



12th October 2024

Impact Report

Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day

#Youth4AdaptationActionDay

➤ www.gca.org

Acknowledgments and Authors

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About the Global Center on Adaptation

The Global Center on Adaptation 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 build 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 of the Netherlands

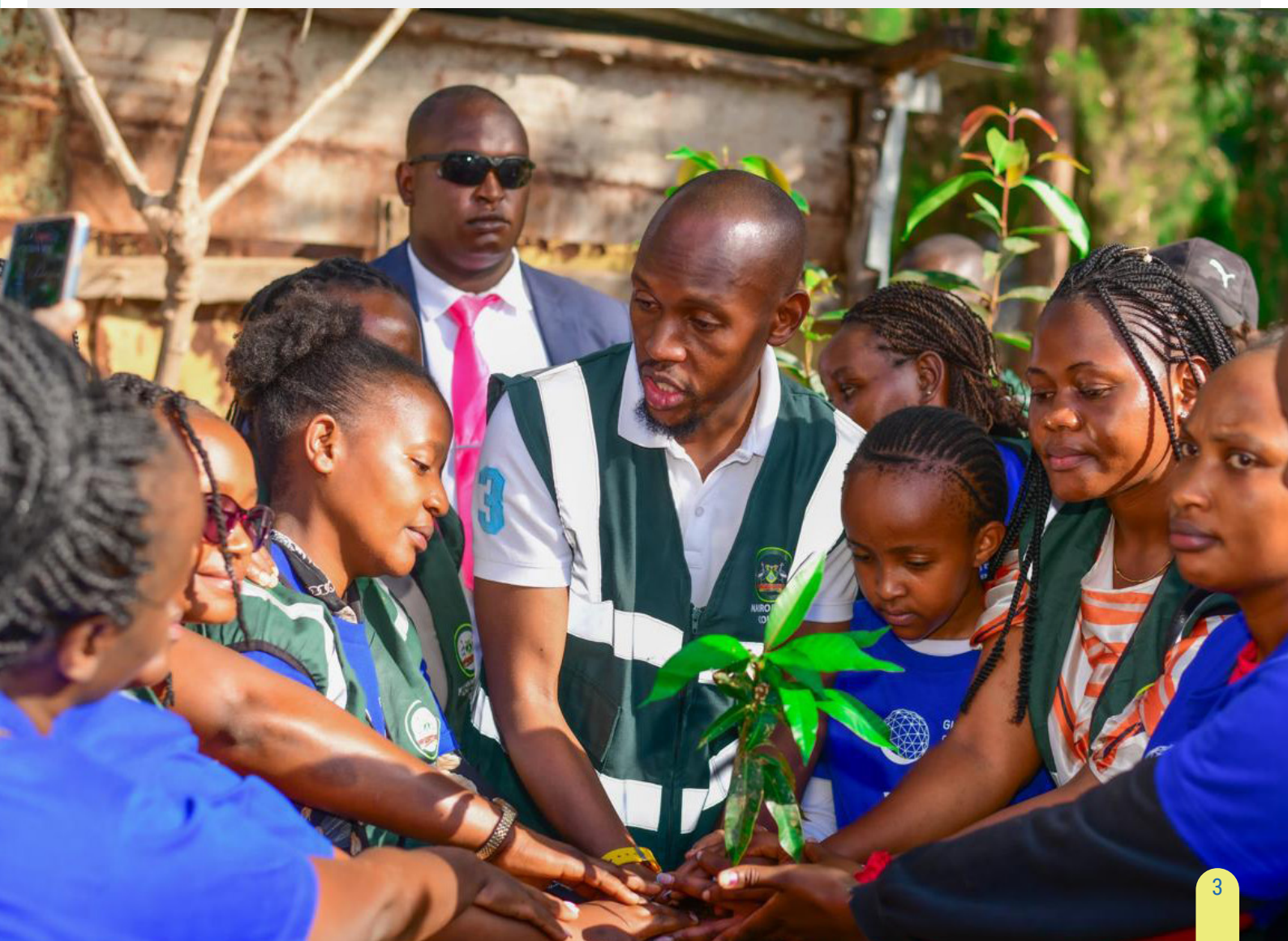


Norway

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Foreword from the CEO of GCA

On the 12th of October, 73 countries came together for an extraordinary global event: the Youth Climate Adaptation Day. Starting in Beijing and following the sun around the world, this day featured 365 youth-led events—proposed, organized, and executed entirely by young people. It was a powerful testament to this generation's leadership in driving the climate adaptation agenda, and a key reason why GCA places youth at the core of our mission.

I had the honor of speaking at the flagship event, hosted by Tsinghua University in China—a pioneer in adaptation innovation — supported by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment. The energy and passion I witnessed were overwhelming, and it's my hope that these young leaders inspire policymakers and political leaders to rise to the occasion.

Youth commitment is the spark that climate adaptation desperately needs. It is the lightning rod that can trigger the breakthrough we need to adapt to our warming world. But unless global leaders

respond with the urgency required—by providing the resources and international cooperation needed—we risk staying in the slow lane on a highway to catastrophe.

Young people have shown, and will continue to demonstrate, that they have the ideas and the drive to turn these ideas into tangible solutions. Now, it is our responsibility to ensure they have the support and funding necessary to scale their efforts.

On the 12th of October, tens of thousands of young voices around the world delivered a clear message: we need real investment in climate adaptation. If we fail to act, the costs will only multiply.

As we look ahead to next year's the Youth Climate Adaptation Day, I urge everyone—from universities and schools to youth organizations, companies, and governments—to carry forward the momentum from COP, from Baku to Belém. Let's come together to make Youth Climate Adaptation Day 2025 even more impactful.

Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen
CEO, Global Center on Adaptation



Message from H.E. Ban Ki-moon

Dear young people of the world,

We are at a critical moment in history. The need to adapt to the climate crisis has never been more urgent.

During my tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations, I oversaw the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

The message of these landmark pacts is clear: climate adaptation is not merely a choice; it is essential for all of us, our planet, and future generations.

You, the youth, are central to the adaptation agenda.

With more than 1.2 billion young people worldwide, you are a powerful force for change. Your voices, your actions, and your ideas on climate adaptation must be heard.

Your innovation and creativity are key to adapting to our changing world.

I have unwavering faith in your ability to lead us to a more climate-resilient future.

Remember: your actions today will decide the fate of all future generations.

Let us act now.

H.E. Ban Ki-moon

*8th Secretary-General of the United Nations and
Chair of the GCA Supervisory Board*



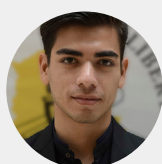
Message from the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel

As the GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel, we have dedicated 2024 to amplifying fellow young voices and pushing for greater action on climate adaptation, in Africa and worldwide. We have co-hosted six Youth Adaptation Forums, bringing together over 13,500 young people, and reviewed National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), advocating for stronger youth engagement and facilitating knowledge transfer between young people and governments. We've spotlighted some incredible youth-led adaptation action in areas such as AI-driven climate solutions and sustainable agriculture, and promoted climate adaptation education through initiatives such as the [Toolkit](#) for Youth on Adaptation and Leadership. Securing adequate finance for climate adaptation remains crucial. Though we celebrate the establishment of the loss and damage fund as a step towards just climate-resilient development, we also recognize that much more needs to be done. Adaptation still remains a key component in helping the world adjust to climate hazards that have impacted earth in such a drastic manner. We need to create early warning systems that will enable us to adapt to the crucial climatic conditions that have affected us up to date.

The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, the largest mobilization of young people on climate adaptation to date, showcased the power of youth-led action. We organized "Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events" around the world, shining a light on youth-led adaptation solutions. These events demonstrated that young leaders are already implementing strategies, from regenerative agriculture in rural Africa to urban greening projects across Europe. Our video competition encouraged creative storytelling around climate resilience, and we mobilized thousands through social media and a petition calling on global leaders to double down on climate adaptation finance.

Now, we urge everyone to join the global youth adaptation movement. We must work with policymakers and experts on climate adaptation; new fresh ideas need to be mixed with experience. Join us in urging leaders to prioritize climate adaptation funding, support youth-led initiatives, and meaningfully engage with other young people in adaptation decision-making processes. Together, we can build a more climate-resilient future for all!

Countries



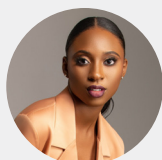
Adolfo Urquiza
Bolivia



Ahmed Fathy
Egypt



Anusha Seechurn
Mauritius



Ashley Lashley
Barbados



Ivy Muchoki
Kenya



Joyee Chakma
Bangladesh



Julia Tubang
Papua New Guinea



Nikka Gerona
Philippines



Rabeb Aloui
Tunisia



Salim Stokey
The Netherlands



Sofia Barbeiro
Portugal



Victor Kolade Otokiti
Nigeria



1 The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day: Introduction



The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, held on the 12th of October 2024, stands as the world's largest annual youth-led event focused on climate adaptation. Organized by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), the event rallied young changemakers from around the world to take action and elevate the crucial issue of climate adaptation on the global stage.

In the lead-up to the day, six thematic Youth Adaptation Forums were held throughout the year to build momentum, enhance capacity, and increase awareness among young people about climate adaptation. These forums focused on key areas, including young women's leadership, water resilience, climate-resilient agriculture, climate-resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions, youth entrepreneurship, and locally led adaptation. Each forum was a platform for young people to share their innovative solutions, lessons learned, and actionable recommendations on how other youth can engage in climate adaptation efforts.



THE YOUTH CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION DAY IN NUMBERS



Over
15,000 mobilized in the
YOUNG PEOPLE thematic Youth
FROM 148 COUNTRIES Forums



216 showcasing their
YOUNG LEADERS solutions through the
FROM 51 COUNTRIES 'My Climate Adaptation
Solution' Video
Competition



365 LIGHTHOUSE
EVENTS organized by young people in
73 COUNTRIES
WORLDWIDE

Millions
heard the voices of young people
uniting to lead the call for global
leaders to double down on
adaptation finance





2 Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events



Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Events are organized by youth, for youth, and focus on how young people can play a major role in helping communities around the world adapt to climate change. On the 12th of October, Lighthouse Events were organized by schools, universities, youth-led organizations, individuals, and governments in over 70 countries around the world. The events included youth-led conferences, community workshops, panel discussions, webinars, and eco-system restoration initiatives, such as mangrove tree planting, among others.

The aim of this initiative was to spark engagement, raise awareness, and foster collaboration, uniting a global movement of young people to drive climate adaptation forward.

For more details, explore the [interactive map](#) on our portal.

On the 12th of October

365 Lighthouse Events

were organized by schools, universities, youth-led organizations, individuals, and governments in

73 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD



BEIJING INAUGURAL-ANCHORING EVENT 全球首届青年适应北京旗舰活动 YOUTH CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION DAY 青年气候适应行动日

Tsinghua University Global Adaptation Joint action



3 Follow the Sun: Lighthouse Events across the world



The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day was celebrated using the “follow the sun” approach. The inaugural Anchoring Event at Tsinghua University in China marked the start of the Lighthouse Events,

following the sun as they unfolded around the globe. The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day was concluded at the University of Groningen, Campus Fryslân in the Netherlands.



Anchoring Event

The Global Center on Adaptation, supported by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and in partnership with Tsinghua University, hosted the flagship inaugurating and anchoring event for the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day in Beijing. The event ceremonially launched the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.



Closing Event

The Global Center on Adaptation, in partnership with the University of Groningen, Campus Fryslân and the University of Nairobi, hosted the 4th Changemakers School at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Students joined the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day to discuss the importance of youth action in climate adaptation.

Countries

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Australia
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Canada
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
China
Comoros

Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti
Dominica
Egypt
Eswatini
Ethiopia
France
The Gambia
Ghana
Guinea-Bissau
Guinea
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon

Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Republic of Congo
Rwanda
São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal

Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Uganda
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan
Zambia
Zimbabwe

African countries

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Eswatini
Ethiopia
The Gambia
Ghana
Guinea-Bissau
Guinea
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Republic of Congo
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Tunisia
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

SENEGAL: the Lighthouse Event was broadcast on Dakar Press, Cape TV, and Pikine Medias. Watch the coverage [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).



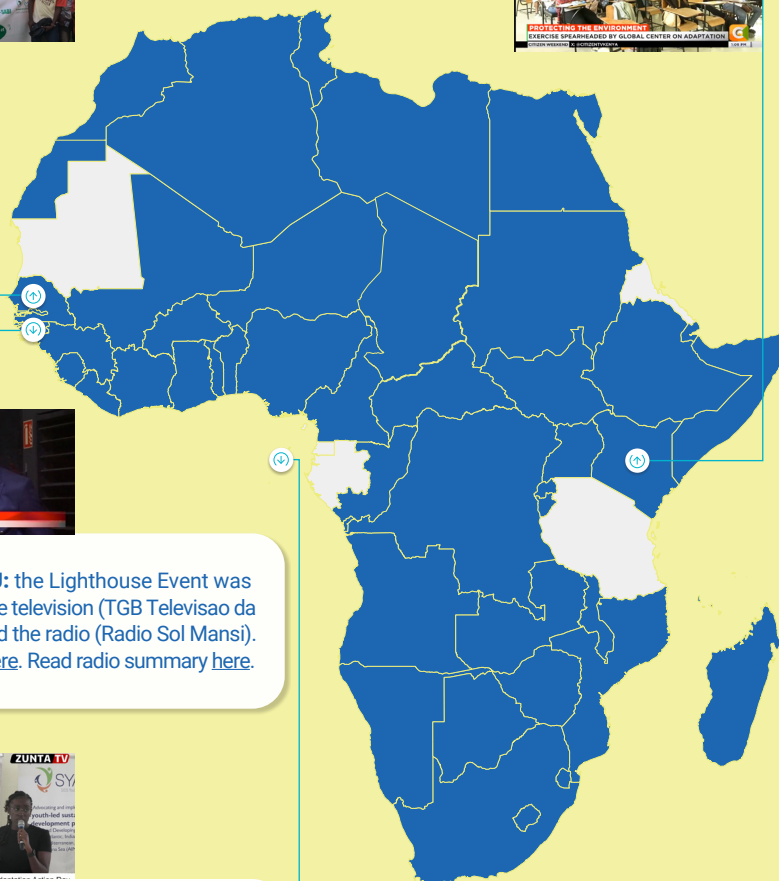
KENYA: Citizen TV Kenya covered the Lighthouse Event during the 1pm news slot. Watch the coverage [here](#).



GUINEA-BISSAU: the Lighthouse Event was covered on both the television (TGB Televisao da Guinea-Bissau) and the radio (Radio Sol Mansi). Watch coverage [here](#). Read radio summary [here](#).



SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE: the Lighthouse Event was broadcast on Zunta TV. Watch the coverage [here](#).



Country highlights



EcoAngola organized an event to bring together young people and discuss ideas about climate adaptation: they identified problems and identified solutions. Only around 6 young people out of 67 at the event were aware of national strategies and plans such as the national climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy (2022). The event sought to increase awareness and expand access to information on climate adaptation. Youth-led adaptation solutions were presented, such as @EcoHelp_ao a 15-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl developed a prototype of an eco-brick with plastic.



Probha Aurora organized a Lighthouse Event at SOS Hermann Gmeiner College, Dhaka. The Lighthouse Event saw more than 200 students come together in solidarity with the global youth initiatives for the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.



The Benin Network of the World Youth Parliament for Water launched an initiative entitled "Youth Contribution to the Adaptation of Indigenous Communities in Southern Benin to Climate Change". The main objective was to mobilize young people around adaptation measures for indigenous communities in the lake villages and coastal areas of southern Benin. There were 80 participants.



Burkina Faso Youth Parliament for Water - Parlement National de la Jeunesse Burkinabè pour l'Eau (PNJBE) organized a Youth Climate Adaptation Picnic to mark the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day. The aim of the picnic was to mobilize 70 young people and decision-makers around the issues and inclusive actions of climate adaptation.



Support Humanity Cameroon organized a Lighthouse Event to celebrate the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day. The theme was "Harnessing the Potential and Creativity of Young People for Innovative Community-Led Climate Adaptation Solutions". 84 students, practitioners, advocates, CSO leaders, traditional and religious leaders, health professionals, and the media came together to engage in panel discussions and plant trees.



Youth Love Egypt Foundation organized a Lighthouse Event which brought together university students to learn about climate adaptation. The Lighthouse Event started with an informative session on climate change and adaptation, followed by a brainstorming segment for the participants to develop community-based adaptation solutions.



The Association du Master Histoire Relations internationales de l'université catholique de Lille organized a Lighthouse Event for the students in the master's program. The Lighthouse Event included lectures, seminars, and workshops on migration and climate adaptation, and the impact of climate change and adaptation on military operations.



GreenUp Gambia hosted a special event at Bijillo kasumi beach. The Lighthouse Event was a seminar where distinguished speakers spoke to volunteers, students, and other youths about climate adaptation. Thirty young people gathered to learn about the importance of climate adaptation from Dr. Malanding Jaiteh.



The Community Action Platform on Environment and Development organized a Lighthouse Event which focused on empowering young people to lead climate resilience efforts. 50 young people were engaged in mangrove restoration activities along coastal areas. The key takeaway was the importance of youth involvement in climate adaptation solutions and the role of ecosystem restoration in building community resilience.



Alumni from GCA's first Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership came together to celebrate the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.

They organized a mini-training session on three key topics: "Understanding Climate Vocabulary", "Why Youths Should Be Invested in Climate Adaptation", and "The Role of Youth in Driving Locally Led Adaptation". They also planted over 500 trees at the end of the event.



On the 12th of October 2024, young people from Monrovia, Liberia, came together to celebrate the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day and participated in the first-ever Youth Adaptation Forum held in Liberia. By participating in panel discussions and breakout sessions, which enhanced their knowledge of climate adaptation, they shared innovative ideas that promote sustainability and proposed actionable solutions that young people can implement to support the government's efforts. Moreover, they emphasized the importance of including young voices in policy discussions about adaptation.



The Parlamento Infantil de Qualimane organized a total of 12 Lighthouse Events on the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day. The activities included educational workshops on climate adaptation, tree planting, a youth-led climate action march to demonstrate the importance of climate adaptation, and a community dialogue on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies within the community. Over 40 young people, environmental activists, community leaders, and government representatives participated.



AYICC Nigeria organized a Lighthouse Event for young people and community youth leaders between the ages of 18-35. Young climate activists, young climate professionals, and climate innovators were invited to speak at the Lighthouse Event.



The NUST Environment Club hosted a Lighthouse Event with a panel of climate activists and non-governmental organization experts. The Lighthouse Event explored different adaptation strategies for climate change. It encouraged students to actively engage with climate adaptation solutions and empowered them to contribute to a more climate resilient future.



The Youth Institute of São Tomé e Príncipe celebrated the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day by bringing together around 30 young leaders, students, and activists. The participants came from the Youth Committee for Climate Change, youth-led NGOs, the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Environment, UNDP, and NAP STP.



The Youth Initiative Climate Action brought together over 60 young leaders, activists, and changemakers for the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day. Their Lighthouse Event, 'the Sierra Leone Youth Climate Adaptation Dialogue' saw a keynote speech from a chartered environmentalist and leading expert on climate policy, who shared insights on how Sierra Leone can build resilience against the impacts of climate change and youth-led panel discussions and breakout sessions.



The Centre for Climate Change and Land Restoration (CCCLR) organized a Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event that provided the youth in Somaliland with insights into climate adaptation, empowering them to take climate action. The Lighthouse Event was designed by young people for young people, with over 50 youths attending.



The South Africa Youth Parliament for Water organized a workshop titled "Waves of Change: Youth Action for Water and Climate Solutions". The Lighthouse Event aimed to promote solutions-driven conversations among young people on how to adapt to climate change and to build a network of young people capable of speaking on issues regarding water and climate change.



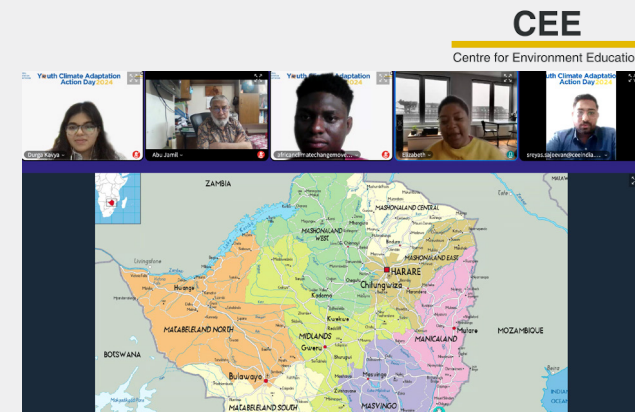
The Lin Nguen Foundation organized a Lighthouse Event to bring together young leaders, experts, and community stakeholders to discuss climate adaptation strategies in South Sudan. The event highlighted youth-led solutions to climate change impacts such as flooding. Over 110 young people participated.



For the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, the Sudan Youth Parliament for Water organized a tree-planting event, during which young people planted 150 trees across 3 different states in Sudan. This was accompanied by awareness campaigns on climate adaptation in 18 schools, 4 mosques, and other public spaces.



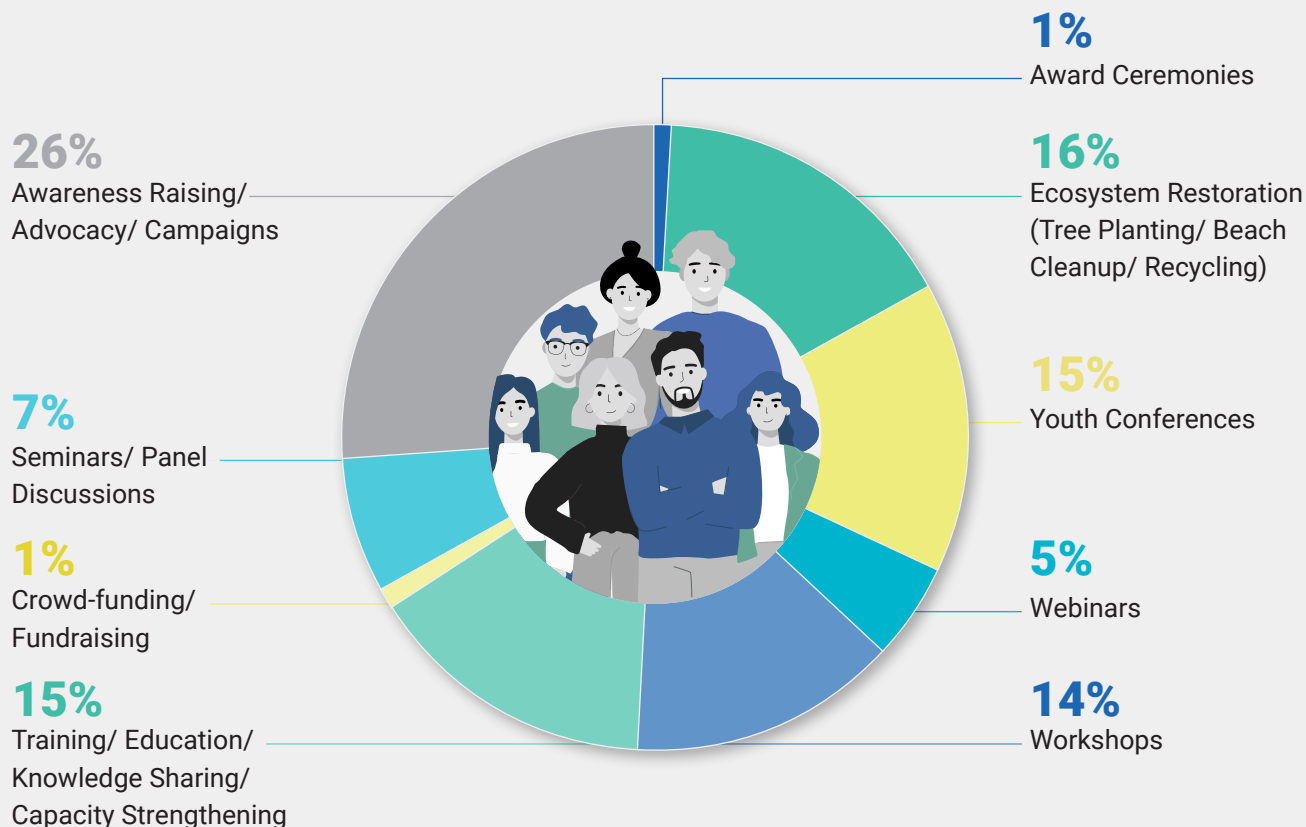
Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development (IESD) partnered with the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment to bring together young people from Lusaka, including students from 5 secondary schools, from the University of Zambia, and the Natural Resources Development College. The Lighthouse Event sought to engage young people in climate adaptation discussions within the Zambian context and to promote climate resilience.



Virtual Conference
The Centre for Environment Education (CEE) organized a virtual conference that bridged climate adaptation knowledge between Africa and Asia. Participants from 42 countries came together to share, learn, and celebrate youth-led adaptation actions. The conference featured five different parallel sessions with high-level speakers, youth, and field experts sharing their experiences.



Lighthouse Events



Partners of the Lighthouse Events

On behalf of the Global Center on Adaptation, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, including young people, youth-led organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies, UN and development organizations, and academia who organized **Lighthouse Events** during the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.



Meet the winners!

 Desmond Febechi

 Guillermo Mallea

 Ikenna Nzewi



4 Video competition



The “My Climate Adaptation Solution Video Competition” aimed to highlight the diverse adaptation solutions developed by young people worldwide. Submissions covered various topics, from water management to climate-smart agriculture.

From these entries, 20 videos were shortlisted. After three weeks of public voting, 3 videos were chosen as the winners.

There were...



216
VIDEO
SUBMISSIONS

from...



51
COUNTRIES

Discover our finalists' inspiring and innovative adaptation solutions

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIf5gJiRuDChIDIM8LAE3_KFNJbZPoG7i



82
SOCIAL
MEDIA POSTS



45,272
IMPRESSIONS



14,880
VIEWS



4,363
LIKES



5 Social media



Nearly 4 million impressions

OUR MESSAGE WAS **SEEN 3,769,946 TIMES** ACROSS VARIOUS PLATFORMS, SPREADING AWARENESS AND AMPLIFYING THE CALL FOR URGENT CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION



Over 1.3 million people engaged

A TOTAL OF **1,355,981 PEOPLE WERE DIRECTLY REACHED**, SHOWING A WIDESPREAD CONNECTION WITH YOUTH AROUND THE WORLD



1,100 people and organizations

AROUND THE WORLD CREATED POSTS USING OUR TEMPLATE AND HASHTAG, SHARING THEIR LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS AND AMPLIFYING THE YOUTH CLIMATE ADAPTATION DAY MESSAGE GLOBALLY



6 Petition



Through an online petition, millions heard the voices of young people uniting to lead the call for global leaders to double down on adaptation finance. We, the young people around the world, members of GCA's CEO Youth Advisory Panel and members of the youth adaptation movement, are calling on global leaders joining the UN COP29 in Azerbaijan in November 2024 to double down on adaptation finance. Through this petition, we, the young people:



Call

ON GLOBAL LEADERS TO MEET THE COMMITMENT TO DOUBLE ADAPTATION FINANCE BY NEXT YEAR, ENSURING THAT RESOURCES REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.



Urge

LEADERS TO INVEST IN YOUTH-LED ADAPTATION INITIATIVES AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION EDUCATION BY ALLOCATING DEDICATED FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION IN TACKLING CLIMATE IMPACTS.



Demand

DECISIVE AND TANGIBLE ACTION AT COP29 TO UPHOLD THE COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT AND PARIS AGREEMENT BY MOBILIZING THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO ADVANCE ADAPTATION.

Quotes



Dr. Carlos Do Conto Monteiro
Minister of Youth and Sports, Cabo Verde

"As a small island developing state, Cabo Verde is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate adaptation is at the forefront of our agenda, with young people often leading the way to a climate-resilient future. The Lighthouse Event in Cabo Verde, organized by the Institute of Sport and Youth, brought young people together through music and a shared interest in climate adaptation. The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day fostered a platform for partnerships between governments, youth organizations, schools, and universities to raise awareness, empower young people, and mobilize climate adaptation solutions."



Lauren O'Neill
Youth Leadership and Education Officer, Global Center on Adaptation

"The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day is proof that young people across the world are driving the adaptation agenda and creating a long-lasting impact. Their voices and adaptation solutions should be central in building a climate-resilient future. Together, we can build on the success of 2024 and strive for even more impact on the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day 2025."



Daniel Mwanapabo
Lighthouse Event Zambia

"This is why today's event is so important. It shows that we are breaking down barriers, making sure everyone is included in the fight against climate change. Whether it's planting trees, or finding ways to adapt to changing weather, we all have something valuable to contribute. As young people, we are resourceful, determined, and full of ideas. Our disabilities do not define us; our ability to create change does."



Mitchelle Peris Mudibo Tendet
GCA Youth Academy Alumni and Lighthouse Event Organizer, Kenya

"Youth hold a unique position in the community as advocates for change, bridging generations with fresh, innovative perspectives. Our open minds and digital influence empower us to drive impact, foster climate adaptation, and champion meaningful change. We are the future, and the future is here—it's time to act now!"

Looking Forward to the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day 2025



Adriana Valenzuela
Lead of the Youth Leadership and Education Program, Global Center on Adaptation

"I would like to thank all the young people, schools, governments, universities, and youth organizations who participated in the first Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day. We must continue to carry this momentum forward. This movement is just the beginning, and together, we can create lasting change. In 2025, let's keep building. Let's keep adapting. And let's continue to be inspired by the youth who are leading the way. I invite you all to join the Global Center on Adaptation at the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day 2025. Visit our portal to learn more."



YOUTH CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION DAY PORTAL:

Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Portal: Visit the online portal to discover how you can participate in the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day 2025: gca.org/youth-climate-adaptation-action-day/.

ACTION GUIDE

Use the Action Guide to help you organize a Youth Climate Adaptation Lighthouse Event for the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day 2024. Find the Action Guide on the online portal.



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