



COP17/CMP7
UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Communiqué

Issued on

05th December 2011

In Durban

South Africa



African Young Scientists Initiative
on Climate Change & Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AYSICCIKS)

<http://aysiccik.blog.com/>

Communiqué

From the African Young Scientists and Youth Initiatives on Climate Change and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AYSICCIKS)

**To the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) - United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving
as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP7) to The Kyoto Protocol, Durban, South Africa
(COP17/CMP7)**

We the African Young Scientists and Youth Initiative on Climate Change and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AYSICCIKS) who met at the COP17/ CMP7 - Durban UN Conference 2011 for the Round Table Discussions on the Role of Indigenous Knowledge and African Young Scientists and Youth in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation:

Realize that Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to the adverse effects of climate change.

Recognize at the same time that many African communities have for centuries developed and used community-based knowledge systems to adapt and mitigate climatic changes for sustainable livelihood. These include early warning systems, such as behaviours of living organisms, short-term weather monitoring cycles, climatic variability experiences and use of appropriate livestock breeds, plant varieties, resource management practices, e.g. mixed cropping practices, cultivation of drought resistance crops for sustainable food security.

Acknowledge that our primary responsibility to properly document these knowledge systems for validation/affirmation to inform climate change research and development in order for them to contribute to the global body of knowledge and search for sustainable solutions to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Recognize that climate change adaptation and mitigation technologies built on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) are sustainable and successful because they are locally tested, culturally acceptable and accessible.

Realize that these community-based knowledge systems have been marginalized by dominant western knowledge systems in the search for sustainable solutions to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Notice that most of the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) is resident in older members of the African communities, hence threatening its sustainability and minimising its potential to contribute to the global knowledge pool. It is important that IK is documented and shared with the younger generations to ensure its sustainability and successful application to meet current and future developmental challenges.





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Notice that the younger generations have a high potential to mobilise communities to respond to climate change as a challenge of their generation because they live in these communities; are largest part of the population; they know the local cultures including languages and are among the most vulnerable social groups affected by the adverse effects of climate change, such depletion of natural resources which lead to limited employment opportunities and poverty and hence vulnerable to risky behaviours such as prostitution, drug abuse, etc. which lead to the infection of dreadful diseases such as HIV/AIDS, etc.; the young scientists are exposed to modern technologies and methodologies which are crucial for IKS documentation and interfacing of IKS with modern science and technology to cope with global knowledge and developmental challenges.

Realize the importance of organising annual conferences and workshops as platforms to share experiences on IKS research and community engagement in climate change.

Recognize the importance of promoting and conserving African indigenous languages through research, capacity building and community engagements in collaboration with indigenous knowledge holders and practitioners.

Having noted the above, the AYSICCIKS seeks to:

- **Establish** a steering committee composed of representatives from different regions of Africa with the mandate to draft a strategic action plan, communication and marketing strategies, activity programme and fund-raising. This will be in collaboration with the African Youth Forum in Science and Technology (AYFST). This is a youth wing of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS).
- **Mobilize** African young scientists and youth within and outside Africa to promote the role of African indigenous knowledge systems in climate change adaptation and mitigation through research and community engagement.
- **Mobilize and sensitize** public and private funding organizations within and outside Africa to fund research and community engagement activities of African young scientists and youth in climate change adaptation and mitigation
- **Create** platforms including research, community engagement activities, workshops, etc. to facilitate constant interaction and exchange of experiences between Indigenous knowledge holders and practitioners with African young scientists and youth to ensure the sustainability of indigenous knowledge systems.
- **Conduct** (in collaboration with indigenous knowledge holders and practitioners) comprehensive documentations on indigenous knowledge systems in climate change adaptation and mitigation in respective communities and countries.
- **Develop** a knowledge agenda on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and African young scientists and youth in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- **Facilitate** capacity building programmes and projects for the African young scientists and youth on indigenous knowledge systems and climate change in collaboration with governmental, non-governmental institutions and indigenous knowledge holders and practitioners.



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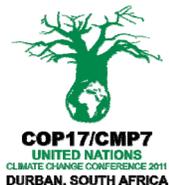


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- **Create** an all Africa think-tank of African young scientists on IKS and climate change research and development.
- **Develop** a database of African young scientists and youth involved in IK and climate change research and community engagement to facilitate network building.
- **Initiate** a continental post-graduate programme at Masters and Doctorate levels on IKS and climate change to build a critical mass of scientists on IKS and climate change in Africa.
- **Facilitate** the formation of indigenous knowledge (IK) and climate change clubs in educational institutions for promoting knowledge and awareness on the role of IK and African young scientists and youth in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- **Translate** IKS related to climate change adaptation and mitigation into business enterprises for job creation and income generation for African young scientists and youth, especially young women as the most vulnerable group to unemployment.
- **Organize** a continental workshop to interrogate the role of indigenous knowledge systems in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+).
- **Facilitate** the mainstreaming of IKS and climate change into the educational systems in Africa.
- **Develop** (in collaboration with national and international mass and folk media) an effective communication and marketing strategy for the activities of the African young scientists and youth in promoting the role of IKS in climate change.
- **Facilitate** the formulation of national, regional and continental policy and legal frameworks to protect and promote the role of IKS in climate change.

In Attendance:

Galefele Maokeng (Botswana), Joseph Rudigi Rukema (Democratic Republic of Congo), Margaret Appiah (Ghana), Tennyson Mugombo (Malawi), Papa Gora Ndiaye (Senegal), Jacob Thabit (Tanzania), Anke Weisheit (Uganda), Francis Omujaal (Uganda), Herbert Lwanga (Uganda), Fanti Stephen Pitso (South Africa), Hassan O. Kaya (South Africa), Mbatha Nompumelelo (South Africa), Motheo Koitsiwe (South Africa), Nceba Gqaleni (South Africa), Nelson Ijumba, (South Africa), Ntokozo Mthembu (South Africa), Raymond Mmola Lebeso (South Africa), Yonah Ngalaba Seleti (South Africa), Albert Otshudi Longe (Zimbabwe)

For more information and/or to become part of the initiative contact:

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