

# PRE-COP27 Africa Media Conference



## Conference Report

Kigali, September 2022

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# Introduction

The Pre-COP27 Africa Media Conference took place in the Rwanda, Kigali City on 20th to 23rd September 2022. The Conference was organized by Rwanda Media Commission (RMC) in partnership with Internews/ Earth Journalism Network (EJN), Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA) and Power Shift Africa (PSA). The Conference provided an international forum that attracted participants from Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Egypt and Nigeria.

The main sponsors of the Conference were Internews (Kenya) and Power Shift Africa. The Conference program included a number of key important topics and all speakers were selected on the basis of their competence to share quality and relevant knowledge to the participants (see annex 1, conference program). The participants were selectively chosen guided by their profound interest in covering climate change and environment based stories (see annex 2, list of all participants). The choice of participants was also guided by the gender factor to ensure that both male and female journalists are given equitable opportunities to attend the training.

The need for this conference was premised on the assumption that Africa is the most affected continent when it comes to the climate crisis despite doing little to cause it. Unfortunately, it is still the least informed on such debates. Also, in most cases the discussions and negotiations at the COP high-level forums are too technical and abstract, that it needs a knowledgeable and skilled journalist to discern and breakdown the information for the ordinary citizen to be engaged.

The Conference participants were asked to share their recommendations (see recommendation section) and almost all of them were positive and thankful to the organizers for the highly topical and informative program of the conference, which met their expectations and turned out to be successful.



# Proceedings

The conference commenced on the morning of 22nd September 2022 with the arrival of guests at the conference venue; Hotel Villa Portofino in Kigali City. Guests then took a compulsory COVID-19 test after which registration of participants followed.

## Introductory Session: Climate Setting

The opening session was moderated by Juliah Kibochi, the Media and Communications Officer at PowerShift Africa, who divided participants in 2 groups and asked members of the first group to each introduce themselves and tell the audience what they call drought in their local language. She then asked the second group to introduce themselves and tell the audience what they learnt from one of the members of the first group. The goal was to have participants introduce themselves with a climate spin to it in order to set the stage for climate-focused discussions.

## Opening remarks

The opening session was moderated by Aghan Daniel, CEO of Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA) who started by introducing the key partners that worked together to make the event happen; including Mugisha Emmanuel, the Executive Secretary of Rwanda Media Council (RMC), Kiundu Waweru, Project Manager, EA Wildlife and Conservation Journalism Project, Internews EJA, Mohamed Adow, Director Power Shift Africa and himself, CEO of MESHA. Each of the introduced partners then gave an opening remark.







The first remarks were addressed by Mugisha Emmanuel of RMC who welcomed participants to the 2 days pre-COP27 Africa Media Conference and recognized the organizing partners mentioned above and expressed gratitude for funding support from USAID as well as the support from partner institutions including Global Green Growth Institute, Rwanda Agriculture Board and Rwanda Environment Management Authority for availing speakers for the conference. He then presented and thanked the organizers and delegates from different African countries that were participating in the conference.

He then pointed out to the Guest of Honor, Faustine Munyazikwiye, Deputy Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) that it was unfortunate that most African journalists were not actively involved and engaged in COP reporting and their participation but expressed optimism that the DG would support journalists to be engaged actively in COP27. He pointed out that it was just about participating but also supporting their governments to achieve their commitments by being the voice that strives to make everyone engaged; a role that is very important.

The second address was presented by Kiundu Waweru of Internews EJN. In his remarks, he mentioned that the idea to have a Pre-COP in Africa was sparked by a previous conversation he had with Mugisha that revolved around the issue of climate change being understood and reported to audiences in the media in an abstract way and the need to take advantage of COP27 happening in Africa. In conclusion he gave a brief background of EJN and its mandate to improve the quality and quantity of wildlife conservation, environment and climate change stories.

He mentioned that EJN support for the event was part of a 2-year program called Biodiversity Knowledge Media that strives to promote biodiversity reporting in the region by doing conferences, webinars and giving grants to organizations that work with environmental journalists' networks. He concluded by expressing the wish that participants go back with better knowledge of climate change and most importantly how to report it in a way that audiences understand and make COP27 Africentric.



In his opening address, Mohamed Adow, Director Power Shift Africa talked about the benefit of civil society organizations partnering together, stressing that the sum of collective effort was greater than what individual organizations could achieve. He expressed that his reason for partnering with the organizers was to exchange and dialogue with participants to expose the scandal of climate justice. In exposing the magnitude of the injustice, he pointed out that the continent of Africa which is home to 17% of the global population accounts for 4% of the global emissions. He noted that this is a fact that we have been fed on an annual basis but what it neglects is that on historical terms the 17% of the global population that resides in Africa only accounts for 0.5% of the historic emissions.



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Another issue that Mohamed highlighted was the lack of real effort to tell the African story in African media – a discussion of the root cause of climate change in a way that we can be able to provide a clear and compelling argument that mobilizes our political leaderships for them to exercise their urgency and their leadership. He stressed that it is not enough to say that there is drought and people are suffering in the horn of Africa, you need to further and tell people why the incidence of drought is increasing and getting severe and the only thing humanitarian organizations provide is only food aid. However, he expressed hope that if we all exercise our urgency, we will be able to tell the African story in a clear and compelling way that can actually shift the discourse instead of letting it be dominated by the wealthy minority that caused the climate pop and who set the climate discourse in a way that makes Africa lose. He challenged participants to reflect on how they can change this trend, in the light of Africa hosting the next COP conference.

Mohamed cited a BBC report that presented the climate change dilemma that Africa faces - Africa is the most vulnerable, it is the least responsible but sadly it is the least informed. He attributed this problem to climate scientists addressing climate issues in an abstract way rather than presenting it in a human context. There is the assumption that because we don't speak the science of climate change and that we cannot translate these terms in our local languages, then we don't have the knowledge on climate change. He stressed that this is something we need to disabuse by together reclaiming the discourse in a way that can help put the African story forward.

## Keynote speech – What is Africa's Ask at COP27?

The keynote address was presented by the guest of honor, Faustin Munyazikwiye, Deputy Director General, REMA.

In his opening remarks, Faustin attested that Rwanda ratified the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He noted that through the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) Rwanda has pledged to reduce 38% of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. He further stressed that much as this is a country pledge, everyone's effort is needed to reach this goal.





He then gave a brief overview of COP, noting that it is an annual Conference of the Parties. He stressed that COP27 is a golden opportunity for countries to, first of all, advance their positions and inputs in terms of climate change negotiations. He acknowledged that we are all affected and that climate change does not have boundaries and that is the reason for convening; being all party to the climate conventions.

He further pointed out that much as REMA's role in addressing climate issues is limited to Rwanda's territorial boundaries, these issues cut across borders and that is why all countries need to be parties of different conventions so that we can have obligations to do through the convention and have responsibility depending on capacity – economic and historical responsibilities regarding climate change issues. He highlighted the paramount importance of comprehensive preliminary preparation ahead of the COP27 to ensure effective participation and advance the position of being the most vulnerable countries which experience the first-hand impacts of climate change and showcase the progress made towards building resilience and contributing towards the global goal of combating climate change.

He reiterated Mohamed's remarks regarding Africa being the least contributor to root causes of climate change impacts but most affected than anyone else; and made the call for participants to work together to make COP27, the first one in Africa, their own.

He further underscored that having COP27 happening on the African continent is an opportunity to make sure that we network and advance our key priorities and actions which we are involved in. He reminded those present that COP27 is expected to finalize and decide on key pending issues under climate change negotiations including items on mitigation to climate change, adaptation and means of implementation, support as well as consider the socio-economic consequences of measures taken and efforts to address loss and damage while assessing the words collective assessment towards fulfilling the Paris Agreement.



He explained that in his role as a climate change negotiator, the 3 key priorities for Africa in COP27 are:

- **Access to climate finance:** Citing the annual pledge of 100 billion USD by developed countries in 2009 in Copenhagen, and reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement in 2015, he noted that it has never been met, adding that this amount does not even reflect the needs of vulnerable countries affected by climate change. In his address, Faustin explained that during COP26 a resolution to have a new climate finance target by 2024 was adopted. He called for 3 asks at COP27 regarding climate finance: 1) what are the strategies to meet the pledge of 100 billion before we adopt a new climate finance goal 2) While adopting the new goal, it should be reflective of the needs of the vulnerable countries; not just an unexplainable lump sum figure. 3) It should not only be about increasing climate finance; it should be accessible by vulnerable countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- **Loss and damage** - He explained that losses include, among others, human and infrastructure losses due to the impacts of climate change. As Africa needs to be compensated for climate change impact, we need a clear methodology of agreeing what was caused by climate change and what was not; we also need to have capacity of doing evaluation and assessment of what has been damaged, as well as having a clear financing mechanism on loss and damage.
- **Article 6 on carbon market** - Discrepancy in benefiting from clean development mechanisms - African countries have not benefited like the rest of the world. How should African countries and stakeholders such as the media position themselves and create readiness to make sure we benefit from the

## Session 1 - Basics of climate change

This session was structured as an interactive discussion. It was presented by Bernadin Bavuge, Environment and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Specialist, REMA. In this session, Bernadin explored the basics of climate change including

- Key definitions
- Climate change causes
- Climate change variability
- Climate change vulnerability
- Climate change impacts/effects
- Case of Rwanda
- Response to climate change: Adaptation & Mitigation

In this session Bernadin invited participants to reflect on different climate change concepts, emerging challenges for rational use of natural resources, approaches of adaptation and mitigation to combat climate change in order to broaden the audience's knowledge on the climate topic.



## Session 2 - How journalists can cover climate issues



The presenter of this session was Victor Bwire, Deputy Director, Media Council of Kenya and Director of Media Training and Developments. The main points of discussions were:

- Effective journalistic communication of emerging issues in IPCC reports and GIEC reports for public engagement
- Climate adaptation vis a vis mitigation: What journalists must know

Victor started by emphasizing the importance of climate change reporting and called on journalists to stop lamenting about their climate stories not getting space in the media; but to instead be focused and serious to ensure that their stories are covered. He raised the issue of journalists concentrating so much on the nuts and bolts of journalism; forgetting life-saving skills - survival/adaptation. He talked about the need to compete for space in a survival for the fittest world and harnessing the profession of journalism as a source of livelihood that requires good stories in order to compete for coverage and get paid for them.

He noted that climate change is no longer about science, where a few people in a room discuss conventions, but about 'us' - all of us in whatever things we do. He stressed that it is a global cross-cutting phenomenon that is mainstream in all government ministries and departments.

On effective participation in COP27, he called upon journalists to avoid just taking it as a trip, be part of the crowd and return without a single story but instead get serious and focus on what they want to report in COP27.

Victor presented real life examples of sources of climate change stories to spark discussion. In this regard, he emphasized that whereas climate change is a global phenomenon for which some prefer to discuss related big protocols, it's the impacts on an individual level that ordinary people are most interested in talking about. That is the angle that creates a big story.

He mentioned that it is important to apply solution-based journalism. He noted climate change adaptation stories as an example of solution-based journalism, adding that it is no longer about whether climate change has an impact or not - that is already a fact - but is more about how people are dealing with it as human beings.

Victor then outlined the role of a journalist

- Provide timely information that can allow people make decisions; especially in adaptation (how people cope), adding that most of the media audiences are educated and just need that interpreted information that can help them think through a number of things. That is why as we go to COP27, we need to communicate to our communities what other countries' coping strategies are in order to trigger action to do the same.
- Provide effective mechanisms for accountability and transparency(watchdog) - follow the money trail of climate financing
- Voice of the vulnerable - As we tell climate change stories in COP27 we should ask ourselves who we are quoting - those with a voice or the voiceless? People have been lied to by politicians and are tired of policy stories but more interested in human stories - bread and butter issues - these are the stories that people read. They are also the stories that provoke researchers, policy makers and regulatory bodies, especially if the story is packaged in a manner that arouses interest. He alluded to the importance of the relevance of sources of a story.
- Monitoring and reporting.

## Session 3 - Key things to know about COP



The presentation on what goes on at COP conferences was delivered by Fatuma Hussein, Programs Manager Power Shift Africa. The following are the main parts of her presentation:

- Background
- International instruments governing climate change.
- Important timelines
- Paris Agreement – Overview and milestones
- Negotiations process

In the background part, Fatuma told participants that climate change is a global problem that requires common international concerted efforts to address the causes, adapt and build resilience; noting that Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the adverse impacts of climate change.

She further informed the group of participants that climate change impacts negatively; influencing economic growth and poverty reduction efforts.

Fatuma then presented an overview of the international instruments governing climate change as well as the important timelines in their implementation:

- 1.UNFCCC
- 2.The Kyoto Protocol
- 3.Paris Agreement

Regarding the negotiation, Fatuma made participants understand that the purpose of the negotiation sessions was for parties to regularly review implementation of the Convention and the other legal instruments adopted.

She concluded by explaining the different Africa engagements on climate including;

- CAHOSCC
- AMCEN
- AGN



## Session 4: Africa Cop27 Priorities

The discussion session was moderated by Aghan Daniel, CEO, Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA), who challenged participants with a question about 1billion USD and what this amount can mean when they put it into their country's respective currencies.

Mohammed Adow of PowerShift Africa who facilitated these discussions emphasized on policy and politics of climate change, international crisis of climate change, development and poverty. He embarked on the energy crisis that makes part of the issues facing the continent of Africa. He challenged African journalists who report on climate issues to square between climate crisis, energy crisis and development crisis in their daily reports.

Mohamed's discussion aimed at sharing the clear context of climate change issues with the journalists when it comes to accurate reporting on this subject, requesting for their efforts to help the continent, which is the most affected, to address the impacts of the burden. He said that the crisis is around food and energy-environment, which affects the real cost of living. He noted that this crisis can be tackled if the governments work together at COP27. Kinds of cooperative actions we are looking for in addressing this, according to Mohammed, include new forms of collaborations, new partnerships to address the energy crisis, the climate crisis and development crisis together.

Apart from the Paris Agreement's pillars that have been highlighted by the previous facilitator, Fatuma, Mohammed reminded participants the purpose of his presentation, which was financing of the mitigation actions, financing of adaptation actions and the financing of the loss and damage responses. He said that during COP27, the vulnerable priorities will be looked into to fast track the actions towards addressing climate change issues.



He stressed on the use of the COP27 opportunity to move beyond the patterns of political divide, and how it is affecting the preparation for the COP. He added that the African Group in other ministerial levels has pulled an implementation for the COP, and a collaboration COP. Mohammed explained that implementation is all about a COP that can actually help shift the world from the history of negotiation of pacts into possible responses to address the issues on the ground. In terms of collaboration, he said that both leading UNFCCC and actors of UNFCCC can think of how they can use the climate agenda to help build the world and prosper together, not only for climate, but also for addressing the crisis and the economic recovery challenges resulted from COVID-19 pandemic.

Mohammed highlighted that this COP27 presents opportunities for vulnerable countries, not African countries and it is actually going to happen at time when the World is trying to recover from the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic, and we have reduced resources available in many countries for climate action, as the result of the life and cost of living, to tackle both food and energy crisis, and that this challenge has exacerbated by the Russia's inventions of UKRAINE, and has brought geo-political tension, also disrupting the global food trends. he concluded the session by reminding participants to help their countries to move forward for low carbon resilience alternatives in order to provide media and other stakeholders, a neutral and high-level policy and political analysis to help Africans stand for themselves.

## **SSession 5: Effective Journalistic Coverage of Environment and Climate Change & Smart Agriculture for Sustainable Food Systems in Africa**

This presentation was delivered by Dr. Athanase Nduwumuremyi, OFAB Coordinator at Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB). The following make the main parts of his presentation:

- Agriculture and climate change
- Impacts of drought Stress on Maize and People in Africa
- Impacts of Maize Insects: Stemborer and Fall Armyworm
- Effects of Climate change
- Climate change though breeding to develop biotech crops
- Global impact of biotech for climate change adaptation
- Contribution of biotech crops to food security, sustainability, and climate change solutions
- Challenges in Adapting climate change through biotech promotion
- Way forward and effective communication for biotech products commercialization
- Reasons to communicate effectively

Dr Athanase highlighted some key effects of climate change including droughts, pests and diseases that are everywhere in Africa. For pests and diseases, he gave an example of the cassava brown streak virus that has been in Africa for many years, and now is in West-Africa.

He said that climate change poses a severe threat to the future of the environment as it pertains to agriculture, biodiversity, human society, and nearly every facet of our world.

Regarding the effects of climate change on crops and food security, he said that frequent droughts lead to reduced production, loss of investments and food insecurity. Dr Athanase said that if nothing is done to address the issues raised, the number of stunted children can keep increasing.

As the way forward and effective communication for biotech products commercialization, he recommended policy change, dissemination strategies and effective communication.



## Session 6: Justice Energy Transition in Africa

The speaker at this session was Mohamed Adow, Director of Power Shift Africa. In his presentation he pointed out two important questions;

- Can Africa power on renewables alone? The gas debate
- What should journalists look out for in terms of energy at COP-27?

He noted that the continent of Africa is disproportionately affected by the effects of Climate Change considering the high population growth. He shared some energy access trends for the African population that still poses vulnerability as 2 out of 3 of Africans do not have access to electricity and modern reliable energy that can empower their development.

The session was fully interactive and brought different issues to debate. Mohammed explained to the participants that Africa is at the crossroads of either pursuing the path OECD countries develop which has been largely powered by fossil fuels and becoming a big polluter or we can transition and leap frog from that energy and become a green energy leader. Thus as Africa develops, it has to develop its energy sector because there is no development without industrialisation and there is no industrialization without sustainable energy access. The biggest challenge that Africa faces now is to choose the development path that is fit for Africa.



He reiterated the triple challenges that Africa is facing which are; climate crisis , energy crisis (limited energy access) and development (poverty) crisis. Energy being the link between all the three crises. Depending on energy access, Africa can industrialize quickly and much faster. So if Africa chooses renewable energy its development will be more sustainable, help to address climate challenges and be a green leader.

He further pointed out that fossil energy is an outdated technology which is causing a climate crisis whereas renewable energy is a new technology that is cheaper and the appropriate technology of the 21st century. So the choice for alternative renewable energy is the question at the heart of climate debate.

In his reference to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the respective countries, he advised that Africa's NDC's should be repackaged as Investment tools and negotiated in a manner that allow Africa to benefit from the resources and technology of historical polluters in the process of achieving Africa's NDC's. His remarks sparked debates from the participants whereby one of them requested to know why Africa's negotiators during the Kyoto protocol did not consider raising the concern of negotiating for the NCD's investment support. His response was that the climate discourse is dominated by the historical polluters and also the negotiators from Africa are usually development workers whereas others are represented by highly effective lawyers at the negotiation tables.

He concluded by saying that a diverse, decentralized, nature-friendly renewable energy system can help with not only energy access, food security, national security but also with global stability. He encouraged participants to be structural, transformational and radical in the energy choices they make otherwise we will not be able to deliver the solutions the world needs.

## **Session 7: COP27 Opportunities for Africa-centered and led climate change solutions**

This session was facilitated by Daniel Okechekwu Ogbonnaya, Country Representative, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). His presentation embarked on sectoral challenges due to Climatic Impacts focusing on Agriculture, Cities & Population, Health, Conflicts & Migration, Youth, Gender & Social Inclusion and Governance.

He noted that Africa is among the most vulnerable continents to extreme climatic events because of its widespread poverty, poor health services, and poor infrastructure. Citing the IPCC report, he informed the participants that in urban areas the risks induced from climate change tend to be amplified especially on areas lacking infrastructure and services whereas the rural areas are expected to experience major impacts on water supply system, food security, and agriculture, which disproportionately affect the welfare of the poor and vulnerable social group (IPCC, 2014)

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On the governance challenge, he highlighted that it has the most impact on other sectoral challenges stating that if there is good governance mainly at the global level there is an opportunity to address the other sectoral challenges mentioned above. In his presentation, he made straight his point saying that many African governments have produced climate policy frameworks such as NAPAs and NAMAs in line with the directives of the UNFCCC, but implementation is still a huge challenge.

On this specific point he encouraged the media to focus its reporting on climate change and governance related issues by doing more research and to investigate what is it that is real good in terms governance when it comes to issues related to climate change. He discussed the opportunities and solutions available for Africa in combating climate change impacts which include nature based solutions, use of renewable energy, restoration of our tropical forests, wetlands rehabilitation among others.

As far as COP27 is concerned, he underscored the major points to be addressed so as to achieve climate resilience in Africa which include;

- Access to Climate Finance in Africa
- Agriculture and food security improvement
- Net-zero global economy and a just and fair energy transition
- Enhancement on physical infrastructures
- Capacity building on communities and livelihoods
- Governance and institutional capacity building
- Gender and social inclusion



In his concluding remarks, Daniel emphasized that Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to extreme climate-related events because of its geography, insufficient health services, and low infrastructure base. As the population is growing rapidly in Africa, prompt and drastic measures are needed to avert the catastrophic climatic impacts including socioeconomic loss, health-related issues, damage on physical infrastructure, and biodiversity loss.

Therefore, strong strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to achieve sustainable green economic development in Africa through Nature-based solutions are needed. Also, discussions on agriculture and food security improvement, just and fair transition to a Net-zero global economy, enhancement on physical infrastructures, capacity building on communities and livelihoods, climate adaptation finance mechanism improvement, governance and institutional capacity building, youth engagement, gender and social inclusion should be further addressed and prioritized for a climate resilient Africa that we want.

## Session 8: Climate Change Framing in the Media



The session was facilitated by Zeynab Wandati, Science Editor, NTV, Kenya. The key points of her presentation were:

- How to cover a big conference like COP-27
- How can journalists ensure more coverage of resolutions of the COP27, and what they mean for Africa.
- How can the media be involved before, during and after negotiations.

She began her presentation by provoking the participants so as to express their conviction and understanding that climate change is a reality simply because there are some people who don't believe that it's a real challenge but a hoax. Her approach is pertinent due to the fact that if any of the participants does not understand the weight of the challenges of climate change they can't make meaningful and impactful stories on the matter.



She pointed out that climate denial or acceptance is influenced by the media frames and narrative citing the example of the USA pulling out of the Paris agreement due to the far right media reporting. She explored the various ways of framing climate change in the media in regard to climate change discourse so as to promote public engagement and meaningful participation.

She stated that the framing of a climate change story is determined by what the author knows on the subject matter, the editor's perception on climate change and the target audience of the story. The lens through which a journalist sees the story is the framing part of the story. She talked about six (6) frames for reporting climate change.

1. The first and the most important framing is the economic aspect of climate change. While reporting climate change, it's important to let people know how their money will be affected by climate change.
2. The second frame is looking at climate change as a human rights issue. She used an illustration of climate refugees where people are forced to leave their homes due to climate change impact such floods.
3. The other frame is to see climate change as a food security matter. This is even linked to people's constitutional rights to food. In case of drought as a result of climate change people's right to food as well as shelter are affected.
4. The fourth frame is security. For instance, community conflicts that result from internal migration may be linked to the very causes of climate change such as floods, drought, hunger, etc.
5. The fifth frame is looking at climate change as a political issue. She alluded to the existence or lack of climate change policies and laws that localize climate change issues of concern. The journalist's interest should focus on investigating the adherence to the existing policies and legal obligation to ensure accountability and transparency of duty bearers. It's one thing to have the laws and policies and it's another thing to have them implemented accordingly.
6. The sixth and the last frame is climate change as a cultural issue. She mentioned that most of our cultures are being eroded because of climate change. She advised journalists to reach out to people in their local communities to learn from them how they are being affected and in so doing they will learn the impact of climate change from a cultural perspective.

Winding up her presentation, she reminded journalists to always differentiate climate variability and climate change. The other thing she requested them to always remember is the cause and effect aspect. Not all situations may be caused by climate change but they may be related. So this calls for critical thinking before linking a particular situation to climate change-causation versus correlation and weather versus climate change effects. Not knowing these to differentiate will ultimately affect a journalist's credibility. She advised journalists reporting on climate change to source from verified and credible sources on social media. She also advised journalists to be very focused while covering COP and be selective in choosing the meetings they want to attend.

## Session 9: Effective Coverage of Climate change and science stories

The session was facilitated by Kiundu Waweru, Project Manager, EA Wildlife and Conservation Journalism Project at Internews EJA; and it was interactive.

Kiundu's session was to assess the previous assignment he gave participants to go and read the selected stories so as to discuss with them environmental and climate change frameworks and think of how to produce good journalistic articles. Through this kind of exercise, participants obtained knowledge on how to write climate stories in a more professional way.

One of the participants advised that there is a need for journalists and editors to support one another while covering climate change, so as to cover comprehensive and impactful stories in their respective media outlets. She shared an example of how her media outlets in Kenya put efforts in setting the climate agenda and now are benefiting from the outcomes, after taking climate change at their agenda table. The secret to achieve this, as she said, is to organize different roundtable discussions and seek partnerships to increase the capacity of reporters and editors. She embarked on how important it is to package a story, noting that it means a lot in terms of solution journalism. She stressed that a big challenge is how journalists package the story in a way that makes the audience switch off the channel. She recommended journalists to package their stories from data, experts and research.

## Session 10: Possible story ideas from PRE-COP-27 media conference

This session was facilitated by Michael Simire, Founder and Editor of Environews. Simire followed all the presentations during the two days of the conference and helped participants to try to find out some important story ideas to write about.

He reminded the journalists that climate stories do not need to always focus on disasters, but also on opportunities around.



He shared some key subjects journalists can take story angles from, like stories of business, health, Agriculture, gender, politics, human settlement, energy conservation, as well as renewable energy, with the aim to provide Africans with climate change stories. Simire told journalists that they are supposed to develop stories from what they have experienced during the Pre-COP27 Africa Media Conference, in different areas and perspectives.

He also encouraged journalists to report on the issues of climate financing and agriculture, as Africa needs to invest in sustainable agriculture.

Simire noted that climate change stories help communities to raise their consciousness and to be aware of climate change challenges. He said that the story ideas should relate with our countries' situations. He later asked participants to propose some ideas of the stories based on their two-day experience at the conference



# Recommendations & Way Forward

- Participants recommended that the conference organizers should offer story grants and host more conferences as the best way to keep track of the output.
- As far as the editorial significance is concerned, journalists said that it can add value to their works when news editors are involved in such conferences.
- They also recommended environment and climate change experts to increase commitment to support young environmental organizations to report better on environment, science and climate change issues.
- Participants said that the time allocated to the conference was not enough, noting that it should be extended next time to enable journalists know more about climate change and environment issues.
- Climate change Journalists need to help each other in experience sharing and they need to practice more coverage on climate change stories from their local communities' angles.
- They recommended that journalists who attended the PRE-COP27 can be facilitated to go to the COP27 and other COPs ahead.
- Journalists also recommended their colleagues to try humanize their climate change stories and ensure to pitch stories that meet the editors' expectations.
- They also suggested creating a network to publish climate stories ahead of COP27
- Participants recommended organizers to increase time and number of experts in various fields from the hosting country as a lot of information need broader discussions.
- For the next conferences and workshops, journalists recommend organizers to allow participants to do story on the field before the end of the conference and let them present even if it is a group, or to produce at least one bulletin just to review how participants understand the issues discussed to shape the ways of writing climate stories.
- The last recommendation is that journalists need environment and climate change experts to help them source grants.

# Annex



# Conference Speakers and Programme



**PRE-COP27 Africa Media Conference**

**Date :** 21-22 September 2022

**Venue** Hotel Villa Portofino, Kigali

**Discussions**

- Climate change
- Conference of the Parties (COP)
- Climate financing
- Climate change and journalism

**Represented Countries**

- Rwanda
- Kenya
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Egypt
- Zimbabwe
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- South Africa

**Welcome remarks**



Emmanuel Mugisha,  
Executive Secretary,  
RMC

**Keynote Speech**



Faustine Munyazikwiye,  
Deputy Director General,  
Rwanda Environment  
Management Authority (REMA)

**Speakers**



Kiundu Waweru, Project  
Manager, EA Wildlife and  
Conservation Journalism  
Project, Internews EUN



Mohamed Adow,  
Director Power Shift Africa





Bernadin Bavuge,  
Environment and Climate  
Change Adaptation and  
Mitigation Specialist (REDMA)



Aghan Daniel  
CEO, Media for Environment,  
Science, Health and Agriculture



Daniel Okechekwu Ogbonnaya,  
Country Representative, Global  
Green Growth Institute (GGGI)



Victor Bwire,  
Deputy Director, Media Council  
of Kenya



Fatuma Hussein,  
Programs Manager  
Power Shift Africa



Zeynab Wandah,  
Science Editor,  
NTV, Kenya



DR. Anthanase  
Nduwumuremyi,  
OFAB Coordinator at Rwanda  
Agriculture Board (RAB)



Michael Simire,  
Editor  
Environews



Juliah Kibathi,  
Media and Communications  
Officer, PSA

## Conference Programme

**Day One** Tuesday  
20 September 2022

Arrival in Kigali

**Day Two**  
Wednesday, 21  
September 2022

### 07:00am – 09:40am

- COVID-19 test, arrival and registration
- Climate Setting: (*Juliah Kibochi*)
- Opening remarks: (*Rwanda Media Commission, Internews EJA, MESHA, Power Shift Africa*)
- Keynote speech: Faustine Munyazikwiye, Deputy Director General, REMA

### 09:40am-10:00am

Group Photo

### 10:00am-11:00am

Basics of climate change: (*Bernadin Bavuge*)

- Variability, cause and effect
- Climate adaptation vis-a-vis mitigation
- African context

### 11:00am-11:30am

How journalists can cover climate issues: (*Victor Bwire*)

- Effective journalistic communication of emerging issues in IPCC reports and GIEC reports for public engagement
- Climate adaptation vis a viz mitigation: What journalists must know

### 11:30am-12:30pm

Key things to know about COP: (*Fatuma Hussein*)

- The Paris Agreement
- Structure of COP – Who attends the COP and their role
- COP27: The 'African COP' narrative

### 12:30pm-12:45pm

Discussions: (*Aghan Daniel*)

### 12:45pm-02:00pm

LUNCH BREAK

**02:00pm-03:00pm**

COP27 priorities for Africa: (*Mohamed Adow*)

- The \$100bn pledge
- The Glasgow Climate Pact – the climate deal struck at COP26 – what it entails and progress made in Africa
- What's the domestic climate finance landscape in Africa?
- Case studies from countries present in the training

**03:00pm-03:30pm**

Effective journalistic coverage of Environment and Climate Change Smart Agriculture for Sustainable Food Systems in Africa: (*DR. Anthanase Nduwumuremyi and Kiundu Waweru*)

**03:30pm-04:00pm**

Journalists to provide possible story ideas from climate finance: (*Michael Simire*)

**04:00pm-4:30pm**

Discussions and end of Day Two: (*Aghan Daniel*)

**Day Three**

Thursday, 22  
September 2022

**9:00am-10:00am**

- Just energy transition in Africa.
- Can Africa power on renewables alone? The gas debate.
- What should journalists look out for in terms of energy at COP-27?

(*Mohamed Adow*)

**10:00am-10:30am**

- COP27 – Opportunities for Africa-centered and led climate change solutions.

(*Daniel Okechekwu Ogbonnaya*)

**10:30am-11:30am**

- Effective coverage of climate change and science stories.

(*Kiundu Waweru, Internews*)

**11:30am-12.30pm**

- How to cover a big conference like COP – 27;
- How can journalists ensure more coverage of resolutions of the COP27, and what they mean for Africa.
- How can the media be involved before, during and after negotiations.

(*Taunah Wandati, Science Editor, MTV*)

**12:30pm-12:45pm**

- Possible story ideas from PRE-COP-27 media conference

(*Michael Simire, Environews*)

**12:45pm-1:00pm**

- Way forward and closing remarks:

(*Aghan Daniel, MESHA*)

**1.00pm-2:00pm**

LUNCH

**2:30pm-5:00pm**

- Genocide Memorial visit

**07:00pm-09:00pm**

- COCKTAIL



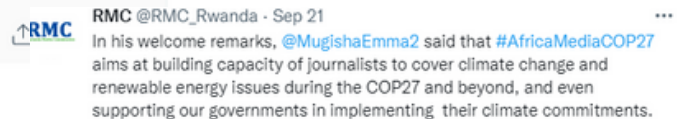
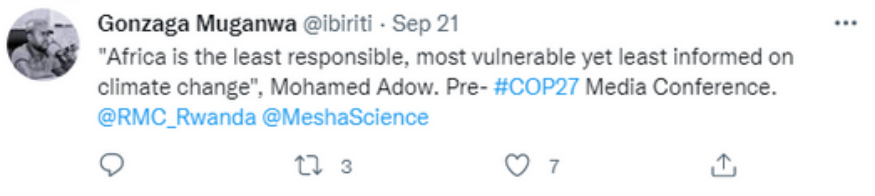
# Media Coverage

Date of publication	Name of media house/Institution	Link of the story
22/09/2022	Eye Witness News	<a href="https://ewn.co.za/2022/09/22/africa-should-use-cop-27-to-advance-continent-s-climate-change-goals-experts">https://ewn.co.za/2022/09/22/africa-should-use-cop-27-to-advance-continent-s-climate-change-goals-experts</a>
22/09/2022	Head Topics.com	<a href="https://headtopics.com/za/africa-should-use-cop-27-to-advance-continent-s-climate-change-goals-experts-30089229">https://headtopics.com/za/africa-should-use-cop-27-to-advance-continent-s-climate-change-goals-experts-30089229</a>
22/09/2022	Citizen TV Kenya	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Afb2bd5Z3DA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Afb2bd5Z3DA</a>
22/09/2022	Nation Africa Kenya	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbU0XSeA8ZE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbU0XSeA8ZE</a>
22/09/2022	RBA	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P71FOT2g8OE&amp;t=1445s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P71FOT2g8OE&amp;t=1445s</a>
23/09/2022	Mesha Science	<a href="https://meshascience.org/cop-27-experts-reveal-africas-key-priorities/">https://meshascience.org/cop-27-experts-reveal-africas-key-priorities/</a>
27/09/2022	TheRwandapost.com	<a href="https://therwandapost.com/road-to-african-cop27-activists-talk-tough-on-climate-reparations-injustices">https://therwandapost.com/road-to-african-cop27-activists-talk-tough-on-climate-reparations-injustices</a>

## Social posts

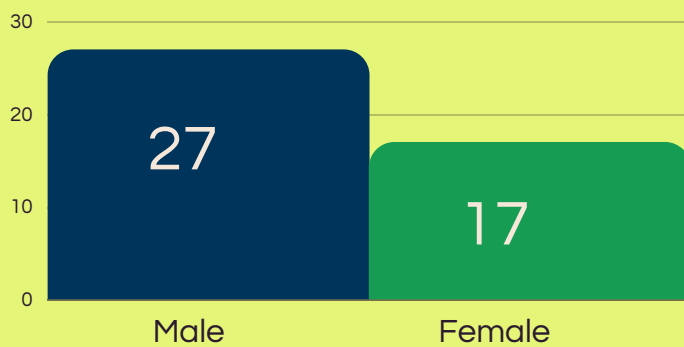


## Social posts





## Summary of Participants



Conference Report, Kigali 2022

# PRE-COP27 Africa Media Conference

# Thank You

