AFRICA YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2022 - 2027

A unified African youth voice through a co-created Action Plan

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COORDINATING YOUTH TEAMS

Africa Youth Mobilisation for COP AYM4COP A campaign of YOUNGO

RESILIENT40 A youth voice for a climate resilient Africa

YOUNGO OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

The ideas and opinions expressed in this publication are those of young Africans, they are not necessarily those of supporting organisations and do not commit the organisations

II. ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AYCAP	Africa Youth Climate Action Plan
AYEA	African Youth Environment Assembly
AYM4COP	Africa Youth Mobilisation for COP Campaign
COP	Conference of Parties
COY	Conference of Youth
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
NAP	National Adaptation Plans
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
YOUNGO	Official Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC

1. BACKGROUND

Globally, Africa contributes to less than 3% of the global emissions, yet it remains the most vulnerable continent to climate change impacts, threatening the livelihood of over 100 million people due to its low adaptive capacity and gradual socioeconomic growth (*Mikail, 2022*).

It is widely known that young Africans will face the worst effects of climate change for a longer period of time. As a result, they have become increasingly concerned about climate change. Still, instead of becoming passive victims, there is growing interest among them to become more involved, which has activated many young Africans' climate activism.

Their climate activism is twofold; on the one hand, they play a leading role in holding governments accountable to deliver on their climate change commitments. On the other hand, they are driving climate action at the grassroots level.

As the world gathers in Sharm el-Sheikh to tackle the climate crisis, the Africa Youth Climate Action Plan (AYCAP) is launched, which is in essence, a response to this dual activism and enlists priority actions young Africans have identified to effectively respond to the climate crisis on the continent.

The actions included in the AYCAP are directed at the government to prioritise and include in their national climate change response plans. Young Africans have also listed their commitments to advance climate action. As the largest demographic on the continent, they recognise that they have a critical role to play and have therefore opted to speak with one voice through a co-created action plan.

The Resilient40 and Africa Youth Mobilisation for COP Campaign (AYM4COP) under YOUNGO coordinated the development of the AYCAP, and the Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change and the Green Africa Youth Organisation supported this process. However, the AYCAP has been developed through a bottom-up approach and has undergone an extensive youth consultation process because co-creation and continent-wide ownership are at the heart of the plan.

Through policy advocacy, the narrative is strengthened that young Africans aren't mere beneficiaries but are agents of change who is at the forefront of Africa's climate change and development response.

The AYM4COP Contact Point Team meets with YOUNGO Global South Focal Point (2022), Elizabeth Machache Gulugulu, to prepare for the AYCAP launch at COP27.
(*Source: Abraham Bugre)*

02

DEVELOPING THE AYCAP

The AYCAP data collection process kicks off at Africa Climate Week 2022 in Libreville, Gabon

(Source: Rufaro Matsika)

2 DEVELOPING THE AYCAP

From the onset, co-creation has been at the heart of the AYCAP, and therefore the working group embarked on an extensive youth consultation process to ensure that it reflects the voices of as many Africans as possible.

The AYCAP was developed through a bottom-up approach whereby the actual drafting of the AYCAP followed the youth consultation process, in order to prevent the conventional approach of engaging young Africans only to validate predetermined plans.

2.1. Data collection

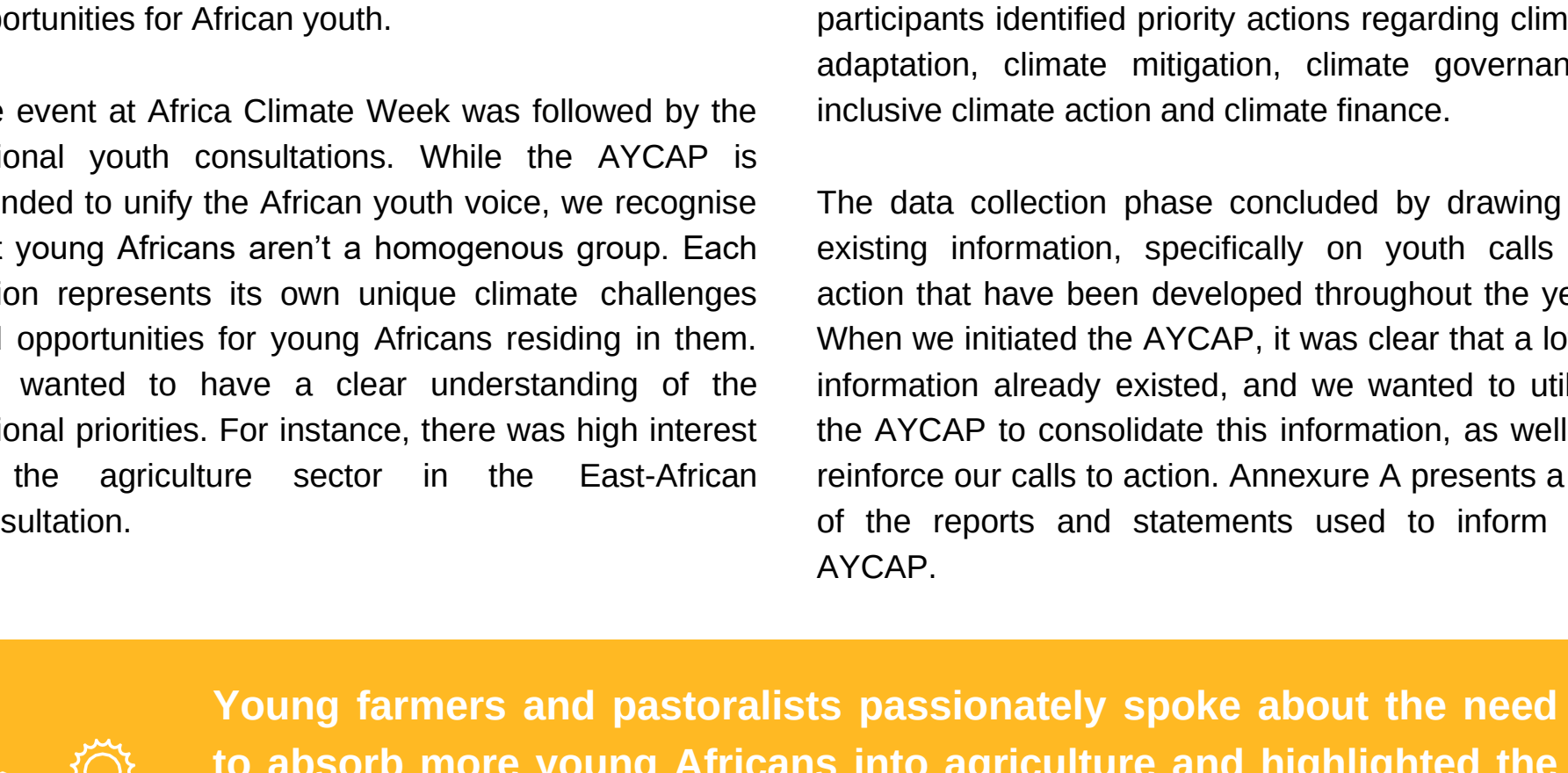
The youth consultation process officially kicked off at YOUNGO's Youth and Green Futures event that took place at the Africa Climate Week in Gabon. The event focused on the green economy as a response to Africa's climate change and development imperatives and therefore, the data collected during this event, mainly focused on the enabling factors and the limitations to create green jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for African youth.

The event at Africa Climate Week was followed by the regional youth consultations. While the AYCAP is intended to unify the African youth voice, we recognise that young Africans aren't a homogenous group. Each region represents its own unique climate challenges and opportunities for young Africans residing in them. We wanted to have a clear understanding of the regional priorities. For instance, there was high interest in the agriculture sector in the East-African consultation.

On 26 September 2022, AYM4COP facilitated the implementation of the AYCAP Capacity Building Workshop hosted by C40 Cities. Five African experts dedicated their time to capacitate 127 young Africans on climate action planning and M&E. Live English to French translation was organised by C40 Cities to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of Francophone youth. In addition to the training, participants identified priority actions regarding climate adaptation, climate mitigation, climate governance, inclusive climate action and climate finance.

The data collection phase concluded by drawing on existing information, specifically on youth calls for action that have been developed throughout the year. When we initiated the AYCAP, it was clear that a lot of information already existed, and we wanted to utilise the AYCAP to consolidate this information, as well as reinforce our calls to action. Annexure A presents a list of the reports and statements used to inform the AYCAP.

Young farmers and pastoralists passionately spoke about the need to absorb more young Africans into agriculture and highlighted the enabling action required to help them thrive in the sector. Following the regional youth consultations, three surveys were shared to capture detailed input at the individual level.



The West Africa AYCAP Youth Consultations

(Source:Shamiela Reid)

2.2. Data analysis and drafting

Following the completion of the data collection phase, the data was analysed, and key actions were extracted into the different thematic areas. The actions were shared widely with African youth and with the participants attending RCOY-Africa for review and validation. The drafting of the AYCAP commenced shortly thereafter, with the aim of launching the AYCAP at COP27.

The graphic below presents the overall AYCAP engagement reach.

2.3. AYCAP youth engagement at a glance

551

Young Africans participated in the AYCAP consultation process

54

African countries represented throughout the consultation process

5

Regional youth consultations held

127

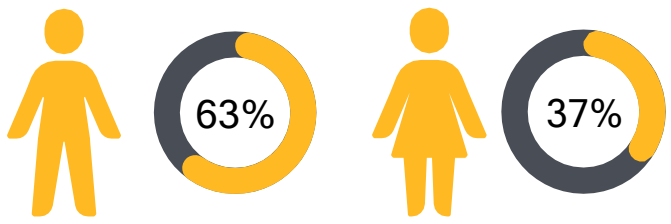
Young Africans capacitated in climate action planning and M&E

28

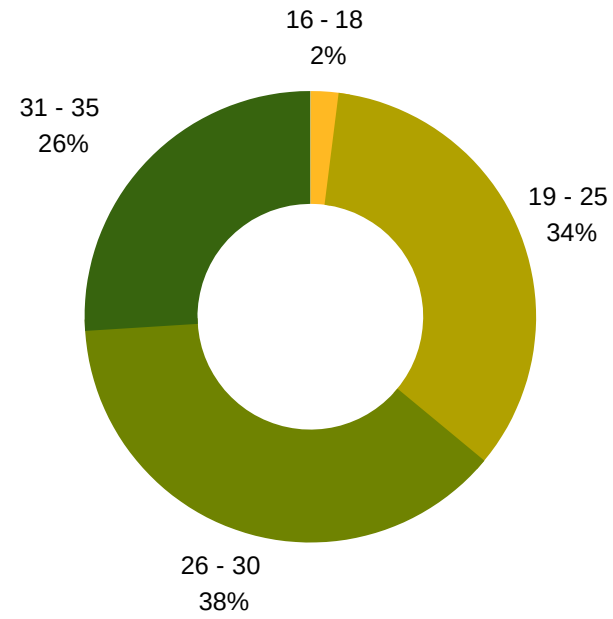
Young African reviewers to validate and provide additional input to the AYCAP

3

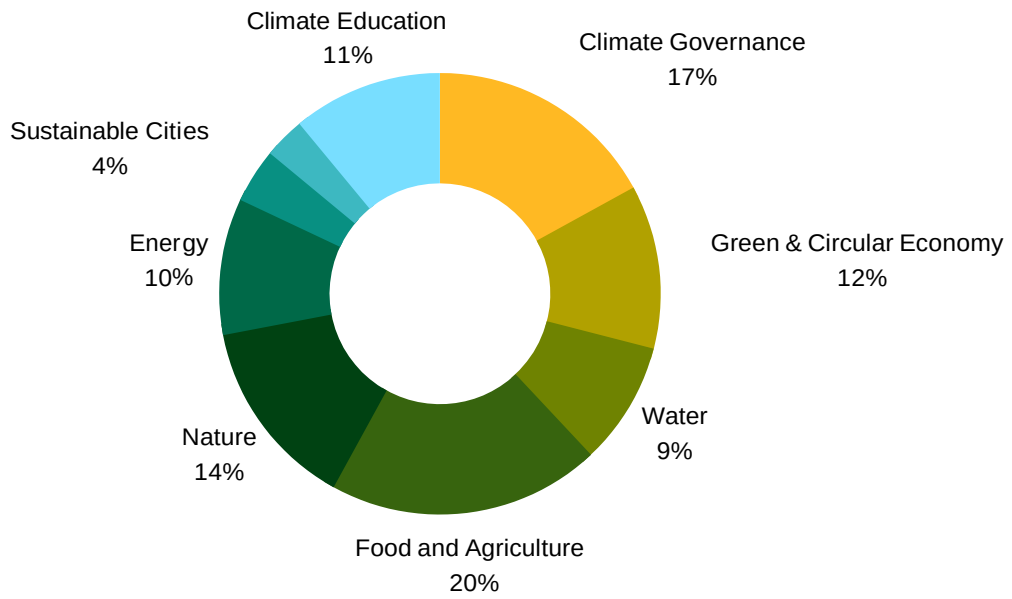
Post-consultation surveys circulated



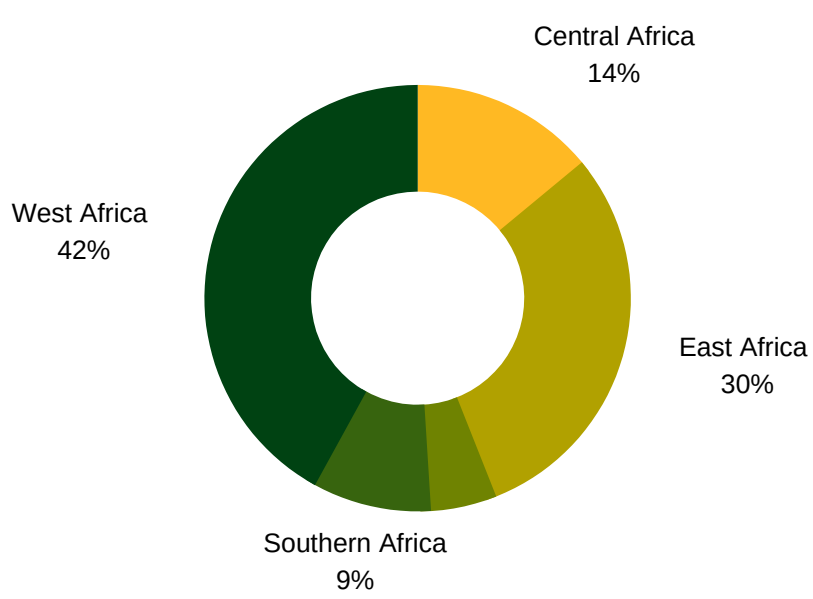
Gender Representation



Age Group Representation



Thematic Interests



Regional Representation

03

THE ACTION PLAN

The AYCAP Launch event at the COP27 Zimbabwean Pavilion

(Source: Abraham Bugre)

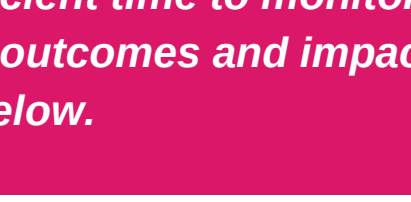
3. THE ACTION PLAN

Each year, young people convene and develop their list of demands ahead of the Conference of Parties (COP), and not much attention is given to how those demands are translated into tangible actions in national climate change response plans and whether those actions are effectively being implemented. This makes it challenging for young people to hold the government accountable.

As a result, young Africans decided to develop the AYCAP which will mainly serve as an accountability mechanism that monitors and evaluates the implementation of priority actions they have identified and included in the action plan. The AYCAP includes actions directed at the government as well as commitments made by young Africans to advance climate action.

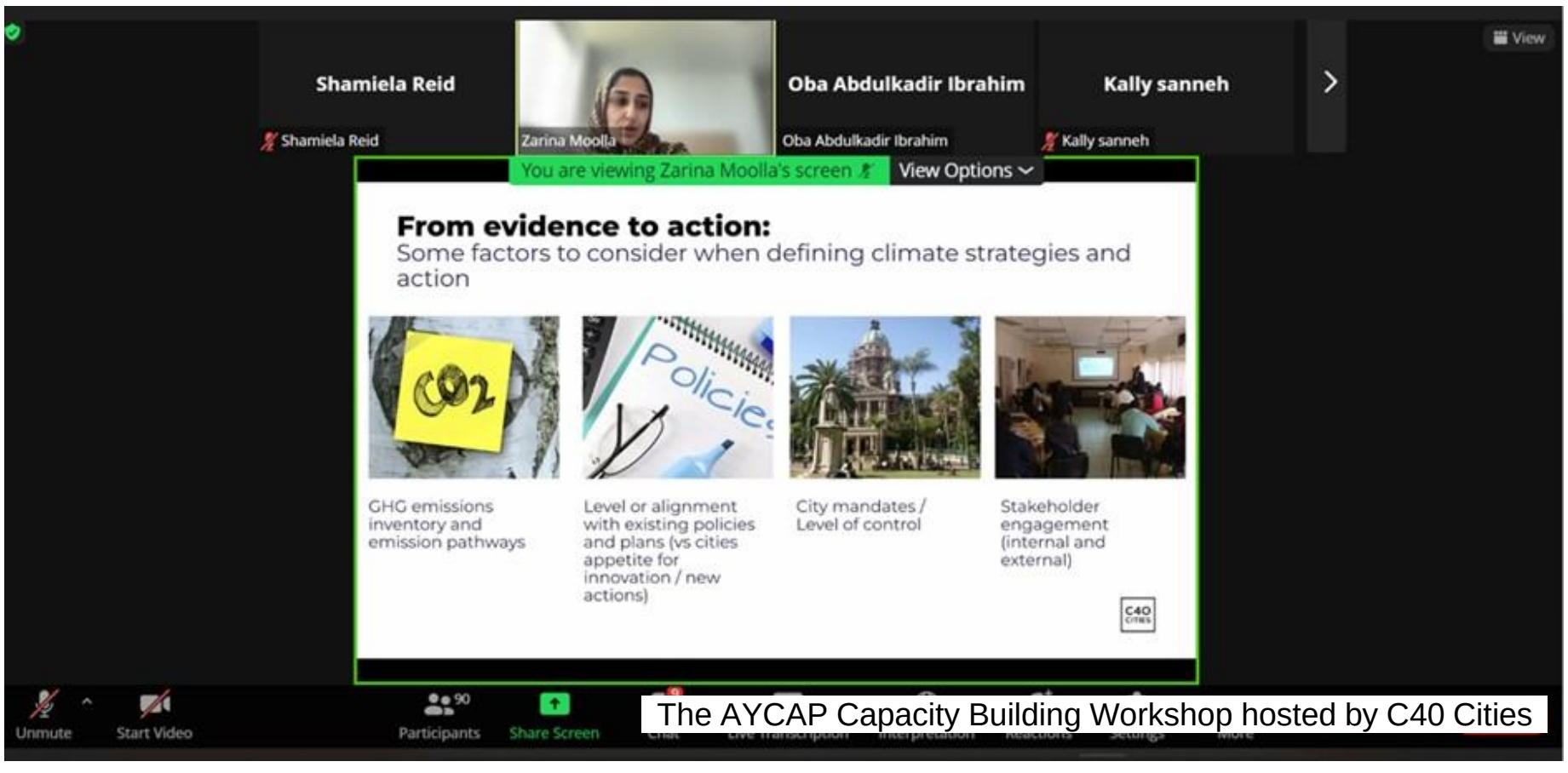
The actions cut across the ten themes listed below that have been identified as strategic focus areas for young Africans.

1. **Climate Governance and Policy**
2. **Climate Education**
3. **Green Economy**
4. **Circular Economy**
5. **Sustainable Cities**
6. **Energy**
7. **Water**
8. **Food and Agriculture**
9. **Nature**
10. **Gender**



Priority actions were selected based on whether many young Africans felt it was a priority and it was frequently suggested for inclusion in the AYCAP. Actions were also selected based on overall alignment with Africa's climate response imperatives and this was informed by other strategic documents like the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 -2032) among others. All actions that have been included in the AYCAP are already in implementation and therefore, the focus will mainly be on tracking the implementation of actions over a five-year period and understanding how these actions can be advanced.

The AYCAP is a 5-year plan, and this period was selected to allow sufficient time to monitor and evaluate the immediate outputs, and also the medium to longer-term outcomes and impacts. Priority actions for each thematic area are listed below.



The AYCAP Capacity Building Workshop hosted by C40 Cities

(Source: Shamiela Reid)

3.1. Climate Governance and Policy

3.1.1. Background

Africa has often been given the title of the 'most vulnerable and 'least prepared' continent in the face of climate change and other calamities.

Young Africans will face the worst effects of climate change, but instead of becoming passive victims, they have become increasingly concerned and there is growing interest from their end to become more involved and drive climate action. For instance, many African youth have played a significant role in facilitating climate education at the grassroots level. They also tend to contextualise and communicate climate change challenges and solutions in a simple and understandable way that resonates with ordinary citizens, who can therefore easily absorb the information. However, their participation in developing and implementing climate-related policy and decision-making remains a significant challenge.

Article 11 of the African Youth Charter (2006) binds member states on the continent to create opportunities for young Africans to actively participate in decision-making processes and build their institutional capacity by providing them with technical and financial support
.

3.1.2. Key gaps identified

- Lack of awareness creation, education and training on existing policies and how youth can engage in the policy development and implementation process.
- Lack of meaningful youth engagement in climate policy-making and implementation.
- Lack of technical and financial support directed at youth-led climate action.
- Lack of technical and financial support directed at supporting youth's active participation in global climate negotiation processes.
- Continuous monopolisation of specific young individuals or youth organisations that hold the youth climate advocacy space and associated opportunities.
- Poor understanding by governments on how to engage young people meaningfully.

However, in reality, policies don't always translate into practice. Many young Africans have raised their concern against the lack of meaningful youth engagement which often results in climate-related policy that fails to be youth transformative and therefore, climate action doesn't speak to the fluid realities of young Africans.

In response, the following gaps, government-led actions, and youth commitments are being presented.

COP27 African youth delegate participates in the Loss & Damage Payment Overdue Campaign.

(Source: Abraham Bugre)

3.1.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Review and revise existing policies and plans to ensure they are youth responsive especially the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- Intentionally engage young people and design youth consultation with young people in mind by scheduling consultation sessions when many young people are available, covering travel or data costs should the consultation either be in person or online, using simple language and graphics to communicate information, listen to the perspectives of young people and include their input in the development of climate change response plans.
- Dedicate at least one staff member in the relevant climate change department who will be responsible for supporting youth engagement.
- Ensure youth engagement represents the diversity and demographics of a country. Young people are not a homogenous group. A selected few individuals or organisations cannot continuously represent the youth demographic of an entire nation.
- Map out all youth organisations within your country and present them with equal opportunities to contribute to national climate change discussions, decision-making, and resources.
- Provide financial support to young people to convene and strengthen their capacity and policy advocacy ahead of COP as they host a Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) and/or Regional Conference of Youth (RCOY) and attend the Global Conference of Youth (COY), among others.

Absorb young people in your country's COP delegation and ensure that the opportunity to join the delegation is not always given to a certain group of young people.

3.1.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action

- Actively contribute to the development of climate policy by developing an input paper in collaboration with other youth and youth organisations. In addition, outline young people's role as implementing partners in climate policy as part of the input paper.
- Hold the government accountable through protest advocacy.
- Develop an accountability mechanism that will track the implementation of key government and youth-led climate actions.
- Foster a culture of partnership and collaboration between youth and youth organisations by sharing the space and sharing opportunities.
- Where possible, vote for a political party that prioritises climate change.
- Pursue a career in climate change governance and planning.
- Develop a guideline on what meaningful youth engagement looks like in climate policy-making and implementation.
- Strengthen the capacity of young Africans in climate governance and mobilise resources for them to actively participate in climate governance processes locally and globally.
- Promote and practise intergenerational dialogue.
- Highlight climate solutions.

3.1.5. Youth-led best practices

Ecolotrip

Ecolotrip was founded in 2015 by Claude Sodokin when he realized that francophone youth are underrepresented when it comes to international climate governance because of the language barrier. Today, Ecolotrip is the largest global youth francophone-led network on climate change. Its aim is to build a strong community of francophone youth climate activists and green entrepreneurs and empower them to innovate and co-create.

It has been advocating for the active and meaningful participation of francophone youth especially from the global south, in climate policy-making at the international level. For instance, after a youth pré-COP in August 2022, which gathered 150 francophone youth from 20 countries, Ecolotrip brought 15 youth delegates to COY17 and COP27 to share the Francophone Youth Statement and action plan for the upcoming years.

To date, +500 Francophone youth from the global south have been directly trained through the annual summit called Week-Eco, +20000 have been sensitized and +50 have attended international conferences on climate and related topics.

Ecolotrip works with various stakeholders ranging from grassroots organizations to UN specialized agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA) and International NGOs such as OXFAM and Plan International.

(Source: Claude Sodokin)

3.1.6. Youth-led best practices

Africa Youth Environment Assembly

The Youth Environment Assembly is an initiative of the Major Group of Children and Youth under the United Nations Environment Programme. In February 2022, the Africa Regional Focal Point of MGCY UNEP, Salem Mihindeou AYENAN, was selected to implement the Youth Environment Assembly in Africa as a prelude to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5). This was where the "African Youth Environment Assembly" (AYEA) was born. Today AYEA brings together more than 1,000 young people on the African continent.

The AYEA is a platform that promotes youth dialogue, consultation and focus group discussions. Through the AYEA, young activists and climate experts engage on how climate change is affecting communities, and subsequently, propose solutions in the form of recommendations.

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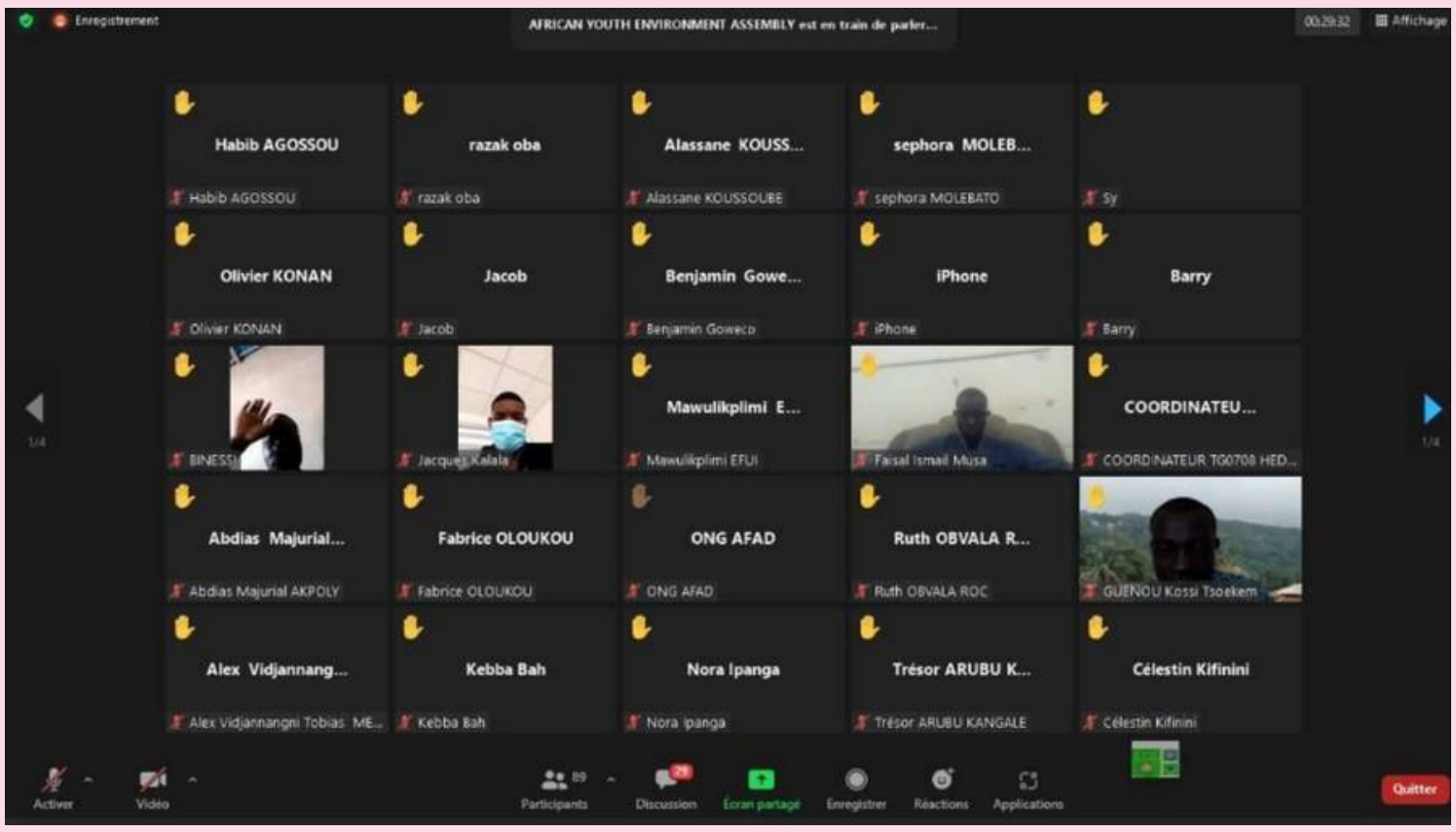
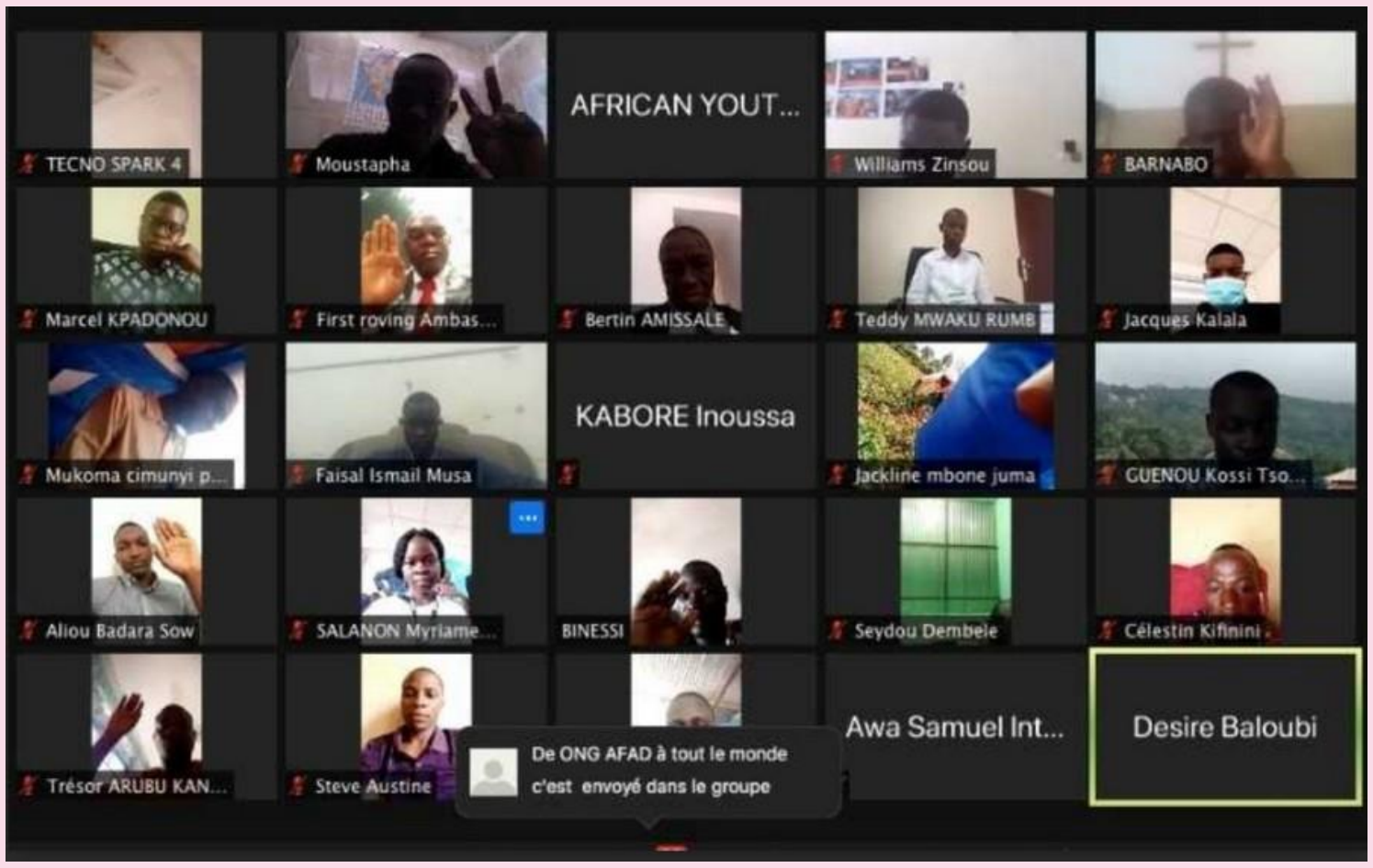
The first edition of the AYEA brought together 146 civil society organisations from 19 countries and +1000 young people from Africa and the diaspora. This assembly is an opportunity for young people to share their actions, and the challenges they face and find suitable solutions along with their peers. The AYEA aims to facilitate the participation of all young Africans by providing translation support to Francophone youth.

Through AYEA, many young Africans are beginning to understand how the United Nations functions and how they can interact with various stakeholders in order to realise their climate aspirations.





(Source: Salem Mihindeou AYENAN)

3.2. Climate Education

3.2.1 Background

Climate change education involves being aware of climate change and its anthropogenic causes and how to take action for informed mitigation and adaptation interventions. The climate change literacy rates and their predictors are poorly interpreted and understood across Africa, yet people still depend on the complex science behind climate change to explain its impact and why we need to take immediate action, thereby making it difficult for an ordinary citizen to understand.

According to a study titled Climate Literacy in Africa, climate change literacy ranges from 23 to 66% of the population across 33 nations, with bigger variations at subnational scales, for instance, 5-71% within states in Nigeria (Simpson, 2021). These results highlight where interventions can target specific regions and demographics to increase climate change literacy and facilitate a better understanding of the current and future climate change responses. As young people remain at the forefront of the fight against climate change, the need for quality climate education cannot be overemphasised.

In 2022, UNESCO launched a global survey and focus group discussions on young people's learning experiences and demands on quality climate change education. Based on responses from about 17,500 young people across 166 countries, the findings show that the quality of the current climate change education is in question. 70% of the youth surveyed say that they cannot explain climate change, or they can only explain its broad principles, or they do not know anything about it, putting into question the quality of climate change education in our schools today. Furthermore, girls have less confidence in dealing with climate change based on what they learnt in school compared to boys. The findings were compiled in a document and presented at the Ministerial session on "Youth demands for quality climate change education" at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh.

3.2.2. Key gaps identified

- **Lack of information that is simple and understandable for an ordinary citizen to learn and take action.**
- **Lack of policies and programmes that promote environmental education as one of the tools to solve the climate crisis.**
- **Lack of inclusion of climate education in primary, high schools, and tertiary institutions curriculums.**
- **Lack of capacity building for communities and youth on the impact of climate change and how they can best solve the problems to improve people's livelihood.**
- **Young people's role in facilitating climate education is not fully explored.**
- **Using various visual and performing arts for climate education is not fully explored and promoted.**
- **Lack of practical climate education that compliments the theory.**

3.2.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Develop and enforce policies that recognise climate change education as an important tool to respond to the climate crisis.
- Invest in producing simple and understandable communications materials to educate people about climate change.
- Invest in capacity-building for children, youth and women residing in communities that are most impacted by climate change.
- Introduce lifelong and distance learning for the public and massive open online courses (MOOCs) in order to foster action for climate empowerment.
- Nominate ACE National Focal Points and provide them with the necessary institutional support for their activities, as well as, develop and implement national strategies on ACE.

- Develop and include climate change literacy curricula for formal education and informal education as inscribed in the recently developed African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2032) to help cultivate the next generation of environmentally conscious young people.
- Partner with youth to develop and implement climate change education programmes.

3.2.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action

- Educate yourself on climate change.
- Share environmentally friendly tips with family and friends.
- Join a climate change youth group or network
- Continue to advocate for the development of climate change literacy curricula in formal and informal education.
- Leverage social media platforms to grow a following and raise awareness on climate change.
- Translate communication material into vernacular to reduce communication barriers.
- Participate in climate-related clubs at tertiary institutions like Plogging Clubs.
- Partner with a local school to enhance climate education in school systems by: 1) supporting the setting up of climate change clubs in primary and secondary schools, 2) designing after-school excursions to climate-friendly places or climate-impacted environments to practically teach learners about climate change challenges and opportunities, and 3) host climate change quiz competition.
- Use creative arts to raise awareness about climate change.
- Develop climate-related knowledge products and tools.
- Participate in online youth-centred courses and programs on climate change (e.g. Green Switch Academy).

3.2.5. Youth-led best practices

The Green Switch Academy

The Green Switch Academy is an initiative of Plogging Nigeria that promotes environmental education and consciousness among young people across the continent. The first Green Switch Academy was organized in September 2019. Since then, 18 other Academies have been organized through which they have trained exactly 1,168 persons from 23 countries around the globe.

The curriculum of the Academy centers on basic Ecological/Environmental knowledge, Solid Waste Management, Global Warming, Climate Change, Nature for Nature Solutions, Sustainable Development Goals, and other sacrosanct themes that foster eco-consciousness for general environmental protection, preservation, and conservation.

The 7-day Academy, which is aimed at helping participants develop new and sustainable habits that will contribute to reducing the negative impacts of anthropogenic activities on the environment, has witnessed participants from all States in Nigeria, 18 African countries, and 5 European countries.

The Academy is structured in a way that gives participants individual experiential assignments while also working in groups, fostering teamwork and collaboration for eco-literacy. It also mandates participants to engage their social media followers with lessons learned during the 7-day period on environmental sustainability and climate change. That way, they are able to keep their advocacy consistent and alive, reaching an ever-active online audience. Some of the graduates have now gone on to establish local environmental awareness and advocacy initiatives in their respective corners, taking the message for environmental sustainability to more people over time.

3.3. Green Economy

3.3.1. Background

The concept of the ‘green economy’ is emerging as a hopeful solution to the multiplex challenges of climate change, poverty alleviation and inequality reduction, while also enabling African countries to create decent jobs and accomplish inclusive economic transformation (*Mwuara, 2021).*

The ‘greening’ of economies is broadly understood as a process through which resources are reallocated from unsustainable production systems to sustainable and regenerative ones that also reduce vulnerabilities. This transformation is anticipated to create new ‘green jobs’, and for this reason, it is widely heralded as a solution to the youth employment crisis in Africa (*Mwuara, 2021).*

However, it is also clear that not all new jobs being created by this transformation will be necessarily ‘decent’ and as such, a distinction between decent and green jobs is important (Mudombi, 2017). A job is considered green if it contributes substantially to protecting or restoring ecosystems and biodiversity; reducing resource consumption and inefficiency; decarbonizing the economy, and minimizing or altogether eliminating all forms of waste and pollution while also generating and supporting the wellbeing of people.

Spurring entrepreneurship is also a great way to promote the green economy, as entrepreneurs create a platform through the provision of products and services that address market friction in a sustainable manner.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the heart of the economy in most African countries, as they provide high levels of employment and contribute significantly to GDP growth. Therefore, there is a need for awareness creation among youth regarding the opportunities in the entrepreneurship and innovation space. This must be followed up by technical and financial support to ensure young entrepreneurs formalise their business ideas and can grow and sustain their businesses over a period of time.

3.3.2. Key gaps identified

- Lack of sufficient data to make the case for transitioning to a green economy in Africa.
- Lack of technical skills required for the transition to a green economy.
- Lack of understanding by African youth on what green jobs and entrepreneurship entails.
- Lack of technical and financial support to support small and medium enterprises as climate finance is mainly directed at enterprises that have reached full commercialisation or industrialisation.
- Lack of awareness of existing green products and services and successful innovations that can be replicated.
- Lack of green enterprise development incubation programmes particularly directed at SMEs.
- Lack of policies that promote green entrepreneurship at the SME level as one of the response measures to solve the climate crisis.

3.3.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Provide technical and financial support to local businesses, especially to youth-owned small and medium enterprises.
- Promote manufacturing and local production at all levels and advocate the use of goods and services produced locally as a way of creating job opportunities, achieving self-sufficiency in critical sectors of the economy, and curbing unnecessary demand for foreign exchange which might put pressure on the exchange rate in developing countries.
- Increase trade and investment amongst African countries by leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area.
- Equip youth with the technical skills and experience required to actively work in the green economy.
- Create and promote green jobs and ensure that all green jobs created are decent jobs.
- Support young Africans with necessary resources such as gadgets and provide them with free access to the internet to aid research, innovation, and the application of novel technological practices.
- Develop the entrepreneurial skills of young Africans through education and training and encourage the creation of new business models, products, services and practices in the green economy.
- Develop a rich dataset of African indigenous knowledge systems that young Africans can easily leverage to innovate their business model.
- Provide or support existing networking platforms that allow young emerging or current entrepreneurs to meet and exchange ideas, best practices and meet with businesses to offer practical advice and resource support.
- Set up a continent-wide fund that supports youth-led enterprise or support existing incubators so that they expand, and their support reaches all corners of Africa.

3.3.4. Youth commitment to advance climate action

- Pursue your education and a career in the green economy.
- Mobilise resources to support young entrepreneurs.
- Support companies that have integrated environmental sustainability into their production, operations and supply chain.
- Promote and showcase green innovations initiated by African youth.
- Share incubation opportunities with young Africans.
- Start a green business and direct job opportunities to young Africans.
- Raise awareness on what green skills, green jobs, green entrepreneurship and the green economy entails.
- Call on the private sector to direct their Corporate Social Investment towards climate-responsive projects.
- Call on government and private sector to actively pursue fossil fuel divestment.
- Bank with a financial institution that prioritises climate change as part of their business model.

3.3.5. Youth-led best practice

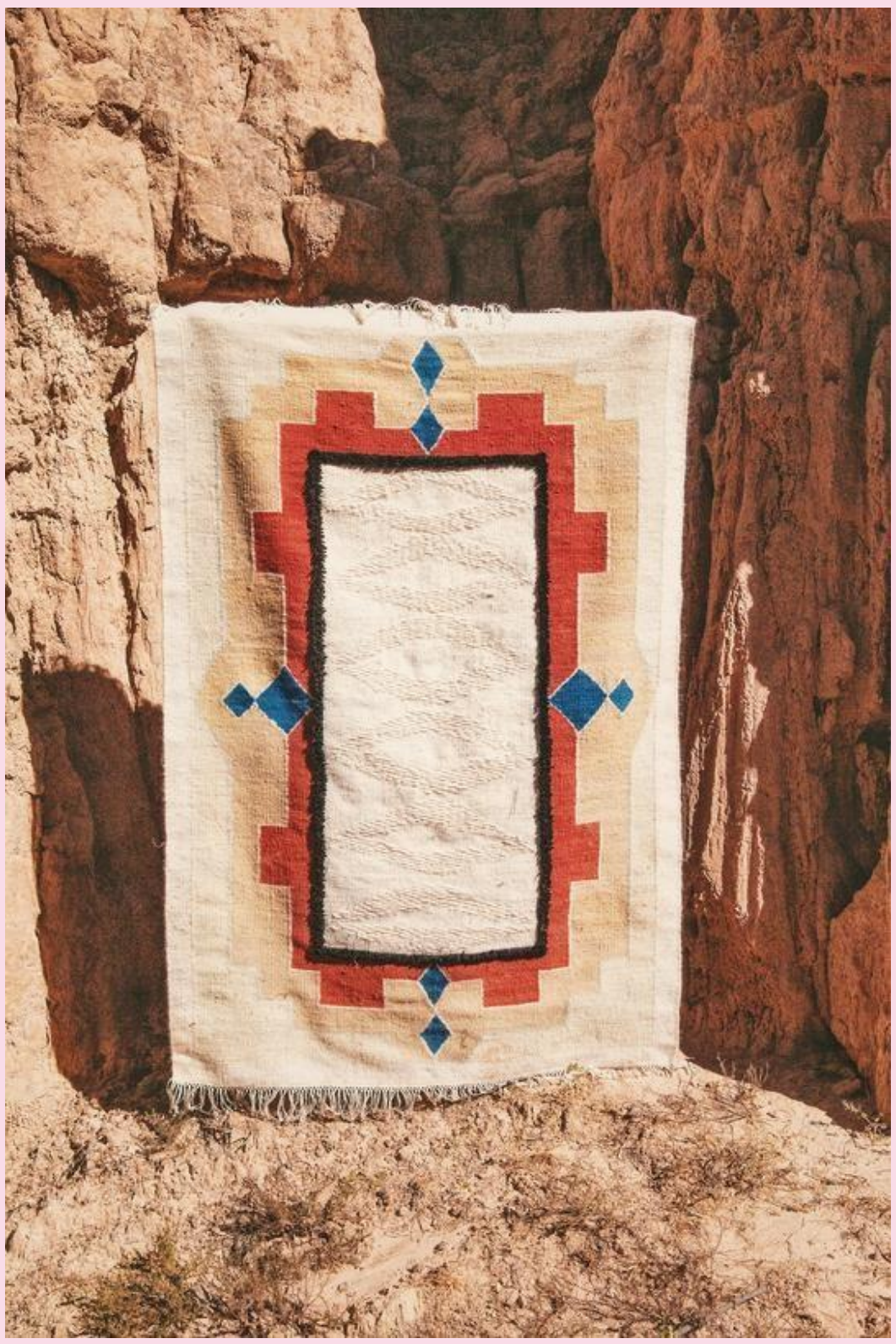
BARALI

Barali is a Lesotho-based, female-owned design studio founded by Mookho Ntho and Moliehi Mafantiri. Their sustainable homeware brand is expertly handcrafted by local artisans in Lesotho for the eco-conscious customer, who desires homeware that is both beautiful and ethically produced. One of their central values is cultural continuity, ensuring stories of Basotho cultures are told through their products.

Lesotho has one of the largest textile industries in the Sub-Saharan region, and most of its employees are women, many of whom have been negatively affected as a result of Covid-19. Several large international firms produce denim, appliances, and athletic wear. Their buyers include some of the most popular and visible brands in the fashion scene. The industry is highly profitable, but it isn't sustainable: there is no living wage, or effort to minimise environmental impact, amongst other things.

As a brand that is both environmentally conscious and inspired by Basotho cultures, Barali prioritises sustainability. Barali works with local female artisans, who have long been hand-making homeware, facilitating cultural continuity by working with them.

Lesotho is the world's second-leading exporter of mohair, and it also exports a large amount of wool annually. Barali's weaver partners use wool and mohair to make the designs: they hand spin and then dye the raw wool and mohair and weave the designs by hand. Choosing to have the designs handmade, and working with weavers, allows us to contribute more to local economies. That wouldn't be possible if they had chosen to work with factories instead.



(Source: Moliehi Mafantiri)

3.4. Circular Economy

3.4.1. Background

In contrast to the "linear economy," which involves the production, consumption, and disposal of resources, the circular economy involves recycling, repair, and reuse. This strategy reduces waste, boosts resilience, and is quickly gaining acceptance as a new paradigm for sustainable growth.

In Africa, a circular economy presents a great prospect for economic growth, value creation, and skill development with the proper enabling environment. Two policy areas have recently come to the forefront in African countries regarding establishing circular economy policies pertaining to certain industries and resources. The ban on single-use plastics and extended producer responsibility.

Some countries have implemented bans and restrictions on single-use plastics to stem the tide of pollution. Nationally, about 37 countries have a plastic ban, mostly on plastic bags. These policies have had mixed results in curbing the influx of plastic products into the waste stream with various levels of enforcement.

Regarding Extended producer responsibility (EPR), there is increasing legislation on packaging and electrical and electronic equipment. Currently, packaging EPR programmes are being implemented in South Africa and Kenya. A salary scheme for employees in the informal economy will need to be funded in South Africa under the EPR rule, in addition to the collection and sorting facilities. The EPR strategy for South Africa also includes the country's goal to broaden the Packa-ching programme, which offers incentives to residents of informal settlements to sort their rubbish.

National e-waste management plans have previously been created in Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda, focusing on EPR for electrical and electronic equipment. Environmental Management and Coordination (E-waste Management) legislation was created in Kenya by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). Although EPR for e-waste is an essential component of the solution, it must be backed by a broader set of regulations that promote a circular economy.

Despite the progress made, a huge gap still needs to be filled.

Below are the priority actions identified by African youths on the Circular Economy thematic area.

3.4.2. Key gaps identified

- There is a need for better knowledge of the circular economy within the African population.
- There are financial, regulatory, policy, awareness, and capacity gaps.
- Extended producer responsibility systems are voluntary in most countries. This could prove problematic and slow actions toward a circular and green economy.
- Language barrier affects the communication of good circular economy practices.
- Stringent government regulations restrict sustainable waste management.
- Poor waste management infrastructure to promote circularity.
- Lack of commitment by the private sector to shifting industries away from unsustainable practices or completely innovating to non-extractive business models.

3.4.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Creating a market-based system where people are incentivized to lead a sustainable lifestyle.
- Rethink and reshape traditional manufacturing processes and supply chains so that product life spans can be extended and allow easy entry into the circular economy.
- Equip SMEs with access to skills development, training and networking opportunities within the circular economy sector.
- Support the reformulation of administrative and regulatory approval procedures to ensure they are transparent and efficient and allow for ease of entry into the circular economy and waste management value chain.
- Build a wealth of knowledge on the circular economy and share this information widely to capture the interests of businesses and young Africans.
- Create a platform to connect young people in Africa promoting circularity to funding organisations and value creators e.g., business expo, mining expo, engagement forum and investment forum.
- Create climate hubs where youth can develop innovations related to the circular economy.
- Create apprenticeship opportunities for young Africans in the circular economy, and facilitate permanent employment placement of apprentices once the programme is completed.

3.4.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action

- Lead by example by reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Educate young Africans on proper waste management and recycling initiatives.
- Consider sustainable purchasing of products and services.
- Promote and practice waste separation at source in your household or in your workplace.
- Take a reusable bag along with you when going to the grocery store.
- Encourage the practice of shopping for second-hand clothing at thrift stores.
- Repair items instead of throwing them away.
- Pass on clothing items that no longer fit to those in need.
- Initiate an enterprise that promotes a circular economy.
- Support informal waste pickers' transition to the formal economy and link them directly to the market.
- Advocate for the development of national Circular Economy Action Plans.

3.4.5.Youth-led best practices

The Youth Sustainability Corner Podcast

The Youth Sustainability Corner podcast is a youth-led initiative using social media to educate young people about sustainability and a circular economy and how they can benefit from its opportunities. It has impacted over 50 youths in Nigeria, connecting them to international donor organizations who incentivize plastic retrieval from the environment through the provision of credits to "Earth doctors" (those taking the actions).

3.5. Sustainable Cities

3.5.1. Background

African cities are vulnerable to a variety of climate change impacts, ranging from gradual shifts in temperature, intense rainfall, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and groundwater salinity to changes in the frequency and/or severity of extreme events, such as fires, floods, heat waves, and storm surges (Taylor, 2014).

Slum and informal-settlement dwellers often reside in particularly high-risk locations within the city, often on marginal land avoided by regulated property developers, and lack the requisite infrastructure and services to withstand the effects of climate change.

While only 43% of Africa’s population currently lives in cities, Africa is the fastest urbanising continent, and this figure is likely to increase to 60% in 2050 (Taylor, 2014). Therefore, developing sustainable cities that ensure community resilience must be a focus area of Africa’s climate change response.

3.5.2. Key gaps identified

- High migration between rural and urban spaces.
- Mushrooming squatter camps and overcrowded suburbs.
- Poor essential services and facilities (water, electricity and sanitation).
- Poor air quality.
- Lack of meaningful youth engagement in local government policy and decision-making.
- The trust deficit between local government and communities.
- Poor vertical integration and policy alignment between local, subnational and national governments.
- Significant focus on urban resilience and less focus on urban decarbonization in African cities.
- Inefficient and high-cost transportation.
- Lack of non-motorised infrastructure in place e.g. bicycle lanes.
- Urban poor are placed or settled in high-risk areas without proper infrastructure leaving them in locations more susceptible to extreme weather events (e.g. increased flooding, mudslides or storm surges).

3.5.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- All cities' electricity mix must be powered by 50% renewable energy by 2035.
- Decarbonise city operation including public transport systems that will allow for better air quality.
- City planners need to design public transport systems with a key emphasis on trains and pedestrian-friendly city designs.
- Invest and promote urban agriculture (including community gardens) to enhance food security, decarbonises the food supply chain and increase accessibility to nutritious food.
- Ensuring everyone has access to clean drinking water in public facilities and their residences.
- Disaster risk management needs to cater to all risks including climate change-related disasters.
- Ensure cities has a good ratio of green to urban spaces at a suburban level to improve environmental and mental health.
- The inception of youth councils embedded within city governing structures to give youth a voice and capitate youth for future leadership roles.
- Provide meeting spaces for youth to organise by availing of council venues.
- Facilitate the participation of youth in the development and implementation of the city Climate Action Plan.
- Allocate a dedicated budget to support youth-led climate change projects.

3.5.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action

- Establish and run youth climate councils.
- Partner with local government as community champions and support climate-related community outreach programmes especially in cases where there is a trust deficit between communities and government.
- Participate in the development and implementation of climate-related policy.
- Advocate for the inclusion of climate programmes in your city’s master plan and corresponding budget.
- Build your capacity in local climate governance and understand the mandate of local government and how it relates to national and international climate governance.
- Walk, use a bicycle or public transport instead of using a car to travel.
- Initiate hydroponic systems on city rooftop buildings.
- Advocate for more green spaces in your city that are accessible to everyone.

3.6 Energy

3.6.1. Background

Africa is one of the regions in the world that is most impacted by climate change but consumes less than 6% of global energy and accounts for 3% of cumulative global emissions. At the same time, Africa faces a parallel imperative of extending electricity access to hundreds of millions of citizens who are currently deprived of it, which would stimulate economic growth and help attain sustainable development goals. (IEA, 2022).

Africa's geographic diversity holds huge potential for solar and wind energy, and its soils are home to many of the minerals and rare earth needed for clean energy technologies (Brickstone, 2022). However as Africa transitions to cleaner energy sources, it is imperative that Africa's special needs and circumstances are considered and therefore, energy access and security must be prioritised as part of the transition.

The seventh Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for universal energy access by 2030. This means that urgent steps should be taken to facilitate access for the 580 million Africans without access to electricity today. The task of providing universal access is not made easy by the rapid population growth (UNDP, 2022).

Access to clean, affordable and sustainable modern energy services is essential for Africa to fulfil its objective to industrialise the continent.

The low electrification rates in Africa demonstrate how far behind the continent is in its efforts towards achieving SDG 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy and its corresponding five (5) targets. Moreover, it raises an important question of whether we are on the right track to meet aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063 which focuses on promoting a prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development (*Kitenge, 2021*).

Limited access to modern energy services, particularly electricity access, does not only impact the industrialisation process but also other key sectors of the economy where modern energy use is critical. This includes those sectors which support industrialisation such as raw material production activities (*Kitenge, 2021*).

Young Africans have a crucial role to play in achieving a just energy transition, and their calls for action and commitments to advance climate action are listed below.

Modern energy services play a pivotal role to keep our small, medium and large-scale industries running in day-to-day production processes. The IRENA energy progress report of 2021 estimates that 75% of the world population without access to electricity is based in Sub-Saharan Africa. This population who lack access to electricity has increased from 556 million people in 2010 to approximately 590 million people in 2019.

3.6.2. Key Gaps identified

- Most African countries are predominantly low-income economies and have limited financial resources in the public and private sectors to fund the clean energy transition at the required scale. In addition, global climate finance commitments that can be channelled to Africa’s energy sector are far from being realised.
- Inadequate grid infrastructures designed to accommodate conventional energy sources, resulting in high electricity losses and low supply quality, among other issues.
- Fossil fuel subsidies are still encouraged and practised in Africa.
- Lack of highly technical skills (especially among youth) that is required to facilitate Africa’s clean energy transition.
- Lack of locally based energy companies in Africa leads to clean tech manufacturing which often results in parts being imported from abroad.
- Mass engineering brain drain in Africa.
- Lack of awareness of local clean energy innovations that can be scaled and replicated.

- Lack of clean cooking solutions for families.
- The energy transition has predominantly focussed on the transition to cleaner energy sources with limited discussion and response measures related to Africa's existing energy access and security challenges.

3.6.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Provide access to a modern energy source that is clean, affordable, of adequate quantity and sustainable, by using innovative energy service business models where a grid connection is too expensive.
- Diversify Africa's energy mix to ensure energy security during climate disasters and international crises e.g. war.
- Provide technical and financial support to youth-led energy projects at all levels of business growth so that they can become leaders in their own communities.
- Invest in large energy infrastructures such as national grids and innovative clean energy power plants such as green hydrogen in African countries.
- Increase access to clean cooking energy sources, especially in female-led households in rural and marginalised communities whose only source of heating is firewood.
- African economies that are heavily reliant on fossil fuels must push for a Just Energy Transition and ensure that alternative employment opportunities are created for workers in fossil fuel value chains and/or they are offered social protection.
- Build the technical capacity of young Africans in the skills required for a clean energy transition.
- Introduce enabling policies and legal instruments (e.g. a Carbon Tax) to facilitate emissions reduction, particularly from the private sector.
- Lead by example by reducing emissions in your own operations.

3.6.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action

- Advocate for Africa’s special needs and circumstances when it comes to the energy transition and place energy access and security at the heart of the discussion.
- Implement education campaigns on the importance of changing one’s energy behaviour and on the use of renewable energy sources that are more affordable and healthier e.g. cooking gas.
- Implement innovative solutions to support the transition process (e.g. designing efficient cookstoves to replace the traditional three-stone method of cooking).
- Learn the skills required for the energy transition.
- Contribute to key energy-related policies.
- Lead by example and start incorporating energy-saving activities into your everyday life by simply turning off the lights when you leave a room, using natural light to brighten up a room instead of turning on the lights, switching off unused appliances and switching mobile devices and laptops to power save mode, among others.

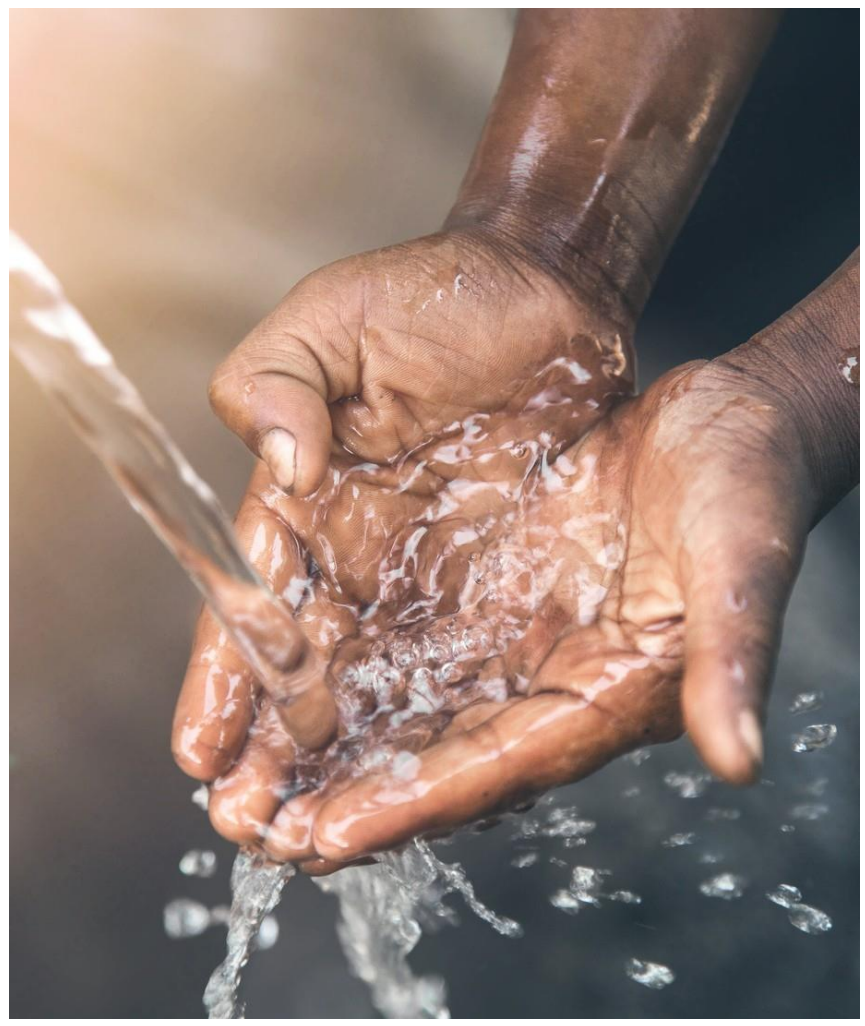
3.7. Water

3.7.1. Background

Water stress will continue in Africa as climate-related hazards such as droughts and floods continue to hit the continent. Rainfall patterns are becoming more erratic and major lakes continue shrinking; these coupled with the rise in water demand threaten the livelihoods of many Africans and may lead to displacement. The State of the Climate in Africa 2021 report has a special feature on water, which estimates that high water stress will affect 250 million people in Africa and is expected to displace over 700 million people by 2030. Africa accounts for less than 3% of greenhouse gas emissions but is suffering the most when it comes to the impacts of climate change. It is imperative that water is at the centre of climate action as water security is crucial for socio-economic development.

3.7.2. Key gaps identified

- Poor management of water resources.
- Lack of accountability in servicing of water infrastructure.
- Lack of access to potable water in rural areas
- Lack of technology in the water sector.
- Lack of standardised water policies in regional waters.
- Lack of adequate knowledge of groundwater management systems.
- Lack of protection in water recharge zones.
- Lack of effective water quality standards.
- Destruction of water infrastructure after disasters e.g. floods, earthquakes, and tremors.



3.7.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Establish a policy science interface that accurately reports on hydrological data that is easily accessible and understandable for the public.
- Establish additional research units that would assist in developing and protecting groundwater resources, where feasible, across the continent.
- Develop water resources in a manner that considers water conflicts that can potentially arise from water resource allocations to different water users (e.g. agriculture, production, and mining sectors).
- Raise awareness and educate communities on water security in the context of a changing climate and how this will further exacerbate poverty and inequality in Africa.
- Upgrade and maintain water infrastructure to increase water distribution efficiency,
- Develop and implement regional water circulation systems; particularly in water-scarce regions, to reduce water shortages, and loss of drinking water.
- Develop water reservoirs to improve local water management.
- Develop a holistic approach to awareness raising to improve water management.
- Plan and implement summits and conferences related to water management at a regional and local level.
- Design cost-effective engineering methods and solutions for water resources that will support the government in water management.
- Ensure all citizens have access to clean and affordable water.
- Initiate projects for the industrialization of wastewater management in various sectors e.g., transport, eco-tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and energy.
- Start mass recycling and waste management projects to curb illegal dumping of waste that ends up in the water sources.

3.7.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action.

- Lead by example and incorporate water-saving activities into your everyday life such as washing in a basin or taking a short shower instead of taking a bath, using greywater to flush the toilet, hand washing your clothing items and hanging them outside to dry, only washing clothing items that are necessary, repurposing water etc.
- Participation in water conservation activities e.g. clean ups in rivers, lakes, dams and oceans.
- Facilitate and spearhead public awareness and educational campaigns on smarter and more efficient water consumption in schools, campuses, and communities.
- Implement water harvesting projects.
- Hold the government accountable for the effective maintenance of water distribution infrastructure to an acceptable standard.
- Use a reusable water bottle to avoid plastic waste.

3.8. Food and Agriculture

3.8.1. Background

Africa is home to 75 million people who are acutely food-insecure, in crisis, or worse. This number continues to grow faster than anywhere else in the world. It is estimated the current production of food will need to double by 2050 in developing countries to meet future needs. In Africa, current production is well below the levels needed to feed the population and two-thirds of the continent relies on imports to subsidise food shortages.

Weather extremes are a major driver of food insecurity in Africa. Weather-related events can directly affect crops and/or livestock, cut off roads and prevent markets from being stocked. Adverse weather events are particularly serious for smallholder farmers in these regions, who cannot afford to invest in the systems and inputs required to withstand and recover from the impacts of such shocks, and for pastoralists who are vulnerable because they rely on rain-fed rangeland for grazing livestock and have limited fixed assets (DE Africa, 2021).

Climate change is now regarded as the top risk factor that farmers are currently facing, making farming far less predictable and more challenging than ever before (Hudson, 2020). As a result, sustainable agriculture has become an urgent need.

3.8.2. Key gaps identified

- Lack of adequate support in terms of finance, farmland (especially for women), and equipment to scale production.
- Lack of educational training from governments to help farmers understand how to adapt to climate change impacts while producing food for everyone.
- Lack of sustainable agricultural innovation to address the issues of food storage, and preservation which leads to huge amounts of food wastage.
- Poor market access.
- Farmers have limited capacity to meet demand.
- Little change in production techniques, resulting in limited improvement in yields.
- Limited information on investment needs for sustainable agriculture.
- Limited number of young Africans are interested in the agricultural sector.

3.8.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Enhance the evidence base in support of sustainable agriculture to facilitate its inclusion in public policy and decision-making.
- Integrate sustainable agricultural investments in the National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and develop a resource mobilisation strategy for their implementation.
- Invest in educating young farmers on sustainable agriculture and how they can best practice it to mitigate the impact of climate change on food production.
- Facilitate the uptake of appropriate technologies to improve and scale production e.g. food storage and preservation.
- Make agriculture more attractive to young Africans by increasing youth access to land and finance, integrating agriculture as a subject in formal schooling curriculum and highlighting the innovations that exist within the sector.
- Help link young farmers, practising sustainable agriculture, to the market.

3.8.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action

- Start or get involved in a community food garden.
- Eat local organic food.
- Educate farmers on the need to embrace sustainable agriculture techniques.
- Reduce dairy and red meat consumption.
- Develop new and sustainable agricultural innovations that can be scaled and replicated.
- Develop a mobile application that links farmers to relevant markets.

3.9. Nature

3.9.1. Background

Africa is at risk of losing its natural ecosystems. Due to factors such as poaching, war, mining, unsustainable agriculture, and now climate change; countless species have become endangered in recent decades. This is of grave concern as Africa is heavily dependent on its natural resources for consumptive (food, fiber, fuel, shelter, medicine, wildlife trade) and non-consumptive use (ecosystem services and the economically important tourism industry).

Many African countries have made efforts to protect their natural assets by raising awareness among their citizens on the values of nature and its importance for socioeconomic development, creating protected areas and embracing nature-based solutions among others. However, given the amplitude of the challenges, African countries need to enhance and step up their efforts to reverse the current negative trends of nature conservation.

3.9.2. Key gaps identified

- Insufficient funding for youth to innovate and implement their nature conservation projects.
- Lack of access to land for youth to participate in conservation.
- Lack of enterprise incubation programmes that support small businesses and cooperatives in nature conservation.
- Poor natural resource management.
- Conflicting sectoral policies.
- Continuous land degradation and pollution for oil and mining operations in Africa,
- Lack of effective implementation of nature conservation policies.
- Limited employment opportunities in the nature conservation sector.
- Nature-based solutions are not fully explored and implemented.
- Lack of information on how to leverage ecosystem services to create bio-credits.
- Decline in the use of indigenous knowledge systems in natural resource conservation.
- Lack of outreach programmes to create awareness in conservation.
- Poor relationship between communities and conservation authorities.

3.9.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Understand how to leverage Africa's ecosystem services to create bio-credits.
- Increased allocation of budget to local municipalities to run nature-based projects.
- Increase learnership and internship programme opportunities focusing on nature conservation and climate change.

- Incentivize research in nature conservation and climate change in universities.
- Enforce action through the creation of policies and regulations that address issues such as illegal sand mining, poaching and deforestation.
- Facilitate skills development of young Africans in conservation by understanding the skills gap and appointing a service provider to upskill them in conservation.
- Create employment opportunities for youth to own, manage and run conservation establishments.
- Establish local forums to facilitate engagement between communities and conservation authorities.
- Approach landowners and claimers for lease/ownership opportunities and partnership in establishing conservation programs on the land (e.g. Game Farming).

3.9.4. Youth commitments to advance climate action

- Plant indigenous trees.
- Get involved in programmes that removes invasive alien plants.
- Support nature conservation efforts by helping to collect relevant data.
- Develop and implement social media awareness raising campaigns especially in terms of protecting marine ecosystem which have only recently gained traction.
- Pursue a career in nature conservation.
- Take knowledge back to the community through school education programmes.
- Advocate for the protection of wildlife and biodiverse habitats.

3.9.5. Youth-led best practices

Break Free From Plastic

Break Free from Plastic is a non-governmental organisation in Nigeria that leverages tree planting and awareness as some of their key activities to conserve nature. As a non-governmental organisation, they've carried out several sustainable projects on nature conservation and protection ranging from project 10,000 trees for Kaduna to trees for schools project and random tree planting during some UN Days or religious and cultural celebration (e.g World environment day, world clean-up day, Easter and Sallah celebration). One of the unique approaches to Break Free from Plastic initiative is ensuring community ownership and incentivising the management process of the trees planted.

Aside from planting trees to bridge the gap in nature conservation education, Break Free from Plastic awareness initiative is cultivating the next generation of nature protectors and conservators through its green clubs in secondary schools and communities where trees are planted. The trees planted around the schools will provide cleaner air for students to breathe and create a conducive learning environment which will in turn improve the students' learning outcomes. Therefore, we are calling on people in the nature conservation sectors to listen and learn from what BFPAI is doing to ensure sustainability in their tree planting and nature conservation projects

3.10. Gender

3.10.1. Background

One of the first steps towards tackling climate change is empowering women to safeguard the environment. Investing in girls and women creates a ripple effect that yields multiple benefits, not only for individual women but also for families, communities and countries.

Evidence has shown that the impacts of climate change are different for women and men, because of the different roles they play in society and their different access to resources. It is widely known that women are more likely to bear the brunt of climate change impacts, especially in situations of poverty. For instance, extreme weather events caused by climate change are particularly difficult for rural women who have a substantial role in agriculture and heavily depend on subsistence farming to sustain their livelihoods and the livelihoods of those that depend on them.

Women have an important role to play in supporting their families and communities and in implementing mechanisms to adapt to climate change and mitigate its negative impacts (AfDBG, 2019). Therefore they must actively be involved in influencing policy and decision-making at all levels in order to drive climate action on the ground.

3.10.2. Key gaps identified

- Traditional gender roles still persist in Africa which places a significant burden on women, especially during times of extreme weather events caused by climate change.
- Lack of gender mainstreaming in climate-related policy at local, subnational, national and regional levels.
- Lack of reliable disaggregated data and evidence on the impact of climate change on women.
- Lack of consensus on what constitutes gender transformative solutions to climate vulnerability and risk.
- Lack of women representation in decision-making structures.
- Lack of funding to support women-led climate projects.
- Lack of funding to support women-owned enterprises that respond to the climate crisis.
- STEM jobs are still largely dominated by men.

3.10.3. Government-led actions to be taken

- Ensure investment is directed at supporting women-led climate change projects.
- Identify and invite women as an important stakeholder group to contribute to the development and implementation of climate policy.
- Review and revise existing policies and plans to ensure they are gender transformative, especially the Nationally Determined Contribution(NDCs) and National Adaptation Plan (NAPs).
- Ensure meaningful inclusion and participation of women in the decision-making structure.
- Ensure that 50% of executive roles are taken up by women.
- Create opportunities for young women to pursue STEM careers by developing through dedicated bursaries, internships and work placement opportunities.
- Implement reskilling and upskilling programmes targeting women working in fossil fuel industries.
- Support female entrepreneurs to transition towards the formal economy in high-value sectors of the green economy. In cases where women are reluctant to join the formal economy, put measures in place that will help them thrive in the informal economy.
- Support women in agriculture by giving them access to land, technical and financial support to increase food security.
- Expand women's knowledge of sustainable living. This will facilitate more sustainable living across their extended families as they have influence and are more involved in consumerism activities of the home.

3.10.4. Youth commitment to advance climate action

- Advocate for gender transformative policy and decision-making.
- Ensure that at least 50% of youth organisation’s executives consist of young women.
- Facilitate social dialogue between women to discuss climate-related challenges and opportunities.
- Partner with the government to collect gender-aggregated data as part of the climate-related policy monitoring and evaluation process.
- Use social media and other communication platforms to profile women-led innovations to facilitate resource mobilisation.
- Support women-owned businesses.
- Mainstream gender throughout a project life cycle i.e. planning, implementation and monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning processes.
- Ensure equitable distribution of project benefits among young men and women.

04

MONITORING, EVALUATION & REPORTING

4. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A monitoring, evaluation and reporting system is important to understand and communicate the progress of the actions set out in the AYCAP. It reveals mistakes and offers opportunities to learn and improve. Written reports are usually developed to communicate the findings, thereby contributing to transparency and accountability. It also provides a robust evidence base to inform policy and decision-making, which is often lacking in the African context.

The AYCAP consists of a wide range of actions, however only a selected few actions will be monitored and evaluated. Priority actions were selected based on widespread interest among African youth to understand the implementation progress of these actions, the actions can be effectively monitored and evaluated because the data sources already exist, and the actions carry significant potential to contribute to Africa's climate change and youth development agenda.

The actions that will be monitored and evaluated have been split between government and youth-led actions. This approach has been taken to hold the government accountable and explore young Africans' contribution to climate action on the continent.

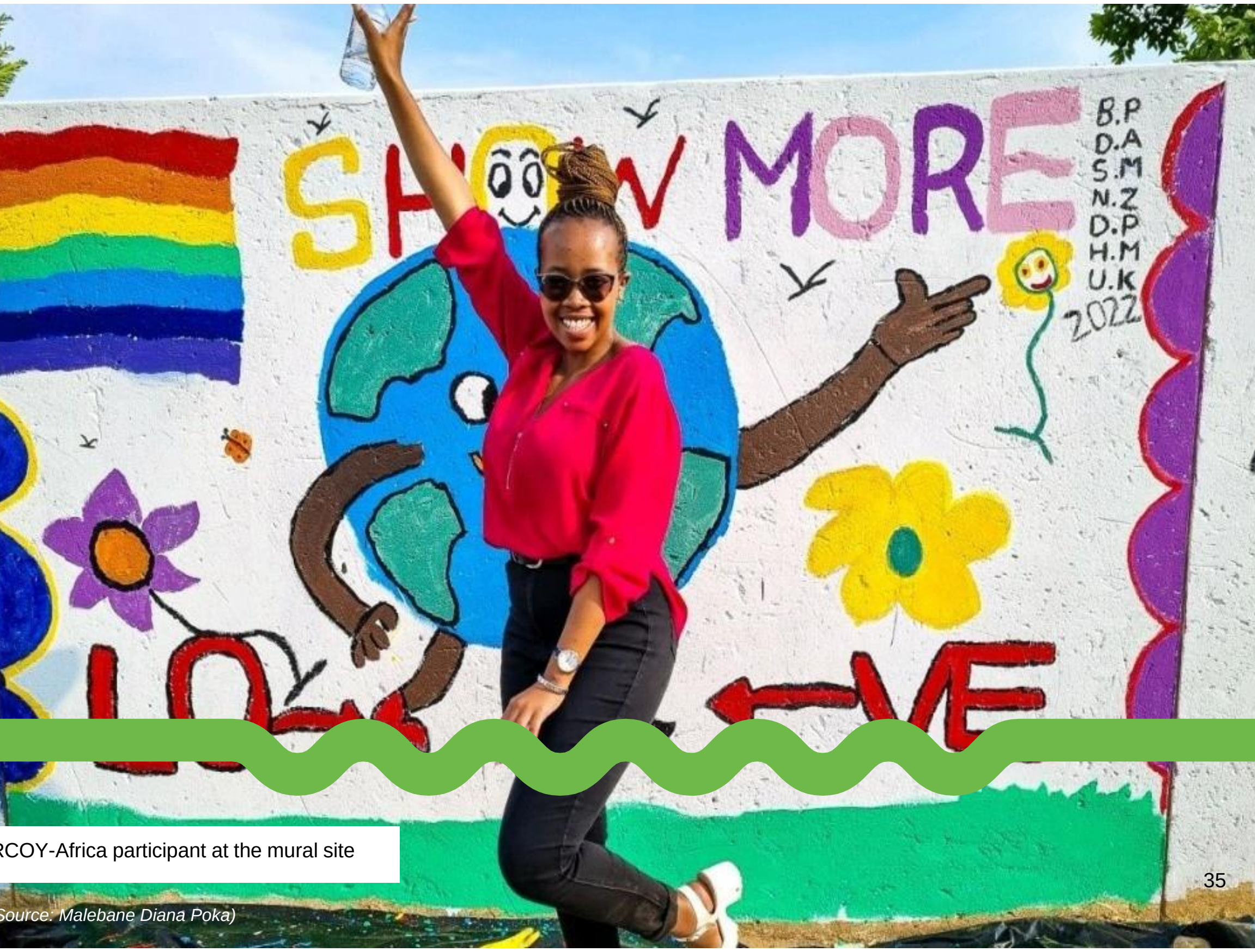
The following indicators will be tracked and inform the annual assessment reports that will be developed and presented at the Conference of Parties.

4.1. Government-led Actions

Theme	Action	Indicator
Climate Governance & Policy	Review and revise NDCs to be youth responsive.	Number of NDCs that are youth responsive.
	Financially support young Africans to participate in conferences that help them strengthen their capacity and policy advocacy ahead of COP.	Number of young Africans who are financially supported to participate in conferences leading up to COP e.g., SB, Africa Climate Week and the COY among others.
	Absorb young Africans in national COP delegation and ensure that the opportunity to join the delegation is not always given to the same group of young people.	Number of youth delegates included in a national COP delegation.
		Number of new youth delegates included in a country’s COP delegation.

Theme	Action	Indicator
Climate Education	Develop and include climate change literacy curricula in formal education as inscribed in the recently developed African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2032) to help cultivate the next generation of environmentally conscious young people.	Number of countries that have climate change curricula integrated into their formal education system (primary, secondary and tertiary level).
Green Economy	Create green job opportunities for young Africans.	Number of green jobs opportunities accessed by young Africans.
	Equip youth with the technical skills and experience required to actively work in the green economy.	Number of youth that have benefited from green skills development initiatives.
Circular Economy	Provide technical and financial support to youth-owned SMEs operating in the circular economy.	Number of youth-owned SMEs in the circular economy that have received technical and/or financial support through a government.
Sustainable Cities	Initiate youth climate councils embedded in city governing structures to give young people an opportunity to share their perspectives and be capacitated for future leadership roles.	Number of youth climate councils embedded in cities' governing structures.
Energy	Provide all African citizens access to clean electricity sources that are reliable, affordable and sustainable.	Percentage of a country's population that has access to electricity. Percentage of a country's electricity mix that is clean energy.
Water	Ensure all citizens have access to clean and affordable water.	Percentage of a country's population that has access to clean and affordable water.

Theme	Action	Indicator
Food and Agriculture	Help link young farmers, practising sustainable agriculture to the market.	Number of young farmers, practising sustainable agriculture that have benefited from market access initiatives facilitated by the government.
Nature	Facilitate training interventions to capacitate youth in conservation.	Number of youth that have benefited from conservation training interventions facilitated by the government.
	Create and facilitate employment opportunities for youth in conservation.	Number of youth that have benefited from job opportunities in conservation that have been created and/or facilitated by the government.



RCOY-Africa participant at the mural site

(Source: Malebane Diana Poka)

4.2. Youth-led Actions

Theme	Action	Indicator
Climate Governance & Policy	Actively participate in the development and implementation of climate-related policy.	Number of youth that have participated in the development and implementation of key climate-related policies in their country.
	Foster a culture of partnership and collaboration between youth organizations by sharing the space and sharing opportunities.	Number of new partnerships and collaborations established between climate-focused youth groups.
Climate Education	Design and implement climate change education programmes in communities.	Number of citizens reached through youth-led climate education programmes.
Green Economy	Pursue a career in the green economy.	Number of youth employed in the green economy.
Circular Economy	Lead by example by adopting behavioural changes that promote a circular economy.	Number of youth that have adopted lifestyle changes that promotes a circular economy e.g. reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycling activities.
Sustainable Cities	Partner with local government to support climate-related community outreach programmes, especially in cases where there is a trust deficit between communities and government.	Number of partnerships between youth organisations and local government to design and implement climate-related community outreach programmes.
Energy	Learn the skills required for the clean energy transition.	Number of youth that have acquired the technical skills for the clean energy transition.
Water	Participate in water conservation activities through river, lake, dam and ocean clean-up projects.	Number of river, lake, dam and ocean clean-up projects implemented by youth. Tonnes of waste diverted as a result of the clean-up projects.

Theme	Action	Indicator
Food and Agriculture	Get involved in the agricultural sector since there is an urgent need for more food producers across Africa.	Number of young Africans entering the agricultural sector e.g., farming, agritech, agripreneur.
Nature	Plant indigenous trees.	Number of indigenous trees planted by young Africans.
Gender	Ensure that 50% of a youth organization’s executive consist of young women.	Percentage of young women represented in executive positions in climate-focused youth organisations.

RCOY-Africa participants dancing at the mural site in South Africa

(Source: Natania Botha)

A detailed internal MER system will be developed to expand on the above indicators, identify the data sources and collection methods and outline how the findings are disseminated and utilised. The first assessment report will be developed in 2023 and will be presented at COP28.

05

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African youth painting a mural during RCOY-Africa

(Source: Natania Botha)

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06

ANNEXURES

YOUNGO meets with the COP27 Presidency

(Source: Abraham Bugre)

6. Annexure A: List of youth publications that informs the AYCAP

Africa Youth Declaration on Nature	2019
COP27 Global Youth Statement: Declaration for Climate Justice	2022
COY16 Global Youth Statement	2021
Declaration et propositiom de jeunes de l'epase francophone	2022
Declaration of the African Caravan for Climate Justice ahead of COP27	2022
Global Youth Position on Nature Based Solutions	2021
Policy brief by Zimbabwean Youth on the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) Enhancement Process	2021
RCOY-Africa Youth Statement	2022
Stokholm +50 Global Youth Policy Paper	2022
The South African Youth Climate Action Plan	2021
Towards an African People COP that responds to the priorities of young people in Africa and future generations	2022
Urban African Youth Climate Change Manifesto	2021
Youth demands for quality climate education	2022
Youth Engagement with the Global Goal on Adaptation	2022