



Media Training

CCDA-IX | Praia, Cape Verde | 14 Sept. 2021

Concept Note and Curriculum¹

¹¹ Prepared by Eugene N Nforngwa | Head, Communication and Knowledge Management

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Africa is among the regions of the world that are most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, owing to their exposure to extreme events and weak coping capacities. Across the continent, extreme weather events are leading to crop failures, water scarcity, increased disease burden and threaten to wipe out coastal and island communities in at least 50 countries. By some estimates, climate change threatens to erode decades of development gain and make future investments more expensive almost everywhere in Africa.

Climate justice has become a defining principle in the global effort to address these challenges and others. It seeks to ensure that the responsibilities, duties, and benefits of responses to the climate crisis are fairly distributed among all peoples and regions of the world. This is particularly important to Africa, which suffers enormous climate injustices in that, as the region least responsible for climate change, it is also the most vulnerable and the least capable to take adaptive actions and contribute to mitigation. Africa is equally warming faster than the rest of the world, and without adequate action, is likely to suffer more intense impacts than other

parts of the world. These and other factors create unique and special circumstances for Africa, that must consider when developing global climate policy frameworks.

African civil society organisations led by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) intend to continue pushing equitable climate actions that are responsive to the special needs and circumstances of Africa during COP26. The climate change summit, which is taking place in Glasgow, UK, is considered an important turning point in global climate dialogue, coming after a year of mostly inactivity because of COVID-19 and the recent IPCC report, which shows that the window opportunity to avoid calamitous and irreversible climate change is narrowing. Debates and decisions from the conference will shape future climate action, including how they affect Africa.

Mass media can drive ambitious and pro-Africa climate action and decision at COP26 and other processes by (i) supplying the critical information needed for informed decision-making, (ii) introducing and sustaining Africa's special needs and circumstances on the policy agenda, and (iii) holding major public and private actors accountable for their actions, inactions and national or international commitments. More so, local coverage helps in mapping impacts and

vulnerabilities, fostering local solutions and connecting the voices and concerns of marginalized groups to major policy processes. On the flip side, poor media coverage can hamper progress, promote false solutions, dissuade people from acting and shift debates in the wrong direction.

OBJECTIVES

The climate change and COP reporting training for journalists seeks build the capacity of African journalists to increase the coverage of African perspectives of the climate crisis. The main objectives of the planned training are:

- To raise the awareness of journalists about the scale, urgency and mechanisms of actions needed to reach the goal of capping global warming at 1.5⁰ C.
- To increase news reporters' understanding of the critical issues and debates that are priorities to Africa leading to and during COP26.

- To equip finalists with skills and tools to mediate local voices and concerns, as well as create connections between the climate crisis and other development challenges such as poverty, disease outbreak, water scarcity, migration, and insecurity.

CURRICULUM

Climate change has been described as the most important news story of the 21st Century. But more significantly, media's role in advancing climate action that is timely and responsive to the scale and urgency of addressing the climate crisis has become important. To play this role well, journalists need to engage the subject at a deep level. This requires that journalists be highly specialized or at least have a good understanding of the issues at stake.

This training therefore focuses on equipping journalists with advanced skills in analysing the climate crises, particularly in making connections between climate change and other challenges facing African societies. Journalists who complete this training should conveniently discuss the key topics of the climate debates, frame the climate change discussion in ways that benefit African societies and recognize when the debate shifts in the wrong direction.

Unlike other climate change reporting training, this is not a newswriting course. However, journalists will be exposed to techniques of making climate change stories and programmes compelling and relevant to their audiences. The training is a series of lectures and group exercises designed to help participants share experiences and challenge pre-held conceptions.

Part 1. The Essentials

The morning session equips finalists with a deep understanding of the essential issues and debates surrounding the climate crisis with an emphasis on African perspectives.

Module	Topics	Learning Objectives	Activity
Mod 1. Climate Change Foundations	Energy and Global Climate Change	Recognise human contributions to climate change and the policy options available for addressing the crisis	Seminar <i>Group Exercise: Mapping local climate issues.</i>

	Vulnerabilities; Impacts and Resilience Building	Understand the linkages between the climate crisis and development (poverty, health, water, energy, gender etc)	Presentation <i>Group Exercise: Mapping local climate change impacts</i>
	Adaptation, Mitigation and Climate Justice	Understand the notion of climate justice and how it shapes African views in global climate change debates and policy processes	Presentation <i>Plenary discussions: How can media coverage of mitigation and adaptation in Africa integrate justice concerns?</i>

	Energy Governance: International Negotiations and Processes	Understand of climate decision making operates through legal frameworks and institutional arrangements such as UNFCCC, COP and IPCCC	Presentation
--	---	--	--------------

Part 2. Media Coverage and the Climate Crisis

The afternoon session creates linkages between media coverage and efforts to address climate change.

Topic	Learning Objectives	Activity
-------	---------------------	----------

<p>How can media advance climate action?</p>	<p>Understand the linkages between media coverage and responses to the climate crisis</p>	<p>Group Exercise. Media Tree Presentation</p>
<p>Covering Specific Climate Issues</p>	<p>Developing story ideas and reporting strategy around selected topics and issues</p>	<p>Presentation Discussions</p>
<p>Climate Reporting techniques: Producing compelling climate stories and analysis</p>	<p>Advanced story development and newswriting</p>	<p>Presentation</p>