



Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership

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IMPACT REPORT 2024



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION



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About this publication

This impact report presents the key achievements and outcomes from the partnership between the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), the University of Nairobi (UoN), and the University of Groningen (RUG) to develop the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership, a “train-the-trainer”

model for replication in Africa. The inaugural Academy, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18th - 26th September 2024, empowered young Kenyans with the knowledge and skills to become trainers and leaders in climate adaptation within their communities.

Acknowledgments

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
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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 focuses on climate-proof development by driving policy reforms and influencing investments 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 and 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:





FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

PROFESSOR PATRICK V. VERKOOIJEN

Africa is experiencing a silent crisis in education. Low levels of educational attainment still hinder prosperity and perpetuate a cycle of poverty. The education system is also under huge stress to equip Africa's massive youth population –as the most youthful region in the world– with the fast-evolving world of work. Each month, one million youth enter the labor market, but only one in four secures a formal job. And yet, Africa's youth are also the driving force of the continents' development transformation, as well as its future.

The reality is also that this future will be dominated by more alarming extreme temperatures, droughts, floods than have been seen before. Without decisive action, Africa could face worsening crises in migration, food, and health.

When climate adaptation is integrated with development and job creation, the continent's narrative, though, changes for the better. Because quite simply, we can adapt and avoid the negative repercussions of extreme weather impacts, and even leverage new benefits in the process. The passion and innovation of young Africans leading climate adaptation efforts thoroughly reinforce this optimism.

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is working to empower the next generation of trailblazers to champion climate change adaptation through the transformative power of knowledge. In the pages ahead, you will discover how GCA and its partners

delivered a comprehensive, locally tailored program, setting the stage for replication across all regions of Africa.

From September 18 to 26, 2024, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), in partnership with the University of Nairobi and the University of Groningen Business School, convened the inaugural Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership in Nairobi, Kenya. As Chancellor of the University of Nairobi and the Ban Ki-moon Chair on Climate Adaptation Governance at the University of Groningen, I witnessed firsthand the remarkable synergy between Africa's drive for climate adaptation and Europe's academic innovation.

This intensive training program offered young leaders the knowledge and practical skills to become effective trainers and champions of adaptation. Building on its success, GCA is poised to broaden the Academy's reach and amplify its impact across the continent. I remain committed to ensuring that the Academy's benefits extend to the communities that need it most.

This is the transformative impact GCA is driving—a continent-wide network of changemakers whose efforts will cross borders and shape a more resilient future for Africa and beyond.

Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen
President and Chief Executive Officer
Global Center on Adaptation



“We must invest in education, ensure access for all young people, and empower them as agents of change. I invite all participants in the Youth Academy to share the knowledge and skills they gain throughout Kenya, across Africa, and the entire world.”

H.E. Ban Ki-moon

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

“Two decades ago, at the University of Groningen, we recognized the importance of providing interdisciplinary courses to address the societal challenges that we are facing.

Together with the University of Nairobi and the Global Center on Adaptation, we have created an ambitious Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership model, in which interdisciplinarity, local, and international cooperation, and the ambition to involve different generations all come together.”

Professor Jouke de Vries

President of the Board of the University of Groningen







01

CHAPTER

The urgency of adaptation education in Africa

Communities worldwide urgently need ambitious strategies to adapt to the worsening impacts of climate change. This is particularly true in Africa—one of the regions most vulnerable to climate risks.¹ Within Africa, Eastern Africa faces the greatest onslaught of climate-related disasters.² Recurring droughts, flooding, and rising sea levels exacerbate existing challenges, causing severe losses of crops, livestock, infrastructure, and freshwater sources. As a result, these impacts drive widespread famine and displacement across the region.³

¹ GCA. 2022. State and Trends in Adaptation Report.

² Ibid.

³ GCA. 2022. State and Trends in Adaptation Report.

Kenya relies heavily on climate-sensitive sectors such as fishing, agriculture, and forestry, which account for more than a third of its GDP. Adaptation to climate change is more crucial than ever to minimize impacts on livelihoods and build long-term resilience. Education enhances the adaptive capacity of people, especially young people. It develops critical green skills for adaptation action, in addition to providing a more skilled workforce to improve the economies of African countries.⁴

However, ensuring access to education for young people remains a challenge. In Africa, young people make up 20 percent of the population, and almost 60 percent of the total population is under the age of 25.⁵ In Eastern and Southern Africa, 46 million children are out of school,⁶ and challenges such as poverty, gender inequality, and regional disparities continue to hinder access to education.

Climate change exacerbates the education challenge. In arid and semi-arid lands vulnerable to climate change, many schools cannot cope with impacts such as heatwaves, water scarcity, or extreme weather.⁷ Climate change undermines educational attainment in Africa by damaging already fragile infrastructure and increasing the vulnerability of educators and learners.⁸ Nonetheless, even as education is threatened by both climate change and economic conditions, it remains a crucial solution to both problems.

Recognizing this urgency, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) established the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership. The academy cultivates the next generation of climate leaders and community trainers through lectures, field visits, and workshops on personal and didactic skills on climate adaptation.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ UNICEF. 2023. International Human Rights Day.

⁷ GCA. 2022. State and Trends in Adaptation Report.

⁸ Ibid.





02 CHAPTER

Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership

From 18th to 26th September 2024, **GCA partnered with the University of Nairobi and the University of Groningen to develop and execute the inaugural Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership** at the University of Nairobi's main campus. This training program aimed to equip young people in Kenya and across Africa with the skills to become climate adaptation leaders and trainers in their communities.

Objectives

The objectives of the Youth Academy were to:

- **Increase** participants' knowledge and awareness of climate change adaptation.
- **Expose** participants to locally led adaptation solutions, including pitches by adaptation leaders and real-life community-based adaptation cases.
- **Equip** participants with the skills and confidence to train others in climate adaptation.
- **Build** a vibrant network of young climate leaders across Kenya and beyond.

The training used a blended learning approach, combining lectures with group activities and workshops. The program was structured around a series of interactive modules covering a wide range of topics essential for understanding and addressing climate change. Throughout the training, participants formed smaller groups to delve deeper into specific subjects and present their findings to the entire cohort. This approach fostered interactive learning and deeper engagement with the material.

The curriculum builds on the [Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation and Leadership](#), a project under the GCA Youth Leadership and Education program developed by the CARE Climate Justice Center with financial support from NORAD. The training program, adapted to the Kenyan context, incorporated a 'Training of Trainers' approach through workshops on personal skills development, effective communication, and training techniques, to strengthen the capacity of participants to share their knowledge and skills with others.

Modules

Specific modules included:

01

Understanding climate change and its context: A foundational understanding of climate change science, its causes, and its global impacts.

02

Regional climate trends in the context of Kenya: A focus on specific climate change trends and impacts facing Kenya and East Africa, drawing on local data and case studies.

03

Climate change and vulnerability: An exploration of the concept of vulnerability to climate change and its impact on different communities and sectors, particularly young women and girls.

04

Adaptation versus maladaptation: A critical analysis of different adaptation strategies, distinguishing between effective adaptation and maladaptation.

05

Climate adaptation and policy: An examination of the policy landscape for climate adaptation, including national and international frameworks.

06

International climate diplomacy: An overview of international climate agreements and frameworks, including the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

07 | **Community engagement and social movements:** The importance of community engagement in climate adaptation and the role of social movements.

08 | **Sectoral approaches to climate adaptation:** An examination of climate adaptation strategies across different sectors, including agriculture, gender, and water resource management.

09 | **Didactic and personal skills and replication of training programs:** By strengthening their training

and facilitation skills, the program empowers them to replicate the lessons and methodologies in their own communities, extending the program's impact well beyond the initial cohort.

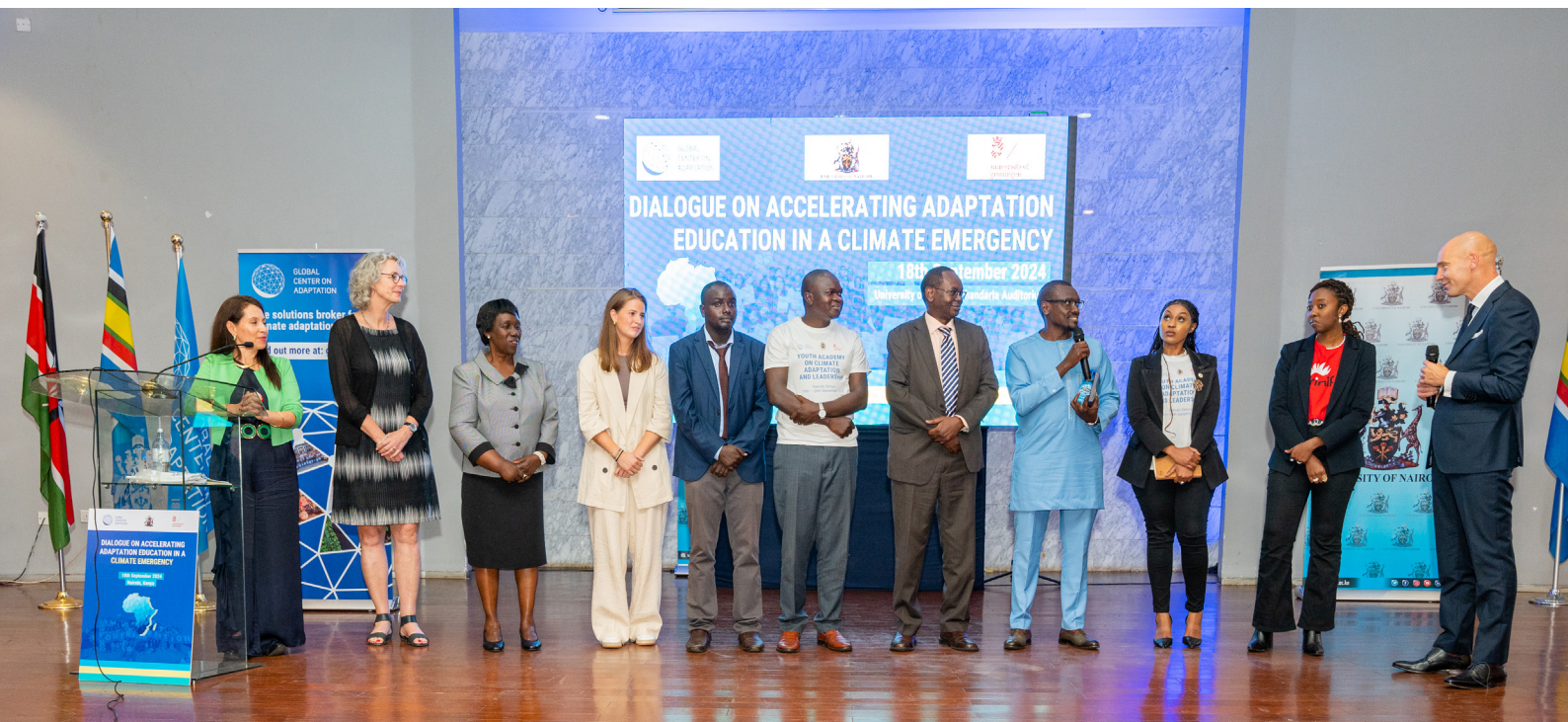
10 | **Adaptation entrepreneurship:** An exploration of opportunities for entrepreneurship in the field of climate adaptation, featuring contributions from two Kenyan YouthADAPT Winners 2022.

The lecture topics sparked stimulating discussions, with participants actively engaging with lecturers and delving into complex issues surrounding climate change adaptation within both the Kenyan and broader African contexts. Discussions explored climate justice, the use of genetically modified organisms, the role of indigenous knowledge systems, engineering solutions, carbon markets, climate finance, and the explanation of climate change in local languages.

Launch of the Youth Academy at the Dialogue on Accelerating Adaptation Education

The Youth Academy was launched at the 'Dialogue on Accelerating Adaptation Education in a Climate Emergency'. The Dialogue took place on 18th September 2024 at the University of Nairobi Chandaria Auditorium. Prof. Patrick V. Verkooijen, GCA CEO and President, and Prof. Jouke de Vries, President of the Board of the University of Groningen, jointly opened the Dialogue and kickstarted the Youth Academy.





The Dialogue brought together over 500 students, development partners including the Gates Foundation, representatives from Kenya's Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, and academics. Speakers included Eddah Wanjiru, the 2024 Kenyan YouthADAPT winner; Samburu Wa-Shiko, Deputy Director for East Africa at the Gates Foundation; Amelie Balkenende, a young leader

from the Netherlands; Drs. Gerni Lutikhuis from the University of Groningen; Prof. Daniel Olago from the UoN Institute of Climate Change and Adaptation; and Ivy Muchoki, a member of the GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2024. Participants explored collaborative strategies for delivering climate adaptation education and discussed empowering young people and vulnerable communities to lead adaptation in Africa.





Opening Session

The Youth Academy started at the University of Nairobi Towers on 19th September. Participants arrived in the morning for registration, followed by an informal networking session. GCA Thematic Lead Adriana Valenzuela opened the program with welcoming remarks, after which trainers and participants introduced themselves, shared their backgrounds, and discussed their expectations for the course. Many participants demonstrated a

strong commitment to environmental and climate issues, describing their involvement in various creative approaches, including art, music, community engagement, and civic advocacy. The session concluded with an introductory lecture delivered by Prof. Daniel Olago from the University of Nairobi and Prof. Joram Tarusarira from the University of Groningen, who provided an overview of the foundational concepts of climate and climate change.

Lecture by Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry

On 23rd September, Mr. Thomas Lerenten Lelekoitien, Deputy Director of Climate Change and Adaptation at Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, delivered a presentation on climate adaptation policies in Kenya. The lecture aimed to bring together young people with key decision-makers working at the international and national levels in the field of climate adaptation, offering participants an opportunity to engage directly with the policy framework surrounding Kenya's adaptation agenda.

The presentation focused on the six key policy frameworks addressing climate change in Kenya at the national and international levels. The first planning document to address climate change was the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) of 2010. In 2018, the National Climate Change Framework Policy and the Climate Finance Policy were enacted. Mr. Lelekoitien then highlighted the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2015-2030, a key policy submitted by developing countries to the UNFCCC, which focuses on enhancing climate resilience across all sectors.

He also emphasized the importance of the [2016 Climate Change Act](#), which established key institutions such as the Climate Change Council, Directorate, and Fund, noting that Kenya is one of the few African countries to have such an act. Finally, he highlighted the National Climate Change Action Plan, a five-year tool for mainstreaming climate change responses across all economic sectors.

In his presentation, Mr. Lelekoitien stated that adaptation is a priority for Kenya. He then asked the participants for their opinions on whether adaptation or mitigation should be the priority in Kenya. Many of the cohort argued that mitigation and adaptation often go hand in hand.



“Empowering Kenyan youth with the knowledge and skills for climate adaptation is an investment in the future of the nation and the continent.”

Thomas Lerenten Lelekoitien

Deputy Director for Climate Change Adaptation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Kenya

Lecture by GCA Youth Leadership and Education program

The GCA Youth Leadership and Education team lead, Adriana Valenzuela presented the key activities of their program. The team answered participants’ questions on the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), the flagship GCA program to accelerate adaptation action in Africa. The team spoke to the participants about their work, which is divided into four goals: building the youth adaptation movement; promoting youth participation in decision-making processes; delivering adaptation education; and cultivating young women leadership. They also spoke about some of their key events supporting these goals, such as the [Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day](#) on the 12th of October. This is the largest-running annual youth adaptation event taking place in over 70 countries around the world.



Lecture by YouthADAPT Winners

During the Youth Academy, participants learned about concrete adaptation solutions developed and implemented by young people. The [African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge](#) (YouthADAPT Challenge) is an annual competition

and awards program for youth-led enterprises, jointly organized by GCA, the African Development Bank, and Climate Investment Funds as part of the AAAP YouthADAPT Flagship Program.



Kenyan YouthADAPT winners Esther Kimani and Robin Ndungu showcased their innovative solutions to the participants. They interacted with participants and shared their innovative efforts to empower small-scale farmers in marginalized rural communities across Kenya.

Esther Kimani is part of the 2022 cohort. She spoke to the participants about being the founder and CEO of Farmer Lifeline Technologies – a business that helps Kenyan farmers to stay ahead of pests and pathogens with a proprietary crop disease detection device that uses solar-powered cameras, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and machine learning. The company also reduces greenhouse gas emissions from synthetic fertilizers and farm



chemicals by developing more environmentally friendly products. Robin Ndungu, also part of the 2022 cohort, spoke to the participants about being the CEO of Kisumeo Organics Limited, which is a business that empowers smallholder farmers to create sustainable and climate-resilient aquatic food systems by leveraging artificial intelligence to produce crawfish fries year-round.

The YouthADAPT winners' presentations provided valuable insights into how young people are developing and implementing innovative climate adaptation solutions. These presentations proved to be inspiring for the cohort, which included many young environmental innovators.

Workshops

The Youth Academy featured three interactive workshop sessions focused on developing the personal and didactic skills necessary for training replication. Participants were divided into three groups, each led by educationalists from the University of Groningen or the University of Nairobi. The workshops explored group dynamics and strategies for creating a productive learning environment for trainers. Sessions on community engagement focused on innovative teaching methods and introduced a seven-step simulation game approach to engage participants in active learning through group work, presentations, and creative activities.

The workshops provided skills on navigating group dynamics and how to create a productive learning environment. They started with an icebreaker where participants introduced themselves by name and a feeling to emphasize the importance of emotional awareness. Then, the group established ground rules, including willingness to learn, acceptance of diverse perspectives, and maintenance of confidentiality. Participants then discussed how to organize effective workshops, exploring key elements of successful first meetings, such as welcoming participants, setting agendas, and facilitating introductions.





The final workshop focused on training replication and evaluation. Participants, divided into smaller groups, discussed strategies for replicating the training model across Kenya and Africa. Each group analyzed the training's outputs, outcomes, and impacts, proposing strategies for replication and evaluation. Outputs included

the number of trainees, while outcomes focused on skill enhancement, increased social capital, and interdisciplinary learning. The workshop identified long-term impacts, such as establishing a community of practice on climate adaptation and integrating climate adaptation knowledge into existing programs.



Community-Based Adaptation

Field Trip to Kitui County

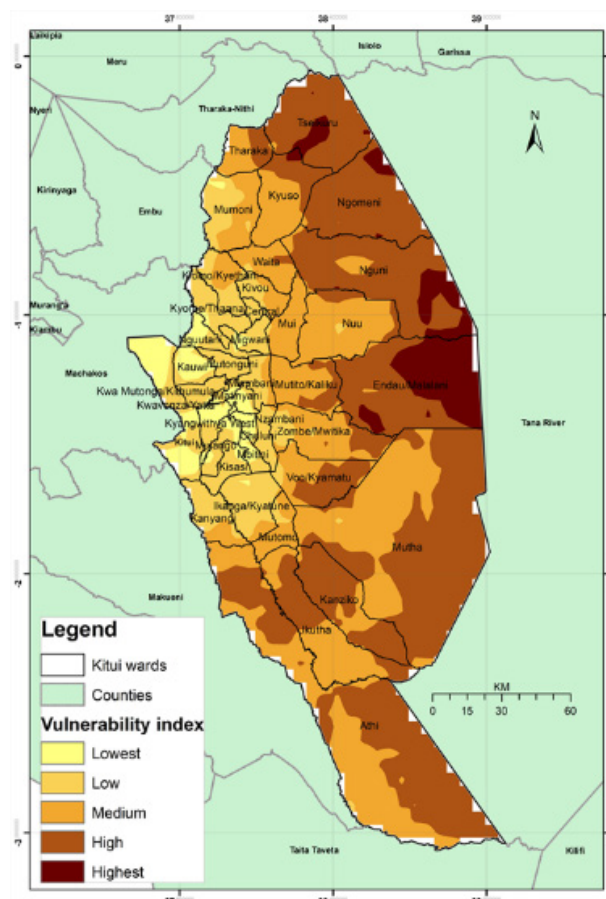
On 21st September 2024, the Youth Academy cohort visited Kitui County. They explored a community-led climate adaptation project by Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE). As a semi-arid region, Kitui faces challenges such as delayed rainfall and land degradation, which impact small-scale farmers. The visit provided a valuable case study of local responses to these issues.

ADSE works with the community to implement climate-resilient practices. The cohort toured nature-based solutions, including a water-harvesting system, a sand dam, and climate-resilient seedlings. These scalable, local innovations provide practical models for addressing climate challenges across Kenya and beyond. In the post-training assessment, one participant highlighted the field trip as a successful example of climate adaptation.

The trip connected course content to real-world applications, fostering knowledge exchanges and inspiring participants to implement similar solutions in their communities.

Figure 1

Overall vulnerability index of Kitui county, Kenya (Mwangi et al. 2020)



“Zai pits are small, dug-out holes that help to concentrate water and nutrients around seeds, making them especially effective in arid and semi-arid regions prone to drought. Farmers have been trained to implement this technique, which significantly enhances soil moisture retention and improves crop yields, even during dry spells. Additionally, grafting has been employed to cultivate more resilient plant varieties, such as drought-resistant fruits and vegetables. This method not only boosts food production but also increases farmers’ incomes and diversifies their crops.

The combination of zai pits and grafting has empowered local communities in Kitui to adapt to climate change impacts, making them more self-sufficient and better equipped to handle the challenges posed by changing weather patterns.”

Anonymous quote from Youth Academy participant

Community-based adaptation in practice







03

CHAPTER

Graduation

On 26th September, the Youth Academy concluded with a closing ceremony. Groups presented their findings on their chosen modules and proposed strategies for replicating these trainings at the community level. The participants delivered a strategic engagement plan for fostering future collaboration, outlining critical initiatives they hoped to accomplish between 2024-2027 by leveraging the knowledge from the Youth Academy.

“Manifesto” by the participants



Participants from the Academy created a “manifesto” outlining their group goals for the coming years. Drawing on the knowledge gained from the Youth Academy, they described how they would replicate these trainings and spread key climate change adaptation information to local communities across Kenya.

The manifesto was developed by the participants through participatory discussions and consultations. They conducted a mapping process to identify six thematic areas that were based on participants’ expertise and aligned with national and regional priorities. Below is a summary of the six thematic areas and the activities to be carried out.

Thematic area	Description
Governance & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strengthen climate leadership through mentorship for 100,000 African youthsChampion the common voice of African youth in critical sustainability debatesLobbying and resource mobilization (including technical expertise) for climate adaptation mainstreaming
Education & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Break down barriers to education access in African communitiesCo-design cross-learning education platforms for young people and children to address climate change impactsPromote skill development for young people for green jobs
Indigenous Knowledge & Biodiversity Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Co-create knowledge with indigenous communities and promote uptake of locally led adaptation and biodiversity conservationEstablish indigenous-owned, indigenous-led institution centered on cultural preservation, research, and revitalization
Innovation & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Train 250,000 youths in ICT skills and digital innovationEstablish a regional ICT innovation center within the indigenous-led institutionPromote technology transfer from the Global North to Global South
Peace & Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Empower communities on root causes of conflicts while promoting conflict-sensitive prevention measures and livelihood diversificationDevelop strategies addressing all the seven dimensions of human security
Climate Finance & Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lobby and streamline climate finance to support locally-led adaptationEmpower and support youths in business development and entrepreneurship

After delivering their action plan, the cohort was awarded certificates to acknowledge that they had actively participated in at least 80 percent of the

Youth Academy. The certificates were delivered by GCA and the staff of the University of Nairobi and the University of Groningen.



04

CHAPTER

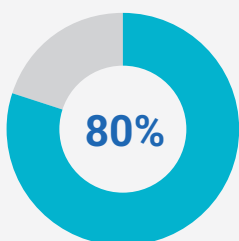
Impact assessments

The GCA Youth Leadership and Education program assessed participants' learning outcomes and satisfaction through three surveys: pre-training, post-training, and replication assessment. These surveys compared the participants' knowledge of climate change, their confidence in facilitating adaptation training, and their plans for replicating the training. The data gathered helped to identify successes and areas for improvement in future iterations of the Youth Academy.

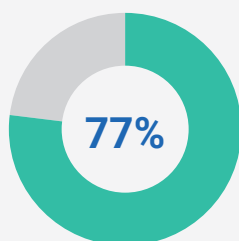
Pre-training assessment

The pre-training assessment measured participants' baseline knowledge of climate change and adaptation, as well as their experience with teaching or training others. Eighty percent had prior knowledge of climate change and adaptation

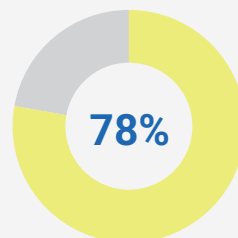
through studies, work, volunteering, or lived experiences. Many participants were motivated to become a trainer to share climate adaptation knowledge and empower their communities.



had prior knowledge of climate change and adaptation through studies, work, volunteering, or lived experiences.



had experience teaching or training through community initiatives, work, or studies.



had experience with youth organizations.

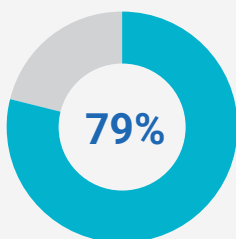


Post-training assessment

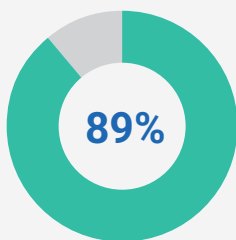
The post-training assessment measured the participants' knowledge gain and satisfaction. **Ninety-four percent** were satisfied or very satisfied with the academy. **The participants were asked which skills and knowledge they found the most beneficial.** They responded that they gained deeper understanding of climate adaptation

strategies in Kenya, mitigation, adaptation versus maladaptation, and the gender aspects of climate change. Additionally, leadership skills development, professional networking, exposure to policymakers and local communities, and peer-to-peer learning were also cited as valuable.

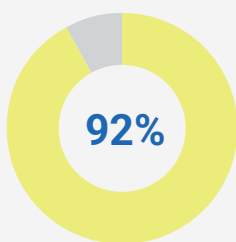
The Participants responded:



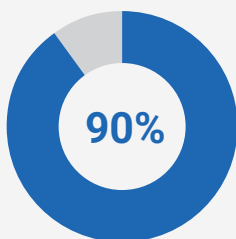
felt very confident in communicating climate change to different audiences.



felt confident or very confident in their ability to advocate for climate adaptation policies at the local or national level.



felt confident or very confident in designing and running climate adaptation workshops.



felt confident or very confident to mobilize others in climate action.



Replication assessment

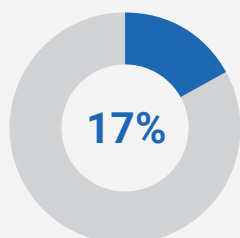
The Youth Leadership and Education program co-developed the replication assessment with Eunice Odago, an expert in monitoring and evaluation. The questionnaire aimed to assess how participants were replicating the training, including the topics covered, methods used, and challenges faced. It also gathered suggestions for future Youth Academy iterations. This feedback helped to evaluate the impact of replication in local communities and its influence on participants' confidence in teaching adaptation.

Between the end of the Youth Academy on 26th September and December 2024, those who had not yet replicated it planned to do so within the next three to six months. The participants who had already replicated the training covered topics on adaptation measures in Africa, climate change

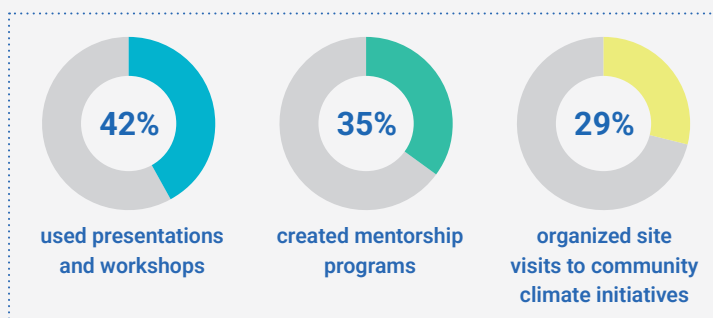
understanding, policy advocacy, vulnerability, gender inequality, climate solutions implementation, and indigenous knowledge in Kenya. Among those who had already replicated the training, 42 percent used presentations and workshops, 35 percent created mentorship programs, and 29 percent organized site visits to community climate initiatives.

The main target audiences for their trainings were youth groups, indigenous communities, women, rural communities, and community leaders. 35 percent of the participants reached over 100 people and 29 percent reached 11-50. 28 percent of trainers rated audience engagement as "very high" and seven percent as "high." All participants would replicate their training again, though they identified challenges such as funding, cultural resistance, time constraints, and lack of local networks.

Between the end of the Youth Academy on 26th September and December 2024:



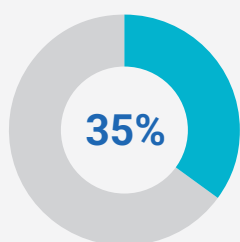
of participants already began replicating the training



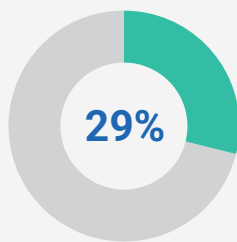
used presentations and workshops

created mentorship programs

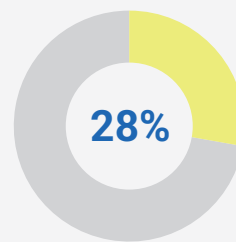
organized site visits to community climate initiatives



reached over 100 people in their replications



reached 11-50 people in their replications



rated audience engagement as "very high" in their replications



05

CHAPTER

Key findings

The participants already had extensive prior knowledge of climate adaptation before the Youth Academy. They came from a wide range of backgrounds and had diverse sources of knowledge on climate adaptation, including studies, work experience, community-level engagement, and awareness raising through faith-based organizations or others, as well as through their own lived experiences. The cohort's diversity, which included participants from medical, engineering, and educational fields, as well as indigenous communities and areas impacted by diverse climate challenges, contributed to the enrichment of the discussions. These perspectives sparked informed discussions on various topics.

Based on three impact assessments, the Youth Academy increased participants' knowledge and ability to teach climate adaptation. Participants reported that the Academy provided:

01

Knowledge of Climate Change

Adaptation: The Academy provided in-depth knowledge about climate change issues and terminology. The extensive knowledge of the professors from both the University of Nairobi and the University of Groningen on their respective topics introduced the participants to some of the leading institutions on climate change adaptation and didactics.

02

Leadership Development: The Academy placed significant focus on leadership skills, enabling participants to grow as both trainers and climate leaders. They improved their leadership skills to manage climate projects, motivate actions, and promote teamwork.

03

Networking Opportunities: They had the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and experts in the field, describing this network as invaluable for opening doors to collaboration and expanding their perspectives on both local and global climate issues. Additionally, for many participants, the Youth Academy was an opportunity to be exposed to community-led adaptation initiatives and interact with relevant policymakers. They also learnt about soft skill development, including listening skills, training skills, and conflict resolution. Participants emphasized that they gained a lot from the more informal peer-to-peer learning throughout the Academy.

Replicating this climate change adaptation and leadership training will equip young people and their communities to address environmental challenges in Kenya and beyond.





06

CHAPTER

Showcasing results

Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day

Following the training, Youth Academy participants, in collaboration with the Nairobi City County Government, organized a Lighthouse Event as part of the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day titled “Celebrating youth leadership in propelling transformative climate adaptation”. The event brought together 94 participants from the 17 constituencies in Nairobi City County, including county government representatives, GCA youth ambassadors, academia, youth-led organizations, environmental activists, and local administrators. The workshop served as a peer-to-peer learning

platform to showcase adaptation solutions and raise awareness among young people about climate adaptation and leadership. The event culminated with the planting of over 350 indigenous trees and a river cleanup in Maji Mazuri.



COP29 Youth Leadership for Adaptation Action Exchange

At the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the GCA organized the “Youth Leadership for Adaptation Action Exchange.” GCA CEO’s Youth Advisory Panel member Ivy Muchoki and Youth Academy participant Farida Namelok provided participants with an overview of the key results from the Youth Academy in Nairobi. The working dinner brought together over 100 attendees, including the COP29 Youth Climate Champion, representatives from COP28 and COP30 Presidencies, the UNFCCC LEG Chair, government representatives, civil society organizations, development partners, and young

people to celebrate key achievements in 2024 and to discuss the way forward for 2025.



Replication by participants



Replication on Radio Ingo

Two participants went live on local radio to share knowledge from the Youth Academy in their local language. In Kenya, where 77 percent of the population listens to the radio daily, this medium is especially impactful in reaching rural and vulnerable

communities, including groups most affected by climate change.⁹ By sharing their insights from the Youth Academy in a familiar dialect, these participants are breaking barriers to ensure vital climate adaptation knowledge reaches those who need it most.

"I participated in a one-hour discussion on Radio Ingo, a KBC Media House Luhya vernacular station serving Western Kenya. Together with Johnstone Imbote, we engaged listeners in their native language about climate change, mitigation, and adaptation strategies. The conversation focused on the definition and breakdown of the mentioned concepts and the practical examples relevant to the region, including drought-resistant farming, agricultural diversification, and community knowledge sharing. Listeners actively participated, sharing their experiences with alternative livelihoods such as rabbit rearing. They also sought information about existing local opportunities to engage in climate action and adaptation, and we gave them information about the FLLOCA (Financing Locally-Led Climate Action) program at the county level and encouraged them to form or join existing community-based organizations for collective climate action."

Susan Sindani and Johnstone Imbote

Radio Ingo

⁹ Communications Authority of Kenya. 2023. Kenya Media Landscape Report.

Replication workshop with the Live Great Foundation

"We successfully replicated the Climate Adaptation and Leadership Program in Kibera, a 5,000-hectare area, with the support of five graduates from the GCA Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership launched at the University of Nairobi. They led an intensive, full-day Training of Trainers (TOT) session on climate literacy.

We replicated the Academy on climate adaptation and leadership in Kibera, bringing together 22 dynamic and inspiring leaders from various villages. Through engaging discussions and collaborative efforts, we developed a locally-driven, scalable climate adaptation action plan. This ambitious initiative aims to transform Kibera into a green city, create sustainable green jobs, and empower young people through education. Additionally, the plan seeks to uplift vulnerable communities by generating 500,000 jobs during its implementation.

We emphasized the importance of these leaders sharing their knowledge with their teams and communities. The session concluded with a robust discussion that led to the collaborative design of actionable strategies to address local challenges and build future resilience.

Additionally, the same GCA graduates engaged with the board members of the LIVE GREAT FOUNDATION, a startup focused on fostering a sustainable circular economy in Kibera. During this engagement, we co-created a simplified version of the climate adaptation program, which we plan to replicate in primary schools across Kibera, Kenya, and eventually Africa.

Together, we are paving the way for a greener, more adaptive future for under-resourced areas."

Lucie Omondi

Founder and Secretary General, Live Great Foundation



Replication workshop with the Medical Students Association of Kenya

"We plan to organize a workshop for young/student health professionals. The workshop will consist of three days during which we want participants to gain knowledge about climate change and its intersections with health, communicate this knowledge, and engage in meaningful action, such as policy formulation and advocacy. We want the ultimate output of this capacity building to enable healthcare students to engage in building climate-resilient health systems through youth initiatives.

We plan to organize a workshop for young/student health professionals hailing from universities represented within the Medical Students' Association of Kenya. We want to target to be between 12-24 participants. We plan to use didactic lectures, small working groups, gamification, and team building methods.

I believe the scientific content behind the cause and effect of climate change may be challenging. The content on policy engagement and understanding the web of key players in the field of climate change and adaptation may be a lot to digest. Therefore, we want to do some sessions online before the 3-day workshop to expose the participants to the content prior to their arrival. The content on climate change adaptation and mitigation is the most helpful content. I also appreciate the network of other trainers who have already expressed willingness to collaborate in helping each other to deliver trainings."

Nyakio Mburu

Secretary General and National Member Organization President, Medical Students' Association of Kenya (MSAKE-Kenya)



Replication workshop in Kibera

"I plan to replicate the Youth Academy's training on climate adaptation and leadership in Kibera by organizing workshops and weekly sessions at local social grounds, targeting children and youth. These sessions will focus on key topics, such as climate change and vulnerability, policy advocacy, and approaches to implementing climate adaptation solutions. The goal is to educate 50 to 100 community members on environmental issues and equip them with practical skills for climate resilience. I will use interactive discussions and group activities to engage the audience, and while some concepts may be challenging, I anticipate that the community's energy and enthusiasm will facilitate their understanding. The session on sustainability from the Youth Academy will be particularly useful in this process."

Richard Maluku Chalo





07

CHAPTER

Looking forward to 2025

Climate adaptation is not just about implementing response measures; it is about empowering people—especially young people—with the knowledge and leadership skills they need to thrive in an uncertain future. With this goal in mind, we created the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership. Our first 65 participants have already become trainers themselves, ready to replicate the program across Kenya and beyond.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the professors and educators at the University of Nairobi and the University of Groningen—two leading academic institutions—for collaborating with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) to develop this Youth Academy model. I also wish to recognize Kenya’s Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Creative Economy, and Sports, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry for their forward-thinking leadership in engaging young people in climate adaptation through this initiative.

Let us harness the power of education to build a climate-resilient Africa, equipping people with the knowledge and skills to reverse the tide of climate change. Through education, communities can move from merely surviving to truly thriving—fostering innovation, strengthening local capacities, and amplifying youth voices.

By investing in education, we invest in the future of Africa and pave the way for a greener, safer, and more climate-resilient world.



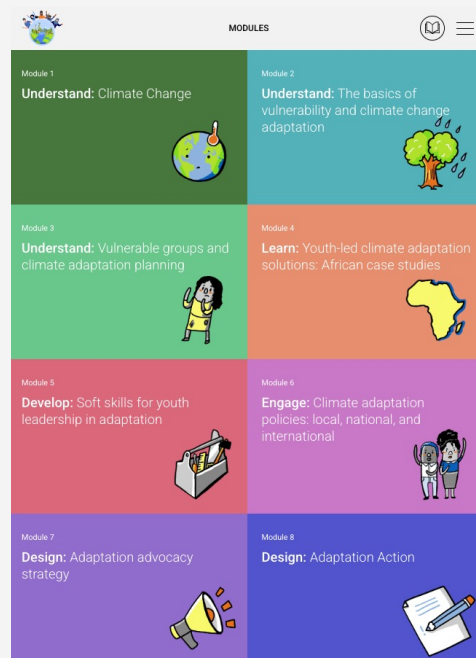
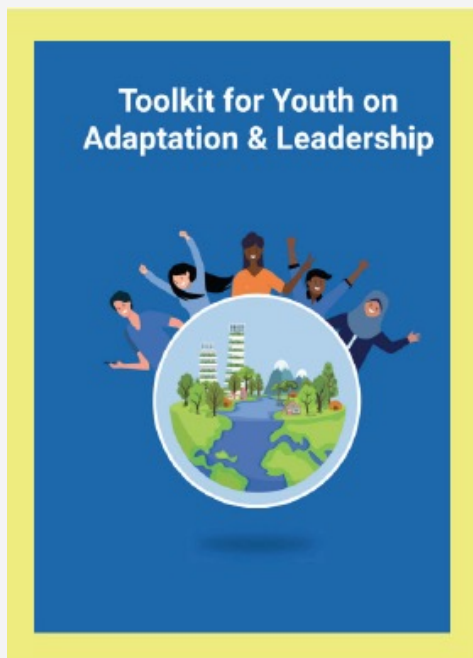
Adriana Valenzuela

Youth Leadership and Education Team Lead



Resources

Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation and Leadership



Photos:

- [Dialogue on Accelerating Adaptation Education in a Climate Emergency | Flickr](#)
- [Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership | Flickr](#)

Videos:

- [GCA Dialogue: Accelerating Adaptation Education in a Climate Emergency](#)
- [Youth Academy on Climate Change Adaptation and Leadership](#)
- [Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, 12th October 2024 Kenya Lighthouse event](#)

Professors and lecturers

University of Nairobi



Prof. Daniel Olago

Director, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA)

Chairman, Department of Earth and Climate Sciences

CCA – Environment, Water & Ecosystems

Focus: Environment, Water & Ecosystems



Dr. Bessy Kathambi

Earth & Climate Sciences / CCA – Environmental Governance

Focus: Environmental governance and management



Prof. John Kimenju

Prof. of Plant Nematology

Department of Plant Science & Crop Protection / CCA - crop health

Focus: Plant Pathology (Nematology)



Dr. James Otieno Kaoga

Earth & Climate Sciences / CCA – Environment, Water & Ecosystems

Focus: Environment, Water & Ecosystems



Ms. Eunice Boruru Ongoro

Institute for climate change and adaptation (ICCA)

Earth & Climate Sciences / CCA – Gender

Focus: Climate change and gender



Dr. Timothy A. Downing

Institute for climate change and adaptation (ICCA)

Focus: Environment, Water & Ecosystems



Prof. Jeremiah Kalai

Educational Administration and Planning / Policy, Management Training

Focus: Educational Management, Corporate Governance in Education, Labor Relations in Education, Organizational Behavior in Education

Prof. Boniface Njoroge Ngaruiya

Department of Educational Communication, Technology & Pedagogical Studies / CCA & Education

Focus: Teaching Methods, Mathematics Education and Educational Technology



Dr. Ruth Wangui Kahiga

Educational Communication, Technology and Pedagogical Studies / Physical Education, Pedagogy

Focus: Educational Communication & Technology

Dr. Lilian Ganira

Educational Communication, Technology and Pedagogical Studies / Pedagogy, Environment.

Focus: Lecturer at the University of Nairobi, specialization in Early Years Education



Dr. Reuben Gitonga Mutegi

Educational Administration and Planning / Management training, Environment

Focus: Education and educational research, monitoring and evaluation, social sciences, women's studies

Dr. Stephen K. Mutiso

Educational Communication, Technology and Pedagogical Studies / Agricultural Education, Environment

Focus: Agricultural education



University of Groningen



Dr. Joram Tarusarira

Associate Prof.

Special Advisor & Climate Security Research Associate - Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Focus: Climate change, Adaptation, Peace and Security, Value-based approaches, Religion and Culture

Dr. Bartjan Pennink

Assistant Prof.

Management, Social Sciences

Focus: Project Management & Community Empowerment



Drs. Gerni Lutikhuis

Academic teacher, facilitator, coach

Professional & personal development

Focus: Pedagogical-didactic, communication and conflict management skills

Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Thomas Lerenten Lelekoitien

Climate Change Directorate

Deputy Director of Climate Change Adaptation



Global Center on Adaptation



Adriana Valenzuela

Youth Leadership and Education Team Lead at the Global Center on Adaptation

Focus: International climate change policy, climate education and youth leadership

Niccolò Delperto

Youth Leadership and Education Officer at the Global Center on Adaptation

Focus: International environmental law, youth engagement, climate education



Lauren O'Neill

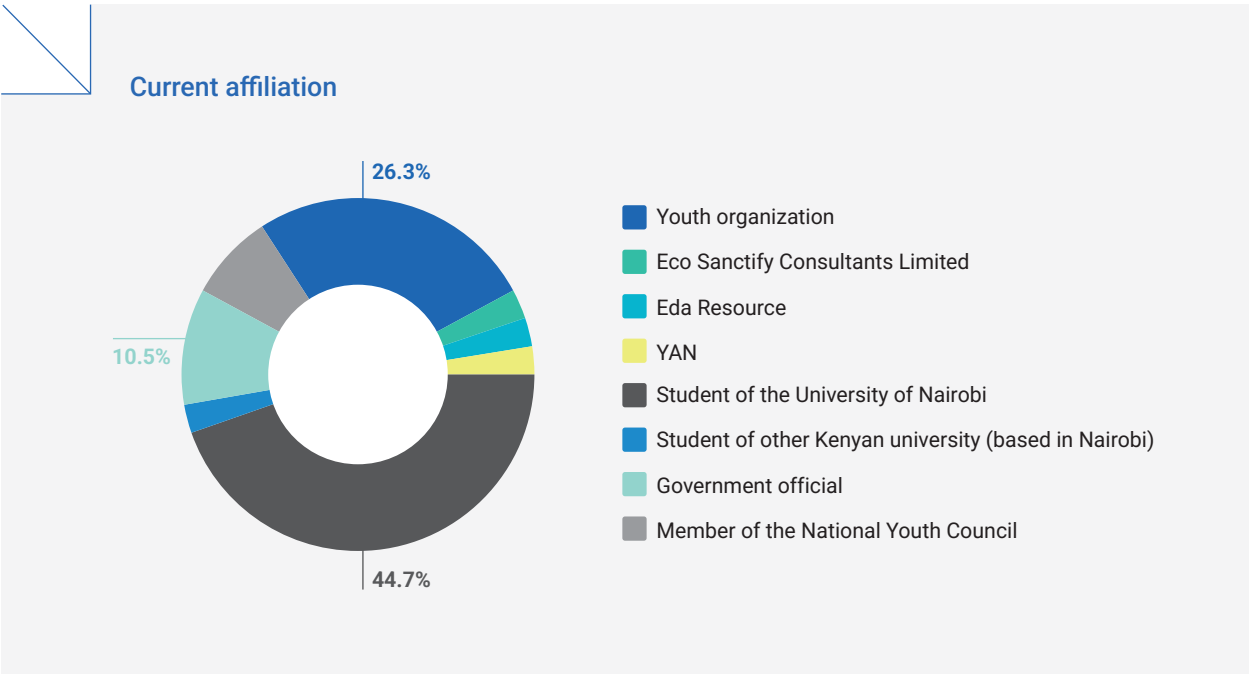
Youth Leadership and Education Officer at the Global Center on Adaptation

Focus: International children's rights, youth engagement, climate education

Participants

The first cohort consisted of 65 young Kenyans from diverse educational and professional backgrounds. Participants included undergraduate and postgraduate students, young professionals working in various sectors (including fields related to climate change), and youth leaders engaged with universities, NGOs, or the government through community-based organizations and start-ups. Their expertise spanned a wide range of sectors, including policy, health, engineering, art, law, environmental science, geography, anthropology, and business.

Kenya's Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sport mobilized participants from within the Ministry and the National Youth Council, while Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry nominated ten representatives from youth organizations. These representatives were engaged in climate adaptation and youth leadership. The cohort also included representatives from the University of Nairobi, other universities in Nairobi, and members of the Youth Adaptation Network.



Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports



Evangeline Murugi

"The Global Center on Adaptation training has deepened my understanding of climate change and strategies for resilience. It has empowered me to take actionable steps toward safeguarding communities and ecosystems in the face of a changing climate."

Peter Karanja

"The Global Center on Adaptation training has provided an in-depth understanding of climate change, its global impact, mitigation measures, and adaptation strategies."



Maureen Musyoki

"The Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership gave me many "light bulb" moments in matters concerning climate adaptation. It was eye-opening."

Samuel Owino

"GCA's Youth Academy has given me a holistic and insightful understanding of climate change and interconnectedness to different dynamics such as gender and geographical differences. I intend to incorporate the knowledge I have gained from the Academy in my field to act as an ambassador for adaptation for a restored globe and eventually improved livelihoods."



Charles Muhombe

"The GCA's Youth Climate Academy training has elevated my role in climate adaptation to a whole new level that will have a transformative impact on my general understanding of the subject, and, by extension, help contribute positively to the Government of Kenya's agenda on climate change action measures."

National Youth Council

Irene Tangus

"My experience with the Youth Academy has been insightful and impactful. Through the Youth Academy, one thing that stood out is how we can incorporate our individual strengths to push the climate adaptation agenda."



National Youth Council



Violet Wanjiru Chege

"My time at the Youth Academy has been a journey of discovery, unravelling the complexities of climate adaptation. But this is just the beginning; now it's my turn to transform this knowledge into action, empowering my community with the awareness and capacity we need to adapt and thrive in a changing world."

Yeswa William Johnstone

"My experience at the GCA Youth Academy was transformative. Learning about climate adaptation and witnessing farmers in Kitui implement sustainable techniques inspired me to bring these practices back to my community and, through the National Youth Council, I'll be able to engage youth across the country on their role and the place of innovation in climate adaptation in fostering resilience."



Evans Booker

"I'm so excited to have acquired all this knowledge from the Youth Academy. I am really looking forward to putting the knowledge to use to make our world a better place for humanity and posterity with climate adaptation and action at the center of it all!"

Denis Kithinji Kobia

"Attending the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership was a transformative experience that deepened my understanding of climate adaptation and equipped me with practical solutions tailored to Africa's unique challenges. The collaboration between the Global Center on Adaptation, the University of Groningen, and the University of Nairobi ignited my passion to drive impactful change for a resilient, sustainable future."



University of Nairobi



Felix Atamba

"The Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership came at a right time when the world is struggling with the effects of climate change. It was a great opportunity to prepare the next generation of leaders, to not only adapt to these changes but also to lead in the creation of sustainable and resilient systems for future generations."

University of Nairobi

Phoebe Wangari Ndegwa

"Did you know that healthy soils harbor three times more organic carbon than all the vegetation there is? Practicing sustainable soil management is a great adaptation measure to climate change. Let us do this. It's all within our means as humans. The more we implement climate adaptation measures as a community, region, country, or continent, the more we become resilient to climate change."



Mathew Ngaruiya Mungai

"The Youth Academy has sensitized me on a need for thorough vetting of solutions aimed at adapting to climate change since what may appear as a solution might end up exacerbating an already dire situation. Interacting with people passionate about the climate has opened me up to the work needed if we're to curb the impact climate change is having on the environment."

Moraa Emmah Otware

"I believe that building climate resilience starts with empowering communities to adapt and thrive in the face of climate change."



Salim Gichue

"Climate change is real, and adaptive strategies are key in offering sustainable solutions."

Hellen Mawia Mukiti

"From the Youth Academy, I gained a deep understanding of climate change impacts and the importance of adaptation strategies for building resilience in vulnerable sectors like agriculture. I honed leadership skills, such as communication and teamwork, which are essential for driving climate action. The program also emphasized climate advocacy, sustainable practices, and the importance of innovative solutions."



Nancy Kiprono

"GCA has made me realize the great challenge; I have to double down on adaptation in my community due to the impacts of climate change. For me this is KEY."

University of Nairobi

Mildred Ademo

"GCA Youth Academy was an eye-opener of what really is happening on the ground. Solutions are there; we need ways on how to amplify them."



Pascal Ogola

"The program was well-structured, featuring clear objectives and informative, practical content delivered by knowledgeable facilitators who fostered an engaging learning environment focused on climate adaptation. Networking with fellow participants opened avenues for collaboration on future projects and enhanced my leadership capacity to implement community climate adaptation initiatives."



Joseph Nganga Ndiba

"The GCA Youth Academy has offered me profound and new insights that will help me in my pursuit of creating a climate resilient world for all. Furthermore, the youth toolkit captures relevant and timely adaptation material that will help me in my mission. Long live the GCA Youth Academy."



Gabriel Dinda

"The Youth Academy has uniquely managed to present very deep climate change information in a dynamic and easy-to-grasp way. The toolkit provided is comprehensive and provides a solid guide for replication of the program. To describe the program as amazing is an understatement. It is much more!"



Serena Wanjiru Wainana

"The Youth Academy has been a wakeup call for me in matters of climate change. I'm now well equipped to share the knowledge learnt with my local community members so that we can be able to come up with strategies to adapt to the changes."



Sarah Anyango Ouma

"I have learnt so much at the GCA Youth Academy. Now, I have the tools to facilitate rich knowledge-sharing opportunities and confidently lead engaging, educational youth workshops on climate adaptation. Youth are not mere bystanders; we are revolutionaries driving change."



University of Nairobi

Anita Nkirote

"The training has been quite insightful and eye-opening. I am looking forward to implementing what I have learnt."



Peris Mudibo Tendet

"The GCA Youth Academy has shown me that youth voices are not just part of the conversation; they are the driving force to shaping a resilient and adaptive future."

Mercy Mutana

"The GCA Youth Academy was an insightful and enjoyable experience. The holistic lessons offered a great exposure to climate change from academic, industry, and community perspectives. Learning with people from different professional backgrounds enriched the experience, as did having experienced and intentional tutors."



Janet Akinyi Obongo

"The GCA Youth Academy was a defining moment, a place where ideas became action. It awakened in me the potential of sustainable practices and sparked a vision to unlock the creativity of youth across Kenya."

Richard Maluku Chalo

"Having learnt so much at the GCA Youth Academy, I have the tools to facilitate rich knowledge-sharing opportunities and confidently lead engaging, educational youth workshops on climate adaptation. Youth are not mere bystanders; we are revolutionaries driving change."



Benedict Kiprotich Ngetich

"I enjoyed my time in the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership. The new knowledge gained and the huge network of friends I have made will be a good start for climate adaptation advocacy. I cannot wait to replicate the training!"

Sifa Kinoti

"It's been a great platform to network and strengthen our capacities as trainers. Looking forward to training many more #Youth4Adaptation"



University of Nairobi



Chantal Esperance

"Climate adaptation isn't just about surviving, it's about thriving. The GCA Youth Academy has fueled my resolve to turn knowledge into action, shaping resilient communities ready for tomorrow's challenges. This journey taught me that adapting to climate change isn't a choice – it's a responsibility. Now, it's my mission to champion solutions that create lasting change for people and the planet."

Felix Ochieng Akech

"I am committed to advancing climate adaptation solutions by empowering youth leadership and driving innovative strategies that foster resilience in vulnerable communities."



Boaz Ogada

"The GCA Youth Academy is an incredible program for anyone interested in learning about the interconnectedness of climate change with broader sustainability goals that equipped me with the strategic skills required to navigate and design holistic adaptation solutions that are fit-for-purpose for Africa."

Professor Jeremy Kalai

Chairman, Department of Educational Administration and Planning
Focus: Educational Management, Corporate Governance in Education,
Labour Relations in Education, Organisational Behaviour in Education



Other Kenyan Universities

Brian Muuo Muia

Technical University of Kenya



"GCA has actualized one of its brilliant ideas of training the trainers through The Youth Academy. It is quite a nice program that was informative and engaging, designed for the African context. For me, it was not only training but also formative, equipping me with skills, knowledge, and a hub to network with my fellow leaders. It has sharpened me to be an expert on climate adaptation."

Other Kenyan Universities

Lorraine Kabaka

Kenyatta University

"A key truth was reinforced with the conclusion of the Youth Academy: Global temperatures are rapidly approaching 1.5°C, as outlined in the latest IPCC report. At the academy, we were taught that to empower communities, we must first empower ourselves. In order to foster resilience against the escalating climate challenges, it is crucial for us to engage with communities deeply and respect the indigenous knowledge of those who are well aware of the rhythm of their land. For example, Zai pits to grow crops during dry periods or droughts as a climate adaptation strategy."



Johnstone Imbote

PAC University

"GCA is the right plug of solutions in regards to climate change."

Youth Organizations (Ministry of Environment)

Martha Kwamboke

Hatua Achievers Organization

"As Nelson Mandela said: 'Education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world.' GCA has given us a very insightful and educational platform that has really been empowering, and I am looking forward to using the knowledge gained to educate others and help the community to understand the impact of climate change, adaptation, and mitigation strategies."



Albert Ambrose Michura

Jkuat Association of Green Energy

"Persuaded to climate adaptation measures that also serve as mitigation measures to climate action."

Lilian Wairimu

Foster Green Organization

"I have witnessed that GCA is a hub of knowledge and innovation where minds come together to create, learn, and inspire."



Youth Organizations (Ministry of Environment)

Eunice Odago

EDA Resource



"Attending the Youth Academy, organized by the Global Center on Adaptation, was a game-changer for me. It provided key insights into climate adaptation and equipped me with the tools to turn ideas into impactful projects. Beyond the technical knowledge, the academy connected me with a strong network of professionals, inspiring collaboration and reinforcing the importance of youth leadership in climate action."

Sharon Siamanta

Youth Advisory Panel, United Nations Population Fund, Kenya

"This academy has been an insightful, exciting, and unforgettable experience for me. The sessions were very insightful and I got to learn about climate change, the effects of climate change in different sectors, and how to adapt to these impacts. The interactions with fellow participants and professors enriched my knowledge, and I have made impactful connections for now and the future as a young leader. As a trainer-of-trainers of climate adaptation, I will share this knowledge with grassroots for a global climate change adaptation to build a more resilient world. #Youth4Adaptation"



Innocent Deckoks Omil

ECAS Institute - Programs Officer

Eco Sanctify Consultants Limited - Founder



"Change is inevitable. As a transformed leader, I hold the power to collaboratively transform the continent and globe at large, with innovative, progressive, transformative, and resilient adaptation solutions."

Susan Sindani

Kenya PHE Youth Coalition and Youth Adaptation Network - Kenya

"I have attended many trainings, but this has so far been the most in depth, timely, relevant, and practical learning experience that has enabled me to apply what I have learnt directly to my work, even when the training was ongoing. Thank you, GCA, for letting us be trained by the best of the best in the industry. I will definitely make you proud for investing in me, us, as young people living in Kenya."



Youth Organizations (Ministry of Environment)



Tabitha Gathii

MIDRIFT human rights network

"Thank you, GCA, for equipping me with the knowledge and skills to be a catalyst for climate resilience. This training has empowered me to drive meaningful adaptation efforts, ensuring a sustainable future, for both communities and ecosystems."

Geoffrey Kiprotich Bett

Green youth for peace and development

"The future of our environment depends on the responsible youths of today who protect the environment."



Farida Nameelok Lelekong

Young Women's Christian Association, Kenya

"Knowledge empowers, but action transforms. Together, we can create the change we need."

Other Young People



Ivy Muchoki

GCA's CEO Youth Advisory Panel

"Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation."

Larry Dwayne

VSO (volunteer service overseas), volunteering for the From Waste 2 Work project

"GCA has provided me with critical information and skills on climate adaptation and leadership, which will go a long way in my advocacy."



Andreann Ndebu

Youth Adaptation Network – Kenya

"At the Youth Academy, I was constantly reminded that I should be the change I want to see in the world."

Other Young People

Teresia Karimi

Youth Adaptation Network – Kenya

"There's more that needs to be addressed in tackling and preventing further crisis caused by climate change, and we need to be more innovative and come up with climate adaptation solutions for the present and the future."



Eliseus Bamporineza

Ban Ki-Moon Centre for Global Citizens

"The Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership has ignited in me a flame of hope for a youth-led green future."

Humphrey Machuka

Kenya Redcross. Bachelor of commerce (Procurement and Supply Chain Management)

"The time is now to adapt to a sustainable future, as we say in the Kenyan way: it's kicking and going."



Felicia Mariga

Felicia Mariga Foundation - Founder
Sycamore Int. Consultancy

"Pioneering adaptation solutions for a climate-resilient tomorrow."

Charity Mwabu

University of Nairobi

"The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas but in escaping from the old ones. The Youth Academy has been as much about unlearning the old habits as much as it has been about gaining new insights."



Denis Waweru

University of Nairobi, Faculty of Arts and Social sciences, Institute of Anthropology Gender & African Studies

"Just as stars in the beautiful night skies guide sailors through the rough seas, the Youth Academy is a guiding light that will navigate the world toward a brighter and more sustainable future."

Krista Wambui

University of Nairobi and Tendet Foundation

"The Youth Academy is not just a place of learning; it's a foundation where young minds are empowered, talents are nurtured, and future leaders are shaped to make a lasting impact on the world."



Other Young People



Joseph Nguthiru

HyaPak / M-Situ / AfroClimate / Obama Foundation

"If adaptation is Africa's passport to the future, then the Youth Academy is the ticket that gets us there. In three words, I can sum up everything we've learnt about climate: adapt or perish."

Lucie Omondi

Acting Secretary General at Livegreat Foundation and Social entrepreneur

"We need an informed approach to tackle the climate change issue. Kudos to the creators of this academy."



Sam Okiemwa

Youth Adaptation Network- climate tech focus

"After the intense training from unmatched adaptation experts and professors, I understood better that the environment is our external body. The most amazing and amusing fact is that it reacts positively to antiaging medicine (adaptation) under medication prescribed by professional and prime doctors (the youth in adaptation). GCA is the medical directorate, and its academy is the Faculty of Medicine."



Sankara Nyagaya

Youth Adaptation Network – Kenya

"Indigenous cultural practices and knowledge together with science, technology, and innovation is a revolutionary merger in climate adaptation."



Nyakio Mburu

Medical Students' Association of Kenya

"Truly, victory lies in an abundance of advisors. To the brilliant, forward-thinking minds I had the privilege of meeting - VIVA!"



Erick Philip Komunga

Medical Students' Association of Kenya

"Doing good for humanity to me feels like living more in those few years. One has been a servant more than one who's probably lived more than 80 years. God bless us all."









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