

IMPACT REPORT 2025



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

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Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership

A Training-of-Trainers
Model for Africa

About this publication

In 2025, Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) built upon the success of the Pilot Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership and hosted the Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership. The Pan-Africa Academy is a training-of-trainers program designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to replicate climate adaptation training in their home countries. It was co-organized by GCA, the Kenya School of Government,

the University of Nairobi, the University of Groningen, and the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. The objective of the Pan-African Youth Academy was to equip young people representing 50 countries—46 of which were African—across four continents, with the capacity to serve as climate-adaptation leaders and trainers who can replicate the program in their respective countries.

Acknowledgments

This report was produced under the guidance of Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen, President & Chief Executive Officer of GCA. The report was developed by the GCA Youth Leadership and Education program under the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP).

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About the Global Center on Adaptation

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

The Youth Leadership and Education program connects and empowers young people to create a climate-resilient future, while spotlighting African

youth leadership around the globe. The mission of GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program is to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world, empowering young people to make the case for adaptation on the global stage and make their communities more climate resilient.

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



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

PROFESSOR PATRICK V. VERKOOIJEN

Africa is on the frontlines of the climate crisis – and on the frontlines of the solution. Every day, across this continent, nurses, farmers, teachers, entrepreneurs and young activists are already adapting, protecting harvests, defending coastlines, cooling cities, and reimagining growth in a changing climate. Through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) – created with the African Development Bank and endorsed by the African Union – we have begun to match this courage with concrete action, shaping major adaptation investments and strengthening resilience for millions. But the adaptation financing gap remains vast, and progress alone is not enough. That is why we are now advancing AAAP 2.0 – a bigger, bolder push to secure the resilience Africa not only needs, but deserves.

It is in this spirit that we convened the second edition of the Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership, held from 31 August to 5 September 2025 in Nairobi, in partnership with the University of Nairobi and the University of Groningen. We built deliberately on last year's pilot – listening carefully, redesigning intentionally, and strengthening the model – because young people are not beneficiaries of adaptation. They are equal partners, co-creators, and leaders of this agenda.

We welcomed youth delegates from 46 out of 54 African countries. That is over 85% of the continent represented – each participant bringing not only their own story, but the mandate of their youth-led

organisations, communities and networks. This level of pan-African representation is extraordinary. It is powerful. It is exactly what continental adaptation leadership must look like. The Youth Academy is a learning space and a leadership forge: a place where ideas are sharpened into strategies and strategies into concrete commitments.

Yet the impact of this Academy will not be measured only in Nairobi. Its true success will be written in villages, townships, and cities across Africa; in classrooms and boardrooms; in local councils and national parliaments. The vision has always been replication and scale: one trained leader becoming twenty; twenty becoming a hundred; a hundred becoming a movement. These young people will carry what they have learned into their communities. They will build coalitions, mentor peers, influence policy, and mobilise action. They will adapt – boldly, locally and immediately.

But even the most determined leadership cannot substitute for the one thing Africa's youth cannot generate alone: finance. If we expect young people to transform their communities, we must equip them with the resources to do so. That means closing the adaptation funding gap and rapidly scaling investments through AAAP 2.0 and beyond. These young leaders are ready. They have the skills, the vision, and the determination. Now they need the world to match their ambition.

Africa's future is standing before us – 46 countries strong, united by purpose, and driven by a generation that refuses to be defined by vulnerability. They are not waiting for permission. They are already leading. Our responsibility – as policymakers, investors, development partners and institutions – is to ensure they have the financial, political, and institutional support to lead at scale.

This is the moment to double down on adaptation in Africa.

This is the moment to invest in our young leaders.

This is the moment to deliver AAAP 2.0.

If we act together, with urgency and with hope, the story of Africa and climate change will not be one of loss, but of leadership. Let us move from commitment to action – together.

Patrick Verkooijen

Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen

President and Chief Executive Officer
Global Center on Adaptation





01

CHAPTER

Background – Training of Trainers

1.1 The Urgency of Adaptation Education in Africa

Africa is on the frontline of the climate emergency. Extreme weather and climate change events are impacting every aspect of socio-economic development in Africa. Countries are still grappling with the devastating aftershocks of El Niño, including flooding in northern Nigeria that has displaced more than 600,000 people. At the same time, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have suffered the worst drought in at least two decades.¹

Climate change is exacerbating Africa's education challenge. In arid and semi-arid lands vulnerable to climate change, many schools cannot cope with heatwaves, water scarcity, or extreme weather. Climate change undermines educational attainment in Africa by damaging already fragile infrastructure and increasing the vulnerability of both educators and learners.² Yet even as both climate change and economic conditions threaten education, it remains a crucial solution to both problems.

Mitigation action alone is not enough; there is also an urgent need for ambitious adaptation action. Around the world, approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to

climate change. In the last decade, deaths caused by floods, droughts, and storms were 15 times higher in extremely vulnerable regions than in regions with very low vulnerability.³ Effective adaptation action reduces vulnerability by building adaptive capacity and resilience in communities.⁴

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

"As the youngest continent in the world, Africa's greatest strength lies in its young people and the inspiring initiatives they are already leading in their communities to build resilience. It has been an honour to lead the design, development, and implementation of the Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership—a Training-of-Trainers model—bringing together participants from 50 countries across four continents, and built through a strong partnership between the Global Center on Adaptation, the University of Groningen, the University of Nairobi, the Kenya School of Government, and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. By combining in-person training for members of the African Youth Adaptation Network, peer-to-peer learning, online coaching, and small grants that enable youth-led organisations across Africa to replicate the training, this partnership demonstrates how adaptation education can mobilise locally led solutions at scale."

Adriana Valenzuela

Lead, Youth Leadership and Education Program, Global Center on Adaptation



1.2 GCA Training of Trainers Model

Pilot Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership 2024

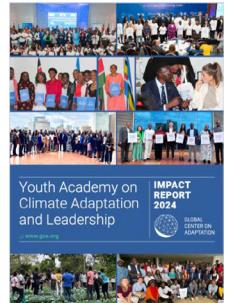
The Youth Academy was launched at the 'Dialogue on Accelerating Adaptation Education in a Climate Emergency', held on 18 September 2024 at the University of Nairobi's Chandaria Auditorium. Prof. Patrick V. Verkooijen, GCA CEO and President, and Prof. Jouke de Vries, President of the Board of the University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

The Dialogue brought together over 500 students; development partners, including the Gates Foundation; representatives from Kenya's Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry; and academics. Speakers included Eddah Wanjiru, the 2024 Kenyan YouthADAPT winner; Samburu WaShiko, Deputy Director for East Africa at the Gates Foundation; Amelie Balkenende, a young leader from the Netherlands; Dr. Gerni Luttikhuis from the University of Groningen; Prof. Daniel Olago from the University of Nairobi's Institute for Climate Change



and Adaptation; and Ivy Muchoki, a member of the GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2024. Participants explored collaborative strategies for delivering climate adaptation education and discussed how to empower young people and vulnerable communities to lead adaptation efforts in Africa.

Read the impact report from the pilot Youth Academy [here](#).



*"Two decades ago, at the University of Groningen, we recognised the importance of providing interdisciplinary courses to address societal challenges that we are facing. Together with the University of Nairobi and the Global Center on Adaptation, we have created an ambitious **Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership model**, in which interdisciplinarity, local and international cooperation, and the ambition to involve different generations all come together."*



Professor Jouke de Vries

President of the Board of the University of Groningen



1.3 The African Youth Adaptation Network

In 2025, to scale up adaptation training and education and reach millions of young people, the second edition of the GCA Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership built on the success of the previous year. From 31 August to 5 September 2025, GCA partnered with the University of Nairobi and the University of Groningen to develop and deliver the Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership at the Kenya School of Government. The objective was to equip young people representing 50 countries – 46 of which are African— across four continents with the capacity to serve as climate-adaptation leaders and trainers who can replicate the program in their respective countries and communities.

The objectives of the Youth Academy program in 2025 were to:

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



Participants of the Youth Academy

The Youth Adaptation Network (YAN), launched in 2020 through the Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation, is an umbrella platform designed to engage, empower, and amplify the role of young people in the adaptation agenda. It provides access to adaptation knowledge and campaign materials and connects youth with leaders and businesses driving the global climate response.

GCA has expanded the world's largest YAN across Africa to build the African YAN. A call was launched to select one youth-led organisation per African

country to serve as the In-Country Focal Point for this Network.

Each In-Country Focal Point organisation nominated two contact persons. Each nominee submitted a video application to join the Pan-African Youth Academy in Nairobi, outlining how they would replicate the Youth Academy in their country. Following an internal jury evaluation of these replication strategies, one candidate from each of the 46 In-Country Focal Points was selected and invited to participate in the Pan-African Youth Academy held in Nairobi.

Professors and Educationalists

Partnerships with leading universities and institutions are integral to strengthening the Youth Academy and ensuring a rich, multidisciplinary learning experience for all participants.

The lecturers in this program were distinguished, leading experts in their fields – including climate and adaptation science, didactics, leadership, and project management – drawn from renowned institutions such as the **Kenya School of Government, the University of Nairobi, the University of Groningen, and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST)**.

Their depth of knowledge and commitment to excellence ensured that participants received the highest quality expertise, enriched with real-world insights and practical tools.

The program was further elevated by a guest lecture from Liam Fee, Adaptation Planning Specialist at **UNDP's Climate Hub**, who delivered an insightful session on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of the [Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day](#), scheduled annually around the 12th of October.







Opening Ceremony



The Opening Ceremony of the Youth Academy set an energizing tone for the program, bringing together high-level speakers, distinguished guests, and young leaders from across the continent. The session featured inspiring keynote remarks that highlighted the power of youth-driven innovation and the urgent need for climate leadership in Africa.

High-level speakers included:

- **Dr. Charles Nhemachena**, Regional Director for Africa, GCA
- **Adriana Valenzuela**, Lead Youth Leadership and Education Program
- **Professor Nura Mohamed**, Director General, Kenya School of Government
- **Ms. Gloria Wawira**, CEO, National Youth Council
- **Professor Jeremiah Kalai**, Dean, Department of Educational Administration and Planning, University of Nairobi
- **Dr. Joram Tarusarira**, Associate Prof., University of Groningen
- **Dr. Nicodemus Nyandiko**, Senior Lecturer, MMUST
- **Kouame Ange Nathanaël N'Guessan**, Côte d'Ivoire, Western Africa
- **Teresia Karimi**, Kenya
- **Livía Chaves Marcolin**, Brazil
- **Genesis Daquinan**, the Philippines
- **Lauren O'Neill**, the Netherlands





02

CHAPTER

Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership 2025

2.1 Modules

The training used a blended learning approach, combining lectures with group activities, workshops, team-building exercises and field trips. The program was structured around a series of interactive modules covering a wide range of topics essential for developing projects aimed at tackling climate change.

Modules

01	Proposal Writing for Adaptation Projects Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology	10	Training of Trainers - Program Development University of Groningen
02	Budgeting and Grant Management Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology	11	Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Global Center on Adaptation
03	Action Plan Formulation in Working Groups Global Center on Adaptation	12	Youth Adaptation Network Action Plan - Planning Youth Day Global Center on Adaptation
04	Implementation, Replication, Monitoring Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology	13	Youth Adaptation Network Action Plan -Working Groups Global Center on Adaptation
05	Climate Change Policy United Nations Development Program	14	Leadership Kenya School of Government
06	Climate Change and Adaptation University of Groningen	15	Entrepreneurial skills Kenya School of Government
07	Education and Didactic Skills University of Nairobi	16	Entrepreneurial skills University of Groningen
08	Reflections on training from educationalists University of Nairobi	17	Conflict Transformation University of Groningen
09	Presentation - What is GCA? Global Center on Adaptation		

2.2 Action Plan Formulation in Working Groups

Throughout the Youth Academy, participants were given dedicated time to develop action plans in their roles as In-Country Focal Points for the YAN, as well as an exercise to design a training for their local communities.

These plans set out concrete next steps for how they would strengthen the Network in their countries after the Youth Academy, as well as deliver training. Each action plan was structured around three priority areas:



Education

- Replicating the Youth Adaptation training.

Policy

- Understanding and engaging in policy processes through Youth Consultations on NDCs, NAPs, youth, and adaptation.

Action

- Growing the YAN in each country and implementing adaptation solutions.
- The action plans were formulated using the following guiding questions:
 - What are your expectations in being part of the YAN?
 - What is needed to continue growing the YAN?
 - What kind of activities would you like to organise?
 - Sub-regional
 - Thematic
 - What other issues would you like to learn about?
- How do we keep the Network connected and vibrant?
- How do we track progress?
- How to recognize and celebrate the achievements of your country?

2.3 Youth Voices Presentations

Each morning, participants gathered in regional clusters and presented key facts about their countries as well as the work of their youth-led organisations. This provided an opportunity to learn about the climate impacts being felt in different contexts and

the unique solutions being developed in response. The presentations served as a knowledge-sharing platform, enabling young people from across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to exchange best practices and insights.

North Africa

Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia



West Africa

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo



East Africa

Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda



Central Africa

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Gabon



Southern Africa

Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe



CEO's Youth Panel

Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines



The CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2025 constitutes a ten-member group representing Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, Oceania, and Small Island Developing

States. The Panel provides strategic advice to GCA on strengthening youth engagement in climate adaptation around the world.

2.4 Field Trip to See Adaptation on the Ground

On 4 September 2025, the Youth Academy participants embarked on a field trip to significant locations around Nairobi to learn about local adaptation practices



Kantaria Agriculture Technology and Innovation Centre

The first stop was the Kantaria Agricultural Technology and Innovation Centre (KATIC) at the University of Nairobi's Upper Kabete Campus, a facility established through a partnership between the University of Nairobi and Elgon Kenya. KATIC was created to foster innovation, strengthen resource mobilization, mentor emerging agri-entrepreneurs, and accelerate the development and uptake of advanced agricultural technologies across diverse value chains.

Participants learned about a range of climate adaptation techniques, including drip irrigation, which

minimizes water loss by delivering low-pressure water directly to plant roots; keyhole gardening, a circular, nutrient-efficient system designed to retain moisture and withstand drought conditions; and vertical farming, which maximizes limited space by stacking production layers while improving microclimate control. They also explored vermiculture – the use of earthworms to decompose organic waste into nutrient-rich biofertiliser that enhances soil structure and resilience. Together, these techniques demonstrate how innovative, resource-efficient practices can strengthen agricultural systems against climate variability.



Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies

Their second visit was to the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, an institution dedicated to environmental governance, sustainable development, and community empowerment. Named after Nobel laureate Professor Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement, the institute preserves her legacy of grassroots activism, reforestation, and women's leadership. The participants learned about her

impactful history, the institute's ongoing work in shaping future environmental leaders, and practical techniques such as on-site water harvesting systems that capture and store rainwater to enhance resilience during dry periods. The visit served as a powerful source of inspiration, showing the young African leaders how committed, community-driven action can drive lasting environmental change.





03

CHAPTER

Pan-African Youth Forum in Kenya

The Pan-African Youth Academy was officially closed during the 'Pan-African Youth Adaptation Forum in Kenya'. In 2025, in the lead-up to COP30, GCA, in partnership with local youth organizations, organized a series of 'African Youth Adaptation Forums' in Uganda, Ghana, Zambia, Kenya, and Ethiopia to build a network of youth engaged with adaptation and spotlight youth-led adaptation solutions.

Organized by GCA and the Kenya School of Government in collaboration with MMUST, the University of Nairobi, and the University of Groningen, the fifth Youth Adaptation Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya on the 5th September 2025.

Over 200 youth leaders from across Africa and 50 countries worldwide issued a Pan-African Youth Communiqué on climate adaptation to be presented to global decision-makers at COP30, calling for an urgent scaling up of adaptation finance.

The communiqué was received by Prof. Patrick Verkooijen, GCA President and CEO and senior officials and partners, including Professor Nura Mohamed, Director General of the Kenya School of Government; Mr. Hans Olav Ibekk, Special Envoy for Climate and Security, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Dr. Ana Maria Loboguerrero, Director for Adaptive and Equitable Food Systems, Gates Foundation.

The communiqué can be read [here](#).



"We've had an evaluation of the AAAP. As a key donor of the AAAP and GCA, I think this has been a good evaluation for me. Excellent value for money."

Mr. Hans Olav Ibekk

Special Envoy, Climate and Security, Section for Energy, Climate and Food Security, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



"If we want to prosper in the world, we will need to work on adaptation, we will need to work on resilience, and that's the way we are going to be able to achieve development."

Dr. Ana Maria Loboguerrero

Director of Adaptive and Equitable Food Systems, Gates Foundation





CHAPTER

4

Replication of Adaptation Training in Africa

As part of the Youth Academy training, adaptation experts and leading researchers from MMUST held a series of online coaching sessions with the YAN in-country focal points between September and November 2025. **These sessions aimed to build on the learning from the in-person academy by guiding the two in-country focal points from each of the 46 African countries to develop their own project proposals to replicate the Youth Academy.**

At the end of the coaching phase, participants submitted their proposals to MMUST to apply for a small grant intended to help them replicate the Youth Academy in their countries. The following 15 proposals were selected, representing each region of Africa. The in-country focal point representing each of these countries received a grant of 2,000 EUR to implement the projects they had designed.



Selected Countries

Region	Country
North Africa	Tunisia Egypt
West Africa	Liberia Mali Ghana Benin
Central Africa	Cameroon DRC
East Africa	Ethiopia Kenya South Sudan
Southern Africa	Seychelles Mauritius Zimbabwe Madagascar

Online coaching for the 15 selected youth organizations

The 15 selected youth-led organizations participated in three online trainings led by experts from the University of Groningen Business School. The training focused on enhancing the organizations' capacities to implement impactful projects in their local communities. Over the course of the coaching, participants engaged in structured sessions, receiving

practical guidance on improving the effectiveness of their initiatives, strategies for scaling impact, and tailored advice for real-world application. The training also included the design and setup of a mentorship program to provide ongoing support, ensuring that each organization could implement lessons learned and maximize the outcomes of their projects.





05

CHAPTER

Impact assessment

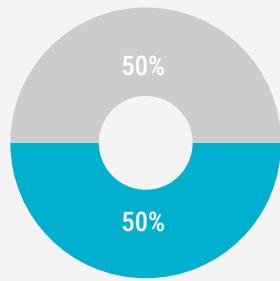
To evaluate the outcomes of the Youth Academy and capture participants' reflections, **an impact assessment was conducted to measure both the knowledge gained and the experiences of the young leaders**. This chapter presents lessons learned from their perspectives, highlighting how the programme enhanced their skills, broadened their understanding of climate adaptation and leadership, and shaped their approaches to community-driven initiatives. The feedback collected provides a valuable foundation for refining future iterations of the Youth Academy, ensuring it remains relevant, engaging, and transformative for Africa's next generation of leaders.

PART 1: General information

What is your gender

46 responses

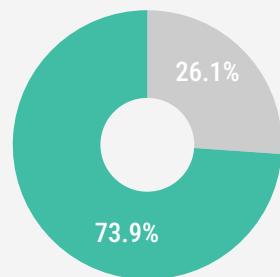
- Woman
- Man
- Other
- Prefer not to say



Before this youth Academy have you ever participated in climate adaptation/leadership training?

46 responses

- Yes
- No

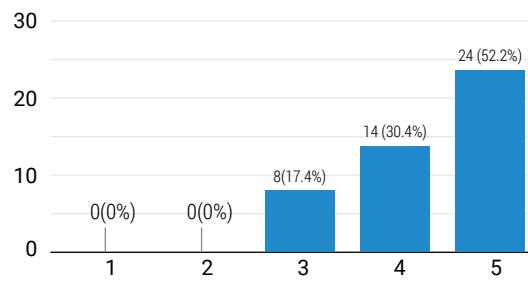


PART 2: Knowledge gained from the Youth Academy

How much has your knowledge increased in the following areas as a result of the Youth Academy?
Rate from 1 (No increase in knowledge) to 5 (Significant increase in knowledge gained)

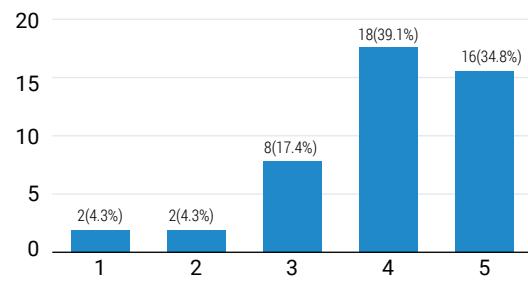
Climate Change and Adaptation Concepts

46 responses



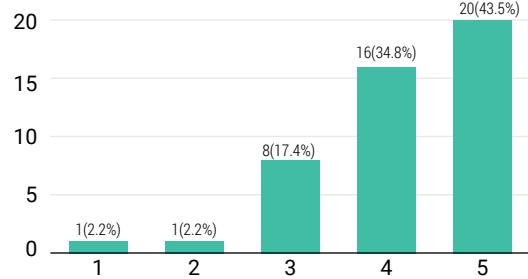
Budgeting and Grant management

46 responses



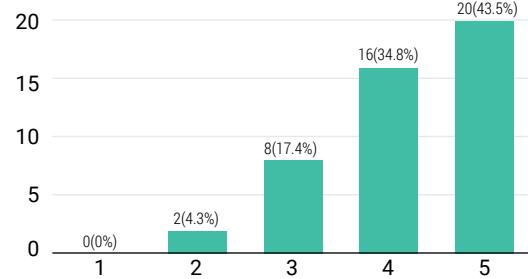
Proposal Writing

46 responses



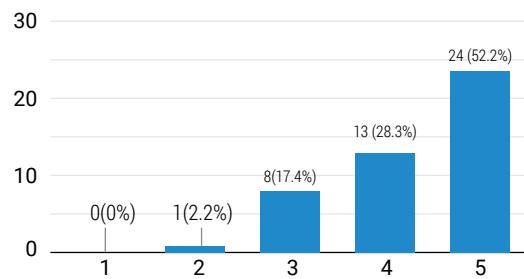
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

46 responses



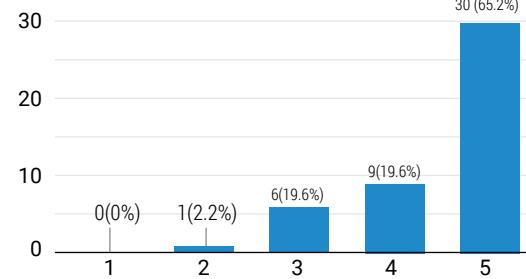
Training of Trainers and Replications Methods

46 responses



Leadership and Facilitation Skills

46 responses

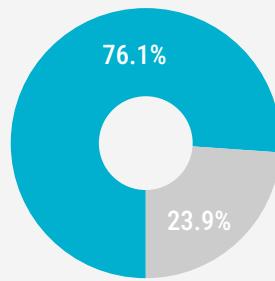


PART 3: Relevance of the Training to Young People in Africa

The modules of the Youth Academy were relevant to my organization's work

46 responses

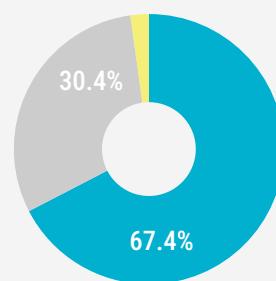
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree



The training content was relevant to youth working on adaptation in Africa (or Global South).

46 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

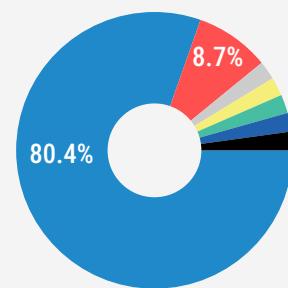


PART 4: Replication

Do you plan to replicate or share the training in your community?

46 responses

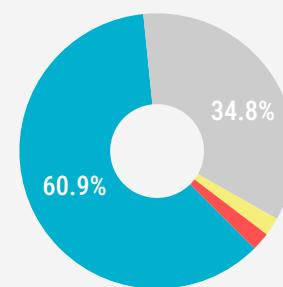
- Yes
- No
- Looking funds
- This is part of our activity programmes but there are no selected dates and funds needed to do so yet
- I'd love to, but I'll be pursuing my studies abroad, but I know it would be a pleasure
- Depends on the conditions
- Depending on temporal consideration



How confident do you feel about replicating or delivering similar training sessions?

46 responses

- Not confident at all
- Slightly confident
- Confident
- Very confident



Quotes provided in the survey



Fatoumata Koita, Mali

"It has been a great honor, especially with my baby. I've realized that my contribution matters and that finding solutions is essential. This experience has further motivated me to engage in my country's development. I actively support youth, women, children, and ambassadors in various fields, particularly environmental protection."



Benjamin Habintwali, Rwanda

"The Youth Academy was a life-changing experience and marked my first time traveling outside my country. It opened my eyes to how young people across Africa are driving climate adaptation through creativity, innovation, and community action. The learning sessions, mentorship, and field trip gave me practical tools and confidence to strengthen my work back home."



Donia El Saeed, Egypt

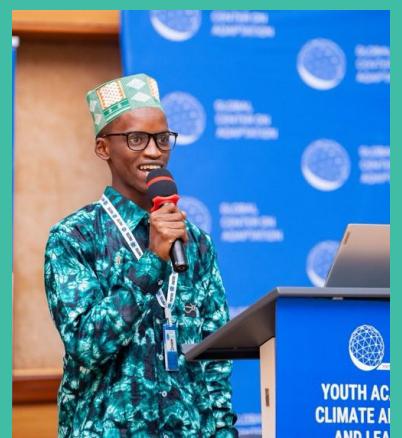
"The Youth Adaptation Academy was a turning point in my journey and understanding of climate adaptation. Being surrounded by a group of inspiring changemakers and young professionals working in this field added great value to my knowledge and network, which later led to meaningful collaborations with my peers and more impactful work."

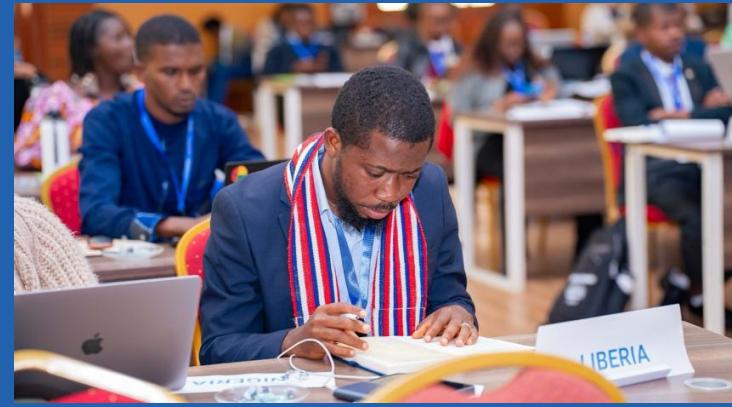


Yoal Lim, South Sudan

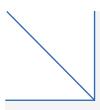
"The Youth Academy was an inspiring and empowering experience that strengthened my commitment to advancing locally led climate adaptation in South Sudan."

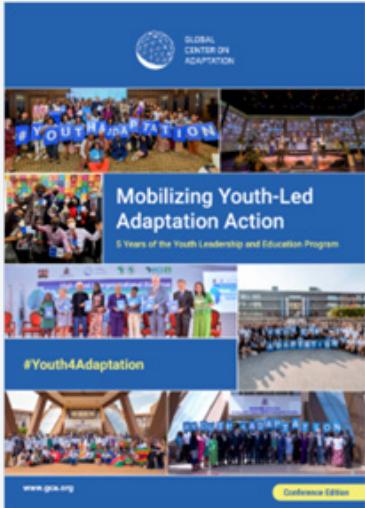






Resources





Mobilizing Youth-Led Adaptation Action
5 Years of the Youth Leadership and Education Program

#Youth4Adaptation

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Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership

IMPACT REPORT 2024

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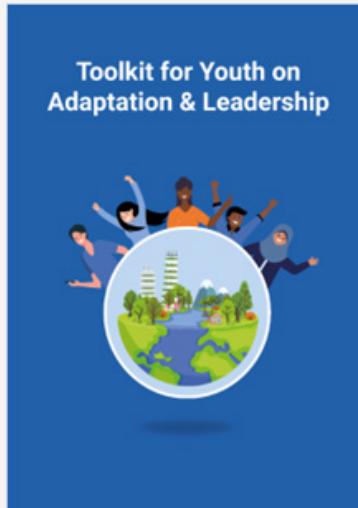
Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation

Recommendations on Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Adaptation Plans

Conference Edition

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Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership



Youtube

- [Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership 2025](#)
- [Kenya Youth Adaptation Forum](#)

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The Global Center on Adaptation



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Verkooijen**
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Emmah Kerubo
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Mark Momanyi
External Affairs

Invited Speaker



Liam Fee
Adaptation Planning Specialist, UNDP

Professors and educationalists



Prof. Nura Mohamed, Ph.D., EBS, Director

Institution

Kenya School of Government

Profile

Director General of the Kenya School of Government



Prof. Peter Quest

Institution

Kenya School of Government

Profile

Head, Youth Programs at Kenya School of Government



Prof. Joram Tarusarira

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



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University of Groningen

Profile

Associate Professor - Faculty of Economics and Business



Dr. Gerni Luttkhuis

Institution

University of Groningen

Profile

Academic teacher, facilitator, and coach for professional and personal development



Prof. Jeremiah Mutuku Kalai

Institution

University of Nairobi

Profile

Chairman, Department of Educational Administration and Planning





Prof. Boniface Ngaruiya

Institution

University of Nairobi

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National Youth Council



Sharon Nyawira Njue

The Youth Academy was truly eye-opening for me. I learned practical skills in advocacy and proposal development, but what stood out most was hearing how young people across Africa are leading bold adaptation initiatives. It reminded me that, as youth, we are not just participants in climate action: We are key drivers of resilience and change.

Simon Metian Len

Don't just chase funding, chase impact.



University of Nairobi French Students



Ivonne Aoko

I can successfully break down adaptation solutions to people of all ages thanks to the Academy. I feel lucky to have been empowered!

Ashley Christine Wanjiru Njuguna

Volunteering at GCA showed me how powerful youth voices are in shaping solutions for climate change. It was inspiring to see young people from different countries who are committed to protecting our environment, farms, and communities. I left with a stronger belief that empowering youth is the key to building a more resilient and sustainable future.



Youth Academy First Cohort



Ambrose Michura Albert

The Academy was a life-changing experience, bringing together diverse youth voices from across Africa and beyond to confront our shared climate realities. Coordinating such an international forum reminded me that despite our differences, unity and optimism remain our greatest tools for climate adaptation.

Youth Academy First Cohort

Lawrence Ochieng Ouko

GCA has given me access to important information I need to apply in my local interventions to create resilience in adapting to climate change. GCA has instilled incredible confidence in me towards addressing matters involving climate change as well as in mitigating and providing solutions in various contexts. Adaptation is key in the fight for a sustainable future.



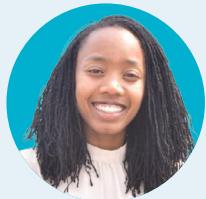
Sam Aberi Okemwa

We unanimously recognize that the best time to act on climate adaptation was yesterday. Yet, our most powerful opportunity lies in the present – today! Let us lead with courage, innovation, and resolve.



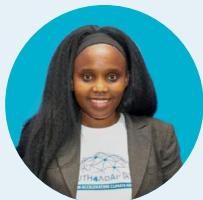
Nyakio Mburu

It was a fantastic privilege to be surrounded by some of the most vibrant and visionary people from all parts of the continent. From them, what I have seen is that there is hope for the future and that Africa is adapting and is stronger than ever!



Teresia Karimi

GCA's Youth Academy in Climate Adaptation and Leadership has equipped me with practical tools and strategies to address climate resilience. This experience has inspired me to actively contribute to youth-led initiatives that foster sustainability and resilient futures.



Johnstone Imbote

Rise and show up to the room of opportunities!



Eliseus Bamporineza

Climate adaptation also means we restore and protect the health of soils, for they form the very foundation of life on earth.



Youth Academy First Cohort

Mitchelle Peris Mudibo

I believe climate justice must honor both the wisdom of our heritage and the dreams of future generations. By weaving culture, research, and creativity, we can adapt with dignity and build a resilient Africa.



Brian Muuo



I am proud to have been part of the Second Cohort of this Academy. The Academy built my skills in different areas, including mediation and grant writing, to name just two, and allowed me to network with my fellow youth across Africa. It's an inspiring program in which I wish every youth would participate; meanwhile, I am going to utilize the knowledge gained to tailor community impact projects and replicate the same knowledge with my fellow youth.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points Information

Joceline Oriana De Jesus Dos Reis Mascarenhas Ministry of Youth and Sports | Cabo Verde



Helder Lucheses Gonçalves da Costa Planeta Consciente | Angola



It was amazing to connect with leaders from 45 other nations on our amazing continent. Now, for whatever is needed in Africa, you will find a group solution in us. Each one of us alone is labeled as just "youth" with not that much power, but when two or three of us unite... THAT IS POWER. Imagine the power with 46 of us!



Ouefa Glwadys GBEDO Health Access Initiative | Benin

Through the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation organized by GCA, I strengthened my knowledge about the causes of climate change and realized the need, as a young person, to double my efforts in addressing this crisis. I also understood the importance of mobilizing my community so that they recognize their vital role in this process.



Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Bokang Funny Basejane
Green African Youth Organization | Botswana



The GCA Youth Academy 2025 has reinforced the need to be bold and aggressive with facts backed by numbers when advocating for climate adaptation. This experience has equipped me to engage leaders with evidence-driven solutions that can secure real investment in resilience for our communities

Lagbemba Miriam Pélagie MOLBIGA

Association Songtaaba Pour le Développement (ASTD) | Burkina Faso



GCA's training has deepened my understanding of learning from each other because we are the change makers. The GCA training has made me realize that to do nothing and to say nothing is to be nothing.



Isaac Bigirimana
Maison d'Économie et du Développement, Maison (ECODEV) | Burundi



My experience at the Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation in Nairobi was enriching; I had the opportunity to connect with delegates from 50 African countries and leaders from four continents. The diverse insights shared fostered a collaborative environment, enhancing my understanding of climate adaptation. I particularly valued the networking opportunities and the comprehensive modules that deepened my knowledge in this vital area.

Sunday Queeniver Ngwangung **Support Humanity | Cameroon**



GCA Youth Academy inspired me to turn climate adaptation insights into impactful initiatives for a more sustainable and resilient Africa.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Fleur Gracia Non-Go
AEJT-RCA | Central African Republic



If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want go far, go together.



Adoum Idriss Idriss
Réseau des Jeunes Pour le Climat au Tchad (REJECA) | Chad



GCA's training has deepened my understanding of climate change and resilience strategies. It has empowered me to take actionable steps toward safeguarding communities and ecosystems in the face of a changing climate.



Tatiana Linda Balagizi
Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa DR Congo (CYNESA-DRC) |
The Democratic Republic of Congo



GCA, through the Youth Academy, made me realize the importance of collective action and the power of youth-led actions. I was equipped with tools and the courage to stand tall as a youth leader. I walk away with a stronger vision of how adaptation can transform lives in Africa and how challenges can be turned into opportunities.

Kouame Ange Nathanaël N'Guessan
Acteur de la Protection et de la Préservation de
l'Environnement en Afrique (APPE) | Côte d'Ivoire



Leadership is the collective force that transforms a shared vision into adaptive action, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Chakira Abdourazak Adairousse

**One and Indivisible Youth Movement of Djibouti
Djibouti**



My experience at the GCA Climate Justice Forum allowed me to engage in meaningful discussions with other young leaders. It inspired me to take more decisive action in my community and to advocate for fair and sustainable climate solutions.

Donia Ebrahim Elsaed Elkhateeb

YLE Foundation | Egypt



The Youth Adaptation Academy has been a transformative experience for me. It gives me not just knowledge and support to uplift my adaptation work in my community, but also lifetime networks and friends who are now supporting my work to grow and flourish.



Nobile Kwanele Dlamini

**Youth Sustainable Development Centre (YSDC)
Eswatini**



GCA Youth Academy has made me realize that adaptation and climate resilience can be achieved if we are willing to put in the work, addressing one challenge at a time as young people.

Dr. Rediet Negussie TIRUNEH

**Youth Network for Sustainable Development (YNSD)
Ethiopia**



Through GCA, I have learned to be bold and innovative, applying my knowledge to lead and drive local adaptation solutions. This experience has strengthened my commitment to building resilience, educating the next generation on climate adaptation, and contributing to a sustainable future for all.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Cindy Kimberley Mougola Mouhilou
One Forest Youth Initiative | Gabon



GCA's Academy of Youth has been more than training; it was a true intercultural experience. Learning alongside youth from over 50 countries taught me that diversity is our greatest strength in the journey of climate adaptation. I return home inspired, equipped with new skills, and committed to turning knowledge into action through the One Forest Youth Initiative and beyond.

Fana Ceesay
CorpsAfrica Gambia | The Gambia



The GCA broadened my understanding of how academic and technological approaches can drive climate solutions. It also strengthened my advocacy and deepened my commitment to influence climate policies, empower youth and develop sustainable adaptation solutions for my community: to show up, advocate, and take action.



Solomon Dodoo Attoh
Youth Bridge Foundation | Ghana



GCA's Youth Academy was more than a training; it was a platform that equipped me with practical skills, networks, and the vision to lead Africa's climate adaptation journey.

Abdoul Goudoussi Diallo
ONG DES PAROLES ET DES ACTES (PACTES) | Guinea



The 2025 Pan-African Youth Academy opened my eyes to the power each young person holds to transform their community in the face of climate challenges. I have learned to combine knowledge, action, and commitment to build a sustainable and resilient future for all.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Mohamadu Saido Balde
Global Youth Biodiversity Network | Guinea-Bissau



Youth are bold and full of transformative initiatives. There is a need for finance to accelerate climate adaptation solutions to create lasting impactful transformation.



Shirleen Omina
Kijani Resilience Hub | Kenya



GCA Youth Leadership training gave me an opportunity to connect with passionate young leaders and deepened my understanding of climate adaptation so as to drive meaningful action in my community.



Akinyi Chemutai
Kijani Resilience Hub | Kenya



Participating in the GCA Youth Academy and being part of the Kenya Youth Focal Point has been a transformative experience. Learning about financing mechanisms, proposal development, and opportunities for youth-driven projects gave me the confidence to explore innovative ways of mobilizing funds for adaptation initiatives in my community. The Academy affirmed that young voices are not just beneficiaries but leaders, innovators, and critical stakeholders in shaping climate policies and practices.



Mpho Priscilla Lebesa
Plant One Tree | Lesotho



GCA has sharpened my skills in identifying legitimate grant opportunities, positioning our organization for proposals, and forging collaborations with local, regional, and continental organizations. Most importantly, it showcased smart climate adaptation-focused farming strategies suitable for the Kingdom of Lesotho. I'm forever grateful for this opportunity...ke leboha ho menahane!

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Ezekiel Nyanfor

Liberian Youth for Climate Actions | Liberia



The Youth Academy is more than a learning platform. It's a movement that sustains advocacy for youth leadership in adaptation action.

Prince TSIATERIMILA

Association FTVA (Fikambanana Tanora Vonona An-karamalaza), in English (Association of Young Active in Ankaramalaza) | Madagascar



Participating in the Pan-African Youth Academy 2025 in Nairobi strengthened my skills in climate adaptation and resilience strategies. Representing Madagascar and FTVA, I am motivated to share these insights and empower youth to act for sustainable community development. Participation opened my eyes to the power of collective youth leadership in addressing climate challenges. I am inspired to apply what I learned in Madagascar, mobilizing young people to protect our ecosystems and drive meaningful change. It equipped me with practical tools and knowledge in climate adaptation. As a FTVA representative, I am committed to sharing these lessons and encouraging youth to take responsibility for building resilient communities.



Ntchindi Tchongwe

Mthunzi Trust | Malawi



The Pan-African Youth Academy 2025 ignited a fire within me, equipping me with the knowledge, skills, and passion to tackle the daunting challenges of climate change in my country. With every word, every lesson, and every connection, I was empowered to rise above the ordinary and drive meaningful change. I'm committed to building a sustainable future, not just for myself, but for generations to come. More Power GCA, more Power

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Fatoumata Koita

Mouvement Mali Propre | Mali



This Academy has opened my eyes to the urgency of acting on climate adaptation: The time is no longer for waiting, but for action. Young people are not only the future, but also already carrying out concrete and sustainable solutions, and we must have the space to put them into practice. I leave convinced that decision-makers must invest more in climate adaptation and support young people, because together we will build a resilient future.



Amadou Ly

Youth Association for Social Development JDS | Mauritania



The Pan-African Youth Academy 2025 has strengthened my commitment to advancing climate adaptation in Mauritania and beyond. This experience not only deepened my knowledge but also connected me with inspiring young leaders across Africa who share the vision of a resilient future. I return home empowered to transform ideas into impactful action within my community.



Cedric Ryan Pilois SUNASSEE

Sov Lanatir | Mauritius



The Youth Academy was a transformative space where global frameworks met local and indigenous realities. Coming from Mauritius, I carried the voices of island communities, showing that youth-led and community-rooted solutions are vital for climate adaptation. This experience strengthened my resolve to bridge knowledge, science, culture, and policy so that adaptation is not only discussed but also lived.

Hajar Chams Eddine

IMAL Initiative for Climate and Development | Morocco



The Youth Academy was a diverse pan-African space where we gathered to take matters of our future into our hands and learn from each other's experiences, challenges, and successes. It opened a space for collaboration across the African continent, unifying our voices for climate justice.



Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Fernando Azarias Sitoe

**The Youth Coalition Platform for Climate Action
Mozambique (YCAC-MOZ) | Mozambique**



At the Youth Academy organized by the Global Centre on Adaptation, I had the honor of learning about the following aspects:



- 1. I deepened my knowledge of drafting project proposals focused on climate adaptation, developing the ability to structure initiatives aligned with local contexts and sustainable solutions.*
- 2. I acquired skills in budgeting and fund management, ensuring the efficient and transparent use of financial resources.*
- 3. I learned techniques for mediation and conflict resolution between the parties involved, which will strengthen my ability to facilitate consensus and promote cooperation toward the success of projects.*

Elizabeth Rumono Mughongora

National Youth Climate Action Network of Namibia | Namibia



Inoussa Saouna Nafissa

**Network for Youth and Women Leaders for
Active Citizenship (RJFL NIGER) | Niger**



Young people are key players in the transition to a sustainable and better future. Climate change adaptation is not just a matter of policy or science, it's also and above all a matter of solidarity, community engagement, and a shared vision.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Wuraola Ayomide Okuwobi

**Green Growth Africa Sustainability Network
(Green Growth Africa) | Nigeria**



Being part of the GCA Climate Adaptation Youth Fellowship and engaging with young leaders from over 50 countries from four continents was deeply inspiring and exciting, and a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to a more livable planet. Beyond localized individual actions, the fellowship's shifted my focus to the need to consider the global context. I left the Academy with renewed conviction that African youth must act now and lead boldly in shaping climate solutions across different sectors.

Benjamin Habintwali

We Got Your Back NGO | Rwanda



1. *The Pan-African Youth Academy 2025 expanded my knowledge on adaptation solutions and connected me with young, fellow leaders from across the continent. I return to Rwanda inspired and equipped to localize these strategies and strengthen youth-led adaptation action.*
2. *Being part of the Youth Academy in Nairobi was both empowering and transformative. It reminded me that young people like me have the skills and responsibility to shape a climate-resilient future for our communities.*
3. *The Academy showed me that when youth from 50 countries come together, adaptation is not just possible, it is unstoppable. I am committed to carrying this momentum back home to Rwanda and ensuring no young voice is left behind in climate action.*



Reine Patricia Awonandja Coumba Kandety

**Initiative Jeunesse CEN-SAD Sénégal pour la paix,
la sécurité et le changement climatique | Senegal**



GCA's training made me realize the urgency of protecting my community by implementing resilient and innovative measures in the face of climate change. For me, this is ESSENTIAL.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Elgin Hilary Debbie Crée
SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH) | Seychelles



This training has led me to connect with so many like-minded young people, and it has been inspiring to learn about the different initiatives for climate adaptation being implemented in so many African nations. It has also provided me with valuable resources that I can bring back to my organization to carry out stronger and more informed climate solutions locally, as well as advocating for solutions internationally.



Alicious Bessiama
Sunrise Movement Sierra Leone | Sierra Leone



The Youth Academy reminded me that climate action is not just a task; it is a responsibility to our future selves and the generations that follow. Change begins when knowledge meets courage.



**Abdirahman Said Abdikarim Sadiyo
Ahmed Siyad**
Living Hope Foundation (LHF) | Somalia



Thanks to GCA and the innovators of this program, it supported my mentorship and communication skills, which will support replication of the program at a local level.



Yoal Wuol Lim Nguen
Lim Nguen Foundation | South Sudan



The Youth Academy was a transformative experience that equipped me with practical tools and a visionary mindset to advance locally led climate action through Lim Nguen Foundation. It moved me beyond theory, empowering me to champion youth-led adaptation solutions and turn ideas into tangible resilience in South Sudan and beyond.



Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Randa Dhifallah Mahmoud

IWA-YWP Sudan | Sudan



Being part of GCA has shown me the incredible power of African youth and how much their contributions can strengthen communities in the fight against climate change. This journey has not only inspired me but also boosted my confidence to believe that I can create an even greater impact.



Justine Robert Lukumay

Tanzania Conservation and Community Empowerment Initiative (TACCEI) | Tanzania



The Pan-African Youth Academy 2025 provided me with knowledge, networks, and tools to lead impactful adaptation projects. I am eager to go back home, share what I've learned, and motivate other young people to take action in creating climate-resilient futures.



Ornella Didjaou TCHOUROU-NAPO

International Association of Students in Agricultural and related Sciences in Togo (IAAS-TOGO) | Togo



For me, GCA's Youth Academy was a mirror showing not just my reflection, but my potential. Each idea shared, each gaze exchanged, reminded me: We are the generation that must transform vulnerability into power by adaptation.

Asma Jamel

WeYouth Organization | Tunisia



Participating in the Youth Academy connected me with passionate young leaders from across Africa, and together we explored solutions to the urgent challenges of climate change. This experience has deepened my sense of responsibility to act locally while thinking globally. The Academy empowered me to see adaptation not just as a policy priority but also as a pathway to resilience and hope for future generations. It has motivated me to be a stronger voice for youth-led climate action.

Youth Adaptation Network In-Country Focal Points



Elizabeth Nandera

United Soaring Youth Africa | Uganda



Adaptation has great economic potential, and we can use it not only for the sake of adapting, but also, economies can be redesigned today for the sake of tomorrow's sustainable future.



Ruth Nawakwi

Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development (IESD) | Zambia



The Pan-African Youth Academy 2025 has strengthened my leadership journey in climate adaptation and inclusivity. It inspired me to connect local action with global solutions, empowering me to advocate for resilient, sustainable, and inclusive futures across Africa.



Chantelle Nyasha Melandra Tauya

Action 24 | Zimbabwe



The Pan-African Youth Academy 2025 reinforced a crucial insight: The integration of investible initiatives into adaptation solutions is fundamental to ensuring their continuity and long-term effectiveness. This forum served as an important reminder that while innovative solutions are essential, their lasting impact depends on establishing viable economic frameworks that attract investment and support scalability beyond initial implementation phases.

Panel Members



Livia Chaves Marcolin
GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel Member 2025
Brasil
The event was inspiring and insightful.



Sandrine Yaah Mitin
GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel Member 2025 | Cameroon

Every lesson/session redefined what leadership and resilience mean to me. I understand that adaptation is not just about surviving the present storms but also about preventing storms from occurring, which requires us, especially young people, to be clear and bold about what we want. Through collaboration, we can narrow the gap.



Des-Rose Engelbrecht
GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel Member 2025
Namibia



GCA's Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership was such a vibrant experience. It challenged my assumptions on what effective climate action looks like, especially from a youth-led perspective, while also highlighting my potential to serve as a leader in the space. I left each session feeling more inspired and curious than before and look forward to applying these learnings in my work on sustainable development and community resilience.

Desmond Febechi Uzomadike
GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel Member 2025 | Nigeria



Being part of the GCA Youth Academy redefined what adaptation means to me. It is not about survival; it is about power, vision, and responsibility. It is the duty of Africa's youth and the global youth at large to rise as builders of solutions, guardians of communities, and champions of a future stronger than the storms we face.



Panel Members



Genesis Laolao Daquinan

GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel Member 2025

Philippines



Beyond the training sessions and practical exercises, I believe the true value of the Youth Academy lies in its role in creating a meaningful space for young leaders from the Global South to convene, share knowledge, and exchange ideas on their work and experiences. Equally important is GCA's pioneering commitment to African youth, recognizing that Africa's vast pool of young energy and innovation is essential for driving the adaptation agenda. On a personal level, the Academy empowered me with greater confidence in my own voice and provided me with the tools and network to translate my adaptation ideas into meaningful action.

Sankara Nyagaya

GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel Member 2025 | Kenya

Adaptation education for a sustainable future.



Video Competition Winner 2024



Guillermo Mallea

Ayvú Pacha | Bolivia



The Youth Academy from GCA taught me that bridges can be built by connecting needs, fostering relationships, and implementing solutions. There is a clear before and after this transformative experience.



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