



Climate Justice Initiative: Enhancing Effective Civil Society Participation towards an Equitable and Ambitious Post 2015 Climate Regime



Tabernacle Church

8th -9th July 2015

Marereni, Malindi

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Abbreviations

BfW: Bread for the World

BMU: Beach Management Unit

KESABE: Kenya Salt Belt Rights Group

GBV: Gender Based Violence

MRF: Malindi Rights Forum

MNCs: Multinational Corporations

MTC: Marereni Township Committee

NEMA: National Environmental Management Authority

Background

Malindi Rights Forum(MRF) hosted the Climate Justice training organized by Fahamu and IBON International. Malindi Rights Forum (MRF) is a coalition of 10 self help groups operating on diverse social justice issues in Marereni including Gender Based Violence (GBV), youth economic empowerment, Labour rights of workers in the salt mining industry, land rights for farmers, and advancing the rights of women and the girl child. Member organizations include Kubuka Farmers Association, Mmukado Farmers Association, Kakimuu Farmers Association, Marereni Township Committee (MTC), Kenya Salt Belt Rights Group (KESABE), Changamka Women Group, Kikambo Farmers Association, Magamu Youth For Development, Vindakala Farmers Association and Kagombani Transparency.

Malindi Sub county is part of the larger Kilifi County and is situated 495kms from Nairobi city. Malindi is divided into three divisions; Malindi, Marafa and Magarini. Malindi has a population of 305,142 with Malindi being the largest and Magarini being the smallest division at 729 Km2. The major economic activities in the area are agriculture and tourism. The Malindi poverty assessment report 2000, shows that 66% of the population lives in absolute poverty i.e. they are unable to meet their basic food and non-food requirements.

The Climate Justice training brought together a minimum of 27 participants (11 males:16 females) and took place from 8th -9th July in Marereni, Malindi. The training's objective was "Enhanced knowledge and capacities of constituents on key issues and debates on the science, economics and politics of climate change and the official negotiation processes.

Adult participatory training methodologies were adopted during the training and they entailed:

- Songs
- Case studies
- Lectures
- Community transect walk and
- Games

Day 1: Wednesday, 8th July 2015

Process 1 : Community Visit-Mangrove areas Marereni Salt Lagoons

The session entailed visits to the salt lagoons and interacting with affected community members to understand how climate change has impacted on marine ecosystem. The visit brought forth the challenges facing communities in Marereni as a result of the salt lagoons including destruction of mangroves, forced evictions to pave way for expansion of the salt lagoons resulting into loss of land, loss of livelihoods and homelessness. The salt mines had also resulted into changes in patterns of rainfall due to vaporization of the salt into the atmosphere.



Linking the grassroots to the regional to the global on the climate change agenda

Emerging questions

a) How many salt mines are there in Malindi?

Forty(40) salt companies currently operate in Marereni alone

b) Are all the salt companies in Marereni area Multinational Corporations(MNCs)?

ii)Majority are owned by multinationals , however there are some which are managed by Asian but the community may not know exactly how they relate to the Multinational entities



Experience sharing on climate change and marine ecosystems

c)How are labour issues for workers in the salt mines?

The working conditions are very poor, the workers are given gumboots which are not strong enough hence get torn by jagged edges of the salt pillars putting the workers at more risk. The pay used to be Kshs 210 per day but has now been increased to kshs 350. The workers work as casual labourers for each salt harvesting season, which lasts for 5 months. The salt companies go contrary to labour laws which say one cannot be employed for over 6 months without been confirmed as a permanent employee, the harvesting season thus works well for the owners of the salt firms hence cannot be held legally liable for violating employee rights.

Process 2: Setting the Learning Tone

Session 1: Getting to make connections among our Struggles , the Earth and Us



The session entailed the participants making connections among their struggles , the Earth and themselves. In a creative way, the participants introduced themselves by sharing their names and how it related to climate .The following were the given examples:

Name	Meaning	Climatic connection
Zawadi	Gift	When a farmer plants crops amidst uncertain weather and he/she ends up with a bumper harvest
Ngumbao	Born during grazing	Reflects of continuity of life through animal husbandry
Msafiri	A traveller	Through travelling people get to access new knowledge and information
Kadzo	A strong woman	In struggles on climate issues on has to be strong and persistent
Nyambura	Born during rainy	Water is life

	season	
Karisa	Born during grazing time	Has a connection with animal reproductivity and continuity of life
Kenga	Child born as a comfort to a mother whose children have been dying at birth	In any adverse situation, there is hope for a better tomorrow
Akinyi	Born in the morning	The sun and breezes are important for crop reproduction
Mwai	One who keeps bees	Bees play an important role in pollination
Dama	A calf	Sign of animal reproductivity and continuity of life

Participants' Expectations

Asked to mention their expectations, the participants cited the following:

- Gain knowledge to understand the changing climate
- To learn more eon the connection of climate change and the salt firms
- Understand of salt mines on the environment
- Access new information
- Learn more about Fahamu
- Learn more about contributors to climate change
- How they can adapt to the changing situation in relation to climate(adaptation strategies) to the changing environment
- Co- existing with the salt firms
- Understanding climate change

Process 3: Understanding Climate Change

The session entailed the participants analyzing climate change in

Learning Circle 1: The Root Causes of Climate Crisis

Eco mapping-Marereni through the Decades

Year	Situational analysis
1950-1963	 There was a lot of rainfall and it was predictable The mangroves were intact in Gagnon, Kibaoni and Marereni regions The weather was conducive for crops Rain was predictable There was a lot of fishing activity done There were many trees Wild animals were in existence Mangrove forest adjacent to the ocean There were no salt mines Marereni was a bush There were no pests Land was readily available and free of charge all one had to do was to ask for permission to access land
1963-1975	 Ken Salt and Krystalline Salt companies started operating in Marereni The companies were mining salt but on a small scale
1982-1987	 Every crop had its season and were thriving well Chemical were not being used to grow crops Fishermen caught very big fish From 1987, crops could no longer grow without the aid of chemicals Livelihoods for the fishing and farming communities dwindled

1963-1967	Krystalline salt started operating in Marereni
1990s- 2015	 More salt companies have been established in Mareneni(40 salt companies in existence) Weather patterns have changed Emergence of new diseases that are linked to vapours from the salt mines e.g. chicken developing Mangrooves have been destroyed Lower crop yields Evictions of community members to expand the salt belts High incidences of diseases as a result of exposure to salt mines
	destroyed mangrooves in Marereni
	 Increasing poverty within households Exploitation through poor working conditions (low pay, casualized labour system, overwork and sexual exploitation)



Climate crisis as experienced by women and girls in Marereni Systems Analysis of the Climate Crisis

Comparing the extent of responsibility on climate crisis

This was an open discussion in which the Malindi Rights Forum(MRF) members shared on climate change and how its has impacted on their day-to-day lives and sources of livelihoods. When water evaporates due to the expanded salt lagoons the evaporated water is salty , this inhibits rainfall patterns according to the community.

According to some community members, population growth was cited as a reason responsible for climate change and there was a notion of self blame with some community members citing that through cutting down trees , they have been responsible for climate change. However, it was pointed out that it was wrong to allocate blame to communities for the current climate crisis in that their contribution was very little compared to industries in the global North which were responsible for massive global emissions.

"As long as communities are poor, they will cut down trees"-Kadzo Gumbao, Malindi Right Forum

Emerging Questions

a) What were the sources of water for the community?

Water was drawn from wells, the water in the Indian Ocean was also clean

b) How was health status of community members from the 19502 to the 1980s?

There were no diseases, it was very strange to hear of a death occurrence in Marereni, it's only the elderly people who were dying due to age. Women could give birth to unto 20 children without the attention of trained doctors. Poeple did not dress up to ward off cold, disease incidences were also very few. Local herbs were used to treat ailments e.g. chicken cooked in a lot of pepper was used as a cure for measles.

The participants shared that it's from the 1980s that they started noticing issues of climate change , with the bulk of climate destruction being through destruction of mangroves (*mbibo*) and this was noted to continue to date.

The bulk of climate destruction is through cutting of mangroves by slat firm, the fish can no-longer breed – community member, Marereni, Malindi

c) Who is responsible for cutting the mangroves?

The salt firms have cut the mangroves and trees from Mabrui to Marereni on a 40kms tract of land. Initially a salt firm named Fundisha was not producing very little salt but currently , these firms have expanded hence destruction of more mangroves.

d)What is the relevance of mangroves to the ocean?

Mangroves act as buffer zones from the ocean waves , they also protect the breeding grounds for fish. From the Philippine's experience, it was shared that as a result of destruction of

mangroves through building of houses and luxurious villas along the ocean shores, 3982 people were killed and 18266 injured.

e)What would happen if tsunami occurred to Marereni today, what would the community do?

There would be a lot of destruction and death. This is because of massive destruction of mangroves .In 2003-2004 the sea expanded in Ngomeni area resulting into a near submerging of Ngomeni .The sea level is also gradually rising



Mangroves as protective buffers to marine eco-systems

e) What changes have they noticed in the water they use for domestic purposes?

The water is very salty, the closer the community is to the salt mines the saltier the water becomes.

f) When did the taste of water begin to change in the community?

From the 1990s, more salt companies increased and this gradually increased saltiness of the water. In Sabaki and Tana Delta , which are near Marereni, there has been a lot of siltation.



Expanded salt lagoons - a cause factor for water shortage in Marereni

g) How are labour conditions for the workers in the salt mines?

The workers are seasonal , with the workers working for a period of months. The labour conditions are not observed. Breaking and carrying one (1) ft. of salt is Kshs 300, the salt firm can get up to 1000 Kgs of salt .The same salt costs kshs 40 a kilo in the shops-, this is exploitation of the highest order. Malindi Rights Forum(MRF) has contested on this issues but it's proving difficult. The only thing offered as protective gear to the workers is a gumboot, which as plastic, salt is corrosive with particles cutting through the gumboots. The gloves availed are made of cotton and get destroyed resulting into workers getting skin rashes and untreatable boils.

i)How is the sanitation situation at the salt mines

The workers are not provided with toilet facilities . When a person works on the salt mines , they can drink up to ten litres of water and sometimes urinate on the lagoons.



Deliberations on how Climate change impacts on farming communities in Marereni

Climate change from Gendered Perspectives

Sharing on climate change from a gendered lens, it was noted

that during dry spells as a result

of

evaporation

the salt from the

salt pans people's

skin

changing

colour for

those who are light

skinned to a dark tone. It shared that

also was for women farmers , crops wilt hence affects household food security, school drop outs and early marriage in the area were noted to be rampant and this

brine into water and this kills fish, even

whales die and they are the most resilient

animals-Komora, Malindi Rights Forum

attributed to rising poverty levels.

On health it was discussed the process of salination in the salt firms is speeded up using chemicals , the community members use local wells as sources of water for drinking .Through this the community members' health is compromised as they directly consume the chemicals which are washed from the salt lagoons.

According to a representative from the Beach Management Unit(BMU) which is also

Fisherfolk community a

bacteria was introduced into the ocean from Australia , the community is yet to understand the effects of these

On marine related issues, more preferences rest on the investors, while we locals suffer- Jeremiah Ngumbao, member Beach Management Unit, and Marereni

bacteria , in addition , community members have been inhibited from fishing in parts o

inhibited from fishing in parts of the ocean where this in parts of the ocean where this bacteria was introduced. Furthermore, it was shared that salt firms block ocean water to prevent contamination of the salt pans, this according to the fishermen is direct land grabbing and affects their catch and subsequently, their livelihoods.

Water seepage, the salt water gets into contact with the ground water. Mangrooves are also affected by salination of water, this affects the natural flow of the river. The more residential areas expand ,the more the climate is affected , and the more the rainfall

gets unpredictable.

in the salt firms, we need to ask ourselves the reason for the changes in the climate .The salt firms are responsible for the destruction of the ozone layer-Komoro, member, Malindi Rights

From farmers
perspectives, the
rain comes at
the wrong time
and sometimes
when it is not
needed, such
as when all
crops have
dried for example
in June for 2
days .In July the

community cannot grow anything.

Community members shared that The National Environmental Management Authority(NEMA) is doing nothing to improve their situation and has not done anything to conserve the environment. Investors especially the salt companies are exploiting natural resources in Marereni and destroying the environment but nothing is being done. There is also a deliberate exclusion of the community in investment agenda whereas it is investors that have been responsible for the increased environmental degradation.

2nd Learning Circle: Examining Action to Address Climate Crisis

The session entailed an assessment of what actions are being implemented to address the current climate crisis. The deliberations looked were 3 tiered i.e. Local level, National level and International level and was captured as follows:

Local level	National level	International level
Planting trees	Evictions backed by government	Promotion of bio fuels e.g. Jatropha, corn and soya
Alternative farming processes	Investments	Negotiations on climate change
Eviction from water catchment areas	Provision of free seedlings	Promotion of false solutions to the climate crisis
Garbage collection	Awareness creation on dangers of cutting trees	Land grabs to pave way for planting bio- fuels
Recycling and re-use		Massive evictions of local communities in
Green houses promotion		collaboration with own governments
Awareness creation on tree conservation during chief's barazas		

A discussion ensued on how effective the proposed solutions to the climate crisis were from the global perspective were with the following additions:

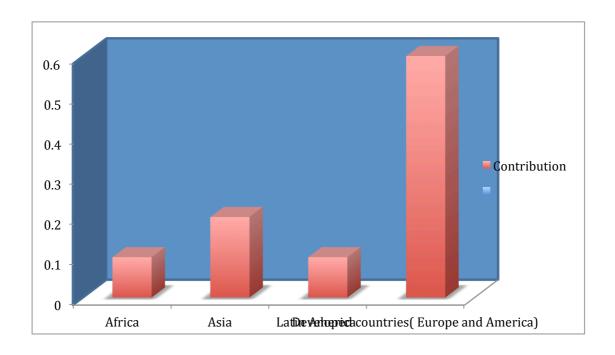
It was shared that the contribution of Africa to the current climate crisis is very small(4%), compared to what the USA and other developed nations do which is above 60%. It was noted that the various initiatives undertaken by community members to address the climate crisis such as planting trees and garbage collection were not addressing the root cause of the climate crisis.



Discussions on examining action to address climate crisis

It was discussed that its companies in the North are the major emitters and that Africa is assigned responsibilities towards climate crisis wrongfully.

Regional contributions to the current climate crisis



Jatropha was discussed at length as being one of the crops touted as a "solution" to the current climate crisis, which is crushed into oil and can converted into diesel. It was shared that Ethiopia and Mozambique have allocated huge tracts of land to Jatropha at the expense of food security for their people, this it was said has also led to food insecurity in the two countries as Jatropha is inedible and what is produced is to fuel cars in the global north. The plant also led to massive eviction of people from their ancestral lands hence more poverty among the farming communities.

Other challenges with regard to Jatropha were shared as inability of governments to monitor and control the product because they have signed interstate agreements, the crop kills nutrients in the soil hence making the soil unproductive, the bio fuels are produced exclusively for the European markets hence what the farmer gains is very little compared to how much its sold in the external markets.

It was pointed out that wind power is cheap and clean energy but oil cartels can never support wind power as an alternative energy because of fear of losing their markets.

Day 2:Thursday, 9th July 2015

Session 1: Making Connections from the Previous Day

The session entailed a ball game a ball was thrown to each participant and they were expected to share one thing that struck them the previous day on climate change .The responses were as follows:

- Learning about contributors of climate change
- The teaching was very useful including the examples used
- Recognition that as individuals, community members were involved in the climate crisis
- Understood the relevance of climate conservation
- Learning
 about how
 much the
 community
 understands
 about
 salination in
 relation to



marine ecosystems

Participants going through recap

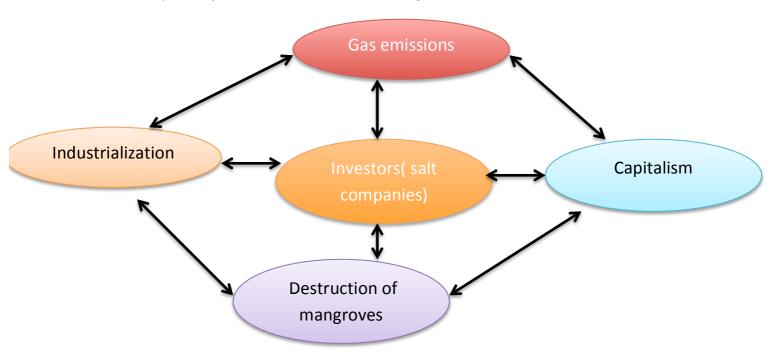
- The developed nations are the greatest polluters
- Governments also have a contributory role in climate change
- The historiography of Marereni enabled connection with own struggles (farmers)
- The history of their community
- How climate change has impacted on them differently
- Role played by salt mines in climate destruction
- Better understanding as to why the current weather patterns in Marereni



Participants making a web of connections on climate change

Web of Connections on Climate Change

In drawing the interconnections on climate change, the participants shared the following:



The participants shared that all elements were connected , destruction of mangroves , makes communities vulnerable to ocean

waves and flooding, destruction of mangroves to expand salt mines also interferes with water vapour and makes rain less predictable.

Process 4: Exploring approaches to address climate crisis

The session entailed participants being taken through workable approaches to address the climate crisis. To start off , the participants were taken through the *Ardhi, Watu, and Kimbunga* game which entailed participants reacting to an upcoming typhoon within their community. Two participants in 5 clusters were asked to join hands to make a house , other participants would run to the houses to get protection from the typhoon. At the mention of the word ardhi, the participants were to run to the houses, when *Kimbunga* was mentioned they were to try to enter the houses. The participants occupying the houses could either open or close their houses i.e. allow people to come in or ward them off .

The participants were then asked to share their experiences, which they shared as follows:

Category	Reason for reaction
Those who opened their doors	 The community members running away from the typhoon were vulnerable They did not want fellow community members to die
Those who closed their doors	 Some of the community members were forcing their way into the houses They were fearful of strangers
Participants who were locked out	Bad that they would be killedUnfairly treated
Participants who got inside houses	ProtectedSafe



Ardhi, Watu, Kimbunga¹ Game

Based on the game , it was noted that people have varied responses to disasters , some remain strong while others become more vulnerable. It was further shared that based on power that people had , some could ward off disasters whereas for others it was bound to result to massive destruction. In addition, it was deliberated that there are various types of power existing within communities and that it was relevant for the community members to identity and consolidate the kind of power they had towards transforming their struggles.

3rd Learning Circle: Getting Organized for Climate Justice

The session focused on how to frame issues, visioning the change the community wants, strategies of achieving the desired change and strategies that address the system leading to climate crisis.

The session started by the participants being asked to develop their fan of life. Using the imagery of a fan and linking it to climate change, on one part of the a paper, the participants were asked to draw the current situation of their community, what they need to do to improve the current situation and the future they envisioned.

¹ Ardhi is a Swahili word meaning earth, watu means people and Kimbunga means a typhoon.

Each participant was then asked to fold the papers into a fan , then unfurl it and share their views.



Participants developing their fan of life

Feedback from the participants were as follows:

Current situation	What needs to be done to improve the situation	
Trees thriving , lots of vegetation	-Change of policies and laws	-Bare landscape
High levels of pollution Many industries	-Initiating environmentally friendly projects	-Low pollution
A desolate landscape with sparse trees	-Planting more trees	-Clean air, healthy families

High incidences of	-Conscientization of	-Better lives
climatic related	more community	
disasters e.g storms	members on issues	
	of climate change	
	Chanas of avalous	
	-Change of systems	

It was noted that for some, the envisioned future was better, with an improved environment, clean air, accessibility to resources and less exploitation. On the contrary some saw the future as getting worse given the current wanton destruction of the environment and the support given to investors who are the major polluters by the government.

The session recognized the existence of unjust and repressive situations within communities and the need to respond to these situations. It was agreed that given the interaction of the community's struggles, there was need for collective organizing amongst the community members so that they respond to issues not as individuals but as a group.

"I have 12 acres of land and I do not have a title deed. When the salt investors wanted to expand the lagoons they demolished my house and destroyed food crops and felled my mango and coconut trees. I resisted and refused to leave. I got arrested and have a case on going in Malindi court. In 2005, the evictions stopped. I still attend court but live on my land "- Sadi Mbetsa, Malindi Rights Forum

Workable strategies to realize change were shared as continuous conscious education, collaborating efforts on struggles, learning from each other and supporting one another, building stronger alliances.

The session recognized that the community in their own right was committed to realization of transformative change as evidenced by experiences shared by members of Kubuka Farmers Association in their struggle for Land rights and those working on rights of workers in the context of the salt mines. The session concluded that is was logical to scrutinize climate change as a whole if the community was to realize a holistic transformative change within their locality.

Learning circle 4: Movement Building for Climate System Change

The session entailed deliberations on how to build a movement for climate justice. The pseudo- solutions to the current climate crisis were deliberated at length and the community members better understood the gaps in the proposed solutions.

The session was introduced through a balloon game where each participant was given a balloon and a pin. The participants were then asked to run round the room and prick as many balloons as possible while simultaneously protecting their own balloons as much as possible. It was noted that many balloons had been pricked and only a handful remained.

Asked to share their experiences, those who still had their balloons felt powerful compared to the ones whose balloons had been pricked. The exercise helped the community members internalize the role of power dynamics including identification of the various types of power (visible , invisible) within the community. The exercise emphasized on the need to recognize the innate power among the people within which if well pursued , transformative change was possible.

It was agreed that information on the climate justice training would be spread to more community members in order to spur debates at community level of climate change. The community members would self organize for their continuous learning sessions to exchange information and learn from each other on emerging issues regarding climate change.

The community members called upon Fahamu and Ibon to provide further support in terms of information materials on various aspects of climate change.

The community would interrogate the local government and national government on issues of climate in attempts at systems change within the locality.

More allies would be reached out to enhance the movement for climate change in Marereni.



Power Exercise: The balloon game

It was noted that historical responsibility towards the climate crisis has to be allocated to the developed nations as they are the ones responsible for the bulk of emissions and that Africa's contribution is very minimal. It was agreed that it was time to start questioning the narrative of victimization of grassroots communities as being the most responsible for environmental destruction.

Through the exercise , various actors on climate change were discussed including government, investors and the political class. It was noted that the actors are not different from each other and all benefit from the continued environmental destruction. Examples given by the community included:

- The government private developer/ investor- what they look for is profit maximization
- Investors and government- paying taxes, profit maximization
- Politicians and investors- politicians represent an area, the investor shares benefits about investment, and the politician is used to influence the locals to give up their spaces. T
- Loggers and investors loggers cut trees to be used to dry the salt.

Wrap up and Closure

It can be noted that the training achieved its set objectives and all the participants' expectations were met. Tetet Lauron (Tetet) of Ibon International expressed gratitude to the community for the opportunity to learn about their struggles and the recognition that the struggles of Marereni people are not unique to the community but reverberates across the global south.

Tetet shared that she would take the stories of the Marereni people with her in meetings across the globe to share the lived realities of frontline communities impacted on by climate change as well as their resilience.

Sabine Minninger of Bread for the World (BfW) thanked the



community members pointing out that although she sits on United Nations (UN) negotiations on climate change from a global perspective, it was her first time to interact with frontline communities in Africa and that this was an opportunity she held very dear and had learnt a lot. She commented that from henceforth, she would be making inputs on climate change at the UN from an informed perspective given their interaction with Malindi Rights Forum and the experiences shared.

On behalf of Fahamu and Ibon International-Africa , Marlene Francia and George Mwai , applauded the community for hosting the training and providing opportunities for learning.

Peter Komora on behalf of Malindi Rights Forum (MRF) thanked the team for organizing the training and for selecting to work with the movement on climate justice. He further likened the training to Prof. Wangari Maathai's story of the humming bird their organization, though small, and handling struggles that seem overwhelming and counter very powerful forces, they will do something on climate change and that when revisited, there will be noticeable changes realized in their communities relating to climatic issues.

Annex 1: Learning Circle Programme

Time	Acti	vity	Facilitator	
Day 1: Tuesda	Day 1: Tuesday, 8 Th July 2015			
8.00am-10.00	am	Community Sites Visits – Mangroves and Salt Mining areas	Leonida Odongo	
10.00am- 10.30am		Process 2: Setting the learning tone 1 St learning Circle: The Root causes of Climate Crisis 2 nd Learning Circle: Examining action to address Climate Crisis	George Mwai and Ruth Nyambura	
Day 2:Thursda	O	th 2015		
Day 2:Thursda	ау, 9	July 2015		
10.00am- 10.30am		Making connections from the previous day	Leonida Odongo	
10.30-1.00pm	1	Process 4: Exploring approaches to address Climate Crisis 3 rd Learning circle: How do we get Organized? 4 th Learning circle: The role of Movement Building in system change		
4.00pm-4.30p	om	Wrap up and Closure	Tetet Lauron, George Mwai and Marlene Francia	