

RESILIENCE
HUB

REGIONAL HUBS VIRTUAL SUMMIT



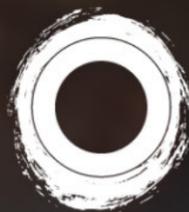
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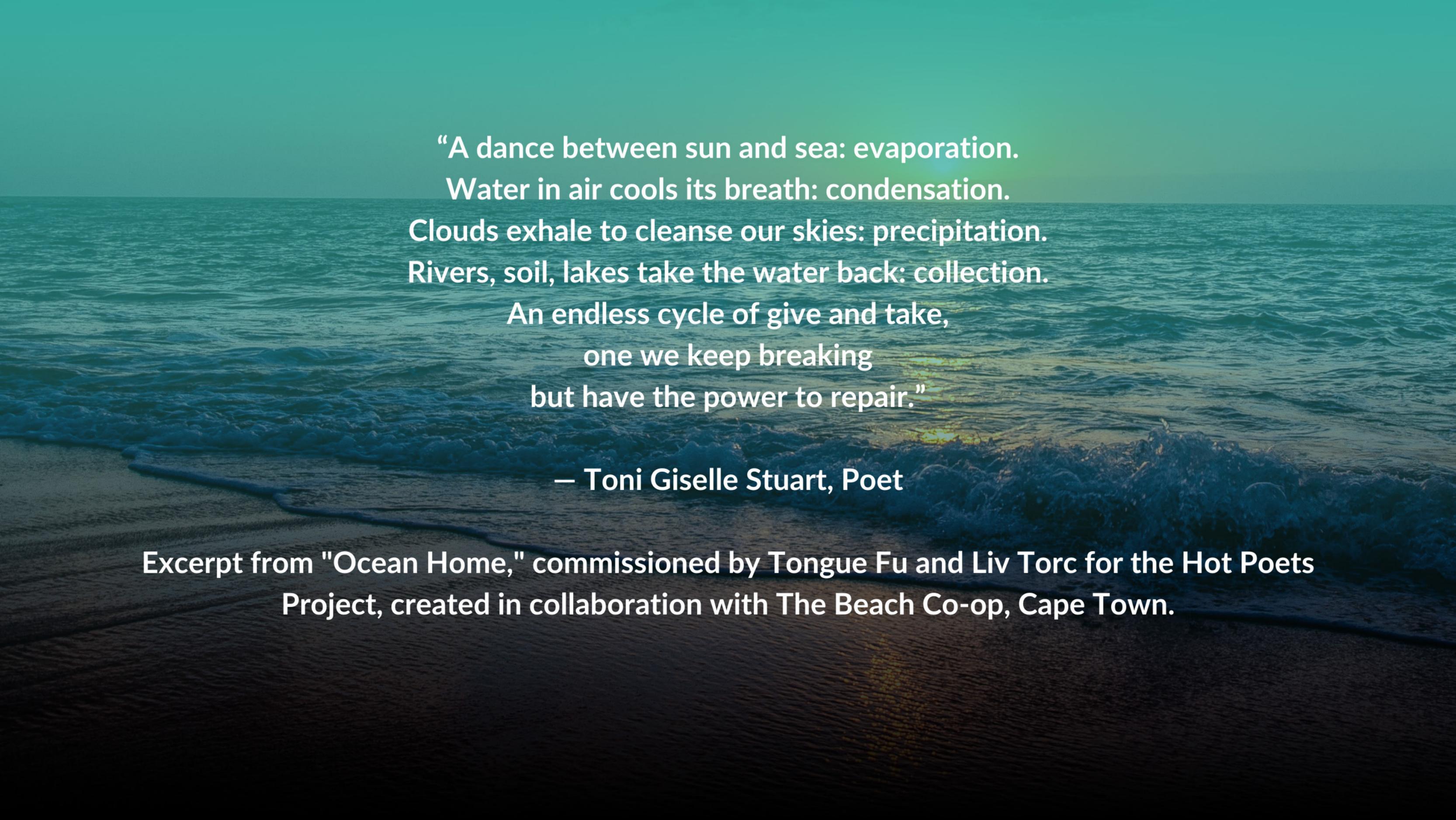


ICCCAD
International Centre for
Climate Change and
Development



SOUTH
SOUTH
NORTH





“A dance between sun and sea: evaporation.
Water in air cools its breath: condensation.
Clouds exhale to cleanse our skies: precipitation.
Rivers, soil, lakes take the water back: collection.
An endless cycle of give and take,
one we keep breaking
but have the power to repair.”

— Toni Giselle Stuart, Poet

Excerpt from "Ocean Home," commissioned by Tongue Fu and Liv Torc for the Hot Poets Project, created in collaboration with The Beach Co-op, Cape Town.



RESILIENCE HUB VIRTUAL SUMMIT

The 2024 Regional Resilience Hubs, held in the lead-up to COP29, are pivotal in advancing the Resilience Hub's mission to elevate the voices of the most vulnerable and climate-impacted communities, setting the stage for a global resilience agenda over the next decade. This year was crucial in bringing the three regions together through a two-day virtual summit event to amplify regional policy priorities through a global platform in a year when no Regional Climate Week engagement was held by UNFCCC. The event brought together policymakers, financial experts, environmental scientists, and community leaders to address specific objectives: Inspire movement-building towards local action and democratisation of governance from key actors through a spirit of celebration, and act as a knowledge exchange platform for cross-learning between the Regional Hubs. The summit emphasised the fundamental role of locally-led approaches through highlighting the role of care work, gender and rights-based approaches in adaptation and resilience. The event celebrated community champions and their achievements who have ignited local action and democratised governance. Through a cross-regional platform connecting Latin America, Africa, and Asia, the Hub fosters learning and collaboration, elevating regional insights and best practices in global policy dialogues. Central to this effort is the reconnection with nature, emphasising the intrinsic bond between people and nature in building climate resilience for food and water security, disasters, and livelihoods. By sharing diverse, personal stories, the Regional Hubs transcend geographic boundaries, inspiring a united global movement for resilience and transformation.

"We have to be inclusive, and inclusivity is not something you fix and then you're done with inclusivity. It's something you wake up to every day. You need to keep having these conversations."

— Jesper Hörnberg, CEO, Global Resilience Partnership

There is a pressing need for flexible, inclusive, and scalable funding mechanisms that prioritise vulnerable regions, linking short-term relief efforts with long-term climate resilience. Lessons from the two case studies highlight locally led adaptation (LLA), through participatory approaches, tailored climate resilience measures, and addressing funding gaps. By integrating programs like the [Green Village initiative](#), climate parametric insurance, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) prioritise community needs, providing financial relief and resilience tools, while highlighting the need for broader climate risk coverage. Similarly, CGIAR's [Climate Smart Mapping and Adaptation Planning \(CSMAP\)](#) tool in Asian Mega-Deltas demonstrates how participatory mapping can drive climate-smart agriculture and adaptation planning, fostering community ownership.

Decentralising climate finance and establishing flexible funding mechanisms empower communities to plan and implement projects that address their specific contexts. A joint approach to climate planning, finance, and information services across ministries and sectors enhances government capacity to efficiently access and allocate funds while aligning with national priorities. Local climate adaptation funds and strong local institutions ensure that communities can implement strategies suited to their unique vulnerabilities,

promoting transparency, accountability, and rapid fund disbursement. [The Logic Project](#) in Bangladesh highlights the value of streamlined funding processes, allowing quick access to financing and timely adaptation actions, which are crucial for addressing loss and damage without bureaucratic delays. Flexible and adaptive adaptation strategies are also essential to accommodate changing political and climate conditions. [The Policy and Institutions Facility \(PIF\)](#) in Nepal exemplifies this approach, offering long-term technical assistance that allows government agencies to adjust to evolving needs while fostering a culture of learning.

"Collaboration across sectors and borders is essential; we need to leverage our collective expertise to design innovative solutions that address the unique vulnerabilities of our communities."

— Dr Hameed Jamali, Adaptation Expert, Pakistan

Operationalising just transitions requires consideration of multiple dimensions and principles, such as maximising available resources, fulfilling essential rights, and securing new and additional climate financing. It is essential to implement robust mechanisms that promote transparency in fund utilisation, including clear reporting on allocation, project management, and outcomes, to ensure community trust and engagement. Moreover, the fund and its projects should be managed by the communities themselves, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment. This participatory approach enhances accountability and promotes sustainability in project implementation. An example of this is the [County Climate](#)

[Fund](#) in Kenya, which allows subnational governments to establish legal funds for climate resources, drawing from local revenue, national government contributions, international funding, and private sector involvement. It encourages community participation in decision-making through inclusive climate change planning committees that represent diverse stakeholders, including youth and women, thereby enhancing local governance and the capacity to manage climate resources effectively.

Effective adaptation programs must begin with thorough risk and vulnerability assessments tailored to local contexts. In the South Asia region, developing comprehensive national adaptation plans that address local needs and implementation gaps is critical to enhancing resilience. A holistic understanding of local risks requires robust data collection, risk assessment, and vulnerability mapping, allowing for targeted interventions. For instance, the [Nepal Climate Change Support Programme Phase \(NCCSP\) project](#) in Nepal successfully categorised households by their vulnerability levels, enabling more effective support. Multifaceted projects that account for diverse climate change impacts across sectors are essential for sustainable outcomes. Additionally, a strong monitoring and evaluation framework is crucial for tracking progress and ensuring accountability, allowing South Asia to better navigate the challenges posed by climate change. Regional collaboration among South Asian countries is vital for addressing the diverse social, economic, and structural impacts of climate change that extend beyond physical damage. Given shared climate vulnerabilities, regular interaction among practitioners, policymakers, and researchers is crucial. These platforms foster collaboration, improve adaptation adequacy, and facilitate the exchange of research and evidence to design effective, localised, and scalable models. Documenting successful adaptation efforts,

such as the BRAC Climate Resilience Fund in Bangladesh and Nepal, will enhance collective knowledge and promote scalable climate finance models, ensuring that replicable, context-specific solutions are available for wider implementation across the region.

“As enthusiasm for partnership grows, we must move beyond tokenism to include marginalised communities. True inclusion of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and diverse gender and youth groups should be meaningful, ensuring that these partnerships create lasting impact beyond just ticking boxes.”

— Saqib Huq, Managing Director,
International Centre for Climate Change
and Development (ICCCAD)

Connecting local and global goals on climate and biodiversity through community-based resource management is crucial to fostering resilience and sustainable development. Effective policy frameworks that help in establishing a formal basis for community stewardship and governance not only strengthen local decision-making but also align community actions with international agreements. [Nature and People as One \(NAPO\)](#)'s ongoing policy framework on Kenya's Forest Act of 2016, demonstrates how legal structures can empower communities to sustainably manage natural resources while contributing to global conservation goals. While many communities have historically managed these forest areas informally, with local forest management agreements facilitated under the Forest Act, it formalises their role, embedding local governance within a typically government-dominated framework. This policy shift not only enhances community-led decision-making but also aligns local forest management practices with

international conservation targets. There is an urgent need for integrative frameworks that reinforce the interconnected roles of climate change, biodiversity, and land restoration, especially within Africa, where climate vulnerabilities are more pronounced. At the same time, there is a need to move beyond solely negotiating new global agreements, and instead focus on implementation and learning from the frameworks that already exist.

“Communities have voices, they have capabilities. They have demonstrated that by intervening in terms of small-scale projects that can be scaled up. They are very innovative and they can contribute towards transformation in their settlement. Their participation needs to be put at the centre of any engagement.”

— Kilion Nyambuga, Senior Programme
Officer, Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
Kenya

Participatory approaches and community ownership are essential to bridge the gap between high-level decision-making and the needs of communities most affected by climate change. Engaging local communities from the proposal stage ensures that adaptation strategies are based on real needs and vulnerabilities. Building long-term relationships with communities, government agencies, and agricultural actors enhances collaboration and supports smoother project implementation. Partnerships, especially in agriculture, help align project goals with community and government priorities. While working with local NGOs may present challenges like limited capacity, revitalising inactive organisations or using existing community structures, like water committees, promotes ownership and participation. It's crucial for all community groups—religious leaders, local civil society, and marginalised groups—to actively contribute





to decision-making. Genuine engagement allows these groups to share their insights and concerns, enriching the process.

Incorporating indigenous knowledge and nature-based solutions into climate strategies ensures cultural relevance and effectiveness. Collaboration across sectors—government, private, and international organisations—amplifies climate resilience efforts. Bridging the gap between policy and the needs of frontline communities requires their involvement in identifying and implementing solutions. Platforms for policy dialogue, such as city-level forums, enable communities to discuss challenges, propose solutions, and connect with development partners. Inviting government representatives to these forums facilitates direct communication between policymakers and affected communities. A successful example is the [Mukuru SPA project](#), where joint efforts among community members, civil society, government, academia, and the private sector improved infrastructure and services in informal settlements, addressing both immediate issues and long-term needs like healthcare and education access.

“For any advocacy to take effect, first of all understanding the situation and context is important. Usually we rush into advocacy but it is important to understand what it is that we are going to push as actors. Research and information gathering will inform us. Numbers are also important to humanise the story.”

—
Dr Paul Mulindwa, Advocacy and Campaigns Lead - Africa, CIVICUS

It is crucial to ensure that climate investments respect human rights, especially for marginalised communities.

Advocating for rights-based frameworks that address inequalities is essential to guarantee equitable and just climate financing, thereby protecting the rights of all community members and the environment. A [toolkit](#) has been created for climate justice campaigners and various stakeholders, serving as a resource and guide for advocacy efforts focused on reforming climate finance. It emphasises the necessity of systemic changes in both the climate finance architecture and the broader economic system to facilitate a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Providing sustainable livelihood alternatives is key to gaining the support of communities affected by climate and disaster risks. It promotes resilience and ensures more inclusive, long-term solutions rather than displacing vulnerable populations. One of the primary challenges in addressing disaster-prone areas has been the government’s focus on evicting communities without offering alternative livelihood solutions. This approach displaces vulnerable populations and exacerbates issues like poverty and inequality, particularly in informal settlements. For example, slum residents often face a “poverty penalty,” where they pay significantly higher prices for basic services like water compared to those in formal areas—sometimes as much as ten times more. Instead of evictions, SDI, alongside community groups and local governments, have proposed solutions that aim to [improve living conditions](#) within these settlements. By working with both central and local authorities, they focus on making these areas safer and more resilient through better infrastructure and

services, rather than displacing residents. **Co-creation approaches help address complex problems within chaotic systems that research alone cannot solve.** It involves engaging with diverse knowledge, skills, contexts, and cultures to uncover the root causes of issues and create collaborative platforms for exploring solutions and taking joint actions. By including participants from various sectors, disciplines, and decision-making levels—from grassroots to national government—it’s important to acknowledge the different needs, incentives, knowledge, and values they bring. How to achieve effective inclusion should be considered within the local context. It is imperative to have a deep understanding of the local context and be cognisant of the consequences for marginalised groups to participate. Navigating such complexity requires effective communication, respect for differences, and building trust within the co-creation process. A critical outcome of trust-building is establishing shared goals and utilising multiple communication channels to ensure broad engagement. For example, the [“Know Your City”](#) TV campaign by SDI uses media like podcasts, documentaries, and poetry to amplify marginalised communities’ voices, shifting power dynamics from passive recipients of top-down policies to active participants in crafting solutions. Visual media helps bridge language and educational barriers, ensuring more inclusive participation.



“When working on a project aimed at delivering impact, the focus often revolves around aligning with large international initiatives, as they provide the necessary financing to achieve sustainable outcomes. However, it is important to recognise that these initiatives are not always designed to incorporate the on-the-ground experiences of diverse community members. Therefore, it is crucial to advocate for the inclusion of local perspectives and ensure that the voices of people on the ground are heard and considered in the decision-making process.”

— Liz Stephens, Professor, University of Reading and Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, UK

Engagement strategies need to consider issues of equity and safety that create respectful environments that can foster inclusive and non-judgmental spaces where participants feel heard and valued. In African contexts, co-creation often requires disrupting existing power dynamics. Gender dynamics, for instance, can limit women’s participation, and separate meetings may be necessary to allow them to voice their concerns freely. Tokenism, where women are included for gender balance but their perspectives are ignored in decision-making, must also be addressed. It’s vital to think critically about where these power imbalances exist and implement strategies to correct them while ensuring participant safety. In science, power imbalances also persist, with global institutions dominating and female scientists often underrepresented. Projects like [Improved Anticipation of Floods on the White Nile \(INFLOW\)](#) are addressing these issues by recruiting local PhD students, with a focus on gender balance, from countries impacted by flooding.

“Human rights are an intrinsic right to every individual society, regardless of gender, regardless of race, regardless of culture, regardless of geography and also ethnicity. So human rights are basically fundamental to affirming a shared sense of humanity and preserving integrity and treating human life as sacred.”

— Basani Baloyi, Programme co-Director, Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ) Co-Author

Knowledge brokers play a critical role in facilitating the co-production of knowledge, convening diverse stakeholders, and fostering innovative exchanges to inform climate, biodiversity, and land restoration actions. A notable example is the [Urban Art for Climate](#) project, supported by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).



This initiative addresses critical challenges such as deforestation, overfishing, poaching, and pollution in vulnerable towns, empowering young artists to utilise storytelling and performance to raise awareness about local climate risks and potential solutions. In this context, knowledge brokers are instrumental in identifying the various forms of knowledge needed, spanning academic research and indigenous and community-based insights. They enable collaboration among stakeholders by creating platforms for diverse perspectives to be shared. By bridging these distinct knowledge

systems and amplifying community voices, knowledge brokers contribute to generating demand-driven evidence that informs more effective and inclusive policies and practices.

Intersectionality is a crucial framework for advancing gender equality and social inclusion, as overlooking it risks further marginalisation of already vulnerable groups. Policies often miss the needs of those most affected by climate change, such as gender minorities and women. Moving beyond capacity building, practical, on-the-ground actions are needed to achieve real progress in gender equality and climate resilience. Resilience must be holistic, addressing environmental, social, economic, and mental health needs, especially for displaced communities, which require dedicated support. Building climate and social resilience involves integrating mental health tools and ensuring that affected communities participate in planning. Secure land rights are also critical for climate and biodiversity goals, as they prevent displacement and land-grabbing. Organisations like the [International Land Coalition \(ILC\)](#) view secure land tenure as key to biodiversity protection, land restoration, and sustainable food systems. Advocating for land rights, especially for women, and aligning resource allocation is transformative, with a unified financing strategy enhancing policy effectiveness. Failing to consider intersectionality risks creating secondary marginalisation.

“Without integrating gender equality into climate policies, we risk leaving women behind in the green economy. Women’s representation in green jobs is not just a matter of fairness, it’s essential for a sustainable future.”

— Christine Lagarde, International Monetary Fund President





Both care and a healthy environment are essential for human survival, and understanding their interconnectedness is vital for effectively addressing climate and societal challenges. Women often bear the brunt of care responsibilities during climate disasters, which worsens inequalities, particularly in low- and middle-income regions. Limited infrastructure access forces women and girls to take on even more unpaid work. Reframing care as a communal responsibility rather than solely women's work can strengthen community resilience to climate impacts. Underfunded care systems become further strained during climate disasters, with governments often redirecting resources from social protections to recovery efforts. To build resilience, it is crucial to prioritise care financing, as robust systems empower communities to withstand and recover from climate crises. Investments in community care, such as health workers and childcare services, reduce women's unpaid work and enable their involvement in climate adaptation efforts. Empowering women in climate leadership is essential for diverse solutions to environmental challenges, requiring targeted resources and training. Expanding women's roles in STEM and green jobs can drive innovation and reduce emissions. Policies that increase women's access to these fields can enhance their participation in climate solutions. Redistributing care work enables women to contribute more fully to climate resilience, benefiting families and the environment. Programs like labour-saving technologies and public childcare further alleviate domestic burdens, enabling women to engage in green economies.

“Grassroots women are organising to rehabilitate degraded lands, secure food for vulnerable communities, and restore ecosystems – yet they

are rarely brought to the decision-making table”

– Violet Shiut, Chair, Grassroots Women Associations

Unpaid care work, largely carried out by women, is essential for societal well-being and must be integrated into climate resilience policies. Recognising its value can drive investments that support social, environmental, and economic goals, challenging traditional gender roles. Promoting financial support and political backing for care work enhances broader climate resilience, with policies adopting a holistic view that values care not only in health but also in environmental conservation and food security. Despite their roles, grassroots women are often excluded from decision-making. The [Keystone Foundation](#) in India combines indigenous women's knowledge with modern technologies for ecosystem management, fostering local climate solutions that empower women and enhance resilience.



Looking forward to COP30

As we look ahead, it is critical to call for more accessible and efficient climate finance, particularly at the local level, to ensure that funds directly reach communities and bypass complex bureaucratic channels. This approach is essential for fostering impactful climate action. Equally important is the involvement of marginalised communities—Indigenous peoples, women, and youth—

in decision-making processes, as their knowledge, priorities, and participation are crucial for effective climate adaptation and resilience-building efforts. Strengthening partnerships across local organizations, governments, private sectors, and international bodies is necessary to address climate challenges holistically and equitably. Local and Indigenous knowledge should be at the forefront of climate action, with narratives that showcase the effectiveness of locally-led solutions. Expanding the reach of these messages beyond the climate bubble to engage broader audiences, including influencers and media, is key. Concrete, actionable proposals, particularly addressing issues that directly impact communities, must be prioritized over speeches, with clear solutions that can be advanced in the lead-up to COP30. Finally, a long-term commitment to sustained action and funding beyond COP is needed, ensuring that promises translate into tangible outcomes, with a focus on community-driven adaptation strategies. These messages, underpinned by the importance of breaking down barriers and building trust, will guide the push for more effective climate finance and action at COP.

“Being on the table is not enough. The question is what's next? How do we scale the solutions, how do we push the city governments, national governments, and international partners. How do I get resources to trickle down for it to become a project? So, let's look beyond having a seat at the table, we're already at the table.”

– Joseph Muturi, Chair, Slum Dwellers International

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