. From empowering women farmers in Tunisia to protecting the Amazon, these stories highlight how communities build resilience and create a more just, sustainable future.

[Explore the series](#)



COUNTRY PROJECT PROFILES

The VCA Project Profiles are now available as individual publications by country. These publications highlight various innovative, locally-driven climate action initiatives implemented by VCA local partners.

DOWNLOAD



VOICES OF CHANGE IN CLIMATE ACTION

This publication highlights the personal stories of individuals, particularly women and marginalised groups, who have benefited from climate action initiatives led by the Siaya Muungano Network (SIMUN). It includes testimonies on agroecology, gender integration in climate finance, leadership empowerment, and advocacy for inclusive policies.

DOWNLOAD

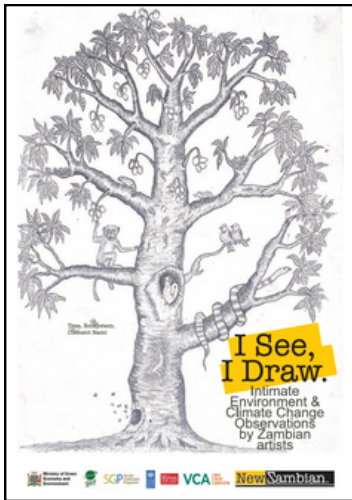


LCOY TUNISIAN NATIONAL YOUTH STATEMENT

From 300 applications, 100 delegates participated in LCOY Tunisia, including 30 fully funded representatives from all Tunisian regions, ensuring diverse community perspectives. Panels featured activists, researchers, UNDP representatives, and YOUNGO's focal point, offering insights on climate issues and youth-led policy contributions (75% women, 25% men).

LCOY Tunisia 2024 focused on youth engagement, climate advocacy, and policy recommendations to bridge the gap between activism and decision-making.

DOWNLOAD 



"I SEE, I DRAW" COMIC BOOK

In the face of an ever-changing climate, the power of art to convey the profound impacts on our environment has never been more crucial. This book, published in 2025 by NewZambian Innovations under the auspices of the Ministry of Green Economy, United Nations Development Programme's Global Environment Fund Small Grants programme and Hivos, supported by Voice for Just Climate Action programme, is a testament to the resilience and creativity of Zambian artists.

DOWNLOAD 

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



In partnership with the Conrad Hilton Foundation's Safe Water Initiative, The National Geographic Society seeks submissions from storytellers interested in creating and disseminating content that raises public awareness and engagement of important issues around the sustainable use of freshwater resources.

RfP will support accomplished and talented storytellers from across the world. A variety of content formats, including, but not limited to, Photography, Film and Video, Mapmaking, Data Visualisation, Written Word, Spoken Word, etc. will be considered. **More information here...**



**CALL FOR CASE STUDIES ON
COMMUNITY ACCESS TO INFORM THE
BOARD OF THE FUND FOR RESPONDING
TO LOSS AND DAMAGE**

Loss and Damage Collaboration is seeking case studies on access to climate, development or humanitarian finance for communities, Indigenous Peoples, local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and organisations representing marginalised groups ahead of the fifth meeting of the Board (B5) of the **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage** (FRLD) which will take place on the 8-10 of April 2025 in Bridge Town, Barbados, and the 6th meeting of the Board (B6), which will take place on the 9-11 of July in Manila in the Philippines. **Submit your case study before 30 April.**



Developing Skills for Women Leadership in Climate Action UN CC:e-Learn Course

The 'Women Leadership in Climate Action' e-course aims to inspire women and girls, strengthen their leadership skills, and help them deliver the just climate initiatives needed to tackle the climate crisis.

For those concerned about climate change, or affected by it, or thinking about taking action but feel you lack power or knowledge: this course is for you. It empowers and educates emerging climate leaders to deliver climate actions rooted in the principles of inclusivity and equity.



Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation and Leadership

The "Toolkit for youth on adaptation & leadership" is a project under the Global Center on Adaptation Youth Leadership Program, developed by the CARE Climate Justice Center with the financial support of Norad.

This Toolkit equips young people with the knowledge and skills to engage in climate adaptation policy, advocacy and action.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **18 March: Unlocking Investment in Nature-Based Solutions.**
This online session will bring together investors, asset managers, and policymakers to discuss what makes NbS projects attractive for investment and how to bridge the gap between project developers and financial decision-makers.
- **19 March: Engaging Stakeholders in Regional Climate Adaptation**
This event hosted by **REGILIENCE** in collaboration with Fedarene aims to advance regional climate resilience, by disseminating best practices, raising awareness, and promoting learning on innovative climate adaptation strategies.
- **21 March: International Day of Forests**
- **22 March: Earth Hour WWF**
- **30 March: International Day of Zero Waste | United Nations**
- **19-23 May: Climate Weeks 2025: Dialogues for Ambition and Implementation**
- **27-28 May:** Registration open for the Sixth Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference.
Register by 18 April 2025

#JUSTCLIMATEACTION. TOGETHER.

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER TO INSPIRE YOUR NETWORK

SUBSCRIBE TO GET REGULAR UPDATES ON HOW WE WORK.

FOLLOW US ON X, LINKEDIN, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK.

@WEAREVCA

WWW.VOICESFORJUSTCLIMATEACTION.ORG

VCA is set to effect the amplification of locally-shaped climate action and play a pivotal role in the global climate debate. For more information about the programme, our agenda, and how to collaborate with us or if you have inspiration or tips, please contact us at info@voicesforclimateaction.org or visit our website - www.voicesforjustclimateaction.org.

To present a complaint related to the VCA programme you can write to grievance@voicesforclimateaction.org or use the grievance mechanisms of the individual Alliance partners. Please indicate the reasons for your grievance, date of occurrence, proposed solution and contact to follow up.

