

Nairobi Climate Network Annual Report 2023



**Nairobi
Climate
Network.**



Executive Summary

The Nairobi Climate Network (NCN) is a thriving community of professionals propelling climate action in Kenya. NCN provides the collective Voice of the Industry and supports our members to accelerate Kenya’s path to climate positive growth. We have prepared this report for our members - so they can see where we are at, what we are building, and how they are part of a climate movement in Kenya and beyond.

By the end of 2023, NCN grew to 1,136 members representing more than 700 different organisations. From our first meeting of 5 people in October 2021, the community grew by 867% in 2022 and 194% in 2023 - demonstrating sustained growth and engagement by our members.

NCN members represent a cross-section of different types of organisations, nationalities and seniority. 60% of our members work in the private sector, 22% in NGOs or CBOs and the rest work for public entities and associations. Private companies are dominated by solution providers, but also include a large number of advisory firms, investment firms, tech firms and media. In addition, approx. 20% of our members work in research, education or policy. NCN members represent a cross-section of climate solutions, with most selecting more than one thematic area of focus. The two largest areas are adaptation and resilience and nature-based solutions with 42% of the network actively working in each space. NCN strives to serve the local Kenyan professional community - by the end of 2023, 68% of the network were Kenyan Nationals. Approx. 50% of members are at the Senior Director or Founder / CEO level, and 53% are women.

NCN’s initial focus was to bring people together through in-person events and to forge connections across climate actors. By the end of 2023, NCN had delivered 26 events attended by over 1,600 people. These events sparked connections between members, with many people finding new partners, collaborators and customers through the events and conversations. 32 people said they found a new business partner through the network in our end of year surveys.

NCN also started a whatsapp community as a platform for members and a forum for discussion on multiple topics. 1,093 community members have joined this community across 6 different groups.. In January alone, more than 70 jobs, events and resources were shared across the multiple groups - not including the multiple discussions, requests for help, collaboration and partnership.

NCN also provides opportunities for members to contribute towards building the climate ecosystem in Kenya, linking government with climate actors and creating a more enabling environment where climate solutions can thrive. This includes supporting the Office of the President in the run-up to the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) hosted by Kenya in September 2023. NCN helped to bring the voices, action, priorities and ambition of industry stakeholders on stage at the Summit. NCN also set up a Carbon Markets Working Group in April 2023, with the aim of consolidating the feedback from its members on the draft Climate Change (Amendment) Act. NCN became a trusted advisor to the government and liaison between industry and policymakers. The most recent draft of the carbon markets regulations heavily reflects the feedback provided by NCN and achieves significant progress towards designing a more favourable framework for project developers, communities, and investors.

Building on the success of NCN, we plan to establish “The Climate Network” (TCN), using NCN’s proven model as a ‘blueprint’ that can be replicated across the continent. We’re excited for this next phase and start new localised communities for climate action across the continent. Our goal is to create a collaborative ecosystem of actors that will solve the climate crisis faster and more effectively.

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Africa can play a pivotal role in creating and implementing solutions to the climate crisis.

Africa is well positioned to take action and lead on climate change. It has the highest rates of entrepreneurship in the world, with 22% of working-age people starting new businesses.³ The continent has a young demographic that are more likely to care about the climate - 70% of sub-Saharan Africa is under the age of 30.⁴ There is growing interest from climate finance investors and carbon markets developers looking to realise the renewable energy potential and wealth of natural resources on the continent.

Yet efforts are disparate and scattered. Climate change is not just one industry - it's a whole collection of different actors, industries and solutions coming together to solve a systemic problem. Organisations work in silos and lack avenues to share best practice. This limited collaboration and coordination slows down the pace of growth and the ability to scale for local and continent-wide actors.

The Nairobi Climate Network is a thriving community of professionals propelling climate action in Kenya.

Our mission is to build connections and networks by curating events, improving access to information and building knowledge for the climate movement in Kenya, as well as to help guide policy at a national and local level. We provide the collective Voice of the Industry and support our members to accelerate Kenya's path to climate positive growth.

Our Values:

- **Ambitious:** providing a platform for meaningful content that translates to action
- **Collaborative:** bridging sector divides, industries and competitors
- **Inclusive:** connecting senior leaders from corporates to communities
- **Local:** membership based locally and focused on local stakeholders

We enable our **COMMUNITY** of climate professionals to:

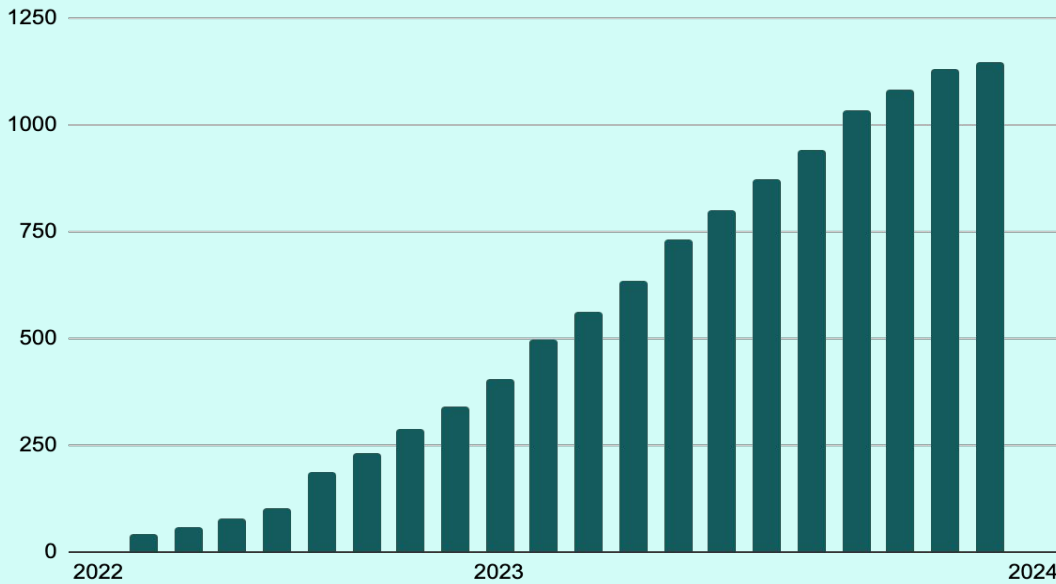
- **CONNECT with a climate community:** build local relationships in the climate space and share in-person experiences to build understanding and partnership
- **COLLABORATE with peers and partners:** share their views, achievements, and opportunities on a members platform to collaborate with both local and cross-network stakeholders
- **CONTRIBUTE to the climate ecosystem:** join expert groups and create shared outputs on topical issues that help to inform policy making, share network insights and showcase climate action



3. AfDB, [African Economic Outlook \(AEO\) report "Entrepreneurship and Industrial Development"](#), 2017

4. UN, [Young People's Potential, the Key to Africa's Sustainable Development](#), 2021

From 5 initial people in October 2021, we counted 1,148 members at the end of December 2023



The community grew by 867% in 2022 and 194% in 2023 - demonstrating consistent and sustained growth. We have received more than 1,760 applications for membership, and only accept those that can meet our admission criteria:

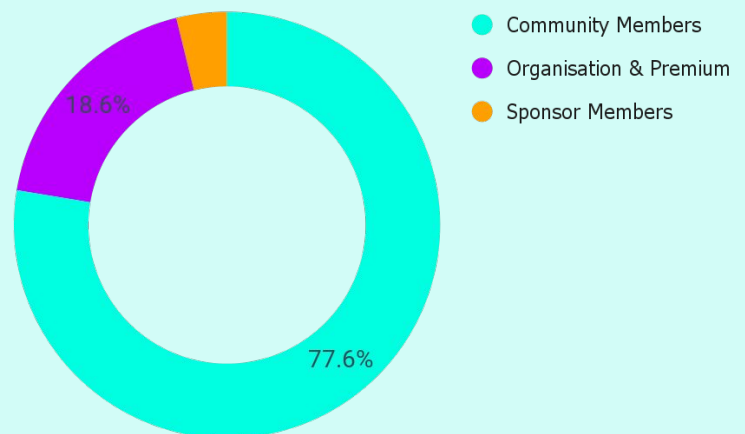
- Working for an organisation where the primary mission is to address an aspect of climate change
- OR Working in a role where the primary goal is to address climate and sustainability issues for a larger organisation (that may not be solely focused on the climate crisis)
- AND Living or spending a majority of their time in Kenya

These criteria have been designed to ensure that the community remains focused on climate professionals and each new person adds value to the rest of the community. We recognise the needs for other communities focused, for example, on youth, communities and activism, and we are increasingly forging links between other groups so that we can provide these connections whilst our community remains focused on serving climate professionals.

We strive to create an inclusive community that adds value for all professionals in the climate space - even those who cannot afford to pay. 78% of our members are part of the free community level package.

19% of our members are part of our Organisation Members, who pay for early ticket access and premium benefits that help keep the network going.

4% of members belong to a Sponsor Organisation. These are core partners who are aligned with our mission and support our work, as well as co-host critical themed events with the network.

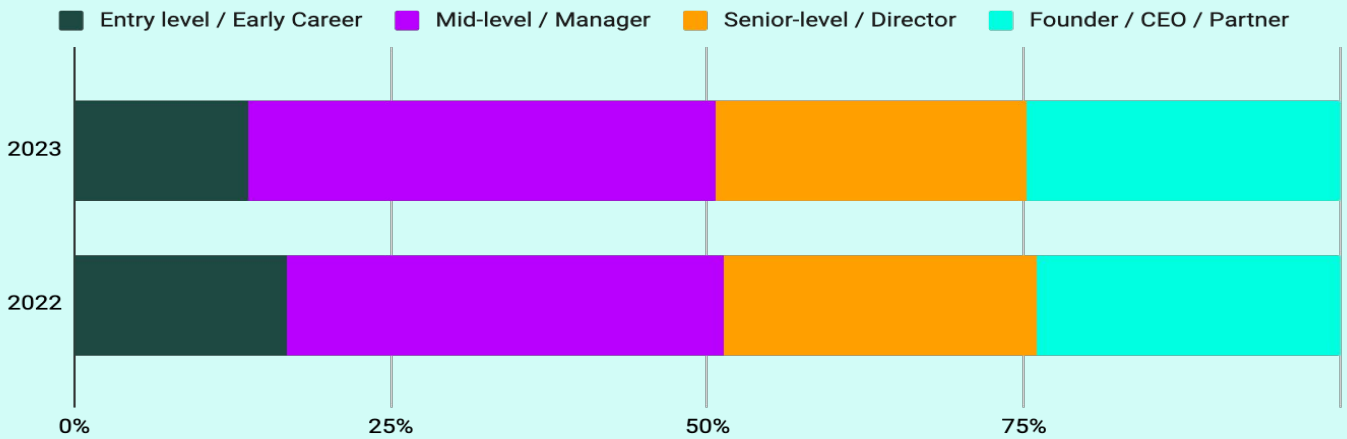


“Through the network I was able to apply for a fellowship and got shortlisted. I also attended some of the events... and it helped me forge some exciting collaborations in line with the work that I do.”

Anonymous Community Member, end of year survey

NCN represents many different types of organisation and sectors at a senior level

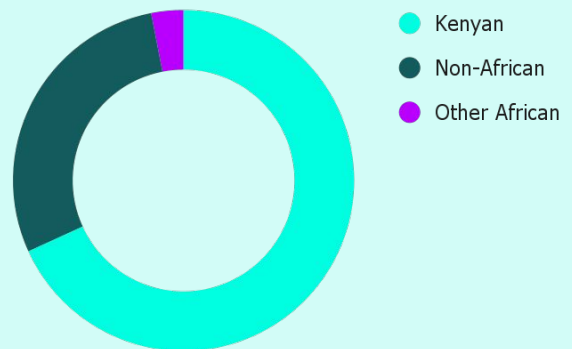
Level of Seniority



Approximately 50% of our members at the Senior Director or Founder / CEO level, remaining consistent with 2022. We have marginally increased the proportion of early stage career professionals as more young people look to enter climate careers.

Nationality of Members

We strive to serve the local Kenyan professional community and aimed to increase our representation of Kenyan Nationals in the network in 2024. We made good progress here, and the number of Kenyans in NCN rose from 51% in 2022 to 68% in 2024.

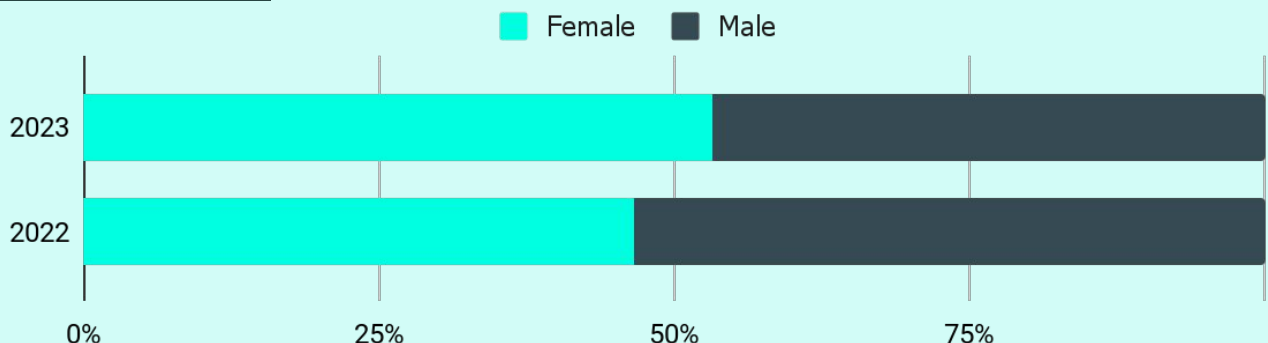


This network has been incredibly helpful for learning, creating meaningful connections and supporting our career paths in the Sustainability space.



Anonymous Community Member, end of year survey

Gender of Members



Women make up 53% of the network - up from 47% in 2022. The majority of the NCN team is also female, with both co-Founders as women and 80% of the Board of Directors are women.

Timeline of events in 2023: January to April

By the end of 2023, NCN had delivered 26 events attended by over 1,600 people. We hosted a minimum of one event per month exclusively for NCN members. The events featured members networking sessions for intimate conversations and networking, themed events focusing on specific topics relevant to Kenya, and experiential learning activities to share best practices across members. The events were all curated to balance networking, connection-building, knowledge-sharing, and in-person engagement.

February

New Years Member Networking

Our Members New Years Networking event at Nabo Bistro was attended by 90 people.



Ngong Road Forest Community Walking Tour

20 NCN members joined a guided walking tour of Ngong Road Forest.



April

Climate Finance and Resilience Reception

Dalberg Advisors and NCN co-hosted 65 guests to a session on climate finance and the launch of the book *Scaling Impact: Finance and Investment for a Better World* by Kusi Hornberger.



March

Art X Climate

NCN members explored environmental exhibits and sessions including the built environment's role in defining and shaping culture and sustainability, tackling plastic pollution through innovation, art and heritage, plus art and its role in youth climate activism. The event was attended by 140 members.



Carbon Markets Breakfast

Climate Impact Partners and NCN hosted a 'Carbon Markets Breakfast' with industry leaders to discuss carbon market policy and Article 6 developments in East Africa.



Timeline of events in 2023: May to August

May

Climate Collapse Happy Hour

70 NCN members met with Kairos Futura innovators to engage with their innovative exhibits - including water-testing kits, tree seedling hats, water-purifying cactus and seedballs.



Climate Fresk

45 NCN members participated in this interactive and science-based workshop that explores the multiple causes, interdependencies and solutions to the climate crisis.



June

Navigating the Climate Change Legal Landscape in Kenya

24 NCN members participated in this workshop hosted by Bowman's Law, gaining a comprehensive overview of the legal framework and legal issues affecting climate change, carbon projects and climate finance in Kenya.



NCN Community Networking

Our community networking event at Hidden Gem was attended by 90 members.



July

CLT Prototype Visit

18 NCN members visited the Cross Laminated Timber Prototype at BuildX Studio.



Driving Quality to Increase Scale in the Voluntary Carbon Market

Together with Climate Impact Partners, we brought together 60 experienced carbon professionals for an event to discuss Voluntary Carbon Markets.



Timeline of events in 2023: September to December

October

Open Networking Happy Hour

We hosted 80 members at an Open Networking Happy Hour at the Vanguard Lounge in Westlands. This gathering brought together professionals from diverse climate action industries to connect, share insights, and forge new relationships.



Bio-Circular Food Chains and E-Mobility in Kenya

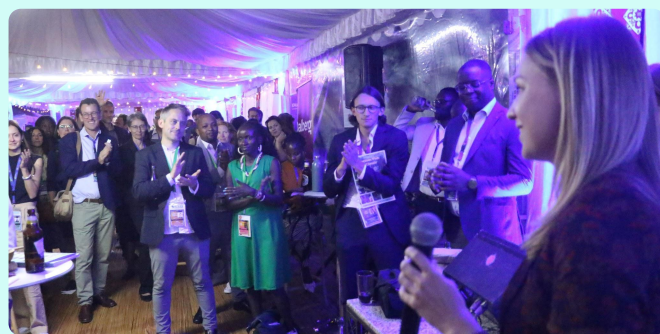
We hosted 35 members at a learning event focusing on E-mobility and Bio Circular Food Chains. We visited InsectiPro's production facility and travelled by BasiGo Electric Bus - showcasing two of the most innovative climate startups in the country!



September

Africa Climate Summit

We hosted the official networking event at the Africa Climate Summit. This cocktail together 200 supercharged delegates from across the continent, and launched our 'Perspectives' report!



November

Clean Cooking Cocktail Happy Hour

NCN and Burn Manufacturing brought together 87 professionals from the Clean Cooking Industry for a cocktail networking event at Bamba, in Lavington.



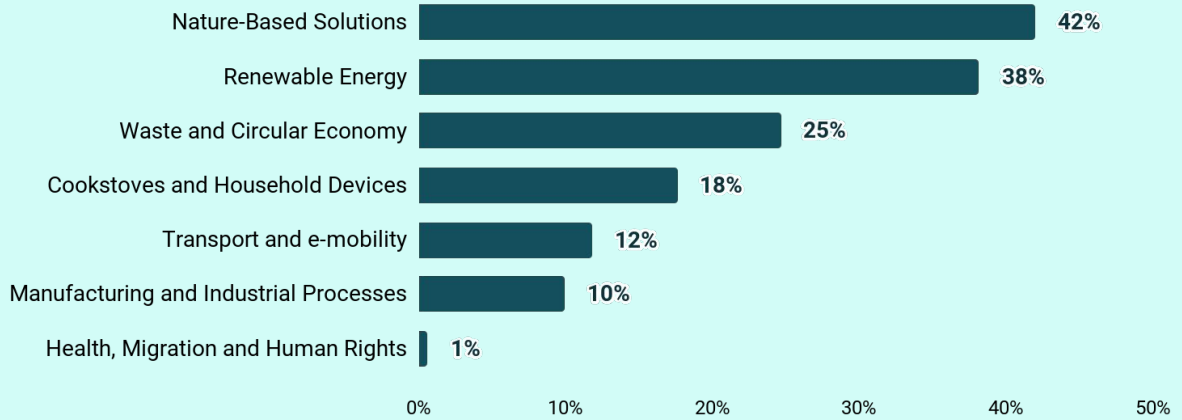
NCN's End of Year Party!

We ended the year with a spirited End-of-Year Party for members and partners at the enchanting Nairobi Railways Museum!



Members are working across multiple sectors and industries in the climate space

Thematic Areas of Focus



NCN members represent a cross-section of climate solutions, with most selecting more than one thematic area of focus. The two largest areas are adaptation and resilience and nature-based solutions, with 42% each. Carbon-markets aligned areas such as cookstoves and emobility, as well as nature-based solutions are a focus for many members. More engineering-based sectors such as manufacturing, emobility, energy and waste are also prominent, demonstrating the cross-sector nature of the membership. Finally, health, migration and human rights is a new category but already 1% of members say they are actively working in this space.

“ We applied to an opportunity advertised in the main NCN group and got a grant worth \$50,000. ”

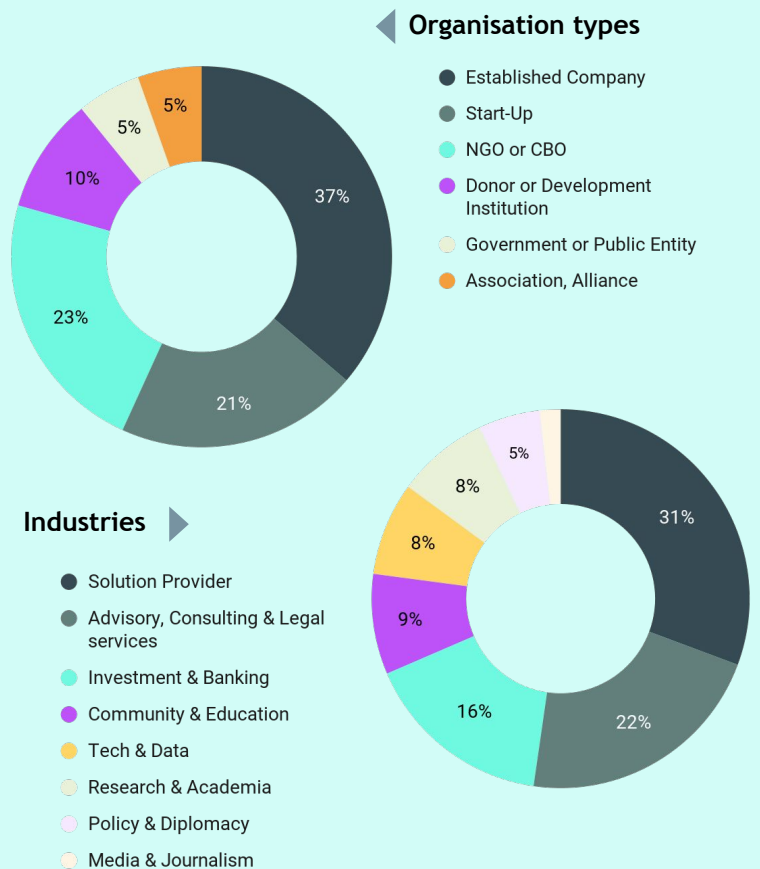
Renewable Energy Leader, End of Year Survey

Types of Organisation & Industries

NCN members represent a cross-section of different types of organisations. A large number are start-ups or established private companies implementing climate solutions. NCN also counts an growing number of climate-focused advisory firms, investment firms, law firms and tech companies, a testament that climate action is starting to mainstream in private sector in Kenya.

In addition, approximately 40% of NCN members work for non-profit organisations, associations and government entities, including representatives from major national institutions (Office of the President, Parliament, key Ministries, Regulatory authorities, main Universities).

Whilst not fully representative of all actors involved in taking action on climate change, NCN strives to bring cross sector actors and organisations to collaborate on climate issues and bring new solutions to the fore.



NCN's online channels helped members to share opportunities and collaborate with peers and partners

NCN's online platform enables members to share information and build digital connections through an online community. The purpose is to both share their opportunities and knowledge with peers, as well as to connect and learn from others through sharing and discussion.

WhatsApp

The discussion forum provides a platform for members to share their views, experiences and questions with local peers and collaborators in the climate space. Current groups within the WhatsApp community are:

- Climate Finance and Carbon Markets
- Land, Food and Nature
- Energy, Industry and Urbanization
- Marine/Blue Economy
- Upcoming events (e.g. ACS, COP, ATS)
- Crosscutting Resources

“
Thank you to everyone that reached out about the opportunity with CNN - people shared over 40 different ideas.. Thank you again NCN community!
 ”

Conservation NGO leader, in whatsapp group

1,093 members have joined this community across the different groups, with many taking part in multiple discussion groups showing high engagement across the network. During 2023 we updated the community guidelines to encourage the sharing of relevant content, current information, constructive debate and diverse voices as well as respecting the privacy of others in order to facilitate better discussions across members.

“
The whatsapp groups have been very helpful and enriching. Continuously learning through the discussion... I have also posted some questions and gotten great feedback.
 ”

Anonymous member feedback, end of year survey

Newsletters & Website

As well as the discussion platform, NCN provides a platform for members to share their events, jobs and resources publicly on the NCN website, as well as in the monthly newsletters that go out to the community. From September last year, more than 34 have been showcased. This is a premium service that we offer to organisation members in order to help build the financial sustainability of the network.

In 2023, NCN launched special event newsletters around notable climate summits for the year - notably the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) and COP28. These special editions helped members to navigate logistics around the event, as well as highlighting the events, announcements and speaking positions from members of the NCN community.

Future Plans

NCN is continually searching for ways to improve interactions and provide a better experience for member collaborations. In 2024 we aim to pilot a new community-building platform that can help to foster engagement for members beyond WhatsApp. It will feature an integrated community platform, member profiles and groups, events and content creation, and communication tools such as messaging and a posting forum. It would also enable members to connect and collaborate with each other both locally and across other chapters - watch this space!

NCN's Carbon Markets Working Group and activities at ACS enabled members to contribute to Kenya's climate ecosystem

NCN has provided opportunities for members to contribute towards building the climate ecosystem in Kenya, linking government with climate actors and creating a more enabling environment where climate solutions can thrive.

Africa Climate Summit

Firstly, the Office of the President asked NCN to help provide the 'Voice of the Industry' in the planning and delivery of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) hosted by Kenya in September 2023. NCN worked closely with the organising team to gather input from Kenya and across the African continent to bring the voices, action, priorities and ambition of industry stakeholders on stage at the Summit. More than 60 NCN members were featured at the Summit, putting them on the global stage as climate leaders. NCN also released a report on "Perspectives from Africa's Climate Leaders" that amplified the voices of climate leaders across the African continent, presenting their viewpoints and insights as a crucial contribution to the Africa Climate Summit (ACS).



Carbon Markets Working Group

NCN set up a Carbon Markets Working Group in April 2023, with the aim of consolidating the feedback from its members on the draft Climate Change (Amendment) Act. The first cohort consisted of 60 NCN members representing a great diversity of expertise and experiences - including specialised lawyers, UNFCCC negotiators, investors, sector experts and project founders. It quickly became the only organised group representing all types of carbon projects to provide collective recommendations to policymakers. It was able to develop very precise language revisions including line-by-line analysis of the draft text and clear recommendations for improvement over 5 rounds of feedback.

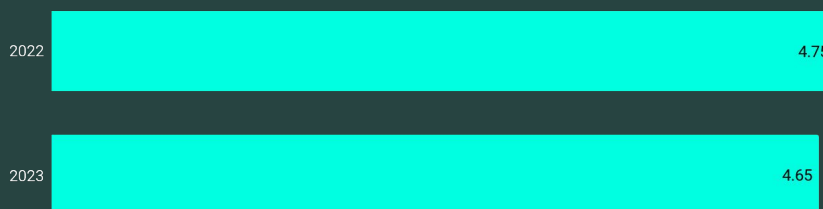
NCN became the trusted advisor to the government and liaison between industry and policymakers, even presenting to Parliament. NCN was the only representative of carbon practitioners invited to roundtable discussions with the MoECCF's legal team to amend the draft carbon regulations, achieving significant progress towards designing a more favourable framework for project developers, communities, and investors. The most recent draft of the carbon markets regulations heavily reflects the feedback provided by NCN and addresses the majority of concerns raised by the group. NCN extended its congratulations to the Ministry's team for the successful development and finalisation of the Carbon Regulations in early 2024.

Future Plans

NCN remains committed to working with the government of Kenya to develop successful carbon market policy that works for all stakeholders. To that end, we are excited to **announce our plan to establish a registered Association representing all carbon players in the country**. This initiative aims to foster greater collaboration and coordination within the industry. We believe that working closely with the Government will strengthen the collective efforts towards achieving our climate goals and creating a sustainable and thriving carbon market in Kenya.

We are continually striving to measure the impact and deepen the value of the network to members

Please rate your NCN experience:



As an ecosystem builder, it is difficult to measure the tangible impact that the network has. Data such as members within the community and events delivered are relatively simple, but we are continually striving to measure beyond this.

We know that the network team facilitated at least 71 direct introductions between members - but this doesn't capture the many connections happening at events.

Through our annual members survey, we know that at least 13 partnerships have been kick-started through the network, and at least 3 funding opportunities secured. However, as a limited survey this doesn't capture the full picture of impact.

Also through the annual members survey, we know that our members rate NCN as 4.65/5 on average, reflecting the high value our members place on being part of the network. This is down slightly from 2022 (4.75). As the network grows in members and scale of ambition, the personal touch and engagement is harder to maintain.

This is something we are actively trying to bring up through not only expanding the network but also deepening the value add and experience for members.

We look forward to providing more of these reports and sharing information with members on our plans and cross-network activities to help the continual improvement of the community.

Scaling 'The Climate Network'

Building on the success of NCN, we plan to establish "The Climate Network" (TCN), using NCN's proven model as a 'blueprint' that can be replicated across the continent.

Each new local chapter will enable individuals and organisations within the community to connect with a climate community, to collaborate with peers and partners, and to contribute to building a more enabling environment for climate action. Each chapter will be run by local co-Founders, but leveraging the resources and collaborating across the group to maximise climate opportunities.

We believe that a collaborative ecosystem of actors will solve the climate crisis faster and more effectively. The Climate Network will help to achieve this goal by enabling local climate professionals to collaborate and deploy climate solutions, supporting external actors adopt practices and policies that better enable climate solutions and amplifying African voices in the international climate community. Member stories and solutions will be showcased and championed on the international climate stage so that the world recognises the potential of Africa in solving climate change.

Launching in Tanzania in the first half of 2024...

Strategic Partners



A merger of ClimateCare & Natural Capital Partners



Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

Chapter Sponsors



Other Funders & Partners



Climate Action Platform Africa



Organisation Members



Africa is uniquely positioned to lead on climate action - from renewables to carbon markets to nature-based solutions.

Gathered across the continent is the perfect confluence of ideas, people, and funders all looking for the next climate opportunity.

We can help them find it.

**Nairobi
Climate
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**The
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Network.**

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