



Open Letter to African Leaders at COP30: Deliver Climate Justice Now

'I couldn't see my wife anywhere. I found her outside. I removed whatever rubble was on her. I couldn't find the pulse at that time'

This is the reality of climate injustice. Vivendran's wife was killed by a tornado that hit Tongaat, a coastal community in South Africa, this was as a result of an extreme weather event of which we are seeing more of now than ever.

As COP30 convenes in Belem, Brazil, at a moment of historic consequence, we, the undersigned African people, movements, scientists, celebrities and allies, write with urgency and with hope. The science is unambiguous, the lived realities undeniable: the world is running out of time, and the people least responsible for the climate crisis are bearing its heaviest burdens.

Across Africa, for years, communities continue to endure relentless droughts, floods, storms, and tornadoes driven by the climate breakdown. But too often, our suffering is ignored or dismissed. Families lose their homes, their crops, their livelihoods, and loved ones. Entire communities are pushed to the brink, with little support or hope for the future.

The Congo Basin Rainforest, which is the beating heart of Africa and the world's second-largest tropical forest, is under threat from logging, fossil fuel exploration, and destructive extraction.

Our youth can not inherit a future they did not choose - one already compromised by climate chaos. This isn't just another environmental story, these are real people, real pain and real stories of survival. It's a wake-up call for justice and holding those responsible accountable before more lives are shattered.

This is the reality of climate injustice. And yet, it is also the reality of African resilience. From Indigenous forest guardians and communities protecting ancestral lands, to young Africans leading renewable energy solutions, to young people demanding accountability Africa is endowed with solutions.

We will rise - and we ask you to join us.

These are our official and public demands of the COP30 negotiating teams:

On forest protection:

- **End destructive fossil fuel and extractive projects in the Congo Basin:** Stop funding and approving oil, gas, mining and industrial agriculture projects including carbon offsetting and other greenwashing schemes that destroy forests and biodiversity. Redirect all public and private finance to fund biodiversity and climate solutions led by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
- **Direct access to climate finance:** guarantee at least 20% of funding through the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) and other funding mechanisms is channeled

directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs) to protect and restore the Congo Basin.

- **COP 30 Forest Action Plan:** adopt and implement the Forest Action Plan to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. Ensure that at least two Congo Basin countries take leadership in championing and adopting this at COP 30.
- **Recognise and strengthen Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs) leadership:** officially recognise and scale up rights-based, indigenous and community-led forest governance, and integrate their traditional knowledge, practices, and local initiatives into national and regional climate policies. Ensure the full recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' rights.

On just transition:

- Provide large-scale, predictable, grant-based climate finance especially targeted for just transition.
- Ensure inclusion of frontline communities, labour, gender and Indigenous Communities in the design and implementation of just transition policies.
- Ensure that energy access for communities is at the center of just transition.

On making polluters pay.

- Establish a new standing agenda item to serve as an accountability and delivery mechanism for the Climate Finance (NCQG), including holding developed countries accountable for the provision of public climate finance (Article 9.1), and promoting direct access finance mechanisms to ensure funds reach Indigenous Peoples and local communities directly.
- Support as part of the Baku to Belém Roadmap or any other negotiated climate finance outcome progressive environmental taxation rooted in the polluter pays principle and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) - such as taxes on fossil fuel corporations; and space under the new NCQG agenda item to advance these mechanisms.

COP30 is not another meeting. It is a test of leadership, of courage, and of justice. African leaders must choose between deepening inequality or advancing solidarity, between empty promises or urgent action.

We remind you: climate justice is not optional. It is a moral and political imperative. The people of Africa, and the people of the world are watching.