



## **MOMBASA CLIMATE CHANGE ACTORS' FORUM FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTORS FORUM REPORT**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mombasa Climate Change Actors Forum for Strategic Partnership was convened by the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) as a flagship, high-level, and strategically curated convening designed to advance inclusive climate governance, catalyze multi-sectoral partnerships, and elevate women's leadership in climate action within Mombasa County and the wider Coast region.

Held on 8 March 2022, in commemoration of International Women's Day under the global theme "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow," the forum was both timely and visionary. It responded directly to the escalating climate risks facing coastal communities, ranging from ecosystem degradation and waste management pressures to climate-induced livelihood vulnerability, while affirming gender equality as a non-negotiable pillar of effective, equitable, and sustainable climate solutions.

The forum marked the culmination of CEFRESA's climate change actors mapping exercise, a deliberate and evidence-driven process that identified key institutions, practitioners, and community initiatives shaping the county's climate landscape. By translating this mapping into a live convening space, CEFRESA transformed data into dialogue and dialogue into coordination, bridging policy, practice, and community realities to unlock synergies across sectors.

The event brought together over 50 diverse actors from county and national government, civil society, the private sector, academia, media, faith-based institutions, and grassroots movements. Through a structured programme, including opening and keynote addresses, a high-level multi-sectoral panel discussion, plenary reflections, recognition of outstanding women climate champions, and a symbolic tree-planting exercise, the forum demonstrated the power of collective action grounded in inclusivity, shared accountability, and ecosystem-based approaches.

*The forum delivered tangible strategic results, including the establishment of the Mombasa Climate Change Community of Practice as a coordination and learning platform; enhanced visibility, legitimacy, and recognition of women as leaders and innovators in climate action; strengthened alignment between local initiatives and national climate policy frameworks; and renewed commitment among stakeholders to collaborative, gender-responsive climate governance.*

Collectively, the outcomes of this forum positioned CEFRESA as a trusted convener, knowledge bank, and strategic partner in people-centered climate governance. The convening laid a strong and credible foundation for sustained collaboration, policy influence, resource mobilization, and scaled impact, affirming CEFRESA's leadership role in shaping a resilient, inclusive, and climate-responsive future for the Coast region.

# OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

**MOMBASA CLIMATE CHANGE ACTORS FORUM  
FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**Join Us for A Panel Discussion On...**

**GENDER EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW**

*Contribution of Women & Girls in Climate Change  
Mitigation & Adaptation*

**#IWD2022**

**TUE, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAR 2022 | 9.00 AM - 12.30 PM**

**SWAHILIPOT**

**PANELIST**

Mary Eunice Carol Tsumah Rev. Jane Jilani Grace Oloo Bosco Juma

**LILLIAN JAPANNI**  
MODERATOR

**DR. SAPHIA LUL**  
KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Mombasa County sits at the frontline of Kenya's climate crisis. As a coastal and island county, it faces compounding risks from sea-level rise, ecosystem degradation, waste management pressures, and climate-induced livelihood disruptions across tourism, fisheries, informal trade, and urban settlements. These realities demand climate responses that are not only urgent but coordinated, inclusive, and rooted in local ecosystems.

It was within this context that the Mombasa Climate Change Actors Forum for Strategic Partnership was convened as a deliberate intervention to shift climate action from fragmented initiatives toward a coherent, collaborative, and ecosystem-based governance approach. This Climate Change Actors forum functioned as a strategic convergence point for institutions and practitioners shaping the country's climate future.

The forum was built upon a structured climate actors mapping exercise undertaken by CEFRESA, which identified and analyzed the diverse actors operating across Mombasa's climate landscape, including government entities, civil society organizations, private sector actors, academia, media, faith-based institutions, and grassroots movements. The convening translated this analytical groundwork into a live coordination platform, enabling relationships, trust, and shared purpose to take root.



Hosted at Swahili Pot Hub, a recognized innovation and community convening space in Mombasa, the forum benefited from in-kind venue support provided by the Swahili Pot Hub Foundation. This partnership reflected a shared commitment to community-centered innovation, inclusive dialogue, and collaborative problem-solving, reinforcing the role of local institutions in advancing climate governance.

Aligned with International Women's Day 2022, the forum intentionally centered gender equality as a strategic lever for climate resilience. It created space for prominent leaders and practitioners to engage in forward-looking dialogue on ecosystem-based, inclusive, and locally grounded climate solutions, while affirming women's leadership as essential to sustainable development outcomes. Anchored in Kenya's Climate Change Act (2016), the National Climate Change Action Plans (NCCAPs), the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Mombasa City County Climate Change Policy 2021, the forum reaffirmed that effective climate action at the county level must be coordinated, participatory, and gender-responsive, linking national commitments with local realities

## INSTITUTIONAL POSITIONING OF CEFRESA

CEFRESA is a women-led non-profit organization strategically positioned at the intersection of community agency, policy influence, and climate governance. The organization advances inclusive governance of food systems and climate action through a deliberate blend of policy advocacy, applied research, high-level convening, and innovative, community-driven programming. At the core of CEFRESA's approach is the conviction that sustainable climate solutions are most effective when communities, particularly women and youth, are not merely beneficiaries, but active architects of change.

Over time, CEFRESA has established itself as a trusted convener and knowledge bank, capable of bridging grassroots realities with policy and institutional processes. Its work is characterized by an ability to generate evidence, translate it into accessible narratives, and use it to influence dialogue, partnerships, and decision-making spaces across local, county, and regional levels.

Mombasa Climate Change Actors Forum for Strategic Partnership exemplified CEFRESA's comparative advantage. By leveraging insights from its climate actors mapping exercise, the organization brought diverse actors together in a coherent strategic space, transforming fragmented initiatives into opportunities for collaboration and collective impact. The forum demonstrated CEFRESA's capacity to convene, surface synergies across sectors, and steward inclusive dialogue anchored in equity, accountability, and shared purpose.

Strategically, the forum also functioned as a platform for articulating and advancing CEFRESA's broader climate governance agenda. It positioned the organization as a long-term partner of choice for institutions seeking to strengthen ecosystem-based, gender-responsive, and people-centered climate action, while laying the groundwork for sustained partnerships, resource mobilization, and the operationalization of a Climate Change Community of Practice.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

The forum was guided by a set of deliberate and forward-looking objectives aimed at strengthening inclusive and effective climate governance in Mombasa County.

### Specifically, the forum sought to:

Surface, share, and interrogate lived experiences and best practices from community, county, civil society, and private sector actors, grounding climate governance discussions in real-world implementation realities, constraints, and innovations.

Advance an ecosystem-based and multi-stakeholder approach to climate governance by convening diverse actors across sectors to align climate mitigation and adaptation efforts within a shared strategic framework informed by local contexts and on-the-ground evidence.

Strengthen collaboration, coordination, and solidarity among climate actors through critical reflection on existing engagement models, documentation of effective practices, identification of systemic gaps, and co-creation of opportunities for synergy, complementarity, and collective impact.

Elevate and institutionalize women's leadership in climate action by recognizing lived leadership experiences, amplifying women-led solutions, and reinforcing their role as decision-makers,

Bridge policy dialogue with practical climate action by demonstrating commitment to nature-based solutions and environmental stewardship through a symbolic yet action-oriented tree planting exercise that connected discussion, responsibility, and implementation.

# PARTICIPANTS AND PROFILE OF ENGAGEMENT

The forum convened 50 prominent and influential participants drawn from a wide spectrum of climate-relevant sectors and constituencies, reflecting the multi-dimensional and interdisciplinary nature of climate governance in Mombasa County and the wider Coast region.

## Participants represented:



County and national government institutions and statutory agencies, including environmental authorities and public institutions responsible for regulation, conservation, policy implementation, and compliance, such as the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and national heritage and conservation institutions, including the National Museums of Kenya.

Civil society organizations and community-based initiatives actively engaged in climate adaptation, mitigation, advocacy, environmental justice, & grassroots resilience-building.



Private sector actors, innovators, and business community representatives, including enterprises and entrepreneurs driving climate-smart innovation, green technologies, circular economy solutions, and sustainable livelihoods.

Environmentalists, conservation practitioners, and ecosystem stewards working on biodiversity protection, coastal and marine ecosystems, and nature-based climate solutions.



Academic and research institutions, contributing scientific evidence, data, indigenous knowledge documentation, and analytical perspectives to inform climate policy and practice.

Students and youth representatives, reflecting emerging leadership, innovation, intergenerational accountability, and the future-facing dimensions of climate action.



Media practitioners and digital influencers, recognized for their role in shaping public discourse, amplifying community voices, promoting climate awareness, and strengthening accountability through storytelling and advocacy.

Artists and cultural practitioners, leveraging creative expressions to communicate climate realities, influence public consciousness, and bridge science, culture, and community engagement.

Faith-based and cultural actors, acknowledged for their moral authority, community reach, and ability to mobilize values-driven climate stewardship.

Women-led and youth-led initiatives, highlighting inclusive leadership and the central role of historically underrepresented voices in climate governance and decision-making.

The breadth, diversity, and caliber of participation underscored the forum's prominence, legitimacy, and strategic relevance. It affirmed the convening as a credible and trusted space for cross-sectoral dialogue, collaboration, and collective action, strengthening the foundations for inclusive, ecosystem-based climate governance in the Coast region.

# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS AND PROCEEDINGS

## Opening Session and Welcome Remarks

*The forum commenced with welcome remarks that set a collaborative and inclusive tone, reflecting the shared ownership and partnership ethos underpinning the convening.*

Mr. Mahmoud Noor, Chief Mentor -Swahili Pot Hub, formally welcomed participants to the Hub and highlighted Swahili Pot's role as a community-centered innovation and convening space. He spoke to Hub's commitment to supporting inclusive dialogue, innovation, and partnerships that advance social impact, and emphasized the value of its collaboration with CEFRESA and other climate actors in hosting conversations that respond to community and societal challenges. His remarks reaffirmed Swahili Pot Hub's support for platforms that bring together diverse voices to shape sustainable and people-centered solutions.

Ms. Emily Achieng, Acting Executive Director, formally welcomed participants and acknowledged the breadth and diversity of stakeholders present. She underscored CEFRESA's convening mandate and articulated the purpose of the forum as part of a broader strategy to strengthen coordination and inclusive climate governance in Mombasa County. Ms. Achieng presented key findings from the climate change actors mapping exercise conducted across the county, highlighting existing strengths within the climate ecosystem, coordination gaps, and opportunities for synergy across sectors. She further outlined the proposed roadmap for establishing the Mombasa Climate Change Community of Practice, positioning it as a sustained coordination, learning, and action platform to support collective climate responses beyond the forum.

The opening session also featured reflections from high-level representatives of the National Museums of Kenya (Nairobi Office), who connected heritage, history, and conservation to contemporary climate risks. Drawing on examples from Fort Jesus and the historical landscape of Mombasa, the remarks illustrated how rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and climate stressors threaten not only ecosystems and livelihoods but also Kenya's cultural heritage. The contribution underscored the importance of integrating heritage conservation into climate governance and applauded CEFRESA's leadership in convening this strategic conversation in Mombasa, a frontline city for climate risk and historical preservation.



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS



## Policy Leadership and Strategic Direction



**Dr. Sophia Lul**  
*Deputy Director NEMA*

The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Sophia Lul, Deputy Director at the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)**. Her address provided a strong policy anchor for the forum and set the strategic pace for the day's deliberations.

Dr. Lul emphasized the central role of regulatory institutions in advancing Kenya's climate agenda, highlighting the importance of compliance, coordination, and accountability across national and county levels. She emphasized the interlinkages between climate justice, gender equality, and sustainable development, noting that women are not only among the most affected by climate change but are also critical agents of adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

The keynote called for stronger alignment between national climate frameworks and county-level implementation, increased investment in gender-responsive climate planning and financing, and the strengthening of platforms that enable meaningful community participation. Her address affirmed the value of multi-stakeholder convenings in translating policy commitments into locally grounded and impactful action.



# Institutional Commitment and County Perspective



**Ms. Ilhan Abass -Chief Officer**

The forum was further strengthened by remarks from **Ms. Ilhan Abass, Director of Environment, Waste Management, and Energy, Mombasa County Government**, which reinforced both policy commitment and gender-responsive leadership at the county level.

In her address, Ms. Abass outlined the County Government's role, ongoing initiatives, and forward-looking plans for advancing climate action, with particular emphasis on waste management, environmental protection, and energy transition. She emphasized that effective climate responses must be inclusive and people-centered, recognizing women not only as disproportionately affected by climate change but as critical leaders, innovators, and agents of resilience within households, communities, and local economies.

Ms. Abass underlined the importance of creating enabling spaces for women to meaningfully participate in climate planning, implementation, and decision-making processes, noting that gender-responsive governance strengthens the relevance, sustainability, and impact of county-level climate interventions. She reaffirmed the Mombasa County Government's commitment to continuity, partnership, and inclusive climate governance, stressing collaboration with civil society, communities, the private sector, and women-led initiatives as central to achieving lasting climate outcomes.

She formally acknowledged and appreciated CEFRESA's leadership in convening a timely, inclusive, and high-impact platform, particularly on International Women's Day, noting that the forum provided a rare and necessary space to elevate women's voices, leadership, and contributions while strengthening coordination and accelerating collective climate action within Mombasa County.



# Legislative Leadership and Policy Affirmation



## Hon. Athman Mwamiri

*Chairman of the committee on Environment, Waste Management and Energy.*

The forum also benefited from remarks by **Hon. Athman Mwamiri, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Waste Management, and Energy, Mombasa County Assembly**, who provided a legislative and oversight perspective on climate governance in the county.

Drawing from his direct engagement with CEFRESA on policy influence and legislative processes, Hon. Mwamwiri affirmed the critical role that civil society organizations play in knowledge generation, public participation, and evidence-based policy development. He noted that such contributions enable the County Assembly to respond more effectively to the lived realities and priorities of the people of Mombasa.

In reflecting on the intersection of women and climate change, Hon. Mwamwiri applauded CEFRESA's leadership and consistency, noting that its contribution is clearly reflected in the Hansard of the Mombasa County Assembly. He cited CEFRESA's strategic engagement as instrumental in shaping deliberations that culminated in the adoption of the Mombasa County Climate Change Policy (2021), demonstrating the organization's role in translating community voices, particularly those of women, youths, children, and marginalized people, into formal policy outcomes.

Hon. Mwamwiri emphasized that unity and collaboration across government, civil society, and community actors are essential for effective climate governance. He called for the development of a joint, actionable effort plan that aligns legislative intent, executive implementation, and community-driven solutions, stressing that collective commitment is necessary to move from policy frameworks to tangible impact on the ground.



# MULTI-SECTORAL PANEL DISCUSSION: BRIDGING POLICY, PRACTICE, AND COMMUNITY REALITIES



*The multi-sectoral panel discussion offered a rich and grounded exploration of the forum theme, bringing together policy insight, lived experience, and community-based practice.*

## Rev. Jane Jilani

Chair of the Women's Clergy Council and a Climate Smart Agriculture Ambassador, reflected on the integral relationship between faith, ecology, and community resilience. She highlighted the influential role of faith leaders in shaping values, norms, and behavior, noting that religious institutions occupy a unique moral and social position that can inspire collective responsibility for environmental stewardship.

Drawing from lived experience, Rev. Jilani shared initiatives promoting tree planting and environmental conservation within places of worship, illustrating how faith spaces can serve as practical entry points for climate education, ecological restoration, and sustained community action. She emphasized that ecological care is not separate from faith practice, but is deeply aligned with teachings on stewardship, justice, and intergenerational responsibility.

Rev. Jilani further challenged faith actors to move beyond symbolic messaging toward consistent advocacy, institutional commitment, and action-oriented engagement. She called for faith leaders to leverage their influence on champion climate justice, mobilize congregations, and actively participate in policy dialogue and community-led climate solutions, particularly in support of women and vulnerable populations.

### Ms. Carol Tsuma

A journalist with Gilitics Media, reflected on both the challenges and motivations of reporting climate change stories within mainstream and digital media spaces. She observed that climate issues often receive limited coverage despite their far-reaching social, economic, and environmental impacts, noting that technical language and abstract framing frequently distance communities from the realities of climate change.

She emphasized the need for greater creativity and innovation in climate storytelling, calling for narratives that use accessible language, culturally grounded metaphors, and lived community experiences to make climate issues relatable and actionable. Ms. Tsuma challenged prevailing communication norms by advocating for the intentional integration of indigenous knowledge, local histories, and community wisdom into climate narratives, arguing that such approaches foster ownership, understanding, and sustained engagement.

She further highlighted the importance of stronger collaboration between climate actors, journalists, artists, digital influencers, and community storytellers to broaden reach, reshape public discourse, and ensure that climate stories resonate with diverse audiences. Her reflections reinforced the role of media as an information channel and a catalyst for behavior change, advocacy, and collective climate action.

### Mr. Bosco Juma

An environmentalist and Executive Director of Bigship CBO brought extensive practitioner experience drawn from many years of hands-on engagement in mangrove ecosystem conservation, nature-based solutions, waste management, and community-led climate initiatives. His contribution reflected deep practical knowledge of how ecological restoration can be effectively linked to sustainable livelihoods and local economic resilience.

He highlighted the role of nature-based solutions, including mangrove restoration, waste-to-resource initiatives, and ecosystem conservation, as viable pathways for both climate adaptation and mitigation, particularly in coastal communities. Mr. Juma emphasized that such interventions are most impactful when they are intentionally designed to generate income opportunities for women and youth, citing examples of value addition initiatives, including honey production and other ecosystem-based enterprises, that strengthen household resilience while incentivizing environmental stewardship.

Mr. Juma further emphasized that climate literacy remains a critical enabler of effective community engagement. He observed that technical and policy-heavy language often alienates communities, limiting understanding, ownership, and participation. He stressed the importance of communicating climate concepts in accessible, locally relevant language, enabling communities to recognize climate risks, harness economic opportunities within the green economy, and meaningfully participate in adaptation and mitigation initiatives.



## Ms. Mary Eunice

An Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a land and environment specialist with extensive experience in climate and environmental policy, provided a critical legal perspective on the interface between global, national, and county climate frameworks and the lived realities of communities in Mombasa and beyond.

She reflected on how international commitments such as the Paris Agreement, Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and national climate legislation are intended to translate into county-level policies and community action. Ms. Eunice emphasized that while these frameworks provide essential guidance, their effectiveness depends on how well they are interpreted, localized, and implemented in ways that communities can understand and engage with.

With a strong gender lens, she highlighted that women often bear the brunt of climate impacts yet face barriers to accessing information, participating in decision-making, and influencing policy outcomes. She called for the simplification of legal and policy language, the strengthening of inclusive participation mechanisms, and the deliberate integration of indigenous knowledge and women's lived experiences into climate laws and strategies. Such approaches, she noted, are critical to ensuring that climate policies respond to practical priorities, protect rights, and advance equitable and sustainable outcomes.

Ms. Eunice concluded by emphasizing that bridging the gap between law and lived experience is essential not only for compliance but for building trust, legitimacy, and long-term resilience within climate governance systems at both local and national levels.

## Ms. Grace Oloo

A Women Human Rights Defender, Programmes Manager at Ujamaa Center, and Founder of Women for Peace, drew from her many years of engagement in gender justice and community organizing to illuminate the climate justice dimensions of women's lived realities.

She highlighted that climate change does not affect women uniformly, but rather intensifies existing structural inequalities, particularly in relation to land ownership, access to natural resources, livelihoods, and decision-making power. Ms. Oloo emphasized that women's limited land tenure and insecure property rights significantly constrain their ability to adapt to climate impacts, invest in resilient livelihoods, and benefit from climate-related opportunities.

She further reflected on the unique and disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, including increased care burdens, heightened exposure to gender-based violence during climate-induced displacement, and economic precarity arising from environmental degradation. She stressed that these realities often remain underrepresented in policy and programming due to gaps in gender-disaggregated data, limiting the ability of institutions to design targeted and effective interventions.

Ms. Oloo called for the strengthening of rights-based and data-informed climate responses, emphasizing the need for robust gender-responsive data systems to inform planning, budgeting, and accountability. She advocated for deliberate investments in women's leadership, legal protection mechanisms, and community-level preparedness, noting that integrating human rights principles into climate governance is essential for ensuring equity, dignity, and sustainable resilience.



# PLENARY REFLECTIONS AND INSIGHTS



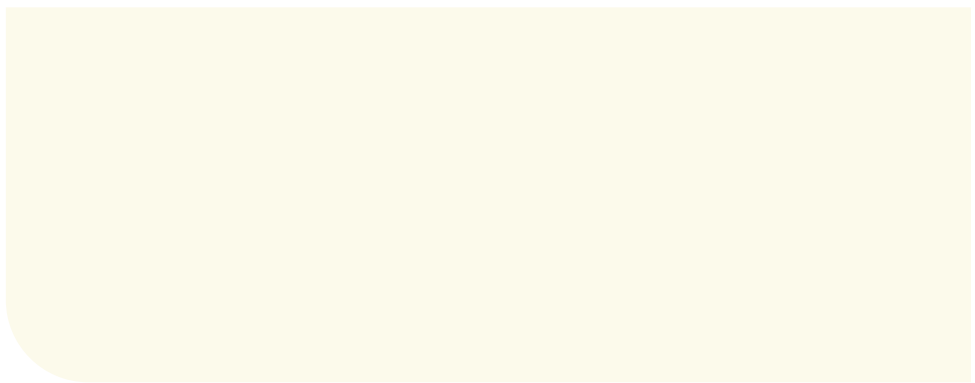
The plenary session provided a structured space for participants to reflect on, interrogate, and affirm the insights shared during the multi-sectoral panel discussion. Contributions were received from a diverse range of stakeholders, including students and educators, civil society organizations, media practitioners and artists, faith leaders, cultural practitioners, representatives from the hospitality and tourism sector, transport operators, financial institutions, environmental practitioners, and handicraft and informal economy actors.

Participants noted strong resonance between the panel reflections and their own experiences, particularly on the cross-cutting nature of climate change impacts across education, livelihoods, culture, mobility, conservation, and local economies. Teachers and students reflected on the importance of climate literacy and accessible knowledge, echoing the panel's emphasis on language, communication, and early engagement.

Representatives from civil society, media, and creative sectors affirmed the panel's call for creative, culturally grounded, and community-relevant climate narratives, emphasizing the role of storytelling, art, and indigenous knowledge in making climate issues relatable. Faith leaders and cultural actors echoed reflections on values, ethics, and stewardship, recognizing faith and culture as powerful entry points for shaping attitudes and collective responsibility toward ecological care.

Actors from environmental practice, hospitality, transport, finance, and enterprise sectors reflected on the panel's insights on nature-based solutions, waste management, and climate-responsive livelihoods, acknowledging the interdependence between environmental sustainability and economic resilience. Several participants echoed the gender and climate justice perspectives raised during the panel, recognizing the distinct and disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, particularly in relation to land, livelihoods, and care responsibilities.

Across the plenary, participants consistently referenced the panel discussions as relevant, timely, and reflective of lived realities, affirming the value of bringing together policy, practice, faith, media, culture, and community perspectives within a single dialogue space.



# MODERATOR'S TAKEAWAYS



A PHOTO OF THE MODERATOR

In closing the forum, the moderator offered a reflective synthesis of the discussions, drawing together insights from the opening remarks, keynote address, institutional and legislative perspectives, panel deliberations, and plenary reflections. Four critical reflections emerged as central to the collective dialogue:

## FIRST

**Climate action in Mombasa County is inherently multi-dimensional and cannot be addressed through isolated or sectoral approaches.**

*Across the forum, speakers and participants consistently highlighted that climate change intersects with governance, livelihoods, culture, heritage, gender, faith, education, and economic systems. The discussions affirmed the necessity of coordinated, ecosystem-based responses that align policy intent with community realities and lived experience.*

## SECOND

**Women are not peripheral to climate action, but central to resilience, leadership, and solutions.**

*From policy and legislative perspectives to community practice, faith engagement, and human rights advocacy, the conversations reinforced that women bear disproportionate climate impacts while also driving adaptation and mitigation at household and community levels. Elevating women's leadership, addressing structural barriers such as land ownership and access to resources, and grounding interventions in gender-responsive data emerged as shared imperatives.*

## THIRD

**Knowledge translation and climate literacy are foundational to meaningful participation and impact.**

*The forum underscored that climate policies, scientific data, and legal frameworks must be communicated in language that communities can understand and relate to. The importance of creativity, indigenous knowledge, cultural narratives, faith-based values, media, and artistic expression was repeatedly emphasized as essential for fostering ownership, awareness, and sustained engagement.*

## FOURTH

**Trust, collaboration, and inclusive platforms are critical enablers of effective climate governance.**

*Reflections from across the session highlighted that durable climate solutions depend on relationships built across government, civil society, private sector, faith institutions, media, academia, and communities. The value of inclusive convening spaces that enable dialogue, shared learning, and mutual accountability was recognized as a cornerstone for advancing people-centered climate governance.*

The moderator concluded by noting that the richness of the dialogue reflected both the complexity of the climate challenge and the depth of commitment among stakeholders present. The forum demonstrated the power of convening diverse voices in a shared space to deepen understanding, strengthen alignment, and build a collective foundation for sustained climate action.



# RECOGNITION AND AWARDING SESSION



The forum featured a dedicated Recognition and Awarding Session to honor exemplary leadership and contributions across the climate action ecosystem. The session recognized students, women climate champions, institutional leaders, and media practitioners whose work has advanced climate adaptation, mitigation, advocacy, and community resilience at the county and national levels.

Awards were presented to students in acknowledgment of emerging leadership and innovation in climate action; to the Deputy Director of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the Director of Environment, Waste Management and Energy, Mombasa County Government, in recognition of institutional leadership and commitment to inclusive climate governance; to women climate champions for their sustained community-level impact; and to a journalist, in recognition of excellence in climate reporting and public awareness.

Beyond appreciation, the awarding session was intentionally framed as a strategic instrument for visibility, role modeling, and accountability. By elevating diverse forms of leadership from policy and regulation to grassroots action, youth engagement, and media storytelling, the forum reinforced the message that effective climate action is collective, multi-generational, and multi-sectoral.

The recognition of women leaders affirmed the forum's commitment to advancing gender-responsive climate governance and to amplifying voices that are often underrepresented despite their central role in driving resilience and change.



# TREE PLANTING SESSION



The forum concluded with a symbolic and action-oriented tree planting session, during which 50 trees were planted as a collective demonstration of commitment to environmental stewardship and nature-based solutions.

The exercise brought together participants from across sectors, translating dialogue into visible action and reinforcing the shared responsibility to protect and restore ecosystems in the face of escalating climate risks. The tree planting served as a practical embodiment of the forum's emphasis on ecosystem restoration, intergenerational responsibility, and locally grounded climate action, particularly within a coastal context that is highly vulnerable to climate impacts.

Beyond symbolism, the session reinforced the importance of integrating nature-based solutions into climate governance frameworks and community practice. It provided a tangible reminder that sustained climate resilience requires both strategic coordination and deliberate action at individual, institutional, and community levels.

# KEY OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC RESULTS

The Mombasa Climate Change Actors Consultative Forum generated a set of clear, high-impact outcomes that strengthen climate governance architecture, advance gender-responsive leadership, and reinforce collaborative action at county and national levels.

## Institutionalization of a Climate Governance Platform

The forum catalyzed the formalization of the Mombasa Climate Change Community of Practice, establishing a structured platform for sustained coordination, shared learning, and collective action among climate actors. This platform provides an enabling space to reduce fragmentation, align initiatives, and support accountability across sectors.

## Elevated Women's Leadership and Influence in Climate Governance

The convening significantly strengthened the visibility, legitimacy, and recognition of women as leaders and agents of climate action, spanning policy, community practice, faith leadership, media, and human rights advocacy. By centering women's voices and contributions, the forum advanced a gender-responsive approach to climate governance grounded in lived realities.

## Deepened Understanding of Integrated and Ecosystem-Based Climate Approaches

Through panel deliberations, plenary reflections, and experiential learning, participants developed a shared understanding of ecosystem-based, nature-based, and integrated climate solutions. These approaches were reinforced as practical pathways that link environmental restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and resilience-building in coastal contexts.

## Strengthened Policy Coherence and Vertical Alignment

The forum reinforced alignment between county-level climate action and national climate frameworks, including Kenya's Climate Change Act, National Climate Change Action Plans, and Nationally Determined Contributions. This strengthened coherence supports effective implementation, accountability, and translation of policy commitments into local impact.

## Strategic Positioning of CEFRESA as a Trusted Convener and Partner

The successful convening further positioned CEFRESA as a credible and trusted convener, capable of translating evidence into dialogue, bridging policy and practice, and mobilizing diverse actors around inclusive and people-centered climate governance. The forum demonstrated CEFRESA's comparative advantage as a strategic partner for government, civil society, and development actors.

# STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

The forum generated significant strategic implications for the evolution of climate governance and collaboration in Mombasa County and the wider Coast region.

The convening demonstrated strong potential for scaling multi-stakeholder collaboration through structured, evidence-informed engagement spaces that connect policy actors, practitioners, communities, and private sector stakeholders. Such platforms offer a practical response to fragmented interventions and enable collective problem-solving on a scale.

The forum highlighted opportunities to bridge community-led climate initiatives with policy processes and climate finance mechanisms, ensuring that locally grounded solutions, particularly those led by women and youth, are recognized, supported, and resourced within formal governance and investment frameworks.

The engagement opened pathways for deepened partnerships across county, regional, and national levels, strengthening vertical and horizontal alignment in climate action. These partnerships provide a foundation for coordinated implementation, shared learning, and enhanced accountability.

These opportunities position CEFRESA to expand its role as a convenor, knowledge broker, and trusted advisory partner in people-centered climate governance across the Coast region, leveraging its evidence, networks, and convening power to support sustained and inclusive climate action.



# CONCLUSION

The Mombasa Climate Change Actors Consultative Forum marked a decisive moment in advancing coordinated, people-centered climate governance in Mombasa County and the wider Coast region. More than a convening, the forum demonstrated how evidence, dialogue, and diverse leadership can be deliberately aligned to strengthen climate action ecosystems and respond to complex, interconnected climate challenges.

The engagement affirmed the centrality of women's leadership, community knowledge, cultural and faith-based influence, and nature-based solutions as foundational elements of effective climate responses. It also highlighted the value of inclusive platforms that bridge policy, practice, and lived experience, creating the conditions for trust, collaboration, and sustained collective action.

As CEFRESA moves forward, the forum provides a strategic springboard for deepening partnerships, mobilizing resources, and operationalizing collaborative mechanisms that translate shared intent into tangible impact. The momentum generated positions CEFRESA to continue shaping inclusive climate governance, strengthening institutional coherence, and supporting locally grounded solutions that contribute to national and regional climate goals.

In an era of accelerating climate risk, the forum reaffirmed the critical insight that durable climate solutions emerge when communities, institutions, and leaders act together with purpose, equity, and shared responsibility.



# Thank You



To our partners, and guests

**Thank you for your support during the Mombasa Climate Change Actors Forum Event. We appreciate your cooperation and dedication towards a Climate Resilient Mombasa.**

We will appreciate your feedback on the event



CENTER FOR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE AFRICA







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