

# 2023 | ANNUAL REPORT



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## Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

At WEP we believe in ensuring the rights of women and youth through sustainable environmental, socio-political and economic development. For the past year we have ensured the mentorship of young people are continuously mentored to ensure their participation and involvement and contributing to acts of change in the development sector.

Our team has continued to ensure advocacy for policy change at the national, regional and international level through engagement with policy makers, negotiators and leveraging on strategic partnerships to amplify the voices of women and push for gender mainstreaming in all sectors. Our research work during the year on "Social Context Assessment for NPAP: National gender, equity, and inclusion analysis of the plastic value chain and impacts of plastic pollution," came up with findings

that the existing policies and regulations are not adequately positioned to address the gender imbalance and some levels of exclusion observed in the chain. And to further push for climate justice and environmental activism, we have built a feminist climate justice movement that will advocate for climate justice and environmental rights of women and vulnerable groups at different levels.

In the peace and security sector, we have continued to engage with different relevant stakeholders at the local, state and national level in the effort to strengthen their capacity and build their resilience against violence extremism.

As a women focused organization, WEP has strengthened the capacity of south-south negotiators and trained civil society organizations to advance women's participation in climate change actions at the national, regional and global level. We have also supported

smallholder women farmers to push for sustainable climate-smart agricultural practices, soil management and post-harvest loss.

We welcome you to explore the breadth of our work in 2023 through our newly published Annual Report, including how WEP established a training center "Hapag-Lloyd House".

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support and encouragement of you, our partners, our incredible community, and our donors.

*Thank you*

*Anne-Marie Abaagu*

**Executive Director  
Women Environmental Programme**

# WHO WE ARE

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, non-religious and voluntary organization formed in April 1997 by a group of women in Kaduna State. WEP envisions a world where the lives of women and youth are positively transformed.

Although WEP emerged in response to the environmental pollution by industries in Kaduna State, over the years she has expanded her interventions to conflict transformation, climate change and governance issues.

WEP has United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) special status, Observer Status to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With the Observer Status, WEP participates as a major group organization in contributing to the intergovernmental decision-making process in the UN-System. WEP was an Organizing Partner (OP) of Women's Major Groups and served as the National Coordinator for Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Nigeria between 2014 - 2019. WEP is also the Focal Point for Global Environment Facility (GEF) CSOs in West and Central Africa.

Since 1997 WEP has impacted over 20,000,000 lives positively across the globe through her interventions in Environment, Governance, Climate Change, Women and Youth Empowerment, Peace and Conflict Transformation.

## VISION

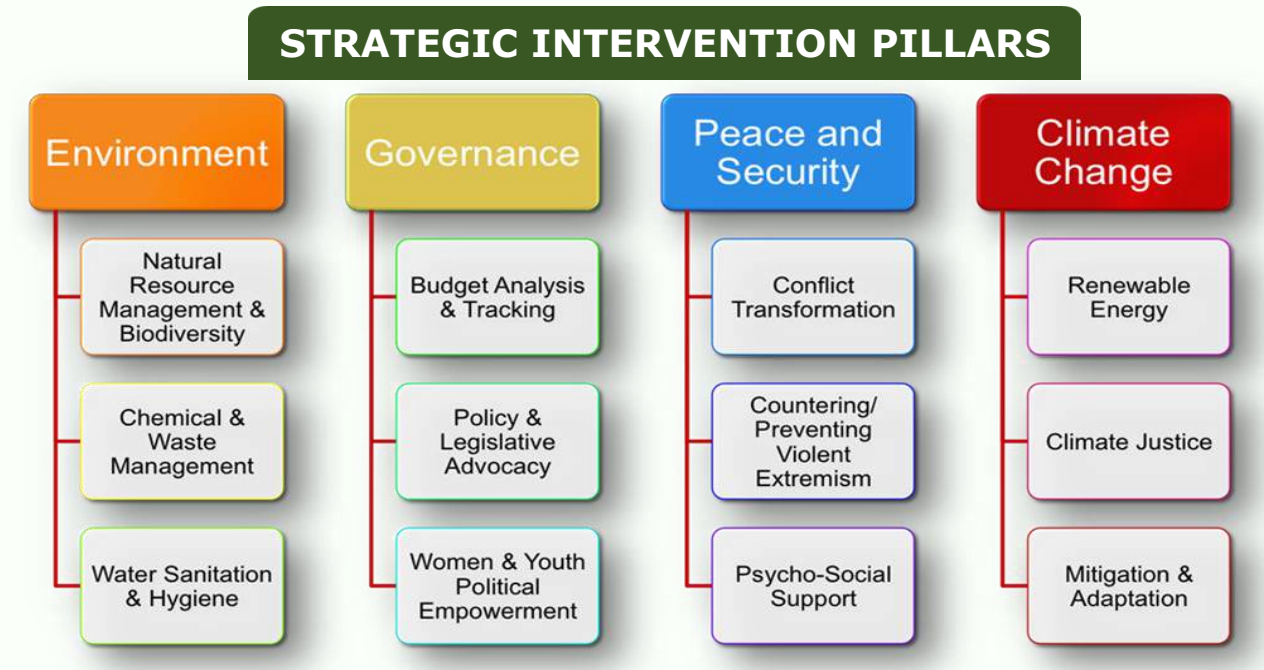
A world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed.

## MISSION

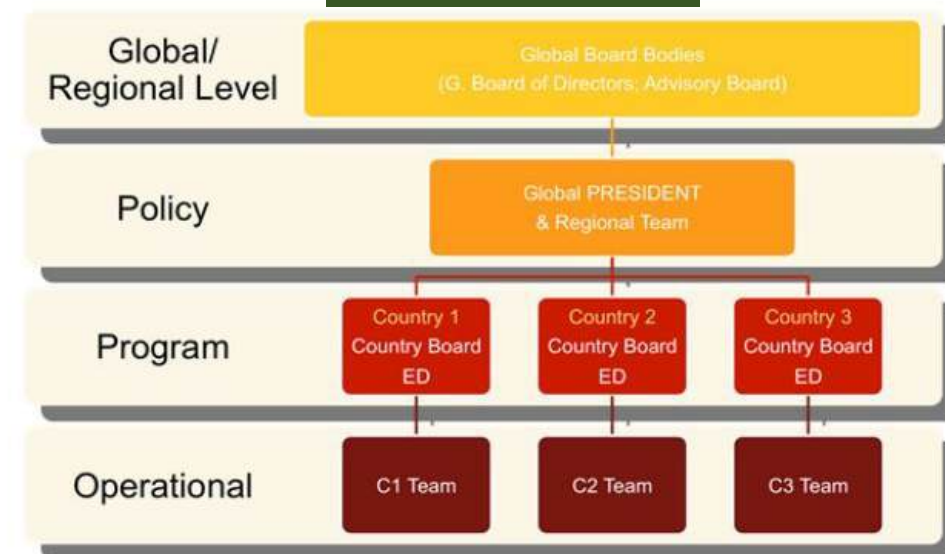
Ensuring the rights of women and youth through sustainable environmental, socio-political and economic development.

## Strategic Objectives

- i. Sensitize and raise awareness of the general public on the impacts of climate change particularly on gender, its mitigation and adaptation;
- ii. Stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies/convention for sustainable development of the environment;
- iii. Build capacity of the relevant stakeholders on the management of the environment, conflict transformation, renewable energy, water and sanitation, violent extremism and organic pollutants;
- iv. Educate women and youths on their civic rights and responsibilities, and on democratic governance;



## ORGANOGRAM



# WHAT WE DELIVERED IN 2023

# Environment

## Social Context Assessment on Gender, Equity and Inclusion in the Plastic Value Chain in Nigeria



*Group photo of participants at the social context assessment validation workshop in Abuja*

In year 2022, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) with support from the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), and in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment, conducted a Social Context Assessment for the National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) on gender, equity and inclusion of the plastic value chain and impacts of plastic pollution in Nigeria.

The goal of the assessment was to provide clear evidence that can feed into policies, planning and actions of the NPAP and its work to ensure outcomes are gender-responsive and inclusive. The findings from the Social Context Assessment were validated at a validation workshop which was held on the 20th January 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria.

## Policy Dialogue on Preventing the Environmental and Health Impacts of Artisanal Oil Refining on Women in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region

In June 2022, WEP received funding from Urgent Action Fund Africa to implement actions that address the negative impacts of artisanal oil refining in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

The project was conceived in response to the explosion of an illegal oil refining facility that happened in April 2022 in Ohaji-Egbema, a community in Imo state.

In year 2022, WEP engaged the women's groups and civil society organizations in Imo state to strategize on the best ways to engage the policy makers and other stakeholders towards ending artisanal oil refining

and its accompanying negative impacts.

In March 2023, WEP collaborated with Goodwash Foundation for Health and Environmental Protection and organized an advocacy meeting for policy makers in Imo state. This advocacy meeting also brought some policy makers from Rivers state to participate in this meeting.

During the advocacy meeting, the women's groups and civil society organizations presented [recommendations](#) to the policy makers on actions that should be taken to regulate artisanal oil refining and prevent explosion of artisanal oil refining sites.



Images from a policy meeting held in Imo State

## BES Solution Fund Trialogue



(1st from L to R) WEP representative Ms Damaris Uja with other participants at the BES Solution Fund Trialogue in Vietnam

WEP participated in the BES Solution Fund Trialogue which took place at UN Office Hanoi, Vietnam from 4– 6 October 2023 and was themed "Towards a World Living in Harmony with Nature by Translating Evidence into Actions." The Trialogue brought together participants from eight countries: Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria, Trinidad & Tobago and Vietnam. Participants shared learning, looked at opportunities, explored options for multi-country partnership approaches and sustainability mechanisms.

WEP was also among the Nigeria delegates who participated in the Anglophone Africa Regional Trialogue organized in Nairobi in May 2019. The Team swung into action by creating

and expanding the Nigerian Trialogue Working Group and joining the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators.

In year 2023, Nigeria received catalytic support through the BES Solution Fund to implement key priority national actions which were identified during the Trialogue which WEP was an implementing partner.

Through this fund, WEP carried out project activities to promote sustainable agriculture and protect pollinators in Benue and Kano States. WEP partnered with Angel Support Foundation (ASF), and Environment and Climate Change Amelioration Initiative - ECCAI in Benue State, as well as the Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA) and the Centre for Environment and Rural Development

(CERD) in Kano State to execute the funded project titled "Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices: Bio Pesticides and Bio-Fertilizers for the Conservation of Pollinators in Benue and Kano States." The project involved a range of activities, including raising

awareness about the harmful effects of chemical pesticides on pollinators, emphasizing the significance of pollinators and their essential services, providing training on the production of organic pesticides and organic fertilizers using neem, and the planting of pollinator-friendly trees and neem trees.



*Images from project activities in Benue and Kano states*

## Gender Advocacy Movement for the Environment

Women Environmental Programme is building a feminist climate justice movement that will advocate for climate justice and other environmental rights of women and other vulnerable groups at different levels.

Gender Advocacy Movement for the Environment (GAME) was created in 2019 by Women Environmental Programme (WEP). GAME was created as part of the activities under the project: "Call to Action on Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change Actions in Nigeria." This project, which was supported by Both Ends under its Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) had the overall objective to ensure the rights of women to land, water, energy and other natural resources in Nigeria are guaranteed.

The movement was formed to strengthen and unify the capabilities and voices of gender and women's groups and movements to advocate for their rights to water, to safe food and to a clean, healthy and safe environment.

In the year under review, the movement received support to strengthen its programmes through the Forest for a Just Future Programme of the Green Livelihood Alliance (GLA2), and Actions to Combat Climate Threats in Nigeria project supported by Christian Aid. Within this year, the movement was able to put in place an interim leadership structure and increased its membership from below 20 to over 50 members.

# Governance

## WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme 2023

Some years ago, WEP created the WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme to contribute to the achievement of its vision of "a world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed."

The Programme empowers women and youth with information and skills, and gives them guidance to realize their potentials and impact positively the communities in which they live.

The WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Session has a duration of 1 year and holds monthly mentorship sessions for participants revolving around different issues in the development sector.

In addition, the programme provides capacity building and networking opportunities for the participants.

In 2023, a total of 33 participants were absorbed into the hybrid programme (online and physical). Out of this number, only 12 participants successfully graduated at the end of the year and awarded certificates of completion.

### Solomon Akaazua Anji

*" I am better enlightened, consolidated, and have acquired true skills for community development "*

### Asenge Nyiyange Florence

*" WEP has created a positive transformation in my life and how to be persistent and resilient in life and around my immediate community. "*

# Testimonies

from some participants of the 2023 Volunteer and Mentorship programme



### Ityokoso Mesuur Doreen

*" The program has impacted me in so many ways, I now have knowledge on how projects can be done, things you need to know before you start a project in a particular area or state and so many other things! It's was indeed a mind blowing experience!! Thanks so much to WEP I really appreciate your impact in knowledge. "*



### Nnamani Sarah Chidubem

*" The program has affected positively. I've learnt how to reach out to the needs of vulnerable people, but in doing that, I should obtain a first hand knowledge of their needs rather than guessing and seeking to help them. "*



### Sammy Joel Panwal

*" Joining the WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme 2023 was a transformative experience. With limited knowledge of environmental issues, i was able to learn more about sustainable environmental practices and how to advocate for environmentally friendly policies. Now, as the Campaigner for the Breathe Clean Air Campaign, I actively raise awareness about the detrimental effects of air pollution on health and the environment. I am grateful for the growth and opportunities this journey has provided "*



### Mercy Kumashe Torkuma

*" I am more enlightened and I acquired skills for community development and equipped with the technical know-how on how to improve the general well being of people in any given community. "*

## Celebrating International Women's Day and Open Data Day 2023



WEP joined the celebration of International Women's Day 2023 with video campaign messages around the theme for the year: "Embrace Equity." Find the video campaign on this link - <https://web.facebook.com/watch/?v=733930864863616>

In addition to the video campaign above, WEP in collaboration with Open Knowledge Foundation celebrated the International Women's Day and Open Data Day 2023. These days were celebrated by training women and men on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions are used to track environmental changes and help in environmental management.

The training was in line with the theme of the Open Data Day 2023 of "Open AI for Environmental Conservation." The training also aimed to contribute

to realizing the theme of this year's International Women's Day of "#EmbraceEquity." As equity can only be achieved if both women and men have the opportunity to acquire information, communication and technology skills (ICT).

Participants were introduced to Open AI tools for environmental conservation such as Global Forest Watch, Kaggle, Climate Watch, World Bank Open Data Portal and Google Maps. It was eye-opening training as many participants confessed that they were hearing about the tools for the first time. "I am learning for the first time that I can add a location on Google Maps. I use to think there are professionals that do that. Now that I know, I am going to add a place on Google Maps," said one of the female participants.

## Unveiling of WEP's New Office Complex and Training Center in Abuja

On 16th August 2023, WEP unveiled a new office complex and training center in Abuja. We were glad to have the Area Managing Director, West and Central Africa, Hapag-Lloyd AG, Vishal Bundhun who commissioned the building alongside Himmat Ahlawat, the Country Managing Director, Hapag-Lloyd AG.

The newly established training center "Hapag-Lloyd House" was made possible by the incredible recognition

and support of the Hapag Llyod AG through the "Albert Balin Awards for Global Action" honored on the WEP Global Lead, Dr Priscilla Achakpa in 2022.

The monetary award was used to set up the WEP's new office complex and training center, signifying WEP's commitment to fostering innovation, achieving growth, and creating meaningful impact.



Area Managing Director, West and Central Africa, Hapag-Lloyd AG and WEP Global Lead Commissioning the new WEP office building



Section of Participants during the unveiling event



Section of the new office building and training center



## Stakeholders' Consultation Workshop on Women Inclusion and Effective SGBV Response In Benue State



WEP participated in and delivered remarks at the Stakeholders' Consultation Workshop on Women Inclusion and Effective SGBV Response in Benue State. Organized by the League of Women Voters Nigeria (NILOWV) in collaboration with USAID-Palladium SCALE Project, the event took place on 8th September, 2023, at Benue Metropolitan Hotel, Makurdi, Benue State.

The Founder/Global Lead of WEP Dr. Priscilla M Achakpa gave a remark on Gender Inclusivity and Sub-National Development.

In her remark, she highlighted various gender disparities that have impaired sustainable development and cited several United Nations and African Union Instruments that promote and protect the rights of women and encourage their participation in decision-making which Nigeria is also a signatory.

Some of the key outcomes of the event was the presentation of a compendium of 7-requests from Civil Society Organizations to the Executive Governor of Benue State, His Excellency, Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Hyacinth Iormem Alia who pledged to implement 60% of the requests.

[Read full remarks here:](#)



*Ms Damaris Uja (representative of WEP Global Lead Dr. Priscilla Achakpa) speaks during the Stakeholders' consultation workshop*

## Commemorating the 2023 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence



To commemorate the 2023 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, WEP launched a social media campaign with strategic advocacy messages on each day of the campaign.

In addition to the social media campaign,

WEP joined a Press Conference and Workshop Commemorating the 2023 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence organized by Christian Aid in Nigeria and partners from 5th to 6th of December 2023 in Abuja. The event raised awareness on how violence against women and girls remains the most prevalent and pervasive human right violation in the world. Together with Christian Aid in Nigeria, we called on the Government and relevant stakeholders to support education and awareness campaigns, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Legal Support and Access to Justice, Safe Space and Support service.



*Group photo of participants at the workshop and press conference hosted by Christian Aid Nigeria*

## Global Gateway Civil Society and Local Authorities Dialogue



On the 24th of October 2023, the European Commission announced the 57 members of the Global Gateway Civil Society and Local Authorities Dialogue Platform, and the platform held its first meeting with Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, at the margins of the Global Gateway Forum.

Women Environmental Programme represented by Deputy Executive Director John Baaki participated in

the Global Gateway Civil Society and Local Authorities dialogue in Brussels. Global Gateway Civil Society and Local Authorities Dialogue Platform is part of the European Union's Global Gateway, that aims to contribute to narrowing the global investment gap worldwide. Civil society organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) are to play a key role in ensuring that a value-based and inclusive approach is taken, so that Global Gateway delivers on its goals in line with its principles.

## WEP Development Series 2023

In 2023, WEP organized several webinars as part of its Development Series, an educative and enlightening programme created by WEP to raise awareness, dissect topical development issues, and make recommendations to appropriate policy makers.

The Development Series started off with discussions on elections, ahead of the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria.

This was an episode to sensitize the citizens on their rights to vote for the leaders they wanted and how to conduct themselves to ensure a peaceful election. Subsequent episodes of the Development Series focused on biological diversity, loss and damage associated with climate change impacts and mobilizing to amplify the voices of the vulnerable at COP28.



Screenshot of the May edition of WEP development series which focused on Biodiversity

## A Visit To The Sierra Leone High Commission in Nigeria

In 2023, WEP established a country office in Sierra Leone as part of its strategy to expand to different countries in Africa, for the impact of its work to be felt closely by its target populations. Based on the above, our team paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner of the Republic of Sierra Leone to Nigeria in Abuja, to brief him about the organization and our development plans in Sierra Leone.



*WEP Executive Director Ms Anne-Marie Abaagu and the High Commissioner of the Republic of Sierra Leone to Nigeria during the courtesy visit*



*Group photo of WEP Nigeria staff and the High Commissioner of the Republic of Sierra Leone to Nigeria*

# Peace and Security

## Strengthening Advocacy Against Violent Extremism (SAVE)

Year 2023 was the second year of implementation of the project "Strengthening Advocacy Against Violent Extremism (SAVE) in Katsina State, North-West Nigeria. Supported by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), and implemented in collaboration with Murna Foundation, the SAVE project aims to entrench peace and security in North-West Nigeria by preventing recruitment and radicalization of young people by violent extremist groups. To achieve the above aim, the project provides livelihoods opportunities for women and young people, create avenues, and facilitate settlement of disputes between warring parties,

support communities to create security structures, engages state and non-state actors to put in place and implement policies that prevent violence extremism.

In the year under review, the following activities were implemented to contribute to the realization of peace and security in Nigeria and beyond:

### **Interfaith Dialogue on the Role of Religious Leaders in Governance**

On March 15, 2023, WEP organized an interfaith dialogue in Katsina state themed "The Role of Religious Leaders in Governance." The event highlighted the significant influence of religious

leaders in society and their potential to impact governance positively. Discussions focused on the role of religious leaders in advocating for policies, supporting social services, mediating conflicts, and monitoring government performance. Participants committed to using their platforms to promote good governance and societal development.

**Introduction of Climate Smart Agriculture to Address Violence Extremism**

The SAVE project introduced Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) to combat food insecurity caused by violent extremism and climate change. CSA engaged 400 young men, women, and women above 35 in sustainable agriculture for employment and food security in Katsina State. WEP provided training on climate-smart practices, distributed tree seedlings for agroforestry, and established youth and women-led cooperatives. Cooperative leaders received training in governance and financial management.

**Capacity Building for State Level Response and Peace Building Teams**

WEP conducted a workshop to enhance the capacity of State Level Response and Peace Building Teams in Katsina State, emphasizing the importance of security in good governance. The workshop aimed to address political instability, economic stagnation, and social unrest by promoting adequate security measures.

**Community of Practice on Preventing Violent Extremism**

In August 2023, WEP hosted a two-day Community of Practice meeting in Abuja on "Innovative Interventions in Preventing Violent Extremism in North-Western Nigeria." The meeting included GCERF grantees who discussed the progress and impact of funded projects and shared best practices.

**Commemoration of International Day of Peace 2023**

The International Day of Peace 2023 was celebrated with a peace walk and

conference in Katsina State, under the SAVE project, themed "Actions for Peace: Our Ambitions for the Global Goals."

**Establishment of Peace Clubs in Katsina State Schools**

WEP established Peace Clubs in schools

across four LGAs in Katsina State through the SAVE project. These clubs aim to mentor students in peacebuilding, tolerance, and dialogue, providing training manuals on youth mentorship, preventing violent extremism, and using social media for PVE.



*CoP on PVE*



*Launch of ICT centre in Musawa LG, Katsina*



*International day of peace rally in katsina, katsina state.*



*Training of extension workers on climate smart agriculture practices*



*Interfaith Dialogue with the theme "Mainstreaming Gender"*



*Training on agro processing*

# Climate Change

## Strengthening the African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change for Effective Engagement at Regional and Global Climate Change Discussions



Group photo of participants during the meeting of the African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change (AWGGCC) in Abuja

On the 26th January 2023, Women Environmental Programme (WEP), with support from Women Engaged for a Common Future (WECF), organized a meeting of the African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change

(AWGGCC) at Denis Hotel, Wuse II, Abuja, Nigeria. The participants in attendance comprised representatives from Governments, Negotiators and CSOs representing different African countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The aim of this meeting was to strengthen and reposition the AWGGCC to ensure the needs of African women were recognized and form part of outcomes of global and regional climate change negotiations. The AWGGCC was formed years ago and was pivotal to influencing decisions for African women at global and regional climate change conferences, but low funding affected the operations of the group.

The group used this meeting to strategize on how to become more relevant on the African Continent and at the Global level, influencing decisions

that will build resilience of the vulnerable populations in Africa to the impacts of climate change. Some of the strategies the group agreed during their meeting to prioritize were fundraising and capacity building of its members. In this respect, the group agreed to organize a capacity building workshop for African women on climate change negotiations ahead of the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## Climate Change Negotiation Workshop for African Women

From 24-26 April 2023, Women Environmental Programme (WEP), in collaboration with the African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change (AWGGCC), with support from Climate Action Africa (CAA), organized a training on Climate Change Negotiations for African Women.

The training was held at STE Concept Universel Hotel M Rode, Lomé, Togo. Participants at the training were drawn from government agencies and civil society organizations from 16 countries in Africa, UK and Canada. The training

had the main objective to advance women's participation in climate change actions at national, regional and global levels.

The workshop was declared open by the Minister of Environment for Togo, Katari Foli-Bazi, who applauded Women Environmental Programme for considering Togo as the venue for the workshop. He stated that "the workshop aligns with Togo's policies on environmental protection and the fight against climate change and also falls within the implementation of Togo's

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and government's roadmap, Togo 2025." "I am glad to know that there is a group of African women who has organized themselves to strengthen the capacities of women on gender and climate change issues to be strongly represented during climate change negotiations."

The workshop equipped 38 participants (30 females and 8 males) with climate change negotiation skills to effectively

engage at climate change meetings and get their demands into conference decisions that affect them.

Funded by Global Affairs Canada, CAA supports results-oriented South-South knowledge exchanges between Sub-Saharan Africa to facilitate the exchange of climate-related knowledge, expertise and lessons learned, and strengthen South-South networks.

CAA is being implemented by Alinea International, Econoler, and WSP.



Images from the Climate Change Negotiation Workshop for African Women in Togo.

## Forest for a Just Future Programme of the Green Livelihoods Alliance

The 'Forests for a Just Future' programme of the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA), is a project funded by the Dutch Government, and implemented by a consortium of organizations. The project aims to ensure that tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, fulfil human rights and safeguard local livelihoods.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) in the year under review, received support from Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), a member of the project consortium that ensures gender mainstreaming across all aspects of the project, working with other women's and feminist organizations. Although Nigeria is not a country where full activities of this project are being implemented, WECF has been supporting WEP to implement activities that promote inclusive forest governance in Nigeria.

Working with other civil society organizations in Nigeria, WEP was able to implement several activities in 2023 ranging from training on construction

of biogas and wood efficient stoves in Oyo state, community dialogues on forest conservation and land grabbing in Kogi state, conservation of endangered indigenous plant species in Benue state, policy dialogue on land grabbing in Rivers state, press conference to raise awareness to prevent land grabbing in Delta and Ebonyi states, social media campaigns to advocate for inclusion of forest and gender issues in the agenda of policy makers, and movement building to strengthen advocacy on environmental sustainability.

These activities resulted to the following results:

43 people (6 males, 32 females and 5 youth) acquire knowledge and skills on construction of small-scale biogas plants and wood efficient stoves.

120 (80 females and 40 males) community members became more aware of sustainable forest conservation practices and equipped with information and skills to advocate to prevent land grabbing.

225 seedlings of 7 endangered

indigenous plant species conserved on 1 hectare of land at the premises of Joseph Sarwuan Tarkaa University (JOSTUM), Makurdi, Benue state.

150 students and lecturers acquire useful information and skills on forest conservation and sustainable environment practices.

Recommendations on preventing

land grabbing and forest degradation in the Nigeria presented to policy makers.

Widespread awareness on issues of land grabbing and deforestation in Nigeria reached at least 9 million people, increasing citizens knowledge on land grabbing, forests resources management and climate change impact.



*Images from wareness creation, seed conservation and tree planting activities in at Joseph Sarwuan Tarkaa University (JOSTUM), Makurdi, Benue State.*



## Actions to Combat Climate Threats (ACCT) in Nigeria

In the year 2023, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) signed a partnership agreement with Christian Aid to implement the project, "Actions to Combat Climate Threats (ACCT) in Nigeria." The project which has the aim to promote sustainable agriculture and access to clean energy is part of Christian Aid's Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Energy Programme (CCASE).

The objectives of the ACCT in Nigeria project are:

- To promote climate-smart agricultural practices among smallholder women farmers and other vulnerable groups in local communities by 2026.
- To improve access to clean and sustainable energy for women and other vulnerable groups in local communities by 2026.
- To build the capacity of women groups and civil society organizations to advocate for increased investment in climate change adaptation actions by relevant government agencies.
- To build a movement of climate

justice advocates that project the voices of the vulnerable to ensure justice in national, regional and global climate actions.

The ACCT in Nigeria project is being implemented in the following states and local governments: Benue State, Makurdi Local Government; Nasarawa State, Lafia Local Government; and Kaduna State, Kaura Local Government.

In the year under review, the project commenced with courtesy calls paid on relevant stakeholders in the target states and local governments. Other key activities implemented were: workshops for rural farmers on climate early warning information in the project target states, and training of civil society organizations and vulnerable groups on climate change advocacy.

The aim of the climate early warning information workshops was to create awareness about climate change and its impacts, especially on agriculture and provide farmers with information on how to access and use climate change information to help them in

their farming decisions. These trainings were delivered in collaboration with Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet).

On the training on climate change advocacy, WEP organized this for civil society organizations and other vulnerable groups ahead of the 28th session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to serve as a preparatory and information meeting for civil society organizations that were to attend COP28. The workshop also served as a platform to discuss strategies to advance efforts to build a climate justice advocacy movement by WEP and Christian Aid.



*Images from the training on climate early warning information for rural farmers in Makurdi, Benue State.*



*Images from the training on climate change advocacy for civil society organisations.*

## Addressing Post-Harvest Losses and Mitigating Climate Change Impacts Among Rural Women Farmers

In the year under review, WEP received funding from Charity Aid Foundation (CAF) America, through the F5 Tech for Good project. The aims of this fund were to raise awareness and provide training to women's farmers groups on climate-smart agriculture, address post-harvest losses through construction and installation of solar dryer tens, and strengthening of women's groups through trainings on financial management and cooperative governance, as well as providing market linkages.

WEP kick-started the project by engaging relevant stakeholders in Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria, the location of the project. During these

engagements, WEP team engaged in meaningful dialogues with an array of key stakeholders, including the revered traditional leader of Gboko Local Government Area (Ter-Gboko), representatives from the Tomato/Pepper Sellers Association, and other influential people. The purpose of these interactions was to comprehensively apprise the project's goal and objectives, seek their invaluable support, and harness their guidance in an effort to ensure the project's enduring sustainability.

Following engagements with key stakeholders, WEP organized a training for 100 women smallholder farmers in Gboko, Benue State, on sustainable agricultural practices, including soil management and post-harvest loss prevention.



*During an advocacy visit to a community leader in Gboko, Benue State*



*Image from the training of women smallholder farmers*



## WEP Co-Founded Nigeria Climate Justice Alliance (NCJA)

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) became one of the founding members of the Nigeria Climate Justice Alliance (NCJA). NCJA is a coalition of vibrant civil society organizations (CSOs) with track records of climate actions across the country with proven potentials to accelerate climate justice issues. The Nigeria Climate Justice Alliance was inaugurated in Abuja during a 2day workshop organized for the founding member organizations. The aim of NCJA is to strengthen civil society voices in tracking,

monitoring, and supporting sub-national and national governments in the delivery of climate actions and plans.

The Alliance will empower civil society members to lead community-driven climate and nature-based solution projects across the country. It will also establish a strong voice on climate justice, bringing together CSOs to chart a pathway for climate justice, and coordinate CSOs engagements before and after global climate change meetings.



Images from the workshop for the founding member organizations of the NCJA



## Climate Resilient Salon Nigeria



Climate change has become one of the biggest global environmental challenges confronting humanity and hampering development. And there is no doubt that climate change affects women more, hence the need for women to find innovative solutions to the climate crisis.

This necessitated the convening of women-led organizations and other public and private stakeholders in Lagos, Nigeria on 26th July 2023, at 21st Century technologies training hall in Lekki. Convened by Ms Shelley Taylor, a Silicon Valley Tech Entrepreneur and Founder and CEO of trellyz, the convening with the theme, Climate Resilient Salon Nigeria focused on finding solutions to climate change.

Interesting innovative local solutions were recommended by women and other stakeholders at the Climate Resilient Salon. From solutions that will address climate disasters like flood, to solutions that will address migration, energy challenge, food insecurity and much more, the Salon was a harvest of ideas to tackle the climate crisis.

Women Environmental Programme was represented at the Salon by her Deputy Executive Director, John De Baaki who proffered recommendations to address food production and ensure climate justice for vulnerable populations and regions.

## WEP at SB58

WEP and other members of the African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change (AWGGCC) participated at the 58th sessions of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Bodies that held at the World Conference Center, Bonn, Germany from 5-15 June 2023. As the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) shaped the agenda for COP28, members of the AWGGCC were there to ensure the agenda took into consideration the needs of vulnerable people and communities.

The participation of 5 members of the AWGGCC from Nigeria and Liberia was supported by the Climate Action Africa project. These members of the AWGGCC joined the Women and Gender Constituency and other women's groups to carry out advocacy

actions at SB58 to influence the outcome of the conference in a gender-sensitive manner. We collaborated with Women and Gender Constituency to have a side event titled: Feminist Climate Justice Demands from the MENA Region, where the demands of women from the 28th session of the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC were presented. At this meeting too, the advocacy strategy of Women and Gender Constituency at COP28 was drawn as women from the MENA region were given the opportunity to lead advocacy actions at COP28 on behalf of Women and Gender Constituency.

We also had several meetings aiming at domesticating the Women and Gender Constituency at the African level to lead advocacy on gender and climate change issues during climate change events in Africa starting with the Africa Climate Week in September 2023.

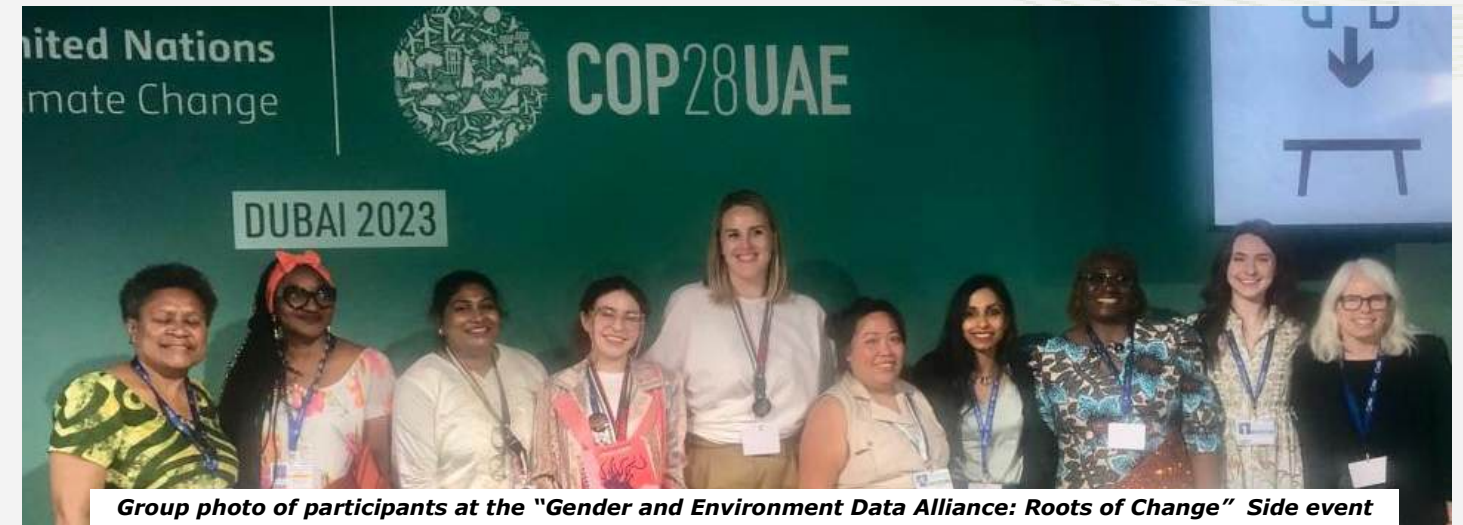


*Formal Engagements at the World Conference in Bonn during the SB58*



*WEP Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, and Global Lead at the UNFCCC SB58 in Bonn*

## WEP AT COP28



*Group photo of participants at the "Gender and Environment Data Alliance: Roots of Change" Side event*

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) participated in the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from November 30th to 12 December 2023.

During COP28, WEP organized and spoke at different events to contribute its position to climate change negotiations especially as it related to loss and damage, adaptation, gender and environmental data, and on other issues that would reduce climate change impacts on the vulnerable.

On the 3rd of December 2023, WEP collaborated with, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), and Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for

Women (ARROW), to organize a side event on gender and environment data with the theme: Gender and Environment Data Alliance: Roots of Change. The panelists at the side event discussed in-depth, different methods of data and evidence gathering that bring lived experiences to the policy arena, the importance of gender and environmental data to climate justice advocacy and how data can be used to influence decisions in the UNFCCC's space. We had a vibrant line-up of panelists for this side event: Unaisi Raileqe of the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding; Dr Helen Teghtegh, Executive Director, Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative Nigeria; Sofia Gutierrez of Barranquilla+20, Columbia; Mariam Ibrahim of Development Initiatives,

Kenya; Dr. Meghna Ranganathan of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; and Natalie Cleveland of Data2X.

WEP also collaborated with WECF International, Christian Aid and United Nations University, on 6th December 2023, and hosted a side event titled: "Building alliances to deliver climate justice for the vulnerable" aimed to harvest ideas on how to build alliances to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and advocate for climate justice for the vulnerable populations and regions. It became important to highlight the necessity of building alliances and pushing harder for climate justice "as greenhouse gas emissions hit new highs, temperature records tumble and climate impacts intensify," as revealed by the United Nations Environment Programme's Emissions Gap Report 2023. Our panelists discussed extensively, how climate actions can be advanced, and called on world leaders to do more, as they expressed fears that if the current trend is not reversed, the loss and damage fund will not be able to address all the losses and damages associated with climate change impacts in developing countries. The speakers encouraged partnerships among groups as a way of amplifying voices and enhancing climate actions.

Our speakers at this event were: Rasetaso Ithobimmarivo Saotranirina from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, who opened the event with a beautiful poem; Rebecca Heulvelmans, Advocacy and Campaigning Officer, Women Engage for a Common Future; Ancel Langwa, Engagement and Collaboration Lead, Africans Rising; Dr Elizabeth Jeyol, Executive Director, Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative (GERI); Maria-Ancilla Bombande, Researcher, UNU-INRA; and Manar Bidal, Youth Ambassador, African Youth Climate Hub.

WEP also had the opportunity to exhibit its works on climate justice advocacy, forest conservation, sustainable agriculture, natural resources and conflict, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water, sanitation and hygiene during the conference.



Image from the "Building alliances to deliver climate justice for the vulnerable" Side event

## WEP's Global Lead Elected a Member of the Regional Coordination Team for Africa Women and Gender Constituency

During the Africa Climate Summit that held in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2023, the Africa Women and Gender Constituency was officially launched by the Minister of Gender of Kenya, Hon Aisha Jumwa Katana. The African Women and Gender Constituency is a sub-set of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), one of the observer groups to the UNFCCC's process. The launch of the Africa Women and Gender Constituency was part of the WGC's regionalization and decentralization plan to bring WGC closer to the regions and enhance the participation and the voice of women in the regions in the WGC's advocacies.

WEP's Global Lead, Dr Priscilla Achakpa

participated at the Africa Climate Summit and spoke at the closing plenary of the Summit on behalf of the Africa Women and Gender Constituency, where she presented the demands of Africa women and girls towards attaining long-term, and gender-sensitive climate solutions.

Following the launch of the Africa Women and Gender Constituency, elections were conducted in October 2023 for the inaugural Regional Coordination Team (RCT) of the Constituency, where the Global Lead of WEP, Dr. Priscilla Achakpa, was elected a member of the RCT to represent West Africa



WEP Global Lead Dr Priscilla Achakpa Speaks at the closing plenary of the Africa Climate summit in Nairobi.



WEP Global Lead Dr Priscilla Achakpa (2nd from L to R) during a panel discussion at the Africa Climate Summit.

# Thanks to our Donors and Partners



# Awards and Recognitions

## Award for Outstanding Contribution towards Food Security in Nigeria

*WEP Global Lead, Dr Priscilla Achakpa received an Award for her outstanding contribution towards the attainment of food security in Nigeria, during the National conference on Agricultural Journalism organized by Farming Farmers Farms from the 31st August to 1st September 2023.*

## 100 Nigerians Leading Change in 2023

*Ahead of Nigeria's Democracy Day celebration on June 12, 2023, Nigeria's leading biographical publishing firm, Profiles & Biographies, rolled out the 2023 edition of 'Changemakers: 100 Nigerians Leading Change', a biographical compendium that shared the stories of outstanding Nigerians making extraordinary impact and providing leadership in their spheres of influence. Dr Priscilla Achakpa, the Founder and Global Lead of WEP was named and recognized among the 100 Nigerians leading change in 2023.*

## Award for Women Championing Environmental Rights – 2023 Edition

*Our Founder and Global President, Dr. Priscilla M Achakpa was nominated as the esteemed honorary recipient of the "Award for Women Championing Environmental Rights – 2023 Edition," by the Geneva Center for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue.*

*The prestigious accolade is an honorary award, a testament to remarkable efforts and dedication in the field of environmental rights according to the jury of the Human Rights Recognition Awards (HRRRA) of the Geneva Center for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue.*

*The award ceremony held virtually on Friday, 8th December 2023.*



# WEP in the NEWS

## WEP participates at world day to combat desertification and drought 2023

[https://www.unccd.int/events/desertification-drought-day/2023/events-around-world?fbclid=IwAR33DH1YCZG9JM5m84r-2w2scIL\\_8J1rEEs-zNMIIZCTdlw5HduSTNfxFpw\\_aem\\_th\\_AUbv8-OsGujEn1yt4ZZztCwyn4SPfnFadlXMIinusXonTJff4xSmscz9nBNh9TgfGnM&mibextid=Zxz2cZ#](https://www.unccd.int/events/desertification-drought-day/2023/events-around-world?fbclid=IwAR33DH1YCZG9JM5m84r-2w2scIL_8J1rEEs-zNMIIZCTdlw5HduSTNfxFpw_aem_th_AUbv8-OsGujEn1yt4ZZztCwyn4SPfnFadlXMIinusXonTJff4xSmscz9nBNh9TgfGnM&mibextid=Zxz2cZ#)

## WEP marks open data day 2023

<https://blog.okfn.org/2023/05/12/odd2023-stories-nigeria/>

## WEP Global lead Dr Priscilla Achakpa named among 100 Nigerians leading change for unveiling June 12

<https://guardian.ng/news/compendium-on-100-nigerians-leading-change-for-unveiling-june-12/>

Download >> Nigeria Change Makers 2023 profile book <https://rb.gy/qzy8z>

## WEP Global lead Dr Priscilla Achakpa named among Top Nigerian female environmentalists

<https://naturenews.africa/top-nigerian-female-environmentalists/>

## Actions to Combat Climate Threats (ACCT): Nimet reveals Flood kills 603 Nigerians, displaces 1.3 million

[https://leadership.ng/flood-kills-603-nigerians-displaces-1-3m/?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3NUG7i2eicccPIJdMNa\\_i8QTGgllBO2XouBRW27MpTyNPpu5LG4OLe-8o](https://leadership.ng/flood-kills-603-nigerians-displaces-1-3m/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3NUG7i2eicccPIJdMNa_i8QTGgllBO2XouBRW27MpTyNPpu5LG4OLe-8o)

## NGO Trains Farmers On Climate Early Warning In Kaduna –

<https://von.gov.ng/ngo-trains-farmers-on-climate-early-warning-in-kaduna/>

## Kaduna: Stakeholders pledge to reduce effects of climate change in their communities - Blueprint Newspapers Limited

<https://blueprint.ng/kaduna-stakeholders-pledge-to-reduce-effects-of-climate-change-in-their-communities/>

## Négociations climatiques : WEP au plan mondial initie des femmes africaines à Lomé

<https://businessnews.tg/negociations-climatiques-wep-plan-mondial-initie-des-femmes-africaines-a-lome/>

<https://youtu.be/Ttrq5q008Rc>  
<https://youtu.be/mWZxOhzCBj8>

# WEP Team



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WEP Global Lead



**Anne Marie Abaagu**  
Executive Director



**John Baaki**  
Deputy Executive Director



**Agema A. Juliana**  
Head of Admin/Finance



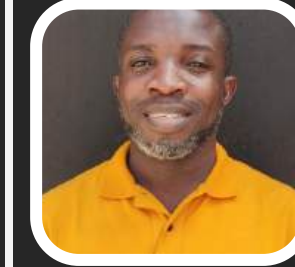
**Tracy Ogonna**  
Programme Manager



**Patience A. Adema**  
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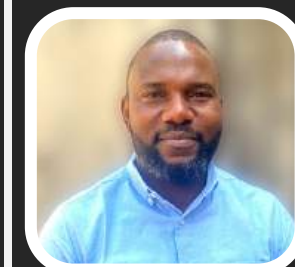
**Damaris Uja**  
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**Ukange Ichivirbee**  
Head of Grants and Partnership



**Tine Agenor**  
Business Development Manager



**Theophilus Amazemba**  
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**Gloria Shaibu**  
Senior Account Officer



**Ngutor Ajioh**  
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**Theophilus Terzungwe**  
Account Officer



**Oko Jennifer Omega**  
M&E Officer



**Doofan Joseph**  
Programmes Intern



**Blessing Mafai**  
Communications Officer



**Mariya Kaita**  
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**Abdulbasid Ahmad**  
LG Technical Officer



**Jessica Ikyaan**  
Coordinator, Benue State



**Patience Akase**  
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**Ojonimi Sule**  
Executive Driver



**Paul Uzuatuv**  
Driver



**Orva Terlumun**  
Maintenance Officer

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