

RESILIENT40 ADAPTATION ACTIONS

Resilient40 is a multidisciplinary network of African and diaspora young professional climate action leaders formulated in 2019, who are in partnership and driven by a common goal of promoting climate resilience in Africa. The Resilient40 functions as a network of young climate leaders and activists to provide a formal platform for the underrepresented African youth voices in climate change advocacy, particularly in climate resilience and adaptation. The network comprises youth from 30 African countries and spreading further in collaboration with regional youth, development and civil society stakeholders.

We are a unique diverse cross-sectoral group of passionate individuals committed to working with communities on climate, and making their voices heard across Africa and globally.

Resilient40 as a network provides a formal platform for actively guiding and directing the voices and work of young people on climate change across the continent of Africa, through broader consultations and engagements at high level decision making processes with key continental and global stakeholders. The Resilient40 view the climate crisis as an additional motivation for the need for transformation, while ‘resilience’ encompasses wider issues and agendas; social, community, natural, and global resilience to shock or change.

Resilient40 is the youth cluster lead under the non-state actors steering committee fronting African youth voices and actions within key climate decision making processes across Africa and globally.

Resilient40 was officially recognized during COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan as an Impact Maker – spearheading climate justice in Africa by the COP29 Presidency and the UNFCCC High-level Champions in the lead up to COP30, and its Founder and Chairperson, Michael Kakande recognized among the Top 100 Most Influential Africans – The voice of African youth in climate change by the New African Magazine.

ACTIONS

RESILIENT40 CLIMATE CAFES

What is a climate café?

A climate café is a community-organized space for people to have open conversations about the climate crisis (including how it makes us feel). Every climate café is different: some might include unstructured discussions, while others could feature events and workshops. No two climate cafés look the same, yet they should all feel safe, open and accessible. We currently run **846** climate cafes across **38** African countries with a reach of **over 800,000** youth across our frontline communities of action.

Why are climate cafés important?

Now, more than ever, we need spaces to host discussions about the climate crisis, how it affects us and the actions we need to take to tackle it. Individual actions alone won't solve the climate crisis, but by coming together as a community, we can find comfort in our shared experiences, learn from different perspectives and model the world we wish to create.

How did the climate cafés start?

Every year, world leaders gather at the Conference of the Parties (COP) to assess progress on climate action. These meetings are important moments; yet only select groups of people are able to participate in them. In the run up to COP27 in 2022, we started our climate café initiative to provide a template for community-organized events. This wasn't a new concept, but the first youth-led version. We produced a free and accessible guide that draws on our years of experience leading eco-anxiety research and facilitating climate conversations. We also launched a micro-grant scheme in collaboration with Force of Nature to support people who wanted to host a climate café but faced financial barriers. So far, hundreds of young people have participated in or hosted their own local climate cafés worldwide.

We are currently running 846 Climate Cafes across 38 African countries, spaces very instrumental on collecting voices as the youth cluster lead under the non-state actors' steering committee. These youth volunteer run climate cafes have served over 800,000 young people and provided the needed adaptation, climate and mental health information to help build individual as well community resilience to climate change and its impacts.

The International Climate Justice Caravans

In 2022, Resilient40 led and coordinated the Continental Drumbeat Caravan to COP27, a massive mobilization effort that gathered over 1,000 organizations from 28 countries, including NGOs, farmers' groups, influencers, and religious leaders, to advocate for climate justice and agroecological transformation. The Caravan amplified the voices of communities affected by climate change and successfully engaged African leaders in meaningful discussions around climate finance, energy, and food systems.

Impact

Since the launch of Resilient40 and the Citizen's Climate Caravan, significant impacts have been made:

- In 2022, the African Food & Climate Justice Caravan gathered over 1,000 organizations from 28 countries to push for agroecological transformation and climate justice. The 2023 Citizen's Climate Caravan expanded this momentum, mobilizing thousands of Africans across 22 countries to advocate for an end to fossil fuels and a fair energy transition. The Caravan's regional and international actions have sparked dialogue among African leaders, youth, and communities about the urgent need for equitable climate solutions.
- The Caravan helped elevate African voices at COP27 and COP28, engaging in bilateral discussions, side events, and strategic networking to influence global policy. At COP28, a side event at the Africa Pavilion organized in collaboration with UNECA brought Caravan leaders together with African Union officials to present key recommendations gathered during national caravans.
- The International Climate Justice Masterclass in Togo equipped African civil society youth leaders from 12 countries with advocacy tools ahead of COP28, ensuring that they could actively participate in international climate discussions. The Caravan movement has strengthened community-based resilience efforts at local, national, and regional scales.
- Building on these successes, Resilient40 and partners organized the 2024 Africa Citizen's Climate Caravan, under the theme "Catalyzing Adequate, Sustainable, and Fair Climate Finance for a Just Energy and Environmental Transition in Africa through Citizen's Mobilization and Policy Influence". This initiative poised one of the largest citizen mobilizations ever, rallying Africans to demand equitable climate finance and sustainable energy solutions.

Challenges

Despite the significant achievements of Resilient40 and the Citizen's Climate Caravans, there have been ongoing challenges:

- One of the key challenges has been the lack of adequate **funding** to scale up the mobilization efforts. While the Caravan has been successful in bringing together diverse voices, the limited financial resources have restricted the ability to carry out more impactful activities across the continent.
- Due to resource shortages, not all **youth representatives** have been able to participate in high-level engagements and discussions at key climate events. Ensuring that the voices of all communities are captured and represented remains a challenge that the movement is actively working to address.

Ongoing Projects

Africa bearing the brunt and being at the frontlines of the climate crisis, Resilient40 through the International climate justice caravans seeks to draw international condemnation at the failure of

the international community in helping Africa's adaptation and mitigation strategies through equitable climate finance. The debt crisis imposed on African countries has further exacerbated the climate crisis creating more vulnerabilities and exploitation of our communities at the watch of the international community for profiting. Climate induced migration, starvation, loss of identity due to mass evictions of our indigenous populations for fossil fuel projects, health impacts as a result of climate change, biodiversity loss and instabilities sprouting across the continent due to fight of the little resources left within our already vulnerable communities turns our advocacy efforts through the caravans rather very crucial for times like these.

In the lead up to COP30 later this year, we are rallying an international climate justice caravan involving young people from Africa, Asia, Europe, Caribbean and Latin America that will foster a collective collaborative youth voice across the continents pushing for urgent climate action from those that have for generations paid a deaf ear to the plight of our existence for profiting as well geopolitics. We, through this international climate justice caravans will adhere to calls for a change within the international system and advocate for one that is reflective and emphasizes the need for urgent action and equity in the face of the current climate and ecological crises.

Through the energy just transition journey, Resilient40 is finalizing an adoption and start of the 600Million Campaign highlighting Africa's energy-deficiency as it hosts 75% of the world's population without access to electricity. There is an urgent need for intervention given Africa's 1.4 Billion population forecasted to reach 2.5 Billion by 2050.

To join us in our climate justice caravan efforts in the lead up to COP30, kindly do write us at internationalcaravans@resilient40.org

<https://resilient40.voca.city/processes/climate-caravans?locale=en> (Join us)

Be part of our virtual Youth United Climate Action Summit slated for June and August, 2025 in the lead up to SB62 Bonn climate change conference and the second Africa Climate summit.

Register here (<https://youthunited.splashthat.com/>)

To join Resilient40 Open Participatory platform, kindly sign-up here (https://resilient40.voca.city/users/sign_up?locale=en) (Sign Up)

Adaptation Youth Camp for East and Southern African Region

The impacts of climate change are increasingly severe, affecting the most vulnerable populations, particularly the youth in East and Southern Africa. Young people are not just future leaders but are crucial stakeholders in the climate adaptation process. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are essential frameworks for countries to enhance resilience to climate change, and involving youth in these plans is critical for sustainable development.

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), youth make up a significant portion of the population in developing countries, where they often bear the brunt of climate impacts (UNFCCC, 2018). Engaging youth in climate adaptation initiatives not only empowers them but also fosters innovation and new perspectives essential for effective

solutions. The Adaptation Youth Camp aims to build the capacity of young people in East and Southern Africa to contribute to their countries' NAPs, leveraging their potential to drive change.

Rationale for the Camp

1. **Empowerment of Youth:** Young people are uniquely positioned to champion climate adaptation efforts in their communities. Providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge will empower them to become advocates for sustainable practices.
2. **Integration into NAPs:** Many NAPs lack the input and perspectives of youth. By integrating their voices, these plans can be more inclusive and effective, addressing the specific needs of younger populations.
3. **Networking Opportunities:** The camp will facilitate connections among youth, policymakers, and climate experts, fostering a collaborative environment for sharing ideas and strategies.
4. **Innovative Solutions:** Youth are often more adaptable and open to new ideas. By involving them in the adaptation process, we can harness fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to climate challenges.
5. **Long-term Sustainability:** Building a generation of informed and engaged youth will contribute to long-term sustainability and resilience in their communities, ensuring that adaptation efforts are maintained and evolved over time.

Format

The Adaptation Youth Camp will be hybrid, combining both virtual and in-person elements to maximize participation and engagement:

1. **Virtual Component:**
 - Online workshops and webinars featuring climate experts and policymakers.
 - Interactive platforms for discussions, brainstorming sessions, and presentations.
 - Virtual networking opportunities through dedicated forums and social media groups.
2. **In-Person & hybrid Component:**
 - Field visits to local adaptation projects to observe and learn from real-world examples.
 - Regional hubs where participants can gather for hands-on training and workshops.
 - 1 in-person/hybrid meeting for the closure of the adaptation Youth Camp event. Open to those in country and those invited (regional hub coordinators) to participate in-person.

Capacity building content for the youth under the Youth Camp.

The camp will cover various topics, including but not limited to:

- **Understanding Climate Change and Adaptation:** Basics of climate science, impacts of climate change in East and Southern Africa, & overall the Paris agreement
- **Youth Engagement in Policy Making:** Understanding National Adaptation Plans and how youth can influence the NAP process and decision-makers.
- **Project Management Skills:** Training on how to design, implement, and evaluate adaptation projects.
- **Innovative Technologies and Solutions:** Exploring new technologies that can aid in climate adaptation (e.g., data collection, mobile applications).
- **Social Entrepreneurship:** Encouraging youth to develop business ideas that address climate challenges in their communities.

To partner with Resilient40 under the Adaptation youth camp, kindly reach out to partnerships@resilient40.org

How you can help

Through Resilient40 and the International Climate Justice Caravans are we driving critical conversations around climate justice and adaptation across Africa. Here's how you can support:

1. Support our caravans through funding and other in-kind donations as there's more we need to do to build resilience and get to more climate struck communities
2. Support youth innovations, actions and solutions at the grassroots for scalability
3. Invite us to your policy lobbying rooms, meetings and workshops to bring these frontline voices to those processes for inclusivity
4. Support us to Plant a fruit tree(s) within our vulnerable frontline communities across Africa
5. Do something to create change and awareness on climate change within your family, friends, workplace and community. It starts and ends with you.