

“GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE... WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A KENYAN?”

Global Climate Change Action Day
Sunday, 21 September 2014

Art of Hosting Kenya
HARVEST



Nature Kenya

Africa's oldest environmental society

<http://www.naturekenya.org>



Marketplace

In the first hour of our gathering people had the chance to network and explore information from different organizations regarding climate change.

Nobeah

Technology company for social impact

<http://www.nobeah.com>



350.org

Global climate movement

<http://350.org>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

UN scientific body

<http://www.ipcc.ch>

Art of Hosting Kenya

Conversations that Matter

www.artofhosting.org

How did this story begin?

Judith Stemerding-Herret introduced the hosting team of the afternoon - Bikundo Onyari, Titus Mwangi and herself - and told the story how all this began and how the flow will be today to set another starting point.

More than six months ago the global web movement "Avaaz" started a campaign on how Climate Change is the biggest threat for us humans. Since 2007 the online campaign community (<http://www.avaaz.org>) with over 38 Million members bring people powered politics to decision making worldwide. This Climate Change petition was signed by more than 2 Million people. But additionally this time the idea has been to take the petition to the streets saying, "Action, Not Words" is what counts as a Global Climate Change Action Day.

The main cooperation partner for this campaign has been the international environmental organization 350.org with the effort to raise awareness of the need to decrease carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm). According to the latest data of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change the CO2 concentration is currently above 400ppm.

In Kenya since beginning of this year a new youth movement for climate change was set up, called Kenya Power Shift <https://www.facebook.com/GPSKenya> (part of the Global Power Shift of 350.org) and together with the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC Kenya) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/African-Youth-Initiative-on-Climate-Change-Kenya/107611043617?fref=ts> they organized for the Global Climate Change Action Day a wonderful tree planting event „We care about City Park“ on Sunday, 20 September.



We practitioners from Art of Hosting Kenya have also a Green Heart and being members of Avaaz we offered our service of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations that Matter for the complex problem of Climate Change that needs our collective wisdom. It's about us, it's about everyone!

The organizers announced together:

- Climate catastrophe threatens everything we love.
- World leaders and decision makers don't think we care.
- On 23 Sept there is a UN Summit on Climate Change with all Presidents and Prime Ministers in NY.
- Therefore we act together for the global climate mobilisation "We love 100% Clean Energy".

Poem on Climate Change

*This is the day that I have to say
When I remember my heart pump with tremors
of the great monster the real monster
Some call him climate change but to me
you are mshuma yes mshuma*

*They choke our land with smoke
Ozone they lock
With affinity that shock
So hard like rock
Our hopes in dock
Yes! something must be done*

*We cried for our land
For the sake of our land
Drafted by our nobles
left us in shamble
yawa!*

*Our animals are dying
Our source is drying
The people crying
While the trees piling and piling
On the ground waiting for charcoaling
We say no no no*

*they brought to us
Mshuma so thin like a pin without a skin
An example of a candle an etc of a candle tho*

*no food we are hungry
no water we are thirsty
no land we are squatters
indeed we are sad*

*for we beg you nobles
gives us mshuma
for we beg you nobles
give us consensus on contagious issues
give us consensus on contagious issues
solve this problem
solve this mystery
give us mshuma our lives to be bright*

*we want mshuma with black and green for nature our natural vegetation
and red with white in it apiece imitation to be as one piece*

*for now in unison
in one voice
for one choice
we want mshuma*

(by Erick Onyango Odhiambo)



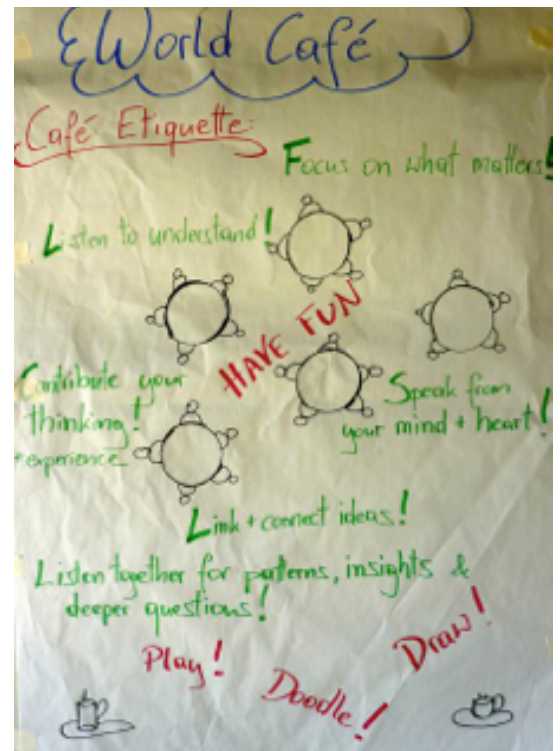
“What inspired you to come?”

- Never was interested in Climate Change & want to learn more
- Love nature and discuss & share with people
- Avaaz member and engaging myself in petitions
- Now it is time to meet like-minded people.
- Consumer have a vote with their purchase in the supermarket.
- AYICC - here for networking and learning.
- “Nobeah” new solar technology initiative – innovation for youth on module bases
- Avaaz brings it now down to individual level
- Environmental solutions and network
- Topic inspired me
- Study in environmental subject at university
- Share ideas about Climate Change and how to improve
- Green Care Initiative: passionate of environment to make a difference
- Work in tourism and passionate about Climate Change
- Coincidence to come here
- Want to learn more of the environment
- Art of Hosting called me – discouraged & “hate” the topic Climate Change
- Women rights and climate justice
- What is going on?
- Climate adaptation and policy in Africa
- Work in organisation for environmental sustainability
- Part of the group that makes the difference
- Exciting stuff is happening around the world
- Learn some new topics about Climate Change



“What else does Global Climate Change mean to us in Kenya?”

We used the famous facilitation tool “World Café” to tap briefly into the collective knowledge of activists from different backgrounds in an open and participatory manner - like sitting in a coffee shop and having at ease lively table conversations.



Rivers and water sources dry up

Rivers flood and destroy homes -> dams? -> who benefits?

Climate change can be good and bad, areas where there was less rain in receives rain. Lakes – Baringo, Nakuru, Naivasha were flooded 2 years ago – still water level is up -> Flamingos are less

Changing seasonal/ weather patterns!!!

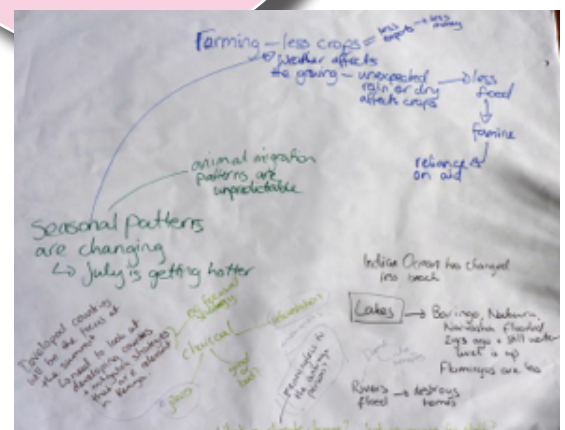
Rising sea level affects coastal regions and islands – less beaches
Tourism goes down & hence this reduces the employment
Climate change affects the job market especially in the tourism industry



People flock to urban centres -> transport issues, industries -> pollution -> affects climate -> insecurity of planning for farmers -> soil depletion and desertification -> drought -> food shortage and hunger -> migration to urban centres

Farming -> less crops -> less exports -> less money
-> less food -> famine -> reliance on aid

Animal migration patterns are unpredictable -> clashes with farming
Bees are also affected -> poor pollination



Local innovative solutions: fuel efficiency, solar technology, (energy saving) cooking stoves

Population increases -> space issues

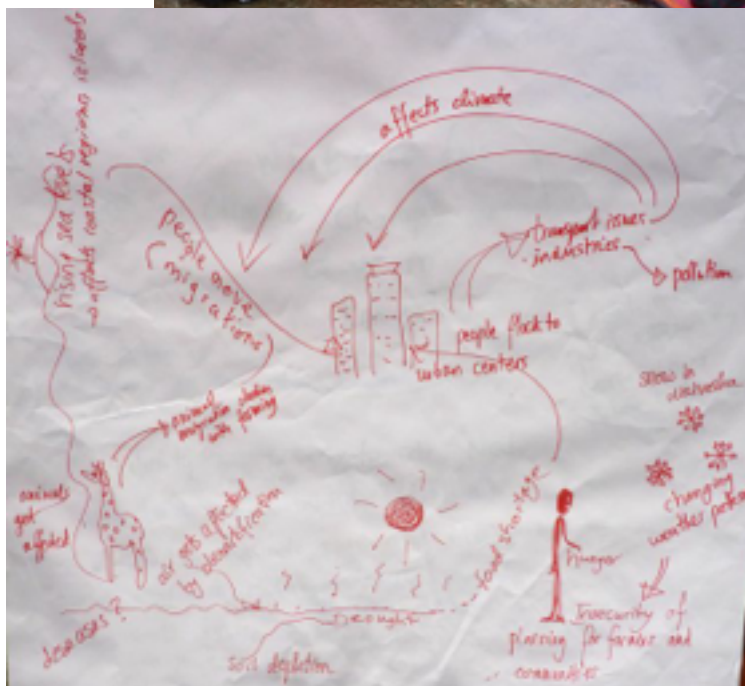
Leaders & oil companies benefit from no change
Discoveries of oil reserves in North Kenya

Hypocrisy "for environment" in government and big companies

Need for accountability

Believe there is no money in the environment. Environment protection needs to be economically viable to the communities. There must be value to what you ask protecting.

People have neglected nature, lost track of the importance of the environment.



Displacement of persons - Security

Change of source of livelihood
Uncertainty about the future of farmers, pastoralists and in tourism





Developed countries will be the focus at the summit -> need to look at developing countries for mitigation strategies that are relevant in Kenya.

Climate Change is difficult to quantify in Kenya due to lack of data. Too anecdotal.

Need those data to predict the future impact on the environment.

Need for more proximate research/scientific work in climate change.

Evidence of climate change is around us for all to see. Affects everyone, places and animals, even mode of dressing.

What is the difference of environmental change vs. climate change?

Charcoal from reforestation for jiko use is good or bad?

What is climate change? Just an excuse for stuff?

Is climate change beneficial to the country?

Is climate change meaningless to the average person?

Starting the knowledge transfer with kids

Positive word
Negative word

Development

Diseases?

Climate justice and how it affects people especially women?

Dehumanising
Disenfranchising





Community awareness
+ Advocacy campaigns

Create awareness at the
grassroots

Changing the conversation
and raising awareness

Use school children to be
Climate Change Ambassadors

Popularise Green Agenda
– Pop culture

Educate!
Make known the problem;
then solve it!

Raise awareness in #Kenya
so that we can take responsibility

In last round the participants tried to find the essence and nuggets what can be OUR next action points in Kenya:

**“What are our
urgent wiser steps
together until the
end of December?”**

Strengthening the alliance of
Environmental organizations

Documentation of
evidence of Climate
Change



Recycling
(plastics, polythene etc.)

Afforestation
(tree planting)

Future growth and devel-
opment in Kenya makes
Climate Change a priority
for the future

To implement effective
policies

Incentivise communities
to take up conservation
initiatives



Out of the many nuggets, the whole group tried to reach a briefly common message and agreed on the most important wisest step as resolution to the outside world:

“Action, Not Words: Networking for feasible solutions for Kenya”



The resolution was sent off to Avaaz and 350.org to be seen on a big screen in N.Y. City and on global media like Facebook and Twitter – plus on the national level the email list of participants was shared to work together towards our commitments.

HELP AVERT
CLIMATE CHANGE

#THE TIME IS NOW!!!

**“What am I taking with me
from this conversation?”**

The reflection of this short yet intensive conversation happened in a Check out Circle with One word summarizing what each one of us takes with us. The spoken words can be watched at this link:

<http://vimeo.com/useraohkenya/httpvimeocomglobalclimatechangecheckout>



Please feel free to share
this harvest with your colleagues, friends, families
and communities!

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MOBILISATION

**A WEEKEND TO BEND THE
COURSE OF HISTORY**

EVENT TITLE:
Global Climate Change...
What is my responsibility as a Kenyan?

TIME & LOCATION:
Sunday, 21 September, 1pm-5pm
Arboretum Park, Nairobi

DESCRIPTION:
1pm Presentations, networking
2-5pm Conversation (workshop)

TO CHANGE EVERYTHING, IT TAKES EVERYONE
PEOPLESCLIMATE.ORG

CONTACT DETAILS

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Room for own notes....