

CLIMATE CHECK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1



TRENDING THIS QUARTER :

- Balancing economic progress and environmental quality
- Zambia's Climate Change Bill with Ministry of Justice for finalisation
- Ban on Charcoal Production to Combat Deforestation
- Feeding the Future
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- CDF Training and business proposal development

UN Appeals for \$228 Million to Help Drought-Hit Zambia

By Nancy Mwape

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has appealed for US\$228 million to assist Zambia cope with drought if has affected its farming season. According to the UN, Zambia's cereal production is expected to nearly halve, affecting 6.6 million people who require assistance.

In a statement, the agency highlighted the dire humanitarian crisis facing Zambia, attributing it to the combined impacts of El Niño, a recent cholera outbreak, and worsening economic conditions. The appeal aims to target 4.6 million of the most vulnerable individuals. Earlier this year, Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema declared the drought a national emergency, recognising its devastating effects on food production and electricity generation.

The President emphasized the far-reaching consequences of the drought on critical sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and energy supply, posing significant threats to national food security and the livelihoods of millions of Zambians.

The impact of the prolonged dry spell is widespread, with 84 districts severely affected across Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt, Eastern, North-western, Western, and Southern provinces.

Ban on Charcoal Production to Combat Deforestation



By Kambobe Malasha and Dalisto Mvula

Zambia has taken a significant step towards mitigating deforestation and addressing the impacts of climate change by announcing a ban on charcoal production permits in three districts: Itezhi-tezhi, Mumbwa, and Shibuyunji.

This directive, spearheaded by the Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Hon. Eng Collins Nzovu, aims to curb deforestation and alleviate the effects of drought exacerbated by climate change.

CUTS lauds the move, urging further adoption of nature-based solutions (NBS) and the implementation of environmentally-friendly policies. It is importance to leverage on initiatives like Zimbabwe's Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) program, which empowers local communities to sustainably manage forest resources and promote reforestation.

While Zambia remains committed to global climate efforts, challenges such as deforestation, encroachment, and charcoal production persist. The Ministry's data reveals alarming levels of deforestation and land degradation, necessitating urgent action to protect the environment.

The Ministry's decision to halt the issuance of Cord Wood Permits for charcoal production aligns with the Forests Act, 2015, demonstrating a commitment to responsible resource management. Moreover, the government aims to provide support for alternative livelihoods and incentivise green businesses, renewable energy practices, and environmental protection initiatives.

Individuals and communities are encouraged to engage in sustainable forest management practices, while the government is urged to provide support for green jobs and tree planting initiatives to further environmental conservation efforts.

Zambia's Climate Change Bill with Ministry of Justice

By Nancy Mwape

The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment in Zambia has submitted the Climate Change Bill to the Ministry of Justice for refinement and finalization

Dr. Douty Chibamba, the Permanent Secretary for Ministry Green Economy and Environment, emphasized the crosscutting nature of the bill, highlighting the need for extensive stakeholder consultation and due diligence.

On March 13, 2024, the Zambian government convened a stakeholder consultation, which drew participation from various groups, including civil society organisations and youth groups.



The Ministry anticipates that the bill will soon be presented before Parliament for consideration. This step reflects Zambia's commitment to addressing climate change through comprehensive legislation, involving input from diverse stakeholders to ensure effectiveness and inclusivity.

Feeding the Future

By Kambobe Malasha

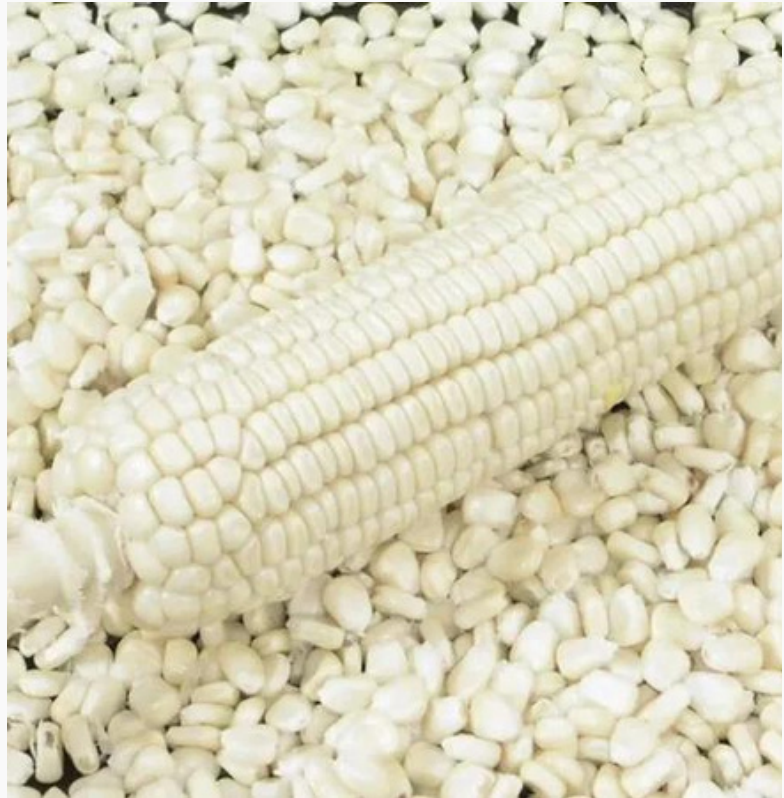
With global food demand projected to increase by 60% by 2050 and climate change disrupting food production, Southern Africa's smallholder farmers are at the frontline of these challenges.

About 500 million farming households in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, who rely on small plots of land, are particularly vulnerable to shifting weather patterns and extreme climatic events.

Initiatives Leading the Way in Climate-Smart Agriculture

With a need for diversification and adaptation, CGIAR's innovative research stands at a crucial standpoint in helping farmers adapt to a changing climate.

One of their standout projects is the development of drought-tolerant maize by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). With funding from the Gates Foundation, USAID, and the Howard Buffett Foundation, CIMMYT has developed over 150 maize varieties that can withstand drought conditions, specifically adapted to different African regions. Read more about their work here <https://www.cgiar.org>



AI, Climate Change – A Confluence of Innovation for a Sustainable Future



By Kambobe Malasha

As we look ahead to the pivotal COP29 in Azerbaijan this November and COP30 in Brazil next year, it's clear that artificial intelligence (AI) and climate change are increasingly interconnected in the global dialogue.

This convergence represents a significant shift in how we approach environmental and economic sustainability, underscoring the potential of AI to revolutionize our climate strategies.

Recent events, such as the Web Summit in Rio, highlighted the growing emphasis on integrating AI into climate policy and technology.

Jens Nielsen, the CEO of the World Climate Foundation, underlined this trend by advocating for a shift from traditional hardware solutions to innovative AI-driven approaches. This perspective aligns with the broader recognition that AI can enhance our ability to predict, mitigate, and adapt to climate change.

The announcement of the AI for Climate and Nature Grand Challenge by the Bezos Earth Fund marks a significant milestone in mobilizing resources for AI-driven climate solutions with up to \$100 million in grants available to inspire collaboration between climate researchers and AI technologists.

CDF Training and business proposal development

By Dalitso Mvula

From 8th to 12th April 2024, CUTS spearheaded the VCA Stakeholder Engagement and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) training in Shimungalu Ward, Mazabuka district. This initiative was part of the ongoing activities under the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) project. It aimed to enhance understanding, raise awareness, and empower community members on sustainable fisheries management and community development.

The four-day capacity-building meeting sought to foster collaboration and networking among community members, local authorities, and other stakeholders. This collaboration aimed to enable the Shimungalu Fishing Community to leverage shared resources, expertise, and support, thereby maximizing the impact of their development projects and promoting inclusive growth.



The community members were also trained on CDF guidelines and business proposal writing, a vital step towards unlocking the community's potential and fostering sustainable development. Considering that fishing is the major source of income, the community was also empowered with alternative livelihoods by teaching them how to access CDF and develop business proposal writing skills, ultimately helping them harness resources effectively for sustainable development initiatives.



PUBLICATIONS

In this book, Bill Gates draws from a decade of research and collaboration with experts to address the urgent need for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions to prevent environmental disaster. He provides a realistic overview of the challenges we face, highlights existing technologies that are helping to reduce emissions, and areas where new breakthroughs are essential. He introduces innovators working on these advancements and lays out a detailed, practical plan for reaching zero emissions. This plan includes specific policies for governments and actions individuals to hold governments, employers, and themselves accountable. Despite the complexity and difficulty of this goal, Gates asserts that with the right strategies and commitment, achieving zero emissions is within reach.

Access it here [How to Avoid a Climate Disaster by Bill Gates: 9780593081853 | PenguinRandomHouse.com: Books](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/9780593081853/how-to-avoid-a-climate-disaster-by-bill-gates/)

2024 Roadmap to COP29 Key Events and Sessions:

1. The Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition (ZAWAFE) "Closing the Gap: Working towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets". [Zawafe](#)
2. Climate Investment Summit, London: "Innovation Unleashed: Empowering the Climate Transition with Venture and Growth Investments" [June https://www.climateinvestmentsummit.org/](https://www.climateinvestmentsummit.org/)
3. World Climate Summit, New York: "Beyond Boundaries – The Next Generation of Climate Tech" [World Climate Summit](#)
4. World Biodiversity Summit, New York and Cali: Featuring sessions on AI and tech solutions for nature restoration. [World Biodiversity Summit](#)