

Eco - Africa

CLIMATE JUSTICE

CONFERENCE REPORT

2025





Executive Summary

The Climate Justice Conference 2025, hosted at the GIMPA Law School in Accra, Ghana, was convened to address the urgent need for equitable legal and policy responses to climate change, particularly in contexts where vulnerable populations face disproportionate impacts. Anchored on the theme, "The Role of Law and Policy in Advancing Climate Justice – The Case of Ghana," the conference brought together over 300 participants, including legal professionals, government representatives, academics, youth leaders, civil society organisations (CSOs), and international development actors.



Integrating climate law into Ghana's legal education and governance frameworks



Youth engagement and capacity-building for climate litigation and policy advocacy



Legal reforms and enforcement strategies for climate justice



The importance of inclusive, interdisciplinary, and community-informed approaches to climate governance



Funding climate justice through innovative finance and debt relief



The role of private sector partnerships and CSO-academia collaborations

Structured across plenary sessions, keynote presentations, and expert panels, the conference explored critical issues such as:

Day1



KEYNOTE
SPEAKER



Prof. Nana Ama
Browne Klutse
CEO EPA



Dr. Kwaku
Agyeman-budu
DEAN OF SCHOOL
GIMPA



Worship
Joshua
Frimpong
E.DECO -AFRICA



Prof Ebenezer
Adaku
Deputy Rector
of GIMPA

Day2



KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS

HEADLINE SPEAKER

Hon. Issifu Seidu
Minister of State for Climate
Change and Sustainability



Justice Edward
Amoako
Former President
EcowasCourt Of
Justice



Clinton
Nyarkoh
iSupreme

PANELS



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Advisor to the
Minister of State
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Dr. Prince Ansah
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Khartery**
Founder & Executive
Director, CESMA



**Mathias Charles
Yabe**
CEO, Akofresh

The report below captures a synthesis of the **key messages, recommended actions, required resources, and responsible institutions** that emerged from the Climate Justice Conference 2025. It reflects the collective expertise and lived experiences shared by government representatives, legal practitioners, youth leaders, academics, and civil society actors across the two-day event.

Structured to serve as both a **record of dialogue** and a **roadmap for implementation**, the report translates complex climate justice challenges into concrete, actionable steps. It identifies not only what must be done—but also who must lead, support, and be held accountable. From integrating climate law into national curricula to advocating for debt relief, clean energy access, and inclusive governance, each entry reflects a shared commitment to advancing equitable climate action in Ghana. two-day event.

This framework is intended as a **practical tool** for policymakers, legal institutions, academic bodies, CSOs, and development partners seeking to align their strategies with Ghana's national climate justice priorities. It is also a **living document**, designed to be updated as new partnerships form, policies evolve, and implementation progresses.

Overview of Climate Justice Action Framework Summary [see Annexure]

Key Themes & Insights:

■ Integrating Climate Law and Governance

Ensuring fair and sufficient financing for climate action was a core topic



■ Inclusive and Equitable Governance

Many speakers stressed that effective climate governance must be inclusive, interdisciplinary, and rooted in justice and equity.



■ Gender Equity and Vulnerable Groups

A strong thread throughout the conference was the recognition that climate change is a social justice issue, not just an environmental one. Women, children, and other marginalized groups disproportionately suffer the impacts of climate change, yet historically receive only a tiny fraction of climate resources.



■ Data-Driven Decision Making

Another key insight was the importance of solid data and knowledge in driving climate action. Climate solutions require informed, justice-centered action guided by transparent and accessible.



■ Youth Empowerment and Climate Advocacy

The conference highlighted the pivotal role of youth and young professionals in driving climate justice. Calls were made to build the capacity of youth including training young lawyers in climate litigation and policy advocacy – and to support youth-led initiatives



Strategic Recommendations

To translate these insights into action, the conference generated a set of strategic recommendations, organized by key domains:

1 Policy

Strengthen and harmonize climate policy at all levels.

2 Legal

Enhance legal frameworks and capacity for climate justice.

3 Education

Embed climate change and justice in education and awareness

4 Community Engagement

Promote inclusive participation and grassroots engagement.

5 Financing

Mobilize just and accessible climate financing.

Stakeholder Roles & Responsibilities

Advancing the climate justice agenda in Ghana will require coordinated action from a wide array of stakeholders. The conference defined clear roles for key actors, underlining that climate justice is a shared responsibility:



Eco-Africa Network

- As an environmental NGO and convener of the conference
- Eco-Africa is positioned to spearhead collaborative initiatives.
- Eco-Africa was tasked with helping establish a Sustainability Hub in Ghana

Eco-Africa will continue to act as a catalyst and watchdog, coordinating with government and other partners to ensure that commitments (such as policy reforms or community projects) are followed through



Government institutions, led by entities like the **Ministry of Climate Change and Sustainability (MCCS)**,



The government's role includes integrating climate justice considerations into national policies, enforcing environmental laws, and dedicating budgetary resources to climate action.

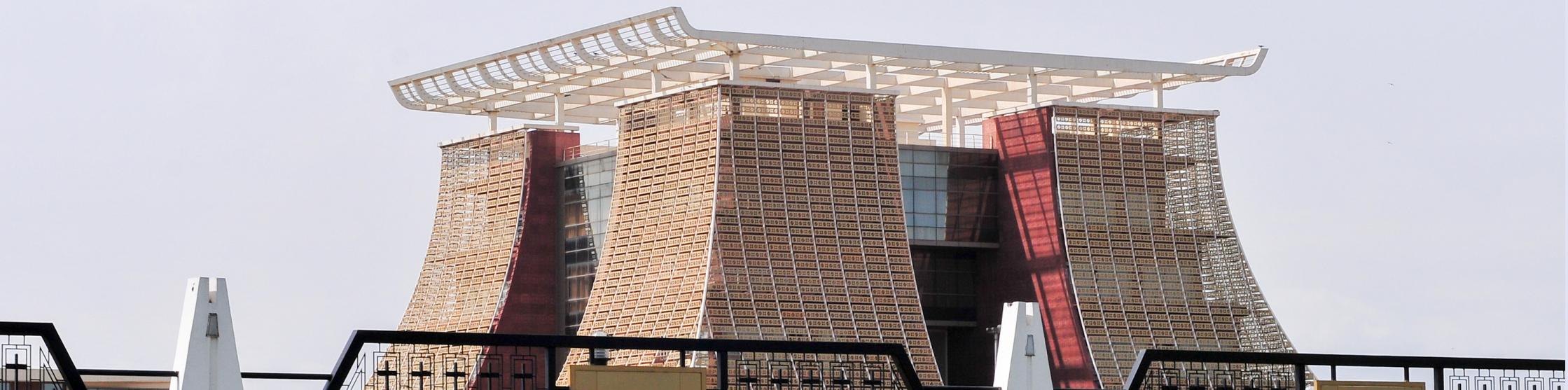


Government institutions, led by entities like the Ministry of Climate Change and Sustainability (MCCS), bear primary responsibility for creating an enabling environment for climate justice



public sector leaders must lead by example, enacting the policies, regulations, and incentives that will drive systemic change.

Government





Judiciary

The courts and judicial institutions have a critical responsibility to uphold the rule of law in the face of climate change.



Conference delegates highlighted that the judiciary should be prepared to interpret existing laws



The judiciary's role also extends to endorsing the human rights dimensions of climate change



Civil Society and Communities



CSOs, grassroots movements, and community leaders are at the forefront of climate justice advocacy and implementation

These actors are expected to amplify the voices of those most impacted by climate change and to hold public institutions accountable.

Recommendations were made for the government to support effective CSOs



Academia and Research Institutions



Universities and think tanks (exemplified by GIMPA Law School) have the mandate to generate knowledge and build human capacity for climate justice



By educating future leaders and providing data and analysis, academia underpins the scientific and legal rigor of the climate justice movement.



Researchers were also encouraged to study the links between climate change and socio-economic issues (like debt burdens or gender impacts) to inform holistic solutions.

1

2

3



Private Sector

1**Specialized Climate Courts/Tribunals****2****Climate Sustainability Hubs****3****Training and Capacity-Building Programs****4****Data Platforms and Knowledge Systems****5****Communication & Outreach Tools**

Implementation Priorities & Tools

Throughout the conference, several practical mechanisms and tools were proposed to operationalize climate justice. These are the levers that stakeholders can pull in the immediate term to initiate change

goals





Monitoring & Evaluation Proposals

A key proposal was to incorporate community feedback mechanisms into the evaluation process. This means empowering communities and CSOs to provide input on whether climate projects and policies are delivering as intended

Tracking Policy Reforms



It was suggested to establish clear metrics and scorecards to evaluate how well climate justice is being integrated into policies and laws.

Community Feedback and Participatory M&E



Multi-Sector Collaboration & Learning



Climate justice outcomes span multiple sectors, so monitoring efforts should be collaborative.



Call To Action

The Climate Justice Conference 2025 issued an urgent call to action,



A plea for unity ambition,
and moral commitment.



Ghana must institutionalize climate
justice across its governance.



A plea for unity ambition,
and moral commitment.



Ghana's response must be rooted in
fairness, equity, and legal integrity.



There is a need to fund
and empower the youth.



Ghana's response must be rooted in
fairness, equity, and legal integrity.





Day 1

APPENDIX

OVERVIEW OF KEY MESSAGES

AND ACTIONS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Key Messages



Climate change is not solely an environmental concern; it is a profound social and justice issue.

The wealthiest 10% of the global population contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions, while the poorest, especially in the Global South, bear the brunt of its impacts.

Climate financing must reflect the realities of vulnerability and need. Questions of fairness and equity must be central to international agreements and national advocacy

Women and children are disproportionately affected by climate change but receive less than 2% of global climate finance. Nearly half of the world's children live in high-risk climate areas, facing displacement, food insecurity, and health crises

Recommended Actions



Ensure women and children are central to climate policies, not an afterthought.

Ensure climate policies focus on those most affected; like low-income communities, women, youth, and Indigenous groups.

Push for legal recognition of climate justice as a human right, so it's protected and enforced.

Make it easier for developing countries to apply for and receive climate funding. Channel more funding directly to communities and local organizations in developing countries who are on the frontlines of climate impacts

Resources Needed



Gender-sensitive data inclusive policy design tools advocacy platforms

Legal reform frameworks
Funding for implementation
Stakeholder consultation mechanisms

Legal and human rights frameworks
media campaigns
educational materials

Economic analysis tools
international negotiation support
civil society coalitions

Institution(s) Responsible



Ministry of Gender
Children and Social Protection
MCCS, UNICEF, CSOs

MCCS
NDPC
GIMPA Law School
Parliament's Select Committee on Environment

Human Rights Commission
CSOs
Legal Fraternity
Academic Institutions

Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Climate Finance Advocacy Networks
Global South Alliances



H.E Samira Bawumia



**Prof. Ebenezer
Adaku**

DEPUTY RECTOR OF GIMPA

Key Messages



Need for a concerted effort towards pursuing climate justice deliberately

Gap in balancing economic prosperity with environmental sustainability

Call for interdisciplinary engagement to address climate challenges.

Gap in legal and policy frameworks/structure being fit for purpose in

Recommended Actions



Promote interdisciplinary engagement for climate solutions.

Encourage institutions and individuals to participate in climate action actively.

Institutionalise mainstreaming and encourage active participation in climate action actively.

Scoping and validation research on gaps GIMPA Law School will roll out programs in climate

Resources Needed



Financial and technical support for policy, implementation and research.

Financial and technical support. Technical and practice experts

Policy advisors and technical consultants

Academic resources for curriculum development

Research and technical support Institutional Collaboration

Institution(s) Responsible



CSO's, Academia, Legal Fraternity, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Sustainability.

Multi-level key stakeholders

Private sector partners. State Actors Practitioners

Multi-level key stakeholders Academia Civil society organisations. State Actors

Research experts/team Data experts GIMPA Law School

Key Messages



Ghana faces growing climate- related vulnerabilities which threaten both economic growth and social stability

Climate change could reduce Ghana's GDP by up to 10%, making urgent legal and policy interventions critical.

There are significant legal and institutional gaps in ensuring public participation and protecting vulnerable populations; particularly women and children, in climate governance

The degradation of air, water, and land underscores the urgent need for sustainable legal solutions.

Recommended Actions



Establish partnerships to strengthen climate law and policy knowledge..

Introduce specialized LLB and LLM courses on climate law, international climate change law, and climate litigation.

Develop a research center for climate law and policy to support legal and technical assistance.

Involve women and youth in policy discussions so their real needs are heard and addressed.

Resources Needed



Institutional collaboration frameworks
Funding for joint programs
Legal experts

Curriculum development support
faculty training
academic funding

Infrastructure
research grants
staffing and operational funds

Gender- sensitive data inclusive policy tools
stakeholder engagement platforms

Institution(s) Responsible



GIMPA Law School
CSOs
International legal networks

GIMPA Law School
Ghana School of Law
Ministry of Education

GIMPA Law School
Ministry of Climate Change and Sustainability
Development Partners

Ministry of Gender
Children and Social Protection
MCCS
NDPC
UNICEF
relevant CSOs



**Dr. Kwaku
Agyeman-Budu**

DEAN, GIMPA LAW SCHOOL

Key Messages



Climate justice is both a moral and developmental imperative for Ghana

The country is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including rising temperatures, sea level rise, and agricultural losses

Despite Ghana's leadership in frameworks like the National Climate Change Policy and NDCs, implementation gaps persist, especially affecting vulnerable populations.

Governance structures must evolve to address climate-related challenges more equitably and effectively

Recommended Actions



Conduct comprehensive legal reviews to identify and address weaknesses in climate policies.

National and local governments should create and coordinate climate plans so everyone is working toward the same goals.

Involve key players from different sectors (like health, environment, transport, finance) and include local leaders and community voices

Bring together the environment, health, agriculture, energy, and other sectors to align goals and actions.

Resources Needed



Legal experts
Research funding
Legal audit tools

Policy analysts
Stakeholder consultation platforms
Technical support

Operational funding
Coordination frameworks
Facilitation experts

Policy harmonization frameworks
Inter-ministerial collaboration mechanisms

Institution(s) Responsible



Ministry of Climate Change and Sustainability (MCCS)
GIMPA Law School
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)
MCCS
Local Government Authorities

MCCS
CSOs
Academia
Private Sector Platforms
Traditional Authorities

NDPC
MCCS
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Agriculture
Energy Commission



Worship Joshua Frimpong

E.D ECO -AFRICA NETWORK



Cedric Dzelu

Technical Advisor, Office of the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

Key Messages



Climate change is fundamentally a human rights issue, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations

There is an urgent need for policies that hold polluters accountable and demand fair and just climate finance mechanisms, including debt relief

The legal profession in Ghana has largely underexplored the domain of climate law, presenting a unique opportunity for emerging legal professionals to lead advocacy in climate justice

Climate solutions must be accessible, fair, and context-specific to ensure no group is left behind.

Recommended Actions



Advocate for climate debt relief and fair financial support for affected nations.

Develop legal frameworks to hold polluters accountable.

Establish a Sustainability Hub in Ghana as a platform for research and policy development.

Encourage young lawyers to specialize in climate law and governance.

Resources Needed



- Policy briefs
- international advocacy coalitions
- economic analysis tools

- Legal research funding
- technical experts in environmental law
- legislative drafting

- Infrastructure support
- seed funding
- research staff
- policy engagement mechanisms

- Scholarships
- curriculum development
- legal training workshops

Institution(s) Responsible



- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- CSOs
- Global South advocacy networks

- GIMPA Law School
- Attorney General's Department
- MCCS
- Parliament's Select Committee on Environment

- Eco Africa Network
- MCCS
- Academic institutions

- GIMPA Law School
- Ghana School of Law
- Bar Association
- MCCS



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**Solomon Terkutey
Djangmah**
Head of Programs
and Projects Frontline
for Climate Action

Key Messages



Ghana is progressing toward a green transition via energy reforms and the 2030 Climate Policy, focusing strongly on adaptation in key sectors such as agriculture.

Nearly half of climate projects in Ghana fail to materialize, highlighting significant implementation challenges.

Effective climate action requires a national climate hub to consolidate data, research, and multisectoral collaboration

Most climate discussions happen at elite levels; meaningful solutions demand the inclusion of affected communities

Recommended Actions



Establish a national climate hub to centralize data, research, and multi-sector collaboration

Integrate climate research into legal education and practice, including practical training and specialized courts.

Promote inclusive climate governance that actively involves vulnerable communities, especially farmers and local groups.

Reframe climate change as a human right, economic, and justice issue to influence policy and leadership urgency

Resources Needed



Infrastructure, funding, data management systems, research staff

Curriculum development funds, legal experts, training programs, judicial resources

Community engagement platforms, participatory tools, outreach funding

Advocacy campaigns, legal frameworks, media partnerships

Institution(s) Responsible



Ministry of Climate Change and Sustainability (MCCS), Research Institutions, Academia, CSOs

GIMPA Law School, Ghana School of Law, Judiciary, Bar Association

MCCS, Local Government Authorities, CSOs, Traditional Authorities

Human Rights Commission, CSOs, MCCS, Parliament



Day 2

APPENDIX

OVERVIEW OF KEY MESSAGES
AND ACTIONS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Key Messages



Advocate for climate change to be treated as an economic and societal priority, and support Ghana in mobilising accessible and sufficient climate finance.

Support access and mobilise climate finance, especially for agriculture, afforestation, and resilience-building.

Integrate climate policy into national and local development plans to ensure coordinated and sustainable action.

Recommended Actions



Advocate for the mainstreaming of climate priorities into Ghana's national development plans and public expenditure frameworks

Communicate climate change as a development, economic, and societal issue

Grant writing and proposal development expertise

Explore sub-granting and donor funding opportunities.

Build Legal Awareness and develop legal briefs or co-author public populous briefs (amicuscuriae)

Resources Needed



Financial and technical support for policy, implementation, and research.

Institutional Support/ Structures

Grant writing and proposal development expertise
Access to climate finance databases (e.g., GCF, Adaptation Fund)

Policy advisors and technical consultants

National and district development planning frameworks experts

Institution(s) Responsible



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & MSCC

Private Sector and Financial Institutions

Parliamentary Committees on Finance and Environment

MMDAs

Multi-level key stakeholders

Private Sector persons
State Actors (inc. MSCC)
CSO

Environmental and Climate Justice NGOs

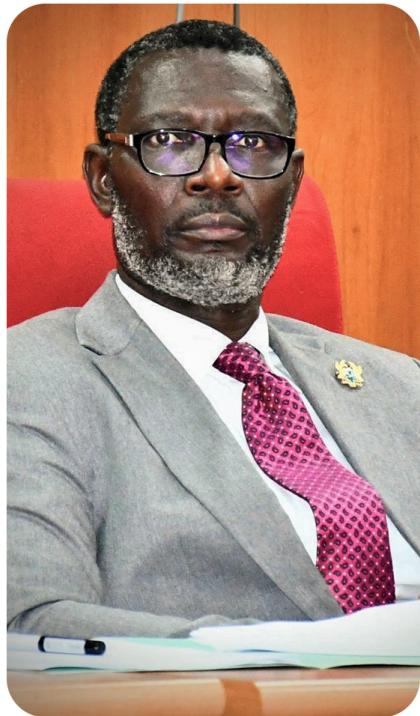
MMDAs

Legal Practitioners and Public Interest Lawyers



Hon. Alhaji Baba Issifu Seidu

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE AND
SUSTAINABILITY



**Hon. Justice
Edward Amoako**
FORMER PRESIDENT ECOWAS
COURT OF JUSTICE

Key Messages



Ghana has put in place legal frameworks to address climate change; a foundation was made in the 1992 constitution in relation to the environmental policies and initiatives adopted and developed by the Ghana government. NAPs, NDCs, NCCP(2013)

Understand EPA's mandate, Renewable energy act(key legislative instrument promotion sustainability through and mitigation

Promote the use of the precautionary principle in courtcasesandsupportNGOs infilingpublicpopulousbriefs to influence environmental andclimatejusticedecisions.

Recommended Actions



Need for key policy on environmental sustainability

Strengthen the weak enforcement mechanisms in relation to climate change and environmental laws

Education and Awareness Creation to understand the Agency, and how to support it at all levels.

Build Legal Awareness and develop legal briefs or co-authorpublicpopulous briefs (amicuscuriae)

Resources Needed



Financial and technical support for implementation research.

InstitutionalSupport/ Structures Policy and Regulatory Frameworks capacity tools and building

Technical support and education materials/toolkit

Awareness creation and support structure

Research andtechnical support Institutional Collaborations

Institution(s) Responsible



Local government structures

Legal Fraternity

CSO's
Academia

in collaboration with the Ministry of climate change sustainability

Multi-level key stakeholders

Private sector partners.
State Actors
Practitioners

Environmental and Climate Justice NGOs

Academic Institutions and Legal Researchers

Legal Practitioners and Public Interest Lawyers

GIMPA Law School

Key Messages



There is a critical disconnect between climate change conversations and the lived experiences of the communities most affected.

Climate communication is often too disconnected global from and the everyday realities of local communities.

Recommended Actions



Use local languages and stories that reflect Ghanaian life to explain climate issues in ways people can relate to. Make sure communities are included and their voices are heard.

Leverage climate communication more locally by using everyday language, relatable examples, and channels that people trust like community radio, leaders, and storytelling.

Leverage stronger branding; visual branding, with familiar symbols and local imagery

Resources Needed



Financial and technical support for policy, implementation, and research.

Institutional Support/Structures

Workshop/Training materials and plan

Innovative climate communication science tools

Financial and technical support

Institution(s) Responsible



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & MSCC

Private Sector and Financial Institutions

Parliamentary Committees on Finance and Environment
MMDAs

Multi-level key stakeholders

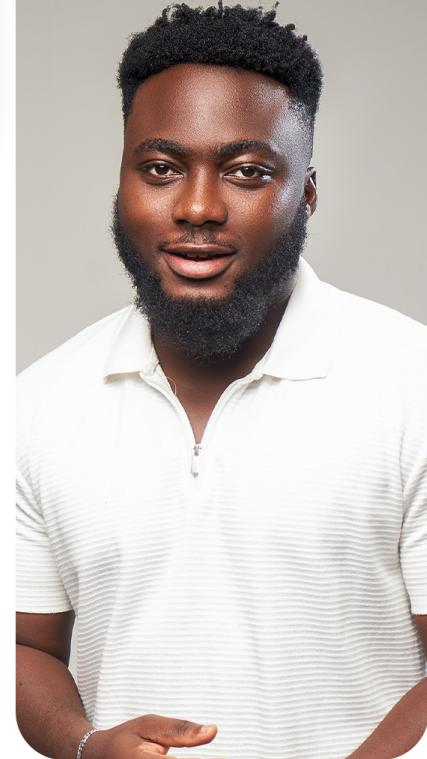
Media Partners

State Actors (inc. MSCC)

Affected Communities and Grassroots Leaders:

CSOs

MMDAs



Clinton Nyarkoh
CEO Isupreme

PRESENTATION BY:





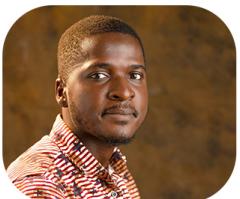
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Country Lead, Climate and Development Knowledge Network



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Founder and Executive Director, CESMMA



Mathias Charles Yabe
CEO, AkoFresh

Key Messages



Climate action must be holistic and people-centred, bringing together civil society, academia, and government.

CSOs are vital in simplifying climate information, empowering communities, and influencing policy from the ground up

CSO-Academia collaboration ensures climate science is practical, just, and community informed.

Recommended Actions



Use local languages and stories that reflect Ghanaian life to explain climate issues in ways people can relate to. Make sure communities are included and their voices are heard.

Academia should combine both old and new research to produce stronger, more useful knowledge

Work with academic researchers to turn long reports into 1-2-page summaries with visuals and key takeaways

Resources Needed



Financial and technical support for policy, implementation, and research.

Institutional Support/Structures

Workshop/Training materials and plan

Innovative climate communication science tools

Financial and technical support

Technical and financial support

Technical experts

Knowledge Brokers, Translators or storytellers for local language adaptation

Institution(s) Responsible



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & MSCC

Private Sector and Financial Institutions

Parliamentary Committees on Finance and Environment MMDA

Media Partners

State Actors (inc. MSCC)

Affected Communities and Grassroots Leaders: CSOs MMDAs

Research teams (universities like ISSER or GIMPA) - MSCCS

Climate economists or policy analysts

CSOs for grassroots validation, Development partners and CSOs

CLIMATE JUSTICE CONFERENCE



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Thank you



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