

eMag of climate action in Africa

**#6 Education and training on
climate change in Africa**
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in partnership with

Afrik
21

Media & raising awareness on sustainable development

Jean Marie Takoulev



We asked Jean Marie Takoulev, editor-in-chief of Afrik 21, an online media specialized in green economy, environment and sustainable development, to discuss the role of the media in informing and raising public awareness of environmental issues.

Sustainable cities, water & environment,
renewable energy, biodiversity,
economy & climate...

[Read all Afrik 21 articles online by clicking here!](#)

The role of the media in covering the news and disseminating environmental information in Africa is crucial.

The press plays a central role in making sure local communities and the people most affected by climate crisis such as floods and droughts, are heard.

The media can also play an important role as a whistle-blower

For example, the press alerts public opinion and international institutions about the droughts taking place in East Africa.

If the media do not use their power as vectors of information and do not alert the various actors and public opinions on climate change, it will be more difficult for us to measure and understand the impact of climate change in African countries.

Finally, the media helps to raise public awareness of the realities and actions happening on the ground.

They say the journalist is first interested in the late train. In the current situation, the late train is the unprecedented situation caused by the effects of climate change such as the current drought in the Sahel.

Despite this, Afrik 21 is particularly interested in adaptation and resilience solutions that are being put in place by various actors on the African continent.

Afrik 21 has designed its editorial line in this sense, choosing to highlight the solutions implemented on the ground in the environmental and sustainable development sector. The specialised media raises awareness on climate change with a particular angle that makes the specificity of the media.



Best practice:

ACTE Afrique education project, Aide & Action

Berthe Adjagboni-Tehou, Development Manager of the Territory Mission (BECITO) in Benin, Ivory Coast and Togo at Aide & Action International presents the ACTE-AFRIQUE project to illustrate the role of education to accelerate the sustainable development through this project funded by the AFD.

The project "Action for Citizenship by and for All Children through Education in Africa" (ACTE-AFRIQUE) aims to contribute to a better access to rights by strengthening the power of action of children and youth as actors of change in citizenship, social cohesion and sustainable development. It targets children from 6 to 15 years old but also youth associations from 15 to 35 years old. The project puts children and youth at the heart of the implementation. It takes place in various municipalities in 5 West-African countries.

How has the environmental protection dimension been integrated into the project?

The environment was already taken into account in the SOLIDE project in 2015. The ACTE project makes the link between citizenship and sustainable development in an empowering approach that involves the ecosystem of local actors around schools and youth associations. Education is both a lever and a means of informing to fight against climate change.

What are the key activities implemented during the project ?

- 130 tree seedlings to celebrate Arbor Day
- "Clean-up days" at school and in the neighborhood: e.g. "Make our community move" by 4 youth associations in the commune of Agoè-Nyivé in Togo.
- "Operation Set-setle" of cleaning of the districts by the associations of young people
- Five-year communal youth plans around the rights to education and citizenship (Benin/ Togo/ Burkina Faso and Senegal)
- Construction of garbage cans in schools to educate on waste management
- Planting of grass to prevent erosion in 2 schools in Togo
- Establishment of youth platforms as spaces for the promotion of rights and expression of citizen action.
- Advocacy carried out by communal youth councils

What challenges have been identified to implement this project in a sustainable and fair way?

- Increase women's participation and the emergence of young women's associations
- Investing in spaces for exchange and sharing between teachers for a gradual inclusion of these themes in the school curriculum



Decentralised cooperation: Marseille, International volunteering on the ecological transition

Pierre Chaillan, Head of the Europe and International Relations Department of the City of Marseille, deals with the integration of the environment and sustainable development into the city's local and international policy through the support programs for international youth mobility.

Youth mobility is a factor of openness, experience and personal and professional fulfillment that is still reserved for a small portion of young people in the world. In 2016, Marseille set up a scheme that enabled the incoming and outgoing mobility of 150 young people from Marseille and abroad from partner communities.

Why is the municipality implementing international mobility programs?

- To help young people who are less concerned by mobility schemes to benefit from an enriching experience;
- to boost Marseille's cooperation and twinning and sister agreements;
- to cultivate the image of a city, a hub of exchanges, open to the international community.

How did Marseille launch the programme?

The city of Marseille relied on the local network of specialized associations to apply for the "Youth call for projects" of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. Then, each year, the city council approves the launch of the call for applications.

What positive impacts come out of the programme?

Although the number of young people involved is not very high, the program contributes to the creation of ambassadors at a reduced cost. Moreover, it encourages citizenship and international solidarity by including the challenges of ecological transition.

How can cities respond to the challenge of education and training on climate change?

Cities have an important role to play in global issues and challenges of sustainable development. This is why the youth mobility program will be part of the Mission "100 carbon neutral cities by 2030" on which the city of Marseille is going to work.

Citizen involvement and education for climate change are crucial for the city's ecological transition policy.



Best practice:

The EDUC project in Gabon

Stella Noumi, Head of Operational Development and Research for AKEWA Accelerator, presents the EDUC project for education on sustainable development, climate change and eco-citizenship in schools in Gabon.

AKEWA Accelerator is an incubator supporting innovative entrepreneurship and social innovation in Gabon and six other West African countries.

The EDUC project is part of the Gabonese government's commitment to promote sustainable development (SD) and environmental protection. However, there is a lack of knowledge on climate issues, including among young people.

The objective of the project is to raise awareness among school children on sustainable development, the effects of climate change and eco-citizen actions to encourage their commitment.

What results are expected?

- Introducing 60 young people to these themes
- Engaging 60 young people in the protection of the environment in their schools through the creation of "green clubs"
- Getting decent equipment for the school including 10 garbage cans
- Enabling 30 young people to make objects with recycled materials

What are the main activities of the project?

- Workshops of initiation to SD, climate change and eco-citizen gestures.
- Planting fruit trees in schools
- Creating "green clubs" to raise awareness
- Making available garbage cans in schools
- Organizing a recycled object contest

What difficulties did you encounter?

- Adapting to the school calendar
- The collaboration with school officials
- The financing modalities of the landlord

Who are the project partners?

- The French Development Agency (AFD): main donor of the project
- The Ministry of National Education in charge of civic training: project owner
- Secondary schools of general education
- The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA Gabon): NGO that supports the implementation of the project activities

We discovered this project via Climate Chance's Cartography for action!

[Click here to view the project.](#)

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Best practice : Lex Climatica trainings

Elina Lugbull, Vice-president of Lex Climatica association presents the education and training programs of Lex Climatica. The goal is to promote social and environmental justice for climate resilience to a diverse audience of students and young professionals on the African continent.

The Lex Climatica was created by the International Academy of Law for Africa. Its objective is to create a campus for training and knowledge exchange on social and environmental justice. This project starts from the observation that climate change is deeply linked to the notion of social justice, especially on the African continent. African countries are strongly affected by the physical effects of climate change in the form of rising water levels, droughts and agricultural shortages for example, and these physical effects accentuate social inequalities.

What does Lex Climatica mean in concrete terms?

Every 6 months, Lex Climatica offers 3 days of training on climate justice: summer schools or winter schools. Numerous speakers address various topics around environmental justice during conferences and roundtables (vulnerability to climate change and gender inequalities, the right to healthy food as a means of adaptation to climate change, social changes, commitments at the country level with nationally determined contributions).

In parallel, the association proposes collective intelligence workshops to try to see what we can implement at our own level for the climate.

Who can get involved?

The Lex Climatica's "schools" are aimed at young people, i.e. young entrepreneurs, students and young farmers between 15 and 35 years old.

The next training will take place online from the 26th to the 28th of September.

It is open for all and admission is based on a letter of motivation. More information [here](#).



Upcoming events

Join us on Thursday 9th June 2022
from 1 to 2 pm GMT
for the eMag on Agriculture, Food and
Reforestation !



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eMag written by Chloé Quinero