RESILIENT40

Youth voice for a
climate resilient Africa

THE RESILIENT40: RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

Ethiopia, 2020

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resilient40 is a network of young Africans who are committed to building climate resilience in Africa, finding solutions to the complex problems we face. This network fosters a collaborative approach and collective intelligence to create emergent change.

The first meeting of the Resilient40, which took place in March 2019, focused on identifying young changemakers in Africa that are working in the field of climate resilience. The second meeting of the Resilient40 took place in January 2020 in Ethiopia. Three important actions took place during this meeting to strengthen the network:

Weaving connections: connecting these changemakers to one another and including an additional 20 changemakers from more African countries so that 29 African countries are now represented in this network.

Nourishing the network: creating greater connectivity between network members by allowing for opportunities to build trust and share information. These included formal plenary sessions on topics such as decarbonised development; nature-based solutions; cities; disaster management; food security and finance for climate resilience. Informal activities to build trust included kayaking, face painting and indigenous food tasting. It was acknowledged during many of these sessions that the solutions for climate resilience may already be held within indigenous knowledge systems.

Illuminating the pioneering efforts: the second meeting of the Resilient40 included opportunities to illuminate the work of the changemakers so that more people will learn from them and create collective action. This included a meeting with the African Union and with the British Embassy in Ethiopia. This activity will continue with various opportunities to illuminate the changemakers' work arising over the course of 2020, including representation at COP26.
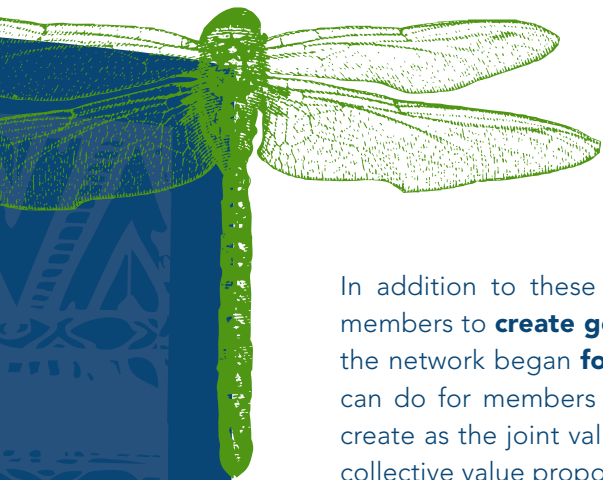
In addition to these activities, the meeting presented an opportunity for the network members to **create governance and leadership structures** for the network. Furthermore, the network began **forging collective value propositions** – identifying what the network can do for members of the network and the collective impact the network is aiming to create as the joint value creation by network members produces emergent change. These collective value propositions are documented as the Resilient40 Objectives:

- Build the internal capabilities of members to implement responses aimed at delivering climate-resilient development outcomes across their respective communities in Africa.

- Strengthen, empower and elevate African youth voices at all levels on climate resilience.

- Influence policy and governance frameworks around climate resilience on a national, regional, continental and global level.

- Leverage available knowledge to provide technical advisory on resourcing priorities to African youth-led grassroots climate change organizations.

- Document the vulnerabilities, and the impacts of climate change in Africa to inform evidence-based approaches and practices.

The meeting concluded with each changemaker committing to individual and collective actions to support climate resilience in Africa and finding solutions to the complex problems we face.

1 INTRODUCTION

Between 15 and 17 January 2020, Wilton Park, working with the United Kingdom's (UK) Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development (DFID), hosted a second meeting for the Resilient40 at the beautiful Kuriftu Resort in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. 62 participants representing 29 African countries plus individuals from the United Kingdom (UK) met to discuss climate resilience in Africa.

This meeting of the Resilient40 was intended to strengthen and nourish the network which was first established in March 2019. The Resilient40 is made up of young Africans who have expertise in different areas of climate resilience.

The meeting opened with contributions from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development in order to share a UK perspective and motivation for the group in the run up to COP26. The remainder of the programme focused on individual members of the Resilient40 sharing their skills and knowledge as well as opportunities to build trust and interpersonal relationships. In addition to this, network members spent a substantial amount of time during the meeting ironing out the governance structure for the network and developing collective value propositions. The Resilient40 met with the African Union in Addis Ababa, and attended a communications workshop held by the UK Government Communications Service department on developing a communications strategy and campaign that could be carried out over 2020.

Speakers and changemakers alike acknowledged the complexity of the problems in Africa, with a participant describing this as a 'mega-problem'. Mega-problems tend to be beyond the ability of any single organisation to understand and solve. This is the reason why we are fostering a collaborative approach and collective intelligence to address resilience in Africa: to create emergent change.

Networks and Emergence

'Most events and phenomena are connected, caused by, and interacting with a huge number of other pieces of a complex universal puzzle. We have come to see that we live in a small world, where everything is linked to everything else... We have come to grasp the importance of networks.'

Albert-Laszlo Barabasi

All living things in an ecosystem are interconnected and dependent on networks of relationships to survive and thrive. Social science has begun to understand that people also function in distributed networks and these networks have substantial benefits such as the ability to rapidly diffuse information and increased impact. In situations with complex social and ecological issues, such as the ones seen in Africa where poverty and climate change interact together with a multitude of other problems, single actors are unlikely to have significant impact. Rather, relationships between elements (i.e. networks) are able to achieve systemic change and collective goals or emergent change. **Emergence is defined as new and unexpected phenomena emerging from interaction.** Hive insects like bees are good examples of emergence – individual insects don't have the same intelligence or skills that the hive has.

If... changes remain disconnected, nothing happens beyond each locale. However, when they become connected, local actions can emerge as a powerful system with influence at a more global or comprehensive level... In each case, there were many local actions and decisions, most of which were invisible and unknown to each other, and none of which was powerful enough by itself to create change. But when these local changes coalesced, new power emerged..

(Wheatley & Frieze, n.d.)

Wheatley and Frieze (n.d.) have developed a four-stage model for the development of resilient networks capable of tackling complex change, as the first step in emergent change:

Naming the pioneers: discovering single actors or individual changemakers who are trying to make a difference in their local areas or areas of expertise.

Weaving connections: connecting these changemakers to one another.

Nourishing the network: creating greater connectivity by allowing for opportunities to build trust and share information and learning as the quality of relationships between members is the underpinning of a network.

Illuminating the pioneering efforts: illuminate of the work of the changemakers so that more people will learn from them and create collective action.

The second step of emergence is **developing a community of practice**. In a community of practice, the focus extends beyond the needs of the group. There is an intentional commitment to advance the field of practice, and to share those discoveries with a wider audience, making resources and knowledge available to anyone. The final phase of emergence often happens unexpectantly and is known as a **system of influence**. A system of influence is described as a system that has real power, and the practices advocated by network members become the norm .
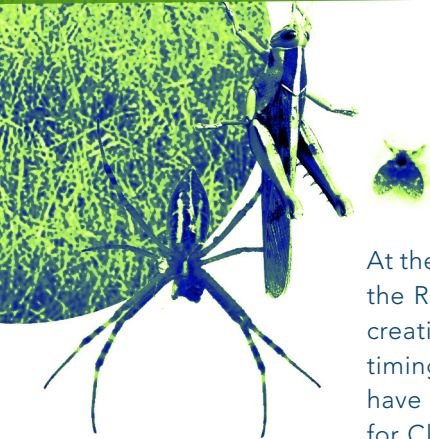
The Resilient40 meeting held in Ethiopia in January 2020 focused on strengthening the network. The Resilient40 recognises the need for emergent change to take place in Africa and strengthening the network is crucial to set the foundation for emergence.

2 BACKGROUND AND SETTING THE INTENTIONS

At the start of the meeting, UK government representatives stressed the value in supporting the Resilient40 in order to raise the African youth voice regionally and globally, as well as creating a coalition of individuals who are able to lobby their governments at home. The timing is important as the UK is hosting COP26 in 2020 and they would like African Youth to have a voice at this event. Nick Bridge, the UK Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change, highlighted through video the crucial role that the youth have played in moving the climate agenda to centre stage and forcing leaders to recognise the crisis we are in and what we need to do urgently to reduce the impact of this crisis.

The UK government had substantially increased its international climate funding, doubling to £11.6 billion per annum, focusing on both mitigation and adaptation. Through this funding, DFID is able to support programmes in Africa such as reforestation, increasing energy access in Africa and supporting research to address gaps as well as working with NGOs to deliver these projects. The opening remarks were followed by presentations on fragility, resilience and the complexity of making Africa resilient to climate change.
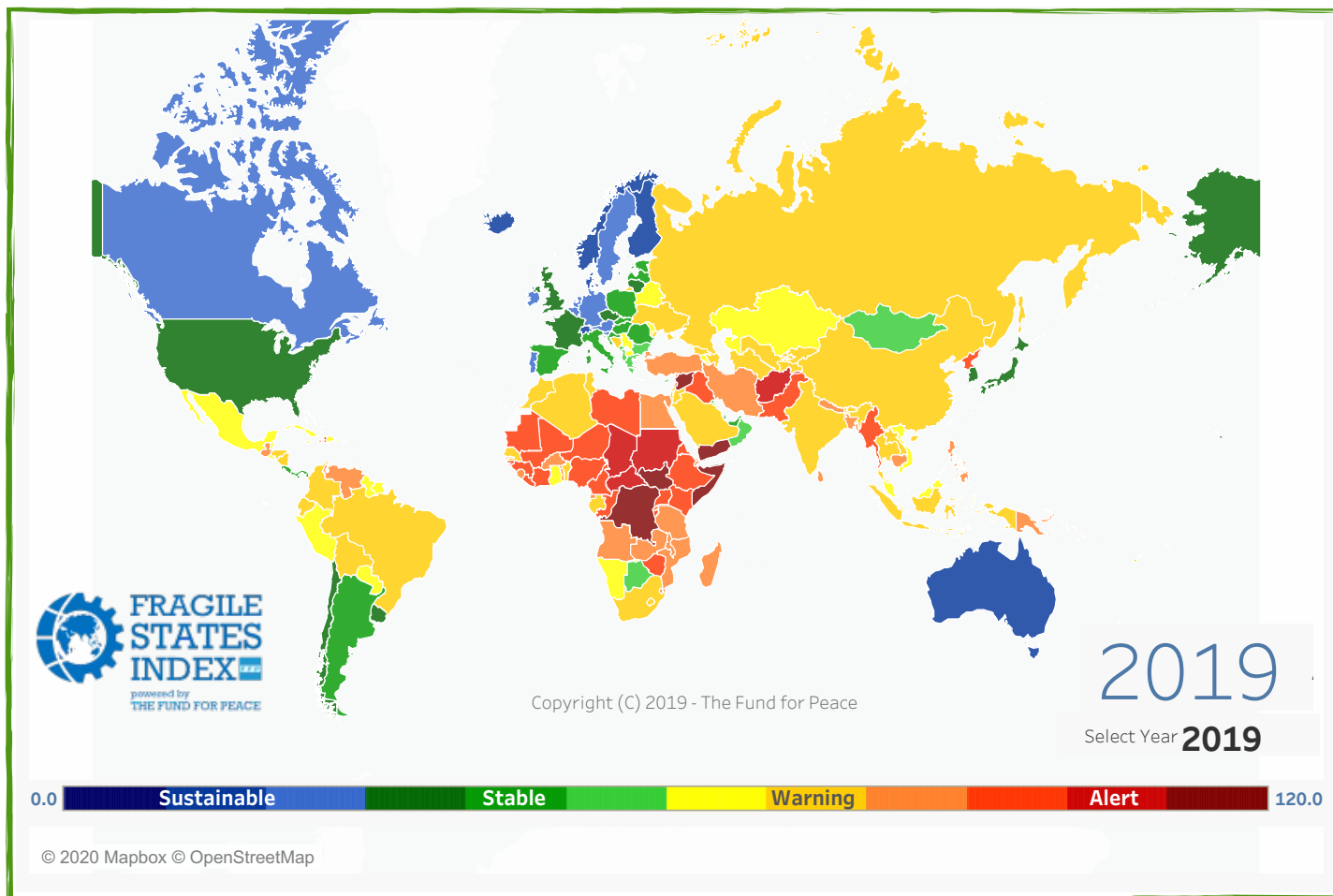
Shifting from Fragility to Resilience in Africa

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines fragility as the quality of being easily broken or damaged, of being delicate or vulnerable. Fragility can also be defined as low capacity and poor state performance with respect to security and development. Participants note that states are fragile when they are unable to provide for the security and development of their citizens within their countries. States can fall into the 'fragility trap', a closely interlinked circle of underdevelopment, political instability or conflict, and ineffective state capacity. The foundational driver of fragility tends to be poor governance.

Africa contains the highest number of fragile states in the world; and the majority of citizens in fragile countries in Africa are poor, and experience high levels of repeated or cyclical violence, economic exclusion and inequality, and suffer from poor or weak governance. African states struggle with environmental, economic, political, societal and security fragility, resulting complex problems. In addition to the existing fragility and complexity of problems, a speaker noted that 'Climate change is happening and we are already locked in.'. Despite the fact that Africa is only responsible for approximately 2-3% of global emissions, Africa is more vulnerable than other continents to the impacts of climate change and has low adaptive capacity.

The predictions in the IPCC Special Report on the Regional Impacts of Climate Change (Africa) show that the situation is getting worse as temperatures increase at rates faster than the global average temperature increases. Consequently, Africans desperately need to adapt to climate change and accelerate this adaptation due to the impacts already felt. However, adaptive capacity requires resources such as money and skills, as well as good governance. Moreover, it is expected that emissions will rise in Africa due to landscape change, agricultural practices, exponential population growth, soil degradation, deforestation – and any infrastructure development is likely to further impact on Africa's increasing emissions.

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2019

Select Year **2019**

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Before considering the question posed to the Resilient40 network viz. 'What does resilience look like in Africa?' it is necessary to define resilience. Simply put, resilience is the ability of a system to bounce back – it is also the opposite of fragility.

''Resilience is the ability of a society to absorb and recover from shocks, to adapt and transform their structures and means for living in the face of long-term stresses, change and uncertainty'.'

(Institute for Social Resilience)

Thus, using the fragility indicators, a model for resilience was developed by participants to build resilience. This model prioritises national development, social cohesion and adaptation actions to develop resilience:

African states require an approach that links **security, political and economic inclusion, social cohesion and environmental sustainability**

National development has to be inclusive in the support for social cohesion and has to take climate change into account

Social cohesion (Peacebuilding) needs to be climate-proofed, ensuring that its progress is not disrupted by the effects of climate change

Adaptation to climate change needs to be conflict sensitive – responding to the needs of the people, involving them in consultation, taking power distribution and social order into account, and avoiding pitting groups against each other.

Transiting out of fragility is a long political process that requires strong country leadership and ownership, especially as it takes political will to give the climate agenda traction.

Post-conflict fragile states need first to end conflict and build institutional capacity if they are to successfully meet the SDGs.

National Development
- Social services delivery
- Economic inclusion
- Environmental sustainability

RESILIENCE

Creation of opportunities and equity

Social Capital

Climate-proofing through mainstreaming

Stronger/capacitated institutions

Social Cohesion

Climate Change Adaption Action

Social Capital
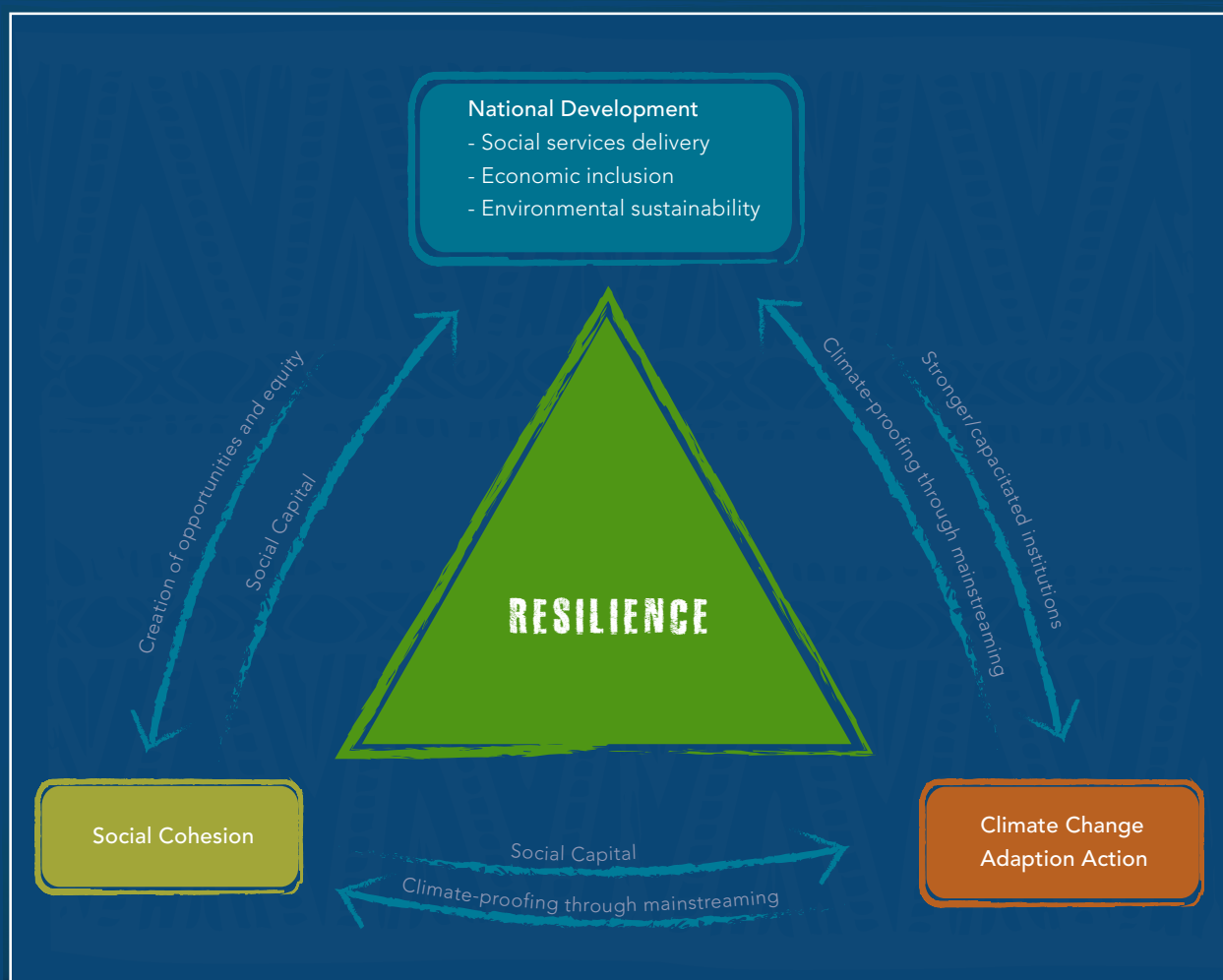
Climate-proofing through mainstreaming

Figure 2: Building blocks for African resilience

3 THE FIRST STEP TO EMERGENT CHANGE: BUILDING THE RESILIENT40 NETWORK

Naming the Changemakers

Frequently leaders act in isolation – often too busy to think about extending their work and too humble to think that others would benefit. By naming the changemakers and offering them an opportunity to connect, the first step in building the network was initiated: In March 2019, 40 young African change makers from 11 countries across the continent came together in South Africa with their counterparts from the United Kingdom. The aim was to provide a platform for the emerging generation of leaders to discuss how individuals, societies, and governments can become more resilient in their responses to climate change.

Calling themselves the Resilient40, this next generation of leaders created a network to face the threat of climate change and to improve climate resilience across Africa, a momentum fuelled by strong cross-continent connections representing a renewed and modern UK-Africa partnership. Participants discussed how the climate crisis is already impacting Africa, and shared expertise while developing solutions to increase resilience. Each individual committed to taking their own actions to build resilience to climate change.

Since March 2019, these changemakers have taken both individual and collective actions. Individual actions include representing the Resilient40 on the UN Climate Action Summit Panel at the AU; cascading information to members of other networks they belong to, including communities or organisations as well as media; starting new organisations to implement their learnings; collaborating with one another to increase advocacy efforts or implement actions; and collaborating with African governments. The changemakers strengthened their relationships with each other as participants from the same country or region began meeting or communicating with each other. In some cases, the initial workshop and subsequent establishment of the network increased knowledge in the pioneering leaders.

Simultaneously, the network self-organised and a steering committee emerged to lead the Resilient40, playing a governance role and drafting the Terms of Reference for the network. Moreover, the steering committee successfully recruited an additional 20 changemakers from other African states to join the Resilient40.

Weaving connections

The power of networks is that we don't need to convince large numbers of people to change; instead, we need to connect with kindred spirits.

(Wheatley & Frieze, n.d.)

Plastrik and Taylor (2006) believe that information and shared experiences build trust across boundaries such as geographic, cultural and various disciplines. There are two ways to build trust – increasing the information and experiences shared by changemakers (especially in-person) and the experience of reciprocity or helping each other out. Trust builds productive relationships - and the **key to weaving networks is about building relationships.** Furthermore, fostering critical connections through which changemakers develop new knowledge, practices, courage and commitment, results in emergent change.

The second meeting began by introducing the new changemakers to the Resilient40, followed by sharing words that describe what being part of the network means to changemakers. Other activities to weave connections included a face-painting icebreaker and watching an artistic documentary by Michel Platnic which allowed participants to see the climate change challenges they face through a different lens.

IT STARTS

ONE STEP FORWARD
ONE DOOR OPENED
ONE VOICE HEARD

TWO PEOPLE SPEAK
FOR THE FIRST TIME
EACH OF THEM SEES
THE OTHER'S HUMANITY

THREE JOIN HANDS
FOUR AGREE NOT TO FIGHT
FIVE ASK QUESTIONS
SIX LISTEN HARD

SEVEN SING   EIGHT DANCE
NINE CREATE A SPACE
AND INVITE TEN IN

MANY REFLECT
MANY CONNECT
MANY SHARE   MANY CARE
MANY PERSEVERE

EVERYONE CHANGES

Tracey Martin

STRENGTH
OPPORTUNITIES
CONNECTED
SERVICE
KNOWLEDGE
INNOVATION
INTEREST
HOPE
ACTION
COMMUNITY
PASSIONATE
EMPOWERED
CHANGE
INCLUSIVENESS
UNITY
DIVERSITY
RESPONSIBILITY
EXCITED

Kayaking in the Cold

Trying a new skill takes some bravery, and trying a new skill with someone you don't know very well, poised over a freezing cold lake takes a lot of trust! At 7am on a freezing cold morning in Ethiopia, some very brave souls got up early to challenge themselves and try out the kayaks. Despite the cold, there was a lot of laughter and huge smiles as the Resilient40 navigated the beautiful lake at the Kuriftu Resort in Bishoftu.

Breaking the ice

At the end of the first day of the meeting, the Resilient40 members were asked to have a little fun while getting to know each other better, strengthening their relationships of trust. Changemakers were given face paint and asked to decorate themselves and each other. The aim was to use art to bring people together, on the one hand blurring the borders of race and simultaneously affirming the culture they belong to. This is because the deterioration of the environment goes together with the deterioration of society and affects the most vulnerable people. Thus, if we wish to create cooperation between humans and the biosphere, we will need to first create a true cooperation between people, respecting differences and not judging their origins.

Nourishing the Network

'Sometimes, when what you know is added to what someone else knows, a new picture emerges and that is valuable.'.

(Plastrik & Taylor, 2006)

Networks are nourished by learning and sharing experiences and knowledge. Thus, creating opportunities for people to learn together is crucial. The second meeting of the Resilient40 in Ethiopia gave members an opportunity to share their knowledge and experience, focusing on seven topics. Each topic was discussed in a plenary session followed by smaller group discussions or breakaway sessions on the topics. The topics were de-carbonised sustainable development in Africa, nature-based solutions, cities and green infrastructure, disaster preparedness and management, making food systems resilient and finance for climate resilience.

SUSTAINING YOURSELF AS A CHANGEMAKER

Some participants spent an hour before breakfast reflecting on how to sustain yourself as a changemaker and how can the Resilient40 assist each other in this. A number of participants prioritised this as one of their actions for the future.

DECARBONISED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Africa needs to follow a 'decarbonised development' pathway i.e. increasing human development levels within countries while having a carbon neutral impact on the environment. Moreover, participants noted that climate change is a serious political issue.

Three interesting case studies were discussed:

The first case was the pollution in the Niger Delta where, at first, environmental rights groups could not get the communities affected by the pollution and gas flaring in the Delta to participate in actions. However, once affected communities had been educated about the issues and the risks, they changed their mindsets and joined the civil actions. Furthermore, media and the youth were needed to increase political pressure and this was done by using languages that these groups could relate to and understand and subsequently, political will was created to change the situation.

The second case study is that of the WISER programme which is a collaboration between the UK government Met office and African countries to increase knowledge and capacity within weather climate information systems, e.g. building early warning systems for fisheries. They have been able to influence policies within various countries through this work, affecting real change.

The final case study compared the banning of plastic in Morocco to Ghana. Morocco's success at banning plastics has been attributed to the government working with plastic manufacturers to produce alternatives and a communications campaign to change people's mindsets so that they would be compliant with the law. In comparison, Ghana tried this too with a government announcement but it led to a lobby and demonstrations so government backed down and there is currently no ban in place. The lesson for building climate resilience we can learn from this is how we gain political will, using media and mobilising people to help change the systems in place.

In the discussions that followed, participants agreed that high-level actions such as alternative energy, the circular economy and innovative financing are crucial elements to decarbonise Africa's economy.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are defined by IUCN as actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems which address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. Guiding principles for nature-based solutions have been identified by the IUCN emphasising the importance of site-specific natural and cultural contexts for landscapes. Several approaches to nature-based solutions have been identified:

- Ecosystem restoration approaches (e.g. ecological restoration, ecological engineering and forest landscape restoration);

- Issue-specific ecosystem-related approaches (e.g. ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem-based mitigation, and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction);

- Infrastructure-related approaches (e.g. natural infrastructure and green infrastructure approaches);

- Ecosystem-based management approaches (e.g. integrated coastal zone management and integrated water resources management); and

- Ecosystem protection approaches (e.g. area-based conservation approaches including protected area management)..

In the plenary session, participants shared their experience of nature-based solutions and the lessons they had learnt. These included the importance of good communications; community buy-in to ensure successful projects; understanding the culture in which you are operating as well as identifying the motivators that encourage people to abandon former practices and adopt new ones and using indigenous knowledge to help encourage people to change. The break-away group identified a number of nature-based solution opportunities in Africa to build resilience.

CITIES AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Participants led the breakaway session which focused on cities and using green infrastructure as solutions to solve some of the urban challenges. They noted that cities are incredibly important concentrators of resources, innovation, carbon emissions, risk and opportunity. Important statistics mentioned during this session are that Africa has very high population growth rates and substantial expected migration to cities from the rural areas (40% of Africans live in cities and a high number of these residents live in informal urban settlements). Consequently, it is likely that 60% of Africa's built environment has yet to be built. However only 17 African countries have plans as to how they will manage rapid urbanisation rates. Furthermore, there will be increased greenhouse gas emissions due to the increase in material and energy consumption. The opportunities for Africans are to use creativity and innovation to drive economies of scale and reduce risks.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

Climate resilience requires countries and people to both be sufficiently equipped for disasters and to manage the aftermath of disasters. The plenary session highlighted the importance of timely availability and application of accurate information to assist in developing contingency plans – which in many cases could avoid crisis management in responding to climate-related disasters. The use of technology can often improve disaster preparedness.

Furthermore, a speaker highlighted the importance of using indigenous knowledge as indicators of extreme weather (also known as Indigenous Early Warning systems) and as low-tech solutions to prepare for disasters. Unfortunately, indigenous knowledge is not documented and therefore transfer relies on community memory – with modernisation and deculturalisation, this knowledge lies vest only in deeply traditional societies which is a challenge. In Uganda indigenous indicators have been identified to warn of potential or impending problems and have been verified using research and evaluation practices. Examples include:

- Ebiwojjolo Ebingi Ebitali bya Bulijjo - Migratory butterflies indicate drought and the different colours may designate the level of extreme

- Enkuyege Okukuba Enduulu - Termites making a rattling sound during the middle of the day signify rainfall and the intensity of the rattle may designate how soon and how disastrous

- Ebire didduka nyo, bitegeeza kyeeya - Rough and speedily moving clouds means the community will not experience rains

- Elaaddu egwa nga teri bire, Kabonero ka Kyeeya - Excessive dry wind, thunder and blinding lightning without storm or rain is a sign of possible drought

- Obufukunya Bw'Emunyeenye Ng'Obudde bwa Kaziba, Kitegeeza Kyengera - If many stars are observed during the early hours of the night it can indicate an early bumper harvest or an indication of food prosperity, and the opposite is also true

- Obutiti ku Makya Kabonero ka Kyeeya - Very cold mornings and nights with hot days are an indication of coming drought

- Ssigga n'Amagongolo Ebiyitiridde Bitegeeza Nkuba Etali yabulijjo - An excessive appearance of millipedes and centipedes is an indicator that the community might experience extreme rains.

It was agreed in the breakaway session that the Resilient40 needed to engage with other organisations, government bodies and ministries to highlight the importance of preparation for and management of disasters to make countries more resilient. One of the recommendations is that the Resilient40 has a chapter in every country and works with champions to ensure these messages are being heard.

MAKING FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENT

In the session on food security in Africa both opportunities and challenges were identified and the group formulated a resilience model for nutrition. The challenges faced include conflict, lack of access to land, especially for women, land degradation concerns and insufficient technological access. Opportunities include innovation and the need to use indigenous knowledge systems to improve food security. They noted that there are trade-offs around producing and selling nutritious food that is affordable and that there is a need to educate people on resilient farming methods and shifting away from a donor dependency mindset. The group agreed that the Resilient40 need to go back and understand what we're trying to change in the food system, skill and educate members of the Resilient40 and then take this knowledge back to local communities.

FINANCE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The plenary session on finance for climate resilience identified that there are a number of finance experts amongst the Resilient40 and these experts can learn from one another. Climate policy is important in order to lobby for and redirect funding to climate adaptation and resilience. Governments should engage with the private sector, to create enabling environment for investment towards adaptation and resilience. De-risking climate investments would help to leverage funding from the private sector. This leveraging would also catalyse employment opportunities in Africa as people are employed to create more resilient societies. The breakaway group which focused in finance for resilience asked 'How do we build resilience in Africa leveraging the financial sector – both public and private. There was general agreement that there needs to be a shift in thinking, especially to portray climate adaptation interventions as investment opportunities – Africans have the experience and expertise to deliver solutions! Furthermore, they can build a financial or economic case to prioritise climate resilience funding. There needs to be deliberate effort to leverage mitigation finance to benefit adaptation and resilience. The returns on investment arising from mitigation finance need to be partly redirected into adaptation finance through well-established institutional frameworks. Generally, the political barriers currently facing the financing of climate change actions can be overcome and communications are key to overcoming these challenges.

Nourishing our bodies and our minds

…People living in Africa have never considered edible insects as pests or a nuisance. Perhaps we need to think of a new appellation for edible insects to kill the disgust factor. (Niassy & Ekesi, 2017).

One of the characteristics of the Resilient40 network is the ability to challenge perceptions and changemakers need to keep an open mind when considering solutions to making Africa more resilient. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that solutions to climate resilience already exist within indigenous knowledge systems and within ourselves. That is exactly what happened when participants thought the second conference would be an opportunity to share delicious, indigenous foods with the group…also known as insects!


Entomophagy is the practice of humans eating insects. Entomophagy is an ancient practice and two billion people consume insects globally, although the practice is more common in Africa. The dominant insect-eating countries are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and South Africa. There are more than 500 edible insect species in Africa although the most commonly eaten are caterpillars, termites, crickets and palm weevils(Niassy & Ekesi, 2017).

The benefits of eating edible insects are numerous. Edible insects are rich in nutrients; have high protein values; can be used as feed for other animals or as medicine; and they have a small carbon and water footprint. Thus, given their nutritional value and their potential for mass production, insects could help address the challenge of food security in Africa. And yet, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) struggles to fight the stigma attached to eating insects.

The insects served to the Resilient40 included Fara (grasshoppers) from northern Nigeria; Thongolifha (stink bug) from the Limpopo Province of South Africa; Mashonzha (Mopani worms) from throughout Southern Africa; and Magege (termites) which are also eaten throughout Africa. The group's reactions were interesting – surprise, shock and excitement. Despite the nutritional value in the insects served, some people were relieved to see a more 'traditional' dinner being served in addition to the insects. The Resilient40 felt that the insects were surprisingly delicious and began comparing the insects to other foods in taste. Many people went back for seconds and thirds.

The Resilient40 is part of the change to find sustainable solutions – nourishing the network, nourishing our minds, nourishing our bodies.
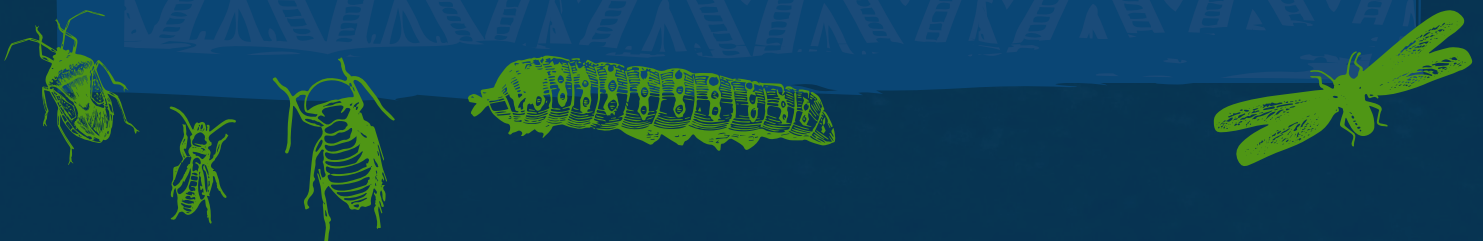
Illuminating the Resilient 40

In order for change to take place, the work of the network needs to be illuminated. This allows more people to learn from them and creates collective action. Illuminating the Resilient40 is taking place across many platforms –social media, mainstream media channels, changemakers telling their stories at conferences and global meetings. Another opportunity to illuminate the work of the Resilient40 is COP26 - as the UK is hosting COP26 they would like to bring an African youth voice into international climate conversations.

ILLUMINATION AT THE AFRICAN UNION

The first step in the illumination of the Resilient40 was a meeting with the African Union (AU) to discuss the AU's climate agenda and the Resilient40's ambitions and contribution to the African agenda. The network met with the African Union as four officials from the Department of Agriculture, Rural Affairs, Environment, Water, Climate Change and Forestry of AU (DREA) and the African Youth Envoy, Ms.Aya Chebbi.

The African Union officials noted that climate change is a flagship programme for them and highlighted the impact of climate change on the Agenda 2063 goals. The AU is supporting member states to both mitigate and adapt to climate change as they would like to witness an Africa 2063 that is resilient to climate change. To this end, they have been engaged in the global discourse and have been able to build a common African position and have developed policy frameworks on agriculture, water, and the environment amongst other things. Some of the projects they have been working on include:

Policy advocacy and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement with most African countries having set NDCs; the monitoring and reporting of progress made towards NDCs.

Working closely with the African Climate Centre to improve information and data for member states.

An African Climate Change Strategy is under development; it is a blueprint or guideline for member states for their adaptation responses and plans.

The 'Great Green Wall' - an initiative developed by heads of states that focuses on dry lands of Africa as they're particularly vulnerable but also areas of high potential for development.

Water – they are working with global bodies such as AMCOMET and regional water basin organisations to promote sustainable water resource management programmes.

Building institutional mechanisms for areas to be sustainable redevelopment pools and working on how to build adaptive ecosystem in places with the highest population growth and most vulnerable people.

Furthermore, the AU recognises that African youth have a crucial role to play as 60% of Africa's population is young and climate change will have a serious impact on their lives in the coming 30 years. A key aspect is the need to address sustainable consumption which requires a change in people's attitudes. To this end, the AU is working with the African Youth Hub and sponsors African youth representatives who are able to represent their countries and their input to the AU is integrated into discussions. The AU sees youth as the champions of disaster management and risk reduction and for this reason they have a Disaster Reduction Youth Council.

The AU declared their interest to support African youth to engage with international summits, including COP 26, and believe the Resilient40 has a really important role to play. On behalf of Resilient40, a participant delivered an address to the AU officials:

Africa has many problems but we have a group of young people from 29 African countries in the room who are eager to work with the AU to tackle those problems. There has been a breakdown in communication between the youth and elders and we need to get back to how we used to sit under the community tree and address matters and share knowledge inter-generationally. Our leaders were once youth…

The objectives of the Resilient40 are:

- Build the internal capabilities of members to implement responses aimed at delivering climate-resilient development outcomes across their respective communities in Africa.

- Strengthen, empower and elevate African youth voices at all levels on climate resilience.

- Influence policy and governance frameworks around climate resilience on a national, regional, continental and global level.

- Leverage available knowledge to provide technical advisory capability on resourcing priorities to African youth-led grassroots climate change organizations.

- Document the vulnerabilities, and the impacts of climate change in Africa to inform evidence-based approaches and practices.

We would like to implore the AU to enter into an agreement to work with us on matters relating to climate change and resilience; to spread their message; strengthen relationships with youth; create platforms to share information and gather input and lastly, to collaborate in all areas. We would like to amplify the work of the Youth Envoy and would like this reciprocated for the Resilient40. We strongly support the Silencing the Guns campaign in the Sahel as we know this is one of the first steps to creating resilience in Africa.

Increasing Illumination Opportunities

The UK Government Communication Service ran a workshop for the Resilient40, discussing ideas and sharing tips to maximise the group's advocacy and individual communications.

Key dates, campaigns and events were identified as well as the need to use the technique of storytelling with a purpose. Participants of this workshop focused on developing a campaign for Resilient40, and for the Climate Africa Week using the OASIS model. The OASIS model is:

O Develop your **objectives**

A Identify **audiences** (and audience insights)

S Develop a **strategy** (including the media through which you want to target people);

I **Identify** key messages which are clear, concise and consistent

S **Stakeholder engagement** – communicating with potential stakeholders or people with whom you share common goals.

The network established a communications committee; and based on what they learnt at the workshop they are preparing a communications plan for Resilient40.

4 DEVELOPING COLLECTIVE VALUE PROPOSITIONS

'...The world doesn't change one person at a time. It changes as networks of relationships form among people who discover they share a common cause and vision of what's possible.'.

(Wheatley & Frieze, n.d.)

Forging collective interest requires value propositions which offer potential benefits that attract people or organisations to participate in the network . Furthermore, while individual projects under one body will not realise the value potential of a network, the joint value creation by network members will allow for emergent change. A collective value proposition is about what others can do for you and what you can do for others because in a network, the nodes create value for each other. 'If there's no value, people will start to exit. It's a self-regulating system.' (Bill Traynor as cited in Plastrik & Taylor, 2006). Moreover, Plastrik & Taylor (2006) note that the more focused and well-defined the network, the more commitment they obtain from their members and the more they accomplish.

'When you can imagine you begin to create and when you begin to create you realise that you can create a world that you prefer to live in, rather than a world that you're suffering in.'

- Ben Okri

An activity that is becoming a tradition or a collective value for the Resilient40 is planting trees to reduce the impact of our carbon emissions. The tree planting during this meeting took place at the British Embassy in Addis Ababa.

During the meeting, the Resilient40 spent some time developing their collective value propositions, unpacking what individuals can do for the network and what the network can do for the individuals to create value for each other.

A number of key topics and priority areas arose as a result of these discussions:

- Increasing knowledge and understanding of African indigenous knowledge to inform climate resilience policies and communication

- Increase knowledge and awareness about climate change in Africa with a focus on educating young people and farmers with the aim of creating a substantial mind shift in Africa

- Increase access to climate finance for African countries while developing a transparent, accountability framework on climate finance disbursement processes for all African countries

- Advocate for increased resilience measures for Africa – both at an international level and a national level, using all communication channels

- Promote evidence-based adaptation, planning and action at local government levels

- Advocate for improved data on climate change for Africa, including a data bank for knowledge transfer and best practices

- On a city or local level, empower local government to develop and implement climate resilience plans and strategies with measurable indicators

- Build a sustainable African city as a pilot project

- Leverage the broad scope of expertise within the Resilient40 network to publish opinion papers on climate resilience.

Subsequently, the Resilient40 has further clarified the objectives of the network:

RESILIENT40 OBJECTIVES

Build the internal capabilities of members to implement responses aimed at delivering climate-resilient development outcomes across their respective communities in Africa.

Strengthen, empower and elevate African youth voices at all levels on climate resilience.

Influence policy and governance frameworks around climate resilience on a national, regional, continental and global level.

Leverage available knowledge to provide technical advisory on resourcing priorities to African youth-led grassroots climate change organizations.

Document the vulnerabilities, and the impacts of climate change in Africa to inform evidence-based approaches and practices.

Plastrik and Taylor (2006) remind us that in order for networks to be productive, they typically need to create work plans to clarify how network members will collaborate and coordinate all the nodes. Towards the end of the conference, both the group and the individuals made a number of commitments to work towards the collective value propositions of the Resilient40. Furthermore, governance of the group is being finalised in order to help the group coordinate more effectively. Some of the commitments from individuals include:

Get more involved in national climate policies to influence these

Organise a workshop on building resilience to improve policy

Plant 1000 trees as nature-based solutions

Amplify youth voices and involve them in conversations with the government

Champion climate resilience in online activities

Create a network in each person's home country to focus on climate resilience and have similar conversations

Raise awareness on climate literacy in schools and communities

Document indigenous knowledges used by communities in order to fight climate change

Integrate health and climate resilience

Share the learning gained with journalists and the media

Advocate for subsidies in the renewable energy sector

Green the banking sector

Promote financing sustainable products

Do tree mapping in everyone's home city and use the results to bring together stakeholders to plant trees in places with few or no trees

Create a campaign in local language about building resilience to climate change

Collaborate with other Resilient40 members on projects

Give more thought as to how best to keep the Resilient40 momentum going

Promote nature-based solutions and leverage indigenous knowledge to create climate resilience

Build the capacity of media so that they can better report on climate change

Protect the home country environment and sustainable management of natural resources

Learn about climate financing and investment in Africa

Start an online campaign to track climate projects

Hold public officers accountable for their NCDs

Convene a Resilient40 Cities working group

Continue to bridge information and capacity gaps for Africa to access climate finance

Adapt a more sustainable livelihood as a Resilient 40 member

Introduce climate change alternative education for farmers

Launch a podcast and give regular presentations to increase knowledge and awareness

Take care of myself.

5 CONCLUSION

The second meeting of the Resilient40 in Ethiopia was a crucial step for the network. While the first meeting of the Resilient40 focused on naming the changemakers and weaving the connections, the second meeting focused on nourishing the network. Experts within the network shared their knowledge and experiences on specific topics such as cities, nature-based solutions, food security and disaster preparedness and management. At the same time, sharing experiences and building trust amongst the network members was prioritised as opportunities for changemakers to engage in activities such as kayaking and face-painting. The meeting was important for changemakers to open their minds and see that many of the solutions for climate resilience are already held within indigenous knowledge systems such as eating insects or early warning systems.

Additionally, this meeting gave members of the network an opportunity to develop governance and leadership structures for the network as well as an opportunity to improve their communication skills. An opportunity to share the work of the Resilient40 was provided during a meeting with the African Union. A session on developing collective value propositions resulted in the identification of five objectives for the network and each changemaker made individual commitments on how to increase climate resilience in Africa and furthering the work of the Resilient40.