



# Climate Justice 101 - powered by Global Campus Alumni

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, TOOLS, AND  
IDEAS TO DRIVE ACTION WORLDWIDE

# Foreword

The Global Campus is proud to present *Climate Justice 101*. This publication, created through the dedication of our alumni, offers an accessible introduction to the crucial themes of climate justice and the rights of future generations. We warmly acknowledge the creativity, commitment, and diversity of perspectives that our alumni have brought to this initiative. We hope this publication enriches your understanding of climate justice and inspires your continued commitment to protecting the rights of generations to come.

We are grateful to Right Livelihood for engaging with our alumni throughout this journey and for their invaluable support.

Our thanks also go to Panteion University in Athens, Greece (a GC Europe member), which in April 2024 generously hosted a three-day gathering of more than 50 alumni, featuring workshops, panel discussions, and exchanges with regional experts and activists.

# Introduction

In mid-2023, the **Global Campus Alumni (GCA) network**—made up of over 4,600 graduates from more than 100 countries—launched an initiative focused on **climate justice and the rights of future generations**. Recognising the critical link between human rights and climate action, our alumni began collaborating across countries and regions to raise awareness, develop resources, and engage communities.

This booklet brings together the tools, ideas, and activities developed by several alumni teams with limited resources and a lot of creativity and passion. Their work is ongoing, and the booklet will continue to grow, enriched with new resources that are free and accessible to all.

We invite all Global Campus Alumni, as well as any human rights and climate justice professionals, to join our efforts and contact us to learn more.



In Sirajganj, one of the most flood-prone districts situated alongside the Jamuna River in northwestern Bangladesh, several groups of people dwell in the low-lying, insecure valleys.

Photo (2025) by Shobhajit Chowdhury (APMA alumnus)

# Table of contents

Climate Justice: a Beginner's Guide.....	6
#1 Climate Justice   #2 Rights of Future Generations   #3 Intergenerational Equity   #4 Action for Climate Empowerment   #5 COP   #6 Global Stocktake   #7 Climate Finance   #8 Ecofeminism   #9 Climate Negationism   #10 Greenwashing   Advisory Opinions	
Podcast Series: Climate Justice in the African context.....	19
An intro to Climate Change in Africa   Children's Rights and Climate Change   Climate Displacement and Refugees	
Thought-provoking lectures.....	21
Disentangling Climate Justice   Climate Disinformation   Energy Democracy and Energy Activism   Gender and Climate Change	
Climate Justice in the Arab World: building a shared narrative.....	23
A study on barriers and opportunities for a regionally grounded climate movement	
Blog posts on Climate Justice.....	28
Environment and Post-Soviet region   Mental health toll and Environmental Human Rights Defenders   From Eco-anxiety to Empowerment	
Did you know? Fun & Not-So-Fun Facts about the Western Balkans.....	29
Environmental protests in Serbia   Lake Skadar (Montenegro)   The Tuzla power plant (Bosnia and Herzegovina)   The Pannonian Sea	
Water crisis game.....	33
An interactive role-play exercise	
Climate Justice in My School.....	35
Activities for primary school students	
Children's tales from Asia Pacific.....	37
An educational comic	
Alumni Contributors .....	40

# A Beginner's Guide on Climate Justice

## by GC Europe Alumni (EMA)

A social media campaign explaining climate justice and the rights of future generations to educators, activists and community leaders to support advocacy

EMA Alumni take you step by step through the various definitions and terms that are relevant to this discussion and equip you with basic knowledge and information that will support you to take action and mobilize your friends, colleagues and other networks.

### *Let's start with the Right of Nature*

A legal doctrine arguing that ecosystems - including trees, rivers, mountains - should have legal personhood and thereby rights just as humans have. 🌲

The underlying thought, largely built upon ecocentric and indigenous worldviews, is that humanity and nature are intertwined and impossible to separate. 🌅

Where have we seen this in practice?

- 🌹 The Whanganui River in New Zealand has been recognised as a rights holder
- 🌊 The Atrato River in Colombia has been recognised as a rights holder
- 🍄 Ecuador's Constitution recognises the rights of nature

What are the challenges?

- Despite having been argued for since at least the 1970s, it is still a field met with much resistance in practice
- There are difficulties with operationalising the rights of nature - for example, should some nature bodies have rights and others not? What if they are in conflict with human rights? Who should represent nature in courts?

Dive into 📖

🔗 Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature: <https://lnkd.in/guMJNN7j>

🔗 Minhea Tănăsescu, Understanding the Rights of Nature: A Critical Introduction: <https://lnkd.in/gF2kFbEX>

📖 Christopher Stone: Should Trees Have Standing? Law, Morality and the Environment (3rd ed.) (Oxford University Press, 2010)

# #1 - What is Climate Justice?

## ⚡ What is Climate Justice?

It is a social justice perspective on the causes and solutions of climate change.

## ⚡ Why is it important?

Climate Justice recognises that the 🧑 vulnerable groups are the people who are most affected by the effects of climate change. It links human rights and development to achieve a more equitable sharing of burdens and benefits of climate change.

💡 Different groups such as social movements, scholars and governments are using the term in different ways. It is, however, usually about adding a social justice lens to climate change issues, that is, acknowledging not only the environmental and technical, but also the social and economic aspects of climate change, especially global inequality. It examines:

- Who is disproportionately affected
- Who is more vulnerable
- Who is more accountable
- Who is more responsible

🔑 Climate justice means, for example, taking the rights of indigenous people into account in climate change negotiations and measures. Indigenous peoples are custodians of some of the most biologically diverse territories of the world. Their worldview, culture and food security are innately tied to their ancestral lands. Therefore, they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and displacement from these lands also adversely affects their social and economic rights.

🔑 It also means that climate displacement must recognize that climate change is a form of structural violence caused by the emissions of the planet's most affluent inhabitants. An approach to climate displacement grounded in climate justice must recognize the differential responsibility of states for climate change and require not only aggressive mitigation measures but also financial and technical contributions to mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction in

## Dive into Climate Justice:

- 📖 Roser, D., & Seidel, C. (2017). Climate justice. an introduction. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- 📖 Jafry, T. Routledge handbook of climate justice. (2019). Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, earthscan from Routledge.
- 📖 'Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice | Principles of Climate Justice, <https://lnkd.in/g5FRkp6p>
- 📖 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 'State of the World's Indigenous Peoples' (2019). United Nations.
- 📖 Gonzalez, Carmen G., Climate Justice and Climate Displacement: Evaluating the Emerging Legal and Policy Responses (April 3, 2019). Wisconsin International Law Journal, Vol. 36, No. 2, 2019, Available at SSRN: <https://lnkd.in/gf79CPWx>



## #2 - What are the Rights of Future Generations?

### ⚡ What are the "rights of future generations"?

The human rights belonging to humans not yet born, but dependent on the actions of the living generations.

### ⚡ Why are they important?

Whether "future generations" are rights holders is one of the central questions in contemporary human rights philosophy, law, and political campaigns. Who is considered a subject of human rights is never a given. Today, one of the major struggles for rights concerns the acknowledgement of "future generations."

💡 The issue becomes especially salient when we think of climate change: current generations destroy the planet. Do future generations not have the rights to a clean environment and life recognised for current generations? Indeed, they are particularly vulnerable for rights violations.

👉 In some countries, the rights of future generations are already enshrined in national law. The UNCRC General Comment 26 has also recognised future generations to be rights holders. The Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations adopted in February 2023, make a clear statement of States' and other actors obligations under international and human rights law and are already endorsed by a wide range of global experts and current and former UN mandate holders.

Court decisions on climate litigation have recognised either indirectly or explicitly the rights of future generations:

🇩🇪 The First Senate of the German Federal Constitutional Court Decision on "Klimaschutzgesetz (Climate Protection Act), KS" / 2021 highlighted that the German Constitution entails the element of Solidarity. By declaring that the Climate Protection Act was unconstitutional the Court has given an explicit answer that climate solidarity extended to future generations.

🇨🇴 The Colombian Supreme Court Decision on "Future Generations v Colombia" / 2018 examined child rights violations by the State of Colombia and explicitly recognised the environmental rights of the future generations in the decision, based on the ethical duty of solidarity of the species and the intrinsic value of the future.

Dive into the rights of future generations:

👉 [https://lnkd.in/dP3bpZ\\_d](https://lnkd.in/dP3bpZ_d)

👉 <https://lnkd.in/djFkrw7>

👉 Hiskes, R. P. (2005). The Right to a Green Future: Human Rights, Environmentalism, and Intergenerational Justice [research-article]. Human Rights Quarterly, 27(4), 1346-1364.

👉 Lewis, B. (2018). The Rights of Future Generations within the Post-Paris Climate Regime [article]. Transnational Environmental Law, 7(1), 69-88.

👉 Lewis, B., & Poff, D. (2023). Human Rights Duties Towards Future Generations and Achieving Climate Justice. Springer International Publishing.



## #3 - What is Intergenerational Equity?

### 🤖 What is intergenerational equity?

The terms "intergenerational equity" or "intergenerational justice", have been used interchangeably since the 1980s. They represent a widely recognized principle of international environmental law which requires the preservation of the earth's natural resources and the environment for the benefit of future generations.

### 🤖 Why is it important?

Climate change and its various current adverse impacts (greenhouse emissions, heatwaves, floods, disruption of food systems, diseases and mental health issues) will directly affect the generations to come. Among them, the most vulnerable ones will be disproportionately affected. Intergenerational justice recognizes the human rights of the humans not yet born and focuses on the responsibility of the living generations to take measures -today - to protect the future ones.

Although the principal used to be rarely invoked in court rulings, there is an increasing number of

### 🌟 Important Judgements on Intergenerational Justice 🌟

🇺🇸 Held v Montana / United States. This landmark climate ruling bars the state from taking any current action that would negatively affect future generations. It thus becomes a precedent for future suits in those states that do have environmental rights provisions, and an already-established jurisprudence that allows for suits to be brought by individuals and NGOs under those provisions.

🇩🇪 2021 Neubauer, et al. v. Germany. In this case, the German youth challenged Germany's Federal Climate Protection Act at the Federal Constitutional Court arguing that the target under the legislation of reducing GHGs by 55% until 2030 from 1990 levels was insufficient. The Court struck down parts of the legislation stating that the obligation under the Basic Law extended beyond protecting the climate and "also concerns how environmental burdens are spread out between different generations".

🇳🇱 2020 Urgenda Foundation v. State of Netherlands, the Dutch Supreme Court held that the government had a duty to protect the rights to life and home from the threat of climate change, but did not feel the need to decide on whether plaintiffs could represent future generations by noting that; "After all, it is without a doubt plausible that the current generation of Dutch nationals, in particular but not limited to the younger individuals in this group, will have to deal with the adverse effects of climate change in their lifetime."



👉 <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/180993556/>

👉 <https://climatecasechart.com/non-us-case/future-generation-v-ministry-environment-others/#:~:text=The%20Court%20ordered%20the%20government,by%20climate%20change%20and%20deforestation.> ...more

## #4 - What is Action for Climate Empowerment?

### Short Definition:

"A term calling for all members of society to engage in climate action"

Overview: ACE is a term adopted by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to highlight obligations under Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

Article 6 of UNFCCC seeks to promote and facilitate national and regional laws and regulations in regard to climate change and to develop and implement educational and public awareness programs on climate change and its effects.

Article 12 of the Paris Agreement speaks to the recognition of improving climate change education, training, awareness, and participation and states that these are key elements to enhance global action on climate change and promote changes in lifestyles, attitudes, and behaviors that will bring about a sustainable future.

ACE's Goal: To empower all members of society to engage in climate action, through the six ACE elements:

- climate change education
- public awareness
- training
- public participation
- public access to information
- international cooperation

### Implementing ACE will:

- Offer countries the opportunity to take stock systematically of existing activities, identify gaps and prioritize actions, establish targets and milestones, and identify key indicators to track and measure progress.
- Create policy instruments and measures to ensure an integrated, coherent approach to such implementation.
- Improve policy coherence and facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration (the national level provides the overall guiding policy framework within sectoral and local government operate).
- Provide avenues for financing, due to ACE activities that are duly aligned with national policy, including annual/multi-year budgets and planning.



[More about the Paris Agreement vs Kyoto Protocol](#)



### Sources:

<https://lnkd.in/epqBnRiK>  
[https://lnkd.in/ggS\\_5fjJ](https://lnkd.in/ggS_5fjJ)  
<https://lnkd.in/d-ur5ttW>

## #5 - What is COP?

Once a year we hear about the COP, its good or bad results, its last-minute agreements. What is it all about? The acronym COP stands for "Conference of the Parties". It defines the supreme decision-making body of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), ratified by 197 Countries, in 1994. Similarly to other UN Conventions, all States who are Parties to the UNFCCC meet annually during a COP, unless decided otherwise.

The first COP was held in Berlin (Germany), in 1995. The next one, the so-called "Finance COP", will be held in Baku (Azerbaijan), in November 2024 with an agenda focused on the financing pledges of the rich countries towards the poor ones but also on food systems, land rights, health, women, and green jobs and more.

🤔 Why is it important?

The COPs are the foremost global forums for multilateral discussion of climate change matters, and have an incredibly busy schedule. Important framework agreements such as the Paris Agreement or the Kyoto Protocol were adopted at COPs. The main task of the COP is to review the emission inventories submitted by Parties. Based on this, the COP assesses the effects of the measures taken and the progress made in achieving the objective of the Convention.

🗣️ Nowadays, the COPs are also an important place for civil society organizations to network, set media focal points and convey the urgency of climate change. A Young and Future Generations Day is celebrated at COPs to highlight the power and participation of youth regarding the climate issue.

COP challenges:

Nevertheless, a debate occasionally arose enquiring whether the COPs are very useful to tackle climate change, especially when their results are considered weak or ambivalent, as it was the case at the last COP28 in Dubai. On the one hand, a paragraph in the agreement was greeted as historical: "Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science". On the other hand, many weasel words in the text resulted in criticism considering the agreement ineffectual, containing "loopholes" for the fossil fuel industry.

Furthermore, at the conference no agreement was found on the global emissions credit market envisaged by the Paris agreements, which should have been one of the pillars of efforts against climate change, which still appears far from being achieved.

Sources:

<https://lnkd.in/dVqPHwb>  
<https://lnkd.in/dfUGkcME>  
<https://lnkd.in/ehyJQwzZ>


## #6 - What is Global Stocktake?


### What is the Global Stocktake?

Taking inventory of the climate efforts of the countries participating in COP.

### Why is it important?

At COP28, which ended in December 2023, the first ever Global Stocktake (GST) was completed. It examined where the world stands in terms of climate action and support, and identified the gaps to collectively chart a better course for accelerating climate action. Most notably, it called for a "transition away from fossil fuels" — the first time these words have appeared in a formal COP outcome in nearly 30 years of UN climate negotiations. Furthermore, the continued feasibility of limiting warming to 1.5°C is at the centre of this GST decision.

 By assessing where the world stands in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and using the results, the stocktake can help policymakers and stakeholders strengthen their climate policies and commitments in their next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and pave the way for accelerated action.

 The stocktake takes place every five years and is a critical turning point when it comes to efforts to address climate change – it's a moment to take a long, hard look at the state of our planet and chart a better course for the future.



Dive into the Global Stocktake:

<https://lnkd.in/dTH-FfBP>  
<https://lnkd.in/eMyM-GVZ>  
<https://lnkd.in/ehJT8CTQ>  
<https://lnkd.in/eZ7yFhgJ>  
<https://lnkd.in/gqjSssxs>

## #7 - What is Climate Finance?

👉 Climate finance refers to financial resources and instruments that are used to support ACTION on climate change. Climate finance can come from different sources, seeking to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change:

- 🌿 Public, private or alternative
- 🌿 Local, national or international
- 🌿 Bilateral or multilateral

On July 19, Azerbaijan, the host country of the 29th Conference of Parties (COP), announced the "Climate Finance Action Fund". This new fund is out to help developing countries to fight climate change. (19 July 2024)

💰 50% of the fund will be directed towards climate action projects across developing countries & the other

💰 50% will be allocated to help keep the members' next generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the 1.5C temperature target within reach.

- 🚫 The contribution to the fund will be only voluntary.
- 🚫 No mechanism is in place for the countries and companies most responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions to contribute to it.

⊕ As the effects of climate change are increasingly being felt in all sectors of the economy, public budgets and other financing vehicles are starting to consider climate risk in their investment decisions, further expanding the definition of climate finance.

✓ For example, countries like the Maldives consider all finance to be climate finance since their entire economy and survival is so dependent on climate resilience.



Dive into Climate Finance:  
<https://lnkd.in/dHAcJ5t8>  
<https://lnkd.in/dURB8rCg>  
<https://lnkd.in/dSpi-Cvz>

## #8 - What is Climate Negationism?

💬 "Climate change is a hoax," said the most powerful negationist in the world: the president of the USA. He also said that "coal is okay, they actually have methods now where coal becomes clean coal". What exactly he meant by clean coal is still unclear, but it surely makes people think that coal can be cleaned, which is not the case, at least not yet. (Donald Trump stated that climate change is a hoax during his 2016 election campaign)

What does climate negationism mean then? 😬 Climate negationism is to deny, distort or minimize the incontrovertible scientific evidence regarding the climate crisis we are facing.

✅ The scientific community agrees on some fundamental points:

- The phenomenon of climate change exists and has a prevalent anthropogenic origin.
- The primary cause of the climate crisis is greenhouse gas emissions.
- It is necessary, therefore, to reduce those emissions caused above all by the combustion of coal, oil and gas.

Spreading uncertainty by minimizing or doubting scientific evidence is not a quality only related to the climate debate, and it is not a new thing either.

📖 By the 1950s, the tobacco industry faced a crisis of cataclysmic proportions: smoking had been categorically linked to the dramatic rise of lung cancer. This happened by a strong expansion and consolidation of scientific methods and findings that demonstrated that smoking caused serious lung, respiratory and cardiac disease.

As a result, the tobacco industry launched a new unprecedented strategy: it worked to erode, confuse, and condemn the very science that was threatening to destroy its highly popular product. To confuse the public, what better idea than to identify, solicit, support, and amplify the views of skeptics of the causal relationship between smoking and disease?

Some authors demonstrate how the "strategy of doubt" – artificially creating the appearance of scientific controversy where none exists – has been used to delay policy decisions and protect the economic interests of various billion-dollar industries.


Lobbyists and politicians linked to the fossil fuel industries are now repurposing old tools to downplay the damage of global warming and climate change, creating a web of misinformation that influenced public debate.

In the era of digital media this misinformation is spreading broader and faster. The consequence is a dangerous sense of mistrust of science.

🗣️ The UN Secretary General António Guterres in a speech in 2024 blamed the "godfathers of climate chaos" for slowing the ecological transition. He said that many in the oil, gas and coal industries had "shamelessly greenwashed" through lobbying, legal action and massive advertising campaigns. He urged "every country to ban advertising from fossil fuel companies."

Just as tobacco advertising was banned because of the threat to health, could the same apply to fossil fuels?

## #9 - What is Ecofeminism?

 Short definition: Ecofeminism postulates the existence of a close connection between women and nature based on a shared history of oppression by patriarchal institutions and dominant western culture.

### Overview:

Françoise d'Eaubonne is credited to have coined the term "ecofeminism" in 1974 in her book *Le Féminisme ou la Mort*. It was born out of her belief that both the struggles of environmentalism and the struggles of feminism are similar. She saw that patriarchy was responsible for both environmental harm (through extraction of natural resources for capitalist pursuits) and the subjugation of women.

Ecofeminism advocates for an alternative form of life that aims to reverse this war on nature and life. It is a movement that critically analyses our current way of living that has resulted in ecocide, violence, colonialism and denounces the negative effects these have had on people and the natural world, and in doing so, tries to reverse the current way of life - which has been characterised by limitless growth - by placing life at the centre. It acknowledges the interconnectedness with all life on the planet, and works towards the realisation of a future which affords a dignified life for all humans and for the planet.

During the period between the 1970s and now, the movement has evolved the way in which it has conceived this interconnection. It started with a conceptualisation that was an essentialist and spiritual understanding, which looked at this connection between women and nature on the basis of their biology. Over the years, it has grown to be more inclusive and constructive in its definition, which believes that the link between women and nature is sustained by the social construct which formulated a gendered division of labour, the invisibility of care work (which is work that disproportionately falls upon women) and the natural processes of nature.



### Essential readings:

- *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development* (1988), by Vandana Shiva
- *Ecofeminismo para otro mundo posible*, by Alicia H. Puleo
- *Ecofeminism*, by Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva

## #10 - What is Greenwashing? How to spot it?

⚖️ In February 2025, a lawsuit challenged Apple's claim that certain Apple Watch models are carbon neutral. The plaintiffs allege that the carbon credits linked to forest projects in Kenya and China that were purchased by Apple don't actually reduce emissions.

🌳 In another case, a forest conservation project in Cambodia issued carbon credits without consulting the Indigenous Chong people, leading to evictions, criminalization of traditional farming, and no fair benefit-sharing.

These aren't isolated cases. They raise a crucial question 🗑️ When does carbon offsetting become greenwashing?

🔍 What is greenwashing? It is a misleading use of environmental labels, such as 'carbon neutral' or 'eco-friendly', to create a false image of sustainability.

💡 One common tool? Carbon offsetting i.e. compensating emissions by funding projects (e.g. planting trees) rather than cutting emissions at the source.

⚠️ Offsetting is greenwashing when:

- ✓ A forest protection project gets credit for avoiding deforestation even when the forest was never at risk 🌳
- ✓ A company promotes carbon offsets while continuing to expand fossil fuel extraction 🏭
- ✓ A fashion brand claims to be "carbon neutral" by buying offsets, without cleaning up its supply chain or reducing emissions from production 🧺

🧠 How to spot greenwashing?

- ✓ Vague terms like 'carbon neutral' or 'eco-friendly' with no data
- ✓ Low-quality, unverifiable offsets
- ✓ No community participation or development
- ✓ Marketing offsets as equivalent to real climate action!!



🔗 Link to the Apple lawsuit: <https://lnkd.in/gwtewU7N>

🔗 For more details on Carbon offsetting project violating indigenous rights in Cambodia: <https://lnkd.in/gGNY9pQk>

🔗 Learn more on how carbon offsetting contributes to greenwashing: [https://lnkd.in/gW\\_KNvW8](https://lnkd.in/gW_KNvW8)

## *How Advisory Opinions are shaping Climate Action*

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, yet international law has often struggled to keep pace. This is where Advisory Opinions (AOs) come in—they provide authoritative legal interpretations on how international law applies to climate action, helping to hold States accountable.

A landmark example is the May 2024 Advisory Opinion by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). For the first time, an international tribunal explicitly recognized greenhouse gas emissions as marine pollution under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). ITLOS ruled that States must take all necessary measures to prevent, reduce, and control these emissions, reinforcing the legal link between climate change and ocean protection.

The ITLOS ruling sets the floor, not the ceiling, for climate accountability. These advisory opinions may not be legally binding, but they carry significant moral, legal, and political weight, shaping the future of climate governance.

Additionally, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is examining States' obligations to protect current and future generations from climate change, with a decision expected in 2025, while the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) is reviewing a request submitted by Colombia and Chile on the 'climate emergency' and human rights obligations, which remains pending. Furthermore, a new petition filed in May 2025 requests an Advisory Opinion from the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights to clarify the human rights obligations of African states in addressing the climate crisis. It focuses on protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring equitable climate action.

### Why Do Advisory Opinions Matter?

They can...

- ✓ Clarify States' legal obligations under international law
- ✓ Strengthen climate accountability by establishing legal standards
- ✓ Guide policy and decision-making at the national and global levels
- ✓ Recognize climate change as a human rights issue
- ✓ Influence future legal and political actions

# From concept to action

After a brief overview of the key terminology, we now turn to how Global Campus alumni are engaging with climate justice in diverse, region-specific ways.

The following section showcases a range of these initiatives, demonstrating how our alumni's local engagement enriches and diversifies the global dialogue on climate justice. Here, you will find vivid examples of how alumni groups—from Latin America, Africa, SWANA (the Middle East), Asia-Pacific, South East Europe, the Caucasus, and beyond—have designed projects that not only reflect their unique regional challenges but also embody the universal principles we have just defined.

From a podcast series on climate justice in Africa, including its impact on children's rights; to research on civil society organisations in the Arab world working at the intersection of climate crises and human rights; to environmental and human rights education workshops in Argentina and a children's story in Asia-Pacific; to blog posts on mental health and the climate crisis; and to digital advocacy campaigns across South East Europe —alumni have been translating the language of rights into practice. These initiatives illustrate how climate justice becomes meaningful when it responds to the lived realities of communities and connects them to broader human rights frameworks.

# Podcast Series: Climate Justice in the African context by GC Africa Alumni (HRDA)

Three episodes curated and starring HRDA Alumni, produced as part of *Africa Rights Talk*, a podcast by the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights that explores pressing human rights issues across Africa through conversations with experts, activists, and changemakers.



The podcast is complemented by the blog post [\*Rising seas to rising tensions: How climate change is eroding the pillars of democracy in Africa.\*](#)

## #GreenJusticeAfricaCampaigns: An introduction to Climate Justice

An exploratory discussion that highlights how the climate crisis affects marginalised communities most severely; the challenges faced by NGOs such as limited resources; the reluctance of some leaders to act on climate issues; and the widespread lack of education on the topic; the episode concluded by stressing the need for a bottom-up approach to raise awareness and promote climate justice at both individual and community levels.

*In conversation with Prof Ademola Jegede and Davina Murden*



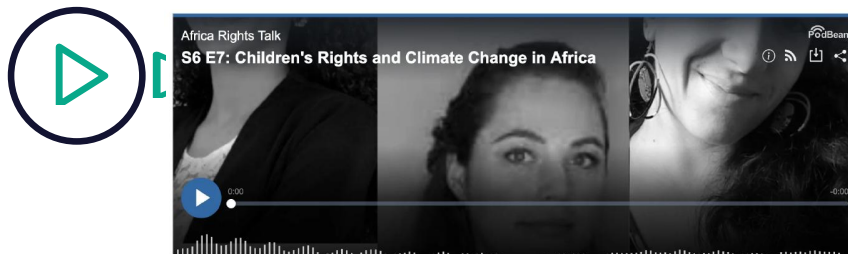
Podcast Series: Climate Justice in the African context  
by GC Africa Alumni (HRDA)

## Children's Rights and Climate Change

This episode examines how climate change disproportionately impacts children, with compounded effects on girls due to gender norms.

It highlights projected risks such as displacement, water scarcity, malnutrition, and heatwave-related health impacts, and calls for empowering children and for stronger engagement by African states with the African Committee's Working Group on Children's Rights and Climate Change.

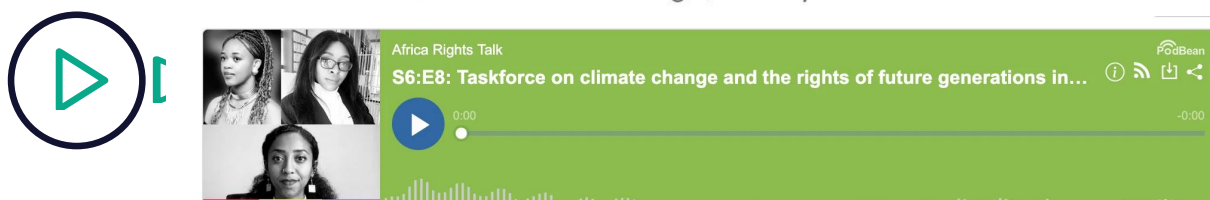
*In conversation with Elsabe Boshoff, Samrawit Getaneh and Nastasia Thebaud-Bouillon-Njenga*



## Climate Displacement and Refugees

Exploring the growing issue of climate-related displacement in Africa, this episode highlights the importance of legal frameworks like the Kampala Convention for protecting internally displaced persons, while pointing out the lack of clear legal status for climate refugees, which puts them at risk of human rights violations. The discussion calls for a coordinated, human rights-centered response to address the complex challenges of climate displacement.

*In conversation with Zanele Fengu, Mosupatsila Nare and Samrawit Getaneh*



# Thought-provoking lectures by GC South East Europe Alumni (ERMA)

*Voices for Tomorrow #1*  
**DISENTANGLING JUSTICE IN THE MIDST OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

**TOMÁŠ JUNGWIRTH BŘEZOVSKÝ**

*'If we understand climate as a political issue, we can then talk about JUSTICE.'*

Diagram elements: climate justice, Solidarity, JUST TRANSITION, Leave no one behind, Equity, Environmental Justice, Fair and just transition.

Tomáš Jungwirth Březovský explores the multifaceted nature of climate justice, addressing disparities in impacts, transitions, wealth, generations, and gender, and emphasising the need for inclusive implementation. He uses examples such as the yellow vest protests to illustrate the challenges involved.

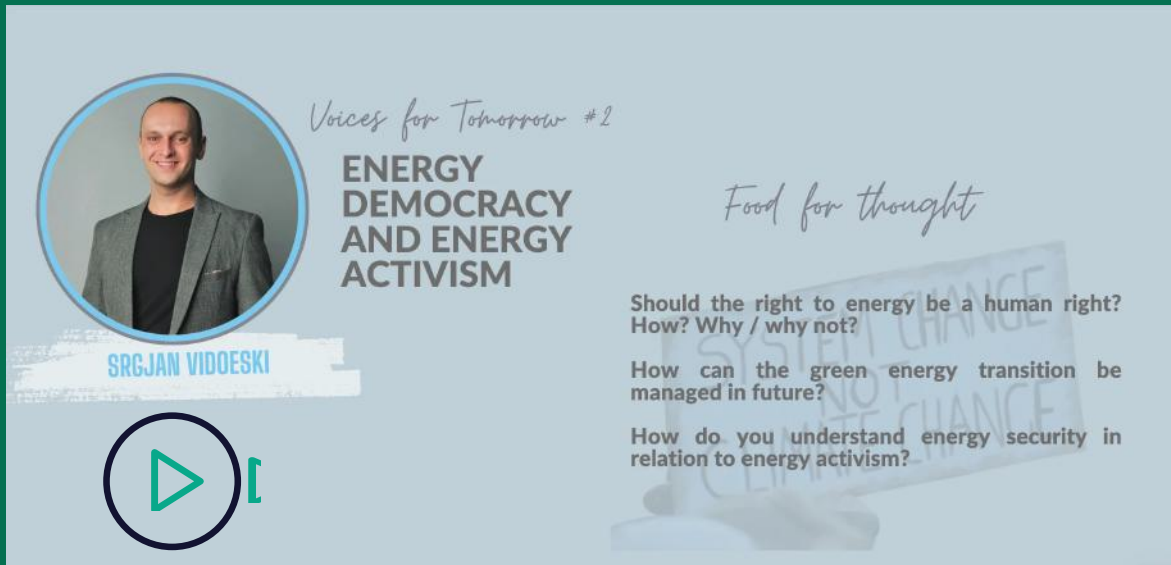
*Voices for Tomorrow #3*  
**CLIMATE DISINFORMATION**

**MAIDA SALKANOVIĆ**


Diagram elements: Disinformation, Misinformation, Conspiracy theory, Pseudoscience, Claim, Fact, WHAT CAN WE DO?, CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL, CLIMATE CHANGE NOT CAUSED BY HUMANS.

Maida Salkanović explores the fundamentals of climate disinformation, examining its roots, triggers, and harmful impacts on both our planet and society.

Thought-provoking lectures  
by GC South East Europe Alumni (ERMA)



*Voices for Tomorrow #2*



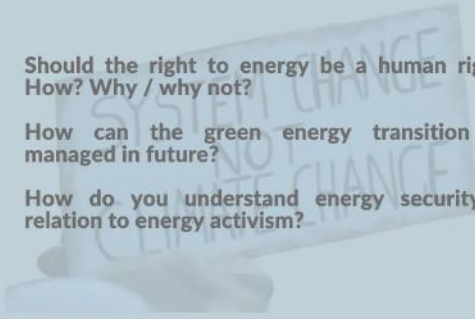

**ENERGY  
DEMOCRACY  
AND ENERGY  
ACTIVISM**

*Food for thought*

Should the right to energy be a human right?  
How? Why / why not?

How can the green energy transition be  
managed in future?

How do you understand energy security in  
relation to energy activism?



Srgjan Vidoeski delves into energy democracy—empowering communities to shape their energy futures through equitable access and shared decision-making—and explores energy activism, which mobilises people to challenge existing power structures and push for sustainable solutions.



*Voices for Tomorrow #4*



**GENDER AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Climate change - A  
chance for gender  
equality!*



Azra Šehić explores the pivotal role gender equality plays in addressing the climate crisis.

# Climate Justice in the Arab World: building a shared regional narrative

by GC Arab World Alumni (ArMA)

The SWANA (Southwest Asia and North Africa) region is among the most climate-vulnerable globally, facing water scarcity, desertification, heatwaves, and rising sea levels. Climate impacts disproportionately affect rural and marginalized communities, worsening inequality, instability, and food insecurity. Despite these threats, climate justice is largely missing from regional policy discourse. Why?



Basra was once known as the Venice of the Middle East, but the water in its canals is heavily polluted and has receded.

Basra (Iraq), 2023. Photo by Kai Wangle (ArMA alumnus)

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## Climate Justice in the Arab World: building a shared regional narrative

by GC Arab World Alumni (ArMA)

In 2024, the ArMA Alumni team explored how civil society organisations are working at the intersection of climate and human rights. Their study highlights key challenges and opportunities for building a just, regionally grounded climate movement. Using a bottom-up, civil society-centered approach, the team gathered insights directly from grassroots organisations and activists to amplify local voices and perspectives. The research combined a regional mapping of 65 CSOs with 15 key informant interviews, aiming to identify obstacles, opportunities, and pathways for creating a shared, justice-based climate narrative.

## Key barriers to Climate Justice

### 1. Political and cultural challenges

Colonial legacies and rentier economies prioritise short-term profits over long-term sustainability; Authoritarian regimes restrict civil space and repress activism; Armed conflicts displace populations and divert resources from environmental priorities to short-term humanitarian needs; Neocolonial dynamics shape the green transition to benefit external interests over local needs.

### 2. Funding and donor relations

Many CSOs lack formal registration due to restrictive legal environments, limiting their fundraising ability; Project-based international funding is inaccessible, inflexible, and often misaligned with local needs; The application and documentation process imposes high costs and self-selects for projects which adopt western jargon and adhere to donor's policy priorities; Western narratives dominate, sidelining indigenous knowledge and local priorities; Heavy focus on mitigation over adaptation and long-term resilience.

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Climate Justice in the Arab World: building a shared regional narrative  
by GC Arab World Alumni (ArMA)

### 3. Regional coordination

Limited collaboration across borders due to logistical, legal, and political barriers; A siloed approach keeps climate justice efforts fragmented; No shared online infrastructure or trusted platforms for joint action.

### 4. Public and political awareness

Environmental issues seen as “western” concerns or secondary to conflict and economic crises; Climate messaging often fails to resonate with local realities; Safety threats, brain drain, and harassment undermine activism; Local environmental issues are not seen as within a wider lens of climate change and injustice; Lack of venues and channels to discuss local climate challenges with competent authorities.

## Recommendations for a regional vision

*A shared narrative for climate justice in SWANA must be **community-centered**, reflecting real needs, not donor agendas; **decolonial**, resisting imposed transitions and western-led narratives; **collaborative**, bridging grassroots organisations across borders; and **inclusive**, embracing women, youth, and marginalised voices.*

- **Establish a regional climate justice consortium led by local CSOs**, not international bodies, to support collaboration, resource-sharing, and regional strategy.
- **Fund locally-led initiatives**, shifting from project-based, short-term grants to **flexible, long-term support**. Fund unregistered and informal groups with proven impact.
- **Build a shared online infrastructure** by creating secure, multilingual platforms for knowledge exchange and coordination.
- **Promote capacity building** to strengthen CSOs' ability to navigate legal, financial, and security challenges.
- **Support local narratives** through resources for storytelling, advocacy, and education that link local crises to global climate justice.

Climate Justice in the Arab World: building a shared regional narrative  
by GC Arab World Alumni (ArMA)



Ahwari villagers transporting reeds used for building. Chibayish (Mesopotamian Marshes), Iraq. 2023. Photo by Kai Wangle

The fight for climate justice in the SWANA region is not just about mitigation and adaptation—it's about communities, power, and fairness. To avoid replicating extractive systems, the green transition must be guided by local actors, regional solidarity, and a justice-first approach. Now is the time to listen to, support, and elevate SWANA civil society and build a shared regional narrative as the foundation for a just transition.

*Even when locals see pollution and drought, they don't connect it to climate change —they see it as bad luck, or a government failure, not a global justice issue. — Interviewee from Iraq*  
*We turned down international funding because the requirements made us spend more time proving impact than creating it. — Interviewee from Yemen*

# *Worth Protection*

## Photographic glimpses into eco-activism by GC Caucasus Alumna (CES)



*This photo is taken near the Carpathian Mountains. The people here are volunteers who gathered to plan activities and reflect on their work. To me, the work on defending environment is impossible without communities. What many authoritarian countries are doing is breaking those connections between people, so that they cannot organise themselves. Being part of the climate movement means seeing a bigger picture and your role in solving complex issues. The global climate movement often doesn't include our regional perspectives. The governments in the region don't seem to care. I find it difficult to track progress and impact sometimes.*

Olha Boiko, Ukraine, [Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia](#)

# Blog posts on Climate Justice Various Alumni

Discover the posts published on the [Global Campus Human Rights Preparedness Blog](#), a platform where contributors explore how protecting, respecting, and fulfilling human rights is essential to addressing today's and tomorrow's emerging threats.

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## The environmental scenario in the post-Soviet region: reflections on challenges to justice and sustainability

Nuno Oliveira



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## Reducing the mental health toll on environmental human rights defenders

Geanina-Gabriela Turcanu



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## From eco-anxiety to empowerment: cooling down the fear of a heated future

Geanina-Gabriela Turcanu



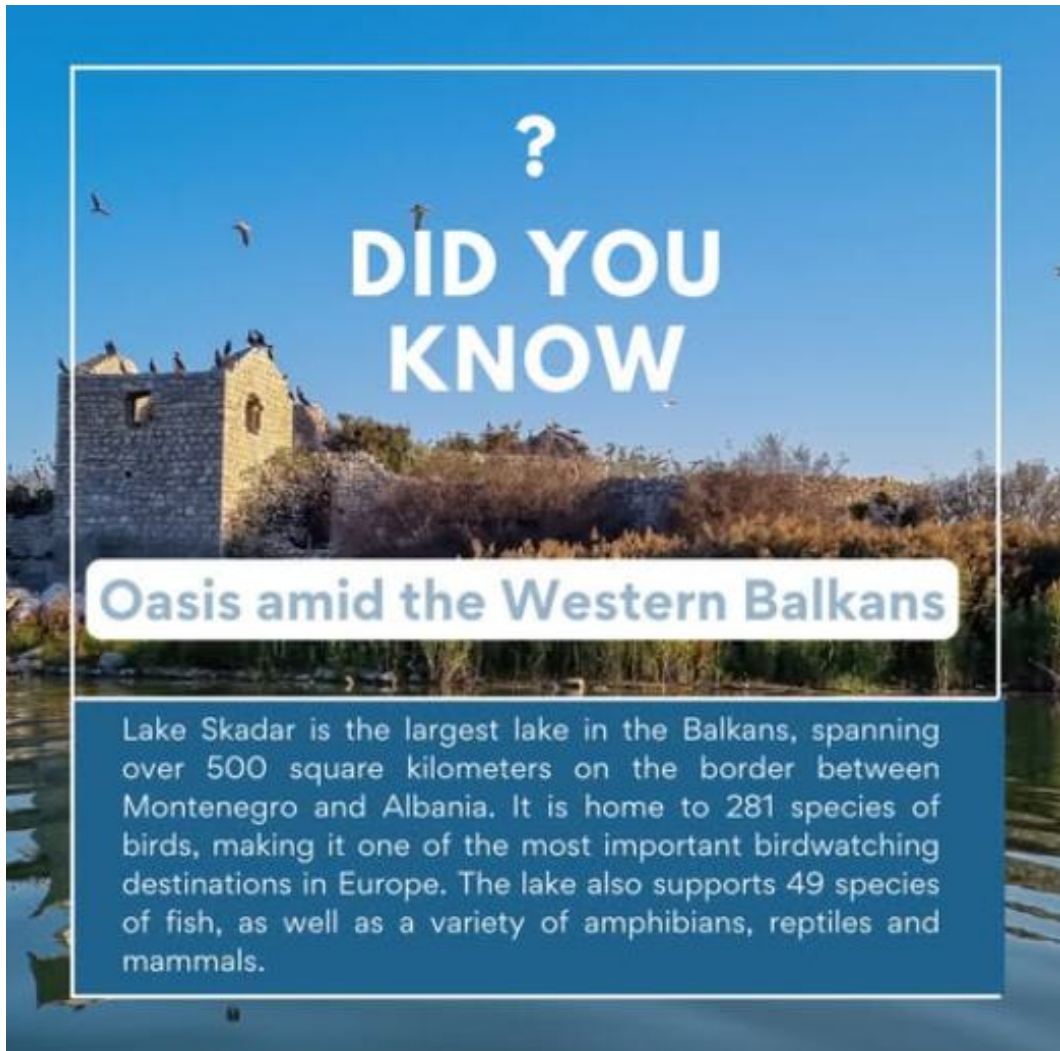
# Did you know? Fun & Not-So-Fun Facts by GC South East Europe Alumni (ERMA)

Insights on environment and climate justice in the Western Balkans



If you are from the Western Balkans, you are likely aware of the controversial Rio Tinto project. Many protesters argue that the project will be disastrous, posing serious risks to local ecosystems and communities. It remains to be seen whether these environmental concerns will prevail, or if Rio Tinto will push forward, claiming that their lithium mining project adheres to the highest domestic and international environmental standards.

Did you know? Fun & Not-So-Fun Facts about the Western Balkans by GC South East Europe Alumni (ERMA)



Have you every visited Lake Skadar in Montenegro? Lake Skadar's ecosystem is unique — made up of swamps, forests, and rocky terrain, and home to a remarkable diversity of flora and fauna. In addition to hundreds of animal species, the lake also hosts a rich variety of plants: from healing and fragrant herbs such as thyme, rosemary, and saffron to rare and indigenous flowers like Dalmatian green grass, wild yellow tulip, moon carrot, and laurel.

Did you know? Fun & Not-So-Fun Facts about the Western Balkans by GC South East Europe Alumni (ERMA)



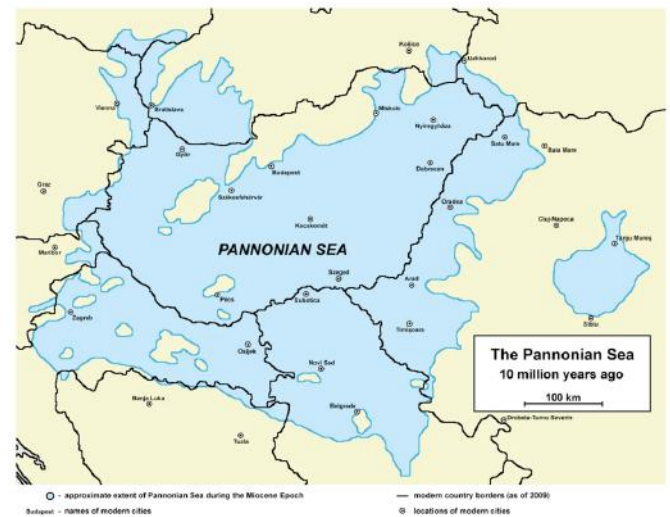
According to data from the Tuzla Canton Public Health Institute (2018), polluted air in Tuzla causes 29% of deaths from strokes, 20% from lung cancer, 31% of bronchitis cases in adults, and 23% of bronchitis cases in children. Felix Horne from Human Rights Watch stated in a press release: "Outdated reliance on coal kills thousands of people every year, and the authorities do little to prevent the problem or warn people about the risks to their health." Environmental associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina are calling for the introduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission taxes, but so far they have not succeeded.



Did you know? Fun & Not-So-Fun Facts about the Western Balkans by GC South East Europe Alumni (ERMA)



It is said that the Pannonian Sea was once home to several different species of sharks; the largest extinct species was the 18-20 m long megalodon, whales and dolphins of the Miocene, gilt-head and other fish found in the sea today. Fruška Gora, Dilj, Mecsek and other islands are now mountains in the region that was once the Pannonian Sea.



# Water Crisis Game

## by GC Caucasus Alumnus (CES)

**Water Crisis Game is an interactive role-play exercise that immerses participants in a simulated water crisis, challenging them to develop strategies to address an acute international conflict under strict time constraints.**

The scenario centers on the fictional region of Quadronia, a large Atlantic island made up of four countries: Aqualand, Ferrosia, Geoterra, and Skyland. Each state has distinct resources and priorities: Aqualand controls abundant water reserves; Ferrosia is rich in minerals but faces severe water scarcity; Geoterra is known for agriculture and forests but has limited water; Skyland leads in technology and alternative energy but depends on unpredictable rainfall and is highly vulnerable to climate change. The exercise models an acute crisis phase, with tensions over water distribution reaching a breaking point.

Aqualand is accused of monopolising rivers and reservoirs, while neighbours demand fair access for agriculture, industry, and basic needs. International mediation has failed, and the conflict escalates after a tragic incident: dehydrated residents from Ferrosia cross into Aqualand to obtain drinking water. A clash with border troops leaves two dead and others detained, prompting Ferrosia to mobilize forces at the border. Allies take sides, and the standoff begins to resemble a serious geopolitical confrontation.



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## Water Crisis Game by GC Caucasus Alumnus (CES)

Participants are divided into teams, each representing one of the Quadronia countries or affected groups. Their task is to develop a coordinated strategy to resolve the crisis within forty-five minutes, acting strictly within their assigned roles and national interests. The chairmanship rotates among the participants, and decisions are made not by voting but through discussion and consensus-building. The exercise begins with a short briefing and overview of the situation, followed by analysis and planning, after which participants propose concrete measures and strategies. The game concludes with a joint discussion of outcomes and key lessons learned.

This format allows participants to experience the dynamics of international negotiations in a crisis context and teaches them to find compromises, build agreements, and act in the interest of all parties. The exercise develops critical and analytical thinking, leadership, and diplomatic skills while demonstrating how complex conflicts over essential resources can become—and how crucial it is to seek solutions through dialogue and cooperation.



CES Alumnus at a youth camp in Kelechek, Kyrgyzstan, June 2024

# Climate Justice in My School

## by GC Latin America Alumni (LATMA)

The aim of this activity is to encourage children to assume a leading role in understanding and addressing climate justice, i.e.: empower them to defend their rights; promote leadership and agency; provide tools for critical reflection and constructive action.

### Core principles

- Involving children from the start
- Using clear, simple language
- Creating a safe, inclusive environment
- Supporting child leadership and valuing their opinions

### Activities

- **Knowledge Survey:** share your perceptions of climate change (e.g., hotter summers, mosquito invasions, waste in rivers)
- **Introductory Video** “Climate Change for Children: What is it?” followed by discussion on responsibility for environmental damage
- **Responsibility Thermometer:** assign responsibility for environmental issues (companies, government, individuals), debate roles and propose solutions
- **Final Reflection with Minecraft:** students mark “like” or “dislike” on healthy vs. polluted environments, linking the activity to their own Minecraft worlds

Climate Justice in My School by GC Latin America & Caribbean Alumni (LATMA)

Methodology

The activity combines **child-friendly resources** (videos, flyers, interactive games), **participatory tools** (Global Campus Child Participation Model), and **critical pedagogy** (Paulo Freire) to ensure meaningful engagement.



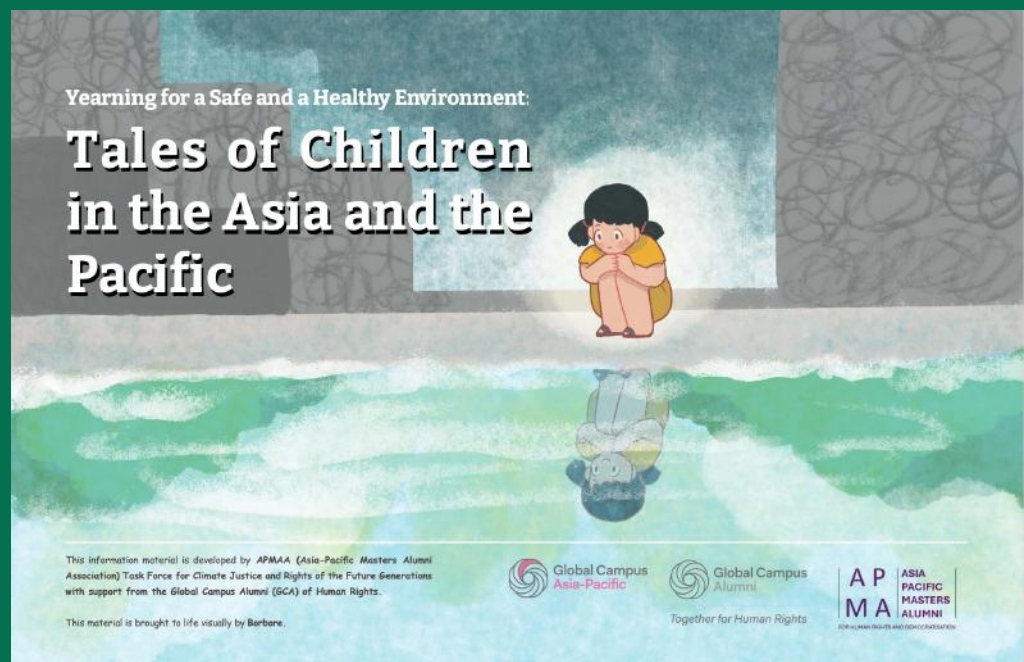
LATMA Alumni in a Buenos Aires primary schools engaging students in interactive discussions on climate justice. (Buenos Aires, 8 April 2024)

# Children's Tales from Asia and the Pacific by GC Asia-Pacific Alumni (APMA)

*At an age where they should be freely playing out in the neighborhood, children today are going up to the streets with placards and microphones, fighting for their future that seems to be more uncertain as the days pass by. Children and young people are feeling more anxious, as the summer heat gets more unbearable, as the air feels more dry and polluted to breathe, and as houses continue to get submerged in heavy rains and floods.*

*Children look up to adults to make the right decisions for them, to re-correct actions and address their collective concerns. Children have no time to wait but time is all they have now to come together and raise their voices for the future that they deserve.*

GC Asia-Pacific alumni have developed an **educational comic**, based on true stories, about brave children fighting for climate justice. It explains what climate change, climate justice, and climate litigation are, as well as the relevant rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



# *Worth Protection*

## Photographic glimpses into eco-activism by GC Caucasus Alumna (CES)



*This is a photo of the small village of Shies in northern Russia. The Moscow administration planned to send its municipal waste to this village, and turn Shies into a mega-dump.*

*After several years of struggle the project was canceled, and governors of the region were removed. This place is a very important example of successful resistance in Russia, and it gives me hope for a more just Russia.*

Vitaliy Servetnik, [Environmental Crisis Group](#), Russia.

# Upcoming tools & resources

The topic of climate justice and the rights of future generations will remain a high priority for the Global Campus Alumni. Stay tuned for more tools, visual materials, and resources to be added to this booklet!

From ecofeminism movements across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, to community-led responses to environmental disasters in Kyrgyzstan and Bangladesh, to a documentary on a Serbian natural reserve threatened by mining—these and many more stories will continue to shed light on the urgent challenges and inspiring solutions shaping our shared future.



GC Alumni at the Climate Justice gathering in Athens, April 2024

Learn more about  
the Global Campus Alumni network  
<https://globalcampusalumni.org>



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Meet the Global Campus Alumni from all over the world who contributed to this resource

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When faced with the vast challenges of global warming, ecosystem collapse and intergenerational injustice, it is understandable to feel overwhelmed or unsure of where to begin.

Climate Justice 101 responds to this uncertainty. Created by Global Campus alumni, it is a cross-regional toolkit designed to make climate justice accessible, actionable, and grounded in real experience. By introducing key concepts and gathering ideas, tools, research, and creative resources for community engagement, it showcases how each one of us has the power to draw on our local realities to meaningfully contribute to global climate dialogue.

Right Livelihood warmly embraces the passion and ingenuity of young graduates who demonstrate that every contribution, however modest or with little resource, helps advance climate justice to protect the rights of nature and future generations.

Jon Warmington-Lundström, Right Livelihood

