



GLOBAL  
CENTER ON  
ADAPTATION

# Building Resilient Economies

GCA Annual Report 2024





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# Board Report

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*Photo credits: iStock/Paresh3d*



# 1. FOREWORD

In 2024, the world experienced record-breaking temperatures—further proof that the climate crisis is accelerating faster than our collective response. These extremes are not isolated events; they are warning signals of a new climate reality already destabilizing lives and livelihoods, particularly in the world’s most vulnerable regions. Climate change is no longer a distant risk. It is now a defining force shaping global stability—fueling displacement, deepening inequality, and exacerbating conflict over water and food.

The Global Center on Adaptation exists to ensure the world is not only alert to these risks but actively rising to meet them. Our mission is clear: to accelerate adaptation action and build resilience for those on the frontlines of climate impacts. In the past year, we have scaled up this work significantly—expanding partnerships, mobilizing finance, and demonstrating solutions that are both ambitious and achievable.

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**The climate crisis is gaining ground, for now at the expense of the world’s most vulnerable people but, never forget, it will come for all of us unless we take more urgent action at a far greater scale. It has been my privilege to be a founding member of the Global Center on Adaptation. Its work has never been more relevant than today and I encourage you to discover more by reading this report and getting involved in adapting our planet to rising temperatures.**



**Ban Ki-moon**

8<sup>th</sup> Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Honorary Chair of the Global Center on Adaptation Supervisory Board



*Global leaders double down on climate adaptation at GCA Leaders' Dialogue  
(Photo credits: GCA)*



**The Global Center on Adaptation has proven in record time since its creation how adapting to climate change can bring positive benefits to societies and economies. It is my duty and responsibility to drive this work forward and I am certain that what you will find in the following pages will convince you that our mission is one of primary importance to the future of our planet.**



**Macky Sall**

4<sup>th</sup> President of Senegal  
Chair of the Global Center on  
Adaptation Supervisory Board

Nowhere is this more evident than in Africa. Through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), GCA has helped shape over US\$16 billion in climate finance, reaching more than 80 million people across 40 countries.

These investments are reducing vulnerability, creating nearly a million jobs, and climate-proofing development across critical sectors. From food systems to infrastructure, we are embedding resilience into the core of national priorities.

This momentum is not limited to Africa. In Bangladesh, we are anchoring a growing portfolio of projects across Asia focused on nature-based solutions and green infrastructure, with US\$1.3 billion in investments now underway. These initiatives will boost resilience for 12 million people.

Innovation lies at the heart of our approach. GCA is pioneering the use of climate-smart digital tools to help smallholder farmers adapt faster and more effectively. By 2025, we aim to shape US\$10 billion in investments to support 38 million farmers across 26 countries. In infrastructure, we have already shaped US\$4.6 billion in resilient investments reaching over 33 million people and are on track to triple this impact.



*GCA builds local capacity in Bangladesh to drive adaptation at a much greater scale  
(Photo credits: GCA)*





**Adaptation is not just a survival strategy; it is an opportunity for innovation and collaboration, ensuring that businesses and societies thrive in the face of encroaching climate change threats. The private sector is aware of this challenge, but needs to do more and faster.**



**Feike Sijbesma**

Honorary Chairman, Royal DSM  
Co-Chair of the Global Center on  
Adaptation Supervisory Board

But it is not just finance and infrastructure that matter. It is people—especially youth—who will define the future of adaptation. Our global youth program has reached over 18,000 young leaders from 160 countries, building capacity, mobilizing action, and giving voice to the next generation of climate champions.

Adaptation finance, however, remains far below what is needed—just 5% of all climate finance. This must change. GCA is working with governments, international financial institutions, and the private sector to unlock new sources of capital. Through direct access to climate funds, green bonds, and blended finance, we are working to ensure adaptation investments match the scale of the threat.

The achievements of the past year reflect the strength of our partnerships—with governments, multilateral banks, the private sector, and civil society. I pay special tribute to our principal partner, the African Development Bank, and to the leadership of heads of state such as President

Ruto of Kenya, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania, and former President Macky Sall of Senegal. Their commitment is a model for the kind of leadership this moment demands.

We face an immense task. Africa alone requires US\$11.6 trillion in adaptation investment by 2035. But the message from our work is clear: we know what works, and we are proving that adaptation is possible at scale. What is needed now is more urgency, more ambition, and more solidarity.

In the pages that follow, you will read about what adaptation looks like in practice. These are not just projects—they are lifelines. They are proof points of what we can achieve when we act boldly, work together, and put people first.

The race to resilience has begun. And there is no time to lose.



*Patrick Verkooijen*

**Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen**  
**President and CEO**  
**Global Center on Adaptation**



*Through People's Adaptation Plans, GCA is strengthening resilience from the ground up (Photo credits: GCA)*

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Copernicus Climate Service confirmed that 2024 was the first year to see global temperatures exceed the symbolic threshold of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, marking the world's hottest year on record. In response to this unprecedented climate reality, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) dramatically accelerated its work to build resilience at scale.

Harnessing the expertise of global, regional and local partners, GCA systematically embeds cutting-edge adaptation measures into major infrastructure, agriculture, water and other sectoral investments by international financial institutions. This ensures that, despite mounting climate risks, these projects continue to deliver lasting benefits to communities around the world.

At the heart of its strategy lies the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), the largest adaptation initiative ever launched—underscoring GCA's commitment to driving rapid, continent-wide climate resilience.



To date, AAAP has shaped over **US\$16 billion**,



directly enhancing the resilience of over **80 million people**



in **40 countries**



and generating nearly **one million jobs**.



Its successful model has also been expanded into **Asia**, with **Bangladesh** anchoring efforts through



nine large-scale projects worth **US\$1.3 billion**,



expected to benefit **12 million people**



and create **15,000 jobs**.

GCA's integrated approach addresses food security, infrastructure resilience, youth entrepreneurship, and innovative climate finance. Notably, GCA's food security initiatives aim to leverage **US\$10 billion by 2025**, supporting climate-smart agriculture for **38 million farmers**. Infrastructure projects employing nature-based solutions have shaped **US\$4.6 billion** in investment, benefiting **33.3 million people** across **23 countries** and generating **over 90,000 jobs**.

The adaptation finance gap remains significant; despite climate finance doubling to US\$ 1.5 trillion annually, adaptation comprises only 5% of this total. GCA is addressing this disparity through working with partners to unlock greater access to adaptation finance.

Youth engagement emerged as another critical area, with GCA's youth programs engaging over **18,000 participants** from **160 countries**. Initiatives like the African Youth Adaptation (YouthADAPT) Solutions Challenge foster youth-led adaptation enterprises, reinforcing the role of young people in building climate-resilient futures.

In Asia, notably Bangladesh, GCA's locally-led adaptation initiatives have shaped community-level climate resilience through People's Adaptation Plans, directly influencing international financial institutions' investments. Similarly, in China, GCA has actively supported local governments in mainstreaming climate resilience into urban planning and municipal governance.

Looking forward, GCA remains committed to accelerating global adaptation through enhanced partnership, innovative finance, and strategic interventions. The urgency underscored by surpassing the 1.5°C warming threshold necessitates unprecedented collaboration and ambition. Through continued action, innovation, and leadership, GCA seeks not only to mitigate climate risks but also to harness adaptation as an opportunity for sustainable, inclusive global development.



GCA remains committed to accelerating global adaptation, uniting 45 nations and over 10 heads of state at UNGA79 to push it to the top of the agenda (Photo credits: GCA)

## 3. ABOUT THE GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

### MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization founded in 2018 to accelerate action on climate adaptation.



**Our mission** is to support the world's most vulnerable populations by mobilizing global knowledge, shaping policy and finance, and catalyzing practical solutions at speed and scale. Through close collaboration with partners, we ensure effective and efficient delivery of results where they are needed most.



**Our vision** is a climate-resilient world where communities, economies, and ecosystems can thrive despite growing environmental challenges. Recognizing that the poorest people in the poorest countries are the least equipped to withstand the impacts of the climate emergency, we are committed to making climate adaptation central to sustainable development efforts worldwide — not an afterthought.



**Our values** guide everything we do. We are driven by equity, ensuring that those most at risk from the climate crisis are at the center of our efforts. We act with urgency, recognizing the immediacy of the challenges we face. We believe in the power of collaboration, bringing together diverse stakeholders to co-create solutions that are both locally grounded and globally informed. We foster innovation by championing bold, evidence-based approaches that can deliver transformational change. Above all, we uphold integrity, acting transparently and remaining accountable to science, to our partners, and to the communities we serve.

GCA's strategic objectives reflect our ambition and our practical focus. We aim to accelerate adaptation action by delivering scalable, bankable solutions in key sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, water, and youth employment. We work to influence policy and finance by partnering with governments and financial institutions to integrate climate risk into national planning and investment decisions. We advance knowledge and learning through applied research, pilot projects, and capacity-building initiatives that translate global insights into local resilience. And we strengthen partnerships across the public and private sectors to align efforts, unlock financing, and drive systemic, lasting change.

Our approach is distinctive and action-oriented. As a solutions broker, GCA connects global ambition with local implementation. We combine high-level policy influence with country-level delivery, climate-proofing development investments and co-designing adaptation strategies with national and local governments. We prioritize demand-driven interventions, grounded in the needs of our partners and focused on measurable improvements in resilience. By connecting communities with the tools, finance, and knowledge they need, we aim to turn adaptation from a global challenge into a shared opportunity for growth, equity, and sustainability.





*As a solutions broker, GCA connects global ambition with local implementation  
(Photo credits: GCA)*





*The AAAP is Africa's response to the impacts of the climate crisis  
(Photo credits: iStock/Bartosz Hadyniak)*

## 4. OUR WORK IN AFRICA

In Africa, our work is guided by three core approaches: knowledge, leadership, and action. These pillars ensure that adaptation solutions are evidence-based, inclusive, and impactful. The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) collaborates with governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), private sector actors, academia, and community-based organizations to shape investments that build resilience for climate-vulnerable populations while creating economic opportunities.

### KNOWLEDGE

Research  
for Impact



GCA builds and accelerates the application of adaptation knowledge globally. GCA creates and manages knowledge, leads research to fill knowledge gaps, and drives innovation to develop specialized approaches.

### LEADERSHIP

Agenda Setting  
& Advocacy



GCA's convening power brings together the most influential thinkers and decision-makers, while giving voice to the most vulnerable. GCA formulates policy messages to shape and move global, regional, and local adaptation agendas forward.

### ACTION

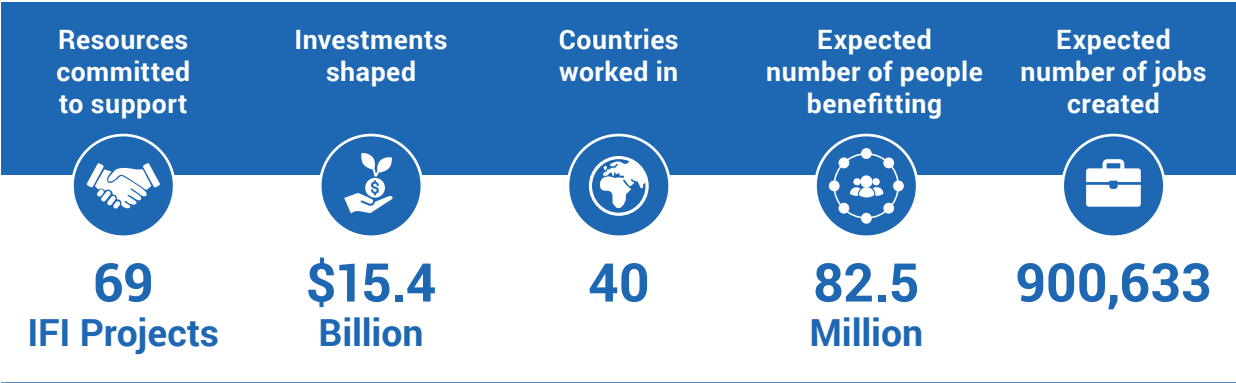
Programs



GCA works with governments, academia, community-based organizations, IFIs, national banks, and private financial institutions to shape and implement investments in a way that builds resilience for climate-vulnerable people and creates jobs. GCA supports access to financing from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).



Since 2021, GCA has shaped 69 investment projects worth US\$15.4 billion, directly benefiting 82.5 million people and generating over 900,000 jobs.



### Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP)

Through our flagship initiative, the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), GCA collaborates with governments, financial institutions, and local organizations to implement transformative projects that span food security, infrastructure resilience, youth entrepreneurship, and climate finance.

The AAAP is an African-led initiative endorsed by the African Union with a goal of mobilizing US\$25 billion by 2025 to accelerate climate adaptation actions across the continent.

The AAAP has two financing mechanisms: the Upstream Financing Facility, managed by GCA, and the Climate Action Window (CAW), managed under the African Development Bank's (AfDB) African Development Fund (ADF). Through the AAAP Upstream Financing Facility, GCA and its implementation partners, many of them African institutions, support the mainstreaming of climate adaptation components into the projects of multilateral development banks and other public and private development finance institutions.

It focuses on four interconnected pillars:



**Pillar 1: Food Security**

With a goal to shape at least US\$10 billion in investments by 2025 to build climate-smart agriculture and resilient food systems to support food security for at least 38 million farmers and herders in 26 African countries.



**Pillar 2: Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions**

With a goal to mainstream innovative climate resilience solutions, including NbS, into US\$12 billion worth of investments in infrastructure for water, transport, energy, and urban systems by 2025 to ensure infrastructure assets and services for 100 million people are resilient to climate change.

**Pillar 3: Youth Entrepreneurship and Adaptation Jobs**

With a goal to support one million youth with entrepreneurship skills and to create 5 million adaptation jobs through IFI investments worth over US\$2 billion by 2025.

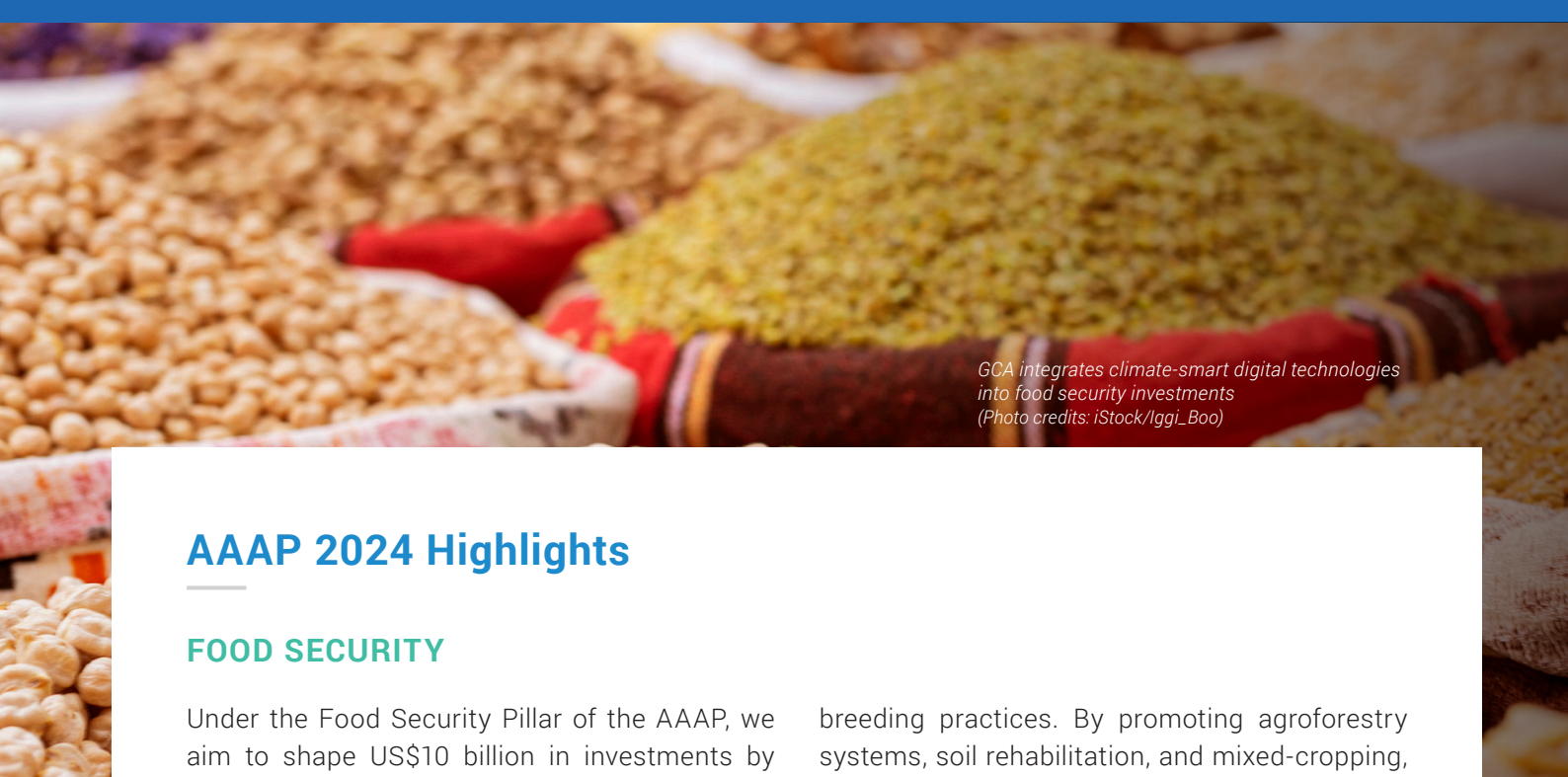
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**Pillar 4: Adaptation Finance**

With a goal to unlock access to US\$1 billion in adaptation finance by 2025 by designing innovative public and private financial instruments and solutions that include structuring resilience bonds and debt for-resilience swaps, influencing IFI investments for the financial sector, and developing aggregation mechanisms for adaptation investment assets and monetization of adaptation benefits.

These are areas where investments in climate adaptation and resilience building can yield high economic and social dividends for African nations and can accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Each pillar has business lines that are designed to prioritize adaptation needs and mainstream adaptation solutions into investments to ensure that countries leverage limited investment resources to optimize the climate adaptation dividend.





*GCA integrates climate-smart digital technologies into food security investments  
(Photo credits: iStock/Iggi\_Boo)*

## AAAP 2024 Highlights

### FOOD SECURITY

Under the Food Security Pillar of the AAAP, we aim to shape US\$10 billion in investments by the end of 2025. These investments will support climate-resilient agricultural systems for 38 million farmers across 26 countries, fostering sustainable livelihoods, improving nutrition, and building resilience to climate change. A core strategy involves leveraging climate-smart digital adaptation technologies that can be scaled rapidly to meet the needs of smallholder farmers. In partnership with CGIAR and other organizations, GCA helps integrate high-resolution climate risk assessments and proven innovations into agriculture and food-security projects. By embedding data-driven tools and climate-adaptive practices in various farming systems—including livestock management, crop production, and agroforestry—GCA drives tangible outcomes that reduce vulnerability and secure rural communities' long-term prosperity.

GCA's collaboration with CGIAR focuses on designing interventions that blend scientific research with on-the-ground implementation. Some of the key components of this partnership include digital advisory services that offer real-time guidance on weather patterns, pest and disease control, and optimized planting times; risk assessment tools such as satellite imagery and GIS mapping that allow farmers to anticipate droughts, floods, and heatwaves; and the development and dissemination of climate-resilient crop varieties capable of withstanding extreme conditions. In addition, the partnership encourages improved livestock management adaptation through innovations such as enhanced veterinary care and climate-resilient

breeding practices. By promoting agroforestry systems, soil rehabilitation, and mixed-cropping, GCA helps maintain biodiversity and protect rural livelihoods from market and climate risks.

One project highlight is the Ethiopia Food Systems Resilience Program, a US\$600 million initiative that integrates digital advisory services into value chains for wheat, coffee, maize, cattle, and soybean. This program employs drought-tolerant seed varieties and early warning systems that broadcast alerts via mobile networks, thereby reducing post-harvest losses and supporting the capacity building of local extension officers. Another major undertaking is the Ghana Tree Crop Diversification Project, a US\$227 million effort focused on cocoa, cashew, coconut, and rubber value chains. This project promotes specialized e-extension services that encourage mixed-cropping systems and finance innovations, providing smallholders better access to credit while mitigating climate and market-related risks. Meanwhile, the Malawi Sustainable Agricultural Production Program, valued at US\$53 million, is reinforcing early warning systems for farmers in flood-prone and drought-affected regions. By advocating for conservation agriculture, integrated pest management, and local-level climate data collection, this initiative strengthens overall community resilience.

Since its inception, the AAAP's Food Security Pillar has shaped over US\$4 billion in agricultural investments. Its efforts have reached 18 million people, of whom 46 percent are women, and created 512,000 jobs with an emphasis on youth employment in rural areas. In addition, digital

solutions have been deployed across 600,000 hectares, accelerating the adoption of innovative technologies for sustainable agriculture. In 2024, the Food Security pillar shaped US\$1.9 billion in investments, benefitting 8.3 million people and creating 378,050 jobs. GCA supported several initiatives, including the Food Security and Resilience Program in Tanzania and the Livestock and Agriculture Modernization Project (LAMP) in Niger. Technical assistance included the development of digital early warning services and multi-hazard contingency plans for climate risk preparedness in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Madagascar. GCA also delivered regional training on digital agro-climate advisory services in North

and Central Africa, equipping over 150 participants with skills to integrate climate information into dashboards, early warning systems, and risk insurance mechanisms. In addition, 77 adaptation planning tools and frameworks were identified and evaluated for use by policy and development planners across the continent. By 2025, GCA and its partners intend to expand these gains further, benefiting millions more smallholder farmers across the continent. Through scientific expertise, policy advocacy, and community-based outreach, the Food Security Pillar remains a driving force in building resilient, equitable, and sustainable agricultural economies in Africa.

## FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS

### Côte d'Ivoire

- Agro-Industrial Pole Project in the North-East

### Ethiopia

- Ethiopia Wheat Value Chain Development Project
- Food Security Resilience Project in Ethiopia

### Gambia

- Regional Resilience Rice Value Chain Development (REWARD)

### Ghana

- Ghana Tree Crop Diversification Project

### Malawi

- Sustainable Agricultural Production Program Project

### Morocco

- Inclusive and Sustainable Development Support Programme for Forest Areas

### Mozambique

- Inclusive Agri-Food Value-Chain Development Programme

### Multicountry: Zambia, Mozambique

- Program for integrated development and adaptation to climate change in the Zambezi

### Multicountry: Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

- Programme for the Reinforcement of Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel

### Multicountry: Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia

- Program to Build Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security in the Horn of Africa (BREFONS)

### Multicountry: Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and South Sudan

- Technical Assistance (TA) for field implementation of BREFONS

### Multicountry: Guinea, Senegal, Togo

- Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones

### Niger

- Livestock and Agriculture Modernization Project (LAMP)

### Nigeria

- Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (LPRES)
- TA support to field implementation of LPRES
- Agricultural Value Chain Program in the North (VCN)

### South Sudan

- South Sudan Climate Resilient Food Security and Agricultural Transformation Project (CRAFT)

### Tanzania

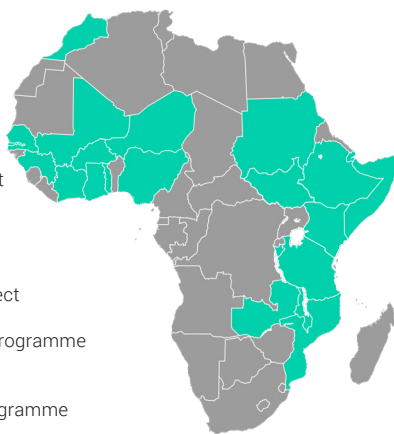
- Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program

### Senegal

- Programme National de Développement Intégré de L'Élevage au Sénégal

### Zambia

- Zambia Growth Opportunities



Investments  
shaped

**\$ 4.3 Billion**



Countries  
worked in

**25**



Expected  
number of people  
benefitting

**17.9 million**



Expected  
number of jobs  
created

**511,850**



## SPOTLIGHT STORY: Building Resilience for Food and Nutritional Security in the Horn of Africa (BREFONS)



GCA mainstreams adaptation solutions into agriculture and food security investments  
(Photo credits: iStock/hadynya)

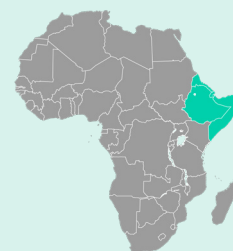
### CONTEXT

The Horn of Africa is a vast, arid, and semi-arid region of 4.5 million km<sup>2</sup> with a relatively fast-growing population of over 250 million inhabitants. However, weather in the Horn of Africa consists of torrential rains, which are often followed by torrid dry spells, triggering catastrophic droughts and record-breaking floods. With around 80% of the region's population depending on subsistence farming and herding to survive, minor setbacks can push villages headlong into hunger and malnutrition.



#### IFI Lead

African Development Bank



#### Investment

US\$226 million



#### Beneficiaries

1.3 million farmers and pastoralists in the Horn of Africa



#### Investment Project Objective

Improvement of food and nutrition security & increased resilience

## GCA SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT IFI INVESTMENTS

GCA worked with the AfDB, the Alliance of Biodiversity International, and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to improve food and nutrition security by strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of pastoral and agropastoral communities and production systems to climate change under the AfDB's Program to Build Resilience for Food and Nutritional Security in the Horn of Africa (BREFONS). The program also contributes to improving peace and security in the region by raising resilience to climate shocks and thus reducing conflicts that arise from climate-induced resource competition. The program covers six countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, and Eritrea.

GCA provided both upstream technical assistance and support in the implementation phase of the program. In partnership with CIAT, GCA developed toolkits to guide the implementation of digital technologies for the agricultural sector in Djibouti and Kenya; there is also scope for its wider application in other countries targeted in the intervention. Furthermore, GCA provided capacity building support to the governments of Djibouti and Kenya in identifying and implementing digital agricultural solutions. GCA support in Djibouti was primarily to identify the most promising digital technologies for climate adaptation and to develop a roadmap for the implementation of one or more digital technologies that have the potential to transform the agricultural sector and improve its resilience to climate change. In Djibouti, GCA facilitated a feasibility study and a validation workshop with stakeholders. From this, seven concept notes were developed, one under piloting with funding from the government. Out of the seven notes, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and AfDB proposed to fund three concept notes at US\$2.6 million. The World Bank Group (WBG) was interested in funding the remaining four concept notes.

## LESSONS LEARNED & WAY FORWARD

Collaboration with partners and national organizations in co-designing the bundled digital solutions for Djibouti and engagement with the AfDB Djibouti staff in the project contributed to the successful outcome.



*GCA and partners held trainings on early warning systems and risk insurance to strengthen community preparedness for climate shocks (Photo credits: GCA)*



**SPOTLIGHT STORY:**  
**Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project in Nigeria**



*In Nigeria, GCA is supporting the World Bank to boost livestock productivity and resilience through LPRES  
(Photo credits: iStock/poco\_bw)*

**CONTEXT**

Nigeria is classified as one of the ten most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards, in part due to its significant dependence on food production and rain-fed agriculture. The agriculture and livestock sector in Nigeria plays an important socio-economic role in the country, with 42% of the population owning at least one type of livestock and 30% of the population (mainly poorer households) relying on livestock production for their livelihoods. If current trends continue, productivity is estimated to decline between 10-25% by 2080. Rain-fed agriculture yields in some northern areas are predicted to decline by up to 50%, which will likely result in a 4.5% GDP reduction by 2050.



**IFI Lead**  
World Bank Group



**Investment**  
US\$500 million



**Beneficiaries**  
1.43 million people and 45 million livestock in Nigeria



**Investment Project Objective**  
Improve the productivity of the livestock value chain

## GCA SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT IFI INVESTMENTS

GCA, in partnership with Agramondis, is working with the WBG to improve the productivity of the livestock value chain and build climate resilience and food security for livestock farmers in Nigeria through the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (LPRES). The investment also aims to mitigate key drivers of farmer-herder conflicts in selected states in Nigeria. The project is achieving these outcomes by increasing livestock productivity, improving food and nutrition security, encouraging income growth, and building social cohesion among communal groups.

GCA's technical assistance and capacity building support to the project between March and September 2024 consisted of a comprehensive review and landscape analysis report of the livestock sector in Nigeria, including an assessment of climate-related risks and vulnerabilities and relevant digital solutions for climate adaptation. Following this, a validation workshop on the review and landscape analysis report was held. Additionally, an inventory of existing and viable climate-smart digital agriculture solutions applicable to the livestock sector, particularly cattle, small ruminants, and poultry and pig value chains, was developed. Opportunities and constraints of applying digital adaptation solutions were assessed so that interventions are well-targeted and contribute to the overall resilience and food security of the local population. A workshop to strengthen the capacity of project stakeholders to support scale-up, including the National and State Project Coordination of officials and leads of livestock value chain additions, were also held.

GCA brokered a collaboration between the LPRES National Project Coordination Office and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) that resulted in the development of an action plan to integrate NiMet's agrometeorological and hydrometeorological products into the project implementation processes and to upgrade NiMet's weather stations to strengthen its capacity to deliver early warning information. Further, GCA's engagements with NiMet within the context of this project—including the invitation of NiMet officials to the project's final validation and capacity strengthening workshop—influenced a new model/approach by NiMet that recently produced a signed MoU between NiMet and MTN Nigeria (the country's biggest telecommunications company) "to develop a digital climate adaptation services system", which aim "to deliver location-specific weather advisories to Nigerian farmers via mobile SMS, enhancing climate resilience in the agricultural sector".





GCA supports the USD 250 million Kenya Water Sanitation Program to improve access for four million people in drought and flood-prone regions (Photo credits: GCA)

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Through our work on infrastructure and nature-based solutions (NbS), we ensure that infrastructure assets are resilient to climate change while also benefiting vulnerable populations. GCA's influence in 2024 resulted in US\$4.6 billion in investments, projected to benefit 16.6 million people and generate 48,160 jobs. This progress expands our portfolio in this pillar to 39 projects, worth over US\$9.1 billion, which are expected to strengthen climate resilience for more than 63.4 million people and support over 104,000 jobs upon full implementation.

Building on these achievements, GCA aims to shape a total of US\$12 billion in investments by 2025, ultimately benefiting 100 million people through sustainable, climate-adaptive development.

GCA pursues these objectives by integrating resilience measures into urban planning, water services, and infrastructure assets. One example is the City Adaptation Accelerator, which fosters community-led planning to address localized climate risks. The Liberia Urban Resilience Project, valued at US\$40 million, leverages this participatory approach to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities in Liberia's capital and surrounding communities. In water services, GCA supports large-scale initiatives like the Kenya Water Sanitation Program (US\$250 million) to improve access for four million people in drought- and flood-prone regions. GCA's influence also extends to transport, including the Zambia Transport Corridors for Economic Resilience (US\$270 million), where climate risk assessments guide road rehabilitation to ensure critical links remain operational under shifting climate conditions.

Throughout the lifecycle of vital infrastructure assets like transport corridors, seaports, energy systems, and health facilities, GCA ensures the integration of climate resilience measures. In the Horn of Africa, GCA supports the Djibouti Regional Economic Corridor Project (US\$388 million) by assessing climate risks along 90 km of the Djibouti–Addis Ababa route and identifying adaptation solutions that link transport resilience with food security, access to services, and wider economic impacts. The Mauritania–Mali Electricity Interconnection Project (US\$584 million) focuses on strengthening the climate resilience of a 1,500 km high-voltage transmission line and two solar power plants, expanding electricity access to 100,000 new households and ensuring a more reliable cross-border energy supply. GCA also extends its efforts to the Maritime Corridor Program in Comoros, valued at US\$ 157 million, guiding the climate-resilient design of port infrastructure across all three Comorian islands to support a transition from a regional trade zone of 1 million people to more than 1.2 billion people. Looking ahead to 2025, GCA will support the development of a climate-resilient healthcare system in Nigeria's Sokoto State by identifying vulnerabilities at the building, facility, and regional levels to protect health services and supply chains from climate-related disruptions.

NbS have become a cornerstone of GCA's approach to infrastructure resilience, delivering economic, social, and environmental co-benefits. In Djibouti City's slum upgrading project (US\$50 million), NbS play a central role in mitigating flood risks while improving living conditions. The Zambia Transport Corridors project similarly integrates reforestation along riverbanks to



stabilize landscapes threatened by erosion. To further advance the practical application of these approaches, GCA builds NbS capacity among government and agency practitioners through the Climate Adaptation Changemakers Schools and Masterclasses held in Senegal, Uganda, Kenya, and the Netherlands, showcasing examples from Dutch water management and case studies across Africa. By weaving NbS into broader adaptation efforts, GCA demonstrates how green infrastructure can serve as a cost-effective complement—or alternative—to traditional engineering solutions.

By coupling robust financing, community-driven planning, and ecosystem-based design, GCA ensures that essential infrastructure projects reduce climate risk and promote equitable development. Having already supported US\$9.1 billion in climate-resilient investments, GCA remains committed to reaching its target of US\$12 billion by 2025, thereby protecting the livelihoods of 100 million people through adaptive, nature-based strategies.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS PROJECTS

### Benin

- Port of Cotonou Expansion

### Burundi

- Climate Resilient Water Services Burundi
- Burundi Urban Resilience Project

### Central African Republic

- CAR Inclusive and Resilient Cities Project

### Chad

- Urban Resilience for N'djamena Chad
- Chad Road Project

### Comoros

- Union of Comoros Maritime Corridor Development and Regional Trade Facilitation Program

### Cote d'Ivoire

- Cote d'Ivoire Water Security and Sanitation Support Project

### Djibouti

- Djibouti Regional Economic Corridor Project

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Kanaga Emergency Urban Resilience Project

### Ethiopia

- Borana Resilient Water Development for Resilient Livelihoods Program Phase I
- Eastern Ethiopia Electricity Grid Reinforcement Project

### Eswatini

- Port of Cotonou Expansion

### Gambia

- Port of Banjul 4th Expansion Project

### Ghana

- Ghana Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) Project Solar Minigrid & Net Metering

### Kenya

- Kenya–South Sudan Link Road Lesseru–Kitale and Morpus–Lokichar Road Upgrading Project
- Second Kenya Urban Support Program
- Kenya Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (K-WASH) Program
- Kenya National Urban Water and Sanitation Program

### Liberia

- Liberia Urban Resilience Project
- Liberia Women Empowerment Project

### Mauritania

- Mauritania Logistics Capacity Expansion Program

### Multicountry: Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Sudan

- Regional Climate Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa

### Multicountry: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

- Desert to Power (DtP) G5 Sahel Financing Facility

### Multicountry: Mauritania, Mali

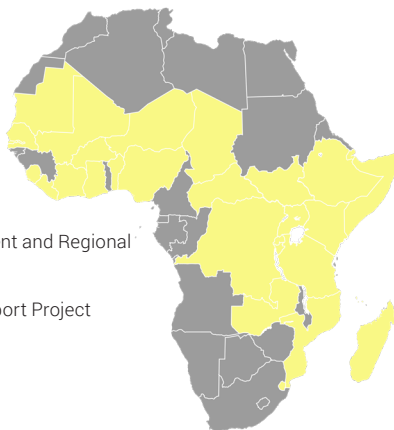
- DtP Mauritania-Mali interconnection and Solar generation

### Multicountry: Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya

- Horn of Africa Groundwater Project

### Multicountry: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic

- Development of Infrastructure and Enhancement of Cross-Border Water Resources between the CAR and DRC (PREDIRE)



**Investments shaped**

**\$ 9.1 Billion**



**Countries worked in**

**39**



**Expected number of people benefitting**

**63.4 million**



**Expected number of jobs created**

**104,391**

### Mozambique

- Songo-Matambo Electricity transmission line

### Nigeria

- Nigeria for Women Empowerment Scale-Up Project

### Rwanda

- Rwanda Pro-Poor Development Basket Fund

### Senegal

- Autoroute Dakar Saint-Louis Phase I
- Senegal Water Security Project
- Senegal River Valley Development and Resilience Project

### Sierra Leone

- Freetown Aquatic, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Environment Project

### Somalia

- Somalia Urban Resilience Program II (SURP II)

### Tanzania

- Tanzania Burundi Railway
- Tanzania Central Corridor Railway

### Uganda

- Kampala-Malaba Metre-gauge Railway Refurbishment Project

### Zambia

- Zambia Transport Corridors for Economic Resilience

**SPOTLIGHT STORY: Strengthening Tanzania's Central Railway Corridor resilience and scaling impact beyond the railway**



*The Tanzania Intermodal and Rail Development Project underscores the importance of a multi-scale approach to climate resilience  
(Photo credits: iStock/guenterguni)*

**CONTEXT**

Tanzania's railway network is a key driver of regional logistics and economic integration in the country and for landlocked neighboring countries in the region. The WBG launched the Second Tanzania Intermodal and Rail Development Project TIRP-2 to rehabilitate 970 km of railway from Dar es Salaam to Isaka. The project also includes rehabilitating six dams in the Kinyasungwe River catchment to mitigate flood impacts.

Yet climate hazards such as flooding, sedimentation, and extreme weather events are increasingly disrupting operations. The most vulnerable section—Kilosa-Gulwe-Igandu—has seen flood-related closures rise from 8 days per year in 2011 to 120 days in 2023, with projections reaching 180 days by 2080 without adaptation measures.



**IFI Lead**

World Bank Group - International Development Association



**Investment**

US\$200 million



**Beneficiaries**

90 million inhabitants benefiting from project development



**Investment Project Objective**

Enhanced connectivity on the Dar es Salaam to Dodoma central railway corridor

## GCA SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT IFI INVESTMENTS

GCA is providing Technical Assistance (TA) to strengthen the railway's resilience through Climate Risk Assessments (CRAs), adaptation recommendations, and institutional capacity building. A hydrological and hydraulic study confirmed the severity of flood risks, showing that 20 km of the Kilosa-Gulwe section is overtopped in a 1-in-2-year flood event, increasing to 36 km in a 1-in-50-year event. The broader risk assessment also identified extreme temperatures and landslides as key threats, with 23 km of railway in high-risk landslide zones.

GCA TA led to the identification and impact-based prioritization of adaptation options contributing to building a resilient railway, improving rail operations reliability, and maximizing co-benefits for project beneficiaries and local communities. The study found that rehabilitating six upstream water reservoirs could reduce peak flood flows by up to 50%, significantly lowering risks to the railway. When combined with engineering solutions—such as railway elevation, culvert expansion, and bridge reinforcement—the overall flood risk reduction could reach 76%.

Large-scale NbS were identified as critical for reducing runoff, controlling erosion, and mitigating sedimentation. These measures include:

- Reforestation along riverbanks to stabilize soil and reduce sedimentation.
- Conservation of agriculture to prevent land degradation and enhance water retention.
- Targeted erosion control measures to manage runoff more effectively.

When NbS are integrated with engineering solutions, the total risk reduction could reach 89%, making them a cost-effective strategy with positive Benefit-Cost Ratios. These solutions also generate co-benefits for local communities, such as improved agricultural productivity, better water availability, and healthier ecosystems.

## LESSONS LEARNED & WAY FORWARD

GCA's support for this investment project takes an integrated approach—addressing railway assets, services, and water catchment areas—while identifying opportunities for improved water management and nature-based risk mitigation options at the basin level. The detailed identification and prioritization of adaptation options have included engineering solutions that offer direct protection, as well as NbS that address the root causes of high runoff and erosion, exacerbated in the context of climate change. This has unlocked pathways to scale impact beyond the railway, enhancing water catchment management and agroforestry initiatives for greater climate resilience.

As climate change intensifies rainfall variability, solutions such as reforestation, conservation agriculture, and erosion control came out of the analysis as sustainable and cost-effective flood mitigation strategies while offering environmental and socio-economic benefits. Given the vast agricultural landscape within the Kinyasungwe River catchment (56,000 ha of agricultural land), these large-scale NbS have been discussed with the WBG and the project stakeholders,



and their potential implementation will require further engagement, including with catchment management authorities and national and local irrigation bodies.

In parallel, the insights from GCA's hydrological studies are informing not only railway design improvements but also future dam development, ensuring that flood mitigation is built into infrastructure planning. Beyond protecting the railway, the rehabilitated dams will benefit local communities by improving irrigation, increasing water storage for fisheries, and securing water availability for household and agricultural use.

This project underscores the importance of a multi-scale approach to climate resilience—combining infrastructure adaptation with broader watershed management to reduce risks while generating long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits effectively.

By embedding climate resilience into Tanzania's railway system, TIRP-2 is securing economic growth, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable development—not just for Tanzania but for the entire East African region.



*In September, GCA joined partners at the ECOWAS-led Validation Workshop to advance resilience along the 1,000 km Abidjan-Lagos Corridor connecting five West African nations (Photo credits: GCA)*



*GCA builds NbS capacity among government and agency practitioners through the Climate Adaptation Changemakers Schools (Photo credits: GCA)*

GCA tackles urgent jobs challenges and works to equip Africa's youth with climate-resilience skills  
(Photo credits: iStock/Wirestock)

## YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ADAPTATION JOBS

Africa's youthful population represents a critical driver of innovation and economic growth, especially in the face of climate change. Recognizing this potential, we place a strong emphasis on youth engagement by cultivating entrepreneurship opportunities that focus on climate adaptation solutions. One example is the Senegal Livestock Development Program, an US\$83 million initiative that trains youth-led enterprises within livestock value chains while creating 18,000 jobs for women and young people. GCA's commitment to fostering innovative ideas is further illustrated by the Young Infrastructure Innovator Awards, a platform that provides incubation support to startups such as FLIPS Org, which specializes

in flood monitoring, and RoISUM, which focuses on road resilience mapping. By promoting adaptation-related jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities for young Africans, GCA not only addresses pressing employment challenges but also equips the continent's emerging workforce with the skills needed to thrive in a changing climate. The progress made in 2024, with up to US\$240 million in investments shaped, reaching over 100,000 young Africans, and supporting the creation of 70,000 jobs, significantly contributed to our cumulative achievements of US\$1.4 billion shaped across 16 countries, benefiting 1.2 million people and supporting 262,212 jobs to date.

### YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ADAPTATION JOBS PROJECTS

#### Angola

- Angola Youth Employment Project (AYEP)

#### Djibouti

- Projet d'Entrepreneuriat des Jeunes pour l'Adaptation au Changement Climatique (PEJACC)

#### Ethiopia

- Agri-MSMEs Development for Jobs

#### Guinea-Bissau

- Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and SME Development Lusophone Compact Facility Phase I Project

#### Morocco

- Inclusive and Sustainable Development Support Programme for Forest Areas

#### Multicountry: Benin, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Zambia

- African Youth Adaptation (YouthADAPT) Solutions Challenge – Grant award to 5 Francophone Enterprises

#### Nigeria

- Investment in Digital and Creative Enterprises Program
- Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Program

#### Senegal

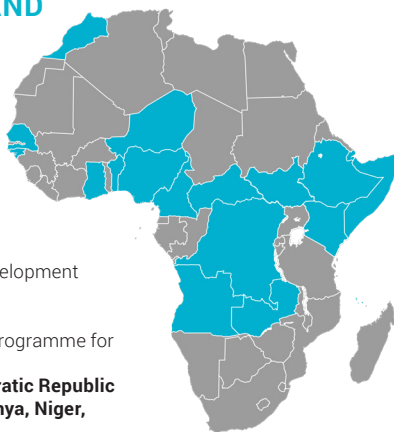
- Programme National de Developpement Integre de L'Elevage au Senegal

#### Somalia

- Skills for Employability, Inclusion and Productivity Project

#### South Sudan

- Private Sector Development in a Fragile Context



Investments shaped

**\$ 1.4 Billion**



Countries worked in

**16**



Expected number of people benefitting

**1.2 million**



Expected number of jobs created

**262,212**



## SPOTLIGHT STORY: YouthADAPT winner Farmer Lifeline Technologies - Pioneering Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Agriculture for Early Pest and Disease Detection



*The YouthADAPT Challenge supports youth-led enterprises with bold adaptation solutions.  
(Photo credits: iStock/Hiraman)*

### CONTEXT

Five million smallholder farmers in Kenya lose on average, 33% of their crops to pests and diseases. Swift detection and intervention of agricultural pests and diseases significantly reduce crop losses and increase yields. Farmer Lifeline Technologies, a winner of the 2022/23 AAAP African Youth Adaptation (YouthADAPT) Solutions Challenge, has developed the first-ever solar-powered crop pests and detection device that leverages artificial intelligence, data analytics and machine learning. The device offers real-time alerts to farmers and recommends the best interventions, marking a significant improvement over current diagnostic methods, which are costly and can take up to three weeks to yield a result, leading to substantial losses.



#### IFI Lead

Africa Development Bank



#### Grant

US\$100,000



#### Beneficiaries

60,000 smallholder farmers



#### Investment Project Objective

Support youth-led enterprises with innovative climate adaptation and resilience solutions

Founded by Esther Kimani, a 28-year-old computer science expert from Kenya, the device provides real-time alerts within five seconds on infestation detection, identifying agricultural pests and diseases and offering tailored interventions. This innovation reduces crop losses for smallholder farmers by up to 30% and increases yields by as much as 40%. Additionally, the device alerts government agricultural offices to the presence of diseases or pests, contributing to broader agricultural management efforts.

The solar-powered tool uses computer vision algorithms and advanced machine learning to identify crop pests, pathogens, or diseases and the nature of infection or infestation. The device then notifies the farmer via SMS. This affordable alternative to traditional detection methods leases for just US\$3 per month, significantly cheaper than hiring drones or agricultural inspectors.

### **GCA SUPPORT FOR YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS ENTERPRISES**

In 2024 Farmer Lifeline received its second and third tranche payments of the US\$100,00 YouthADAPT Challenge grant which enabled Farmer Lifeline to extend its reach to over 5000 farmers every month in seven counties (Embu, Muranga, Nyeri, Nakuru, Eldoret, Elgeyo Marakwet and Kakamega) in Kenya, and they are currently on track to impact over 60,000 smallholder farmers directly and indirectly. Through the YouthADAPT Challenge accelerator - consisting of grant disbursement, training and mentorship program, the enterprise doubled its monthly revenue and jobs created as well as patented its technology. The visibility provided by the YouthADAPT Challenge enabled the enterprise to secure additional partnerships and win awards such as Grace Hopper Award, AGRA's Africa Agrihack Award, the Total StartUpper 2022 Award and the 2024 Africa Prize for Innovation, among others.

### **LESSONS LEARNED & WAY FORWARD**

Farmer Lifeline is currently in the research and development phase to refine the technology's functionality and effectiveness. Looking ahead, the enterprise's goal is to impact 250,000 farmers by 2027 and increase agricultural productivity by at least 45%. The enterprise is also looking to expand its impact by engaging with more farmers in Kenya and potentially extending its reach on the African continent.





*In Dakar, GCA hosted a workshop to strengthen climate finance capabilities with experts from Senegal, DRC, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Guinea. (Photo credits: GCA)*

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION FINANCE

Across Africa, one of the greatest obstacles to scaling up climate adaptation lies in securing affordable, long-term financing. Many countries on the continent already shoulder heavy debt burdens and lack the fiscal space to invest in the infrastructure and systems needed to build resilience. Recognizing this reality, GCA has prioritized the development of innovative financial mechanisms and partnerships that increase resource flows for adaptation in a sustainable, inclusive manner.

A central element of GCA's strategy is its collaboration with the ADF and other partners to leverage the newly established CAW. This mechanism provides concessional resources to low-income and vulnerable African countries, ensuring that adaptation projects can be implemented without exacerbating debt levels. Through CAW, GCA helps countries design bankable proposals, align with international climate finance standards, and streamline administrative processes so that approved projects can move efficiently from planning to execution.

One indicative result of these efforts is the Burundi Water Sector Resilience Program. With GCA's guidance, this initiative secured US\$8.3 million in additional financing from CAW—part of an overall US\$15 million budget—to strengthen and expand water supply systems in climate-vulnerable communities. By building infrastructure that better withstands droughts

and floods, the program reduces water insecurity and fosters economic growth. GCA has also supported the development of the African Agriculture Adaptation Tracking Tool, which helps stakeholders and policymakers identify high-impact investments and monitor adaptation outcomes in climate-smart agriculture. This evidence-based approach not only attracts more external funding but also optimizes resource allocation by focusing on interventions with the greatest potential for impact.

GCA's emphasis on responsible financing ensures that African nations can implement transformative solutions without incurring unsustainable debt burdens. By forging partnerships with multilateral development banks, bilateral donors, and philanthropic organizations, GCA shapes capital where it is needed most—helping to close the adaptation finance gap and pave the way for resilient, climate-smart growth across the continent. Through capacity building and technical support, GCA empowers local institutions to take the lead in designing and executing adaptation investments, ensuring that projects respond to local priorities and deliver tangible benefits for the most vulnerable populations. As GCA continues to expand its reach, the Climate Adaptation Finance Pillar remains a cornerstone of efforts to mainstream adaptation across Africa, creating a pathway to more secure and equitable development.

Investments shaped

\$ 337.7 million

Countries worked in


6

Climate Adaptation finance solutions shaped

10

Policies and Development strategies informed by GCA Support

2



Project Name	Country	IFI	IFI investment Value (US\$ million)
AFAC - Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank	Tanzania	AfDB	66
Staples Crops Processing Zones (SCPZ)	Togo, Senegal and Guinea	GCF/AfDB	272

SPOTLIGHT STORY:

Strengthening Africa's Climate Finance Ecosystem



By investing in climate resilience, countries and businesses can position themselves as leaders in the transition to a climate-smart economy  
(Photo credits: iStock/Chalabaja)

GCA found a lack of coordination between African direct access entities (DAEs), national implementing entities, and public and private entities across the continent. Through our targeted capacity-building efforts to address this challenge, a remarkable shift towards strategic alignment among African states was observed.



A significant milestone was the organic formation of regional and sub-regional strategic alliances among DAEs and other climate finance actors, through our capacity-building efforts. Two pivotal workshops, held in December 2024, the Enhanced Direct Access for Locally Led Adaptation Workshop in Nairobi (4th and 5th December 2024) and the Climate Finance and Project Development Workshop in Dakar (12th and 13th December 2024), served as catalysts for this transformation. These workshops not only facilitated knowledge-sharing, but also laid the groundwork for improved public-private collaboration and regional integration in climate finance strategies.

## **GCA WORKSHOPS INSIGHTS**

### **Regional and Sub-Regional Strategic Perspectives**

The December 2024 workshops played a crucial role in bringing together DAEs and Adaptation Fund NIEs from across Africa. By fostering dialogues among stakeholders from West Africa, Central Africa, North Africa, South Africa, East Africa, and several African Small Island Developing States, participants identified common challenges and aligned their approaches. In particular, the workshops facilitated peer-to-peer learning between countries with similar climate risks and nationally determined climate goals. These discussions contributed to harmonizing project development approaches, enhancing technical capacity, and improving access to region-specific adaptation opportunities.

### **Strengthening Geopolitical Influence: Francophone West Africa's Role**

Convening Francophone West African countries during the Climate Finance and Project Development Workshop created a unique opportunity for collective action in climate finance. Many of these countries face shared challenges, including governance hurdles in accreditation, data limitations for evidence-based project development, and technical capacity gaps in meeting GCF criteria. The workshop highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in overcoming these barriers. By fostering deeper engagement with regions with shared interests, the workshop laid the foundation for cross-country project collaboration, and enhanced technical capacity for adaptation finance.

### **Elevating Public-Private Sector Discussions**

One of the most notable outcomes from these workshops was the increasing recognition of the private sector's role in adaptation finance. Historically, private sector engagement in climate finance has been underdeveloped due to high investment risks and the lack of financial incentives. Through targeted discussions, the workshops successfully brought together public and private stakeholders, demonstrating the value of private sector participation in climate adaptation initiatives. Many public institutions struggle with aligning their projects with GCF investment logic. The workshops provided practical guidance on addressing technical capacity gaps, improving project design, and integrating gender equality and social inclusion considerations into adaptation projects. The Dakar workshop showcased the Equity Bank and the Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD – West African Development Bank) models, illustrating how a commercial bank and a regional development financial institution can achieve GCF accreditation and develop bankable, adaptation-focused concept notes with grassroots adaptation impacts. These conversations served as an eye-opener for the public sector, illustrating how bankable, efficiently implemented projects can attract sustainable funding. The workshop discussions reinforced the need for integrated financial mechanisms, that merge public sector planning with private sector efficiency to scale up adaptation financing.

## Charting Africa's Path to Climate Resilience

Through our comprehensive work under the AAP, we have solidified our commitment to building a resilient Africa capable of thriving amidst intensifying climate challenges. By pairing innovative solutions with strong partnerships and mobilizing significant investments across AAP's four pillars—food security, infrastructure and nature-based solutions, youth entrepreneurship, and climate adaptation finance—GCA continues

to empower nations to embed adaptation measures in their development pathways. This integrated, cross-sectoral approach not only bolsters livelihoods and safeguards communities from climate risks but also positions Africa at the forefront of global efforts to adapt sustainably. In doing so, GCA helps ensure that inclusive growth and prosperity remain attainable for all citizens, even in a rapidly changing climate.



*GCA supports nations embed adaptation in their development plans  
(Photo credits: iStock/Golero)*





GCA CEO visited Chattogram to listen and learn from local communities who are leading in the preparation of People's Adaptation Plans  
(Photo credits: GCA)

## 5. OUR WORK IN ASIA

### Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) works closely with the government, development partners, and local stakeholders to scale climate adaptation measures. Since the launch of our initial work program in February 2022, underpinned by support from partners such as the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and Global Affairs Canada, GCA has continued to build momentum in 2024 across three main thematic areas: Locally Led

Adaptation (LLA), Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for Systemic Resilience, and Climate Adaptation Finance. Our vision is to support climate-proof development that safeguards both livelihoods and ecosystems. In Bangladesh, this means working closely with ministries, local governments, and citizens to integrate climate adaptation into large-scale investments and local-level plans alike.



Project Name	IFI	Program
Coastal Towns Climate Resilience Project	Asia Development Bank	LLA and Infrastructure & NbS
Chattogram Water supply Improvement Project	World Bank Group	LLA
Bay Terminal Project	World Bank Group	Infrastructure & NbS
Results-based lending- Improvement of Urban Governance and Infrastructure project	Asia Development Bank	Water and Urban
Resilient Urban Territorial Development Project	World Bank Group	Water and Urban

### Non-Investment Projects

Project Name	Program
Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation	LLA
Mongla People's Adaptation Plans	LLA
The Global Tool for Nature-based Solutions	Infrastructure & NbS
Climate Resilient Infrastructure Masterclass for Public-Private Partnerships	Infrastructure & NbS
Building National Capacity on Locally Led Adaptation through Institutionalized Training for Public Administrators in Bangladesh	LLA
Technical support to Direct Access Entities- PKSf and IDCOL for developing adaptation projects for accessing finance from the Green Climate Fund	Climate Finance
Building National Capacity to Enhance Access to Climate Finance through Institutionalized Training for Public Administrators in Bangladesh	Climate Finance

## PARTNERSHIPS AND APPROACH

Collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh includes engaging ministries, local governments, and citizens to integrate adaptation solutions in national, municipal, and community-led projects. We also partner with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to ensure the inclusion of climate adaptation measures—including NbS—in large-scale developments. Grounded in the principles of LLA, GCA ensures

that vulnerable communities, particularly women, youth, and marginalized groups, have a voice in shaping adaptation investments. We employ our Accelerating Adaptation Action model, or “influencing approach,” to leverage every dollar of GCA’s technical assistance toward mobilizing at least one hundred dollars for climate-resilient development. In 2024, despite political and logistical challenges, we successfully expanded and deepened programmatic work in Bangladesh.



## LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION (LLA)

Launched in 2022 together with the Government of Bangladesh, GCA's Global Hub on LLA aims to inform, connect and inspire local communities and practitioners around the world with the latest knowledge and solutions for adapting to climate change. It scales up LLA by linking People's Adaptation Plans developed by communities to investments by IFIs under its Adaptation Acceleration Program. By 2026, GCA aims to incorporate the needs of poor and vulnerable populations into at least US\$1 billion worth of climate-resilient investments, thereby increasing the resilience of over one million people.

A powerful example of community-led adaptation comes from GCA's partnership with WaterAid and Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) in Chattogram, where the process of developing People's Adaptation Plans has empowered residents of low-income communities to pinpoint risks and propose targeted, climate-resilient water and sanitation solutions.

In Bangladesh, our media engagement and capacity building, carried out in partnership with BBC Media Action, led to training for 40 TV

journalists and 24 youth leaders on LLA reporting. Participants produced extensive coverage of local climate impacts on livelihoods, water access, and agriculture, aired on national TV, and a series of "100 Voices of the Vulnerable"—video shorts that highlight the realities of climate change. Through targeted sessions on monetizing adaptation-related journalism and elevating the voices of women and youth, we significantly expanded coverage of these issues.

We also initiated our collaboration with the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), an apex public sector training institute, to embed a training module on climate change adaptation and LLA into their curriculum with the aim to facilitate long-term capacity strengthening of civil servants across all levels and critical sectors for climate change in Bangladesh. To kick off the process, a consultation workshop was held in December 2024 with over 30 BPATC faculty members to assess gaps in the current curriculum and identify strategic entry points for embedding climate-related content. The training module is expected to be fully developed and institutionalized at BPATC by October 2025.



*People's Adaptation Plans aim to ensure that IFIs effectively address the needs of the most vulnerable populations  
(Photo credits: GCA)*



## SPOTLIGHT STORY: Linking LLA Approaches To Traditional Funding Streams



*GCA is dedicated to promoting locally led adaptation initiatives that empower communities to tackle the impacts of climate change effectively  
(Photo credits: iStock/Tarzan9280)*

The climate crisis has increased the hardships that young girls like Munira Begum, a resident of Diganta colony in Bangladesh, are forced to endure. “We have to walk longer distances to fetch water every day, and have less time to learn, work, and earn,” she says.

Diganta colony is an informal settlement in Mongla, a port city that draws in migrants from the neighboring districts of Barisal, Bagerhat, and Noakhali, particularly in the aftermath of devastating storm surges and cyclones. Life is not much easier in Mongla, however. Migrants must live with informal and unsafe housing, rising levels of salinity that are worsening an already acute drinking water shortage, food insecurity, threats to livelihoods, and added climate-related impacts on mental and physical well-being.

Munira and her fellow Diganta residents would not normally have a say in defining priorities for investments by IFIs in their country. A United Kingdom (UK)-funded project, implemented under GCA’s Adaptation Acceleration Program, is now making sure that Munira’s concerns are heard and addressed.

GCA is working with local partners in Bangladesh to support the residents of informal settlements across several cities to develop People’s Adaptation Plans.

The process for developing these Plans is based on best practice by the local affiliates of Slum Dwellers International, developed over decades of experience in multiple countries around the world and described in this the *Locally Led Planning* guide. Facilitated by local partners and community mobilizers from within the community itself, the process is first and foremost an opportunity for communities to map and understand climate threats. That way, they can negotiate priorities better amongst themselves, with their local and national governments (including through IFIs), and with external fund providers.

The broad methodology focuses on community engagement down to the household level; a recognition of interdependent, multisectoral climate challenges faced by vulnerable communities; genuine partnerships between government, residents, civil society, and academia; and where necessary, a rethinking of conventional approaches and legislation to confront vulnerabilities and resource scarcity.

Planning begins with stakeholder mapping to define roles within communities and build partnerships, along with climate risk assessments conducted by local universities to build institutional capacity. Community members are identified and trained as mobilizers and co-researchers to undertake data collection on behalf of the community, and to map key geographical features and public services on Geographic Information Systems. Settlement profiling delivers a broad understanding of climate risks and challenges. A process of house-to-house enumeration follows, engaging at the household level. The community then comes together for a climate risk profiling to identify and rank climate risks, and to guide a co-planning process. The result of the co-planning process is a People's Adaptation Plan, with prioritized and budgeted interventions to guide investments.

"Drinking water was our highest priority," says Munira. "We therefore prioritized investments in rainwater harvesting systems and the re-excavation of ponds in the colony."

For the residents of Uporer Char, also in Mongla, the priority was flooding. "Our community is in a low-lying area, so we often deal with flooding," says Hira Aktar, a resident. "In the absence of drains, even moderate rainfall causes flooding. When it floods, wastewater from toilets mixes with the pond water. In our discussions, we realized that focusing only on drains will not solve the problem. We identified a range of priorities, including building toilets on raised plinths, better drainage infrastructure, and re-excavating canals."

The planning process is also an opportunity to think outside the box and to develop community systems. In Diganta Colony, for instance, the communities determined that a 50,000-litre water tank is necessary to store enough rainwater for the five months of the dry season. The challenge, however, was the lack of space for a catchment for such a large tank. The community decided to use the local primary school's roof as the catchment area, and negotiated a written resolution with the school management committee. A water distribution committee of five members was formed to ensure equitable distribution of water.

This committee also has the mandate to collect a small contribution of US\$1-2 from the households for maintaining the system and has opened a bank account to manage this maintenance fund.

Under the Adaptation Acceleration Program model, the People's Adaptation Plans are typically linked to investments by IFIs to ensure that the Plans can be implemented. But they also become a vehicle for fundraising from other sources. In Mongla, for instance, the residents of climate-vulnerable communities used the Plan to negotiate for some of the interventions to be funded from the city's Annual Development Budget. "The planning process has opened doors of communication between the Municipality and the community," says Sheikh Abdur Rahman, former Mayor of Mongla. "I consider this kind of comprehensive planning the most difficult part of the process. Once that is done, we should be able to implement priority solutions one by one, including as part of the Annual Development Plan."

The UK is also supporting GCA's Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation, which among other things supports knowledge management to inform community adaptation and resilience building efforts, and peer-to-peer learning among communities for problem solving. For instance, community leaders from Mongla shared their experience in developing People's Adaptation Plans with residents of informal settlements in Kuakata, another secondary city in Bangladesh where GCA is supporting a People's Adaptation Plan to inform investments by the Asian Development Bank's ADB Coastal Towns Climate Resilience Project.

## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) FOR SYSTEMIC RESILIENCE

Within our NbS for Systemic Resilience portfolio, GCA helps mainstream innovative green solutions into major infrastructure investments, striving to shape at least US\$3 billion in projects by 2026. Our work spans coastal infrastructure, urban systems, and food security.

In 2024, GCA delivered detailed climate analytics for 22 coastal towns under the ADB financed Coastal Towns Climate Resilience Project (CTCRP), including forward-looking assessments of sea-level rise, storm surge, and heat stress hazards. We worked with local engineers to identify and prioritize mangrove buffers, wetland restoration, and enhanced drainage, eventually producing a Climate Risks Profile for each town. In December, we convened a workshop with over 30 local government officials, engineers, and community representatives to integrate NbS into planning and infrastructure construction.

In addition to CTCRP, GCA has also been supporting the flagship urban development project, Improving Urban Governance and Infrastructure Project, financed by the ADB. As part of our technical assistance we have developed an urban resilience master class; a step-by-step handbook on the development of risk-informed urban masterplans by municipalities; a NbS for urban resilience tool to support key sector stakeholders to build climate resilience within the scope of large-scale programs. As part of the support GCA has also delivered training on NbS

for urban climate resilience in secondary cities in Bangladesh to Local Government Engineering Department officials.

GCA also supported a preparation study for the Agence française de développement financed Water Supply, Inclusive Sanitation, and Hygiene Project in Bangladesh where we conducted Climate Risk Assessments (CRA) in seven cities. The objective was to identify city-specific adaptation options and support the integration of Rapid CRA findings into project design, providing guidance for climate-resilient and disaster-proofing interventions.

We also concluded a climate risk analysis for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank financed Hatikumrul-Bonpara-Jhenaidah Road Improvement Project, where flooding and heavy rainfall events pose risks to road assets and adjacent communities. Recommended measures include green corridors, flood-proofing for culverts, and improved drainage channels. Additionally, we collaborated with the ADB on the Narayanganj Green and Resilient Urban Development Project, valued at US\$150 million, and provided support by formulating People's Adaptation Plans for informal settlements. Through Women's Adaptation Labs—community-driven workshops focusing on the specific needs of women—we ensure that master planning addresses localized climate risks and social vulnerabilities.



With support from local universities and international research entities, GCA also refined tools to measure the cost-effectiveness of NbS. By influencing the design of multi-million and billion-dollar infrastructure projects in roads, coastal cities, and urban systems, we made significant strides in enhancing local stakeholders' capacity for climate analytics and promoting replication of integrated NbS models.



*Our vision is to support climate-proof development that safeguards both livelihoods and ecosystems  
(Photo credits: GCA)*

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION FINANCE

On the Climate Adaptation Finance front, GCA aims to unlock US\$1 billion by 2026 for adaptation investments, thereby enhancing financial readiness and project development capacity among government entities and local implementers. Our capacity-building initiatives involved specialized training for representatives from Direct Access Entities, ministries, and the private sector on how to engage with the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and other global finance mechanisms. In 2024 over 40 participants completed intensive workshops featuring online sessions, in-person training, and project assignments.

GCA's experts offered technical support in drafting concept notes and feasibility assessments for local organizations, and we collaborated with the Economic Relations Division and the Department of Environment to develop guidelines on integrating gender equality and social inclusion into climate finance proposals. We further facilitated dialogue between the Government of Bangladesh, private companies, and international investors, highlighting innovative financing models to address climate-resilient infrastructure. Early successes included commitments to explore co-financing opportunities for flood-resilient road corridors in southwestern Bangladesh, reflecting an increasing recognition of the importance of adaptation finance.

In 2024, GCA solidified its role as a catalyst for locally-led, nature-based, and financially innovative solutions to climate change in Bangladesh. Despite political transitions and security challenges, our results this year underline the resilience of local partners and the broader adaptation ecosystem.

Looking ahead to 2025, GCA intends to deepen LLA by extending People's Adaptation Plans to additional towns and communities, thereby broadening community-driven planning processes. We plan to scale NbS in infrastructure by capitalizing on successes in road and coastal resilience, and we will continue to strengthen municipal capacity for adopting green solutions.

On the finance side, we remain committed to bridging local and global climate financiers, intensifying training modules, and driving home the goal of securing greater adaptation funding. Through these ongoing pursuits, GCA reaffirms its commitment to empowering Bangladesh's most vulnerable populations, aligning large-scale developments with grassroots needs, and creating a sustained legacy of climate resilience.



GCA's Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day was officially launched at Tsinghua University on 11th October 2024  
(Photo credits: GCA)

## China

Climate change continues to seriously affect China's natural ecosystems and is increasingly influencing economic and social structures. In response, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of China released a national climate change adaptation strategy in 2021, charting a course for the next decade and integrating adaptation measures into broader development planning. As a key international partner of the Chinese government, the GCA brings cutting-edge knowledge and global best practices to support the development and implementation of this strategy.

In 2023, with support from the International Panel on Deltas and Coastal Areas and the MEE, GCA collaborated with the Weihai Municipal People's Government to launch the climate-resilient pilot cities program. Through this program, GCA strengthened the capacity of local government officials to plan, design, and implement climate resilience policies. In 2024, GCA conducted two webinars on topics on CRA and Best Practices for Building Climate-Resilient Cities for Weihai City, focusing on building a climate-adaptive city and integrating resilience into broader development priorities. Building on this effort, GCA has extended the program's reach to two more coastal cities, Dalian City and Fuzhou City, through tailored training modules for government officials, amplifying local implementation capacities while establishing a replicable model for integrating climate adaptation priorities into the local urban

planning system. This effort contributes to the scaling up of subnational climate actions under China's national adaptation strategy.

In parallel, GCA published a new report, *Supporting China's Pilot on Resilient Cities: Key Recommendations for Weihai's 2035 Agenda*. Drawing on lessons from the pilot cities program, the report provides a roadmap for local policymakers to integrate climate adaptation into urban development planning, strengthen coastal resilience, and foster sustainable economic growth.



This report offers strategic guidance for urban climate resilience planning in Weihai for the period from 2025 to 2035



GCA's work in China was further highlighted during the 2024 Climate Change Global Lectures series at Tsinghua University where our CEO spoke about Bridging the Gap: Climate Adaptation for Sustainable Development. This lecture underscored the importance of knowledge exchange, partnerships, and innovative financing to accelerate adaptation in China and around the world.

Furthermore, GCA, in partnership with Tsinghua University, convened an international event to officially launch the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, an initiative designed to empower young people as leaders in climate adaptation globally, which as a platform facilitated the exchange of ideas, the development of innovative solutions, and the mobilization of community-level action to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Our CEO delivered a speech about Global Youth and the Acceleration of Climate Adaptation Action, highlighting the critical role of youth-led innovation in combating the escalating climate

crisis. During that time, Lighthouse Events organized by GCA were implemented across multiple countries, including China, Bangladesh, Kenya, and the Netherlands, showcasing youth-led adaptation strategies such as community clean-ups, reforestation initiatives, and water conservation projects. These events served as demonstration projects, highlighting the potential of youth engagement in building climate resilience at the local level.

GCA will continue its close collaboration with the Chinese government and local stakeholders, building on the growing momentum to support China's efforts in mainstreaming climate adaptation into national and municipal agendas. By leveraging international expertise and localized insights, GCA remains committed to helping China enhance its resilience to climate risks for the benefit of both the environment and communities across the country.



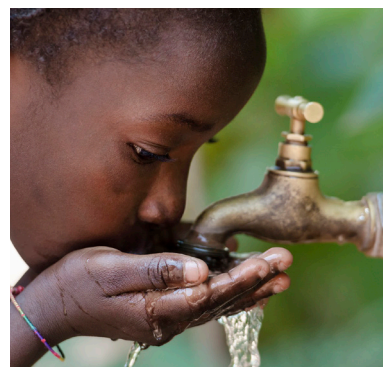
GCA President & CEO Patrick Verkooijen and Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China Huang Runqiu  
(Photo credits: GCA)

## 6. OUR GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Drawing from an extensive network of partners bringing different perspectives, expertise, reach, and resources, the Global Center on Adaptation's (GCA) global programs deliver concrete and sustainable results in four thematic areas:

### WATER AND URBAN

Climate change is accelerating the hydrological cycle, making water availability increasingly erratic and amplifying risks of floods and droughts. To address these challenges, the GCA partners with national governments to deliver climate-resilient water services and to fast-track adaptation in cities, where high population densities and critical infrastructure make climate impacts especially severe.



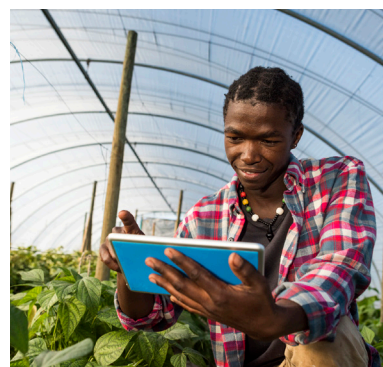
### LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION

Communities on the frontlines of climate change often demonstrate remarkable ingenuity in devising adaptation measures tailored to their unique circumstances. However, they frequently lack the financial resources, policy influence, and institutional support necessary for implementation at scale. Through Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), GCA harnesses this grassroots potential by providing targeted assistance, facilitating access to funding, and advocating for inclusive governance structures that center local voices. By enabling communities to drive their own adaptation solutions, GCA ensures that these initiatives are both sustainable and equitable.



### YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION

With roughly 87% of the world's youth residing in developing countries—many of which are disproportionately affected by climate change—young people face mounting challenges of unemployment and underemployment. GCA addresses this gap by empowering youth to become advocates for climate adaptation on the global stage and champions for resilience within their own communities. Through tailored education programs and adaptation-focused employment opportunities, GCA equips the next generation with the skills and resources needed to forge a climate-resilient future.



### GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

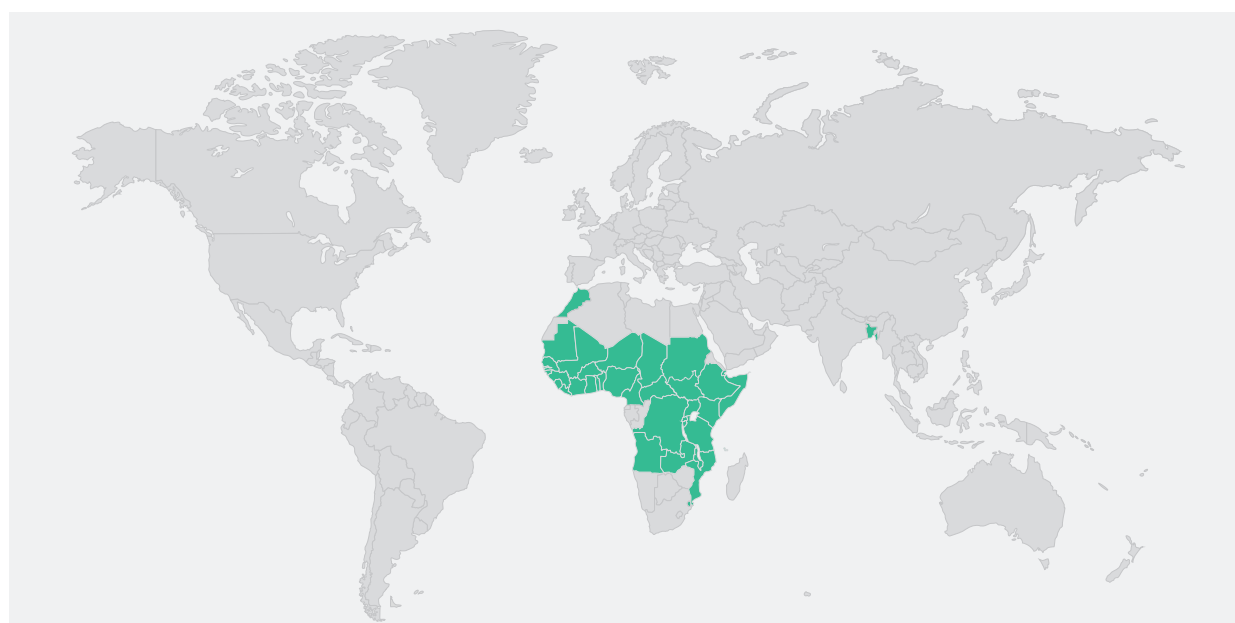
GCA incorporates LLA principles and gender-sensitive frameworks to ensure that the needs of marginalized communities—especially women and girls—are effectively addressed within investment projects backed by International Financial Institutions (IFIs). By emphasizing local ownership and inclusive decision-making, GCA helps stakeholders design and implement adaptation initiatives that dismantle systemic barriers, enhance equitable access to resources, and foster lasting resilience for those most vulnerable to climate impacts.



## Key Statistics on GCA's Overall Work



## Where We Work



Country	Project Names
<b>Angola</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angola Youth Employment Project (AYEP)</li> </ul>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal Towns Climate Resilience Project</li> <li>Chattogram Water supply Improvement Project</li> <li>Bay Terminal Project</li> <li>Results-based lending- Improvement of Urban Governance and Infrastructure project</li> <li>Resilient Urban Territorial Development Project</li> </ul>
<b>Benin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Port of Cotonou Expansion</li> </ul>
<b>Benin, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Zambia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African Youth Adaptation (YouthADAPT) Solutions Challenge – Grant award to 5 Francophone Enterprises</li> </ul>

Country	Project Names
Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desert to Power (DtP) G5 Sahel Financing Facility</li> </ul>
Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme for the Reinforcement of Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel</li> </ul>
Burundi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burundi-Rwanda Integrated Development Program (BRIDEP)</li> <li>Climate Resilient Water Services</li> <li>Burundi Urban Resilience Project</li> </ul>
Central African Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAR Inclusive and Resilient Cities Project</li> </ul>
Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Resilience for N'djamena Chad</li> <li>Chad Road Project</li> </ul>
Comoros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union of Comoros Maritime Corridor Development and Regional Trade Facilitation Program</li> </ul>
Côte d'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agro-Industrial Pole Project in the North-East</li> <li>Cote d'Ivoire Water Security and Sanitation Support Project</li> </ul>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kanaga Emergency Urban Resilience Project</li> </ul>
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Infrastructure and Enhancement of Cross-Border Water Resources between the CAR and DRC (PREDIRE)</li> </ul>
Djibouti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Djibouti Regional Economic Corridor Project</li> <li>Projet d'Entrepreneuriat des Jeunes pour l'Adaptation au Changement Climatique (PEJACC)</li> </ul>
Eswatini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Port of Cotonou Expansion</li> </ul>
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethiopia Wheat Value Chain Development Project</li> <li>Food Security Resilience Project in Ethiopia</li> <li>Borana Resilient Water Development for Resilient Livelihoods Program Phase I</li> <li>Eastern Ethiopia Electricity Grid Reinforcement Project</li> <li>Agri-MSMEs Development for Jobs</li> </ul>
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Resilience Rice Value Chain Development (REWARD)</li> <li>Port of Banjul 4th Expansion Project</li> </ul>
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ghana Tree Crop Diversification Project</li> <li>Ghana Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) Project Solar Minigrid &amp; Net Metering</li> </ul>
Guinea, Senegal, Togo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones</li> </ul>
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth and Women Entrepreneurship and SME Development Lusophone Compact Facility Phase I Project</li> </ul>
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenya–South Sudan Link Road Lesseru–Kitale and Morpus–Lokichar Road Upgrading Project</li> <li>Second Kenya Urban Support Program</li> <li>Kenya Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (K-WASH) Program</li> <li>Kenya National Urban Water and Sanitation Program</li> </ul>

Country	Project Names
Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program to Build Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security in the Horn of Africa (BREFONS)</li> </ul>
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liberia Urban Resilience Project</li> <li>Liberia Women Empowerment Project</li> </ul>
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Agricultural Production Program Project</li> </ul>
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mauritania Logistics Capacity Expansion Program</li> </ul>
Mauritania, Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DtP Mauritania-Mali interconnection and Solar generation</li> </ul>
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive and Sustainable Development Support Programme for Forest Areas</li> </ul>
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive Agri-Food Value-Chain Development Programme</li> <li>Songo-Matambo Electricity transmission line</li> </ul>
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock and Agriculture Modernization Project (LAMP)</li> </ul>
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (LPRES)</li> <li>TA support to field implementation of LPRES</li> <li>Agricultural Value Chain Program in the North (VCN)</li> <li>Investment in Digital and Creative Enterprises Program</li> <li>Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Program</li> <li>Nigeria for Women Empowerment Scale-Up Project</li> </ul>
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rwanda Pro-Poor Development Basket Fund</li> </ul>
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme National de Developpement Integre de L'Elevage au Senegal</li> <li>Autoroute Dakar Saint-Louis Phase I</li> <li>Senegal Water Security Project</li> <li>Senegal River Valley Development and Resilience Project</li> </ul>
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freetown Aquatic, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Environment Project</li> </ul>
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skills for Employability, Inclusion and Productivity Project</li> <li>Somalia Urban Resilience Program II (SURP II)</li> </ul>
Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horn of Africa Groundwater Project</li> </ul>
South Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private Sector Development in a Fragile Context</li> <li>South Sudan Climate Resilient Food Security and Agricultural Transformation Project (CRAFT)</li> </ul>
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program</li> <li>Tanzania Burundi Railway</li> <li>Tanzania Central Corridor Railway</li> </ul>
Uganda	Kampala-Malaba Metre-gauge Railway Refurbishment Project
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zambia Growth Opportunities</li> <li>Regional Climate Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa</li> <li>Zambia Transport Corridors for Economic Resilience</li> </ul>
Zambia, Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program for integrated development and adaptation to climate change in the Zambezi</li> </ul>





*GCA aims to integrate climate adaptation into the heart of water and urban development planning  
(Photo credits: iStock/poco\_bw)*

## WATER AND URBAN

In 2024, we significantly expanded the reach and ambition of our Urban and Water Program across Africa and Asia in response to the mounting risks that climate change poses to cities and water infrastructure. From rising sea levels and extreme rainfall to droughts and water scarcity, the physical impacts of climate change are increasingly converging in urban areas and water systems—putting lives, livelihoods, and economies at risk. These challenges are particularly acute in low- and middle-income countries, where infrastructure gaps, rapid urbanization, and limited access to finance compound vulnerability. Reflecting this expanded effort throughout 2024, the program shaped US\$2.8 billion in investments, expected to benefit more than 14 million people and support 6,760 jobs, showcasing its increasing role in building urban and water resilience. This progress elevates the program's overall footprint to US\$4.9 billion across 25 countries, reaching nearly 23 million people.

GCA's Urban and Water Program aims to integrate climate adaptation into the heart of water and urban development planning. Its overarching goal is to ensure that urban growth and water resource management are both climate-resilient and inclusive. The program promotes the mainstreaming of adaptation into national and sub-national policy frameworks, the design and financing of climate-resilient infrastructure, and the uptake of nature-based solutions to mitigate climate risks. It also places a strong emphasis on community engagement and gender equity, recognizing that adaptation efforts must be locally informed and socially inclusive to be effective and sustainable.

A significant portion of the GCA portfolio is implemented in countries suffering from Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations (FCS). In 2024, the GCA Water and Urban team implemented initiatives in eight countries that are listed in the World Bank 2024 FCS list. FCS countries present additional and unique challenges that require differentiated approaches, policies, and instruments. As a result, the Water & Urban Team is currently exploring opportunities to better integrate FCS and climate adaptation to ensure that climate adaptation interventions can remain effective in FCS contexts; While focusing on the GCA Water and Urban program, many of the insights are likely to be widely applicable across GCA programs.

In 2024, the program catalyzed action across multiple geographies across Africa. In Ethiopia, GCA partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to integrate climate adaptation into the Borana Resilient Water Development for Improved Livelihoods Program. Operating in the drought-prone Oromia region, the initiative aims to improve water security and sanitation services for pastoralist communities who are particularly vulnerable to climate shocks. GCA conducted climate risk assessments and developed gender-responsive adaptation strategies to inform investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, ensuring that the program addresses the needs of women and marginalized groups. By integrating gender-responsive measures into the program, GCA ensures that the infrastructure investments improve water access for women and marginalized groups, promoting decision-making in water governance and mitigating the

risks of gender-based violence in water collection processes. In addition, GCA helped secure US\$9.4 million in additional funding from the AfDB's Climate Action Window (CAW), increasing the total Phase 2 budget by 18%.

In Senegal, GCA collaborated with the World Bank to support the implementation of the Integrated Water Security and Sanitation Program (PISEA). This US\$200 million initiative targets more than seven million people, including over 600,000 residents of greater Dakar. GCA's role focused on embedding adaptation into the design of the program to reduce the vulnerability of urban and rural water systems to climate variability and future extremes. This included technical support on flood and drought resilience, as well as guidance on integrating green infrastructure and risk-based planning approaches.

Meanwhile, in Burundi, GCA worked with the African Development Bank and the Government of Burundi to launch Phase I of the Water Sector and Climate Resilience Building Support Programme (PASEREC). This initiative covers five rural provinces and aims to strengthen the resilience of water infrastructure and services to climate risks such as erratic rainfall and flooding. GCA supported the program by conducting climate vulnerability assessments and helping to shape adaptation investments that can deliver long-term benefits for rural communities facing worsening climate variability. GCA also prepared a successful proposal for AfDB's CAW, integrating climate risk analysis and cost-effective, locally appropriate mitigation measures for drinking water systems. The proposal secured US\$8.3 million, raising PASEREC's total value by 63%. This additional funding and technical support will enhance climate adaptation efforts, improve water and sanitation access, and boost socio-economic well-being across 15 municipalities in seven provinces, including Gitega.

GCA supported urban resilience in the Congo Basin through a regional initiative in collaboration with the World Bank. The effort responded to shared challenges—particularly urban flooding and gully erosion—identified across Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of

Congo, the Central African Republic, and Gabon. To address these issues, GCA and the World Bank co-developed a comprehensive regional support package aimed at mitigating urban gully erosion and pluvial/fluviol floods. The technical support promotes Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in urban planning and infrastructure investment by strengthening the capacity of national and local stakeholders. It supports climate-smart approaches to soil and water management, enabling more resilient urban development across the region. By leveraging the similar climate vulnerabilities and urban challenges of the five countries, the package fosters synergies across World Bank operations and promotes cross-country learning and collaboration.

Under its Water and Urban program in Asia, GCA is supporting the Government of Bangladesh to enhance urban resilience and service delivery across municipalities. One of the projects aims to increase access to resilient urban services while demonstrating the value of regional-level investment in selected economic growth corridors, targeting 83 municipalities. Another project focuses on improving urban governance and providing capital investments to enhance municipal services for 7.6 million people across 88 Pourashavas, while also strengthening the capacity of the Local Government Engineering Department and municipal officials. These efforts align with Bangladesh's broader urban development vision, which seeks to improve infrastructure and living conditions across 329 Pourashavas with a projected investment of US\$18 billion from 2022 to 2037. To support implementation, GCA has delivered a range of knowledge and capacity-building activities, including the Urban Climate Resilience Masterclass, which convened city officials and practitioners to advance climate adaptation in urban planning. Additionally, GCA developed a *Handbook on Climate Risk-Informed Master Planning* and an *NbS Compendium*, alongside targeted training sessions to equip local stakeholders with practical tools and frameworks for integrating NbS and climate risk into urban development processes. These resources are being disseminated across the target municipalities to inform and strengthen project outcomes.

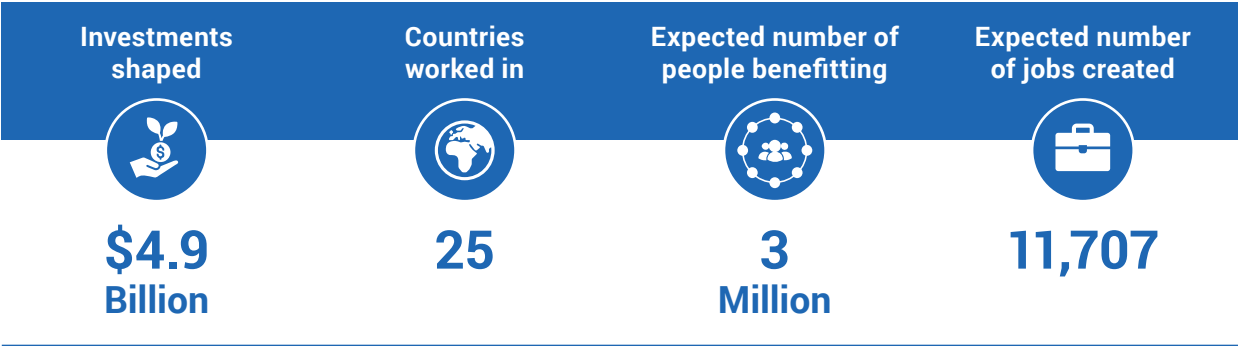


Throughout 2024, the Urban and Water Program demonstrated GCA's unique capacity to connect global climate adaptation expertise with national development priorities and community needs. By mainstreaming adaptation into development finance and building local capacity, the program is helping countries avoid the costs of maladaptation and unlock co-benefits for health, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability.

Looking ahead, GCA will continue to scale its Urban and Water Program by supporting more countries to design and implement climate-resilient infrastructure, develop bankable adaptation projects, and build the institutions needed to manage urbanization and water systems in a changing climate. As climate risks accelerate, the urgency of transforming how cities grow and how water is managed has never been clearer. The work of this program is essential to ensuring that future development is not only sustainable, but also resilient.



The Water and Urban program shaped US\$2.8 billion in investments, expected to benefit more than 14 million people and support 6,760 jobs (Photo credits: iStock/JordiRamisa)



## SPOTLIGHT STORY: Strengthening Kenyan Capacity for Climate-Resilient Urban Planning and Service Delivery



*GCA masterclasses ensure that climate resilience remains a core component of urban planning education  
(Photo credits: iStock/hadynyah)*

### CONTEXT

Kenya is experiencing rapid urbanization, with its urban population projected to reach 50% by 2050. While urbanization presents economic opportunities, it also increases exposure to climate risks such as flooding, drought, and environmental degradation. Uncontrolled spatial expansion, poor drainage infrastructure, and a lack of urban greenery exacerbate these risks, particularly for vulnerable communities. Most urban planning efforts in Kenya have historically focused on grey infrastructure solutions, often overlooking the potential of NbS to provide cost-effective, sustainable alternatives.



#### IFI Lead

World Bank Group



#### Investment

US\$350 million



#### Beneficiaries

3.5 million people



#### Investment Project Objective

Embed NbS into Kenya's urban development planning



## GCA SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT IFI INVESTMENTS

GCA has partnered with the WBG on the Second Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP2), to strengthen the public sector capacity of Kenyan counties and municipal boards to implement climate resilient urban services and planning. As a “Program-for-Results” financing instrument, KUSP2 uses performance grants to incentivize sub-national governments to implement climate resilient and inclusive urban planning and service delivery. The investment will also strengthen institutional capacity to improve the resilience of urban infrastructure and service delivery, to enhance private sector engagement in resilient urban planning, and to support the transition of refugee camps into integrated settlements in a climate adaptive manner. GCA has aligned its support package with the results areas and disbursement linked indicators so as to incentivize implementation of designed support measures.

To enhance national and local capacity to integrate urban resilience in urban development planning, GCA partnered with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to develop and deliver the Urban Climate Resilience Masterclass. The first training session took place at the Kenya School of Government (KSG) in October 2024, bringing together urban policy makers, planners as well as engineers from across Kenya. The Government of Kenya, the World Bank Group (WBG) task team and board of experts identified were actively involved with the co-creation of the contents of the master class. The masterclass covered key topics such as understanding urban climate vulnerabilities, integrating urban resilience into the infrastructure planning cycle, and locally led climate adaptation.

To further scale-up the integration of urban resilience, GCA and IIED trained 30 trainers, who will be delivering subsequent pilot trainings across the country in early 2025. Participant trainers were targeted from the Council of Governors, the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, KSG and the National Environment Management Authority, as well as other government agencies and the private sector. The training equipped participants with the skills and knowledge to integrate climate resilience into urban investment planning and infrastructure projects. Beyond integrating climate resilience in their own work, the participants were provided with tools to be able to train others within their institutions and communities, ensuring long-term capacity building for climate-resilient urban development.

Furthermore, GCA is developing a NbS Compendium, set to be finalized in April 2025. The compendium identifies and documents existing NbS solutions within cities in Kenya to inform project cities and stakeholders and provide detailed technical guidance and practical recommendations to integrate NbS into infrastructure investments and embed NbS at every stage of planning. Through field visits, key informant interviews and validation workshops, GCA identified barriers to implementation and opportunities for scaling up solutions that address Kenya’s specific climate challenges. The Government of Kenya, the WBG task team, and the World Bank / Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Global NbS team are actively engaged in the work. The Secretary of Nakuru County mentioned: The WBG comes with finance but not necessarily with solutions. That is why GCA’s support is so important.



## LESSONS LEARNED & WAY FORWARD

GCA's support for this investment project takes an integrated approach—addressing railway assets, services, and water catchment areas—while identifying opportunities for improved water management and nature-based risk mitigation options at the basin level. The detailed identification and prioritization of adaptation options have included engineering solutions that offer direct protection, as well as NbS that address the root causes of high runoff and erosion, exacerbated in the context of climate change. This has unlocked pathways to scale impact beyond the railway, enhancing water catchment management and agroforestry initiatives for greater climate resilience.

As climate change intensifies rainfall variability, solutions such as reforestation, conservation agriculture, and erosion control came out of the analysis as sustainable and cost-effective flood mitigation strategies while offering environmental and socio-economic benefits. Given the vast agricultural landscape within the Kinyasungwe River catchment (56,000 ha of agricultural land), these large-scale NbS have been discussed with the WBG and the project stakeholders,



*Under the World Bank's First Kenya Urban Support Program, GCA is helping make Nakuru's streets more climate-resilient  
(Photo credits: GCA)*

## SPOTLIGHT STORY: Strengthening Climate Resilience in Ethiopia Through Sustainable Water Management



*Our goal is to ensure that urban growth and water resource management are both climate-resilient and inclusive  
(Photo credits: iStock/piyaset)*

### CONTEXT

Ethiopia is experiencing a warming trend, with a 15-20% decline in growing-season rainfall nationally. The Borana region is particularly affected, facing prolonged drought due to failed rains since 2020. The scarcity of water is threatening the livelihoods of 6.8 million people, causing failed agricultural yields, pasture degradation, and loss of livestock. Moreover, the lack of adequate water management infrastructure exacerbates these challenges, affecting food security, public health, and economic stability.



#### IFI Lead

African Development Bank



#### Investment

US\$35.7 million + US\$94 million shaped in additional finance



#### Beneficiaries

38,995 people with access to improved drinking water and sanitation services



#### Investment Project Objective

Develop sustainable, climate-adaptive water services for pastoralist communities



## GCA SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT IFI INVESTMENTS

GCA has partnered with the AfDB to prepare and implement the Borana Resilient Water Development for Improved Livelihoods Program. The program aims to provide pastoralist communities in Borana with access to climate-resilient and gender-sensitive integrated and sustainable water and sanitation services for improved health, livelihoods, nutrition, and food security.

GCA provided technical support to the program by conducting climate risk assessments (CRAs) to identify climate hotspots and risks, adaptation needs, and opportunities. Targeted adaptation measures were developed to ensure that the project integrates solutions such as sustainable water resource management, improved groundwater extraction techniques, and enhanced rainwater harvesting systems. To enhance its acceptance and sustainability, GCA collaborated with local institutions and communities to ensure that traditional water management practices are incorporated into the project design. The CRA informed the design of the project, and the climate adaptation measures will be integrated into phase 2 of the project.

Given that women and girls are disproportionately affected by water scarcity and climate shocks, GCA also developed a gender climate vulnerability assessment to facilitate the creation of a gender-sensitive water services action plan. The assessment suggested that women and girls were impacted disproportionately, which is evidenced by an increase in poverty, loss of livestock (a key source of livelihood for women in the region), reduced productive time resulting from decreased access to safe sources of water and increased difficulty in maintaining proper hygiene as well as increased gender-based violence. As the impacts of climate change trigger more displacement, women and girls suffer from various forms of violence, such as rape, abduction, and verbal abuse in Internally Displaced Persons centers. By integrating gender-responsive measures into the program, GCA ensures that the infrastructure investments improve water access for women and marginalized groups, promoting decision-making in water governance and mitigating the risks of gender-based violence in water collection processes.

The CRA, strategic recommendations, and gender climate vulnerability assessment were finalized in the first half of 2024 and shared with AfDB and government counterparts. The expected outcomes from these interventions include promoting socio-economic development through improved integration of climate adaptation and resilience solutions into infrastructure investments in the Borana Zone. These actions aim to improve water management, health, and social equity, address existing gender gaps, and increase water access for women and marginalized groups.

## LESSONS LEARNED & WAY FORWARD

To enhance the program's financial sustainability and scale its impact, GCA has supported the development of a funding proposal to access additional resources from the AfDB's CAW. GCA provided key inputs into the proposal development through the CRA, identification of risk mitigation solutions, and development of the draft proposal. The proposal successfully secured US\$9.4 million in additional funding from the AfDB CAW, increasing the total Phase 2 budget by 18% to US\$62 million. This additional funding will support the implementation of critical adaptation and resilience measures, improving the living conditions and sustainability of the project's interventions in the Borana region.





*Twelve Black Soldier Fly units were inaugurated in Mukuru, Kenya, to turn organic waste into protein-rich feed and nutrient-rich fertilizer (Photo credits: GCA)*

## LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION

In 2024, the GCA expanded its commitment to LLA by empowering frontline communities—those most exposed to climate shocks—to take charge of developing and scaling their own climate solutions. A highlight of the year was the Local Adaptation Champions Awards, which received a record number of applications - 870 applications from organizations in 107 countries - from grassroots organizations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. At COP29 in Dubai, GCA announced four winners specializing in areas such as women-led green enterprises, urban resilience, climate-smart agriculture, and nature-based water solutions. These awardees benefit from ongoing technical and networking support through the Global Hub on LLA in Dhaka, designed to facilitate cross-regional collaboration and knowledge sharing.

A significant milestone in LLA advocacy came with Bangladesh's recognition as the first government to win the global Local Adaptation Champions Award in the "Innovation in Devolving Finance" category. Its Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC)—implemented by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-Operatives—offers a model for channeling resources to climate-vulnerable communities through devolved finance mechanisms. LoGIC's structured approach to monitoring, evaluation, and peer learning illustrates how localized adaptation efforts can be scaled up systematically while reflecting local priorities.

## Local Adaptation Champions



### Local Adaptation Champions

GCA's Local Adaptation Champions Awards recognize and reward innovative, inspiring, and scalable locally led climate adaptation efforts that strengthen resilience among the most vulnerable communities and individuals on the frontlines of the climate crisis. The 2024 Awards Ceremony, held at COP29, spotlighted winners driving change across four key areas: food security, water access, local entrepreneurship, and urban resilience. The winners included:

- Tree Aid (United Kingdom/Burkina Faso), which empowers rural communities—particularly women—through tree-based enterprises and nutrition gardens, improving food security and restoring degraded land.
- Green Hope Foundation (Kiribati), for installing solar-powered water farms that deliver clean water and reduce emissions, supporting economic independence for women and youth.
- Aliet Green (Indonesia), for introducing climate-smart technologies to over 1,500 smallholder farmers, helping them adapt to climate pressures in coconut sugar production.
- IIED América Latina (Argentina), for co-developing nature-based solutions with residents of Buenos Aires to address extreme heat through community greening efforts.

This edition of the awards also highlighted innovations in capacity building, financial governance, community-based planning, and inclusive advocacy, reinforcing the critical role of local leadership in shaping equitable adaptation.

During the ceremony, GCA also launched the third edition of *Stories of Resilience* at COP29, showcasing real-world narratives from adaptation leaders worldwide. These stories amplify local voices and demonstrate why locally led adaptation must remain central to global climate policy and COP agenda. The publication has already begun informing other adaptation projects by showcasing best practices for inclusive participation and gender-responsive approaches.



## Stories of Resilience: Amplifying Grassroots Leadership



In 2024, GCA launched the third edition of *Stories of Resilience* at COP29, spotlighting real-world narratives from adaptation leaders worldwide. The report emphasizes that local communities are forging ahead in response to mounting climate threats, yet they remain stymied by global and national systems that have not been retooled swiftly or thoroughly enough. The report calls for a decisive overhaul of the way climate finance is allocated and delivered, urging a pivot from short-lived, project-based approaches to long-term, flexible, and predictable funding streams that empower frontline communities to both determine priorities and sustain momentum.

Central to this transformation is increased local leadership in every phase of adaptation—communities not only implementing projects but shaping solutions from the outset, guided by their own knowledge and supported by more equitable partnerships with donors, national governments, the private sector, and researchers. Crucially, the report highlights the importance of co-produced data and research—where communities collaborate with technical experts to tailor interventions to real-world challenges—and underscores that the role of subnational governments is vital in ensuring adaptation efforts reach the most vulnerable populations. It also shows that social protection programs, if expanded and designed with climate shocks in mind, can serve as a scalable and ready-made conduit for channeling support directly to those on the sharpest edge of climate impacts. The emerging global effort to address climate-induced loss and damage is likewise spotlighted: the new international fund for loss and damage will need to distribute resources in ways that are community-driven, culturally informed, and attentive to non-economic harm.

At the national level, countries are encouraged to bridge gaps by institutionalizing downward accountability, improving governance frameworks, and embracing risk-sharing models that fully incorporate local experience in decision making. Ultimately, the 2024 edition of *Stories of Resilience* underscores a collective responsibility among donors, policymakers, and civil society to prioritize grassroots innovation, uphold inclusive processes, and ensure that progress on paper translates into transformative change on the ground. Its findings have already begun informing new adaptation initiatives, offering replicable best practices in capacity building, financial governance, and community-based advocacy.



By placing decision-making and resource allocation in the hands of those directly experiencing climate risks, GCA underscores that locally led solutions are critical for effective and equitable adaptation.

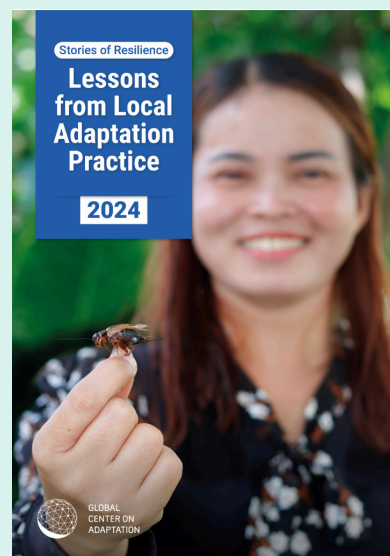
### People's Adaptation Planning

The People's Adaptation Planning process is a bottom-up approach designed to put communities at the forefront of identifying and implementing solutions to climate-related risks. It begins with local assessments of the threats most urgently affecting neighborhood well-being—such as drought, flooding, landslides, cyclone damage, saltwater intrusion, and pollution—using a mix of focus group discussions, household surveys, and participatory mapping. This local intelligence is then combined with expert knowledge on infrastructure design and climate information, so that adaptation priorities reflect both lived experience and technical feasibility.

From the outset, the process prioritizes inclusive decision-making. Ward-level committees—composed of women, youth, small-business owners, community-based organizations, local government officials, and other at-risk groups—work together to parse out the most pressing challenges and the best methods to address them. In Mongla, Bangladesh for instance, this enabled GCA and its partners to pilot feasible, community-approved solutions for improving drainage and sanitation, while simultaneously exploring rainwater harvesting as a locally sustainable source of freshwater.

What truly sets the People's Adaptation Planning framework apart is its alignment with larger-scale investment opportunities. The credibility of locally generated data and transparent prioritization—backed by strong buy-in from residents—makes these plans ideal candidates for financing from institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, AfDB, the World Bank. Moreover, the process does not end with a single project cycle; continuous feedback through surveys, digital storytelling, and on-site evaluations keeps local strategies dynamic, so neighborhoods can refine their interventions as risks evolve.

In 2024 we finalized ward-level adaptation plans in Mongla in Bangladesh, guiding pilot interventions for rainwater harvesting, drainage improvement, and sanitation enhancements. We scaled up these community-led approaches to seven additional cities in Bangladesh including Bhola, Patuakhali, Kuakata, Chattogram, Laksam, Feni and Mirsarai. Across Africa, we initiated the process of developing such plans in 3 communities on the Senegalese side of the Senegal River Valley and two district adaptation plans in Nyabihu and Ngororero Districts of Rwanda. These efforts collectively ensured broad inclusion of vulnerable voices, leveraged multimedia platforms to increase awareness, and began integrating local adaptation priorities into large-scale investment projects financed by agencies like the IFI's.



*Stories of Resilience is essential for amplifying the inspiring stories of the people at the center of local adaptation action*

## People's Adaptation Planning



Informal settlement in Kenya's Homa Bay County, grappling with intensifying climate threats such as flooding, droughts, and erratic rainfall  
(Photo credits: GCA)

### Transforming Informal Settlements into Climate-Resilient Communities

Homa Bay County, located in western Kenya and bordered by the vast expanse of Lake Victoria, is grappling with intensifying climate threats such as flooding, droughts, and erratic rainfall. These challenges are particularly severe for residents of the county's informal settlements, who face heightened vulnerability due to unsafe housing, inadequate sanitation, and limited access to essential services. Recognizing the urgency and gravity of this situation, the County Government of Homa Bay has collaborated with GCA and community stakeholders to launch a comprehensive planning process that places local voices at the heart of climate adaptation efforts.

The initiative relies on a series of People's Adaptation Plans, which are designed and executed by the people who know the threats most intimately. Residents collect on-the-ground data about flooding hotspots, waste management shortfalls, and barriers to essential public services, ensuring that local conditions and experiences guide every stage of intervention. The county government convenes forums where youth groups, women's organizations, and other marginalized populations openly articulate the specific challenges they face, allowing their ideas to shape solutions in real time. Importantly, county authorities, working in tandem with GCA, have committed to integrating these community-led strategies into Homa Bay's official budget and planning processes. The county government issued a formal Notice of Intention to plan in October 2024 to develop a Local Physical and Land Use development plan for Homa Bay Municipality aimed at reducing vulnerability of residents found within the informal settlements. The formal notification is a requirement and will go a long way in enabling the county to access financial resources to implement the plan. Additionally, GCA's local implementation partner, Akiba Mashinani Trust, convened 28 Civil Society Organizations into a consortium to support the initiative. The CSOs organized according to county planning sectors are being progressively onboarded into the planning process through structured engagement sessions. This onboarding—anchored on lessons from the Mukuru planning experience—is designed to strengthen their capacity and ensure their meaningful participation throughout the planning cycle.

As part of the initial activities, a geographic information systems base map was developed for the municipality. Local communities from the three informal settlements of Sofia, Makongeni and Shauri yako within the municipality will use the base map to capture spatial data for the municipality including land use patterns, infrastructure and key landmarks among others. As a next step, detailed household mapping and enumeration along with Rapid Climate Risk Assessment will be carried out to collect relevant socio-economic and climate information to inform the planning process. Such close alignment between bottom-up insight and formal governance structures prevents climate adaptation from being relegated to a secondary project portfolio and embeds it firmly in the county's core development agenda.

Although still in its early phases, the initiative is already yielding promising outcomes. Because community members fully own the planning and execution of these adaptation efforts, they are more likely to maintain improved drainage systems, adopt cleaner sanitation practices, and explore diversified livelihoods that bolster resilience. Equally important, the emphasis on inclusive governance is weaving stronger social and institutional ties: stakeholders at all levels—from the local government to informal settlement representatives—are forging relationships that can outlast individual projects. Moreover, Homa Bay's approach offers a potential template for other Kenyan counties, demonstrating that when communities are empowered to articulate and solve their own climate challenges, the results are not only more equitable but also more sustainable in the long run.

The momentum generated in 2024 has shown us that locally led adaptation is not just a more inclusive way of working, but a potent force for lasting resilience. When communities guide the vision and shape the decisions, the resulting initiatives better reflect local realities, protect those at highest risk, and build on existing capacities. From rethinking financing to nurturing co-produced research, and from forging equitable partnerships to embedding adaptation in national systems, the promise of locally-led approaches shines through in both the diversity of success

stories and the transformative potential they hold. These efforts remind us that meaningful progress against climate threats requires not only innovation but also the trust, insight, and leadership of those whose livelihoods are most acutely on the line. Looking forward, the challenge—and opportunity—lies in scaling these lessons, closing finance gaps, and advancing supportive policy reforms so that every vulnerable community, no matter how remote or overlooked, can invest in a secure and thriving future.





GCA's 2024 Youth Advisory Board amplified youth voices at the Bonn Climate Change Conference  
(Photo credits: GCA)

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION

Our Youth Leadership and Education program empowers young people to champion adaptation on the global stage and strengthen resilience in their communities. It does so by building the youth adaptation movement, promoting meaningful youth participation in decision-making, delivering adaptation education and capacity-building, and cultivating young women's leadership.

Through initiatives like the Youth Advisory Panel, young leaders inform the program's strategy and activities while amplifying youth voices in global adaptation efforts. As part of the NAP Expo 2024, the program convened a high-level consultation on Youth Engagement with National Adaptation Plans, bringing together government representatives from Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific alongside UN bodies and development partners. This dialogue advanced efforts to institutionalize youth input in adaptation policy. With over 15,700 members in 173 countries, the Youth Adaptation Network further connects and mobilizes young people to shape a more resilient future.

In 2024, the Youth Leadership and Education program held two online consultations with young people from Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These brought together decision-makers such as the Minister of Youth Affairs, Cabo Verde, and young people to discuss the needs and challenges for youth in SIDS regarding climate adaptation. The results of the consultations were presented in GCA's flagship *State and Trends Report 2024*.

The program also invests in the leadership of young women through tailored training and support. The Online Executive Training on Young Women Leadership, delivered with the Ban Ki-moon Centre, has equipped 60 women from 12 African countries to develop and implement local adaptation projects. Ten outstanding initiatives received seed funding in 2024 and are featured in our *Women Adapt Our World* report. On International Women's Day, the program's Youth Forum on Young Women Leadership drew over 1,400 participants from 93 countries, highlighting the power of young women to drive adaptation action in their communities and beyond.

## Building the Youth Adaptation Movement: Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day

In 2024, more than 1.3 million people participated in the inaugural Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, with 365 events held across 73 countries. On 12 October, young people across the globe sent a powerful message to world leaders: invest in adaptation, or face escalating costs. The campaign was a bold demonstration of youth leadership on the frontlines of climate risk—and a reminder of why GCA places youth at the heart of its mission.

- Over 15,000 young people took part in thematic youth adaptation forums in the lead-up to the Day. These forums provided a platform for sharing innovative solutions, lessons learned, and practical recommendations to advance youth engagement in climate adaptation.
- The My Climate Adaptation Solution video competition attracted 216 youth-led innovations from 51 countries. The winners were:
  - Desmond Febechi (Nigeria), for smart spillways and Water monitoring for flood control and irrigation;
  - Guillermo Mallea (Bolivia), for food resilience through climate smart agriculture;
  - Ikenna Nzewi (Nigeria), for harnessing the power of nutshells for a more sustainable agriculture.
- On the Day, Lighthouse Events were organised in over 70 countries by schools, universities, youth-led organisations, individuals, and governments. These included youth-led conferences, community workshops, panel discussions, webinars, and ecosystem restoration activities such as mangrove planting.
- An online petition ahead of UNFCCC COP29 in Baku calling on leaders for increased adaptation finance, amplified youth voices even further, reaching millions around the world.
- The impact and outcomes of the Day were captured in the *Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Impact Report*, presented by GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel at COP29 to H.E. Hilda Heine, President of the Marshall Islands.



Young people celebrating Youth Climate Adaptation Action day in Tanzania  
Photo Credits: Climate Hub Tanzania



## Adaptation Education and Capacity-Building: Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Youth Leadership

With climate change threatening key sectors like agriculture and fisheries, adaptation is vital to Kenya's future. Yet millions of young people across Eastern and Southern Africa still face barriers to education due to poverty, inequality, and climate impacts. In response, GCA established the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership to equip the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to drive adaptation in their communities through lectures, field visits, and hands-on training. The Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership is a training-of-trainers model which seeks to be replicated across Africa.



*As part of the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership, participants visited Kitui County to learn from locally led adaptation initiatives  
(Photo credits: GCA)*

- The first Youth Academy officially started with a Dialogue on Accelerating Adaptation Education in a Climate Emergency, drawing over 500 students, government officials, development partners, and academics.
- Held from 19–26 September 2024 at the University of Nairobi, in collaboration with the University of Groningen, the first Academy trained 65 young leaders focusing on climate adaptation and effective teaching methodologies.
- Participants visited Kitui County to learn from locally led adaptation in action and are now replicating the training in their own communities across Kenya and the continent.
- Our Toolkit for Youth on Climate Adaptation and Leadership was launched, now adopted across Africa through localised versions and peer-to-peer delivery models.
- The impact and outcomes of the academy were captured in the *Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Youth Leadership* report.

Youth education and participation are essential pillars of effective climate adaptation. By equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and platforms to lead, we not only strengthen the resilience of communities today, but also invest in the long-term capacity of future generations to shape a more adaptive world.

Meaningful inclusion of youth in decision-making processes ensures that adaptation strategies are more innovative, representative, and responsive to the realities on the ground. As climate impacts accelerate, empowering youth is not optional—it is critical to building a resilient future.





*GCA helps local governments and financial institutions design adaptation strategies that reflect women's needs  
(Photo credits: iStock/PeopleImages)*

## GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

We embed Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles across all our programs in Africa to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized communities reap equitable benefits from climate adaptation interventions. Recognizing that women and girls often bear the brunt of climate change impacts while also driving much of the continent's agricultural and economic productivity, GCA views inclusive design and implementation as both a moral imperative and a catalyst for sustainable development. By tailoring its strategies to local contexts, GCA aims to dismantle systemic barriers—such as limited access to finance, cultural norms, and gaps in technical training—that disproportionately affect women, youth, and other underrepresented groups.

In Senegal's Livestock Development Program, for example, women already represent over half of the beneficiaries trained in climate-resilient practices like improved feeding systems, disease surveillance, and post-harvest handling. This focus on women-led enterprises not only addresses gender disparities in agriculture but also enhances livelihoods by bolstering productivity and revenue streams. Another prominent effort is the Ethiopia Food Systems Resilience Program, which integrates gender-inclusive digital advisory services for farmers, ensuring that women—who traditionally have limited access to extension

services—receive timely information about weather patterns, best practices, and market opportunities. These digital platforms are adapted to local languages and cultural contexts, making them more accessible to vulnerable groups.

Beyond individual projects, GCA supports capacity-building initiatives that empower women to participate in policy dialogues and shape adaptation investments at the national level. By partnering with community-based organizations and civil society groups, GCA ensures that interventions are culturally sensitive, promote inclusive governance, and prioritize the voices of the most marginalized populations. Through stakeholder workshops, GCA helps local governments and financial institutions design adaptation strategies that reflect women's needs, including child-care support or flexible financing mechanisms to enable female entrepreneurs to invest in climate-resilient livelihoods.

By addressing systemic inequalities through targeted interventions, GCA fosters inclusive development outcomes across Africa. Through training and mentorship programs, GCA also encourages local ownership, ensuring that success stories, best practices, and knowledge transfer remain embedded within communities long after individual projects conclude.



Nevertheless, one persistent challenge we have found lies in scaling digital agriculture solutions, as low-income farmers often lack reliable internet access or the necessary digital literacy. This gap is especially pronounced for women in remote or traditional communities, who face cultural and logistical barriers to adopting new technologies. Another challenge involves developing adaptive frameworks that effectively reach vulnerable populations, particularly those in conflict-affected areas or regions with weak institutions.

To address these challenges, we plan to expand the bundling of adaptation solutions so that agriculture, water management, infrastructure, and socio-economic development are integrated into cohesive projects. This holistic approach is expected to reduce duplication, leverage synergies, and make it easier for vulnerable populations—especially women—to access multiple adaptation

services at once. GCA will also strengthen partnerships with private sector actors, including agritech startups and microfinance institutions, to unlock additional resources and develop market-driven innovations that accelerate the reach and affordability of adaptation tools. Finally, GCA intends to prioritize systemic change by embedding adaptation strategies within national policies and long-term investment pipelines. This includes supporting governments in refining legal frameworks, streamlining regulatory procedures, and improving public awareness so that gender-responsive adaptation becomes standard practice rather than an optional add-on.

Through these measures, GCA reaffirms its commitment to amplifying women's leadership, empowering underrepresented communities, and ensuring that no one is left behind in Africa's journey toward a more climate-resilient future.







At Davos, GCA and WEF united leaders to accelerate private sector investment and innovation in climate resilience  
(Photo credits: GCA)

## 7. KNOWLEDGE, ADVOCACY AND AGENDA SETTING

In 2024, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) significantly deepened its role as a convener of leaders, financial institutions, private sector actors, and civil society to drive adaptation ambition and action. Through a series of high-profile, action-oriented platforms across the year, GCA mobilized collective political will, forged new partnerships, and helped shape the global agenda on adaptation.

In January at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, GCA, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, co-hosted a Business Dialogue on Climate Adaptation and Resilience. This session brought together business leaders, government representatives, philanthropies, and multilateral development banks to deliberate on how to strengthen private sector engagement in adaptation. Discussions emphasized the urgency of scaling up investment in resilience and outlined the establishment of a Global Business Adaptation Hub, a platform to accelerate private sector innovation and shape adaptation finance at scale.

In April 2024, on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C., GCA CEO Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen delivered a compelling message on the critical need to close the adaptation financing gap. Highlighting findings from GCA's flagship *State and Trends in Adaptation 2023* report, he underscored that although global climate finance flows had doubled to US\$1.3 trillion annually, the share directed to adaptation had declined. He called for a quadrupling of adaptation finance by 2035 to US\$3.3 trillion, with a sharp focus on Africa, where needs are greatest but investment remains insufficient. The dialogue helped raise the profile of adaptation finance challenges among global financial leaders and strengthened calls for prioritization of adaptation within international financial institutions.

Recognizing the need for regional ownership and country-driven priorities, GCA convened comprehensive consultations during May and June 2024 to lay the groundwork for two major regional programs.



GCA engaged over 20 African governments, including ministers and senior officials, through consultations to exchange views on aligning national adaptation priorities with the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) and to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

In September 2024, during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA79), GCA, together with the governments of Barbados, Denmark, Kenya, Norway, and Tanzania, convened its flagship Leaders' Dialogues on Global Partnership for Doubling Down on Adaptation Action, reaffirming its role as the principal global platform for driving adaptation leadership. The Dialogue, attended by representatives of 45 governments, including more than 35 Heads of State and Government and ministers, as well as leaders from over 10 international organizations, provided a critical moment to consolidate political momentum around adaptation.

The event culminated in a shared recognition that adaptation must remain central to the global climate agenda, and that urgent efforts are needed to close the widening financing gap.



At COP29 in Baku, AAAP partners shared insights from adaptation efforts to help shape the program's next phase  
(Photo credits: GCA)

As the largest adaptation event during UNGA79, the Leaders' Dialogue successfully positioned the GCA at the forefront of global advocacy for accelerated adaptation action, setting a strong foundation for annual convenings in future years.

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, GCA continued to champion locally led solutions by convening the high-level Leaders' Event the Global Champions for Locally Led Adaptation, in collaboration with the governments of Bangladesh and the United Kingdom.



Update caption to: The 4th AAAP Partnership Forum in Nairobi reviewed progress toward accelerating climate adaptation through the AAAP  
(Photo credits: GCA)



This event celebrated the winners of the 2024 Local Adaptation Champions Awards, recognizing exceptional initiatives advancing food security, local entrepreneurship, urban adaptation solutions, and water security at the community level. The platform reinforced the importance of empowering local actors, emphasized the critical role of communities in designing and delivering adaptation solutions, and mobilized global support to strengthen locally led resilience-building efforts.

## MAKING THE CASE FOR ADAPTATION THROUGH TARGETED PROMOTIONS

GCA also promoted the value of adaptation throughout the year through top-tier media placements and social media engagement. By engaging with leaders and high-profile media outlets, GCA published guest essays at strategic moments to amplify key adaptation messages during international negotiations:

### **Newsweek – Deadly Hurricanes Should Put Climate Front and Center in Election**

Ban Ki-moon and Patrick V. Verkooijen 22 October 2024

### **Newsweek – Africa Must Nurture Home-Grown Solutions To Bridge Climate Funding Gap**

Prof. Patrick V. Verkooijen 2 July 2024

### **Reuters– Small islands risk extinction**

Hilda Heine and Patrick V. Verkooijen 1 November 2024

### **Reuters – Higher education must harness the energy of Africa's 'youthquake'**

Patrick V. Verkooijen 21 September 2024

### **Devex – At COP29, leaders push for adaptation funding amid rising climate risks**

Patrick V. Verkooijen 16 November 2024





A \$1 billion commitment to fund climate adaptation marks a new era of collaboration in Africa  
(Photo credits: World Economic Forum)

## 8. FUTURE OUTLOOK AND STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR 2025

As the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) advances into 2025, our strategic focus intensifies on delivering actionable, evidence-based solutions that address the escalating climate adaptation challenges worldwide. Building upon the momentum of 2024, we are poised to implement a suite of initiatives designed to enhance resilience, particularly in vulnerable regions, and to bridge critical gaps in adaptation finance and knowledge dissemination.

### PRIORITIZING SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

Small Island Developing States remain at the forefront of climate vulnerability, facing disproportionate risks from sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and economic disruptions. In 2025, GCA will publish the State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2025: Small Island Developing States (STA25), providing an integrated overview of climate risks, adaptation actions, and financing needs within these nations. This report will draw upon strategic partnerships to consolidate the best available knowledge on the science, policy, and practice of climate adaptation in SIDS.



From 1970 to 2020, SIDS lost US\$153 billion due to weather, climate, and water-related hazards  
(Photo credits: iStock/Gerold Grotelueschen)



A distinctive feature of STA25 will be the inclusion of a chapter authored by members of the GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel. This chapter will delve into the challenges faced by young people in SIDS, highlight good practices from youth-led adaptation actions, and provide recommendations to strengthen youth engagement in climate adaptation efforts.

## LAUNCHING THE RESILIENT ECONOMIES INDEX

Recognizing the need for robust metrics to assess and enhance economic resilience to climate impacts, GCA will introduce the Resilient Economies Index in 2025. This innovative tool aims to provide policymakers, investors, and development partners with a comprehensive framework to evaluate and compare the adaptive capacity of African economies with the intention for it to expand to economies worldwide in future years. By identifying strengths and vulnerabilities, the index will inform targeted investments and policy interventions to bolster economic resilience in the face of climate change.

## INTRODUCING THE ADAPTATION INSIGHTS SERIES

To deepen the understanding of sector-specific climate risks and adaptation strategies, GCA will launch the Adaptation Insights series in 2025 to spotlight adaptation issues in specific sectors. The inaugural paper, *Climate Risks for Africa's Ports*, will examine the vulnerabilities of port infrastructure to climate-induced hazards such as sea-level rise, storm surges, and extreme weather events. Given the critical role of ports in facilitating trade and economic development across the continent, this analysis will provide actionable recommendations to enhance the resilience of these vital assets.

## MOBILIZING PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCE THROUGH THE AFRICA BUSINESS ADAPTATION PLATFORM

In a landmark collaboration with the World Economic Forum, GCA will launch the Africa Business Adaptation Platform (ABAP) at the World Economic Forum. This initiative aims to channel US\$5 billion in private sector investments into climate adaptation projects across Africa. Ahead of its launch the platform has already secured a US\$1 billion commitment from the Tanzania based CRDB Bank Group, signaling strong momentum in mobilizing private capital for adaptation efforts.

The Platform will focus on three strategic pillars: enhancing the supply of private finance by engaging financial institutions to develop innovative adaptation financing instruments; stimulating demand by supporting enterprises to build resilient operations and supply chains; and shaping policy environments to facilitate private investment in adaptation. The platform also complements initiatives like the Adaptation & Resilience Leaders Initiative, fostering a collaborative approach to scaling adaptation solutions.

## STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING MECHANISMS

In alignment with our strategic objectives, GCA will continue to foster global partnerships and advocate for increased adaptation financing. Collaborations with multilateral development banks, national governments, and private sector stakeholders will be pivotal in mobilizing resources and scaling up adaptation initiatives. By leveraging innovative financing mechanisms and promoting inclusive, locally-led adaptation efforts, GCA aims to bridge the adaptation finance gap and ensure that vulnerable communities receive the support necessary to build resilience.

Through these strategic initiatives, GCA reaffirms its commitment to catalyzing transformative adaptation actions that safeguard communities, economies, and ecosystems against the escalating impacts of climate change. As we navigate the complexities of 2025 and beyond, our focus remains steadfast on fostering a resilient and equitable future for all.



*GCA Rotterdam headquarters, the largest floating office in the world  
(Photo credits: GCA)*

## 9. ORGANIZATION & GOVERNANCE

### ORGANIZATION

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization with public benefit status (ANBI status). Founded in 2018, GCA has continued to evolve since operating as the co-managing partner of the Global Commission on Adaptation under the auspices of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands. In October 2019, GCA was legally established as a Stichting, or Foundation, in the Netherlands. Since then, the organization has experienced significant growth, increasing its staff, consultants, secondees, and interns to meet the ongoing demand for its services. By the end of 2024, GCA employed 101 dedicated professionals.

GCA's global headquarters is located in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Additionally, GCA operates a Research for Impact hub in Groningen and maintains regional offices in Abidjan, Dhaka, and Beijing. In 2024, GCA signed a hosting agreement with the Republic of Kenya to expand its presence by establishing a "dual-headquarter"

in Nairobi, Kenya. These offices enable GCA to have a far-reaching impact in its mission to accelerate climate adaptation at scale through policy development, research, advocacy, and collaboration with partners locally.

GCA's Governing Board is comprised of its Executive, Supervisory, and Advisory Boards. The Governing Board has overall responsibility for determining the mission and strategic direction of the organization. The respective responsibilities and duties of each Board are set out in GCA's governing Statutes and Regulations.

The Executive and Supervisory Boards are responsible for matters concerning the daily functioning and statutory compliance of the organization. The Advisory Board provides non-binding advice to the Supervisory and Executive Boards on matters of strategic importance, emerging priorities and fundraising for the organization. The Advisory Board is comprised of Heads of State and distinguished executives from international financing organizations (IFIs) and international organizations.



## SUPERVISORY BOARD

The Supervisory Board governs GCA and supports the Executive Board in an advisory capacity. The Supervisory Board includes two sub-committees:

- **Audit & Risk Committee** whose function is to assist the Supervisory Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to the organization's risk management and internal control framework, integrity of its financial reporting, and its auditing processes and activities; and
- **Nomination & Remuneration Committee** whose function is to advise the Supervisory Board on matters regarding talent selection, planning, succession and compensation of and to the Executive Board.

In 2024, the Supervisory Board was comprised of the following members:

- Ban Ki-moon, Honorary Chair
- Macky Sall, Co-Chair
- Feike Sijbesma, Co-Chair
- Mayor Francis X. Suarez, Member
- Rodger Voorhies, Member
- Shemara Wikramanayake, Member

From its inception until 2024, the Supervisory Board was Co-Chaired by 8th UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon. Following Secretary-General Ban's appointment to GCA Honorary Chair in December 2024, former President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Macky Sall, assumed the role of Supervisory Board Chair.



GCA President and CEO, Patrick Verkooijen, Honorary Chair of the Supervisory Board and 8th UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, and Chair of the Supervisory Board and former President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall  
(Photo credits: GCA)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Executive Board is charged with the management of the organization, including determining and implementing strategy and policy. The Executive Board is comprised of three distinguished members:

- Patrick Verkooijen, Chair & CEO
- Jan Peter Balkenende, Member
- José Antonio Meade, Member

The Leadership Team (LT) is composed of the managers of the directorates: Programs, Development, Finance and Operations, and External Affairs, who are responsible for GCA's day-to-day management and business operations. The LT reports directly to the CEO, who chairs the LT and ensures cohesive and effective leadership within the organization.

The LT plays a pivotal role in guiding GCA, providing both strategic direction and operational oversight. It acts as a bridge between the organization's day-to-day activities and its long-term vision, ensuring alignment with GCA's mission and goals. The LT furnishes the Governing Board with essential information regarding GCA's activities, strategy, budgets and work plans to facilitate informed decision-making at the highest level.

## INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION

The Internal Audit and Compliance function is crucial for GCA's operational integrity and regulatory compliance. It independently evaluates and contributes to the improvement of governance, risk management, and control processes, and reports thereon. The Internal Audit and Compliance office is also responsible for assessing and investigating allegations of fraud, corruption, and other integrity violations.

In 2024, the internal audit and compliance office conducted 14 planned audits, including 10 audits of GCA's downstream implementing

partners. During the reporting period, two suspected cases of fraud involving downstream partners were reported. The internal audit team conducted internal investigations into both cases in accordance with established procedures. The findings concluded that one of the cases was not fraud but revealed some weaknesses in the partner's internal controls. GCA worked closely with the partner to implement corrective measures and strengthen their control environment. With respect to the second case, the internal audit findings suggested further investigation, and a forensic audit firm was engaged to conduct deeper investigation, which remains ongoing. These actions reflect GCA's continued commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and oversight across all levels of operations and partnerships.

## INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM

GCA continues to strengthen its internal control framework consisting of policies and procedures designed to protect its resources and ensure operational integrity. These measures play a vital role in the deterrence, prevention, and detection of fraud, misconduct, corruption, waste, and abuse at all levels of the organization. The framework clarifies accountability, roles, and responsibilities, and promotes efficiency and value for money. The objective of GCA's control framework is to nurture a culture of ethics, integrity, transparency, and accountability.

To maintain a strong control environment, GCA periodically reviews and updates its policies and procedures. In support of a culture of integrity and compliance, all staff and consultants complete mandatory training and awareness programs on policy content, GCA's Code of Conduct, and reporting procedures to ensure comprehensive understanding and compliance across the organization. GCA has established a reporting mechanism (available on its website), including dedicated email channels for reporting integrity violations and related misconduct in order to identify and address any integrity violations.



## SUPERVISORY & EXECUTIVE BOARD



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4<sup>th</sup> President of the  
Republic of Senegal  
Chair of the  
Supervisory Board



**Ban Ki-moon**  
8<sup>th</sup> Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
Honorary Chair of the  
Supervisory Board



**Feike Sijbesma**  
Honorary Chairman,  
Royal DSM  
Co-Chair of the  
Supervisory Board



**Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer



**Francis X. Suarez**  
Mayor of Miami



**Rodger Voorhies**  
President Global Growth & Opportunity  
Division, Gates Foundation



**Shemara Wikramanayake**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Macquarie



**Jan Peter Balkenende**  
Former Prime Minister  
of the Netherlands



**José Antonio Meade**  
Former Finance & Foreign Minister  
Mexico

## ADVISORY BOARD



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Barbados



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**Kristalina Georgieva**  
Managing Director  
International  
Monetary Fund



**Thani Mohamed Soilihi**  
Minister Delegate  
for Francophonie  
and International  
Partnerships of France



**Åsmund Grøver Aukrust**  
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Development Policy &  
Climate Ambassador  
Denmark



**Huang Runqiu**  
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Environment  
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**Loren Legarda**  
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Tempore  
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**Jenny Bates**  
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for the Foreign,  
Commonwealth and  
Development Office  
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**Rémy Rioux**  
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Officer  
Agence Française  
de Développement



**Carola Schouten**  
Mayor of Rotterdam



**Axel van Trotsenburg**  
Senior Managing  
Director for  
Development Policy &  
Partnerships  
World Bank

## 10. MANAGING RISKS

### RISK MANAGEMENT

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) operates in a rapidly evolving global landscape. Like all organizations, it faces a range of internal and external risks that may impact its global operations, economic performance, strategic goals, and reputation. During the reporting period, persistent geopolitical instability, economic uncertainty, climate-induced crises, and shifts in donor priorities posed notable challenges. Emerging risks, including safeguarding concerns, integrity threats, and environmental compliance, further emphasize the need for a strong and adaptive risk management framework.

In response, GCA has in place comprehensive systems for identifying, assessing, mitigating, and monitoring risks across all levels of the organization. Through an integrated approach involving risk management, internal audit, and compliance functions, GCA enhances its organizational resilience and capacity to achieve its strategic objectives. The Internal Audit function supports this effort by evaluating and improving governance, risk management, and internal controls. A corporate risk register is maintained and regularly updated to monitor material risks to GCA's global operations. This ensures that GCA remains responsive to current and emerging threats.

Below is a summary of GCA's principal risk areas and the measures in place to mitigate them:

#### FRAUD, BRIBERY, AND CORRUPTION RISKS

GCA maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of fraud, bribery, money laundering, and aid diversion. Operating in high-risk environments. To proactively mitigate integrity risks, GCA employs both preventive and detective measures. These include internal

awareness trainings, strict internal controls, publicly accessible whistleblowing channels, and consistent follow-up protocols. Regular internal audits continue to assess the effectiveness of these controls and address any concerns related to actual or alleged integrity violations.

Investigation protocols and reporting channels are actively promoted to foster a culture of vigilance, accountability, and transparency. GCA maintains a comprehensive incident register to systematically document, track, and address reported cases of fraud, corruption, and other integrity violations, ensuring accountability and timely resolution.

In 2024, GCA responded to two suspected fraud cases with our downstream partners. Following investigation, one was found not to be fraud, while the other case is currently under investigation. Both cases are being used as learning opportunities to strengthen our systems and ensure accountability.

#### SAFEGUARDING RISKS

GCA enforces a strict zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) involving its workforce, including employees, volunteers, consultants, and partners. The organization is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for everyone associated with its operations. This commitment includes supporting survivors, enhancing safeguarding capacity, and promptly addressing any incidents of misconduct.

Every member of the GCA team is expected to uphold the Code of Conduct, which forms an integral part of their employment contract. GCA has implemented comprehensive policies, procedures, and mandatory training to promote workplace inclusion, prevent discrimination



and harassment, and safeguard against SEAH. A dedicated Compliance Officer serves as the focal point for safeguarding concerns, offering guidance and support on prevention and response measures.

Additionally, GCA has appointed safeguarding focal points in both its headquarters and regional offices, including an External Confidential Advisor to facilitate reporting and handling of SEAH incidents. Accessible reporting mechanisms, such as dedicated email channels and a WhatsApp number available on GCA's website, enable prompt reporting and resolution of misconduct. GCA strongly encourages the reporting of any suspected misconduct to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all. As part of its due diligence, GCA assesses the safeguarding policies and practices of downstream partners, encouraging improvements to address SEAH at all levels of operations and partnerships.

In 2024, GCA endorsed the Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (CAPSEAH), reinforcing its alignment with international standards. Refresher trainings sessions were conducted across the organization to strengthen awareness and reinforce staff responsibilities. No SEAH incidents were reported during the reporting period.

## FUNDING AND FINANCIAL RISKS

GCA operates in an increasingly unpredictable funding environment, with global events and shifting priorities leading to cuts in development aid funding. These developments pose material risks to GCA of reduced budgets from primary funding partners, which threatens GCA's ability to shape essential program funding. To mitigate this, GCA engages in high level advocacy to ensure climate adaptation and sustainable development remain global priorities. GCA engages proactively with current funding partners to maintain flexible, multiple-year support while actively seeking new partners to diversify income streams. Moreover, strict financial controls and grant management systems are in place to ensure transparent and accountable fund utilization. Crucially,

GCA maintains a continuity reserve to cushion against financial uncertainties shortfalls and uphold uninterrupted program delivery. These proactive strategies reinforce GCA's ability to fulfill its mission.

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT RISKS

GCA is committed to proactively identifying, assessing, and managing risks that may impact the achievement of its programmatic objectives. Operating in complex and dynamic environments, GCA's programs are exposed to external challenges including political instability, economic volatility, climate-related disruptions, and operational constraints. These factors can affect program delivery, stakeholder engagement, and long-term impact.

To mitigate these risks, GCA employs a structured program risk management approach that includes scenario planning, adaptive programming, and continuous stakeholder engagement. Monitoring and Evaluation systems have been reinforced to track program performance, flag emerging risks, and ensure real-time course correction. Lessons learned from past risk events are systematically integrated into planning and design processes, strengthening organizational resilience and adaptability.

A program-specific risk register is maintained and updated quarterly to capture, assess, and respond to evolving risks across GCA's operations. This enables more effective mitigation planning and facilitates informed decision-making at all levels.

## STRATEGIC AND REPUTATIONAL RISKS

GCA's role as a solution broker entails collaboration with diverse stakeholders and partners which is essential to achieving its mission. This inherently comes with many strategic and reputations risks, many of which are beyond GCA's control. This makes it impossible to anticipate, identify and prevent all risks in advance, and consequently GCA maintains a medium risk appetite to balance agility with risk-

informed decision-making across all levels.

Strategic risks are managed through flexible planning, comprehensive due diligence, and performance monitoring. GCA prioritizes strong external communication protocols, policy alignment, and adherence to transparency standards. GCA employs robust internal systems to make informed strategic decisions and meticulously controls its external positions on contentious issues. Upholding a strong and positive reputation is paramount for GCA, facilitating trust building with stakeholders, influencing policy, and fundraising efforts.

Adhering to stringent transparency criteria and meticulous partnership procedures minimizes the risk of reputational harm. Ensuring technical capacity and sufficient resources for both program staff and partners are central to GCA's commitment to successful program delivery.

## HUMAN RESOURCES RISKS

GCA's human resources are essential to the delivery of high-quality programs and the achievement of its mission. Challenges in attracting and retaining high performing, committed professionals can negatively impact on the organization's capacity to implement projects efficiently and effectively. To address this, GCA's Human Resources function promotes continuous evaluation, adaptation, and professional development of its workforce.

Flexible workforce arrangements allow for agility in responding to evolving demands, while regular benchmarking of compensation and benefits ensures competitiveness in the global talent market. A comprehensive induction program and personal onboarding support help new team members quickly integrate, understand GCA's values, and connect with colleagues across the organization.

In 2024, GCA expanded its training catalogue to promote continuous learning and professional growth. New initiatives included leadership development programmes, Personal Development Plans, and opportunities for transversal assignments—all aimed at supporting individual growth and enhancing organizational agility.

Staff benefits were also strengthened with the introduction of a tax-efficient flexible benefits platform and an employer-funded pension scheme. To further support employee well-being and resilience, GCA began rolling out a mental health platform offering tools, resources, and access to one-on-one support.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS

GCA is committed to sound environmental and social stewardship that ensures sustainability and inclusivity in the activities it supports. We rely on well-established international environmental and social standards and procedures of partners such as international financial institutions, regional or national institutions to identify and manage environmental and social risks. GCA has an Environmental and Social policy in place to ensure that GCA funded activities will not cause negative environment and social impacts.

## COMPLIANCE AND PARTNER RISKS

GCA recognizes that implementing partners play a critical role in delivering impact on the ground. However, non-compliance by implementing partners, whether with donor requirements, local legal frameworks, or internal organizational policies, can pose significant financial, operational and reputational risks. To mitigate these, GCA employs a comprehensive partner risk management approach, that prioritizes both prevention and accountability, starting with rigorous due diligence that assesses financial controls, governance and safeguarding practices.

A risk-based framework guides the oversight of subgrants, allowing for targeted monitoring and review based on each partner's risk profile. Oversight activities include financial reviews, program monitoring and field visits, and internal or external audits where risks are higher. Where non-compliance is identified, whether through routine monitoring visits, audits or whistleblower reports, corrective actions are promptly implemented to ensure accountability, safeguard resources and uphold overall program integrity.



# 11. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## INCOME

In 2024, The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) recorded a 4% increase in total recognised income, rising from €20.9 million in 2023 to €21.8 million. This growth was driven by stronger program implementation and expansion of activities, mainly under the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP). Despite the increase, income fell short of the planned €34.7 million of the year, with only 63% of the target realised. The shortfall was primarily due to anticipated grants being secured later than expected.

During the year, GCA welcomed the government of Canada as a funding partner of the AAP, further strengthening a coalition which already includes governments of Denmark, the United Kingdom (UK), the Netherlands, Norway, and France.

The Gates Foundation continued its support to GCA with a new strategic planning grant. This funding will enable the development of a comprehensive Strategic Partnership Plan, designed to prioritise and operationalise key adaptation interventions.

In 2024, GCA recognized income from the following funding partners:

- France Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
- Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
- Gates Foundation
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- European Research Executive Agency
- CVF/V20 Multi Donor Fund

GCA recognises Gifts in Kind as part of its total income. In 2024, this income remained steady at €0.5 million, in line with both the previous year and budget projections. However, income from the African Development Bank was derecognised following the conclusion of the hosting agreement for GCA's Abidjan office. This transition reflects GCA's strategic shift toward strengthening its regional presence, marked by the establishment of a dual headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. This move follows the signing of a Host Government Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Kenya and supports GCA's efforts to enhance operational effectiveness across Africa

In 2024 GCA received Gifts in Kind from the following partners:

- Municipality of Rotterdam
- Municipality of Groningen

GCA remains appreciative of the steadfast commitment and support of its funding partners, who continue to play a critical role in delivering on our mission and driving impact at scale.

## EXPENDITURE

GCA's total expenditure reached €21.7 million in 2024, representing an 8% increase compared to €20.2 million in the previous year. This growth reflects with the gradual scale-up of programmatic activities enabled by new grant funding. However, the overall pace of implementation was moderated by strategic program adjustments and the phased rollout of several key initiatives. Actual expenditure accounted for 64% of the approved €33.9 million budget, with underutilization primarily due to delayed project start-up in line with timing of grant finalisations, as well as programmatic redesigns that postponed implementation. Due

to the multi-year nature of the funding, unused funds are carried forward and integrated into the 2025 program budget to support continued delivery and impact.

In 2024, 43% of total expenditure was allocated to the delivery of analytics, advisory services, and technical assistance—highlighting GCA's continued emphasis on evidence-based and impact-driven program delivery. Personnel and human resource costs comprised 34% of total spending, reflecting strategic investments in strengthening internal capacity across global and regional offices. Partner implementation and sub-grant commitments accounted for 10%, while the remaining 13% covered operational costs, including office infrastructure, ICT systems, communications, and travel.

Of the €21.7 million in total expenditure recognised in 2024, €16.2 million representing 75%, was dedicated to activities under the AAP program. The Bangladesh program accounted for 11%, while global initiatives accounted for the remaining €3.2 million. Categorised by GCA's three strategic pillars, 76% of expenditure was supported program implementation and action; €1.0 million went to knowledge acceleration, harnessing science and technology to drive innovation and education and; 7% was directed towards advocacy and agenda setting, aimed at influencing decision making within political, economic and social systems and institutions to drive adaptation. The remaining 13% supported indirect and administrative costs, supporting the systems and infrastructure needed to sustain GCA activities.

### Regions

	2024
<b>Africa</b>	16,187,148
<b>Bangladesh</b>	2,357,411
<b>Global</b>	3,172,243

### Pillars

	2024
Programs and Action	16,449,405
Knowledge Acceleration	962,875
Agenda Setting & Advocacy	1,583,479
General Management and Administration	2,721,043
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>21,716,801</b>

## FINANCIAL POSITION

GCA closed the 2024 financial year with a modest operational surplus of €0.09 million, reflecting prudent financial management and disciplined expenditure against available resources. Including financial gains of €0.7 million, the total surplus recognized for the year amounted to €0.8 million. This surplus has been transferred to GCA's reserves, in line with GCA's long-term objective of maintaining financial resilience and ensuring adequate buffers against unforeseen risks.

As at the balance sheet date, GCA's total reserves stood at €5.8 million, including €0.5 million of earmarked reserves for GCA staff-related obligations such as sickness and end-of-service benefits.

The total cash position at the end of 2024 was €16.4 million, marking a decrease of €3.3 million compared to the previous year. This reduction is primarily attributed to outstanding receivables at year-end, notably from the UK FCDO and the Government of Germany, for activities prefinanced by GCA, with reimbursed expected to be received in 2025.



## OUTLOOK

As the climate crisis continues to escalate, the urgency of scaling climate adaptation has never been greater. However, the global financing landscape is facing increased volatility. While the scientific consensus on the need for urgent climate adaptation is clear, the financial reality remains constrained—especially for developing countries most vulnerable to climate impacts. Geopolitical instability, conflict, and shifting priorities are leading to a notable reallocation of public budgets in donor countries, with significant official development assistance funds redirected toward defense and domestic agendas. This reduces available funding for international development and climate adaptation for particularly vulnerable countries.

Considering this, GCA is focusing on diversifying its funding sources and strengthen partnerships to build resilience, scale innovation, and sustain long-term impact. While multiyear support from key bilateral partners—including Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, France, and the UK—continues to anchor GCA's funding base, expanding engagement with philanthropic foundations, climate-focused private investors, and high-net-worth individuals is crucial. The renewal of support from the Gates Foundation signals the vital role that philanthropic actors play in supporting adaptation efforts. To support this shift, GCA is implementing a Strategic Partnership Plan to effectively target and cultivate new relationships.

Despite financial pressures globally, GCA's 2025 budget of €31.6 million reflects stability and alignment with strategic priorities. In 2025, GCA will focus on achieving its target of mainstreaming

adaptation into \$25 billion of investment and to lay the foundation for the next phase of the program – 'AAAP 2.0'. This includes scaling adaptation investment projects with CGIAR, expanding private sector engagement through institutions like the International Finance Corporation, the Netherlands Development Finance Company, and the Investment Fund for Developing Countries. In parallel, GCA will continue its work with the International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Facility to embed climate adaptation in national financial systems.

GCA will prioritise upgrading skills, workforce capacity, and human capital, with the goal of identifying practical methods and entry points to mainstream health and wellbeing across its programs, particularly in relation to health system infrastructure. Key deliverables for the year will include the publication of the *State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2025: Small Island Developing States*, the launch of the Resilient Economies Index to assess adaptive capacity in African economies, and the start of the Adaptation Insights series, beginning with a report on climate risks to Africa's ports.

Operationally, GCA continues to strengthen its presence in Africa to enhance impact on the ground. The formalisation of an agreement with the Government of Kenya to host GCA's dual headquarters in Nairobi marks a major milestone in deepening engagement and underscores a vital North-South partnership, focused on climate resilience, that demonstrates the power and potential of global cooperation at a time of rising geopolitical tensions. This development will allow GCA to deploy resources more efficiently and respond more rapidly to the needs of climate-vulnerable countries.

**BUDGET 2025**

In Euros

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2025</b>
Income from grants	31,057,350
Income from gifts in kind	493,446
<b>Sum of income</b>	<b>31,550,796</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel and human resources	11,324,836
Depreciation	93,088
Sub-grants to partners	3,271,000
Other costs	16,871,001
<b>Sum of expenses</b>	<b>31,559,925</b>
<b>Balance of income and expenses</b>	<b>(9,128)</b>
<b>FINANCIAL GAINS AND LOSSES</b>	
Financial gains	214,500
Financial losses	214,500
<b>Sum of financial gains and (losses)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>SURPLIS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(9,128)</b>





# Financial Statements

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### BALANCE SHEET AFTER APPROPRIATION OF THE RESULT

in Euros after the attribution of the sum of income and expenses

ASSETS		31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	Note:		
Intangible fixed assets			4,195
Tangible fixed assets		108,214	132,162
<b>Fixed assets</b>	(1)	<b>108,214</b>	<b>136,356</b>
Taxes receivable		-	-
Prepayments creditors		177,509	153,772
Receivables donors		3,676,795	2,021,670
Prepayments partners		39,442	4,743
<b>Receivables</b>	(2)	<b>3,893,746</b>	<b>2,180,185</b>
Cash		-	-
Bank		16,378,812	19,631,258
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>	(3)	<b>16,378,812</b>	<b>19,631,258</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>20,380,771</b>	<b>21,947,800</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Continuity reserve		5,327,750	4,507,956
Earmarked reserve		515,898	507,894
<b>Reserves</b>		<b>5,843,648</b>	<b>5,015,850</b>
Earmarked funds		-	-
<b>Reserves and funds</b>	(4)	<b>5,843,648</b>	<b>5,015,850</b>
Payable to creditors		887,201	769,047
Payable taxes		542,089	379,137
Grants received in advance		8,744,083	8,207,120
Accrued partner expenses		3,802,510	6,947,814
Other liabilities		561,241	628,831
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>	(5)	<b>14,537,124</b>	<b>16,931,949</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>20,380,771</b>	<b>21,947,800</b>

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

in Euros

INCOME	Note:	2024	2024	2023
		Actual	Budget	Actual
Income from grants	(8)	21,282,860	34,194,272	20,323,899
Income from gifts in kind	(9)	522,511	543,446	543,446
<b>Sum of income</b>		<b>21,805,371</b>	<b>34,737,718</b>	<b>20,867,345</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Personnel and human resources	(11)	7,459,643	10,777,012	6,830,213
Depreciation		109,438	113,750	165,620
Sub-grants to partners		2,081,136	6,339,797	4,503,909
Other expenses	(13)	12,066,584	16,649,268	8,669,523
<b>Sum of expenses</b>		<b>21,716,801</b>	<b>33,879,828</b>	<b>20,169,266</b>
<b>Balance of income and expenses</b>		<b>88,570</b>	<b>857,890</b>	<b>698,080</b>
<b>FINANCIAL GAINS AND LOSSES</b>				
Financial gains	(10)	908,818	183,000	474,640
Financial losses	(12)	169,590	246,700	533,966
<b>Sum of financial gains and (losses)</b>		<b>739,228</b>	<b>(63,700)</b>	<b>(59,326)</b>
Sum of expenses				
<b>RESULT (SURPLUS / (DEFICIT))</b>		<b>827,798</b>	<b>794,190</b>	<b>638,753</b>

## ATTRIBUTION OF THE SURPLUS

Addition to (withdrawal from)	2024	2023
Continuity reserve	819,794	445,505
Earmarked reserve	8,004	193,248
<b>Total change in reserves and funds</b>	<b>827,798</b>	<b>638,753</b>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

in Euros

	2024	2023
<b>Sum of income and expenses</b>	<b>827,798</b>	<b>638,753</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	109,438	165,620
Interest	(144,927)	(81,446)
Realised exchange rate losses (gains)	(31,853)	39,901
Changes in receivables	(1,713,561)	1,942,614
Changes in short term liabilities	(2,394,826)	3,454,636
<b>Cash flow from operations</b>	<b>(4,175,728)</b>	<b>5,521,324</b>
Interest	144,927	81,446
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>(3,203,003)</b>	<b>6,241,523</b>
Investments in intangible fixed assets	-	-
Investments in tangible fixed assets	(81,295)	(33,304)
Divestments of tangible fixed assets	-	-
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>(81,295)</b>	<b>(33,304)</b>
<b>Net cash flow</b>	<b>(3,284,299)</b>	<b>6,208,219</b>
Exchange rate gains / (losses) on cash and cash equivalents	31,853	(39,901)
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(3,252,446)</b>	<b>6,168,319</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	19,631,258	13,462,940
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	16,378,812	19,631,258
<b>Net movement in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(3,252,446)</b>	<b>6,168,319</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### General

Stichting The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is registered as a foundation with number 76050475 at the Chamber of Commerce in The Hague, the Netherlands and is recognized as an organisation for public benefit (ANBI, "Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling") by the Dutch tax authorities.

GCA's mission is to act as a solutions broker to accelerate, innovate and scale adaptation action for a climate-resilient world.

GCA's vision is that adaptation to our changing climate secures progress towards sustainable development, safeguarding people, the planet and our shared prosperity.

### Reporting period, currency and comparison with previous year

The financial statements have been prepared for the period commencing January 1st, 2024, to December 31st, 2024. The financial statements are presented in Euro, which is the functional currency of GCA.

The financial statements of the previous year have been prepared for the period January 1st, 2023, to December 31st, 2023. The valuation principles and method of determining the result are the same as those used in the previous year, except for the changes in accounting policies as set out in the relevant notes.

### Applied Standards

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Guideline RJ640 which applies to Dutch non-profit organisations.

### Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with the relevant rules requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the accounting policies. If necessary and relevant, the nature of these estimates and judgements, including the related assumptions, is disclosed in the notes to the financial statement item. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to estimates are recognized prospectively. The amount of provisions is for GCA's financial position the most relevant item which requires estimates.

### Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of the going concern assumption.

## ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

### Balance Sheet

Unless stated otherwise, assets and liabilities are shown at historical costs.

An asset is recognized in the balance sheet when it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the assets will flow to the entity and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. A liability is recognized in the balance sheet when it is expected to result in an outflow from the entity of resources embodying economic benefits and the amount of the obligation can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income is recognized in the statement of income and expenses when an increase in future economic potential related to an increase in an asset or a decrease of a liability has arisen, the size of which can be measured reliably. Expenses are recognized when a decrease in the economic potential related to a decrease in an asset or an increase of a liability has arisen, the size of which can be measured with sufficient reliability.

An asset or liability that is recognized in the balance sheet, remains recognized on the balance sheet if a transaction (with respect to the asset or liability) does not lead to a major change in the economic reality with respect to the asset or liability. Such transactions will not result in the recognition of results. When assessing whether there is a significant change in the economic circumstances, the economic benefits and risks that are likely to occur in practice are taken into account. The benefits and risks that are not reasonably expected to occur, are not taken into account in this assessment.

An asset or liability is no longer recognized in the balance sheet, and thus derecognized, when a transaction results in all or substantially all rights to economic benefits and all or substantially all of the risks related to the asset or liability are transferred to a third party. In such cases, the results of the transaction are directly recognized in the statement of income and expenses, taking into account any provisions related to the transaction.

Income and expenses are allocated to the respective period to which they relate.

### Impairment of assets

A financial asset is assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence that it is impaired. A financial asset is impaired if there is objective evidence of one or more events that occurred after the asset, with negative impact on the estimated future cash flows of that asset, which can be estimated reliably.

An impairment loss in respect of a financial asset measured at amortised cost is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Impairment losses are recognized in the statement of income and expenses and reflected in an allowance account against loans and receivables or investment securities held to maturity. Interest on the impaired asset continues to be recognized by using the asset's original effective interest rate. When, in a subsequent period, the amount of an impairment loss decreases, and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the decrease in impairment loss is reversed (up to the amount of the original cost).

### Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are only recognized in the balance sheet when it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to GCA and the cost of that asset can be measured reliably. Intangible fixed assets are measured at acquisition cost, less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

The accounting principles for the determination and recognition of impairments are included under the section Impairments of fixed assets.

The following depreciation percentages are applied:

- Websites: 33%

### Tangible assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

The cost consists of the price of acquisition, plus other costs that are necessary to get the assets to their location and condition for their intended use. Depreciation is recognized as an expense on a straightline basis over the estimated useful lives of each item of the tangible fixed assets, taking into account the residual value of each asset.

Depreciation starts as soon as the asset is available for its intended use and ends at decommissioning or divestment.

The following depreciation percentages are applied:

- Buildings 5%
- Cars, office furniture and fittings 33%
- ICT equipment: 33%

Maintenance expenditures are only capitalised when the maintenance leads to extension of the useful life of the asset.

### Impairment of assets

For tangible fixed assets, an assessment is made as of the balance sheet date as to whether there are indications that the asset is subject to impairment.

If indications exist that the asset item is subject to impairment, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. An asset is subject to impairment if its carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount; the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. An impairment loss is directly expensed in the statement of income and expenses. If it is established that a previously recognized impairment loss no longer applies or

has declined, the increased carrying amount of the assets in question is not set any higher than the carrying amount that would have been determined had no asset impairment been recognized.

### Disposal of assets

Assets that are taken out of service are stated at the lower of book value or net realisable value.

### Receivables

Receivables are carried at amortised cost on the basis of the effective interest method, less impairment losses. The effective interest and impairment losses, if any, are directly recognized in the statement of income and expenses.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash-in-hand, bank balances and deposits held at call with maturities of less than 12 months. Cash and cash equivalents are stated at nominal value. If cash and cash equivalents are not readily available, this fact is taken into account in the measurement. GCA does not have any borrowings or loans. GCA does not invest its funds other than in savings accounts and deposits. Cash and cash equivalents denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the balance sheet date in euros at the exchange rate ruling at that date.

### Reserves and Funds

The additions to and the withdrawals from the reserves and funds take place from the destination of results.

#### 1. Continuity reserve

The continuity reserve is in place to enable GCA to meet its obligations in the long term, in case of stagnated income or after an incident with an impact on expenses. The target level is determined by the Supervisory Board.

#### 2. Earmarked reserves

The earmarked reserves are related to the absence of staff due to sickness and to end of service benefits.

The future expenses related to this might not be eligibly claimed from future grants and due to the fact that GCA has no unearmarked funding, a reserve for such events is deemed necessary. The

amount of reserve equals the estimated future amount of sickness and end of service expenses, which is based on general statistical averages and actual historical data. The earmarked reserves are (partly) released against the statement of income and expenses in the financial period of actual absence of staff due to sickness, for the amount related to actual sickness of staff and end of service benefits paid out.

### Provisions

A provision is recognized when GCA has a legal or constructive obligation, arising from a past event, the amount can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

Provisions are stated at the nominal value of the expenses that are expected to be required to settle the liabilities and losses. For further explanation, see the notes to the balance sheet.

### Liabilities

Liabilities and other financial commitments are measured after their initial recognition at amortised cost on the basis of the effective interest rate method. The effective interest is directly recorded in the statement of income and expenses. Liabilities related to operational obligations to funding partners and partners are presented under short term liabilities, except those that are due or expected to be due after one year, which are presented under long term liabilities.

## INCOME AND EXPENSES

### Income recognition

Unrestricted donations are accounted for as income in the earliest reporting period that they were received or committed to.

Grants received with a designated purpose and a pay-back obligation for GCA in case of ineligibility of the related expenses, are accounted for as income in the same reporting period in which the subsidised eligible expenses are recognized. Instalments received related to grants are recognized in the balance sheet as liabilities.



Gifts in kind are recognized as income and expense in the period they are received. Gifts in kind are valued as income and expense at the fair value.

### Financial gains / losses

Transactions in foreign currencies are stated in the financial statements at the exchange rate of the functional currency on the transaction date.

Currency translation differences arising upon the settlement or conversion of monetary items are recognised in the income statement in the period that they are realised.

### Loss recognition

Losses and impairments are accounted for as soon as they are anticipated.

### Interest income and expenses

Interest income and expenses are recognized in the statement of income and expenses on an accrual basis, using the effective interest rate method.

### Employee benefits

Salaries, wages and social security contributions are taken to the income statement based on the terms of employment, when these are due. Employee benefits are charged to the statement of income and expenses in the period in which the employee services are rendered and, to the extent not already paid, as a liability on the balance sheet. If the amount already paid exceeds the benefits owed, the excess is recognized as a current asset to the extent that there will be a reimbursement by the employees or a reduction in future payments by GCA.

### Termination benefits

Termination benefits are employee benefits provided in exchange for the termination of employment. A termination benefit is recognized as a liability and an expense when GCA is demonstrably and unconditionally committed to make the payment of the benefit. If the termination is part of a restructuring, the costs of the termination benefits are part of the restructuring provision.

### Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been prepared using the indirect method. The cash items disclosed in the cash flow statement comprise cash at banks and in hand except for deposits with a maturity of longer than three months. Cash flows denominated in foreign currencies have been translated at average estimated exchange rates. Exchange differences affecting cash items are shown separately in the cash flow statement. Interest paid and received is included in cash from operating activities. Transactions not resulting in inflow or outflow of cash, including finance leases, are not recognised in the cash flow statement. The value of the related assets is disclosed in the notes to the balance sheet items. Payments of finance lease instalments qualify as repayments of borrowings under cash used in financing activities and as interest paid under cash generated from operating activities.

### Subsequent events

Events that provide further information on the actual situation at the balance sheet date and that appear before the financial statements are being prepared and recognized in the financial statements. Events that provide no information on the actual situation at the balance sheet date are not recognized in the financial statements. When those events are relevant for the economic decisions of users of the financial statements, the nature and the estimated financial effects of the events are disclosed in the financial statements.

## NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

### 1. FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated life time. The assets are held for use in our day to day operations.

#### INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Intangible fixed assets
Acquisition value	158,514
-/- Cumulative Depreciation	(154,319)
<b>Book value 1-1-2024</b>	<b>4,195</b>
Acquisition value investments	-
-/- Acquisition value disposals	-
-/- Depreciation	(4,195)
Depreciation on disposals	-
<b>Movements during the year</b>	<b>(4,195)</b>
Acquisition value	158,514
-/- Cumulative Depreciation	(158,514)
<b>Book value 31-12-2024</b>	<b>-</b>

Intangible fixed assets relate to the development of GCA's websites.

#### TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture	ICT Equipment	Tangible fixed assets
Acquisition value	92,451	296,285	388,735
-/- Cumulative Depreciation	(47,153)	(209,420)	(256,574)
<b>Book value 1-1-2024</b>	<b>45,297</b>	<b>86,864</b>	<b>132,162</b>
Acquisition value investments	8,816	72,479	81,295
-/- Acquisition value disposals	-	-	-
-/- Depreciation	(30,701)	(74,542)	(105,243)
Depreciation on disposals	-	-	-
<b>Movements during the year</b>	<b>(21,884)</b>	<b>(2,063)</b>	<b>(23,948)</b>
Acquisition value	101,267	368,764	470,031
-/- Cumulative Depreciation	(77,854)	(283,963)	(361,817)
<b>Book value 31-12-2024</b>	<b>23,413</b>	<b>84,801</b>	<b>108,214</b>

Tangible fixed assets acquired during the year are mainly ICT equipment and furniture for GCA offices.

## 2. RECEIVABLES

	31/12/24	31/12/23
Government of United Kingdom	3,472,762	1,832,467
Government of Germany	204,033	-
International Center for Future Generations	-	103,500
Government of Canada	-	82,197
United Nations Environment Programme	-	3,506
<b>Receivables donors</b>	<b>3,676,795</b>	<b>2,021,670</b>

Accounts receivable at year-end comprise donor contributions yet to be received and prepayments to implementing partners and creditors. Donor receivables specifically relate to projects that have been implemented under signed grant agreements, where the corresponding funds are contractually committed but have not yet been disbursed by the donors as of the balance sheet date.

In 2024, receivables from donors increased by 82% to €3.7 million, from €2.0 million in 2023. This increase is primarily attributable to GCA's pre-financing of project activities under agreements with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Government of Germany. The associated reimbursements are expected in early 2025.

Prepayments to implementing partners reflect GCA's ongoing commitment to enabling timely and effective program delivery by regional and local actors as implementation scales up. As at the balance sheet date, GCA had active prepayments with the Independent University of Bangladesh and the African Technology Innovation Hub Initiative. These funds are intended to support the smooth execution of adaptation activities planned for 2025.

	31/12/24	31/12/23
Independent University of Bangladesh	20,963	-
African Technology Innovation Hubs Initiative	18,478	-
Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoA-REC&N)	-	4,743
<b>Prepayments to partners</b>	<b>39,441</b>	<b>4,743</b>

All receivables originate in the previous year and are expected to be received within one year.

## 3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

GCA's cash and cash equivalents balance is €16.4 million, of which €9.3 million is held in Euros and €7.1 million is held in US Dollars. The main contribution to this balance comes from grants paid in advance as specified in the notes to the balance sheet item 'Grants Received in Advance'. The full balance of cash and cash equivalents is held in bank accounts in The Netherlands. The full balance is readily available to GCA.

## 4. RESERVES AND FUNDS

	01/01/24	Additions	Withdrawals/ Releases	31/12/24
<b>Continuity reserve</b>	<b>4,507,956</b>	<b>819,794</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,327,750</b>
Earmarked reserve for absence and end of service	507,894	772,922	-764,918	515,898
<b>Earmarked reserves</b>	<b>507,894</b>	<b>772,922</b>	<b>-764,918</b>	<b>515,898</b>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>5,015,850</b>	<b>1,592,715</b>	<b>-764,918</b>	<b>5,843,648</b>



**CONTINUITY RESERVE**

The continuity reserve is intended to safeguard continuity of the operations of GCA should the organisation experience a temporary shortfall in funding. In 2024, GCA added €0.82 million to its continuity reserve.

**EARMARKED RESERVE**

The earmarked reserve is related to the estimated future expenses related to absence of staff due to sickness and to future termination benefits to be paid out by GCA. GCA has an obligation, based on Dutch labour law, to compensate employees an amount of benefit (in Dutch "transitievergoeding") when GCA ends their employment contract. GCA also has the obligation to continue to pay the employee's salary during absence due to sickness and annual leave. The estimate for the amount of such future expenses is based on the general statistical average of sickness leave of 4%, an estimate of 50% of employees leaving GCA for whom a termination benefit has to be paid, and on actual historical data. The addition to the earmarked reserve relate to a fixed percentage of gross salaries that is set aside, while the withdrawals from the reserve relate to costs for actual sickness and annual leave during the financial period.

**5. SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES**

Short-term liabilities consist of grants received in advance, obligations to partners, payables to creditors and other liabilities. All short-term liabilities are due within one year.

Grants received in advance and Payables to partners consist of 86% of the total short-term liabilities and are clarified in more detail below

**GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE**

	31/12/24	31/12/23
Government of Denmark	3,597,721	2,685,046
Government of Canada	1,883,424	-
Gates Foundation	1,321,567	-
Government of Norway	1,086,921	1,846,312
Government of the Netherlands	813,642	2,809,637
European Research Executive Agency	40,808	75,439
Government of Germany	-	666,289
CVF/V20 Multi Donor Fund	-	123,842
Government of France	-	555
<b>Total grants received in advance</b>	<b>8,744,083</b>	<b>8,207,120</b>

Received funds related to project grants that have not been spent are accounted for as grants received in advance. In 2024, funds received in advance were €8.8 million, representing a 7% increase from the previous year. This increase is mainly attributable to receipts from new grants secured during the year.

**OBLIGATIONS TO PARTNERS**

Balance on 01/01/2024	New Commitments	Payments	Releases	Balance on 31/12/2024
6,947,814	2,527,095	(5,265,868)	(406,532)	3,802,509

For the details of the movement by partners, see the table below

	31/12/24	31/12/23
Bangladesh Rural Advancement (BRAC)	832,759	1,078,460
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	357,724	273,596
CIMMYT - Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo	321,275	210,000
People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia	246,000	-
Universite of Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar	221,250	575,250
Centre de Suivi Ecologique	204,199	204,199
University of Oxford	190,814	334,214
Save the Children Netherlands	190,138	-
Innovation, environnement, développement en Afrique (IED Afrique)	162,666	250,254
Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale	146,790	-
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	145,393	-
International Centre for Tropical Agriculture	142,500	113,750
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)	122,929	200,123
WaterAid	112,352	292,137
Akiba Mashinani Trust (AMT)	102,534	159,935
DanChurchAid	92,957	-
Center for Participatory Research and Development	65,739	-
Slum Dwellers International (SDI)	32,913	47,913
Università La Sapienza-Cersites	27,530	-
Ban Ki-moon Centre	23,536	10,000
Young Men's Christian Association of Liberia (YMCA Liberia)	21,465	105,307
International Climate Change Development Initiative	12,300	-
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa	7,566	217,500
Resilience Rising UK (RR UK)	6,917	-
Green Africa Youth Organization	4,735	3,900
International Secretariat for Water	3,985	-
Centre for Environmentl Education	3,542	-
International Livestock Research Institute	-	29,993
African Technology Innovation Hubs Initiative	-	938,640
Aroha	-	352,432
Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative Foundation (AAAI)	-	161,999
Bangladesh Agricultural Univesity	-	30,543
Bangladesh Rural Advancement University (BRAC)	-	321,207
Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of Bangladesh University	-	265,974
Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute	-	60,000
Independent University of Bangladesh	-	4,300
International Water Management Institute	-	18,975
Wangari Maathai Foundation	-	4,000
BBC Media Action	-	110,855
University of Nairobi	-	545,478
South South North	-	26,880
<b>Accrued partner expenses</b>	<b>3,802,510</b>	<b>6,947,814</b>

Partners that have not yet received the full amount of their subgrant agreements from GCA are accounted for as Obligations to Partners. This represents the unpaid portion of the subgrant.

## 6. FINANCIAL RISKS AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

During its normal operations, GCA is exposed to currency, interest, cash flow, credit and liquidity risks. To control these risks, GCA has instituted policies and procedures that are intended to limit the risks of unpredictable adverse developments in the financial markets and thus for the ability of GCA to fulfil its objectives.

GCA does not apply nor trade in financial derivatives, such as interest rate swaps, forward exchange contracts or options to control its risks. Its main risk mitigation measures are described below

### Credit risk-banks

Credit risk arises principally from GCA's substantial cash position. It holds large bank balances, and the main risk is that of bank defaulting. In 2024, its bank balance of €16.4 million was with ABN AMRO and ING. GCA may further mitigate this risk by spreading its available funds over several high rated banks

### Credit risk-receivables

As of year-end 2024, GCA's total receivables amounted to €3.9 million. The majority 94% is attributable to contributions from institutional donors with a low risk of default, notably the Governments of the United Kingdom (€3.5 million) and Germany (€0.2 million). These receivables are tied to signed agreements under which GCA has pre-financed project activities, with reimbursements expected in 2025.

In line with its financial risk management policy, GCA undertakes rigorous due diligence and maintains ongoing oversight of all prepayments to implementing partners. This includes a thorough review of financial controls, reporting capacity, and programmatic performance. Prepayments in 2024 were concentrated among trusted institutional partners, including the African Development Bank, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), and the African Technology Innovation Hubs Initiative, all of which have a proven track record of delivery and financial accountability.

Given the creditworthiness of its donors and the strength of its partner oversight mechanisms, GCA considers the overall credit risk exposure on receivables to be low. Nonetheless, the organization continues to actively monitor all receivables to identify and address any potential risks of non-payment, particularly in relation to single-party exposure.

### Foreign exchange rate risk

GCA is exposed to currency risk on project obligations that are denominated in a currency other than the contractual currency of the grant contract that relates to such a project. The currencies in which these project transactions primarily are denominated are Euro. The currencies in which GCA's donor grant contracts are denominated are Euro, Danish Kronar, Canadian Dollars, Norwegian Kronar, British Pound and United States Dollar. GCA's policy is to denominate its contractual obligations as much as possible in the same currency as the donor's currency and to hold bank balances in the currency in which it has large obligations. GCA currently does not hedge its exposure with derivative instruments.

### Fair value

The fair value of the financial instruments stated on the balance sheet, including receivables, cash and cash equivalents and current liabilities, is approximately equal to their carrying amount.

## 7. OFF-BALANCE SHEET OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS

GCA does not have off-balance sheet obligations, because it did not enter into contracts such as rental or lease agreements without an opt-out condition. Grant agreements signed but not received are considered off-balance sheet rights and those amount to €39.7 million off-balance sheet rights.



## NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENSES

### 8. INCOME FROM GRANTS AND DONATIONS

In 2024, income from grants primarily originated from earmarked government contributions, totalling €21.3 million, a 5% increase from the previous year's €20.3 million. This growth was driven by higher levels of programme realisation and GCA's expanding role in the global climate adaptation landscape.

GCA's flagship Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) continued to receive strong support from existing funding partners, including the governments of Denmark, France, Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2024, the program was further strengthened by new contributions from Global Affairs Canada. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation also renewed its support to GCA, providing critical resources to help cover core operational costs.

The realised income from grants in 2024 represents 62% of the annual budget, resulting in an underutilization of €13.0 million. This variance is primarily attributable to anticipated grants being secured later than expected and implementation plan adjustments of the Bangladesh programme Scaling up Investments in Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience.

While all grants are project-specific and time-bound, a portion of the income recognised in 2024 relates to multi-year funding commitments, reflecting GCA's growing portfolio of sustained partnerships.

	2024	2023
Government of Great Britain	6,732,305	4,548,217
Government of France	5,000,555	4,999,445
Government of the Netherlands	2,698,442	2,632,263
Government of Norway	2,358,302	2,596,444
Government of Denmark	1,667,653	1,253,794
Gates Foundation	1,386,605	2,063,609
Government of Germany	870,322	777,231
Government of Canada	475,110	250,642
CVF/V20 Multi Donor Fund	58,934	939,008
European Research Executive Agency	34,631	6,210
International Centre for Future Generations	-	207,000
United Nations Environment Programme	-	50,037
<b>Total income from grants</b>	<b>21,282,860</b>	<b>20,323,899</b>

## 9. INCOME FROM GIFTS IN KIND

Income from gifts in kind relates to goods and services provided to GCA for free. In 2024, this income remained steady at €0.5 million, in line with both the previous year and budget projections. However, income from the African Development Bank was derecognised following the conclusion of the hosting agreement for GCA's Abidjan office. Income from gifts in kind recognised in 2024 represents 96% of the approved budget for the year, and in line with the annual budget.

Most gifts have an incidental nature, although GCA's office space in Rotterdam is provided until 2032 by the municipality of Rotterdam and GCA's office space in Groningen is committed by the municipality of Groningen.

Through shared commitments with our partners, these gifts in kind contribute significantly to advancing our mission of creating a more climate-resilient world.

	2024	2023
Municipality of Rotterdam	465,307	423,446
Municipality of Groningen	57,204	70,000
Africa Development Bank	-	50,000
<b>Total income from gifts in kind</b>	<b>522,511</b>	<b>543,446</b>

## 10. FINANCIAL GAINS

GCA recognized financial gains of €0.9 million in 2024, a 91% increase compared to the previous year. The attribution is presented in the table below. Revaluation gains are unrealized gains resulting from differences in foreign exchange rates at the time when assets and liabilities were originally recognized and rates at the balance sheet date.

	2024	2023
Interest received	144,927	81,446
Foreign exchange rate gains	9,457	47,820
Revaluation gains	754,434	345,374
<b>Financial gains</b>	<b>908,818</b>	<b>474,640</b>

## 11. EXPENSES ON PERSONNEL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2024, GCA's total expenditure on Personnel and Human Resources amounted to €7.5 million, reflecting a 9% increase compared to €6.8 million in 2023. This growth aligns with the organisation's planned expansion in staffing and technical capacity to meet rising programmatic demands.

During the year, GCA's workforce increased from 61 to 73.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Correspondingly, salary-related expenses rose by 3%, from €5.4 million in 2023 to €5.6 million in 2024. In contrast, other human resources expenses including costs associated with consultants and contractors rose, increasing by 30% from €1.4 million to €1.9 million. This rise reflects the continued engagement of expert consultants fulfilling employee-equivalent functions, particularly in geographies where GCA does not yet maintain a permanent office.

Performance against the budget for personnel costs stood at 70%, with the variance primarily attributable to revised programme implementation plans, which in turn led to the deferred filling of several planned staff positions.

GCA remains committed to leveraging high-level expertise through contracted professionals, ensuring that technical excellence and regional relevance underpin its program delivery worldwide.

	2024	2023
Gross salaries	4,236,560	4,182,382
Holiday allowance	339,272	335,784
Pension allowance	336,397	330,833
Social security charges	657,605	533,005
<b>Subtotal wages, pensions and social security</b>	<b>5,569,833</b>	<b>5,382,005</b>
Contractors and day workers	1,514,481	1,149,483
Interns, youth leaders and fellows	36,609	26,841
Addition to provision for leave	90,857	48,769
Relocation	76,427	65,269
Commuting	116,531	104,934
Recruitment	8,369	54,999
Other	46,535	(2,087)
<b>Subtotal other human resources expenses</b>	<b>1,889,810</b>	<b>1,448,208</b>
<b>Total expenses for personnel and human resources</b>	<b>7,459,643</b>	<b>6,830,213</b>

## 12. FINANCIAL LOSSES

In 2024, GCA recorded a financial loss of €0.17 million, consistent with the level reported in the previous year. This figure primarily reflects foreign exchange revaluation adjustments arising from fluctuations between the Euro and the other currencies at the time of transaction and at the balance sheet date.

These revaluation losses are offset in part by corresponding financial gains (see Note 10), as GCA holds both assets and liabilities in foreign currencies. This natural hedging mechanism helps limit overall exposure to foreign exchange rate volatility, keeping net currency-related risks within a manageable range.

	2024	2023
Interest paid	-	-
Foreign exchange rate losses	41,309	7,919
Revaluation losses	128,281	526,047
<b>Financial losses</b>	<b>169,590</b>	<b>533,966</b>



### 13. OTHER EXPENSES

Other expenses relate to costs incurred for advisory services, travel and transportation, communication, office and general administration. Other expenses increased by 39%, from €8.7 million in 2023 to €12.1 million in 2024. Spending for the reporting period represented 72% of the approved 2024 budget for other expenses. The underutilization is primarily linked to revisions made to programme implementation plans during the year.

A significant portion of these expenses, 58%, is attributable to independent consultants and consultancy firms providing research, analysis, and advisory services for GCA's projects. Travel and transport costs accounted for 10% or €1.2 million of the total expenses. Communication costs, including opinion-editorials and reports, represented 3% of the expenses. Housing and facilities remained steady year on year, comprising 5% and office costs 2% of the other expenses, respectively:

	2024	2023
Analytics, Advisory and Assistance	9,393,664	5,931,186
Travel and transport	1,196,325	1,193,104
Communication	376,694	539,756
Housing and facilities	567,559	574,137
Office	190,530	251,926
General	341,811	179,414
<b>Other expenses</b>	<b>12,066,584</b>	<b>8,669,523</b>

## OTHER INFORMATION

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### Independent auditor's report

To the supervisory board and executive board of  
Stichting The Global Center on Adaptation

### Report on the audit of the financial statements 2024 included in the annual report

#### Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2024 of Stichting The Global Center on Adaptation, based in The Hague.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting The Global Center on Adaptation as at 31 December 2024 and of its result for the period ending 31 December 2024 in accordance with Dutch Accounting Standard 'RJ 640 Not-for-profit organisations'.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024;
2. the statement of income and expenses for the year ended 31 December 2024; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting The Global Center on Adaptation in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of the report of the board and appendices.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

The executive board is responsible for the preparation of the board report in accordance with Dutch Standard RJ 640 Not-for-profit organisations.

## Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

### Responsibilities of the executive board and the supervisory board for the financial statements

The executive board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Dutch Standard RJ 640 Not-for-profit organisations. Furthermore, the executive board is responsible for such internal control as the executive board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the executive board is responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the executive board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The executive board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

The supervisory board is responsible for overseeing the organisation's financial reporting process.



## Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included e.g.:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an organisation to cease to continue as a going concern;
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with the supervisory board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Rotterdam, 25 June 2025

Forvis Mazars N.V.

Original signed by: drs. D.D. Plouvier RA

# APPENDICES

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AAAP</b>	Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program
<b>AAAI</b>	Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative Foundation
<b>AAATT</b>	African Agriculture Adaptation Tracking Tool
<b>ABAP</b>	Africa Business Adaptation Platform
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>ADF</b>	African Development Fund
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AMT</b>	Akiba Mashinani Trust
<b>AYEP</b>	Angola Youth Employment Project
<b>BPATC</b>	Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
<b>BRAC</b>	Bangladesh Rural Advancement
<b>BRIDEP</b>	Burundi-Rwanda Integrated Development Program
<b>CAPSEAH</b>	Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
<b>CAW</b>	Climate Action Window
<b>CIAT</b>	Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture
<b>COP29</b>	29th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties under the UNFCCC
<b>CRA</b>	Climate Risk Assessment
<b>CRAFT</b>	South Sudan Climate Resilient Food Security and Agricultural Transformation Project
<b>CSA</b>	Climate-smart agriculture
<b>DAEs</b>	Direct Access Entities
<b>DFIs</b>	Development finance institutions
<b>DSK</b>	Dushtha Shasthya Kendra
<b>FCDO</b>	United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
<b>FCS</b>	Conflict-affected Situations
<b>FTE</b>	Full-time equivalent
<b>GAC</b>	Global Affairs Canada
<b>GCA</b>	Global Center on Adaptation
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GESI</b>	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>IED Afrique</b>	Innovation, environnement, développement en Afrique
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions



<b>IIED</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development
<b>IED Afrique</b>	Innovation, environnement, développement en Afrique
<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions
<b>IFWFM</b>	Institute of Water and Flood Management (Bangladesh)
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
<b>KSG</b>	Kenya School of Government
<b>K-WASH</b>	Kenya Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Program
<b>LAMP</b>	Livestock and Agriculture Modernization Project
<b>LLA</b>	Locally Led Adaptation
<b>LoGIC</b>	Local Government Initiative on Climate Change
<b>LPRES</b>	Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project
<b>LT</b>	Leadership Team
<b>MDBs</b>	Multilateral Development Banks
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NbS</b>	Nature-based Solutions
<b>NIEs</b>	National Implementing Entities
<b>NiMet</b>	Nigerian Meteorological Agency
<b>PASEREC</b>	Water Sector and Climate Resilience Building Support Programme
<b>PEJACC</b>	Projet d'Entrepreneuriat des Jeunes pour l'Adaptation au Changement Climatique
<b>PISEA</b>	Integrated Water Security and Sanitation Program
<b>PREDIRE</b>	Development of Infrastructure and Enhancement of Cross-Border Water Resources between the CAR and DRC
<b>REWARD</b>	Regional Resilience Rice Value Chain Development
<b>RR UK</b>	Resilience Rising UK
<b>SCPZ</b>	Staples Crops Processing Zones
<b>SDI</b>	Slum Dwellers International
<b>SEAH</b>	Sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>STA25</b>	State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2025: Small Island Developing States
<b>SREP</b>	Ghana Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme Project Solar Minigrid & Net Metering
<b>SURP II</b>	Somalia Urban Resilience Program II
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TIRP-2</b>	Second Tanzania Intermodal and Rail Development Project
<b>UNGA79</b>	79th session of the United Nations General Assembly
<b>VCN</b>	Agricultural Value Chain Program in the North
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WBG</b>	World Bank Group
<b>YMCA Liberia</b>	Young Men's Christian Association of Liberia
<b>YouthADAPT</b>	African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge



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