



## THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AFRICA REGION REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE MEETING REPORT

Dates : 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024



**THEME: ROLE OF RCE IN CLIMATE ACTION,  
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Venue: University of Eldoret and  
The Eldoret National Polytechnic**



## SUMMARY REPORT.

The 14th Africa RCE Meeting was held in hybrid format from 28th to 30th August 2024 in Eldoret Kenya. The meeting was hosted by RCE North Rift led by the RCE North Rift Coordinator, Prof. Vincent Sudoi.



*Courtesy call to the DVC (PRE's) office before the opening ceremony of the conference*

The first two days were hosted at the University of Eldoret; School of Business Conference Hall and third day at The Eldoret National Polytechnic under the theme: ***“Role of RCE in Climate Action, Education for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals”***. The RCE North Rift had representatives across its Coverage: Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, West Pokot, and Baringo counties which collaborate under the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB). This meeting was in line with the RCE mandates of advancing climate action, Education for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals through collaborative efforts with local communities, Academia and governmental bodies fostering knowledge exchange, capacity building, and innovative solutions. The discussions highlighted these collaborative efforts.

This meeting attracted attention of at least 285 attendances from both African countries and other continents with participants attending both in person and virtually from at least 20 countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Japan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam, Burkina Faso, Bahrain, Togo, and The Gambia among others.

On the first day of the conference, Prof Vincent Sudoi, on his welcoming remarks, on behalf of the Local Organising Committee, welcomed all the distinguished guests, presenters, exhibitors, students and visitors to the University of Eldoret for this 14<sup>th</sup>

Africa Region RCE Meeting, held on 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Putting emphasis on the great importance of the meeting that brings together academicians, researchers, scholars and professionals from Africa and the world at large. He further stated that the theme of this year's conference *"Role of RCE in Climate Action, Education for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals"* was chosen to contribute towards gathering of evidence in the field of climate action and education for sustainable development.



*Prof. Vincent Sudoi, Coordinator RCE north Rift during his welcoming remarks on day 1 and during the tree planting exercise on day 2*

He acknowledging participants for their efforts to ensure the success of the meeting *"The success of this meeting depended on the participation of the delegates gathered here and online and we truly appreciate"*.

During the official opened, the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (AF) Prof. Nicholas Makau welcomed the participants and reiterated the importance of RCEs' in Empowering people within communities to lead better and more sustainable lives through creating positive social and environmental change. He further applauded the efforts of RCEs' in creating diverse partnerships with various stakeholders and even indigenous communities with the sole purpose of enhancing strategic thinking and action on sustainability. His sentiments were echoed by the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (PRE) Prof. Gelas Simiyu who underpinned the centrality of RCEs' in advancing the needed environmental sensitization for climate smart action and advancing the needed synergies in enhancing education sustainable development and sustainable development goals.





*Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (AF) Prof. Nicholas Makau and Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (PRE) Prof. Gelas Simiyu during official lunching of the meeting*

During the opening ceremony, the meeting was honored by opening speeches from Dr. Loice Kipkiror (NEMA Board member, also representing the DG NEMA Mamo B Mamo.); Dr. Catherine Mbaisic (NEMA) who identified RCE as a pinnacle of Climate Action working with over 134 branches globally whose intentioned are anchored upon advancing environmental issues for sustainable development; Dr. Akpezi Ogbuigwe (Regional Advisor of Africa Regional RCEs) on 'Africa RCEs' Leading in Climate Action for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals' where she called for the unification, inclusivity, democracy and respect for human rights. She further reiterated on the need for RCEs' to integrate different forms of knowledge and technology sharing through building the needed capacity and interlinkages for equitable and multilateral trade systems to address systemic issues as outlined in the SDG Goal No. 17 FOR Climate Action, Education for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals and the Africa Aspiration of 2063. Further, Dr. Josephat Miheso (Assistant Director Teachers Education Dept) from Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and Dr. James Gichia Njogu (Acting Secretary General/CEO-Kenya National Commission to UNESCO) also made their presentation in support to the conference theme.



*Dr. Akpezi Ogbuigwe (Regional Advisor of Africa Regional RCEs) during her remarks.*

During the third day, on youths engagement forum, Dr. Akpezi further engaged the youths in a series of youth targeted issues in as a way of finding what exactly matters to them and as much as climate change issues, multi-stakeholder involvement in RCEs and youths engagements in the continent re concerned. He urged the youth to reflect on their personal missions and actively participate in RCE activities. She concluded by provided an elaborate guidelines to the youths on applying to be an RCE youths Coordinators. She emphasized the importance of active engagement in RCE activities and outlined the application process, including deadlines and benefits.



*Dr. Loice Kipkiror Board member-NEMA*



*Dr. Catherine Mbaisi and Ms. Ruth Nderitu (from NEMA-KE headquates during the opening ceremony of the conference in day 1)*

During the 1st day of the conference, congratulatory messages and speeches were made by His Majesty Chief Masango Sone (RCE Buea, Cameroon), Jonghwi Park (Global RCE Service Centre) from United Nations University-Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability from Japan, Ms. Tokie Izaki (Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Education, Ministry of Environment) from Japan.



*Video Presentations from Jonghwi Park (Global RCE Service Centre)*

Giving her congratulatory message and important updates on the new developments on RCE



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14E7t8-rigx16z7AAebu8VRcCZO4BoU24/view>



*Video presentation from Ms. Tokie Izaki (Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Education, Ministry of Environment) from Japan.*

Giving congratulatory message from MOEJ.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jpL-DLEhtaCzTA3QIOFIMGxKBVXS\\_CWS](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jpL-DLEhtaCzTA3QIOFIMGxKBVXS_CWS)



*HM Chief Masongo Sone Speech during the meeting*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6FDPhvNgZw>

The meeting also honored the global need to increase the percentage forest cover on day two, the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 by planting more than 200 trees around the department of Environmental sciences. This Activity was coordinated by Dr. Thomas Munyao, Chairperson Environmental Sustainability Committee and the dean school of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Dr. Mark Kiptui and was officiated by Ag. VC Prof. Nicholas Makau who was accompanied by Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ASA) Prof. Samuel Lutta and Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (PRE) Prof. Gelas Simiyu.





*Physical Attendees participants at the conference hall.*

During the meeting, thirty four (34) scientific presentations were made during the two days at the University of Eldoret, these discussions ignited a discussion to address Africa's climate vulnerability and promotes sustainable development practices.



Dr. Christopher Saina, Chair of session on enhancing food Security and Sustainable Livelihood through Climate action and Dr. Mark Kiptui, (Dean School of environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management) during His key note speech on enhancing food Security and Sustainable Livelihood, with case studies from the North Rift Region.





Prof. Wilkister Nyaora, Coordinator RCE Mau complex, during session on Translating SDGs and Global Issues into Local Actions to Address Climate Change and Dr. Georgine Kemboi (University of Eldoret) during the recap session.

During her presentation, Prof. Wilkister gave a broader presentation and insightful engagements she is leading in Mau ecosystem complex for attaining the sustainable Development Goals focusing on deforestation, indigenous rights and knowledge and climate change adaptation and mitigation.



*Mr. Evance Ouya (The RCE Africa youth coordinator) and Mr. Welinga Martine ( RCE north Rift Member- chair of RCE multistakeholder partnership as hubs for Education for Sustainable Development in Climate Action and Climate Financing)*

During youths engagement remarks, Mr. Ouya focused on the role of youth in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). He shared his journey of establishing tree nurseries and environmental management projects, emphasizing the benefits of youth engagement in leadership, advocacy, and community impact. He further encouraged youths to be on the lookout for funding opportunities that can propel their activities.

Key lessons from the day three of youth's engagement included: Engaging youth energy and focused attention, encouraging critical thinking, leveraging technology and collaborating and providing incentives for youth to sustain partnerships.

During his presentation on the third day, Mr. Welinga (a past trainer at The Eldoret National Polytechnic) and a Global Champion in environmental health, detailed the greening initiatives that he initiated at the Polytechnic. He highlighted student

involvement in forming green clubs and committees and collaborating with Algonquin College in Canada to advance projects like biogas production, water sanitation, and lab water recycling. He stressed the importance of youth involvement in driving these initiatives.

Mr. Ngenoh Jonathan (*the contact person for the committee and the lead organizer of the third day event*), appreciated the attendees by highlighting the achievements of Eldoret National Polytechnic in fostering a green campus. He discussed the institution's green energy initiatives, such as a biogas project and the adoption of the Lemook Wetlands for restoration efforts. He also mentioned their Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Centre, emphasizing the institution's commitment to electronic waste management.



*Mr. Jonathan Ngenoh (Trainer and Environmental and legal officer at the ENP)*



*The Eldoret National Polytechnic Traditional dancers during tree planting session on day 3 and TENP.*





*Youths panel Discussion on Day 3, Coordinated by the conference secretariat Mr. Agan Leonard (from University of Eldoret).*

Preset in the panel were youth leading various initiatives around the country including Ms. Carren Katenya (4 from left) leading Advocacy for Change movement, she gave their focus on importance of mental health and career opportunities in agriculture, counseling, social work, and community development. Mr Fabish (5 from left) from Vijana Ni Nguzo movement discussed their collaboration with climate action initiatives and other SDGs within the north rift counties. Mr Hillary Kemboi (2 from left) who is the CEO from Green Earth, he urged the youth to explore opportunities in environmental conservation and SDG-related work. Mr. Kelvin Kiplating (1 from left), the Youth President, addressed advocacy efforts focused on boy child empowerment and drug abuse prevention. Remarks by Linus Tom from UNESCO (3 from left). Mr. Linus Tom highlighted the opportunities available to youth through UNESCO initiatives, motivating them to engage in global and local efforts to advance SDGs. And finally among other youths, Mr. Asbel Kemboi (6 from left) encouraged youth to partner in achieving the SDGs and promoted inter-county competition as a means of fostering innovation and progress.

Addressing the key priority areas identified for this conference, around the Role of RCE in Climate Action, Education for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, generally, the conference highlighted the following sub-themes in various panel sessions:

- **Sub-theme 1:** Mainstreaming of Gender Youth and Communities in Linking Climate Action with ESD and SDGs
- **Sub-theme 2:** RCE Multistakeholder Partnership as hubs for Education for Sustainable Development in Climate Action and Climate Financing

- **Sub theme 3:** Enhancing Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Through Climate Action.
- **Sub theme 4:** Translating SDGs and Global issues into Local Actions to address Climate Change
- **Sub theme 5:** Waste and Pollution Control.
- **Sub theme 6:** Role of RCE in addressing Biodiversity Loss

## **Key Highlights**

### **Waste and Pollution Control**

#### Key Points:

- **Community Participation:** Effective waste management relies heavily on community involvement in sorting, recycling, and appropriate disposal. A case of NEMA-Kenya in establishing of waste bins that sort degradable and non-degradable wastes collection from household levels.
- **Collaboration between sectors:** Public-private partnerships are critical for long-term waste management solutions. The discussion emphasized the value of collaboration among governments, industry, and civil society, with innovative waste-to-energy initiatives cited as feasible solutions. Additionally, encouraging youth energy, critical thinking, leverage technology, and AI in waste management were cited as innovative digital solutions in waste management case study of Abuja-Nigeria.
- **Adoption of Circular Economy;** Transitioning from sequential waste systems to circular economies was termed crucial for waste reduction. This strategy focuses on waste reduction through efforts to promote recycling, reusing, and reducing waste from production as encouraged by NEMA in Kenya.



### **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

- Education was cited as a major drive for creating awareness and instilling sustainable practices. The discussions centered on incorporating ESD into curricula to motivate future generations to undertake environmentally responsible behavior.

#### **Key Points:**

- **Training Educators:** Teachers must be provided with the appropriate expertise and instruments for effectively conveying sustainability. Enhancing teacher training programs is vital for the effective diffusion of ESD.
- **Embedding ESD into curricula at all levels of learning is required.** Students should learn about the SDGs, waste management, and climate change.
- **Creative Learning Methods:** Using interactive learning methods such as entertainment and community initiatives was emphasized as a means to engage students and promote practical, long-term actions.

### **Youth Empowerment for Climate Action**

- Regarding Africa's youthful population, there was an emphasis on attracting young people to participate in climate-related efforts. Empowering young people to lead creative and climate-resilient initiatives was viewed as a critical approach for sustainable development.

## Key Points

- Digital Platforms for Climate activism: Youth-led climate activism is increasingly reliant on digital platforms and social media. Twitter(X) spaces, and TikTok were highlighted as excellent platforms for coordinating campaigns and spreading information on climate action.
- Youth-Led Projects: Youth-led projects in waste management and climate advocacy were highlighted examples of local solutions that promote awareness and create green jobs, benefiting the economy.
- Skill Development for the Future: Youth-oriented initiatives that teach green entrepreneurship, renewable energy, and sustainable agricultural techniques were underlined as critical to long-term climate resilience.

## Best Practices and Success Stories

- WEEE Green and safe E-Waste management in East and Central Africa; this project showcased its innovative and collaborative approach to waste management by repairing, re-using and recycling e-wastes while creating employment opportunities for young people.
- Engagement of RCE in Mau-ecosystem complex; a case study showcased the role of RCE in restoration of Mau ecosystem along the Njoro riparian land through fundraiser runs that fund reforestation and agroforestry projects.

## Theory of electronic waste management (WEE CENTRE)

The WEEE center has installed small shop where materials are taken before transportation to the main operation centre in Nairobi.

### **Great Achievements.**

- Employment Creation
- Environment Conservation
- 3Rs in progress
- Combating Health effects from E wastes

## **Recommendations**

- **Enhance ESD Implementation:** Governments should emphasize integrating ESD into national curriculum and investing in teacher training to increase their abilities to offer sustainability education.
- **Leverage Digital Advocacy:** Youth groups should broaden their use of digital resources to raise climate awareness and motivate action, including platforms for both activism and education.
- **Encourage Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Governments, corporations, and educational institutions ought to partner collectively to develop effective waste management policies and educational initiatives that empower young people.
- **Support Youth Innovation:** Policymakers and international organizations should lend financial help to youth-led environmental projects, primarily those centered on recycling and clean energy.
- **Encourage Circular Economy Models:** To encourage sustainability, local governments and the business sector should incentivize circular economy measures like recycling and waste-to-energy recovery.

## **Conclusion**

- The 14th African RCE Regional Conference emphasized the significance of education, community engagement, and innovation in addressing waste management concerns and encouraging sustainable climate action. By concentrating on youth empowerment and encouraging cross-sector collaboration, the continent can make substantial progress toward reaching its SDG targets and creating climate-resilient communities.
- These discussions underscored the necessity of taking swift action to adopt these solutions for Africa's long-term sustainability.

## **PHOTOS:**

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MH29Q9InxzFeoi9N9Aw\\_rxmJO-fQ1zQC](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MH29Q9InxzFeoi9N9Aw_rxmJO-fQ1zQC)

DAY 3 (Eldoret National Polytechnic )

<https://brucephotographygallery.pixieset.com/rce0792361581/>

YOU TUBE Link for DAY 1 and DAY 2

DAY 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9buyK9GzKCU>

DAY 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCKiGzC0LtU>



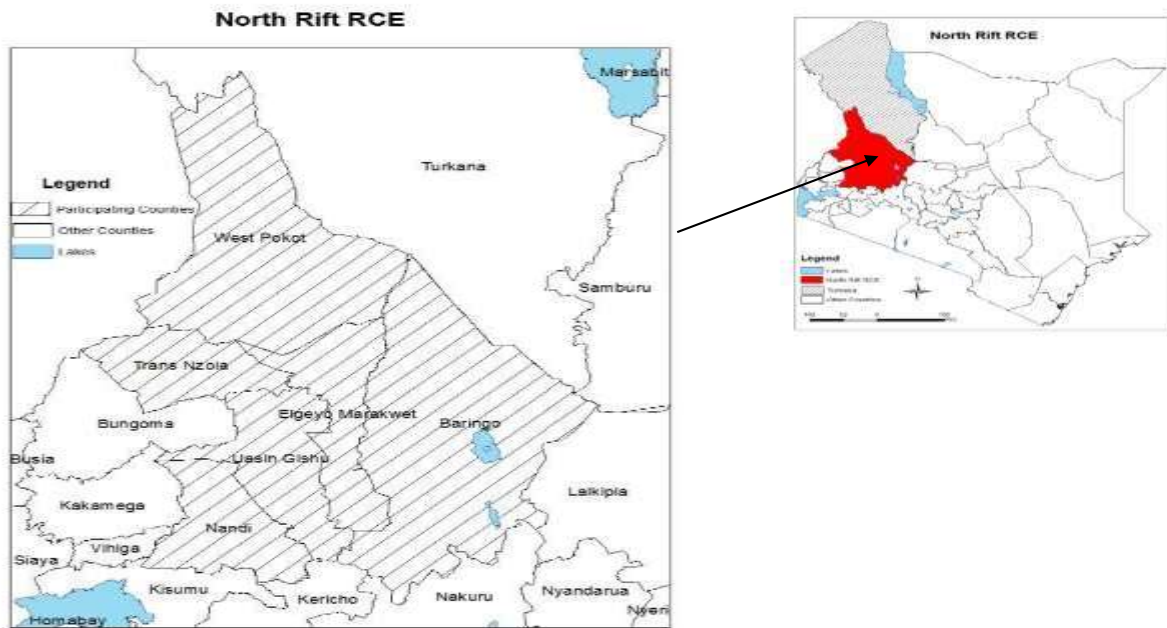


Figure 1: Maps indicating the five (5) counties under the operations of RCE North Rift.

## University of Eldoret



## The Eldoret National Polytechnic



*Photo credit: Photographer: Kennedy Mutai*





Traditional dancers. Nort Rift Harbalists.



14<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional meeting Local organizing committee.