

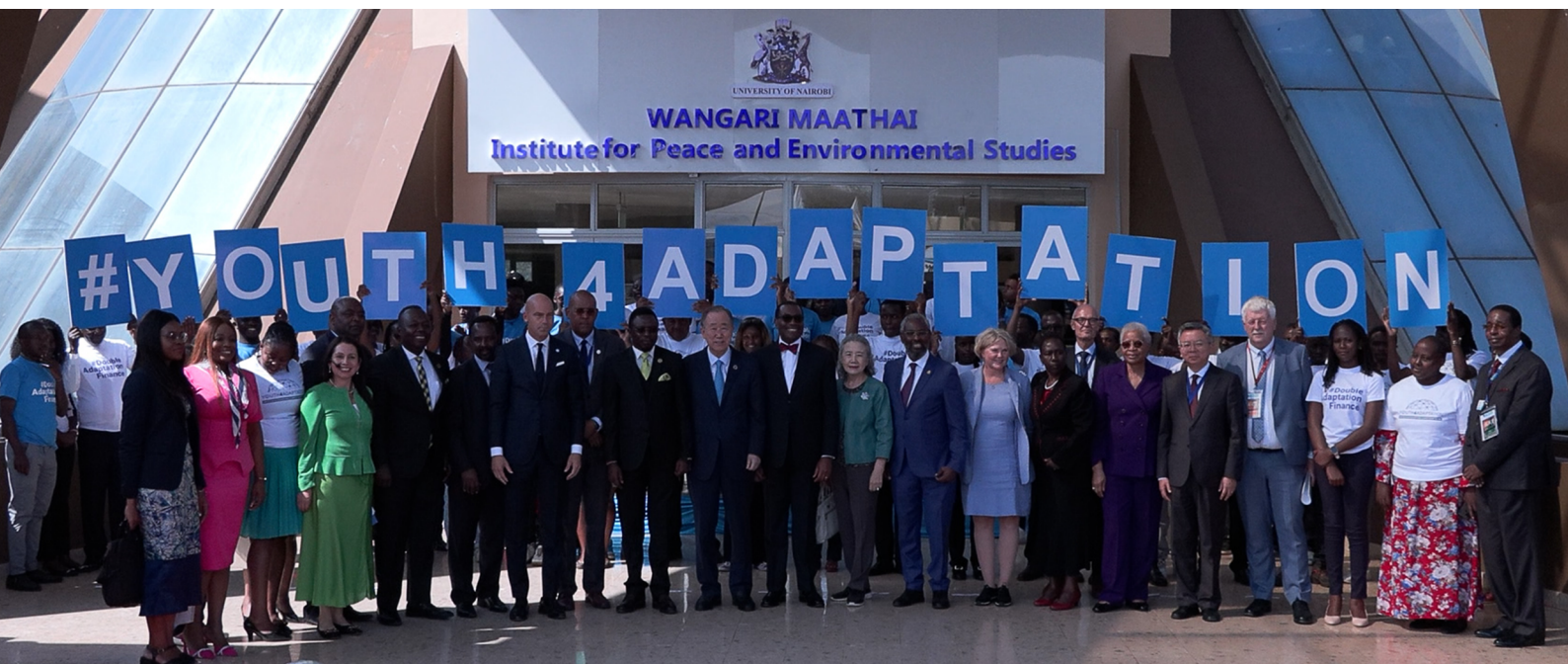


GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION



Youth Engagement with Adaptation through the Global Stocktake

Influencing the Global Goal on Adaptation



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

'Youth Engagement with Adaptation through the Global Stocktake' is the annual report the GCA Youth Leadership and Education program prepared to present the voices of **6,500** young people from **137** countries on the adaptation agenda.

This report presents the outcomes of five regional Youth Adaptation Forums and five Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation in 2023. It presents

the #Youth4Adaptation Communique, with young people's recommendations to global leaders for the adaptation agenda.



AUTHORS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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About the Global Center on Adaptation

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization, which works as a solutions broker to accelerate action and support for adaptation solutions from the international to the local, in partnership with the public and private sector, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate-resilient future.

The Youth Leadership and Education program aims to connect and empower young people to create a climate-resilient future and to feature African youth leadership across the world. 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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Partners

On behalf of the Global Center on Adaptation, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of the GCA CEO's Youth Advisory Panel, the coordinators of the Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation, the members of the Youth Adaptation Network, youth organizations, and young people

from 137 countries for their valuable inputs and participation in the consultation process led by the Youth Leadership and Education program in 2023. We also extend our gratitude to our partners, including donors, governmental and non-governmental agencies, UN and development organizations, and academia, for their support in this process.



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FOREWORD FROM THE CEO OF GCA

What happens when you reach the end of the alphabet? The youngest members of Generation Z will become teenagers next year and they are showing the spirit that these troubled times call for.

I am overwhelmed by young people's commitment to making climate change today's – and tomorrow's – defining issue for the world's decision-makers to take on.

I am not just talking about the big names in international diplomacy, nor the dominant economies (which contribute most to creating the climate emergency of rising temperatures). Young people across continents, regardless of the stature of their countries, are coming together to demand solutions; to cry out for a plan to solve the greatest existential threat to our survival as a species.

This year is on track to be the hottest on record. We have seen so many climate disasters that I fear we risk losing our capacity to be shocked. From the destruction of cities in Hawaii and Libya – one from wildfires, the other from floods resulting from dam breaches – to Manhattan's lurid orange skies, spiralling global food prices as crops suffer, China's centennial floods, and never-before-seen temperatures soaring above 50 degrees Celsius. Look in any direction, and the horizon is blurred with unfolding turbulence.

"We can not solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them," said Albert Einstein. The problems that created our climate crisis are ones that this and the previous generation of elders knew about, understood the consequences of inaction, and yet have done too little to resolve.

We know what the solutions are – the most eminent and distinguished scientists describe the steps that we must take in every new edition of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. What is so often lacking is the will and determination to stick to the task. And that is where young people come in. This is why we need the energy, the drive, and conviction of young people to keep the policy makers and implementers honest.

And that is why the Global Center on Adaptation puts youth at the very heart of its mission. We work to redress the imbalances that exist in community political activities and national leadership roles, where the voices of young people are excluded and ignored.

What drives us onward in delivering on our goals is knowing that if adaptation measures are taken now, the difference in the lives of young people when they reach their peak earning potential decades from now could be reduced. In the case of Africa, the continent that has done the least to cause the climate crisis yet suffers its consequences disproportionately, the impact made by

adaptation measures taken today on the futures of its young people would be vastly magnified.

And what we also know is that adaptation makes economic sense. It will create – it already is – the jobs of the future for this generation and the next.

In this report, prepared by GCA's Youth Leadership and Education program, you will find the gaps and needs identified by young people around the world on adaptation, as well as their recommendations.

The views of the global youth adaptation movement are included in the #Youth4Adaptation Communique at the end of this publication. The Communique presents the ideas and recommendations of more than 6,500 young people from 137 countries around the world, including 51 African countries. I echo and endorse their call for global leaders to double adaptation finance by 2025 and to involve young people as partners, rather than just beneficiaries, in adaptation decisions and actions.

The publication also throws a welcome spotlight on the work and contributions of young people in international adaptation processes – especially the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake. And, in reading it, I hope you will also come to better appreciate GCA's role in investing in youth leadership.

On behalf of GCA and its pioneering Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), I am proud to be supporting climate solutions in Africa by providing the resources that young Africans need.

The African Development Bank Group and GCA jointly implement the AAAP, with the goal of mobilizing \$25 billion to scale up and accelerate climate change adaptation actions across Africa. Youth jobs and entrepreneurship is one of the four key pillars of the AAAP. Under the YouthADAPT program, the AAAP is scaling up youth innovations for climate action through the Africa #YouthADAPT Challenge.

Young people are gradually succeeding in making their voices heard by policy-makers; their voices and views must be reflected in key adaptation decisions at all levels.

I want to thank all our dedicated partners and the many committed youth organizations for their unwavering support, which we wholeheartedly reciprocate. Amplifying the voices of young people, empowering them to realize their potential as solution-bringers to the greatest challenge faced by humanity – the climate emergency – is a noble quest. But on every occasion that I meet with young climate activists, in Africa and elsewhere, I come away humbled by the experience.



Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen
Chief Executive Officer
Global Center on Adaptation



TRIBUTE TO LATE PROFESSOR SALEEMUL HUQ, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YOUTH ADAPTATION NETWORK (1952 – 2023)

This publication is a heartfelt tribute to Professor Saleemul Huq, for his lifelong commitment and dedication to the cause of climate justice.

Prof. Huq - or simply 'Saleem' as so many young people knew him, was a true advocate for the vulnerable. He was Senior Advisor of the Global Center on Adaptation and Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development. He chaired the Expert Advisory Group of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and was an advisor to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Least Developed Countries Group. Prof. Huq was not only an advisor and honorary member of the Youth Adaptation Network, but he also played a much more significant role, often joking about his involvement. He was a mentor and source of inspiration for many young activists and leaders. Prof. Huq always found time to engage with young people. His profound connection with youth was evident in his active participation in Youth Leadership and Education events, from the launch of the Youth Adaptation Network in Bangladesh in 2021 through to each edition of the Youth Adaptation Forums, including the latest in-person Forum at the City Hall of Bonn in June 2023.

Prof. Huq's extraordinary contributions to global climate science and his unwavering commitment to climate justice have profoundly impacted our world. A true pioneer, he tirelessly worked to elevate the voices of those most affected by climate change. His advocacy made him the de facto voice of the voiceless, and his vision for Locally Led Adaptation is now becoming a reality

across continents. His work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including lead authorship in several assessment reports, was foundational in understanding the interplay between climate change, adaptation, and sustainable development.

Beyond his professional accolades, Prof. Huq's presence was deeply felt by those who knew him. He was a mentor to many, generously sharing his knowledge and inspiring a new generation of climate scientists and activists. Prof. Huq's passing on 28th October 2023 marked the end of a life lived with unwavering dedication to the planet and its people. His legacy lives on in every young mind he inspired, every policy he influenced, and in the resilient communities that benefit from his work. Prof. Huq was not just a scientist but also a mentor, advocate, and human being who dedicated his life to a cause greater than himself.

Prof. Huq's tireless dedication and significant contributions to the fields of climate adaptation and youth empowerment have been invaluable. His work has inspired many young people around the world; his legacy will continue to influence the work of GCA towards a just and climate-resilient future. In honoring Prof. Huq, we pledge to continue his work, advancing his vision of a world where every voice is heard, and every action contributes to a just and resilient future.



Prof. Huq's tireless dedication and significant contributions to the fields of climate adaptation and youth empowerment have been invaluable. His work has inspired many young people around the world; his legacy will continue to influence the work of GCA towards a just and climate-resilient future.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Young people are rallying globally against the climate crisis and its disproportionate impacts. Africa contributes only 3 percent of historic emissions¹ and holds the lowest per capita emission rate globally.² Despite contributing the least to the climate emergency, Africa faces severe losses and damages due to climate change. Even if global warming is limited to 1.5 °C, Africa could face a 20-60 percent decline in wheat yield, tens of millions more people might be prone to vector-borne diseases, and several west African countries could face a 12 percent reduction in marine fisheries catch.³ To limit future losses and damages, it is imperative that deep, rapid, and sustained mitigation action is taken now.

The climate crisis is an intergenerational crisis. Climate change is having, and will continue to have, very different impacts on a person born today compared to older generations. Global warming will have escalating impacts on people's lives in the next decades, although its impacts can be limited depending on choices made today.

Mitigation action alone is not enough. There is also an urgent need for ambitious adaptation action. Adaptation is the process of adjusting to climate changes to minimize their impacts. When done right, adaptation presents an opportunity. In 2019, the Global Commission on Adaptation presented the triple dividend that adaptation yields: reducing future economic losses, providing economic gains, and delivering additional social and environmental benefits.⁴

The Commission also found that young people have a central role to play in adaptation: "As inheritors of the effects of climate change, young people are also integral to generating political momentum, addressing inequalities, and advancing solutions."⁵ Young people are pioneering positive change in climate action. They have had a transformative impact on mitigation action and carry immense potential in driving adaptation action worldwide.

¹ IPCC, *AR6 Synthesis Report*, 2023.

² IPCC, *AR6 Synthesis Report*, 2023.

³ IPCC, *AR6 Synthesis Report*, 2023.

⁴ GCA, *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*, 2019.

⁵ GCA, *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*, 2019.

Young people should be key actors in adaptation policies and action that will shape their future. The climate emergency has a major impact on the lives and livelihoods of young people. Choices made today will shape their futures, and young people have the right to have a say in those.⁶ Youth participation leads to more informed and more impactful policies.

Young people are not a homogenous group, and each young person has their own unique role to play in creating a more climate-resilient world. It can be helpful to consider youth through an intersectional lens, considering the way gender, race, economic status, immigration status, national origin, and disabilities, among other aspects of identity, intersect for the particular vulnerabilities and needs of young people.⁷

Youth entrepreneurs have the opportunity to address the climate emergency whilst bringing economic benefits to communities. Youth-led climate businesses have the potential to address the funding gap that adaptation action faces.⁸ In countries facing high unemployment, entrepreneurship(s) offer young people a way to make a living whilst contributing to more climate-resilient communities.⁹

In 2015, the landmark Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21 and adaptation is included as one of its three central aims. Article 7 established the Global Goal on Adaptation “of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.”¹⁰ Article 7 also includes a list of adaptation considerations for the Global Stocktake (see chapter 3 for further information).

The Global Stocktake is the cyclical mechanism of the Paris Agreement conducted every five years to assess progress towards achieving the objectives and goals of the Paris Agreement to determine enhanced

actions. It is a process conducted by the UNFCCC to assess long-term goals on mitigation, adaptation, and on means of implementation and support. The Global Stocktake is a country-driven process with the participation of other stakeholders.¹¹

Officially mandated workshops and dialogues took place, generating 1,600 documents from diverse sources to inform the first Global Stocktake. These included three technical dialogues organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The synthesis report of these dialogues calls on non-party stakeholders to advance with “credible, accountable, and transparent actions to strengthen efforts for systems transformations”. It further suggests that these initiatives should actively involve and support frequently marginalized groups, such as youth.¹²

The Global Stocktake presents an opportunity for young people to lead a course-correction on adaptation action. Young people made their voices heard on the adaptation agenda by participating in the high-level meetings of the Global Stocktake and engaging with decision-makers. When considering the outputs of the Global Stocktake, decision-makers will have to chart a way forward to enhance adaptation action. The participation of young people helped to bring a more holistic view of the impacts of climate change and innovative adaptation solutions, and this report further demonstrates the positive role they can play in implementing these changes.

To accelerate the implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation and the recommendations of the Global Stocktake, it is imperative to recognize the role of young people as key players in catalyzing adaptation action. This report outlines the dedication of young people to being included in the planning processes, including through National Adaptation Plans, as well as their commitment to serve as active agents in implementing innovative adaptation projects that create jobs and improve livelihoods.

⁶ SLYCAN Trust, *Youth Engagement in Climate Change Adaptation*, 2020.

⁷ UNDP, *Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action*, 2022.

⁸ See similarly for sustainable development: UN, *World Youth Report*, 2020.

⁹ UN, *World Youth Report*, 2020; GCA, *State and Trends in Adaptation in Africa*, 2022.

¹⁰ Article 7(1) of the Paris Agreement.

¹¹ UNFCCC, Decision 19/CMA.

¹² Technical dialogue of the first Global Stocktake. Synthesis report by the co-facilitators on the technical dialogue, FCCC/SB/2023/9.

1 CLIMATE CONTEXT: ESCALATING IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ON YOUNG AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Global warming is unequivocally caused by human activities, as stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis Report of 2023.¹³ The last decade was 1.09 °C warmer compared to the period 1850-1900.¹⁴ Global warming is principally caused by the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, and over 40 percent of all historic GHG emissions were emitted in the last three decades.

Despite the clear and urgent need to curb GHG emissions, they are still on the rise globally. Without additional action, current policies will result in global warming of 2.8 °C by 2100.¹⁵ To limit global warming to 1.5 °C, as countries agreed in the Paris Agreement, a 45 percent per annum reduction in GHG emissions is necessary by 2030, followed by a continued rapid decline after 2030.¹⁶

Around the world, climate change is causing devastating impacts, both through slow-onset and extreme weather events. July 2023 marked the first full month to exceed the 1.5°C limit, making it the hottest on record for at least 120,000 years. In the Pacific, a wildfire in Maui, Hawaii, became the deadliest one in more than a century, consuming 2,170 acres of land and causing an estimated \$5.52 billion in damages.

Africa is on the frontline of the climate emergency. In 2023, Cyclone Freddy became the longest-lived tropical cyclone ever recorded, severely impacting Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, and Mauritius. Climate breakdown made devastating flooding in Lybia 50 times more likely and 50 percent more intense.¹⁷

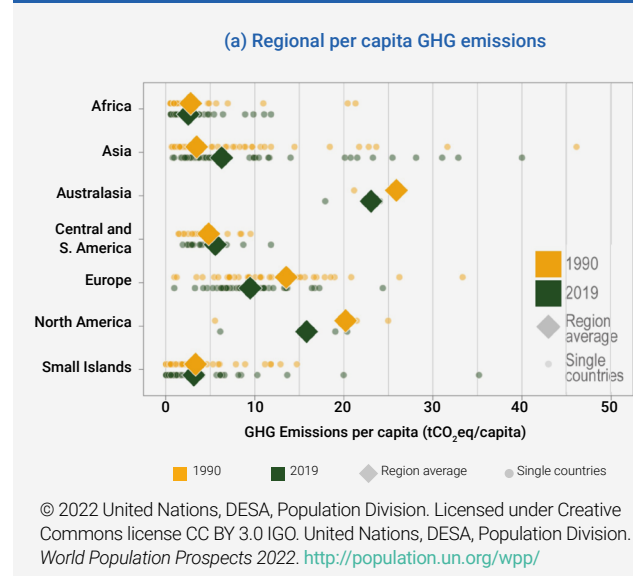
Escalating climate impacts are exacerbating food insecurity. East Africa is especially heavily hit, facing below average rainfall for five consecutive wet seasons.¹⁸

The recent droughts in the Horn of Africa have left more than 23 million people facing food insecurity and malnutrition, as food production is heavily reliant upon rainfed agriculture and pastoralism.¹⁹

Africa contributed the least to GHG emissions, contributing only 3 percent of historic emissions.²⁰

Africa is the region with the lowest per capita contribution globally²¹ (see figure 1). Despite contributing the least to the climate emergency, Africa faces severe resulting losses and damages. Even if global warming is limited to 1.5°C, southern and northern Africa will face a 20-60 percent decline in wheat yield; across east and southern Africa, tens of millions more people will be prone to vector-borne diseases, and several west African countries can face a 12 percent reduction in marine fisheries catch.²² To limit future losses and damages, it is imperative that deep, rapid and sustained mitigation action is taken now.

Figure 1: Regional per capita GHG emissions



¹³ IPCC, *AR6 Synthesis Report*, 2023.

¹⁴ IPCC, *AR6 Synthesis Report*, 2023.

¹⁵ UNEP, *Emissions Gap Report*, 2022.

¹⁶ UNEP, *Emissions Gap Report*, 2022.

¹⁷ Zachariah, M et al, Interplay of climate change-exacerbated rainfall, exposure and vulnerability led to widespread impacts in the Mediterranean region, 2023.

¹⁸ WMO, *State of the Global Climate*, 2022.

¹⁹ GCA, *State and Trends in Adaptation in Africa*, 2022.

²⁰ Our World in Data, *Who Has Contributed Most to Global CO₂ Emissions?*, 2019.

²¹ IPCC, *AR6*, 2022.

²² IPCC, *AR6 Synthesis Report*, 2023.



Definition of Adaptation

The IPCC defines adaptation as “the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects in order to moderate harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate this.”²³

In other words, adaptation is a crucial strategy for helping people and communities prepare for and withstand the impacts of climate change. When done right, adaptation measures provide an opportunity to enhance the resilience of communities to the challenges posed by climate change.

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.²⁴ Effective adaptation action reduces vulnerability by building adaptive capacity and resilience in communities.

Education is critical in making communities climate resilient.

In Africa, lack of education makes communities more vulnerable to the climate-related impacts.²⁵ Projections based on current policies indicate that achieving universal primary education in Africa will take 100 years, with an additional 235 years for lower secondary and 280 years for upper secondary education.

When done right, adaptation also presents an opportunity.

In 2019, the Global Commission on Adaptation presented the triple dividend that adaptation yields: reducing future economic losses,

providing economic gains, and delivering additional social and environmental benefits.²⁶

The Commission also found that young people have a key role to play in adaptation:

“As inheritors of the effects of climate change, young people are also integral to generating political momentum, addressing inequalities, and advancing solutions.”²⁷

Despite increased adaptation actions across all regions of the world, progress is not going fast enough.

The IPCC showed that at least 170 countries have included adaptation in their climate change policies.²⁸ However, progress is not keeping up with accelerating climate impacts. In its 2022 Adaptation Gap report, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) attributes the insufficient action to four factors: (i) current adaptation actions are incremental at scale, focusing on the short-term and single hazards, (ii) the actions do not sufficiently address the root causes of exposure and vulnerability, (iii) adaptation is not being implemented at the scale required, and (iv) international support is not in step with countries’ expressed adaptation needs.

²³ IPCC, AR6, 2022.

²⁴ IPCC, AR6 Synthesis Report, 2023.

²⁵ GCA, *State and Trends in Adaptation*, 2022.

²⁶ GCA, *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*, 2019.

²⁷ GCA, *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*, 2019.

²⁸ IPCC, *Sixth Synthesis Report*, 2023.



Definition of Youth

There is no universally agreed upon definition of who is considered a 'young person'. For statistical purposes, the United Nations considers "those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 (...) without prejudice to other definitions by Member States."²⁹ The African Union defines a young person as "every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years old"³⁰, as defined in the African Youth Charter.

For the purposes of this report, GCA uses the definition of the African Union. Inter alia, this definition acknowledges that many young people in developing countries often miss out on formal education. Whenever this definition is not used in this report, it will be explicitly mentioned.

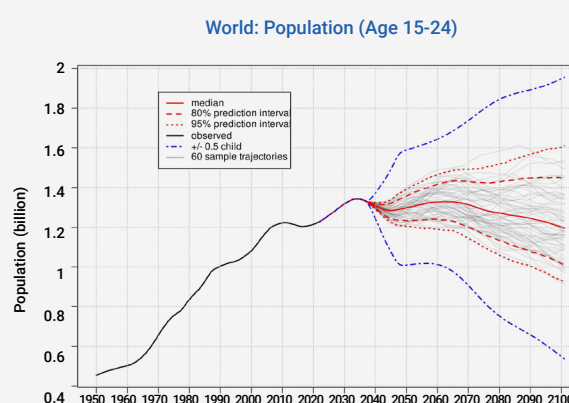
The world is home to the largest youth population in history, and it continues to grow. The youth population aged 15 to 24 years is estimated at 1.21 billion.³¹ By 2030, it is projected that the youth demographic will grow to 1.29 billion people globally and by 2050 to almost 1.34 billion.³²

The youth population is growing rapidly, especially in developing countries. Between 2015-2020, the total population of the world's least developed countries (LDCs) grew 2.3 percent per annum, a rate 2.5 times faster than the rest of world.³³ Africa is experiencing a youth bulge. The 32 least developed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have the youngest age distribution globally.³⁴ The population growth experienced by LDCs is due to a relatively slow demographic transition from high-fertility, high mortality regime to low-fertility, low mortality regime, compared to other developing and developed countries.³⁵

The climate crisis is an intergenerational crisis. Climate change is having, and will continue to have, very different impacts on a person born today compared to older generations (see figure 4). Global warming will have escalating impacts on people's lives in the next decades, although its impacts can be limited depending on choices made today. In the next 18 years, three Global Stocktakes will be presented and \$50 trillion will need to be invested to limit global warming by 1.5C as mandated by the Paris Agreement; yet the world is largely not on track to meet these targets.

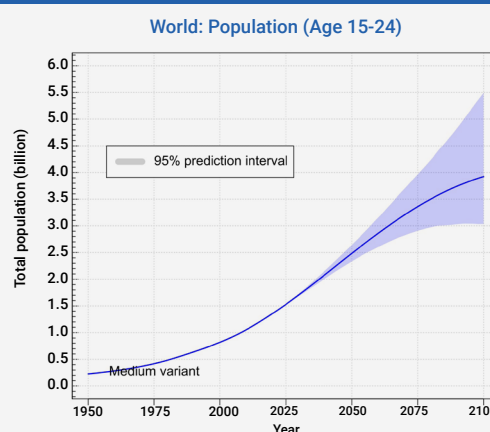
Climate change is having an impact on all children alive today,³⁶ but regional differences exist. In Sub-Saharan Africa, a person born in 2020 will face 2.6 times more

Figure 2: Projected world population aged 15-25 from 1950 to 2100



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Figure 3: Projected total population in Africa 1950 – 2100



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²⁹ UNGA, International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace: Report of the Secretary-General, 36th Session UN Doc A/36/215 (1981).

³⁰ African Union, African Youth Charter, 2006.

³¹ UNDESA, *World Population Prospects*, 2019.

³² UNDESA, *World Population Prospects*, 2019.

³³ UNCTAD, *Least Developed Countries Chart*, 2021.

³⁴ WHO, UNICEF, Lancet, *A future for the world's children?*, 2020, the Lancet vol. 395(10224).

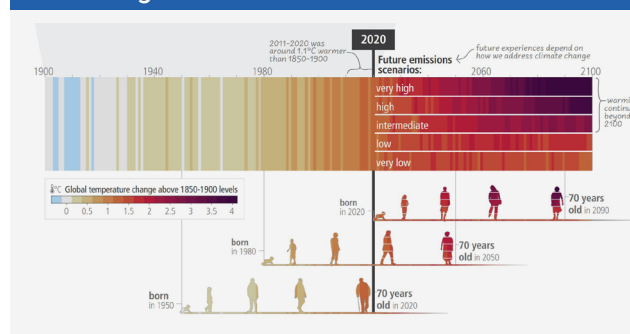
crop failures in their lifetime compared to someone born in 1960. In South Asia, a newborn would experience 3.6 times more crop failures, in the Middle East and North Africa it rises to 4.4 times, and in Mali to as much as 9.9 times.³⁸ Taking effective adaptation action can avert the worst impacts for young and future generations.

Young people are not a homogenous group, and each one has their own unique role to play in creating a more climate-resilient world. It can be helpful to consider youth through an intersectional lens, considering the way gender, race, economic status, immigration status, national origin, and disabilities, among other aspects of identity, intersect for the particular vulnerabilities and needs of young people.³⁹

The participation of young people leads to better informed policies. Young people bring ideas, solutions, and expertise which climate policies can benefit from. Climate policies should be responsive to the unique needs of young people, especially those from the most vulnerable communities.⁴¹ Adaptation means looking at things in a new way – that is why young people are so important. As the generation most affected by the long-term impacts of climate change, they possess a vested interest in building a climate-resilient future and can best represent the interests of future generations.

Young people have a crucial role to play in creating a more adapted world. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) describes the meaningful participation of young people in climate policy- and decision-making as (i) making young people a real priority of climate policies and policy-making, (ii) recognizing their efforts and impact to date, (iii) promoting and enabling their participation in climate politics, (iv) securing their rightful place in climate governance structures across all levels, and (v) empowering and collaborating with young people in solutions.⁴⁰

Figure 4: The impacts of global warming on different generations³⁷



The role of young people in shaping climate policies must be meaningful, not tokenistic. Meaningful engagement can harness the potential of youth while addressing societal needs and challenges. This entails the inclusion and active participation of young people in processes, decisions, and activities that impact their lives to ensure their voices are heard, valued, and acted upon. It means genuinely valuing and integrating their perspectives, rather than just ticking a box.⁴¹

Youth entrepreneurs have the opportunity to address the climate emergency whilst bringing economic benefits to communities. Youth-led climate businesses have the potential to address the funding gap that adaptation action faces.⁴² In countries facing high unemployment, entrepreneurship offer young people a way to make a living whilst contributing to more climate-resilient communities.⁴³

Public participation is a tool that empowers young people also on a more individual level.⁴⁴ Participation allows young people to develop “knowledge on human rights and citizenship and to promote positive civic action”,⁴⁵ which leads to climate action. It is important that young people have an empowering environment that allows them to participate, including through access to information, financial resources for advocacy, and access to networks and opportunities.⁴⁶

³⁵ IPCC, *AR6 Synthesis Report*, 2023.

³⁶ Save the Children, *Born Into the Climate Crisis*, 2021.

³⁷ UNDP, *Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action*, 2022.

³⁸ UN Child’s Rights Committee, UNCR/C/GC/26, *General Comment No. 26 (2023) on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change*, 22nd August 2023.

³⁹ UNDP, *Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action*, 2022.

⁴⁰ UNDP, *Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action*, 2022.

⁴¹ UNDESA, *Meaningfully engaging youth: Guidance training for UN staff*, 2021.

⁴² See similarly for sustainable development: UN, *World Youth Report*, 2020.

⁴³ UN, *World Youth Report*, 2020; GCA, *State and Trends in Adaptation in Africa*, 2022.

⁴⁴ R. Farthing, *Why Youth Participation?*, 2012, *Youth & Policy*.

⁴⁵ UN, *Youth Participation*, 2013.

⁴⁶ UNDP, *Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action*, 2022.

2. POLICY RESPONSE: THE EVOLUTION OF ADAPTATION UNDER THE UNFCCC AND THE GROWING ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Initially, adaptation was not a central consideration in the UN Climate Change regime. In 1992, countries agreed on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Convention), which entered into force in 1994. The focus of the Convention was on the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation was not included as part of its aims.⁴⁷

In 1995, the first Conference of the Parties (COP1) took place in Berlin. The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. During COPs, all Parties to the Convention gather to make decisions necessary for promoting the effective implementation of the Convention.

With the presentation of the third IPCC report in 2001, adaptation was brought more to the forefront. The report makes clear that “adaptation is a necessary strategy at all scales to complement climate change mitigation efforts”.⁴⁸ At COP7 in 2001, countries established the ‘Least Developed Countries Work Programme’ to implement article 4(9) of the Convention: “The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology.”⁴⁹ Since then, the work programme has contributed to supporting LDCs in setting up and maintaining processes to support the formulation, implementation, review, and update of national adaptation policies.⁵⁰

The work programme included the process to prepare and implement National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), which supported LDCs in their climate change response, given their particular vulnerabilities. Secondly, the work programme established the Least Developed

Countries Expert Group (LEG) to provide technical guidance and support to LDCs to formulate and implement their NAPAs. Thirdly, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) was established to support the preparation and implementation of the work programme and NAPAs.

At COP11 in 2005, countries established the ‘Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation to Climate Change’. The Nairobi Work Programme aimed “to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change”.⁵¹ Since then, the NWP has engaged countries and other stakeholders in sharing the latest information and knowledge on climate adaptation, to bridge knowledge gaps and scale-up action in line with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.

The IPCC’s fourth Assessment Report published in 2007 found that adaptation is necessary to address climate impacts and that adaptation and development go hand in hand.⁵² At COP13 in 2007, countries adopted the Bali Action Plan which “launched a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective, and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperation action”.⁵³

At COP16 in 2010, countries adopted the landmark Cancun Adaptation Framework which set adaptation and mitigation as equally important priorities. The Cancun Adaptation Framework established the Adaptation Committee to promote the implementation of enhanced adaptation action. The Cancun Adaptation Framework also established the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process to enable least developed countries to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and address those needs, building on their experience with NAPAs.⁵⁴

⁴⁷ Article 2 of the UNFCCC.

⁴⁸ IPCC, Third Assessment Report, 2001.

⁴⁹ Article 4(9) of the UNFCCC.

⁵⁰ UNFCCC, 25 Years of Adaptation under the UNFCCC, Report by the Adaptation Committee, 2019.

⁵¹ UNFCCC/CP/2005/5/Add.1 *Nairobi Work Programme*.

⁵² IPCC, *Fourth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007.

⁵³ UNFCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1 *Bali Action Plan*.

⁵⁴ UNFCCC/1/CP.16, *Cancun Adaptation Framework*.

The Paris Agreement and the Global Goal on Adaptation

In 2015, the landmark Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21. Adaptation is included as one of its central aims, with Article 7 establishing the Global Goal on Adaptation for “enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.”⁵⁵ Article 7 also includes

a list of adaptation considerations for the Global Stocktake (see Chapter 3 for further information).

At COP26 in 2021, one of the key outcomes of the Glasgow Climate Pact was the focus on adaptation finance. Countries agreed to at least double their collective provision of adaptation finance to developing countries by 2025, compared to 2019 levels, and achieving a balance in mitigation and adaptation resources. Furthermore, the two-year Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GlaSS) was adopted to define the Global Goal on Adaptation and contribute to the Global Stocktake.

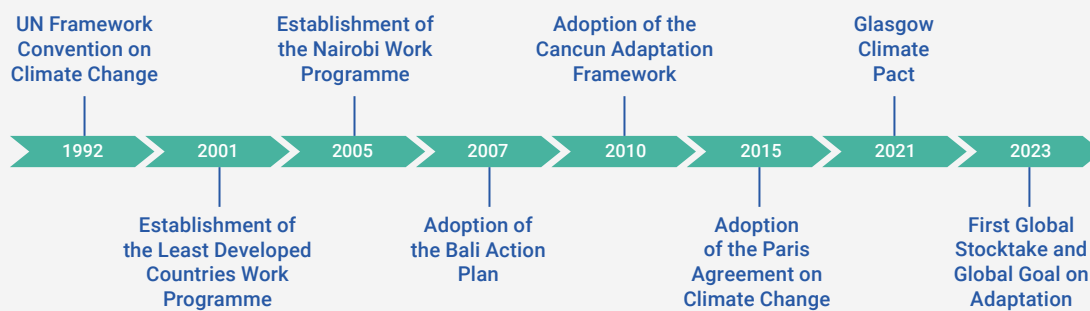


Figure 6: The Global Stocktake⁵⁸

The Global Stocktake (GST) is a 5-yearly checkpoint that was agreed upon in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Its aim is to help governments to track and evaluate their progress on climate action and boost climate ambition over time.

The GST focuses on three aspects: mitigation, adaptation and finance.



Once the GST is complete, countries will have two years to submit their updated NDCs to the UNFCCC outlining how they intend to take stronger action.

The GST does not assess progress in individual countries, but the aggregate effect of action so far, motivating individual states to ‘ratchet up’ their own national targets, called nationally determined contributions or NDCs.

Global Stocktake

The Global Stocktake is a process for taking stock of the global response to the climate crisis. It is the cyclical mechanism of the Paris Agreement to assess progress towards achieving the objectives and goals of the Paris Agreement to determine enhanced actions going forward.

The purpose of the agreement is to “strengthen the global response to climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty”.⁵⁹ It evaluates long-term goals including the 1.5 °C temperature-goal, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and finance and support to address the climate crisis.⁶⁰

⁵⁵ Article 7(1) of the Paris Agreement.

⁵⁶ Nature Climate Change, The Global Stocktake at COP28, 2023.

⁵⁷ Article 2(1) of the Paris Agreement.

⁵⁸ Article 2(1) of the Paris Agreement.

In article 14 of the Paris Agreement, countries agreed to: “periodically take stock of the implementation of this Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals (referred to as the “Global Stocktake”).”

Parties to the Paris Agreement shall hold the Global Stocktake in a “comprehensive and facilitative manner (...) and in the light of equity and the best available science.”⁵⁹ The outputs should focus on assessing collective progress made rather than individual countries’ progress.

The Global Stocktake is a country-driven process with the participation of other stakeholders. In informal consultations, several countries recognized the contributions of other stakeholders for the successful delivery of the first Global Stocktake.⁶⁰ The Global Stocktake consists of three components: (i) information collection and preparation, (ii) technical assessment, (iii) consideration of outputs.

The first Global Stocktake process got underway at COP26 and concludes at COP28 in 2023, with subsequent global stocktakes taking place every 5 years thereafter. In 2023, the process moved from the technical phase to the political phase (the third phase). Several high-level meetings were organized within the UNFCCC process and beyond, such as at the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Ambition Summit. The political phase presents an opportunity for young people to engage with decision-makers to make their voices heard on the adaptation agenda.

Before the release of the first Global Stocktake, the UNFCCC Secretariat published a synthesis report on the Global Stocktake technical dialogue. The report “provides an assessment of the collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.” The report warns that without stronger action by the second Global Stocktake in

2028, global temperatures may surpass 1.5°C, with severe impacts. It stresses the need for governments to support climate-resilient solutions, emphasizing inclusion and equity to boost climate action.

The Global Stocktake presents an opportunity to enhance actions and support to achieve the Paris Agreement. The dual mandate of the Global Stocktake means that countries not only assess current progress, but it should also inform countries’ actions and support as well as international cooperation for climate action.⁶¹

Adaptation and the Global Stocktake

As one of the main considerations within the Global Stocktake, assessing progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation is central to the Global Stocktake. Adaptation is further considered in the Global Stocktake by recognizing adaptation efforts of developing countries, enhancing implementation of adaptation action, and reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of (support for) adaptation.⁶²

To assess progress made towards achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation and provide input to the Global Stocktake, the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee has proposed possible approaches in its synthesis report for the technical assessment component of the first global stocktake of 2021.⁶³ The technical paper reflects the findings of the 2020 Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A), emphasizing education, training, public participation, and youth engagement to enhance adaptation action. It highlights that institutional and capacity barriers still hinder young people from taking meaningful contributions to adaptation planning and action.

⁵⁹ Article 14(1) of the Paris Agreement.

⁶⁰ Summary of the informal consultation on preparations for the consideration of outputs component of the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, 05 June 2023.

⁶¹ Article 14(3) of the Paris Agreement.

⁶² Article 7(14) of the Paris Agreement.

⁶³ UNFCCC Adaptation Committee, *Technical Paper: Approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation*, 2021.

At the national level, various countries have elaborated how their national efforts contribute to the **Global Goal on Adaptation**.⁶⁴ During the informal consultation held in April 2023, countries called for greater synergy between the Global Stocktake and the GlaSS. In the technical paper, the UNFCCC Secretariat presents the following opportunities for harmonizing the GlaSS with the Global Stocktake through (i) harmonizing the Global Goal on Adaptation, (ii) considering how the Global Goal on Adaptation can orient and strengthen national efforts, (iii) reviewing progress on a regular basis, (iv) enabling countries to better communicate their adaptation priorities.⁶⁵

On 8th September 2023, the UNFCCC released the **synthesis report of the first global stocktake by the co-facilitators on the technical dialogue**. The report is based on inputs received throughout the process and discussions held during each of the three meetings of the technical dialogue. It provides an assessment of the collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and informs Parties about potential areas for updating and enhancing their action and support, as well as for enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

In the report, the co-facilitators warned that **“most observed adaptation efforts are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions.”** The report also calls for increased climate adaptation efforts, particularly for those who are least prepared for change and unable to recover from disasters.

Youth informing adaptation action going forward

By participating in the high-level meetings of the Global Stocktake such as the UN Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit, informal ministerial consultations convened by the COP28 Presidency on the margins of the UN General Assembly, and informal consultations at the Pre-COP, and engaging with decision-makers, young people can make their voices heard on the adaptation agenda.

This report presents the outcomes of consultations with over 6,500 young people in 137 countries on the adaptation agenda. The gaps, needs, and opportunities identified through GCA's regional Youth Adaptation Forums around the world have shaped the recommendations presented in this report. These recommendations represent the voices of the global youth adaptation movement, which is demonstrating the power to shape adaptation action in this critical decade, including through the Global Stocktake.

The Global Stocktake presents an opportunity for young people to course-correct adaptation action. Young people have made their voices heard on the adaptation agenda by participating in the high-level meetings of the Global Stocktake and engaging with decision-makers. When considering the outputs of the Global Stocktake, decision-makers formulated political messages to chart a way forward to enhance adaptation action. Their participation helped to bring a more holistic view of the impacts of climate change and innovative adaptation solutions.



⁶⁴ UNFCCC Secretariat, *Synthesis report for the technical assessment component of the first Global Stocktake*, 2022.

⁶⁵ UNFCCC Secretariat, *Synthesis report for the technical assessment component of the first Global Stocktake*, 2022.

3. YOUTH RESPONSE: MOBILIZING THE GLOBAL YOUTH ADAPTATION MOVEMENT

The GCA Youth Leadership and Education Program

The Global Center on Adaptation is an international organization that works as a solutions broker to catalyze action and support for adaptation solutions, from the international to the local, in partnership with the public and private sector, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate-resilient future. Adapting to impacts of climate change provides a “win-win” for health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth. The work of GCA elevates the visibility and political importance of climate adaptation and facilitates solutions, such as smarter investments, new technologies, and better planning to become more resilient to climate-related threats. GCA is a rapidly growing organization with offices in Abidjan, Beijing, Dhaka, Groningen, and Rotterdam.

GCA is harnessing the enthusiasm, energy, and capacity for innovation of young people to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world. GCA empowers young people to make the case for adaptation on the global stage and make their communities more climate resilient by building the youth adaptation movement, promoting youth participation in decision-making processes, delivering adaptation education and capacity-building, and cultivating young women leadership.

As part of its efforts to scale up innovation for climate action and mainstream adaptation jobs in investment projects, GCA aims to support one million young people with entrepreneurship skills and create five million adaptation jobs through investments from international financial institutions, worth over \$2 billion.

Regional Youth Adaptation Forums 2022

In 2022, GCA and its Youth Advisory Panel organized seven Regional Youth Adaptation Forums that engaged over 2,300 people from around the world. The CEO’s Youth Advisory Panel is a 12-member group of young climate adaptation leaders from across the world, who provide strategic advice on youth engagement to drive the adaptation agenda to Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, the Chief Executive Officer of GCA.

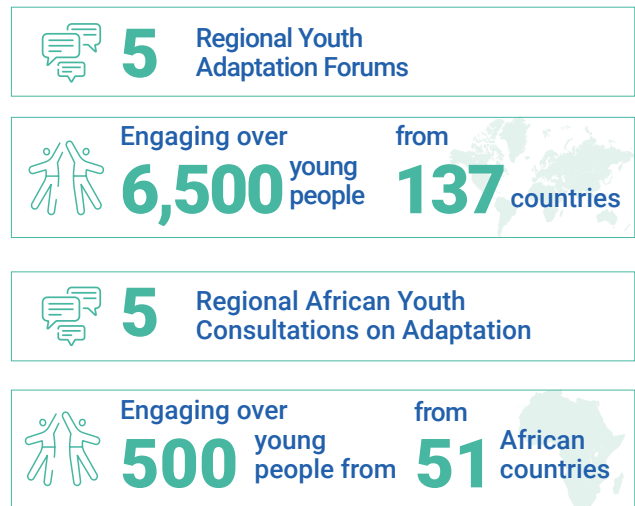
The forums created a worldwide platform for consultations with young people on the Global Goal on Adaptation. Based on these consultations, the Youth Advisory Panel formulated key recommendations to decision-makers to create a climate-resilient future through the #Youth4Adaptation Communique. This Communique was presented to global leaders at the Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action and the Africa Adaptation Summit in Rotterdam. The recommendations were further developed in the report *‘Youth Engagement with the Global Goal on Adaptation’*, which was presented at COP27.

This report and recommendations were presented to key actors from across national government, local government, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, and civil society, including: H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya, Prof. Debra Roberts, IPCC Co-Chair of Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, and Dr. Ursula Sautter, Mayor of Bonn.

Regional Youth Adaptation Forums 2023

Building on the success of the 2022 Forums, in 2023 GCA organized five Regional Youth Adaptation Forums and five Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation that mobilized the global youth adaptation movement on the road to the Africa Climate Summit and COP28 to inform the Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation. GCA's Forums engaged over 6,500 young people from 137 countries around the world. Most Forums took place virtually, thereby enabling access to as many young people around the world as possible. The Youth Adaptation Forum, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Bonn, took place in person during the 58th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB 58) of the UNFCCC and brought together young people and senior representatives from international organizations, the UN, and local government.

GCA organized in 2023



Regional Youth Adaptation Forums 2023



"Young people raising global ambition, advancing national policies and driving adaptation solutions"



With the aim of mobilizing young people on the road to the Africa Climate Summit and COP 28, the African Youth Adaptation Forum took an in-depth focus on the five African regions (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central).⁶⁶ The five 'Regional African

Youth Consultations on Adaptation' engaged over 500 young people from 51 countries across Africa. These consultations were organized in collaboration with the Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO).

⁶⁶ The Sahel and West Africa Club, Working together for regional integration 2017-18 (SWAC/OECD).

Mobilizing the global youth adaptation movement

The Forums focused on engaging young people with adaptation policies, including National Adaptation Plans, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and the Global Stocktake, as well as showcasing youth-led adaptation solutions. The main objectives were:



Promote the perspectives of young people in adaptation policies including the Global Goal on Adaptation and National Adaptation Plans to advance inclusive and equitable adaptation decision-making and action by bringing together experts, policy-makers, and young people.



Catalyze innovative ideas and adaptation action in young people by featuring African youth leadership around the world, including the African YouthADAPT winners.



Establish and strengthen regional connections between young people and youth organizations to scale adaptation actions and strengthen young people's adaptation advocacy activities by uniting young people for the adaptation agenda.

The Forums as a platform for intergenerational dialogue

The Forums provided a platform for young people and decision- and policy-makers to come together to exchange views and share adaptation solutions. The Forums included senior representatives from across international organizations, UN agencies, and governments, bringing youth voices on adaptation to the highest levels of governance.

The Forums served as a platform for disseminating adaptation information, in response to one of the key recommendations from the #Youth4Adaptation Communique. The Youth Advisory Panel 2023 developed factsheets based on GCA's flagship State and Trends in Adaptation reports to bring key adaptation information to a youth audience. These

factsheets were presented by Panel members at each of the Forums, and covered information from Locally Led Adaptation to Water Resources Management.

Break-out groups provided a space for young people to connect, build a regional network, and exchange good practices on adaptation. The break-out groups were facilitated by the members of the Youth Advisory Panel, and participants could choose to join break-out groups focused on adaptation at the international, national, or local level. To promote cross-regional exchange, all Forums were open to participation by young people from across the world.

Catalyzing innovative thinking around the world, winners of the African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT) were showcased during each of the Forums. The Forums presented the youth-led adaptation entrepreneurs from Cameroon, Kenya, and Ghana. Initiatives ranged from Bleagle Waste Management from Cameroon, a company that utilizes drones to mitigate flood risks, to Kimplanter, a seedling nursery in Kenya led by youth and women dedicated to assisting farmers in enhancing productivity despite climate impacts.

Following the regional Youth Adaptation Forums, the main recommendations were presented at the African Youth Climate Assembly and the Africa Climate Summit, as part of the #Youth4Adaptation Communique. The Africa Youth Climate Assembly took place on 1st to 3rd September, 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, immediately prior to the Africa Climate Summit. Hosted by H.E. President William S. Ruto of Kenya and the African Union Commission, the Africa Climate Summit took place during the Africa Climate Week in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4th to 6th September, 2023.

During the Summit, GCA convened the High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue on Adaptation Action. The event included the presentation of key recommendations from the regional Youth Adaptation Forums to key decision-makers, including H.E. Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary-General and Chair of GCA; Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, Chief Executive Officer of GCA; H.E. Anne Beathe Tvinning, Minister of International Development of Norway; Hon. Ababu Namwamba, Cabinet Secretary of Youth Affairs and Sports of Kenya; Graça Machel, Co-founder and Deputy Chair of The Elders; and Bo Li, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

By presenting these recommendations, young people highlighted their key adaptation priorities to global leaders. As outcomes of the consultation process initiated by GCA, these recommendations contributed to shaping the Global Stocktake by providing a united voice to young people engaged in adaptation action. The aim of these recommendations is to pave a way forward for adaptation action in this critical decade for climate action.



Young people have a crucial role to play today. Ensuring that youth perspectives are included in international policies and decision-making processes is essential to initiate a transformative shift together.”



H.E. William S. Ruto, President of Kenya, addressing the Africa Youth Climate Assembly



Mainstreaming adaptation jobs and scaling up innovation for climate action

Empowering Youth through Jobs and Entrepreneurship (YouthADAPT)

The GCA YouthADAPT program aims to mainstream adaptation on the African continent by scaling up youth innovation and supporting youth-led enterprises in climate adaptation and resilience, as well as enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of 1 million youth. It also supports International Financial Institution (IFI) projects, mainstreaming adaptation jobs into their investment projects, with the goal of influencing \$2 billion worth of projects by 2025. The program cuts across two strategic business lines:

1. Promoting sustainable job creation in Africa

by supporting youth-led entrepreneurship and innovation in climate change adaptation and resilience. This is done through the African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT Challenge) – an annual competition and awards program for youth-led enterprises (50 percent women-led), a partnership between GCA and the African Development Bank (AfDB), supported by the Climate Investment Funds and the Africa Climate Change Fund.



The Challenge aims to strengthen inclusive growth and broaden investment and economic opportunities for youth through entrepreneurial skills development by providing acceleration, mentorship, and grant funding to bankable youth-owned businesses (at least 50 percent women-owned) to enable them to scale up their innovative adaptation businesses and build resilience among marginalized communities in Africa. Furthermore, young African entrepreneurs are equipped with business development skills and resources to scale up climate adaptation innovations and boost the creation of jobs. The Challenge targets Africa's next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders between the ages of 18 to 35.

To date, GCA has supported 33 youth-led adaptation enterprises from 22 African countries. Ten of the 15 enterprises selected in the 2021-2022 cohort have created 8,512 direct and indirect jobs. Of these, 529 are direct jobs, with 98 percent of these jobs filled by youth aged between 18 and 35 years. Currently, women account for 63 percent of the total number of jobs. Some of the enterprises have seen their revenues rise by up to 123 percent since joining the accelerator, and more than 20 percent of the enterprises have entered new markets.

2. A technical assistance facility supporting IFI projects in the mainstreaming of adaptation jobs


GCA has a 30 percent adaptation jobs target – which means ensuring 30 percent of overall jobs created per project is to be adaptation jobs. This is carried out through country Labor Market Assessments to assess the potential for adaptation job creation. Subsequently it strengthens adaptation-focused enterprises through capacity-building and empowerment, thus leading to an increase in job creation. The Program currently supports African



Development Bank and World Bank-financed projects across Africa, specifically in countries such as Nigeria, South Sudan, Liberia, the Gambia, Senegal, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Spotlight Project

The Skills for Employability, Inclusion and Productivity (SEIP) Project in Somalia



PROJECT BUDGET:
\$7.9million



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

The aim of the project is to strengthen technical and vocational skills development, enhance youth employability, and contribute to inclusive growth. The project is implemented by the African Development Bank in Somalia and focuses on:



Increasing access to quality skills development and enhancing equity in vocational training.



Equipping youth with entrepreneurship skills necessary to facilitate self-employment, income generation, and economic resilience.

The Project will also support the integration of entrepreneurship in all courses offered to enhance further self-employment and is expected to train about 1,300 Somali Youth.

GCA's involvement will promote mainstreaming adaptation jobs into the project while ensuring that Somalia has a technical vocational education and training (TVET) 'national curricula' with a focus on climate change courses.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:



INCREASE EQUITABLE ENROLMENT IN PUBLIC TVET INSTITUTIONS

UP 64% to 18,000



TRAIN

1,300

IN MARKET RELEVANT TVET AND
SKILLS
TRAIN

500 youths

IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Pacific Youth Adaptation Forum



The Pacific Youth Adaptation Forum aimed to strengthen the youth movement for adaptation, disseminate adaptation information by presenting the 'factsheet for young people on climate adaptation', and catalyze innovative thinking around the world by showcasing the African YouthADAPT Solutions Challenge.



I am indigenous to a remote island in the Pacific. Adaptation is the difference between life and death. I believe that young people can be leaders in this space and help transform the global narrative on adaptation with hope rather than fear. Stories of resilience can mobilize people to act and to organize. That is how we change the world."

Fale Andrew Lesa, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, Samoa

The Pacific Youth Adaptation Forum took place virtually on World Water Day, 22nd March 2023. The Forum was organized in collaboration with GCA's Water Adaptation Community and contributed towards the UN Water Conference 2023. The Forum brought together 259 people from 63 countries and an additional 708 people watched the livestream on GCA's social media channels.

As the world warms and sea levels rise, Pacific small island states face existential threats. The vast majority of people across the Pacific live within 5 km of the coast. In Tuvalu, sea levels have increased by approximately 13.2 centimeters from 1993 to 2021. Already in the next two to three decades Tuvalu could

become uninhabitable, leading to a devastating loss of land and culture, and forcing thousands of people from their ancestral homelands.

Addressing the particular threats faced by the Pacific, the Pacific Youth Adaptation Forum focused on the power of young people to shape international decision-making processes, including the UN Water Conference, as well as the Pacific youth-driven initiative to request an Advisory Opinion on climate change from the International Court of Justice.



Courts have an increasingly important role to play to protect young people from the climate crisis and give us a voice such as the Pacific-led request for an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice."

Aoife Fleming, Campaigner, World Youth 4 Climate Justice.

During the forum, the factsheet on *Water Resources Management, Flood Risks and Disaster Risk Reduction*, adapted from GCA's flagship report State and Trends in Adaptation was presented by Neekhil Prasad of the Youth Advisory Panel 2022.

The forum also showcased African youth-led adaptation solutions, including the YouthADAPT winner from Cameroon, Juveline Ngum Ngwa. Through Bleaglee Waste Management, Juveline builds software for drones to detect waste in waterways and drainage channels that is later collected.

Key good practices shared during the Forum



PACIFIC ISLANDS STUDENTS FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) is a youth-led organization with members in all Pacific countries. Founded by 27 law students from 8 Pacific Island countries, PISFCC began a campaign to persuade the leaders of the Pacific Island Forum to take the issue of climate change and human rights to the International Court of Justice. The core campaign remains in convincing the governments of the world to seek an Advisory Opinion from the International Court to clarify the obligations of states to protect the rights of current and future generations from the adverse effects of climate change. PISFCC also works on educating and activating all Pacific Island youth to become aware and take action to help prevent and fight against climate change.



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

The **Pacific Islands Forum** (PIF) is one of the most prominent political and economic policy organizations in the Pacific. Through the Pacific Resilience Partnership, an inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership, a multi-actor response to climate change and disaster risk is facilitated. Youth engagement is facilitated in this partnership through a technical working group on youth, which includes civil society representatives working on climate change.

In 2021, the 2nd Youth Forum took place virtually during the Pacific Resilience Meeting, and was attended by more than 700 participants from across the Pacific. Discussions centered around the theme “Our people, Our journey: nurturing Pacific resilience from home”. Participants joined in live through the online platform from their homes, offices, and satellite hubs that were established for those with limited access to internet connectivity.

The PIF Secretary-General’s Young Climate Leaders Alliance are young climate advocates from across the Pacific who are recognized for their climate advocacy work in the region and internationally.

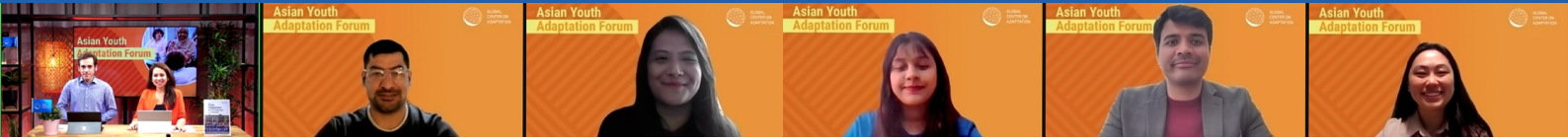


In 2019, a group of passionate law students approached my government to bring the issue of climate change to the International Court of Justice. This advisory opinion initiative has gained enormous support of people around the world, including many youth and civil society. This demonstrates the powerful force of youth in driving transformative change. Vanuatu and a core group of countries are taking this vision and making it a reality.”

H.E. Odo Tevi, Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the UN and Special Envoy on Climate Change, Vanuatu



Asian Youth Adaptation Forum



The inclusion of young people in the Global Stocktake is both a necessity and an opportunity. Our voice can bring a unique perspective to the table - which is marked by a deep sense of urgency and driven by a desire to address the most pressing global challenges.”

Sadia Jahan Rothi, Youth Advisory Panel 2022, Bangladesh



As a young researcher pursuing a PhD in sustainability and climate change and coming from a developing nation like India, I believe our aspirations for a sustainable future are limitless. Let the Global Stocktake be the stage where we dance to the rhythm of progress and lead the way towards a greener, more hopeful tomorrow. A resilient and sustainable world will emerge from the seeds of change planted by our voices, passions, and ideas.”

Manav Khanna, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, India

The Asian Youth Adaptation Forum aimed to strengthen the youth movement for adaptation, disseminate adaptation information by presenting the ‘factsheet for young people on climate adaptation’, and catalyze innovative thinking around the world by showcasing the African YouthADAPT Solutions Challenge.

The Asian Youth Adaptation Forum took place virtually on 26th April 2023. The Forum brought together 875 registered participants for the Forum, coming from 105 countries, and an additional 676 people watched the livestream.

Six out of the top ten countries on the Global Climate Risk Index are located in Asia. In 2022, Pakistan was hit particularly hard when unprecedented floods affected over 33 million people and caused over \$15 billion in damages.⁶⁷ This catastrophic climate event devastated children and youth, especially girls, by threatening food security and putting an estimated 3.5 million children at high risk of permanent school dropout.⁶⁸

The Asian Youth Adaptation Forum highlighted the challenges faced across Asia by sharing the main messages for Asia from the IPCC Synthesis Report, published just a few days earlier. The report finds that rapid, deep, and sustained accelerated adaptation actions are needed to prevent increasing losses and damages, which will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations. The report also finds a critical role for young people, “Drawing on diverse knowledge and partnerships, including with women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and ethnic minorities can facilitate climate resilient development and has allowed locally appropriate and socially acceptable solutions.”

⁶⁷ World Bank, Pakistan: Flood Damages and Economic Losses over USD 30 billion and Reconstruction Needs over USD 16 billion – New Assessment, 2022.

⁶⁸ UNICEF, Devastating floods in Pakistan, 2022.

In line with this IPCC finding, the main theme of the Forum was about taking action in local communities.

The Forum included the presentation of the [factsheet](#) for young people on Locally Led Adaptation, highlighting the principles of locally led adaptation such as collaborative action, building understanding, and investing in local capabilities. Several good practices for young people to take action were shared, including sharing the impacts of climate change on their lives on social media, holding meetings with policy-makers to engage with National Adaptation Plans, and forming coalitions with other youth groups across the region. Building on the focus of locally led adaptation, the importance of finding the interlinkages with action and advocacy at the national and international level was highlighted as well. The forum also showcased African youth-led adaptation solutions, including the YouthADAPT winner from Cameroon, Juveline Ngum Ngwa.

Key good practices shared during the Forum



GCA's [Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation \(LLA\)](#) serves as a global platform on climate adaptation for the urban poor.

The platform informs, connects, and inspires local communities and LLA practitioners around the world with the latest knowledge and solutions for LLA. Young people play a crucial role in LLA, with one of the eight Principles for Locally Led Adaptation specifically calling for addressing the structural inequalities that they face.



Developed by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and the Independent University of Bangladesh, the online short course

'In pursuit of global climate change negotiations: Follow COP without going to COP of the UNFCCC' took place ahead of COP27. The 13 online sessions covered specific agenda items of the COP negotiations in-depth and helped the participants comprehend the outcomes of the COP negotiations.



Taking action at the local level is where you are most important. But you also need to think about linking it up to the national, particularly at the NAPs, and to the global, particularly at the COP."

Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director International Centre for Climate Change and Development



In the formulation of its National Adaptation Plan, Bangladesh conducted stakeholder consultations with various population groups including young people. More than 35 stakeholder consultations and over 100 key informant interviews and focus group discussions took place, involving approximately 5,000 people across the country at the local, district and national levels from January 2021 to June 2022.



To understand the COP and climate adaptation at the global scene, you need to understand first what is happening at the local level and then at the national level."

Dewi Idam Sari, Indonesia



The South Asia Rainwater Network develops connections with individuals, governing bodies, organizations, and institutions specialized in rainwater harvesting within the South Asian region. It also functions as a repository of information, knowledge, experience, and technology on rainwater harvesting to promote best practices in rainwater harvesting in the region.

Americas Youth Adaptation Forum



The Americas Youth Adaptation Forum aimed to strengthen the youth movement for adaptation, disseminate adaptation information by presenting the ‘factsheet for young people on climate adaptation’, and catalyze innovative thinking around the world by showcasing the African YouthADAPT Solutions Challenge.

The Americas Youth Adaptation Forum took place virtually on 30th May 2023, in Spanish with English interpretation. The Forum had 768 registrations from 104 countries and attracted an additional 665 viewers on GCA’s social media livestream.

Latin America and the Caribbean face multiple and increasingly frequent risks, including sea-level rise, droughts, floods, and extreme weather. Average temperatures are also expected to increase significantly in North America, particularly in northern sub-regions, with wildfires projected to increase. Impacts are particularly severe for young people and vulnerable communities, including Indigenous Peoples. These have faced adaptation challenges for centuries, having developed strategies for resilience in changing environments that can enrich and strengthen adaptation efforts.⁶⁹

The Americas Youth Adaptation Forum responded to the challenges faced across the Americas by highlighting how young people can be involved with the development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans. Several countries across the Americas already have a NAP, including Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Uruguay.



As an advocate for justice-centered climate adaptation and mitigation solutions, I am committed to building the capacity of youth and communities to design and implement creative solutions for climate adaptation.

Young people and those from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis must be leading the dialogue at the Global Stocktake.”

Soomin Han, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, Canada



Credit: FilippoBacci/iStock

⁶⁹ IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 2022.

The forum also showcased African youth-led adaptation solutions, including the YouthADAPT winner from Kenya, **Carolyne Mukuhi Mwangi**. Through Kimplanter, a seedling nursery led by youth and women, Carolyne helps farmers improve productivity in spite of drought and harsh weather conditions due to climate change.



Young people have a crucial role in bringing solutions, especially to build resilience in the most vulnerable communities. I strongly believe that the Youth Advisory Panel could be the platform for young people to influence decision-makers and support GCA in raising adaptation ambition.”

Natalia Gomez Solano, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, Costa Rica

Key good practices shared during the Forum



The UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group is creating a youth engagement program to promote youth engagement with the initiative 'Early Warnings for All', a project by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiative to establish early warning systems for everyone by 2027.



In the design of their National Adaptation Plan 2022-2026, Costa Rica implemented a participatory process to consult various stakeholders, including through an online public consultation, and also used inputs from related policy processes such as their Nationally Determined Contribution 2020 and Risk Management National Plan 2021-2025. Youth were included in the thematic workshops during the consultation of the NDC (2020) and NAP (2022). This was supported by UNICEF and by youth organizations such as the Red de Juventudes y Cambio Climático de Costa Rica. At the same time, different Costa Rica youth organizations have been supporting the implementation actions.



European Youth Adaptation Forum, Bonn



On 8th June 2023, during UNFCCC SB58, GCA and the Lord Mayor of Bonn convened the Youth Adaptation Forum Bonn at the historic city hall 'Altes Rathaus' of Bonn, Germany. As the largest youth adaptation gathering during UNFCCC SB58, the Forum brought together young people and leaders from across governments, civil society, practitioners, and international organizations to engage directly on key adaptation topics, including the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake.

As the key convening of countries ahead of COP28, the UNFCCC SB58 provided a significant landmark to prepare decisions for adaptation at the COP. With important items on the agenda of COP28, SB58 included discussions on the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake. Amplifying young people's voices on these issues is crucial for youth-sensitive decisions at the COP, such as by bringing together young people and senior representatives, including Gabriel Kpaka, Chair of the UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and Prof. Debra Roberts, Co-Chair of the IPCC Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

The Forum provided capacity-building to the youth audience with presentations on the adaptation topics by Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and former IPCC lead author, as well as by Jeffrey Qi, Policy Advisor at the NAP Global Network and International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

In roundtable discussions, the participants connected and exchanged views on adaptation gaps, needs, and opportunities. Several challenges in adaptation action

were identified, including limited governmental support and language barriers in policy-making spaces. Training young people and creating spaces for them to convene and discuss can facilitate the assessment of their needs and foster innovative solutions.



The Youth Adaptation Forums could not be a better platform. The impulses going out from the Forums will be travelling in the right directions. We can make adaptation happen, make it a priority, and make a difference."

Ursula Sautter, Deputy Mayor, City of Bonn



Young people represent the voice of future generations. Their leadership is now more crucial than ever at all levels of decision-making and action. By embracing their stewardship role, young people are initiating a paradigm shift around the world. This shift should transcend traditional narratives and harness nature's manifestations in transformative ways."

Niccolo' Delporto, Youth Leadership and Education Officer, GCA





Key good practices shared during the Forum



The **YOUNGO Adaptation Working Group** has 450 members dedicated to facilitating youth participation in the UNFCCC adaptation agenda, focusing both on engagement and on technical capacity building. Key projects include the **Adaptation Academy** (January to April 2023), a 12-week program rooted in peer-to-peer capacity-building on adaptation and advocacy. The Adaptation Working Group also makes **policy submissions** resulting in four substantive submissions focused on the GlASS and the Adaptation Committee. In addition, **diverse research projects**, videos, podcasts, and other media endeavors are spotlighting the integral role played by youth in the global research to adapt to climate change. These initiatives also highlight the significance of financial mechanisms, implementation strategies, and policy frameworks in enhancing the capacity of young individuals while fostering their education about adaptation.



Youth4Climate: Powering Action is a global initiative, co-led by Italy and the UNDP, that builds on the Youth4Climate Manifesto adopted at the Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition Summit ahead of the Pre-COP26, convening 400 young people from around the world. The initiative aims to boost youth-led and youth-inclusive climate action by strengthening solutions and supporting meaningful youth engagement.



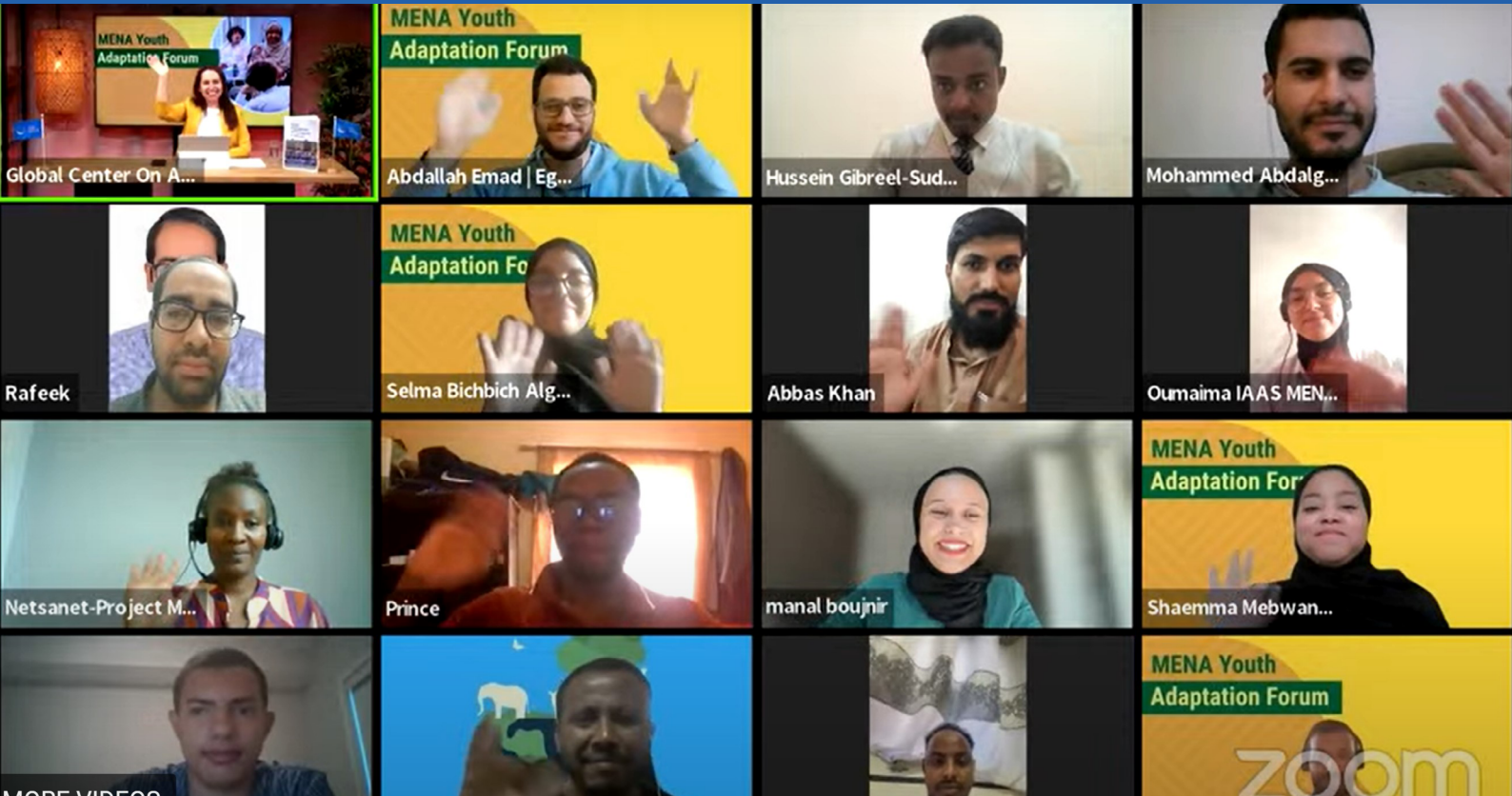
IAAS (International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences) is the largest student organization in the field of agriculture and related sciences worldwide. Founded in 1957 in Tunisia, it began with only 8 member countries. Since then, IAAS has significantly expanded, now encompassing over 50 member countries and about 10,000 student members. IAAS projects span the globe, from innovating electricity-free cold storage in the Himalayas to combat harvest losses, to empowering students in Gambia to develop low-cost irrigation systems, to championing plant health awareness and gender equality with initiatives like the IAAS Women in Agriculture Global Project.



Climate change will impact every country and community worldwide. All children and youth need the education and resources to adapt for this, and the innovation and dynamism of the youth climate movement will be essential at the decision-making tables to deliver the adaptation solutions we need."

Xan Northcott, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, United Kingdom

MENA Youth Adaptation Forum



The MENA Youth Adaptation Forum aimed to strengthen the youth movement for adaptation, disseminate adaptation information by presenting the 'factsheet for young people on climate adaptation', and catalyze innovative thinking around the world by showcasing the African YouthADAPT Solutions Challenge.

On the eve of International Youth Day, the final Youth Adaptation Forum took place virtually in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region on 11th August 2023. The Forum brought together 824 registrations coming from 105 countries, and an additional 1,180 people followed the livestream.

The MENA region is warming faster than the global average with some of the highest temperatures globally recorded in the region in July 2023.⁷⁰ By 2050, it is estimated that 90 million people could suffer from water stress. Simultaneously, the region



is experiencing an explosion in its youth population, projected to double by mid-century to approximately 271 million. Several countries within the region are predicted to experience nearly 50 percent population growth by 2030, further stressing water resources.

⁷⁰ WMO, July 2023.

The MENA Youth Adaptation Forum showcased the potential that young people have in improving economies when provided with education and employment opportunities. Discussions emphasized the role of young people in bringing innovative solutions to address climate impacts. Their energy and entrepreneurship can not only accelerate economic growth but also strengthen resilience and drive transformational adaptation.

The forum also showcased African youth-led adaptation solutions, including the YouthADAPT winner from Ghana, Tahiry Jamila. Through 'Global Farms and Trading Company Limited', Jamila contributes to driving the modernization of Ghana's agricultural sector whilst ensuring the protection of the ecosystem services through conservation agricultural practices. The YouthADAPT challenge helped Jamila to develop their business capacity with the knowledge and skills on climate adaptation and resilience.

With the COP28 Presidency held by the United Arab Emirates, the Forum also focused on the role of the MENA region to spur global climate action, including by influencing the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake.



Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) can help hugely with adaptation measures and push and accelerate adaptation because it is focused on six elements: education, training, public awareness, public access to information, public participation, and internal cooperation. ACE offers civil society a powerful way to take adaptation action."

Shaemma Mebwana, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, United Arab Emirates

Key good practices shared during the Forum



International Youth Climate Delegate Program on the road to COP28, the Presidency launched a program to enhance youth participation from underrepresented groups in climate change policy-making: the 'International Youth Climate Delegate Program'. One hundred delegates were selected for this capacity-building initiative designed to deepen their understanding of the COP process. Delegates from the Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Indigenous Peoples, and other minority groups worldwide were given priority. The program was spearheaded by the COP28 Youth Climate Champion, Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazrui, in partnership with YOUNGO.



Libyan Youth Council for Climate Change The Libyan Youth Council for Climate Change (LYCCC) was founded in November 2021 to foster Libyan youth participation in environmental and climate change matters. This platform engages young Libyans in formulating sustainable solutions to champion climate justice, transition to a resilient future, and ensure that their voices from conflict states, particularly Libya, resonate in global climate negotiations. A diverse team of 25 members from various Libyan regions and cities formulates strategies, oversees the working groups, and ensures alignment with the council's vision.



Credit: jacoblund/iStock

NAP EXPO 2023 - Harnessing the power of youth in national adaptation plans

As part of the NAP Expo 2023 in Santiago de Chile, GCA's Youth Leadership and Education program organized an event titled 'Harnessing the Power of Youth in National Adaptation Plans'. The event, organized in partnership with the UNFCCC LEG/ Multi-stakeholder subgroup, the Government of Chile, and the Local Conference of Youth – LCOY Chile, aimed to raise awareness of the benefits of youth participation in adaptation policy and decision-making processes; it also focused on sharing insights on how to prepare young people to withstand the impacts of climate change and showcased youth-led adaptation solutions from Africa and around the world.

Speakers included Johanna Arriagada Diaz from the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environment of Chile; Benon Yassin from the UNFCCC LEG / Multi-stakeholder subgroup; Amer Al Kindi, Lead Negotiator on Adaptation for the United Arab Emirates (COP28 Presidency); and young leaders from Chile and Switzerland, including the YOUNGO focal points on Adaptation and Finance & Markets, as well as the general coordinators of the LCOY Chile.

The speakers at the event discussed youth engagement includen national adaptation planning and action, including the challenges, needs, and opportunities of youth inclusion at all levels of adaptation policy and decision-making. They highlighted the need and potential of harnessing the unique perspectives and strengths of young people to foster transformative and far-reaching adaptation solutions at the country level, including through intergenerational partnerships and collaborations.



As the chair of the UNFCCC LEG Group, I firmly believe in the necessity of empowering young people in the development of National Adaptation Plans. It is time for governments to actively engage with young minds at every step of the adaptation process."

Gabriel Kpaca, UNFCCC LEG Chair, at the Youth Adaptation Forum Bonn



Youth Engagement with National Adaptation Policies and Action: Consultation across the Youth Adaptation Forums

A virtual consultation via Mentimeter was organized during the Pacific, Asian, Americas, and MENA Youth Adaptation Forums to gather insights on youth perspectives regarding global, national, and local adaptation action, including the Global Goal on Adaptation and National Adaptation Plans.

Out of 84 participants, 80 percent already knew what a National Adaptation Plan was. After each Forum, an average of 97.25% expressed their interest in actively engaging with the NAP process of their respective countries.

The participants identified several key themes crucial for effective engagement in adaptation policy and decision-making, including community collaboration, awareness, capacity-building, and stronger governmental support.

Formal channels of engagement were proposed to foster youth participation in decision-making processes. These include formalized channels of engagement with decision-makers to ensure young people's voices are heard, the establishment of local youth councils, and increased adaptation education as crucial pathways for meaningful engagement.

The consultation underscored several needs pivotal for fostering youth engagement, such as increased funding for youth-centric adaptation projects, more research on adaptation policies, and better access to information.



OUT OF 84 PARTICIPANTS:

80%

KNEW WHAT A NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN WAS



INTEREST IN ENGAGING WITH THE COUNTRY NAP:

97.25%

Africa Climate Summit: high-level intergenerational dialogue

Including young people in adaptation policies is essential to ensure equitable and socially just adaptation actions. As young Africans bear the brunt of the climate breakdown, the GCA Youth Leadership program aims to strengthen the capacities of young people across the African continent and facilitate peer learning with other continents.



I grew up in an environment parallel to the ongoing conflict between human activities and the natural world; where the opportunity to coexist harmoniously was limited. In this setting, access to and justice for the natural environment was not possible. This prompted my passion as a young leader to stand for the right to adapt and ensure that future generations have the understanding, tools, and preparedness."



Deon Shekuza, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, Namibia

To connect and empower young people to create a climate-resilient future and to feature African youth leadership across the world, GCA convened a series of events leading up to the Africa Climate Summit – the largest gathering of African Heads of State, international and non-governmental organizations, and youth in the continent’s history.

Before the Summit, five Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation and the adaptation session at the Africa Youth Climate Assembly took place to bring together and strengthen the youth

adaptation movement in Africa. The recommendations arising from this engagement process contributed to the #Youth4Adaptation Communique and GCA publications, contributing to the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake.

As young Africans bear the brunt of climate breakdown, the GCA Youth Leadership Program aims to enhance the capabilities of young people across the continent and facilitate peer learning with other continents. Including young people in adaptation policies is crucial to ensure equitable and socially just adaptation actions.



Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation

To capture the voices of young people from every region of Africa in a more inclusive and detailed way, the African Youth Adaptation Forum was held in the form of five deep-dive sub-regional consultations.

From 18th to 25th August, GCA supported GAYO to organize five Regional African Youth Consultations

on Adaptation. The consultations took place virtually, one for each African sub-region: Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern, and Central. The purpose of these youth-led consultations was to gather youth views on adaptation policies and action and to strengthen the youth adaptation movement in Africa by identifying some of the key challenges, best practices, and recommendations by African youth.

Consultations on the road through the Africa Climate Summit

14 th August Regional African Youth Consultation on Adaptation - West Africa	16 th August Regional African Youth Consultation on Adaptation - East Africa	16 th August Regional African Youth Consultation on Adaptation - Northern Africa	23 rd August Regional African Youth Consultation on Adaptation - Central Africa
30 th –12 th December COP28	4 th September Africa Climate Summit: High-level Intergenerational Dialogue	1 st –3 rd September African Youth Climate Assembly	25 th August Regional African Youth Consultation on Adaptation - Southern Africa

The consultations evidenced that young Africans encounter significant barriers in their climate adaptation efforts. There is a lack of access to financial resources and technology, which hampers the effective implementation of adaptation projects. In terms of education, the consultations revealed gaps in climate awareness programs, specifically on adaptation. Gender disparities further exacerbate the situation challenges in accessing opportunities for climate adaptation.

Despite the challenges, African youth have showcased resilience and innovation. Across the continent, young people have already put their skills, knowledge, and creativity into climate-smart agricultural practices, nature-based solutions, adaptation education, and other adaptation actions aimed at fostering the resilience of their communities while creating jobs and boosting local economies.

To amplify the impact of youth-led climate adaptation strategies, participants identified several recommendations. They called for the development and implementation of youth-centric policies which prioritize youth engagement and allocate resources for their projects, along with strengthening mechanisms for policy implementation. Enhancing climate education in schools and communities was also described as paramount to building the skills and knowledge needed to face climate impacts, along with gender-inclusive approaches to ensure young women have equal opportunities in climate adaptation. Lastly, fostering regional collaboration can facilitate the sharing of best practices, resources, and expertise.

Africa Youth Climate Assembly

The Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) was held from 1st to 3rd September 2023 at the Kenyatta International Conference Center in Nairobi, Kenya.

The assembly united more than 2,000 young leaders from over 60 nations across Africa and beyond to showcase their work and connect with African Union heads of states, policymakers, business leaders, non-state actors, and other climate stakeholders.

GCA support for the AYCA focused on mobilizing the Youth Adaptation Network, broadening the participation of young people and ensuring the delivery of an impactful event in collaboration with the organizers. By providing livestream services, GCA contributed to a more inclusive and visible event.



As a young woman involved in farming in Nigeria, I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact of climate change on our farm. We've had to adapt and build resilience, ensuring our farm remains productive despite these challenges. It's essential that our leaders allocate more funding for adaptation and prioritize investment in climate-smart practices to ensure year-round healthy food production, and create decent, inclusive job opportunities."

Baliqees Salaudeen, Youth Advisory Panel 2023, Nigeria





My message to young people is: have passion and compassion; raise your ambition; and be global citizens."

Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of GCA, at the High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue

Bringing together each coordinator of the Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation to the AYCA was another example of GCA's interest in promoting meaningful youth engagement.

On 2nd September, GCA organized one of the main sessions on adaptation in the plenary session of the AYCA. This #Youth4Adaptation session represented the culmination of the consultation process aimed at gathering African youth voices in preparation for the #Youth4Adaptation Communique. Members of the Youth Advisory Panel, coordinators from the Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation, trainees from the Online Executive Training for Young Women Leadership, and YouthADAPT winners presented the outcomes of the consultations and discussed why they became engaged in climate adaptation action.

This session represented an opportunity to influence the outcome document of the Assembly, the Africa Youth Climate Declaration. This declaration calls upon African and international decision-makers to commit to "meaningful, inclusive, and systemic engagement of youth in African climate change frameworks and processes," and includes provisions related to adaptation jobs and entrepreneurship, adaptation capacity-building and education, and sustainable agribusinesses. The declaration fed into the African Heads of State and Government Nairobi Declaration at the Africa Climate Summit.

Africa Climate Summit

The inaugural Africa Climate Summit took place from 4th to 6th September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya during the Africa Climate Week. Hosted by President Ruto and the African Union Commission, the Summit brought together global leaders to drive green growth and climate finance solutions for Africa and the world. GCA contributed to the Africa Climate Summit by bringing leaders from Africa together with young



I want to see a shift in mindset. Sometimes, facing climate change—the existential threat facing all of us—can be overwhelming. However, there are tools, technologies, and opportunities available. It is time to work on disseminating these technologies widely."

H.E. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, Minister of International Development, Norway

leaders to catalyze solutions and actions to tackle climate change and its impacts.

On the opening day of the Summit, GCA organized the High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue: Africa driving climate adaptation solutions & jobs together with the University of Nairobi at the Wangari Maathai Institute. This high-level intergenerational dialogue brought together hundreds of young people and leaders from across Africa, together with leaders from the wider international community, multilateral development banks, universities, and civil society such as: H.E. Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary-General and Chair of GCA, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of African Development Bank, Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, Chief Executive Officer of GCA, Graça Machel, Co-founder and Deputy Chair of The Elders, and Bo Li, Deputy Managing Director of IMF.

During the High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue, youth representatives and members of the Youth Advisory Panel presented key recommendations of the #Youth4Adaptation Communique to the leaders present, to directly profile youth adaptation priorities to leaders during the Africa Climate Summit.



Kenya is taking bold action on climate change. As part of our efforts, we are recruiting a one million youth from the 'Green Army' as climate action warriors to support our ambitious plan to plant fifteen billion trees by 2032."

Hon. Ababu Namwamba, Cabinet Secretary of Youth Affairs and Sports, Kenya

4. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION AND THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

As the world grapples with the multifaceted challenges of climate change, the role of youth in shaping and driving adaptation strategies becomes paramount. The Paris Agreement, the treaty encompassing the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake as foundational processes, recognizes the important role of youth.

The Youth Adaptation Forums provided the opportunity to establish pathways for young people to build and develop their engagement with these processes after milestone discussions at COP28. Participants learned from young leaders from around the world about how they have already engaged with the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake, and to imagine together how youth engagement with these processes can improve.

Youth informing adaptation action going forward

The first Global Stocktake presents an opportunity for young people to course-correct adaptation action. By participating in the high-level meetings of the Global Stocktake such as the UN Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit and informal consultations at the Pre-COP, and engaging with decision-makers at international conferences, young people have made their voices heard on the adaptation agenda.

Continuing to engage youth with the Global Stocktake after its release is crucial for ensuring that their perspectives and priorities are considered in subsequent climate actions. Youth partnerships in international cooperation can 'help share experiences in realizing opportunities and overcoming barriers to and challenges in the implementation of adaptation plans and promote learning from good practices across various contexts.'⁷¹

Through the Global Stocktake, stakeholders including young people can help identify how the world can collectively achieve the Paris Agreement's long-term goals. Young people can support all the specific

outcomes of the Global Stocktake provided for in the Paris Agreement, including to inform the next round of NDCs, enhance implementation of adaptation action and support Parties in updating and enhancing their actions and support, as well as enhancing international cooperation for climate change.

Enhancing youth-led climate action through the Global Stocktake

Young people have a direct stake in the results of the Global Stocktake. The release of the Global Stocktake is a crucial opportunity for young people to engage, influence, and foster climate action. By harnessing diverse strategies and platforms, they can ensure their perspectives are recognized, pushing the global community towards effective climate solutions.

The Global Stocktake represents an additional tool in the hands of young people's efforts in building a climate-resilient future. Youth can actively participate in the Global Stocktake through national and international public consultations, including open dialogues led by the UNFCCC. These platforms allow them to discuss the Global Stocktake's findings, offer feedback, and propose enhancements for future climate initiatives. At such events, young people could engage directly with policymakers, climate negotiators, and other key decision-makers, championing youth-focused climate solutions.

Empowerment starts with knowledge. Youth organizations and networks can spearhead independent reviews of the Global Stocktake, gearing up for these pivotal discussions. Organizing workshops and training sessions not only educates more young individuals about the Global Stocktake's but also equips them to lead insightful conversations, further training their peers.

⁷¹ Technical dialogue of the first Global Stocktake. Synthesis report by the co-facilitators on the technical dialogue, FCCC/SB/2023/9.

By advocating through the Global Stocktake, young people can drive change. In response to the Global Stocktake's findings, youth can ignite advocacy campaigns to advocate for intensified climate actions, especially in areas needing improvement. Utilizing tools like social media, public demonstrations, and other platforms, they can raise awareness and rally support. Collaborations with media outlets can magnify their message. Through op-eds, interviews, and webinars, they can shape public perception regarding the Global Stocktake's findings and warnings.

Through collaboration, youth organizations and networks can amplify impact. Youth can collaborate with civil society groups, academic entities, and other stakeholders to kickstart projects addressing the Global Stocktake's highlighted challenges. Forming alliances with fellow youth groups, NGOs, and other stakeholders allows them to pool resources, unify their efforts, and present a more potent collective voice in Global Stocktake related dialogues.

Young people advancing the Global Goal on Adaptation

As the world navigates the complexities of climate change, the proactive engagement of youth will be instrumental in achieving the aspirations of the Global Goal on Adaptation. The active engagement of young people ensures that adaptation strategies are holistic, inclusive, and effective in addressing the challenges posed by climate breakdown.

Similar to the Global Stocktake, youth engagement with the Global Goal on Adaptation is crucial and can take many forms. To accelerate adaptation solutions, initiatives in the context of the Global Goal on Adaptation should recognize the role of young people, as their innovative perspectives can contribute significantly to the development and implementation of effective strategies in tackling the challenges of a changing environment.

Young people can support the targets set by the Global Goal on Adaptation to contribute to the effectiveness of adaptation measures. The Youth Adaptation Forums identified that, in the context of fulfilling the targets set by the Global Goal on Adaptation, young people can lead grassroots initiatives, participate in decision-making processes, build their capacities, conduct research, collaborate with educational institutions to advance adaptation education, and run campaigns to spread awareness among their peers.

Youth engagement with the Global Goal on Adaptation can also happen at the country level. National governments can establish platforms or advisory bodies where young people can contribute to the monitoring of climate adaptation measures. Such involvement can include participating in local environmental projects and working with local institutions to track the progress of adaptation measures within their communities.

Young people possess the dynamism and creativity to initiate community-based adaptation projects. By understanding local vulnerabilities, they can develop and implement strategies that directly benefit their communities, from urban gardens to local awareness campaigns. Workshops, seminars, and training sessions tailored for youth can equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to address climate vulnerabilities. Such capacity-building initiatives can foster a new generation of climate leaders and experts.

Young people can be at the forefront of research on effective adaptation strategies. By conducting research at academic institutions, NGOs, and think tanks, they can contribute to the body of knowledge on adaptation and advocate for evidence-based solutions. Collaborations between youth groups and educational institutions can lead to a better integration of adaptation topics into curricula. This not only educates young people about the challenges but also encourages student-led initiatives and projects related to adaptation action.

The Global Goal on Adaptation is the umbrella of adaptation action, including at the national level through NAPs. Youth participation in the design, implementation, and evaluation of adaptation plans and strategies at the country level is equally critical. As the individuals who will inherit the consequences of current environmental policies, young people have a vested interest in ensuring that adaptation plans are robust and effective. Youth involvement in NAPs fosters intergenerational collaboration, bridging the gap between current policymakers and future leaders. Ultimately, their participation ensures the representation of diverse viewpoints, making the adaptation plans more comprehensive and equitable.

Involving young people in NAPs implicitly serves as an educational and capacity-building opportunity. Engaging them helps equips youth with the technical knowledge to address climate change challenges, thereby nurturing the next generation of environmental leaders and experts. Their active participation in NAPs also facilitates a sense of ownership and responsibility towards climate action, encouraging more young people to engage in environmental stewardship.

5. INTRODUCTION TO THE #YOUTH4ADAPTATION COMMUNIQUE FROM THE CEO'S YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL 2023



Abdallah Emad Afify
Egypt

Adéla Pokorná
Czech Republic

Baliqees Salaudeen
Nigeria

Deon Shekuza
Namibia

Fale Andrew Lesa
Samoa

Hannah Athaliah James
Papua New Guinea

Manav Khanna
India

Natalia Gómez Solano
Costa Rica

Sadia Jahan Rothi
Bangladesh

Shaemma Mebwana
United Arab Emirates

Soomin Han
Canada

Xan Northcott
United Kingdom

Young people are fighting for their climate rights like never before. Court actions in the United States and Europe, protesting the failure by governments to take appropriate action against rising temperatures, demonstrate a growing awareness. Pacific youth successfully lobbied for a UN resolution on climate justice earlier this year to request the International Court of Justice to issue an advisory opinion on the responsibility of states that fail to respond to climate change. We are not going to be ignored any longer. We demand that our voices be heard.

The good news is that the older generations who wield all the power are beginning to take note of our views. They are starting to accept that what we think about the future of our planet matters. This is our moment.

The Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC said: "Climate resilient development is facilitated by developing partnerships with traditionally marginalized groups, including women and young people." It added: "Partnerships are most effective when supported by enabling political leadership, institutions, resources, including finance, as well as climate services, information and decision support tools."

It has been another frantically busy year for the Youth Advisory Panel. To give just a snapshot of our work to date, we have:

- Provided strategic advice on the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program's Country Compacts (a new feature launched during the Africa Climate Conference hosted by the Kenyan government in Nairobi) and the \$1 billion YouthADAPT fund.
- Organized five Youth Adaptation Forums covering the globe (regions of Pacific, Asia, Americas, Europe, Middle East, and North Africa).
- Organized five Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation across West, East, Central, Southern, and Northern Africa, as well as participated in the Africa Youth Climate Assembly and Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in September, which also influenced the adoption of adaptation in the Africa Youth Climate Assembly statement from the summit.
- Created and distributed fact sheets for young people on climate change and the the response of GCA to it response to it, drawing upon data and material from recent State and Trends in Adaptation reports.
- Within GCA, we have benefitted from holding three meetings with GCA's CEO, Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, participating in six Learning Laboratories with GCA Program Leads, attending twelve coordination meetings with the Youth Leadership program, and brainstorming at a Communications workshop.

Looking back, we are proud of what we have achieved. Our Regional Youth Adaptation Forums attracted the participation of 6,000 young people from a grand total of 137 countries! And during the in-person Youth Adaptation Forum in Bonn at SB58, we engaged with climate leaders, including the late Prof. Saleemul Huq, whose passing we deeply mourn.

Drilling down to Africa, the continent that is most affected by climate change and therefore with the greatest adaptation needs, 500 young African

changemakers from 51 African nations joined us at our African Youth Consultations. A highlight was the High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue in Nairobi, which attracted 800 young Kenyans to debate and shape their country's future.

At this point, we should offer some words of gratitude and congratulations to GCA's CEO, Prof. Dr. Verkooijen. Patrick, your unwavering support has been fundamental for us to engage in the highest political spaces at the international level. We are so grateful for your leadership, and we all look forward to continuing to work with GCA to ensure that we, as a society, develop a climate-resilient future.

As we look back on an eventful year, one that was punctuated with tragic extreme weather events on every continent, we earnestly hope that our ideas will inspire young people to not just seize the multiple opportunities available to them to take adaptation action, but also to engage in turning adaptation solutions into a daily reality.

Our message for decision-makers is summarized in the #Youth4Adaptation Communique. The Communique presents young people's recommendations from around the world on the Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP28. It clearly states that young people are critical partners in adapting our world. Our vision can become a reality by doubling adaptation finance, fostering youth jobs and entrepreneurship, enabling youth participation in adaptation policies, and enhancing capacity-building and adaptation education.

We hope that our recommendations will be reflected and elevated, not just by GCA but by all organizations, from both the public and private sectors, societies, and communities which strive to make positive changes for our future and our world.

And, in closing, we hope and trust that our actions will lead future generations to live in a greener, safer, and more prosperous world than the one that we inherited. We all have a duty to leave this beautiful blue planet in better shape than the previous generation. And that is a challenge we are proud and humbled to accept and carry along with us.

6. YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE AND THE GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION

The #Youth4Adaptation Communique

Young people from 137 countries around the world are calling on leaders at COP28 to urgently scale up adaptation finance and to include young people in adaptation decisions and action.

This #Youth4Adaptation Communique presents the views of the global youth adaptation movement including

young people from 51 African countries. These young people were consulted through five regional Youth Adaptation Forums, five Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation, and at the Africa Youth Climate Assembly.

The message to decision-makers is clear: young people are critical partners in adapting our world, a vision which can become a reality by doubling adaptation finance by 2025.

Why young people are calling for adaptation action



The world's youth population has never been as large as it is today, and almost one billion people are under the age of 35 on the African continent. Facing an increasingly uncertain future, young people play a central role in building climate-resilient development. When equipped with the right skills and knowledge, young people have the potential to improve economies and better protect their communities.



The world is facing widespread climate breakdown as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally. 3.3 billion people worldwide are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with half the world's population experiencing severe water scarcity during certain periods of the year. The African continent and its youth population are disproportionately affected by what has been referred to as "the era of global boiling," by the 9th UN Secretary-General. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to almost half of the world's youth population, and the population is expected to reach 830 million people by 2050.



Rapid and deep cuts to global emissions are urgently needed to prevent further losses and damages around the world and to secure a liveable planet for current and future

generations. The major economies and those nations most responsible need to do more of their fair share and take urgent action to align their Paris climate targets for this decade within the 1.5°C goal before it is too late.



Mitigation action must go hand in hand with a strengthened adaptation response.

Protecting lives and livelihoods, adaptation action is pivotal in reducing people's vulnerability, creating adaptive capacity, and building climate resilience in communities. When done right, adaptation can ensure young people go to school in climate-resilient buildings, live in greener cities, and grow more resilient crops to feed a growing population.



Countries urgently need to step up to deliver on doubling adaptation finance, as agreed upon at COP26. While at least 84 percent of countries have established adaptation plans, the financing required to make these plans a reality falls short. Adaptation needs are projected to rise to \$160-340 billion by 2030. To adapt our world, both the volume and variety of capital available for adaptation must significantly increase.

We, young people from around the world, present the following key recommendations to decision-makers to create a greener, safer, and more prosperous world for current and future generations:



Double adaptation finance

Double adaptation finance to meet adaptation needs and ensure its additionality by:

- Ensuring continuous progress to deliver the promise made at COP26 to at least double adaptation finance by 2025 compared to 2019 levels.
- Providing adequate adaptation finance to locally youth-led adaptation actions.
- Ensuring youth-responsive adaptation investments including in strategy and planning documents such as National Adaptation Plans, Adaptation Investment Compacts, and others.



Entrepreneurships and jobs

Promote economic growth while building resilience across sectors by:

- Creating adaptation jobs for young people.
- Equipping young people with entrepreneurial skills to develop adaptation solutions.
- Creating an enabling environment for adaptation entrepreneurship, through award programs and grants such as the [YouthADAPT Challenge](#).



Youth participation in adaptation policies

Engage young people through participatory processes in adaptation policy-making at the international, regional, national, and local level by:

- Ensuring that the Global Goal on Adaptation decision to be adopted at COP28 in its preamble recognizes the critical role of young people to create a climate-resilient future and to encourage countries to promote youth participation in adaptation and establish partnerships with youth.
- Enhancing the awareness and capacity of young people to foster their involvement in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and prioritizing youth in at

least one activity related to each NAP phase in every country by 2030.

- Including young people in adaptation policy-making processes in all African countries, including by establishing formal mechanisms such as through local youth councils.



Capacity-building and adaptation education

Provide educational materials and capacity-building on adaptation to young people and raise awareness, promote behavioral change, and prepare for the impacts of the climate emergency by:

- Including adaptation as part of the curriculum at all levels of education to achieve adaptation literacy for young people and ensuring access to adaptation information for young people and civil society.
- Design capacity-building materials to create adaptive capacity according to the local needs and circumstances made available in multiple languages, such as the [Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership](#).
- Engaging young people in the systems of research, monitoring, evaluation and learning of adaptation policies and implementation, and supporting their initiatives to raise awareness and train their communities.



Young people are partnering for adaptation action

We, young people are committed to partnering with governments, international organizations and other stakeholders to take these recommendations forward to COP28 and beyond to fulfil our vision of creating a climate-resilient world. By working together, we can include young people in the Global Goal on Adaptation, the world's first collective commitment on adaptation, raise awareness to engage more young people from around the world in the adaptation agenda, and ensure that investments made today respond to the needs of current and future generations.

DEFINITIONS

Adaptation	In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects. ⁷²
Climate Change	A change in the state of climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions, and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. ⁷³
Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GlaSS)	To better understand, conceptualize and ultimately achieve the Global Goal on Adaptation, the countries that were signatories to the Paris Agreement created the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP 26 in Glasgow in 2021. The GlaSS was responsible for eight workshops for countries and observers to operationalize the GGA.
Global Goal on Adaptation	Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement established the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with the aim to “enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change.”
Global Stocktake	The COP periodically takes stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals. ⁷⁴
Mitigation	A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. ⁷⁵
National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	Country-led processes to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by integrating climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing policies, programs, and activities, particularly in priority sectors. NAPs are intended to guide the adaptation efforts of countries over the medium to long term.
Resilience	The capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation. ⁷⁶
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	An international treaty adopted in 1992 to address climate change. It provides a framework for negotiating and implementing international agreements to mitigate climate change impacts and facilitate adaptation. The COP (Conference of the Parties) is the UNFCCC’s governing body.
Youth	Every person between the ages of 15 and 35. ⁷⁷

⁷² As defined in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

⁷³ As defined in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

⁷⁴ As defined in article 14 of the Paris Agreement.

⁷⁵ As defined in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

⁷⁶ As defined in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

⁷⁷ As defined in the African Youth Charter by the African Union.

ACRONYMS

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
COP	Conference of the Parties
GAYO	Green Africa Youth Organization
GCA	Global Center on Adaptation
GGA	Global Goal on Adaptation
GHG	Greenhouse gases
GlaSS	Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh Work Program on the Global Goal on Adaptation
GST	Global Stocktake
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NWP	Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation to Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
YAN	Youth Adaptation Network
YOUNGO	UNFCCC constituency of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations

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#Youth4Adaptation

Youth Leadership and Education for Building a Climate-Resilient Future





Investing in adaptation education and establishing Intergenerational partnerships with young people is crucial to scale up adaptation action and build together a greener, safer, and climate resilient world."



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