CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE

Youth Environmental Defenders Training Report

Theme: "Equipping youth environmental defenders with knowledge, skills and resources for climate justice and natural resource governance."

Supported by:

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1 LIST OF ACRONYMS

CEJ	Centre for Environmental Justice
DMMU	Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit
MGEE	Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
SAT	Southern Africa Trust
YED	Youth Environmental Defenders
NYDC	National Youth Development Council

2 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report covers the training, activities and outcomes of the youth environmental defenders training conducted on the 4th of August 2022 at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC) in Lusaka. The training was held by The Centre for Environment Justice with the support from Southern Africa Trust in collaboration with Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE) under the Voices for Climate Justice & Natural Resources Governance project.

2.1 BACKGROUND OF THE YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER TRAINING

The Centre for Environment Justice in partnership with the Southern Africa Trust (SAT) is Implementing a project dubbed '**Voices for Climate Justice and Natural Resources Governance'** project whose goal is to Promote better policy decisions on the use of natural resources and amplify citizen voices on climate action. Southern Africa Trust supports civil society organizations and citizens groups in Southern Africa for effective and credible engagement in policy dialogue. This is to ensure that the voices of the marginalized and vulnerable are heard and impact development of policies affecting them to reduce policy and inequality.

The Centre for Environment Justice with support from Southern Africa Trust is implementing a program for Youth Environment Defenders with the aim of training 100 youths as environmental and climate defenders, and lobby and advocacy to equip them with knowledge, tools, and resources in environment policy, advocacy and climate justice. The Youth Environmental Defenders Training is a program designed to promote and amplify youth voices on environmental issues in Zambia. The theme of the training is **'equipping youth environmental defenders with knowledge, skills and resources for climate justice and natural resource governance.'**

2.2 OPENING, INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMING REMARKS

2.2.1 Welcome Remarks and Speeches

The official opening of the training included speeches and remarks from Ms. Maggie Mapalo Mwape Centre for Environment Justice, Mr. Gift Kaja, Youth Environmental Defender, Mr. Fishani Gondwe, Director Ministry of Green Economy and Environment.

2.2.2 Remarks By CEJ Executive Director-Ms. Maggie Mapalo Mwape

CEJ Executive Director, Ms. Maggie Mapalo Mwape expressed appreciation for opportunity to speak during the training, she recognized the presence of the Director Ministry of Green Economy and Environment Mr. Fishani Gondwe. Ms. Mwape further acknowledged the presence of the trainers among them, Mr. Ceswa Mpandamaluba from Action Aid, Mr. Makweti Sishekanu and Mr. Jeff Bucklers Kayamba.

Figure 1: Picture of CEJ Executive Director Ms. Maggie Mapalo giving her remarks

Ms. Mwape in her remarks mentioned that she strongly believed that there had never been a successful revolution without the young people. She also mentioned that youths have a unique energy and the world to achieve Climate Justice and environmental protection, the world needs youth voices and interventions. She added that youth voices are more essential than ever to drive the green economy agenda conversation.

She stated that the Youth Environmental Training was supported ender the 24thMonths project titled 'Voices for Climate Justice and Natural Resource Governance supported by Southern Africa Trust. She expressed gratitude on behalf of CEJ, she indicated that CEJ was so grateful for this generous opportunity which shall see to it that traditional leaders, CSOs, government and the youth are engaged in advocating for better policy decisions for climate action and natural resource management.

Ms. Mwape mentioned that for those who were interacting with The Centre for Environment Justice for the very first time, CEJ has been in existence for 14 years now and has demonstrated resilience, commitment, consistency and determination in achieving its mandate which is to create platforms and processes that promote community access to quality and accurate information on environmental protection, climate change and natural resources with the ultimate aim of enhancing accountability for better decision making and sustainable development as well as a support safe and adaptive environment as a basic fundamental to human rights of having a better and prosperous livelihood.

Ms. Mwape acknowledged that in the last fourteen years, CEJ has received support from various partners including WWF Zambia, Bread for the world, INCL, Global Green Grants, GIZ, Action Aid, UNDP, SAT, Kalumbila Minerals, Non-ferrous mine just to mention but a few. CEJ also signed agreements with two Universities namely, UNICAF Zambia and Appalachian State University-USA

She explained that the youths that were present during the training you see today went through a competitive process to be selected. CEJ received 250 applications within 72hours with 112 being female and 138 being 138 being male. She added that this was a true demonstration of how young people are committed to the cause and would want to contribute in finding solutions. She further added that youths were lobbying for space and clear role in mitigating Climate crisis and achieving Environmental Justice. “Everyone must be sincere enough to agree that, for the youth to effectively participate, engage and dialogue on issues of climate and environment, it is crucial that they are impacted with knowledge, skills tools and resources. And this training is responding to that. The expert facilitators will equip the youth with knowledge regarding to Environmental Policy and Regulations, Climate Change Actions and Lobby and Advocacy skills.”

In her conclusion, the Executive Director mentioned that her personal commitment to this cause was beyond it being a job but a passion and coming from a Christian background, she was convinced that the first assignment that God gave to man was to take care of the environment which includes land, trees, water, minerals, fish you can name them. She encouraged the youths that whatever they are pushing for, she urged them to remain consistent, committed and determined because visions do not chase money but money chases vision.

2.2.3 Remarks by Youth Environmental Defender Representative-Mr. Gift Kaja

Mr. Kaja, the representative of the Youth Environmental Defenders begun his remarks by mentioning that the Youth Environmental Defenders program was a program which was launched by the Centre for Environmental Justice earlier this year on 14th January 2022. He also mentioned that it was a youth engaged program that aimed to provide a platform that would see youths take a lead in amplifying environmental and climate justice voices and actions, Lobby and Advocacy, and sensitizing the communities across the country.

Figure 2: Youth Environmental Defenders representative Mr. Gift Kaja giving his remarks

Mr. Kaja stated in his remarks that as youth environmental defenders, they take it into account that youths are vital to lead in the issues of the environment because they are key stakeholders in sustainable development and their engagement in environmental matters not only creates direct impact on changing youth behaviors and attitudes towards climate justice and environmental protection but possibly influences communities and the country at large.

Mr. Kaja concluded his remarks by indicating that through various activities and platforms, the youth environmental defenders shall work to multiply youth participation in current environmental challenges and climate issues happening all around the country.

2.2.4 Remarks by The Director Ministry of Green Economy and Environment-Mr. Fishani Gondwe

The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment Director, Mr. Gondwe begun his remarks by recognizing the presence of Mr. Mumba Director, of youth; Ministry of youth, sport and arts, CEJ Executive director Ms. Maggie Mapalo Mwape, all facilitators present, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. He went further to extend greetings to the audience from the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment.'

Mr. Gondwe indicated that, now more than ever, the youth all across the globe were the mobilizing. He added that the youths have come to realize that so much damage was being inflicted on the environment and these groups of energetic young people cannot just stand by and watch, therefore, they have risen to strongly advocate for attentions to the

issues that matter most, including climate change, pollution, land degradation and biodiversity loss, which threaten their future and existence of the entire world.

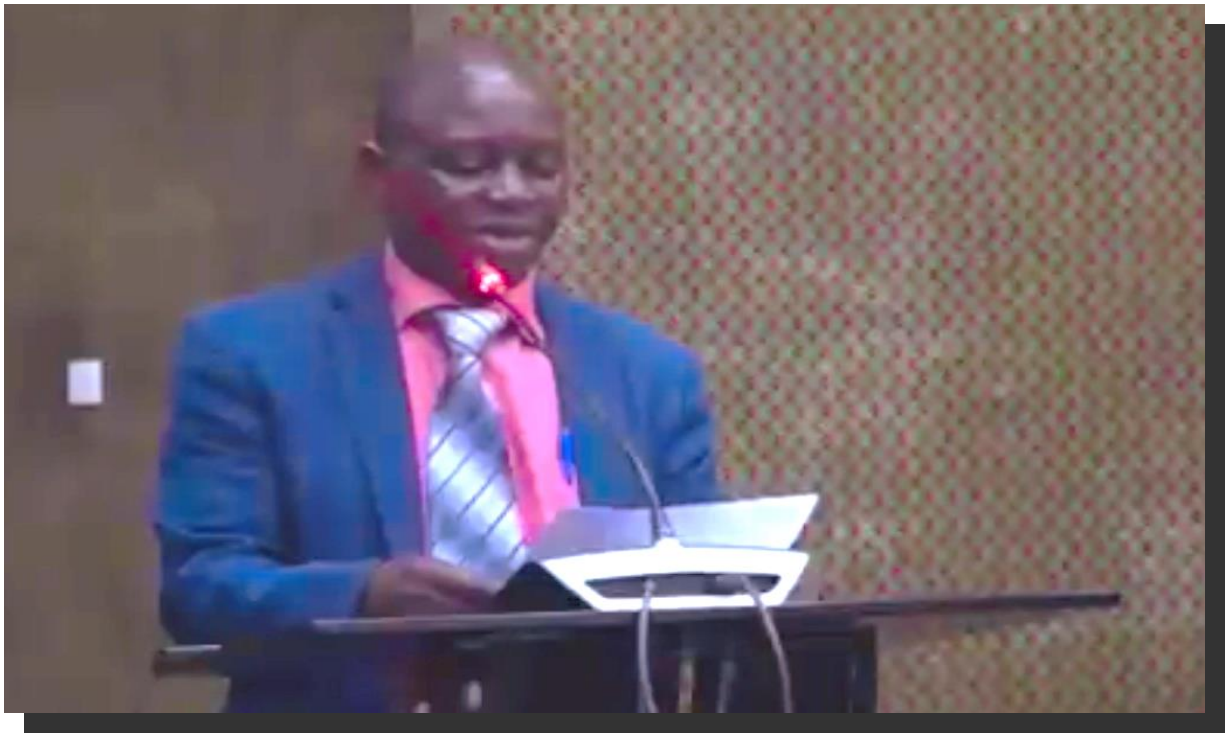

Figure 3: Director of Green Economy and Environment Mr. F. Gondwe giving his remarks

The Director of Green Economy and Environment mentioned that challenges resulting from environmental degradation and climate change have greatly worsened youth experiences in times of challenging global economic structures. Hence, there is need for dedicated research and development, and meeting the needs and rights of the youth through targeted approaches that will strengthen the voices of the youth.

The Director went on to mention that this youth environmental defenders (YED) Advocacy training was a step in the right direction aimed at advancing climate justice and accountable natural resources governance in Zambia. The Government through the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment promotes environmental advocacy, and the Government will continue supporting such initiatives. He added that the theme 'Equipping Youth Environmental Defenders with knowledge, skills and Resource Governance' rightly captured what was needed in ensuring that the youth are empowered.

The Director in his remarks stated that he was aware that the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) had convened this training with support from the Southern Africa Trust (SAT). He added that he believed that through such partnerships, coupled with the available youth human resource, we shall successfully mobilize and empower an impactful cadre of skilled youths, and these will in turn contribute to strengthening the voice of the youth in advocating for climate justice and democratic governance of natural resources.

The Director further stated that there was need stay alive to the fact that the youth were key in creating the required urgency in addressing and mainstreaming climate change and environmental justice in Zambia and that it was high time that everyone collaboratively changed the narrative of youth participation in climate justice and natural resources governance. He added that there was need to not view the youth as merely the beneficiaries of services but rather diligently improve their involvement in governance and decision-making processes, especially on matters to do with the environment.

The Director of Green Economy and environment concluded his remarks by mentioning that it was his sincere plea to the youth being trained that they would pass on the knowledge to other youths and so on, so that in the end, the cry for climate justice and democratic governance should be heard louder and louder than ever before.

3 TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the one-day training were as follows.

i. Train 100 youths
ii. equipping the youths with knowledge, skill and resources for climate justice and natural resource governance
iii. Enhance youth participation and take a lead in advocating for environmental protection and climate justice through campaigns, lobby and advocacy, policy dialogue and sensitizing communities across the country.

4 PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

The participants included staff members, facilitators, youths and government representatives. Total number of participants was 91 (males: 42; females: 49).

5 RESOURCE PERSONS' PROFILE

The team which delivered sessions during the training comprised of 3 external experts as shown below.

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION	SESSION TITLE
1.	Ceswa Mpandamaluba	Action Aid	The Role of Youth in Climate Justice and Natural Resource Governance
2.	Counsel Makweti Sishekanu	UNZA	Rights and social safeguards
3.	Jeff Bucklers Kayamba	CEJ Community Mobilizer	Advocacy Skills Training

6 VENUE AND DATE

The training was held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre on 4th August 2022 from 08hrs-17hrs**.**

7 PROCEEDINGS

7.1 SESSION ONE (1)- CESWA MPANDAMALUBA

7.1.1 CLIMATE ACTION AND THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH

7.1.1.1 Session Objectives:

7.1.1.1.1 The objectives of this session were as follows.

i. To unpack climate change definition
ii. To explain the role of youth and the existing policies on climate changes and the climate change status.

7.1.2 DEFINITIONS

Climate change is defined as the change in normal day to day atmospheric weather patterns in an area calculated in a period of 30 years.

It was stated that there are two weather meteorological indicators that are used to understand climate changes, and these are.

i. Temperature and,
ii. Rainfall.

Further, a graphical presentation was given of how the changes in the weather pattern have been in Lusaka over the years. The presentation showed that since 2011, the weather patterns were beyond the normal measures which depicted that there has been changes in the climate conditions.

7.1.3 CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Mpandamaluba pointed out that in the natural occurrence the atmosphere does not contain the greenhouse gases unless in very minimal state thus an increase in the level of these gases mainly due to human activities such as agriculture, forestry and land use, transportation, energy production, industrial activities and waste mismanagement have distorted the normal climate conditions.

7.1.4 IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The presenter also pointed out how most social sectors are interlinked to the environment and climate change. For example, some studies claimed that there is a link between climate change and the changes in the menstruation circle among females.

He further pointed out that the causes of climate change vary from place to place and in Zambia the main causes of climate change included: agriculture, forestry and land use, energy, waste management.

He recommended documents for further reading for the youths.

1. Third national communication.

2. Summary for policy makers.

7.1.5 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT DOING?

At this stage of the presentation, Mr. Mpandamaluba highlighted some of the things that government is doing to fight climate some of which include.

i. Creating policies and strategies to protect the environment and fight climate change.

ii. Providing capital support to climate smart initiatives for example rural electrification (REA) projects and nontax on the importation of solar panels.

The presenter pointed out that the roles of the government and the country's responses must align with mitigation and adaptation responses. He gave an example of the electric vehicle by ZESCO as a climate smart innovation which can help mitigate climate change.

7.1.6 CURRENT CLIMATE ACTIONS YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERTAKE

The presenter indicated that climate change was a youth issue and youths should do the following to fight climate change.

i. Vote for climate focussed leaders who can represent youth's interest
ii. Build movements and protest unprogressively and unjust climate policies
iii. Youths should be part of the law/policy making processes.
iv. Youths should use social media to influence climate change.
v. Youths should not just be vocal on social media or for the sake of being noticed but they should come up with practical solutions.

7.1.7 CLIMATE ACTION TRAPS TO AVOID

Mr. Mpandamaluba pointed out that the following were that climate action traps that youths must avoid.

i. Become professional working attendees
ii. Become fluent problem analysis and panel discussions
iii. Become Facebook youth advocates
iv. Become NGO and cooperative founders and co-founders

In concluding his session, Mr. Mpandamaluba urged the youths to be innovative enough to bring up innovative ideas especially in recycling. He added that youths should be able to seek accountability because organizations like action aid are aiming to give the power and the voice to the youths when it comes to accountability of resources especially where the government is concerned as it is more viable when those who are mostly affected are the ones in position of demanding for answers and accountability.

7.2 CONTRIBUTIONS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

7.2.1 CONTRIBUTIONS

At the end of the first session, some participants had contributions towards the presentation that was made. The contributions were as follows.

1. One of the participants mentioned that climate change had increased the level of vulnerability especially in the agricultural sector that has caused soil erosion hence causing poverty in most areas especially the rural areas. Therefore, one of the main reasons youths should fight climate change was to protect the future generations. He added that developing countries are lagging in the fight against climate change and government should put up measures such as higher taxes on diesel and petrol vehicles to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles.
2. The second youth contributed by saying that there was lack of safeguards when it comes to helping climate change victims. She gave an example regarding case of the floods in Namwala district of Southern province, the children were repatriated by air which was a traumatic experience for them. She therefore urged NGOs and government through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) to provide more indigenous suitable solutions and actions towards those affected by climate change.
3. The third submission was from a youth who is a founder of an organization called the virgin green renewable energy in Kapiri Mponshi. His organization is currently producing charcoal briquettes from agricultural waste thus providing a source of green energy. He mentioned on how this project includes those who used to be charcoal burners and how his organization has converted about 11 charcoal burners. However, this project is working on a small scale and needed support from the ministry of green economy and the ministry of small and medium enterprises so that it would expand to a larger scale.

7.2.2 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Q: What is the current state of young people in the fight against climate change especially the young people in other provinces?

ANS: young people are in a position of opportunities however there is still a barrier in accessing most of these opportunities because of lack of finances and skills. The speaker urged youths to acquire skills through self-learning or acquiring these skills from institutions that are offering them.

We are ready to take up climate action, but we are still facing challenges in technical inability to build, stringent conditions and financial constraints. We need to build capacity in areas that will help inn combating climate action, climate finance, climate adaption that can help build climate capacity.

Young people are mostly excluded because of elitisms and lack of experience, and we need to find ways to respond to these challenges

Q: What extent are Non-government Organizations including CEJ going to involve the rural settlement when it comes to disseminating information and empowerment on climate change?

ANS: CEJ executive director Ms. Maggie Mapalo mentioned that most of the organization work is in rural areas like Sinazongwe, Choma, Luapula and how the organization is still aiming to target more people in the other rural areas.

She also mentioned that youths will have a chance to showcase their innovations at this year's environmental protection dialogue and she hopes that youths from across the country will be able to participate in this.

8 SESSION TWO-ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND SAFE-GUARDS AND THE ROLE OF YOUTHS- MAKWETI SISHEKANU

This training session was meant to unpack an Environmental defender definition, explain the environmental rights and the principles of environmental defence, and the main obstacle to Environmental Defence in Zambia.

Mr. Makweti Sishekanu begun session by mentioning of the work Centre for Environment Justice has been doing to support youth initiatives both as individual organizations or as partners.

8.1 DEFINATIONS

He defined an environmental defender as an individuals or groups striving to promote and protect human rights relating to the environment [UN Environment], In so doing, environmental defenders seek to achieve three things namely.

(i) protect the environment on the one hand
(ii) protect people who depend on that environment on the other hand, and
(iii) prevent the violation of peoples' environmental rights.

He explained what Environmental Defence is by giving an example using an illustration of a picture demonstrating a woman seeking Environmental or climate justice. He further explained how it is impossible to fully enjoy the right to life, right to safe and clean water, the right to health and the right to food in a contaminated environment, and Environmental rights are an extension of basic human rights.

8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDING

Mr. Makweti Sishekanu posed a question to the participants on what Environmental Defending is.

Responses.

i. Environmental Defence seeks to protect the environment by initiating legal action in environment-related matters and by conducting public service and educational campaigns.
ii. Environmental Defending also conducts and encourages research relevant to environmental issues and promotes administrative, legislative, and corporate actions and policies in defence of the environment.

Mr. Sishekanu explained that Environmental Defending involves the identification of environmental and Land rights being violated, and the identification of solutions to the abuse of environmental land rights affecting people.

He added identification of environmental rights and how these rights are being violated is called engagement, whose rights are you defending? how are these rights being threatened? The identification of solutions to the abuse of environmental rights is called lobby and advocacy. Tools for environmental defending means the different approaches, methods and techniques for engagement, lobby and advocacy as outlined in the lobby-advocacy strategy

8.3 Principles Of Environmental Defending

Mr. Sishekanu explained that environmental defending is people centred. Recognizing the link between people and the environment, especially the vulnerable groups of people (women, children, the disabled, indigenous people, local communities and minority groups). He further added that human right-based are usually centred around the defence of environmental rights as an extension of human rights and the centre to this principle is the freedom of expression, the right to assemble, and the right to effective remedy. These principles are based on sustainable development pillars which states inter-generational equity, that the future generation has an equal right to enjoy environmental services being enjoyed by the present generation.

He explained further that Environmental Defending is in defence of the Rights of the present generation, and those of the future generations. However, Environmental Defending is outcome-based, which means that the outcomes are more important than the process. What you seek to achieve is more important than how you wish to do it. He also mentioned that environmental defending is based on the principle of climate justice; deriving from the UNFCCC principle of common but differentiated responsibility those with the highest contribution to the cause of climate change must have the largest share of responsibility towards mitigating climate change, while supporting the least and vulnerable parties with financial and technological capacity for adaptation. The only challenge with the application of the principle of climate justice is practice.

8.4 Drivers of Environmental Defence

At this stage of the training, Mr. Sishekanu highlighted the what the two (2) Drivers of Environmental Defence were.

i. The violation of environmental rights- violation has risen globally particularly due to the increased competition for natural resources. This problem has been compounded by the fact that more than 65% of all the natural resources being exploited in the world are in rural areas, on indigenous or local peoples' land, lands occupied by minority groups on customary tenure systems. This has increased the risk of exploitation of both the environment and people without safeguards
ii. Climate Injustice- Firstly, the most adverse impacts of climate change are disproportionately felt by people with the least contribution to climate change, and secondly, the economic inequalities are central to the cause of climate change.

8.5 WHO ARE THE POTENTIAL VIOLATORS?

Mr. Sishekanu posed a question and challenged the youths on Who the Potential Violators in the sector of climate change on the non -state actors are. The question remained answered.

The trainer then highlighted that climate change is a youth issue and he further listed some of the potential violators.

i. The Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development is an oppressive policy that undermines the rights of local communities (commissions). The Ministry's failure to control/prevent violations by non-state actors (omissions). The Ministry grants permits to non-state actors without due regards for the environment and local peoples' rights.
ii. The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment under the Forestry Department Issue of commercial timber logging concessions in a gazetted community forest without the consent of the local community [commission]. Degazetting a community forest without full consideration of the effects on local communities. Failure to comply with international UNFCCC obligations [omissions]. Failure to comply with National Climate Change obligations [omissions].

8.6 WHERE ARE THE RIGHTS?

Mr. Sishekanu explained that these rights can be found in hierarchy of environmental laws in Zambia i.e., constitution of Zambia (amendment) act no.2 of 2016, Art 256. Protection of the Environment and Natural Resource, he further mentioned that a person has a duty to co-operate with State Organs. State Institutions and other persons to following.

(a) Maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment.

(b) Ensure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources.

(c) Respect, protect and safeguard the environment; and

(d) Prevent or discontinue an act which is harmful to the environment (Procedural Right).

8.7 THE MAIN OBSTACLES TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE IN ZAMBIA

Mr. Sishekanu explained of how Environmental Rights are not enshrined in the Constitutional Bill of Rights and how Environmental Rights are not Justifiable and he also mentioned how Environmental Rights are not Legalized as Environmental and Social Safeguards for Programs and Projects in Natural Resource Management.

8.8 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

He explained that environmental Safeguard is a mechanism applied to keep something safe; to create a safe condition or to keep something in a safe condition. Environmental Safeguards are both normative and practical principles applied to keep people and the environment safe from environmental and social risks. A Risk is anything that has the potential to cause harm. Violation of environmental rights is the biggest Risk to the environment and people. Environmental Safeguards are applied to minimize environmental and social risks as they do no harm but safeguard and maximize (enhance) environmental and social

benefits. The trainer mentioned that the application of Environmental Safeguards in Zambia is project-based and not Legal.

8.9 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SUBMISSION SESSION

At the end of the presentation, the youths made submissions and the submissions were as follows.

i. The first participant mentioned that the government must eliminate all forms of gender biasness and promote inclusion during the formulation of climate policies and women should have a guaranteed representation in all national climate change dialogues and policy designs.
ii. The second participant added by saying that capacity building and resources must be accessible and available to build the resilience of young women and children towards the impacts of climate change. He also mentioned that since the topic of gender equity cuts across all facets of climate change, it should be mainstreamed into all climate change policies.

The presenter mentioned that main reasons we should fight for climate change as youths is to protect the future generations. He added that developing countries are behind in this fight and government should put up measures such as higher taxes on diesel and petrol vehicles to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles. The wrong adaptation and lack of safeguards when it comes to helping victims of climate change. For example, in the case of the floods in Namwala district the children were repatriated by air which was a traumatic experience for them. He therefore urged NGOs and government through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) to provide more indigenous suitable solutions and actions towards those affected by climate change.

One of the youths also added by saying the Government should provide tax-relief support and subsidies initiatives that have climate change adaptation or mitigation benefits. Grants and flexible loans should be made available for youth entrepreneurs especially those in the rural areas who have businesses that support the fight against climate change. The financial sector needs to mainstream climate finance to effectively support initiatives that have climate change adaptation or mitigation benefits, initiatives such as:

- Conducting research to develop climate resilient crop varieties to help local farmers adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Resources such as funding in soft loans and inputs (including fertilizers, irrigation technology) should be provided for the youth to motivate them into agribusiness to ensure the sustainability of our food systems.
- Incentivize farmers through tax reliefs, etc, who are practicing climate smart techniques, such as regenerative agriculture
- There is a need for the government through the ministry of green Economy and Environment to employ Peer Educator for Environmental protection and climate change, information dissemination or proper education is the key to attaining the vision 2030 , the word of Environmental protection or climate change should be preached right from the inception of implementing the national climate change learning strategy and secondly there is a need for the government or for the youths

to come up with youth forums or movements that will foster the attainment of sustainable developments goals.

- There is a need to see the government of Zambia taking the right steps in empowering the youths with necessary technical skills in research and innovation to foster the reduction of the GHG
- Private universities need more encouragement and support to offer climate change learning programme, some study showed that while the private Universities were interested in offering programme in climate change and Environment protection, they are lacking funds and technical skills
- Integration of climate change learning into formal education (primary and secondary schools need support from the institution that is dealing with teacher education programme such as the schools of education in universities
- Graduates or the youths who provides services to small scale farmers need more knowledge on climate change learning strategies and more topic of climate change (such as REDD, carbon market and CDM, Climate Change and population Dynamic and international Law to address climate change is not delivered to young people
- Inclusion of environmental rights in the bill of rights

8.10 QUESTIONS

1. Why is it that the law applies to the vulnerable, those who cannot defend themselves but when the rich break the laws they are not brought to book? What can be done to protect the environment from both from local and international investors. How best can we advocate without infringing others?

8.10.1 Response.

The law is neither written for the poor nor the rich. The only problem is enforcement because the rich can hire lawyers who represent them because they understand the law compared to a poor man who does not understand the law. The trainer went to respond by saying law is not the problem but rather the problem is social vulnerability. Therefore, there's need to advocate for equipping communities with knowledge related to laws so that they too can understand the law and be able to stand for themselves.

We need to put in environmental and social safeguards, and it must be subjected to the country. to protect the environment and rights of the vulnerable. the legalisation for legal and environmental safeguards for the

9 SESSION THREE- ADVOCACY SKILLS TRAINING- JEFF BUCKLERS KAYAMBA

9.1 INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY

Mr. Kayamba begun the session by defining advocacy as 'a strategy that is used around the world to influence policies, regulations and positions.' He added that advocacy is about creation or reformation of policies, but also about effective implementation and enforcement of policies, to bring about change in the lives of people.

The explained that some policies may not bring about the desired change in the lives of many people. He further explained that policies are important because they determine how people behave and affect how people experience everyday lives.

The presenter broke down advocacy to its main three main approaches which were as follows.

- Advocacy for those affected by a situation (voice on behalf of the voiceless).
- Advocacy with those affected by a situation (consensus building with those affected by the situation), building alliances.
- Advocacy by those affected by a situation (advocacy work by the aggrieved)

The presenter added that before implementing advocacy strategies, it must be clear who you are trying to influence and what policy you wish to change.

9.2 Types of advocacies

- Sometimes advocacy work is forced on us – the problem is already there for example, the high rate of air and water pollution through mining activities leading to massive lung and abdominal diseases, and we use advocacy to address the problem. This is called reactive advocacy.
- At other times it is possible to plan when you foresee a problem ahead of you for example, indiscriminate cutting of trees in a community, you set the agenda and use advocacy to create a positive environment or prevent a problem before it happens. This is called proactive advocacy.

The presenter further explained that lobbying is a form of advocacy that involves directly engaging with decision makers particularly a politician or public official who has control or significant influence over a policy, piece of legislation or regulation. He gave examples of lobbying, and these include.

- Asking your member of parliamentarians or representative to introduce, amend or vote for or against legislation.
- Online or written petitions asking for legislators to support or oppose legislation.

9.3 Why then do we advocate?

The trainer mentioned that we advocate because policy makers make decisions that affect a lot of people, which at many times cause problems that impact the people negatively. He also mentioned why it was good to recognize that various actors in the private and public sectors contribute to livelihood insecurity or violations of human rights and that, significant impact can only be achieved through changes in the policies, funding and actions of powerful institutions, as well as individuals and households. When policy makers are not fulfilling their government, company and human responsibilities to others, advocacy can be used to hold them accountable.

He added that we live in the world were oppression, suffering injustice and poverty are prominent features of life and collectively we have the power to influence change in the world.

9.4 Steps to Advocacy process

Mr. Kayamba mentioned that the steps to advocacy include the following.

Step 1

Identify Advocacy Issue- select a realistic advocacy issue one that is felt by many people, analyze and research, provide evidence and the root cause of the problem. Can policy change or implementation of an existing policy help improve the root –cause.

Step 2

Select advocacy goals and objectives- Clear and attainable goals, and SMART objectives need to formulate.

He then paused and asked the audience what the acronym SMART for

Response from the youths.

S- Smart

M- Measurable

A-Attainable

R- Realistic

T- Timebound

The trainer continued the session by mentioning that an advocacy goal is the long-term result for example 3 to 5 years of your advocacy efforts while an objective is the short-term target of 1 to 2 years that contributes as steps toward your goal.

Step 3

Identify decision makers and influencers- When identifying decision makers try to analyze them and ask key questions; what is their background? Do they prioritize climate change? Are they aware of the environmental advocacy issue at hand? How supportive are they?

He mentioned that decision makers are people with formal power or authority to take the desired policy action of your advocacy issues, influencers on the other hand are people or groups who can have a compelling force on the actions, opinions or attitude of the decision makers.

He added that decision making is further broken into 4 categories namely.

i. WHO- the decision-making institution with the power to take action on your advocacy issues?

ii. WHAT- the change you would like to see relative to your advocacy issue.

iii. HOW- the specific action the decision-making institution can take to accomplish the change.

iv. WHEN- a time frame for the action to occur (often between six months and three to five years depending on the particular advocacy efforts.

Step 4

The trainer mentioned that the fourth step of advocacy is to identify opposition and obstacles to your advocacy issue- Every advocacy issue will attract opposition, resistance and obstacles. He stated that some people may feel threatened or challenged by your advocacy issue and they may use their power and influence to hinder your progress by refusing to comply or accept your issue. They may come up with their own course of action or argument to prevent your advocacy issue from succeeding. Some obstacles may be inadequate funds or preparedness. Managing resistance doesn't come naturally. Therefore, you must prepare for it, if you have to turn change resistance into change advocates. He also mentioned some people are resistant to change not because they don't support it, but because they don't fully understand it.

Step 5

Design Advocacy messages- The designing of advocacy messages should always consider the objective of planned advocacy. The message should always be tailored to the target audience's level of understanding and awareness. Credible, clear, compelling, consistent and convincing messages. Simple, persuasive, and appealing to hearts and minds while incorporating a direct call to action. We must look at these questions; what is the issue? Is it pollution of the environment? Why should the decision maker care about the issue? What is the proposed solution and how it will impact the problem? What do you want the decision maker to specifically do about pollution following your interaction?

Step 6

The trainer mentioned that the sixth step to advocacy includes identifying and forming advocacy alliances. He continued by mentioning that for advocacy work to be implemented effectively we need to identify allies and form alliances. Be sure your advocacy allies are also working to promote environmental protection. When groups of people come together for a common cause is not competition but cooperation. Coalitions and alliances bolster advocacy by bringing together strength and resources of diverse groups to create a more powerful voice for change. Well-conceived and managed coalitions offer many benefits to members, including a shared mission, effective networking and information sharing, increased access to resources, heightened accountability and improved problem solving.

Step 7

The seventh step to advocacy which is Planning advocacy strategic activities- he mentioned that the seventh step involves designing advocacy activities to address the decision maker's interests and influence their decision towards your objectives. The activities must aim at lessening the influence of any opposing groups of environmental protection. Advocacy activities must be planned by key players and must also have resource mobilization skills. Plan activities for media advocacy for example television, radio and social media platform such as Facebook etc. Media advocacy – is the process of disseminating infor-

mation through the communication media where the main aim is to effect action, such as a change of policy in climate change. Media advocacy is rooted in community advocacy and its goal is to promote public health and environmental policies.

He added that climate change has been described as the biggest threat to public health, and that it affects different people and places unevenly, and so is likely to lead to inequalities within and across nations. The effects of climate change are essentially a human rights issue because some people and places will be more exposed than others to the direct effect the directs impacts such as extreme weather, and because the greatest burden falls on those already in poverty and on underrepresented groups such as indigenous peoples, the rural and urban poor, women and youths; they will be more sensitive to negative effects on their health or wellbeing or may have less capacity to effectively respond.

9.5 Advocacy intervention to call for climate justice.

The presenter mentioned that 'We use Advocacy to hold policy makers accountable and fight for policies needed to rectify these impacts and sustainably address the principles of climate justice such as respect and protection of human rights and support the right to sustainable development. Fair sharing, and equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate change. Ensure that decisions on climate change are participatory, transparent and accountable. Highlight on gender equality and equity.'

9.6 Advocacy for Environmental Protection

In n Zambia, forests, wildlife, fisheries, wetlands and protective areas (such as national parks) constitute a basis for livelihoods for most of our people as a resource base and indeed the backbone of the country's economy. But human induced processes acting upon the land such as pollution, land degradation, over –exploitation of resources, disposal of waste and desertification are Zambia's biggest environmental problems that affect everyone through disease, poverty, food insecurity, high cost of living and climate change etc. the culprits of our environmental problems mentioned above are extractive industries or mining companies in the country; that are abusing our environment with impunity.

10 CLOSING REMARKS

The closing remarks were made by Ms. Maggie Mapalo Mwape, Executive Director the Centre for Environment Justice, Mr. Brian Youth Coordinator- National Youth Development Council and Mr. Boniface Mumba Board Chairperson CEJ

10.1 Ms. Maggie Mapalo Mwape Executive Director Centre for Environment Justice

In her closing remarks, Ms. Mwape mentioned that she was happy that we had a great time together as youths. Firstly, she encouraged the youths that formed organization and they must firstly understand why they established those organizations and the vision behind them. The NGO world is not a money-making thing, it is about people and change, if you are focusing more on how much money you want to make, I can assure that you that you will be frustrated. She went on to mention that she has been with the Centre from inception, and it has been 14 years now and we believed in the vision from its inception, and we believed in it so much that we wanted to stand by the vision and the brand and not to

make money first. The first six months after the registration of the Centre, she received a call that there was money a project on HIV which was bout $50 000, and she said it was not within our mandate. We must remain consistent with the vision of the institution, and you must be ready to go through the process of building your brand and what you are trying to sell out. One method we used was to identify every opportunity in the sector of the environment. We marketed the organization so well that institutions and cooperating partners begun to understand what we really wanted to do. It is therefore an encouragement to you who are running organizations to be very patient and do not be in a hurry to have partners give you a fund. Accountability and strong leadership are very important.

Secondly to those that those who are saying that how can we access grants, the first three years you cannot qualify for grants because donors rank you as an embryo as you are just developing and you are not strong enough because you don't understand financial accountability and systems but from the little resources that you have, you can manage to create financial systems. CEJ is where it is now because we have labored, and we have been resilient to be where we are now, and donors know the direction of the organizations.

Thirdly to those that asked about the way forward. In March this year we called for provincial coordinators, and we received more than 500 applicants and we had struggle in reviewing and picking those we thought would be provincial coordinators. We managed to select provincial coordinators in all the nine provinces. Through the selected provincial coordinators, we will be forming proper structures in which we will be able to fund programs and activities. In few months to come, we will communicate to you of what we are trying to do. Most importantly we want to build a strong movement for young people that love to protect nature and the human rights.

Lastly, she thanked all the youths present that managed to come at short notice. To the facilitators, we are grateful that you came, and we have learnt so much. To my staff, thank your great work and putting up such an event that has been a success.

10.2 Mr. Brian Youth Coordinator National Youth Development Council

Mr. Brian on behalf of the Ministry of Youth Art and Sports begun his closing remarks by thanking the Executive Director CEJ, all the facilitators that have imparted knowledge in us and all youth present. For holding this event, allow me to celebrate Ms. Mwape and her organization for successfully holding this event. I want to believe that this is a very impactful experience for all of us. When we talk about the environment, it is something that is linked to almost everything that we do and everything that we do can be linked to almost everything that we do can be linked to the environment. I want to trust that from here we have a better perspective and understanding of how we can make our world to be more viewable and sustainable world not just for present but for future generations to come.

Mr. Brain in his remarks mentioned that we are all aware of government's commitment towards environmental stewardships, environmental protection and climate change. Using the kind of knowledge, we have gained from this training, we should leave this place with a united voices that will knock on doors and begin to advocate and lobby for same things that we want to see. Most of you are founders of organizations and you have brilliant innovations, you have designed wonderful projects and the only missing thing is the financing aspect. If we are united as youths, I believe that what you are looking for can be found.

One of the challenges in the youth development stage is that we are disjointed as youth people but I want to believe that going forward with such platforms and knowledge that we can become a united force and we can move in one direction to lobby and advocate for the things that we want to see.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Brian encouraged the youths to take advantage of the empowerment programs meant to support young people. Youths should be the ones to talk about empowerment programs, have a criteria of climate smart business models, we can advocate for that. I also want to encourage all the youths working in various thematic issues to get to know about NYDC, you get to become a member as an organization of NYDC, when you do that, it is easy for government to coordinate what is happening in the youth development space and link you to various opportunities that may come up from time to time and it becomes easy for us to build capacity in governance, resource mobilization. Those that may want to reach us, they can reach us on our office number; +260 957 555 511 or on info@nydc.jovi.zm so that we can guide you on how to formalize your membership at NYDC.

10.3 Mr. Boniface Mumba Board Chairperson Centre for Environment Justice

Mr. Mumba in his closing remarks acknowledged all protocols present. He mentioned that he was grateful to be given an opportunity to give his remarks. As young people, the mantra is in your hands, you must take up the leadership role. Leaderships is a selfish process; in leadership process we address our interest first. I implore young people as much as we have different spheres of life, different challenges, different experiences, you have to take up the sense the leadership role and own it to great extents and you must not delegate it because of you do you are delegating your destiny.

Be accountable and responsible, nothing happens in your life apart from what you decide in your youth. What you decide in your youth is what determines your destiny. Your legacy is bult in your youth. The Centre for Environment Justice stands today is because of the decisions that were made the youth stage. When you have left this place, you will be accountable to your destiny. It is only in your youth that you can create your legacy.

In his conclusion, Mr. Mumba told the youth very opportunity missed is never recovered no matter how much you try. An opportunity missed today will never come. Take every opportunity because it may never come back. destiny is before your hands; you must grab it and choose it. Getting your destiny is a collective effort and actions that you take. Many are times that this Centre for Environment Justice has suffered many hardships but there was levels of endurance and tenacity that have gotten the Centre to where it is today. Therefore, I encourage you to continue working hard and never give up on your destiny.