CLIMA Fund Partners FY23



The CLIMA Fund is a collaboration between Global Greengrants Fund, Grassroots International, Thousand Currents, and Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism, which resources climate justice movements building local resilience and addressing the root causes of climate change. The CLIMA Fund's report Soil to Sky: Climate Solutions That Work shows that locally-led solutions can slow down the climate crisis while stewarding more just, ecologically vibrant, and safer communities. The second edition of the report, Soil to Sky: Climate Solutions That Transform, provides evidence that grassroots movements are substantially mitigating climate change and transforming the global food and energy sectors, the two most polluting sectors globally. Here is a snapshot of how CLIMA partners have advanced this work over the last year. For more partner profiles, check out our website.

USHERING IN AN ENERGY TRANSITION

The CLIMA Fund's grassroots partners resist fossil fuel extraction and are ushering in an energy transition that supports community control of energy development.



Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens (MAB) / Movement of Those Affected by Dams is a national movement that organizes thousands of families threatened or affected by dams, particularly low-income and Indigenous families most impacted by the construction of large hydroelectric dams in Brazil. MAB provides legal and organizational support to families who have already been displaced or who are being threatened with the loss of their homes and livelihoods. MAB exposes how many "clean and green" projects – many of which receive carbon credits – actually increase deforestation and methane emissions while devastating local ecosystems and the communities connected to them. MAB is advancing an agroecological project, in partnership with another grassroots group and the government, which will support about 60 families affected by dams in the southwest of Paraná. MAB was also part of the emergency response as the São Paulo neighborhood União de Vila Nova was hit by floods. MAB is building a strong resistance movement, which seeks an alternative and sustainable development model that works to advance the energy sovereignty of the Brazilian people.



The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the 33 countries most at risk from climate change, being highly dependent on rainfall for food production and having low readiness to address climate shocks. The DRC government is auctioning off 27 oil blocks and three gas blocks in sensitive ecosystems and protected areas. Mouvement de Jeunes pour la Protection de l'Environnement (MJPE) is organizing against government-sanctioned oil and gas projects and advocating for the protection of the rich biodiversity and livelihoods of local Congolese communities. MJPE is holding capacity-building workshops and a national climate and renewable energy forum, and it is encouraging storytelling with the communities of Moanda and others impacted by oil and gas projects. MJPE's work is focused on highlighting the irreversible consequences of the government-sanctioned projects; and showing how this decision is incompatible with the country's ambition to address the climate crisis, uphold environmental protection laws, and respect the rights of local communities.



The Life After Coal coalition is working to stop fossil fuel developments, reduce emissions from existing coal infrastructure, and enable a just transition from fossil fuels in South Africa. The coalition had a great win in December 2020 with the cancellation of the proposed Thabemetsi coal plant in Limpopo Province. The ongoing court battle, bolstered by activists, proved too costly to the investors. More recently, in May 2022, as a result of years of organizing by the Coalition members, as well as other local groups and national and international allies. the South African High Court stopped yet another coal project: the expansion of a mine to the community of Mfolozi.



Marikana Youth Development Organization (MYDO) in South Africa focuses on social and environmental issues that pertain to air emissions, air quality, and hazardous material use, often caused by open-cast mining and smelters that operate within communities. MYDO is serving its local community by establishing solar street lights as a clean, green energy alternative. It is also setting up sustainable food gardens and community kitchens that use renewable energy to address food security, especially for unemployed women.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY-LED FOOD SYSTEMS

The CLIMA Fund's grassroots partners organize peasant movements to resist corporate-controlled agriculture and prioritize community-led food systems.



Based in Haiti's Central Plateau, Mouvman Peyizan Papaye (MPP) / Peasant Movement of Papaye has been working at the intersection of agrarian and environmental issues since 1973. MPP and the communities it works with have planted more than 30 million trees, including 30,000 trees in 2020 despite limitations imposed by the pandemic. These trees regenerate the land; provide a buffer against weather extremes; and are sources of fruit, fiber, and fodder. MPP recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and was awarded the annual Food Sovereignty Prize in October 2023 for its work in reclaiming Haiti's independence from global food imports.



Society for Roots for Equity is supporting farmers impacted by the devastating floods in Pakistan. The torrential monsoon rains and severe flooding Pakistan experienced washed away entire villages; increased the risk of waterborne illnesses; and made land uncultivable for wheat, the staple crop in the country. The group is dispersing wheat grains to landless farmers and promoting collective production models among small farmers to strengthen food sovereignty and increase resilience to future environmental hazards.



Central Asia is experiencing large-scale degradation of land resources and desertification. Public Association Social Ecological Watch is identifying drought-resistant species of fruit, berries, and protective plants growing in the rainfed foothills of Kyrgyzstan. The group is being funded to create seed storage and prepare cold-warm trenches to prepare seeds for sowing. The group is enhancing afforestation by planting native trees; and fencing nurseries and rainfed slopes, which provide muchneeded support to seedlings as they are getting established. Interconnected across the globe, groups like Watch and thousands of others are building food systems with the strength to respond to uncertain and catastrophic climate impacts.

Here is a sampling of our partners' victories and successes over the past year:



In 2021, a jet fuel leak at the Red Hill fuel storage facility, run by the United States military, caused large amounts of petroleum to spill into the main water supply in O'ahu, Hawaii. This leak contaminated water in the area, poisoning the drinking water and critically impacting the health and lives of countless Hawaiian residents. The O'ahu Water Protectors sent four delegates to Washington, DC, to advocate for clean water in Hawaii and to have Red Hill shut down before it further contaminates the water supply in the area. As a result of their direct action on Capitol Hill, the United States Department of Defense put together the Red Hill Joint Task Force to ensure the safe and expeditious defueling of Red Hill, which is expected to be completed in July 2024.



Olena Shevchenko was featured by Time Magazine as Woman of the Year! Since Russia invaded Ukraine last year, Olena has continued to fight to protect the most vulnerable people in Ukraine by providing essential items to women, those with disabilities, and transgender people, like first aid kits and hormones.



In a major victory for peasant movements everywhere, the Kenyan High Court barred the government from importing or distributing GMOs, until a case by the Kenyan Peasants League (KPL) is decided. Over decades of hard work, KPL and other movement partners across Africa have been advancing solutions that fight for the dignity of African farmers. They work to protect their crops and livelihoods, ensure safety measures for their communities, and challenge unjust global food systems.