DOUBLING DOWN ON ADAPTATION: AFRICA’S ADAPTATION TRANSFORMATION

It is only by adapting to climate change that Africa can reach its potential. Yet promised climate finance – which is necessary to underpin wider development goals – remains critically short of what is needed. The Global Center on Adaptation’s State and Trends in Adaptation Report highlights an annual adaptation financing gap of US$41.3 billion for African countries. With the international community committed to doubling adaptation finance by 2025, there is both the need and the opportunity to transform the level of adaptation finance for the continent.

The Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) is Africa’s response to the impacts of the climate crisis. Since 2021, the Africa-owned and Africa-led initiative has been the implementation vehicle of the vision of the Africa Adaptation Initiative with proven results to scale adaptation. Co-designed between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), and endorsed by the African Union, the Africa-owned and Africa-led initiative will mobilize $25 billion to accelerate climate change adaptation actions across Africa by 2025. To date, the AAAP has influenced $6.7 billion in investments financed by the AfDB and other downstream investment partners that aim to strengthen resilience to climate change of up to 147 million people and generate 630,000 jobs, securing resilient development objectives across 28 African countries.

Building on the Bridgetown Agenda, the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, and the Africa Climate Summit, COP28 will feature the launch of AAAP Country Compacts as a country-led initiative in support of the AAAP to connect adaptation plans and priorities outlined in National Adaptation Plans and other national strategies with investments and finance from the International Financial Institutions and the private sector. Through these investment plans, the AAAP places climate adaptation at the center of delivering “Africa’s march to sustainable economic transformation and green growth.”
Through the AAAP, GCA and AfDB are mobilizing $25 billion by 2025 to accelerate adaptation action in Africa through interventions in four priority areas: food security, infrastructure and nature-based solutions, youth entrepreneurship and adaptation jobs, and adaptation finance. The AfDB committed $12.5 billion of its capital to the AAAP, with the African Development Fund’s climate action window set to avail additional dedicated, efficient, and affordable climate finance to Africa’s most vulnerable and least adaptive countries to climate change.

The Program is supported by the AAAP Upstream Financing Facility, managed by GCA. This Facility supports African countries and financing institutions by bringing the best knowledge, science, and practice to the development of innovative adaptation projects. This Facility finances the work of GCA and its implementation partners, many of them African institutions, to design and mainstream adaptation and resilience components into the projects of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), other development financial institutions, and bilateral agencies. Through the AAAP Upstream Financing Facility, GCA supports research, monitoring for rapid extraction and replication of lessons, knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy support, with the goal of supporting the design of transformational adaptation shifts at the country level and mobilizing financing for climate adaptation in Africa.

Since its launch in January 2021, the AAAP Upstream Financing Facility has influenced $6.7 billion in investments financed by the AfDB and other partners, including the World Bank, that aim to strengthen resilience for up to 147 million people and generate 630,000 jobs. These results have supported GCA’s efforts on advocating and mobilizing global support for climate adaptation through initiatives that convened over 65 heads of states, governments, and ministers to move the needle on adaptation. Through the AAAP pillars, GCA maintains an influencing ratio of 1:100, where one dollar invested in the AAAP Upstream Financing Facility influences $100 in downstream investments to bring the best adaptation solutions to Africa.
FOUR TRANSFORMATIONAL AAAP PILLARS

The AAAP focuses on four transformational pillars where investments in adaptation and resilience building can yield high economic dividends for African nations and can accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These include:

1. Food security
2. Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions
3. Youth Entrepreneurship and Adaptation Jobs
4. Adaptation Finance

GCA’s business lines under each of the four pillars are interlinked to achieve the transformational shifts in adaptation that African nations need. For example, reducing food insecurity requires also enhancing the resilience of critical transportation systems, from ports to roads, to ensure the continuity of supply chains from farms to markets to homes. Enterprises incubated and scaled under the youth entrepreneurship and adaptation jobs pillar are part of the ecosystem of service providers for critical digital and other climate advisory services to help farmers reduce climate risk for more resilient agriculture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments Influenced</th>
<th>Countries Worked In</th>
<th>Expected No. of People Impacted</th>
<th>Expected No. of Jobs Created</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOOD SECURITY</td>
<td>$2.4 billion</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ADAPTATION JOBS</td>
<td>$1.1 billion</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS</td>
<td>$3.2 billion</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>132 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADAPTATION FINANCE</td>
<td>14 Direct Access Entities in 10 countries supported to enable direct access to global climate finance</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
In the Horn of Africa, **GCA** is supporting the $226 million Program to Build Resilience for Food and Nutritional Security in the Horn of Africa (BREFONS) financed by the AfDB to improve food and nutrition security by strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of pastoral and agropastoral communities and production systems to climate change. The investment program contributes to improving peace and security in the region by raising resilience to climate shocks and thus reducing conflicts that arise from climate-induced resource competition, and in turn enhance food security and living conditions in the six countries.

Under this project, GCA is partnering with the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to **provide upstream technical assistance to develop toolkits and build capacity in Kenya and Djibouti to leverage the most promising digital technologies and approaches for climate adaptation** to build the resilience of smallholder farmers. These toolkits will serve as a roadmap for the implementation of digital technologies for the agricultural sector in the two countries and, in turn, influence the wider AfDB investment, which also covers Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Somalia.

GCA is helping **embed capacity within national institutions and stakeholders**, including policymakers, to ensure the uptake of digital solutions and to sustain and amplify the impact of the project.

**GCA’S ADDED VALUE**

GCA is providing upstream technical assistance and support for project implementation by:

- Identifying key agriculture adaptation constraints that can be addressed by digital technologies and developing solutions
- Assessing the conditions and opportunities for digital applications for drought index insurance
- Identifying opportunities for digital agricultural adaptation solutions through the preparation of climate risk and digital agriculture profiles
- Supporting stakeholders to identify and implement opportunities through a digital agricultural adaptation toolkit
- Building the capacity of policymakers to ensure uptake of digital solutions using the toolkit

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Through this investment project, the following outcomes are expected:

- 1.3 million farmers and pastoralists with 15 million livestock benefit from using climate services with a gender focus
- 30% increase in agricultural productivity with 30% increase in annual income
- 30% increase in uptake of climate risk financing and insurance solutions
- 55,000 jobs created for youth and women
- 170,000 hectares cultivated using digital climate-enabled solutions
Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project in Nigeria

In Nigeria, GCA is supporting the World Bank’s $500 million Livestock Productivity Resilience Support project (LPRES), which aims to improve the productivity of the livestock value chain, improve food and nutrition security, income growth, and social cohesion between agro-pastoral communal groups to reduce farmer-herder conflicts.

The investment aims to improve the productivity of the livestock value chain for over 1.4 million people to mitigate key drivers of farmer-herder conflicts in selected states in Nigeria. The project is achieving these outcomes by increasing livestock productivity, improving food and nutrition security, encouraging income growth, and building social cohesion among communal groups. These measures will help ensure greater livestock resilience and also minimize environmental degradation and emissions from the sector.

GCA is providing technical assistance to ensure the investment incorporates climate risk considerations and the relevant digital solutions for adaptation in the livestock chain in Nigeria. GCA will conduct climate risk assessments to promote an understanding of the enabling environment and its capacity for adaptation so that interventions are well-targeted and contribute to the overall resilience and food security of the local population. Specific outputs will include a comprehensive review and landscape analysis of the livestock sector in the country and an inventory of existing and viable climate-smart digital agriculture solutions applicable to the livestock sector, particularly cattle, small ruminants, and poultry value chains.

GCA’s interventions include:
- Assessing climate risk and incorporating digital solutions for adaptation in the livestock sector into the project’s design
- Identifying opportunities, constraints, and entry points for investments to promote climate adaptation across livestock value chains
- Establishing an inventory of existing and viable digital tools and climate-smart digital agriculture solutions and platforms that are applicable to the livestock sector
- Developing a micro-region rural risk typology to establish a climate risk map of smallholder livestock in the country

GCA’s added value

Expected outcomes

GCA’s support will improve these project outcomes:
- Supporting 45 million livestock benefiting from digital climate adaptation solutions, supporting 1,430,000 individuals
- 50,000 farmers adopting improved agricultural technologies
- 1,000,000 hectares of grazing area transitioned to sustainable land management practices, of which 150,000 hectares are now cultivated using digital climate-enabled solutions
- 60 livestock infrastructure systems rehabilitated with climate and disaster-resilient practices
In Kenya, GCA is supporting the $223 million Kenya-South Sudan Link Road Upgrading Project financed by the AfDB. The investment project will upgrade critical sections of the Kenya to South Sudan road corridor, which forms a critical trade route between Kenya and South Sudan. Through greater connectivity, the project aims to promote uninterrupted trade and communication between Kenya and South Sudan, boost export-oriented agricultural development, and contribute to the economic and social empowerment of the local population.

GCA is providing technical assistance to integrate gray and green adaptation solutions into the road project, with a focus on climate-informed operations & maintenance and nature-based solutions. Technical work completed in 2023 includes a detailed climate risk assessment to model projected hazards. Data from the study shows that future patterns of extreme weather events caused by climate change could result in higher temperature extremes and droughts coupled with an increase in extreme precipitation. These extremes increase the likelihood of landslide events that damage roads and disrupt critical services, with potential damages growing from an estimated $16 million per year under the baseline scenario to a $72 million per year in 2050 under a high-emissions global warming scenario. Through climate risk dialogues with the Kenya Highways Authority (KenHA) and other stakeholders, GCA will facilitate the prioritization of adaptation options that will be integrated into the project design.

GCA’s interventions include:
- Quantifying key climate hazards and associated risks to planned transport assets
- Determining exposure and vulnerability of the transport systems with corresponding impacts on assets, services, and people
- Identifying and appraising relevant adaptation and resilience options, focusing on operations and maintenance and nature-based solutions
- Building capacity to mainstream resilience for transport infrastructure planning, design, and operations

GCA’s added value

Expected outcomes

GCA’s support for the AfDB and KenHA will reinforce the project’s outcomes:
- 193 kilometers of resilient, refurbished road
- 500 additional traders (60% women) utilizing improved market facilities
- 7,200 direct jobs created (30% women)
- The development of a Kenya–South Sudan Trade Facilitation Strategic program
GCA is supporting Locally Led Adaptation efforts to inform the design of the World Bank’s $40 million Liberia Urban Resilience Project (LURP) in Greater Monrovia and three secondary cities (Buchanan, Gbarnga and Ganta). The investment project aims to increase flood resilience and access to urban infrastructure in vulnerable informal neighborhoods, thus enhancing the climate resilience of these communities. Concurrently, it will be strengthening municipal and institutional capacities in Liberia, improving integrated urban management.

GCA’s support for Locally Led Adaptation helps cities become more resilient to the effects of climate change by integrating the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable communities into large scale investment projects financed by the IFIs. In Liberia, GCA is partnering with the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) of Liberia, Akiba Mashinani Trust, Slum Dwellers International, and the Federation of Liberia Urban Poor Savers to support an enumeration and climate risk profiling process by local communities living in informal settlements in the Northern Bushrod and Southeastern Paynesville areas of Greater Monrovia.

Peer-to-peer training workshops provide stakeholders with the opportunity to engage with and learn from community members, city council representatives, and civil society representatives from Nairobi, where similar work has been implemented.
African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT)

The Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT) is an annual competition and awards program that supports youth-led enterprises with innovative climate adaptation and resilience solutions. Each winner of the Challenge receives a $100,000 grant, enabling them to expand their solutions. The winners also gain business support through a 12-month accelerator program.

The inaugural YouthADAPT Challenge was launched in 2021, and it had significant impacts. The 2021 cohort created 8,512 direct and indirect jobs, trained over 12,000 small-holder farmers, and recorded 123% surge in revenue. In September 2022, GCA successfully launched the second YouthADAPT Challenge, building upon the achievements of its inaugural Challenge. For the 2022 cohort, the GCA selected 20 winners out of 3,700 applications from 51 African countries. The cohort of winners was selected from 13 countries and reflected a gender balance, with over 50% representation of female-led businesses. Preliminary results from the 2022 cohort include creation of 351 jobs (158 direct and 193 indirect), training of 11,128 small holder farmers and unlocking over €700,000 in additional funding.

The YouthADAPT Challenge winners lead adaptation solutions in agriculture, water, waste management and digital solutions. The variety of adaptation solutions that these young entrepreneurs represent demonstrates the potential of youth-led entrepreneurship to create adaptation jobs while protecting communities from the worst impacts of climate change.

GCA’S ADDED VALUE
GCA is providing the following:

- **Capacity Building & Training:** Develop training materials and deliver training workshops to equip selected youth-led startups with practical skills in entrepreneurship and climate adaptation mainstreaming
- **Mentorship & Coaching:** Provide professional mentorship, empowering them to execute their business plans, create jobs, and support continental efforts towards climate resilience
- **Grant Funding:** Provide grant support of up to $100,000 to support their short-term growth and facilitating linkages with potential investors for longer term growth

EXPECTED OUTCOMES
The project is expected to drive the following outcomes:

- Inculcate an ecosystem of domestic enterprises providing adaptation goods and services.
- Create 20,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- Train 30,000 smallholder farmers on climate adaptation
In Nigeria, GCA is working with the AfDB on the $538 million Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Program, which aims to create 500,000 jobs and train 25,000 youth-led enterprises. The program supports the economic and social development programs of the Federal Government of Nigeria, contributing to the development of rural infrastructure, improved access to agricultural markets, increased farm productivity, and promotion of agricultural technology, agribusiness, and job creation.

The key development objectives are to sustainably contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger and inequality while addressing constraints to agribusiness competitiveness by furthering opportunities for economic diversification, job creation, building climate resilience and improved livelihoods in Nigeria.

GCA’s intervention will ensure that 30% of the jobs created through the project are adaptation jobs. This will be done through recommendations to support adaptation focused entrepreneurs in upscaling and boosting youth entrepreneurship. Technical inputs include feasibility studies and assessment of job opportunities in adaptation, as well as the skills required for these new adaptation jobs to support skills development.
GCA support aims to **reduce barriers to large-scale access to multilateral climate funds in Africa and significantly increase the flow of adaptation finance** to the region. While multilateral climate funds, like the GCF, hold unique potential with high-risk taking capacity to finance large-scale adaptation projects, country institutions often lack an understanding of how to develop robust, evidence-based funding proposals and concept notes.

In Senegal, GCA is working with the Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), La Banque Agricole (LBA), Fonds de Garantie des investissements Prioritaires (FONGIP), and Le Fonds Souverain d'Investissements Stratégiquestes (FONSIS) to enable direct access to the GCF. GCA’s support to FONGIP and FONSIS has included developing a comprehensive gap assessment, identifying a substantial need for **the development of different policies, procedures, and strategies to meet GCF accreditation standards**. GCA is providing technical support to help update these documents and management procedures.

With CSE, GCA’s support starts with technical assistance for re-accreditation to the GCF. In parallel, GCA is providing **technical support to CSE and LBA to identify project concepts that will be developed into funding proposals**. These include initiatives to enhance smallholder farmers’ resilience in Southern and Eastern Senegal through agroforestry systems.

**GCA’S ADDED VALUE**

GCA is providing the following technical assistance to the project:

- Providing tailored guidance and technical support to streamline the accreditation and reaccreditation processes for Direct Access Entities in Senegal
- Capacity building to develop high-quality adaptation concept notes
- Strengthening the technical and operational capacity of CSE, LBA, FONGIP and FONSIS, enabling them to effectively navigate the GCF accreditation process and access adaptation finance at scale

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Through the program, the following outcomes are expected:

- Develop four adaptation concept notes to be submitted to GCF
- Goal to mobilize over $200 million in funding for adaptation initiatives
- Improve institutional and technical capacity to implement innovative financial instruments
- Enhance the credibility of national entities in the eyes of stakeholders such as investors, donors, and international organizations
Climate change is already having significant impacts in Ghana. Studies show that temperatures for all ecological zones are rising while rainfall levels and patterns have been generally reducing and becoming increasingly erratic. Available data also shows a sea-level rise of 2.1 mm per year over the last 30 years, indicating a rise of 5.8 cm, 16.5 cm and 34.5 cm by 2020, 2050 and 2080 respectively.

With these growing concerns, the government of Ghana gives high priority to climate adaptation strategies. In 2015, the Government of Ghana submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Ghana requires between $9.3 and $15.5 billion of investment to implement the 47 NDC measures from 2020 to 2030. $3.9 billion would be required to implement the 16 unconditional programs of action through 2030. The remaining $5.4 billion for the 31 conditional programs would be mobilized from the public, international, and private sector sources and carbon markets. While mobilizing substantial domestic funding, Ghana relies on international support to achieve its 2030 contributions.

In order to diversify its channels for the delivery of climate finance and to strengthen national ownership, GCA is providing support to the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) for accreditation to the GCF. Once accredited, GCA will provide technical assistance to develop concept notes and funding proposals, drawing from Ghana’s National Investment Roadmap for Climate Resilient Infrastructure, launched in 2022.

GCA’S ADD VALUE
GCA is providing the following technical assistance to the project:

- Providing tailored guidance and technical support to streamline the accreditation for GIIF, ensuring compliance with GCF standards
- Enhancing the capacity of Direct Access Entities to develop high-quality adaptation concept notes, thereby increasing the chances of approval by the GCF Secretariat
- Strengthening the technical and operational capacity of GIIF to effectively navigate the GCF accreditation process and access adaptation finance at scale

EXPECTED OUTCOMES
Through the program, the following outcomes are expected:

- Mobilized private sector funding for adaptation initiatives
- Updated policies and strategies of four national entities
- Improved institutional and technical capacity to implement innovative financial instruments
- Enhanced credibility of national entities in the eyes of stakeholders such as investors, donors, and international organizations

Unlocking Adaptation Finance with the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund
CATALYZING CHANGE FOR ADAPTATION: OUR APPROACH

The interconnecting and reinforcing nature of GCA’s programs, research, and advocacy drives the agenda of creating a more climate-resilient world.

PROGRAMS
We seek impact at scale by catalyzing and shaping at an early stage the most significant investments that will guide the development of communities and countries. This upstream support aims to ensure the most effective downstream implementation in a world challenged by climate change. By collaborating with stakeholders who bring different expertise, reach, perspectives, and resources, our programs deliver concrete and sustainable results and make a positive impact at all levels of society.

RESEARCH FOR IMPACT
Our State and Trends in Adaptation in Africa reports provide the most comprehensive overview of the present and projected climate risks in Africa and blueprint for adaptation action. Offering a wealth of innovative adaptation and resilience ideas, solutions, and financing options, the reports inform the design of projects and programs, including those supported by the AAAP.

AGENDA SETTING AND ADVOCACY
We support African leadership through the AAAP on the adaptation imperative for Africa by convening leaders and policymakers at the highest level to make the case for investing in adaptation. Our international summits and national workshops provide action-forcing platforms to deliver commitments to the AAAP and catalyze new coalitions of partners and initiatives to accelerate action on the ground across Africa.

GENDER
While the effects of climate change will be felt by all, they will not be felt equally. Each AAAP pillar maintains a focus on the disproportionate exposure of the poor and vulnerable populations, including women, to climate change impacts and ensures their adaptation needs are included in the prioritization of adaptation actions.

YOUTH
Climate change will significantly and adversely impact Africa, the youngest continent in the world. The AAAP promotes innovation and inclusive growth for young people aged 18 to 35, empowering African youth to lead on adaptation action through education, policy engagement, climate-resilient jobs, and youth enterprise development.

AAAP COUNTRY COMPACTS
The AAAP Country Compacts cement domestic and international commitments towards the delivery of strategic and comprehensive adaptation responses country-by-country. The Compacts are steering the scaling of action towards the most critical national priorities, vulnerable groups and target areas, and projects with catalytic private sector potential.
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AAAP UPSTREAM FINANCING FACILITY RESULTS AND EXPECTED IMPACT

Resources committed to support: 29 IFI projects

Downstream investments approved by IFIs: $6.7 billion investments

Worked in: 28 countries

Projects will improve climate resilience for: 147 million people

Generate Over: 630,000 jobs

The Global Center on Adaptation is an international organization working as a solutions broker to accelerate action and support for adaptation solutions, from the international to the local, in partnership with the public and private sector, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate-resilient future.

FIND OUT MORE: gca.org/programs/aaap