

VCA

VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION

KENYA

COUNTRY STORY



Kenya bears the brunt of climate change's effects, which manifest by unpredictable weather patterns, such as frequent floods and prolonged droughts. These climate change impacts disproportionately affect socially excluded communities such as women, Indigenous peoples, and marginalised poor communities living in rural and urban ecosystems due to low adaptive capacities and access to resources. Over 36% of the population lives below the poverty line, and 80% of the area is arid and semi-arid.

The recurring climate disasters, including the flooding in 2024, demonstrated the urgency of sustained locally led climate action and sustained financing for local communities. Even though Kenya has made significant strides in devolving adaptation finance to the local level, several challenges remain, hindering access to affordable climate adaptation finance, which can enhance adaptive capacity, reduce vulnerability, and increase resilience for local communities.

Despite these challenges, these marginalised groups are responding in their own ways. However, their voices and contributions to climate action are often left out of decision-making platforms.

Through VCA, Kenya Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have co-created and promoted locally-led climate / nature-based solutions, strengthening and leveraging the power of collaboration and partnerships. This was done by creating a critical mass network of youths working along the major cities in Kenya, mobilising communities (Indigenous peoples, women, youths) to participate in critical decision-making spaces like the development and review of national and subnational climate change policy frameworks and the outcomes of the Africa Climate Summit. Of specific importance has been our contribution towards strengthening the constructive engagement of marginalised communities and facilitating them to utilise their power and agency to influence and take space within the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) platform to guarantee that their climate change solutions get prioritised for funding.

Additionally, VCA Kenya has utilised media and activism to amplify the stories, experiences, and lived realities of the socially excluded people with whom the alliance works. By sharing local stories through creative storytelling, we create meaningful and engaging platforms for decision-makers and local communities to understand and advocate for climate action.

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