



# From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience in Africa at Local and Regional Levels

The Pontifical Academies of Sciences (PAS) and of Social Sciences (PASS), The Vatican  
with CIFOR-ICRAF, NASAC, and other African Partners

Date: June 30- July 1, 2025

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

## 1. Objectives of the cooperation

Strengthening Climate Resilience through partnerships, networking, science and policy, and consultations with society for positive actions. Mobilizing and strengthening the voices and actions of decentralized governments (mayors and governors) at local, sub-national, national, and regional levels, as well as Climate COP 2025. Special emphasis on youth.

## 2. Background, Rational and Concept

We need to complement mitigation with adaptation to cope with the additional heating of the planet in the coming decades. To survive mitigation needs to be complemented by adaptation and societal transformation to evolve into a sustainable way of living. We must broaden the current approach of a dominant focus on Mitigation to climate resilience. Resilience consists of the following actions: i) Anticipate threats and risks; ii) Prepare for threats and risks; iii) Respond to threats and risks; and iv) Recover and Rebound from threats and risks.

**Mitigation, Adaptation, and Societal Transformation (MAST)** are forming the three pillars for climate resilience:

- The first Pillar of MAST is **mitigation**, with the goal of bending the warming curve as soon as possible, and limiting it to below 2°C.
- **Adaptation**: The second pillar of MAST is adaptation to unavoidable climate changes. Adaptation has three phases: reducing sensitivity to climate change, reducing exposure to climate threats, and enhancing adaptive capacity. It must start at the local level of a community, a city, or a village and scale upwards to an entire nation and planet.
- **Societal Transformation**: Societal transformation to a sustainable way of living is essential for thriving after the climate crisis. Societal Transformation involves fundamental shifts in behavior and shifts in socio-economic systems and governance. In Pope Francis' words, "This transformation is akin to an ecological conversion." Sustainable land use and exploring the role of forests and related nature based solutions serves all three elements of MAST.

### 3. PAS/PASS Initiatives on Climate Resilience and scope for cooperation on the regional summit in Africa and beyond

A series of **initiatives by PAS/PASS** on climate policies and the climate crisis organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS) have paved the way for an influential transdisciplinary alliance between climate science, social science, policy, and religion.

- The Faith and Science initiative by the Vatican, in which PAS mobilized science communities, and the Governments of the UK and Italy shaped the COP 26 agenda in Glasgow and helped bring issues of water, food, and agriculture for the first time high on the agenda of the COP 27 in Sharm el Sheikh.
- In July of 2022, PAS organized a meeting of experts, at which the *MAST concept for resilience was proposed* and accepted by all the experts attending the meeting in a conference declaration. This led to the realization that resilience must be built at the local level of cities and states.
- A Global summit was organized jointly by PAS and PASS during May 15 - 17, 2024, assembling from all hemispheres a group of mayors and governors to discuss and showcase innovative solutions for climate resilience. The outcome of the summit was a *Planetary Call to Action for Climate Change Resilience* (Pope Francis, Ramanathan, V; Suárez-Orozco, M; von Braun, J; Alford, H; Turkson, P; and 15 other authors by PAS and PASS, signed by all attendees, including all the attending Mayors and Governors. The document [https://www.pas.va/en/events/2024/climate\\_resilience/call\\_to\\_action\\_climate\\_change.html](https://www.pas.va/en/events/2024/climate_resilience/call_to_action_climate_change.html) recognizes that the climate crisis is upon us already, and we need a new expanded approach beyond emissions mitigation to protect people and ecosystems, and need to engage with global reach at the local level.
- The primary outcome of the regional summits should be city-by-city or local blueprints and investable business plans for climate change resilience. The regional Summits during 2025/2026 shall advance the call to Action for a universal protocol of resilience, as Pope Francis called it in his speech on May 16, 2024, to the resilience summit attendees: “*I commend the two Academies for producing a universal protocol of resilience.*” Regional summits are planned from February of 2025 to March of 2026. We aim to culminate in a final comprehensive Vatican Summit in 2026 and the release of a Universal Protocol for Climate Resilience.

### 4. The Africa Summit: Strategic orientation and implementation

- **Regional Contexts:** Tailor solutions to Africa’s unique and diverse climate challenges and socio-economic, political/governance, and cultural contexts, including exploring the role of forests and related nature based solutions.
- **Youth Engagement**, as an integral part of the conference
- **Community Engagement:** Involve local communities, farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous groups, and regional stakeholders in discussions and decision-making. Invite PAS/PASS academicians with scholarly expertise and interest in the African conference.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Foster regional and international cooperation and knowledge sharing to develop effective, innovative and scalable climate solutions.
- **Equity:** Ensure that the summit prioritizes equity and the protection of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, including Indigenous people, children, and youth. Address the

disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities and incorporate diverse perspectives in climate planning.

- **Civil Society and Episcopal Conference Engagement:** The conference shall include and actively engage religious communities, such as the regional episcopal bishops' conference.

#### **4.2 Organizational aspects and reach of the Nairobi Summit**

Central to the Summit are mayors of cities and heads of provinces (local states) from all parts of Africa to cover rural areas' resilience challenges, together with African Union leaders, youth, science, business, and civil society stakeholders.

#### **4.3 Aiming for lasting outcomes among the Summit partners**

Beyond conference reporting and platform formations, the following tangible outcomes are envisioned:

- Concrete options for climate resilience-oriented regional and local planning and local business plans
- High-level policy dialogue formats for resilience actions, with emphasis on inclusion and in structures dedicated to youth perspectives and science on climate change.
- Adoption of implementation protocols and structured inputs for the city and regional Protocols for Climate Resilience for COP30 and for, the Final Vatican Summit 2026 and COP31.
- Strengthened capacity-building initiatives to support local implementation of climate resilience solutions.

**Africa Climate Resilience Summit:  
Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Societal Transformation (MAST)**

**Day 1, June 30:**

**8:00 Breakfast Available**

**8:55 – 9.15 Words of Welcome**

**Éliane Ubalijoro**, Chief Executive Officer, CIFOR-ICRAF

**His Eminence, Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson**, Chancellor, PASS/PASS

**Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**, Council, PASS

**Joachim von Braun**, President, PAS

**9:15- 10:00 Opening Addresses – Local, National, Continental Levels**

**Hon. H.E. Wilber Ottichilo**, Governor, Vihiga County, and Chair Environment, Forestry and Climate change committee

**Jacqueline Kado**, Executive Director, NASAC

**10:05-11:05 Challenges and Best Practices for Resilience - Mayors and Local Leaders**

Moderator: **Éliane Ubalijoro**, Chief Executive Officer, CIFOR-ICRAF

Panelists: **Hon. H.E. Wilber Ottichilo**, Governor, Vihiga County, and Chair Environment, Forestry and Climate change committee

**Hon. Annie Kapandula Kalamatila**, Mayor, Lufwanyama

**Hon. Samuel Assefa**, Director, California Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

**Hon. Lillian Seenoi-Barr**, Mayor, Derry City and Strabane District Council

**Philip Osano**, Chief Operating Officer, CIFOR-ICRAF

**11:05-11:25 Coffee Break**

**11:25-12:25 Innovative Financing Resiliency in Africa: Cities and Subregions**

Moderator: **Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

Panelists: **Eric Kacou**, Co-founder & CEO of Entrepreneurial Solutions Partners (ESPartners)

**Yves Mariko**, Chief Economist, Africa Energy Transition Services

**Eric Naivasha**, Head of Sustainable Finance, KCB Bank Group

**Robert Sangori**, Initiative Coordinator, Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor (BCRUP)

**12:25-13:15 Lunch Session: A Whole of Government Approach to Climate Resilience**  
(followed by moderated Q&A)

Address: **Hon. Melissa Hoffer**, Climate Chief, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Moderator: **Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**, Council, PASS

**13:15-14:15 Scientific and Policy Innovations for Building Resilience**

Moderator: **Mohamed Hassan**, PAS

Panelists: **George Wamukoya**, Team Leader, African Group of Negotiators Experts Support

**Kofi Kisiedu Acquaye**, Africa Regional Coordinator, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

**Steven Were Omamo**, Director for Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**Mary Njenga**, Bioenergy Research Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF

**Dorothy Amwata**, Professor and Dean, School of Agriculture and Environment Sciences (SAES), Muranga University of Technology (MUT)

**14:20-15:20 Weather Disasters, Recovery and Preparation**

Moderator: **Phosiso Sola**, Senior Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF

Panelists: **Aster Gebrekirstos**, Senior Scientist-Climate change, Climate Change, Energy and Low-Carbon Development, CIFOR-ICRAF

**Mamadou Dian Balde**, Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Japheth Muli**, Programme Manager, African Climate Foundation

**Sebataolo Rahlaol**, Executive Manager, Oceanographic Research Institute, South African Association for Marine Biological Research

**Rui Alberto Oliveira**, Lead, Preparedness & Response, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

**15:25-16:25 Societal Transformation - Building Resilience with All Stakeholders in Multi-level Governance**

Moderator: **Daya Reddy**, Member, PAS

Panelists: **Agnes Kalibata**, former president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), served as Rwanda's minister of agriculture and animal resources and was the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the UN Food Systems Summit

**Catrine Shroff**, CEO, Mwangaza Light/Green Churches Kenya

**Patricia Kameri-Mbote**, Director of Legal Division, UNEP

**Debel Tesfaye**, REDD Investment Coordinator, Oromia

**Quanying Ren**, Early Warning for Environment Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

16:30-17:20 **Interactive Consultation on MAST Solutions led by Youth** (incl. Coffee Break) (MAST – Mitigation, Adaptation, Societal Transformation)

Introduction : **Joachim von Braun**, President, PAS & **Calisto Ochieng**, Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Fundraising, World Scouting

Facilitators :

**Innocent Antoine Houedji**, Executive Director, Youth Initiative for Land in Africa

**Kevin Lunzalu**, Marine Project Officer, East African Wildlife Society

**Sydney Kemunto**, Drylands Restoration Steward, Global Landscapes Forum

**Valerie Kplorm Nutako**, Country Programme Coordinator, CDKN Ghana  
(SouthSouthNorth)

**Collins Shava**, Youth, Policy and Partnerships Officer, African Wildlife Foundation

**Matthew Shane Van den Berg**, MSc student and member of the Machine Learning for Ecology Research Group, African Institute of Mathematical Sciences South Africa

**Milano Ferdinand Rasolofohery**, MSc student and member of the Machine Learning for Ecology Research Group, African Institute of Mathematical Sciences South Africa

**Samuel Kairu**, CEO & Chair, Young Leaders Association

**Vilita Peter**, Leader & Editor, Interfaith Newspaper

**Mary Mukyala**, Story Teller, Beautiful Periods

**Janet Mwangangi**, Youth Leader, Aljaamia Tv

**Emily Nyambura**, Youth Leader, Peace League Africa

**Lisper Gachara**, Youth leader, Kenya Institute of Foreign Languages and Professional Studies

**Daisy Agono**, Assistant, Kenya Institute of Foreign Languages and Professional Studies

**Angeline Awino**, Youth Leader, Peace League Africa

**Ivy Murugi**, Junior Manager, Education and Impact, World Scouting

**Allen Ottaro**, Founder and Coordinator, CYNESA (Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa)

17:25-18:00 **Reporting back of calls to action by Youth leaders to plenary**

18:00 **Depart for dinner**

18:30 **Conference Dinner – Trademark Hotel**

## **Day 2, July 1:**

8:00            **Breakfast Available**

8:50            **Plan for the Day**

### **9:00-10:00 Resilience to Climate Change, Extreme Weather Impacts & Water Systems**

Moderator: **Joseph Kamau**, Lead, Global Health Program · Kenya Institute of Primate Research

Panelists: **Priscilla Wainaina**, Scientist, Governance, Equity and Wellbeing, CIFOR-ICRAF  
**Ivy Murugi**, Junior Manager, Education and Impact, World Scouting

**Alexander Fenwick**, WHH County Director, Somalia

**Collins Shava**, Youth, Policy and Partnerships Officer, African Wildlife Foundation

**Thomas Rewe**, Co-Chair, Green Bioeconomy Coalition of Africa, Working Group, and Associate Professor, Pwani University

### **10:05-11:05 Land Use, Agriculture, Food System, Bioeconomy Resilience**

Moderator: **Kim Geheb**, Senior Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF

Panelists: **Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

**Cheikh Mbow**, Professor & Director General, Centre de Suivi Ecologique

**Amos Amanubo**, Africa Regional Coordinator, Global Landscapes Forum

**Merid Getahun**, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

**Paul Nthakanio**, Associate Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding & Registrar Planning, Administration and Finance, University of Embu

11:05-11:25 **Coffee Break**

### **11:25 – 12:25 Nature Based Solutions & Translational Research for Climate Resilient Sustainable Action**

Moderator: **Agnes Kalibata**, former president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), served as Rwanda's minister of agriculture and animal resources and was the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the UN Food Systems Summit

Panelists: **Peter Minang**, Director, Africa & Leader, Greening Tree Crop Landscapes, CIFOR-ICRAF

**Bessy Kathambi**, Lecturer, University of Nairobi

**Valerie Nutako**, Country Programme Coordinator, SouthSouthNorth

**Matthew Shane Van den Berg**, MSc student and member of the Machine Learning for Ecology Research Group, African Institute of Mathematical Sciences South Africa

**Milano Ferdinand Rasolofohery**, MSc student and member of the Machine Learning for Ecology Research Group, African Institute of Mathematical Sciences South Africa

12.25- 13.15 **Lunch**

**13:15-14:15 Building Resilience for Climate Related Migration**

**Moderator: Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**, Council, PASS

**Panelists: Samuel Nii Ardey Codjoe**, Provost, College of Education, University of Ghana  
**Carola Suárez-Orozco**, Professor in residence & Director, Immigration Initiative, Harvard University

**Fonna Forman**, Professor of Political Science and Founding Director of the Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego

**Romanus Opiyo**, Programme Leader for Sustainable Urbanisation, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Africa Center

**14:20-15:20 Open Discussion**

**Facilitators: Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**, Council, PASS

**Joachim von Braun**, President, PAS

**15:25-16:00 Way forward with Call to Action and Closing Remarks**

**Éliane Ubalijoro**, Chief Executive Officer, CIFOR-ICRAF

**Mohamed Hassan**, PAS

**Archbishop Philip A. Anyolo**, Metropolitan Archbishop of Nairobi

**Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**, Council, PASS

**Joachim von Braun**, President, PAS