

GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

Light the way

Guide to organizing a Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse **Event** on Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day

#Youth4AdaptationActionDay

📄 www.gca.org

Youth climate
adaptation action day

12th October 2024



Acknowledgements and Authors

This report was produced under the guidance of Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Center on Adaptation. The guide was developed by the GCA Youth Leadership and Education program under the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) with the generous support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Norway. The views expressed in the document do not necessarily reflect the views of our funding partners.

Main authors: Anetta Oksiutycz-Munyawiri, Joseph Kirby, Lauren O'Neill

GCA Review Team: Richard Uku, Matthew McKinnon, Adriana Valenzuela, Celine Novenario, Alex Gee, Yuelin Wu, Niccolò Delporto, Pauline Moreel

Editor: Formato Verde

Designer: Formato Verde

Photography credit: GCA, 10 Billion Solutions and iStock

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of the GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2024 for their inputs:

Sofia Barbeiro, Kolade Victor Otokiti, Rabeb Aloui, Ahmed Fathy, Nikka Gerona, Salim Stokey, Joyee Chakma, Adolfo Urquiza, Ashley Lashley, Anusha Seechurn, Ivy Wambui Muchoki, Julia Tubang

Descriptors

Region(s): Global, Africa

Keywords: Youth Leadership, Adaptation, Education, Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, Climate

Contact: Adriana Valenzuela, Youth Leadership and Education Lead, youth@gca.org

About the Global Center on Adaptation

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization that promotes adaptation to the impacts of climate change. It works to climate-proof development by instigating policy reforms and influencing investments made by international financial institutions and the private sector. The goal is to bring climate adaptation to the forefront of the global fight against climate change and ensure that it remains prominent.

The Youth Leadership and Education program aims to connect and empower young people to create a climate resilient future and to feature African youth leadership across the world. The mission of GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program is to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world, empowering young people to make the case for adaptation on the global stage and make their communities more climate resilient.

Learn more at www.gca.org or follow GCA's social media accounts:

[Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Portal](#)



Funding Partners



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The purpose of this guide is to inform and share resources with young people who wish to organize Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events.

This guide has been produced by GCA with the financial assistance of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Norway. The contents of this guide are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies, views or official opinions of GCA or the contributing organization(s) who cannot be held responsible for the information contained herein. References to non-GCA websites or resources do not imply endorsement by GCA of the accuracy of information contained nor the views expressed therein.

Contents

Foreword from the CEO of GCA _____ 4

Message from Richard Uku and
Adriana Valenzuela _____ 5



1

The Youth Climate Adaptation
Action Day _____ 6

4

Register your event _____ 10

7

Capture the Highlights _____ 13

2

Your Youth Climate Adaptation
Lighthouse Event – Our Guide _____ 8

5

Spread the word _____ 11

8

Show your impact _____ 14

3

Build your event _____ 9

6

Host your Youth Climate
Adaptation Lighthouse Event _____ 12

9

Suggested agenda _____ 16

Foreword from the CEO of GCA

This is a pivotal moment in history for our world. Climate change is no longer a distant spectre haunting the future—it is our urgent reality. We face a climate emergency. Across Africa, severe floods and droughts are upending lives. In North America and Europe, wildfires rage with an intensity never before seen. Yet, in the midst of these challenges, we still have the power to adapt, to transform, and to rise to meet this challenge.

Young people around the world are embracing this moment with courage and creativity. Their innovative and inspiring climate adaptation solutions light up the world. At the Global Center on Adaptation, we see the potential of today's youth. We believe in their power, trust in their vision, and value their innovation. This is why young people are at the very heart of our mission—to build a climate-resilient future that benefits everyone of all ages.

On the 12th of October 2024, young changemakers from every corner of the globe will unite for the world's largest annual youth-led event dedicated to celebrating climate adaptation solutions. By organizing your own Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events on Youth Climate

Adaptation Action Day, you have the opportunity to make your voices heard on the global stage. As the stewards of tomorrow, you possess the energy and ingenuity to drive long overdue change.

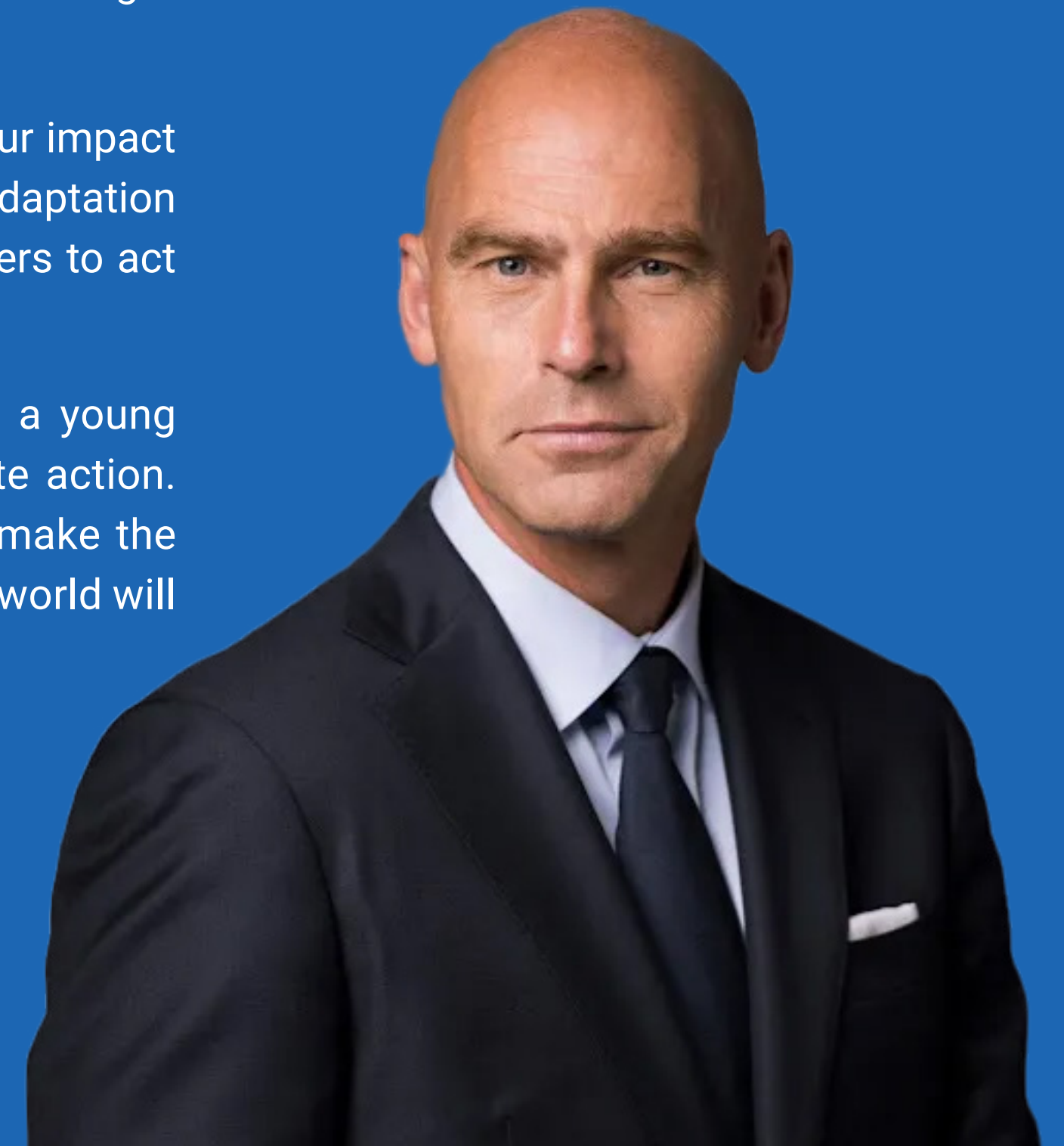
These Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events are powerful platforms for showcasing the innovative solutions that young people are bringing to the table. At workshops, panel discussions and diverse creative initiatives, your leadership on this day will highlight the strength and resolve of the global youth adaptation movement.

As you prepare for this monumental day, remember that your impact will echo far beyond the 12th of October. The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day is a clarion call to policymakers and world leaders to act with the urgency that this moment demands.

This day belongs to everyone—whether you're a student, a young professional, or someone deeply passionate about climate action. We invite you to take your place in this movement. Let's make the 12th of October a defining moment. Let's make it a day the world will never forget.

Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen

*Chief Executive Officer
Global Center on Adaptation*



Message from Richard Uku and Adriana Valenzuela

Since its inception in 2021, the Youth Leadership and Education team has been unwavering in its mission to empower young people in driving climate-resilient solutions across the world. Though our journey is still in its early days, it has been marked by remarkable milestones—milestones made possible by the relentless passion and dedication of young people worldwide who are determined to build a better future.

The Global Center on Adaptation has created a platform for young people to showcase young leadership in climate adaptation, amplify the voices of young people, and foster youth entrepreneurship and green jobs. Beyond this, we have created vital spaces for dialogue and action, hosting eight youth dialogues, nine youth consultations, 21 regional and thematic youth forums on climate change adaptation and an active Youth Adaptation Network. Thousands of young people from over 130 countries have been engaged, all united by their commitment to climate adaptation.

The “Light the Way: Guide to organizing a Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event” aims to provide you with the resources and inspiration you need to take the lead to create a tangible impact in your community. Organizing your own Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event on Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day is your chance to raise your voice and ensure it resonates with world leaders.

We believe young people are not just the future; they are the present, and their time is now. We are confident that if we continue working together, we can turn our aspirations into actions, and actions into transformational change. The world is watching, and your leadership is the light that will guide us all toward a brighter, more resilient future for all.

We encourage you to be a part of the youth adaptation movement and the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.

Richard Uku

*Head of Advocacy, Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program/Director of External Affairs
Global Center on Adaptation*

Adriana Valenzuela

*Youth Leadership & Education Lead
Global Center on Adaptation*



1

The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day

WHAT?

The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day is the world's largest annual **youth-led event** dedicated to climate adaptation, taking place on **12th October 2024**. Organized by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), this event invites young changemakers from across the globe to rise and take action, spotlighting the critical issue of climate adaptation.

With your involvement, the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day will inspire and mobilize youth, showcasing their incredible potential to innovate and drive climate adaptation solutions. Together, we can demonstrate to global leaders the immense impact of the global youth adaptation movement.



HOW?

Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events

Use this guide to unite with young people from around the globe by organizing a **Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event** on 12th October 2024, as part of the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.

GCA will kick off the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day with an event hosted by Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. GCA CEO, Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen, will be present along with key decision-makers and young leaders from China. This anchoring event will set the stage for a wave of Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events led by young changemakers like you.

Inside this guide, you will find planning tips and resources, including GCA's **Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation and Leadership**, available in English, French and Arabic.

Whether you are an individual advocate or part of a larger organization, this guide is your starting point to create meaningful impact and be a part of this global movement!

FIND OUT
MORE HERE



GCA'S TOOLKIT FOR YOUTH ON
ADAPTATION AND LEADERSHIP



“You are the most important generation in our history. The actions you take and the influence you bring to decision-makers will decide the fate of all future generations.”

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
8th UN Secretary-General and Chair of GCA Supervisory Board



WHY?

Because **YOU**, along with the young people around you, bring fresh ideas and innovative solutions. Together, our collective actions can showcase the future we envision to policymakers and world leaders.

The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day provides a powerful platform for our voices to be heard and our ideas to be shared, all united under the common goal of:

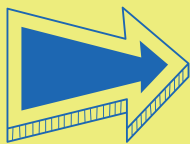
- ➞ **Building**
the youth adaptation movement with schools, universities, and youth organizations.
- ➞ **Raising**
awareness and increasing the knowledge of young people on climate adaptation.
- ➞ **Driving**
knowledge sharing for youth-led adaptation actions around the world.

WHO?

Everyone!

Whether you are a student, young professional, advocate or simply passionate about climate change, there is a place for you in this movement.

Together, we can grow the Youth Adaptation Network, create lasting impact, and lead the charge on 12th October!



Make sure to **SHARE** and **SIGN** the Petition urging global leaders to **DOUBLE DOWN** on adaptation finance



2 Your Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event – Our Guide



Get ready to host an inspiring Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event!

What is a Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event?

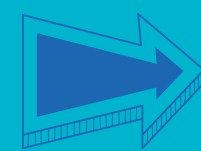
A Lighthouse Event is your chance to showcase the incredible and innovative ideas you have for adapting to climate change.

Organized by youth, for youth, these events highlight the vital role young people like you can play in helping communities worldwide adapt to the impacts of climate change.



Shape your Lighthouse Event to match your vision: Whether you are planning a dynamic community workshop, a thought-provoking panel discussion or a fun and informative dinner with friends, the possibilities are endless. The shared mission of the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day is to spark engagement, raise awareness, and foster collaboration as we come together as a global movement of young people driving climate adaptation forward.

So, gather your friends and unleash your creativity to light up the globe with hundreds of impactful Lighthouse Events on 12th October!



In the following sections, we will go through all the steps required for you to complete your checklist and host an amazing Lighthouse Event!



CHECKLIST

Leave no box unchecked and no detail in the dark:

- ☐ **Build your event:** Utilize GCA's detailed guide to conceptualize a Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event that you are excited to host.
- ☐ **Register your event:** Make sure your event is officially on the map by registering on the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day's [GCA Youth Portal](#) by **30th September 2024**.
- ☐ **Spread the word:** Use GCA's social media package to promote your event before, during, and after. Remember to use the hashtag **#Youth4AdaptationActionDay**.
- ☐ **Host your event:** Bring your Lighthouse Event to life on **12th October**, or any day during the weekend between 11th and 13th October.
- ☐ **Show your impact:** Share a family photo or a 60-second video. Submit these and your impact report on the Youth Day GCA Youth Portal by **16th October** to showcase the incredible impact your event made and become eligible for an **exciting opportunity**.

FIND OUT
MORE HERE

GCA SOCIAL
MEDIA PACKAGE

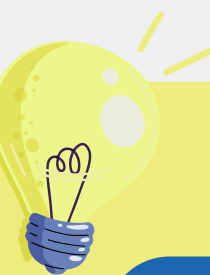




3 Build your event

Everyone is welcome to join in, no matter where you are or how you choose to participate. Here is a quick guide to help you plan your Lighthouse Event:

- 1 Set your objectives
- 2 Form an event committee
- 3 Design the agenda
- 4 Develop a budget
- 5 Identify focal points and speakers
- 6 Select the venue (online or in-person)
- 7 Gather materials
- 8 Recruit volunteers
- 9 Send invitations

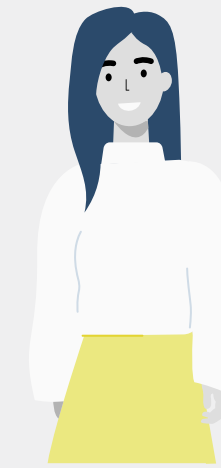


TIP FOR YOUR EVENT

- ⇒ Consider reaching out to **institutions** such as your university or local community centers for your event venue. These spaces often offer low-cost or free options.



If you are still brainstorming ideas for your Lighthouse Event, we have compiled some fun and exciting suggestions to spark your creativity.



On an **individual level**:

- ⇒ Host a dinner with family and friends to discuss climate adaptation.
- ⇒ Organize a movie or documentary night focused on climate adaptation solutions.
- ⇒ Embark on an independent cleanup of a beach or park.



Together with a **small team**:

- ⇒ Host a tree-planting event.
- ⇒ Partner with a local business working on climate adaptation.
- ⇒ Arrange a guest lecture with an adaptation expert at your school or university.

On a **large scale**:

- ⇒ Hold a youth conference with speakers, panelists, and workshops
- ⇒ Host a climate adaptation festival.
- ⇒ Conduct a climate adaptation hackathon.
- ⇒ Run a crowdfunding event to support adaptation solutions in your community.
- ⇒ Organize a youth climate march for adaptation.

4

Register your event



YOUTH CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION DAY PORTAL

Now that you have successfully planned your Lighthouse Event, it is time to shine a spotlight on your efforts and get your event on the map!

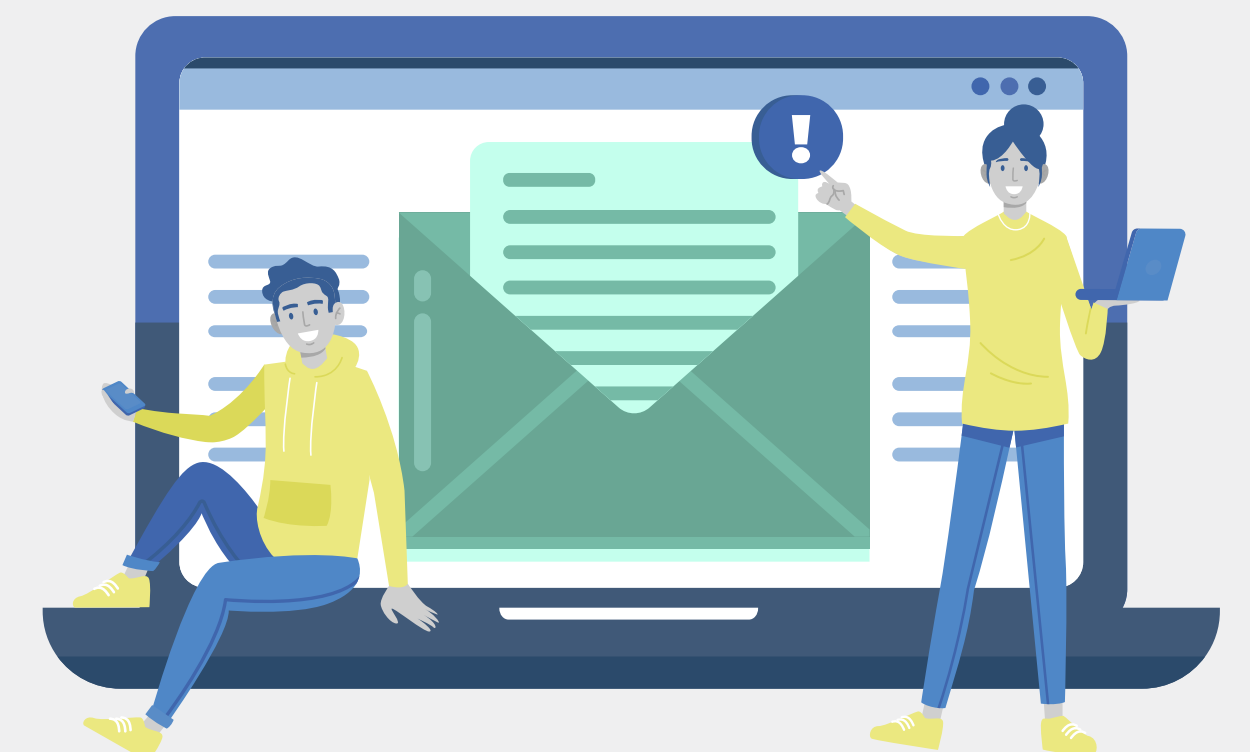
Register your event on our [GCA Youth Portal](#) by **30th September** to amplify its impact and inspire others to join the global youth adaptation movement.



Put your Youth Adaptation Lighthouse Event on the interactive map in 6 steps:

- 1 Access the online [GCA Youth Portal](#)
- 2 Start your registration
- 3 Provide event details
- 4 Add participant information
- 5 Review and confirm
- 6 Submit your registration

Congratulations! Check your email to ensure that your Lighthouse Event is registered and ready to shine.





5

Spread the word



Now that your Lighthouse Event is on the map, it is time to amplify its impact online and inspire others to join in. Get ready to create a buzz on social media before, during, and after your event using the hashtag #Youth4AdaptationActionDay. To help you engage with other young people and spread the word far and wide, we have provided a social media package full of resources. Use these tools to make your event visible and rally even more support for climate adaptation!

Before the Event: Build the Movement

1 ANNOUNCE THE EVENT

Social Media: Post eye-catching event announcements with the hashtag #Youth4AdaptationActionDay. Share your Lighthouse Event with everyone and encourage others to take part.

Email: Get people excited by sending invites early and encourage them to follow your social media for updates.

2 PARTNER UP

Team up with partner organizations to spread the word. Share GCA's promotional materials from Trello with them and co-host engaging sessions.

3 INTERACTIVE CONTENT

Sneak Peeks: Share behind-the-scenes content to get everyone excited.

During the Event: Engage and Excite

1 LIVE UPDATES

Social Media: Post real-time updates, photos, and videos. Use Instagram, TikTok, X, Facebook, and other channels to bring the event to life.

Hashtag: Encourage everyone attending to share their posts with the hashtag #Youth4AdaptationActionDay.

After the Event: Keep the Buzz Going

1 POST-EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Social Media: Share highlight reels and thank-you posts. Tag participants and partners.

Together, we can make
#Youth4AdaptationActionDay a huge success!

FIND OUT
MORE HERE

GCA SOCIAL
MEDIA PACKAGE

PHOTO AND VIDEO
TEMPLATE



6

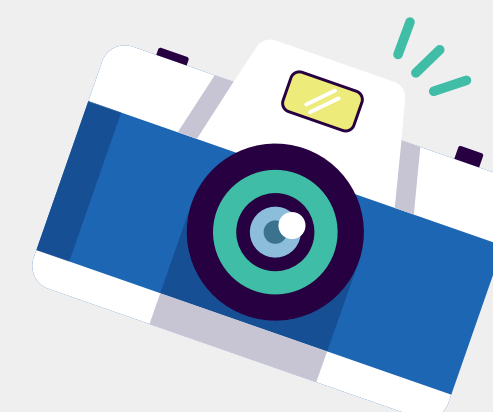
Host your Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event



Get ready for an unforgettable day as the highly anticipated Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day arrives on 12th October:

Make sure everything is set and ready to go, keep the momentum high throughout the day and end with a celebration of your hard work.

By showcasing youth-led solutions for climate adaptation, you are shining a spotlight on the crucial role young people play in driving global change—well done! Be sure to capture the moments, gather feedback, and document the impact of your event to share your success with the world.



TIPS



➞ **BEFORE THE EVENT:** Do a final walkthrough of the venue to ensure everything is in place. For virtual events, test the sound and video quality to avoid any technical glitches.

➞ **THROUGHOUT THE EVENT:**
Gather feedback - Use interactive tools like Mentimeter for live polls and Google Forms to create a brief survey, gathering valuable participant feedback. This will be essential for compiling a comprehensive impact report.

Capture highlights - Record a short video and take photos to highlight the key moments of your event.

Showcase - Encourage participants to share their experiences on social media throughout the event using #Youth4AdaptationActionDay. This will help others around the world discover your event and join the conversation.

➞ **END OF EVENT:** Conclude with heartfelt thank-you messages and collect any final feedback. Celebrate your event's success by taking a group photo with participants holding up letters spelling out your country's name (check out our example below). Finally, encourage everyone to sign the petition urging global leaders to double down on adaptation finance



7

Capture the Highlights



TAKING A FAMILY PHOTO:

- ⇒ Print or paint the letters #Youth4Adaptation, these can be downloaded [here](#), as well as the letters of your country.
- ⇒ Take a family photo with everyone who attended the Lighthouse Event.
- ⇒ Share the family photo on the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Portal.
- ⇒ Share the family photo on social media. Make sure to use #Youth4AdaptationActionDay

FILMING THE IMPACT:

- ⇒ Remember to capture the highlights of the Lighthouse Event using your phone.
- ⇒ In a 60 second video, put together all the highlights of the Lighthouse Event.
- ⇒ Share the highlight video on the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Portal.
- ⇒ Share the highlight video on social media. Make sure to use #Youth4AdaptationActionDay



[Branding guidelines](#)



Remember to submit your impact report on the **Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Portal**



Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events

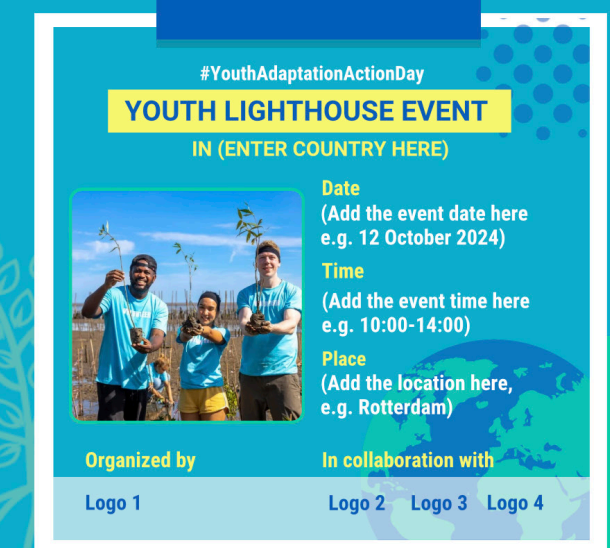
Branding Guidelines

Branding Colors

- #0B5FBA
- #008BD7
- #0080CE
- #00D0AB
- #F9F871

Font

Roboto
Roboto Condensed



Use the template to promote your Lighthouse event



8

Show your
impact



Congratulations! You have just successfully completed your first Lighthouse Event as part of the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.

Before you start planning for your next Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, we ask you to take **one final step** to ensure that your efforts on the day continue to drive climate adaptation forward.

Submit your impact report Exciting opportunity alert!

Do you want to see your Lighthouse Event shine on the GCA Youth Portal and win an opportunity to be featured on GCA's social media?

Here is how you can make it happen:

➞ Submit your report

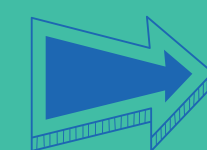
Upload your detailed report to our GCA Youth Portal by **16th October 2024**.

➞ Prepare your impact report

Dive into the details of your event: Highlight its successes, reflect on any challenges encountered and showcase the key outcomes. Be sure to include eye-catching statistics, insightful participant feedback, vibrant photos, and engaging videos from the event. To make the process easier, we have provided a handy template for you—check out our example on the left. This will help you create a comprehensive and visually appealing report that captures the full impact of your Lighthouse Event.

By doing so, you will have the chance to be featured on the GCA website.

Let your event's success story be the catalyst for an even bigger Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day next year!



Remember to submit your impact report on the
GCA Youth Portal by 16th October

IMPACT REPORT TEMPLATE

WHO organized this activity?

- ➞ School
- ➞ Group/Organization
- ➞ Family
- ➞ Other

Name:

Point of Contact:

- ➞ First Name:
- ➞ Last Name:
- ➞ Email Address:

WHAT did you do to celebrate the Day?

In a few sentences, tell us about your activity plans.

- ➞ What was your goal?
- ➞ Who participated?
- ➞ How did youth take action (what did they do)?

WHEN did your activity happen?

WHERE did your activity take place?

- ➞ Country:
- ➞ Street Address:
- ➞ City:
- ➞ ZIP/Postal Code:

Your Project's Impact

- ➞ How many young people participated in this activity?
- ➞ How many total hours were spent by all youth participants in the activity?
- ➞ How many people were directly helped by your activity? (Count those directly impacted)
- ➞ What results did your activity achieve or what changed because of your activity? (Include numbers of specific project outputs if possible.)

High-Level Officials' Attendance

Did any public/elected official or VIP attend or participate in your activity? If so:

- ➞ Please include their names and positions/titles.
- ➞ Describe how they were involved.

Media Coverage

Did your activity receive media coverage (print, broadcast radio/ TV or online)? If so, please include links to coverage.

Photos

- ➞ Upload your favorite 3-5 photos that best show the story of your project.
- ➞ We are looking for action, candid shots and before & after photos.



9

Suggested agenda



AGENDA FOR YOUR YOUTH CLIMATE ADAPTATION LIGHTHOUSE EVENT

Draft Agenda:

- ➞ **Name:** Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event in [add your city and country]
- ➞ **Date:** 12th October 2024
- ➞ **Place:** [add the location, for example: university, school, city]
- ➞ Video message from GCA
- ➞ **Take a family photo**



DEFINITIONS

Climate adaptation

In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects. Defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Youth

Every person between the ages of 15 and 35, as defined in the African Youth Charter by the African Union.

Climate Change

A change in the state of climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions, and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. Defined by the IPCC.



TOOLKIT FOR YOUTH ON ADAPTATION AND LEADERSHIP

Find out more about the Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation and Leadership. The toolkit aims to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to engage in climate adaptation policy, advocacy and action.

FIND OUT
MORE HERE



EXPLORE THE TOOLKIT



Find out what other countries are already doing to adapt to climate change

➞ 12 great examples of how countries are adapting to climate change, Global Center on Adaptation.

➞ How are vulnerable countries adapting to climate change?, International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership



AVAILABLE
IN ENGLISH,
FRENCH AND
ARABIC

MODULES			
Module 1 Understand: Climate Change	Module 2 Understand: The basics of vulnerability and climate change adaptation	Module 3 Understand: Vulnerable groups and climate adaptation planning	Module 4 Learn: Youth-led climate adaptation solutions: African case studies
Module 5 Develop: Soft skills for youth leadership in adaptation	Module 6 Engage: Climate adaptation policies: local, national, and international	Module 7 Design: Adaptation advocacy strategy	Module 8 Design: Adaptation Action



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION



[GCA.ORG](https://gca.org)

