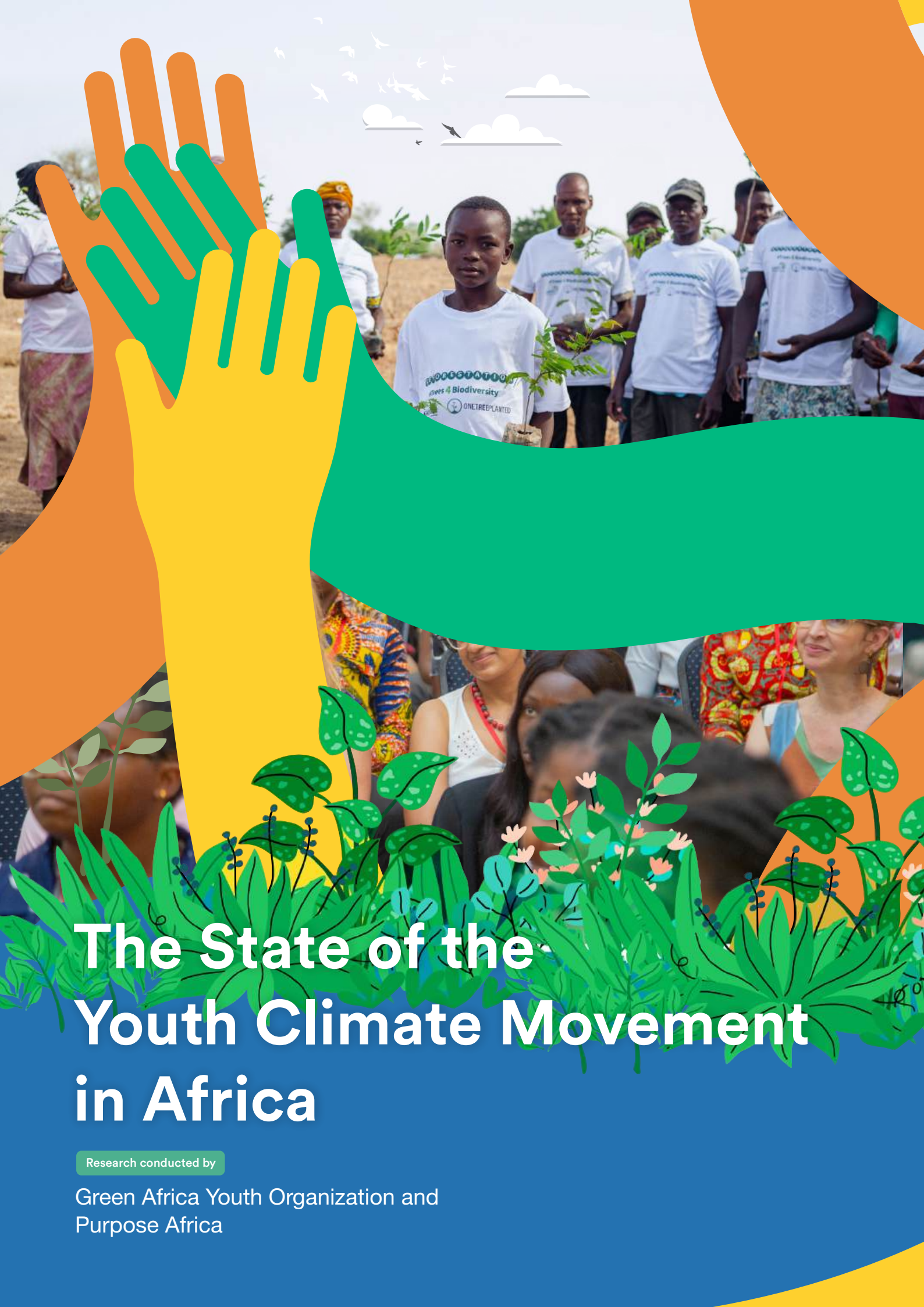




The State of the Youth Climate Movement in Africa

Research conducted by

Green Africa Youth Organization and
Purpose Africa

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Abbreviations

ACE	Action for Climate Education
AfDB	African Development Bank
AWDF	African Women's Development Fund
AYCH	African Youth Climate Hub
AYICC	African Youth Initiative on Climate Change
AYM4COP	Africa Youth Mobilisation for COP Campaign
COP	United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GAYO	Green Africa Youth Organisation
GCA	Global Centre on Adaptation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDYC	Loss and Damage Youth Coalition
NGO	Non profit organisation
RCOY	Regional Conference of African Youth
UMI Fund	Urban Movement Innovation Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
YOUNGO	Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Glossary of Key Terms

Activity: A set of actions done by youth groups to achieve a certain aim.

Circular economy: An economic system based on the reuse and regeneration of materials or products.

Climate change: A broad term covering changes in climate patterns attributed primarily to increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

Youth movement: Organised, conscious attempts by young people to bring about or resist societal change

Youth-led climate organisations: A group or network primarily driven and managed by young people, typically under the age of 35, who are dedicated to addressing and combating climate change and its impacts.

Youth climate activism: The efforts and activities led by young people aimed at addressing and mitigating climate change

Capacity building: Efforts to improve skills, abilities, and expertise in individuals or organisations to enable them to effectively tackle tasks and challenges.

Climate resilience: The ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant climate-related events.

Grassroots mobilisation: A movement driven from the bottom up by a community, group, or organisation to rally people for a particular cause.

Empowerment: The process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

Digital literacy: The ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills.

Green business: Commercial activity that has a minimal negative impact on the global or local environment, community, society, or economy—a business that strives to meet the triple bottom line.

Climate-smart agriculture: An approach that helps guide actions to transform and reorient agricultural systems to support food security under the new realities of climate change.

Environmental governance: The processes that societies or governments use to organise the management of natural resources and environment through regulations, policies, or laws.

Legal recognition: Official acknowledgment by a governmental authority that an entity exists and is eligible to exercise certain rights under law, stakeholders, resources, and interactions.

Vulnerability: The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes.

Stakeholders: Individuals, groups, or organisations that have an interest or concern in a particular issue or project and can affect or be affected by the outcome.

Climate litigation: Legal action taken to address issues related to climate change, often aimed at enforcing or changing climate-related policies.

Capacity development: The process by which individuals and organisations obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment, and other resources needed to do their jobs competently.

Youth engagement: The involvement of young people in responsible, challenging actions to create positive social change.

Grants: Non-repayable funds disbursed by one party (grant makers), often a government department, corporation, foundation or trust, to a recipient, often (but not always) a nonprofit entity, educational institution, business, or an individual.

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, particularly in terms of environmental conservation.

Resilience: The capacity of a system, community, or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning.

Environmental advocacy: Activism aimed at creating, changing, or enforcing policies or practices that have an impact on the environment.

Climate finance: Financial resources needed by countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects and to transition towards climate-resilient and low-carbon developments.

Gender equality: The state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making. Digital technologies: Electronic tools, systems, devices, and resources that generate, store, or process data, including social media, online games, multimedia, and mobile and other applications.

Climate action: Actions taken by individuals, groups, or governments to reduce or prevent climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions or enhancing Empirical research: Research using empirical evidence, which is information acquired by observation or experimentation.

Greenhouse gases: Gases in Earth's atmosphere that trap heat, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases.

Tokenism: The practice of making only a perfunctory or symbolic effort to be inclusive to members of minority groups, especially by recruiting a small number of people from underrepresented groups in order to give the appearance of equality.

All photos are from the Green Africa Youth Organization's related work

Foreword

The climate crisis is the most profound, intersectional challenge of our time. It is a crisis that particularly impacts Africa, which is home to 17 of the 20 most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. And it is a crisis that particularly impacts young people, given that climate impacts have far-reaching consequences across health, education, and economic opportunity. Climate action is therefore critically urgent for Africa and its young people, in terms of delivering a liveable planet and unlocking the transformational economic possibilities of green industrialisation.

Of course, delivering climate action at the necessary speed and scale is not straightforward. The climate crisis is currently being exacerbated by a series of interrelated crises, including a systemic financing crisis in which soaring debt and a stubbornly high cost of capital are hindering progress in the countries where action is most needed.

But thanks in no small part to the leadership shown at last year's Africa Climate Summit, as well as through coalitions like the Bridgetown Initiative, we have a vision for a new multilateral and economic model, with climate action at its centre. That vision makes clear that we need to reform our global finance and trade systems, with an emphasis on policies that deliver climate investment, focusing on value addition and job creation in the Global South.

Within this work, we recognize that while young people are among the most vulnerable to this crisis, they are also among our most powerful agents of change. The scale of climate vulnerability in Africa, alongside the injustice that those least responsible now feel the worst impacts, has led to a powerful movement of youth campaigners. I've had the privilege of meeting many young climate leaders, and I have been inspired by their clarity, passion, and optimism that we can build a better future. Having been a climate champion since I was 11, I understand the dedication required to advocate for a better world at a young age. The youth of Africa are not waiting passively; they are actively seeking solutions, driving awareness, and pioneering projects that bridge the gap between global climate strategies and local realities.

If we want to support African youth to champion climate justice effectively, funders must understand the ecosystem of organisations working in this space. The "State of the Youth Climate Movement in Africa" is a vital piece of work, giving a comprehensive overview of how to enhance youth engagement in climate action. It examines the initiatives of 75 African youth climate organizations across 25 countries, providing an empirical assessment of youth-led climate efforts. The study highlights key actors, their activities, impacts, and the challenges they encounter.

This report does justice to the immense potential of Africa's youth to drive a resilient and prosperous continent. But it is also a call to action for governments, businesses, and civil society to support and elevate the voices of young Africans dedicated to fostering a greener and more equitable world.

The journey ahead will require courage, collaboration, and an unwavering belief in the power of collective action. Together, let us embrace this challenge with optimism and determination, knowing that the efforts of today will build the foundation for a brighter tomorrow.



Kate Hampton

Chief Executive Officer, The Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)

The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) is an independent philanthropic organisation, working with a wide range of partners, to create a healthy, fair and safe world for children. Catalysing climate action is one of its priority areas of work.

Foreword

African youth have been at the forefront of climate action. This seminal report on the state of the youth climate movement in Africa brings great joy, highlighting the dynamic and transformative efforts of young leaders across the continent.

Isabella Roberts reminds us in her 2023 article that Africa is the youngest continent, with 70% of its population under the age of 30. By 2050, this youth population is projected to increase by 73%, compared to just 6% in the rest of the world. Given this reality, youth engagement in climate change is not only expected but essential for driving bold, transformative change in Africa, now and in the future.

This report offers a glimpse into the state of youth climate movements and organizations, their vision, and aspirations. It highlights the innovative potential of the continent's youthful population. Organizations like the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), founded in 2006, have played a significant role in uniting young people across the continent in support of climate justice and sustainable development. Movement leaders such as Vanessa Nakate and Elizabeth Wathuti have laid the groundwork for the Fridays for Future movement to ignite a continent-wide wave of youth-led climate action across Africa. Young people are leading efforts to create solutions and encourage governments and industries to take fair and effective climate action.

These efforts have laid the groundwork for the visible and globalized youth climate movements we see today. Their key message consistently emphasizes the need for urgent climate action, equitable solutions, and the inclusion of youth voices in decision-making processes. The quality of participation matters, and lasting impact will depend on our collective effort to support youth in removing barriers they face. Solutions highlighted in this report encompass both simple interventions and more structural changes.

Philanthropy must meet the movement where it is and support its ambition to deepen and scale efforts. Understanding the operating environment and context in Africa is crucial for unlocking the continent's full potential. Different strategies and tools are required. Engaging youth in finding solutions is essential. Bridging the digital and technology divide is another area of focus, supporting climate work and access to information on climate science. Youth are leveraging technology and digital platforms to drive social change in ways unimaginable a decade ago. With that said, particular attention must be paid to youth in rural areas outside mobile broadband coverage and regional disparities, where West and Central Africa tend to be under-resourced.

One area that gives hope is the leadership role youth play in innovation and entrepreneurship. Developing climate-resilient technologies, launching green startups, implementing sustainable agriculture, and expanding access to renewable energy are just a few examples.

Philanthropy can encourage stakeholders, policymakers, funders, educators, and community leaders to support youth-led efforts. By investing in these initiatives, we can drive innovation, scale successful models, and ensure young voices are heard in decision-making processes. The future of African climate work is bright, and with continued support and collaboration, young people will drive significant progress in environmental sustainability. Together, we can build a resilient and sustainable future for the continent.

Congratulations to the authors and contributors of this report. Your dedication and hard work have illuminated the incredible potential of African youth in climate action. Together, we can turn this vision into reality.

Masego Madzwamuse

Environment Director at the Oak Foundation

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The solutions to the climate crisis already exist — embedded in the creativity, resilience, and intergenerational knowledge of communities across the majority world. Youth leaders and youth-led organisations are not only carrying these solutions forward, they are reimagining what is possible through innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and an unwavering drive for justice. This report is a testament to their power and persistence. It maps the vibrant, diverse ecosystem of youth climate leadership that too often goes unseen or underfunded. As we launch this report, we are reminded that investing in and partnering with youth leaders is not an act of charity — it is an essential and urgent step toward fast, just, and lasting climate transitions

”

Robin Oakley

Executive Director, Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI Fund)





1. Executive Summary

Climate change presents an existential threat with disproportionate impacts on Africa due to the continent's geography and underlying socio-economic conditions. Acknowledging the vulnerable yet dynamic role and initiatives—through climate movements—led by the continent's predominantly young population, the African Youth Climate Ecosystem Mapping Project was initiated to help understand, empirically, the efforts of the youth climate movement in climate action. This project employed a mixed methods research design approach, to provide a panoramic view of youth-led climate initiatives, including identifying key actors, their activities, impacts, and the challenges they face to inform strategies for bolstering youth engagement in climate action.

The project's methodology involved a systematic selection of 25 representative countries based on criteria such as population size, economic status, and climate vulnerability, ensuring a diverse and comprehensive sample for the region. Data was subsequently collected through interviews and surveys from 75 African youth climate organisations (three per defined criteria from each country) to provide insights into the variety and depth of youth climate activism across the continent.

The results of the undertaking reveal that youth climate movements have burgeoned over time, especially since 2010, and are being formalised legally since only 6% of those interviewed were yet to be registered formally. There is also a significant number of women in leadership positions across most youth climate movements. 40% of the organisations interviewed have 50% or more women in leadership positions. These movements are heavily engaged in policy advocacy, capacity building, and environmental conservation, among others, with significant efforts also directed towards education and grassroots mobilisation. Despite facing systemic challenges, such as inadequate funding, limited organisational capacity, and regulatory hurdles, these movements have made notable strides in the following;

- policy influence (e.g., curating educational curriculum for capacity building and promoting ocean conservation),
- community engagement (e.g., mobilising thousands of youth to participate and engage diverse stakeholders taking impactful climate action)
- sustainable project implementation (local solar systems installation, circular economy, waste reduction and re/afforestation projects).

A key strategy that is aiding the work of youth climate movements has been partnerships, with youth movements leveraging collaborations with local non-profits, government bodies, and international entities to amplify their impact. However, the effectiveness of these partnerships varies significantly across regions, reflecting the localised nature of institutional challenges and the resources available.

To support and empower these movements more effectively, several recommendations are made in this report. Critically enhancing and diversifying access to financial resources, including simplifying access to climate philanthropy and reporting requirements; building organisational capacities, particularly for volunteer management; fostering inclusive engagements, and promoting partnerships that facilitate knowledge exchange and resource sharing, especially internationally, are seen as the most essential levers for optimising the impact of youth climate movements. These identified strategic interventions are essential for sustaining the momentum of youth climate leaders and deepening their meaningful impact on Africa's climate resilience and sustainability with lessons for other regions.

In a nutshell, while African youth are actively contributing to climate action, their potential is not fully harnessed due to multiple factors that hinder their growth. These include finance, human resource and volunteer management, capacity, institutional and legal issues, and technology and communication gaps. Addressing these challenges through targeted support can empower youth climate movements to lead the charge in crafting innovative, sustainable solutions that are crucial for the continent's future, especially as their population size and demonstrated potential make them key stakeholders in climate action. This report provides the evidence base to catalyse such progress, highlighting the vital role of youth in shaping Africa's and the global climate agenda.



2. Introduction

Climate change is arguably the greatest existential threat to populations and the entire world. Africa is particularly vulnerable due to physical factors, such as its geographic location that receives high insolation and a large coastal expanse that influences the climate¹, as well as underlying socio-environmental realities, like rapid and uncontrolled urbanisation and high dependence on primary production (e.g., rain-fed agriculture)^{2 3}. Already, the region has been impacted by unprecedented challenges, including a surge in natural hazards like floods, droughts, and storms; climate-related health ailments and reduced agricultural yields that pose food insecurity^{4 5}. The IPCC projects that temperature could increase by 1.5 to 3 °C, extreme weather events will increase in incidence and severity, and sea level rise and water scarcity will also continue, among other consequences⁶.

With 70% of Africa's population under the age of 30, Africa stands as the youngest continent globally⁷. Despite this, young people are often excluded from the forums and processes that are organised to help address the climate crisis⁸. However, as widely observed, it is expedient that any group affected by a problem or policy be involved in the processes for addressing or shaping the same to achieve acceptability, sustainability, and cooperation from all parties^{9 10}. Youth engagement, then, is paramount in addressing the complex and interconnected challenges posed by climate change. Particularly, youth engagement in climate action helps to consider youth's felt experiences and properly understand the impacts of climate change on young people to tailor policies and develop effective solutions. Additionally, it helps in harnessing youth's ideas and energies for climate action. Moreover, including youth allows them to improve their capacities for climate action¹¹. Thus, beyond youth in Africa disproportionately facing the greater brunt of the impacts of climate change, they also have limited opportunities to participate in mainstream activities that aim to address the harsh impacts of the crisis.

However, many young Africans, by their initiative, are acting to minimise the impacts of climate change on their cohorts and local communities and additionally helping to drive the action needed to curtail global emissions. These youth-led initiatives encompass a wide range of activities, including awareness campaigns¹², advocacy efforts¹³, infrastructure projects, innovation¹⁴, capacity building¹⁵, grassroots mobilisation¹⁵, and others¹⁶. Such contributions demonstrate the potential, creativity, and determination of youth to drive meaningful change. Due to the weak frameworks for youth engagement and inclusion, especially at the sub-national levels in climate action, African youth often encounter countless barriers that hinder their meaningful participation and impact in undertaking climate action^{17 18}. But some very remarkable achievements have been chalked up regardless. These activities are what are conceptualised as the youth climate movement.

The youth climate movement encompass a diverse array of youth-led organisations and initiatives dedicated to advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. These

movements, whether formally registered or not, play a crucial role in amplifying youth voices, driving policy change, and fostering innovative solutions to climate-related challenges. However, to effectively support and empower the youth climate movement, it is essential to properly, through empirical work, understand who they are, what they are doing, what impacts they have made, and what challenges hinder their work.

Existing literature has begun to explore the role and impact of the youth climate movement globally, but there remain significant gaps, particularly for the African context. Much of the current research focuses on high-profile youth activists in Europe and North America, such as Greta Thunberg, leaving African youth climate activism underrepresented in global discourse¹⁹. There is a need for more detailed studies that capture the diverse experiences, strategies, successes and impacts of the African youth climate movement. Additionally, while some research has looked into the challenges faced by youth activists, there is a lack of comprehensive data on the specific barriers in different African regions and how these challenges vary based on local contexts²⁰.

Further research is needed to understand the effectiveness of different youth-led initiatives and to identify best practices that can be scaled or adapted to other regions. Moreover, there is a limited exploration of the role of digital technologies and social media in amplifying the voices of African youth climate activists. Understanding these dynamics could provide valuable insights into how to enhance the reach and impact of youth-led climate action²¹.

Therefore, the rationale for the African Youth Climate Ecosystem Mapping Project was to address these objectives by spotlighting emerging voices, challenges, and opportunities within the youth climate movement in Africa. By providing a comprehensive overview of youth-led initiatives, this project aimed to establish the evidence base for catalysing meaningful progress towards a more sustainable and resilient future for Africa and its youth and with lessons for other regions leveraging the work of the youth climate movement.



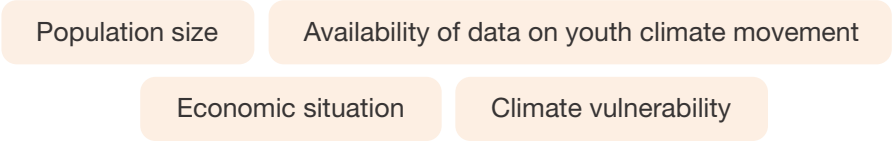
3. Methodology

3.1 Approach

To obtain a representative sample of African youth climate organisations' input, we implemented the following steps: In the first phase, we developed a criteria and selection framework to select 25 countries from which the youth climate organisations were sampled (table 1). In the second phase, we selected three youth organisations from each of the 25 countries with which we conducted online interviews. Specific criteria were developed and used in both country and youth organisation selection to ensure a representative sample and avoid bias (Appendix 1). We also developed a survey which we shared with over 100 youth climate organisations in 25 countries. On these accounts, a mixed methods approach with a concurrent divergent design was employed, as both qualitative and quantitative data were collected and analysed simultaneously.

3.2 Criteria for Country Selection

Developing the criterion for prioritising and selecting 25 countries for the data collection was necessary to help select countries that collectively provide a holistic understanding of the youth climate movement in Africa. The criteria included:



Each criterion was weighted and assigned a score which then informed the final selection and prioritisation ([Appendix 1](#)). Beyond the criteria and scores, we ensured that the countries were representative of the majority of the youth population in Africa, including in age, gender, culture, geography and language. Countries that are more severely affected by climate change were also given higher priority:

- Each region had a minimum number of countries selected proportional to its number of countries
- A minimum number of 8 francophone, 3 Arab-speaking, and 1 Portuguese-speaking countries was considered.
- Ensured the presence of at least 2 island states.
- Inclusion of at least 15 major ethnicities

Table 1. List of the 25 selected countries across the sub-regions.

North	West	Central	East	South
Sudan	Burkina Faso	Congo DRC	Madagascar	South Africa
Egypt	Guinea-Bissau	Angola	Mozambique	Eswatini
Algeria	Niger	Cameroon	Somalia	
	Sierra Leone	Central African Republic	Tanzania	
	Nigeria	Congo-Brazzaville	Eritrea	
	Gambia		Ethiopia	
	Liberia		Malawi	
			Comoros	

3.3 Selection of Youth Organisations Within The Countries

The project leveraged the youth networks and databases of the National Youth Networks and coalitions belonging to African youth networks such as the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) national networks, to identify youth-led organisations and movements across Africa. Following the countries' selection, a purposive sampling approach was used to select specific organisations for the data collection. To ensure inclusivity, however, the selection was guided by selection criteria. For each country, there had to be:

- One urban-based youth organisation
- One rural-based youth organisation
- One youth network representing multiple youth organisations

In the case of the non-availability of organisations that met the conditions, other available organisations were selected. When multiple

organisations fit into the three conditions also, a non-probability sampling was used for the selection, as happened 32 times.

3.4 Data Collection

The data collection instruments were designed to capture data on the work of youth climate organisations. Specifically, the questions touched on:

- **Demographic information:** This section gathered basic information about the organisation respondents worked with and its main characteristics such as number of staff, year of establishment, and country of work.
- **Initiatives and projects:** This part explored organisations' work and priorities, as well as the representatives' opinions about youth's role in climate action and policy.
- **Challenges and opportunities:** This section identified the challenges faced by youth-led climate organisations, the opportunities available to them, and internal and external factors affecting them, such as available partnerships and existing strategies.

The data collection was conducted from March 6th to April 6th, 2024, including outreach to organisations, obtaining consent, scheduling and conducting the interviews. The data was also collected in English, French and Portuguese depending on what was suitable for the respective respondents. Consent was sought before any data was recorded from respondents. The average time taken to interview each respondent was about 40 minutes over video conferencing (i.e., Zoom) or phone calls.

3.5 Data Analysis and Presentation

Some preprocessing work was done, such as translating responses collected in other languages to English and cleaning the data (e.g., addressing typographical errors). The data was analysed using content thematic analysis and frequency analyses. The desktop literature review had already provided insights on various themes, such as the scope of work of the youth climate movement (e.g. education and awareness raising), their impact (e.g., improving waste management) and the challenges they face (e.g., finance and bureaucracies). The frequency analyses were conducted to determine the prevalence of specific themes and responses, data was categorised based on predefined criteria ensuring consistency in the analysis. After the analyses, the results were presented with the help of bar and pie graphs, tables, heat maps and word clouds of dominant themes. Insights from the

desktop literature review were integrated with the data analysis from the interviews and surveys to provide a comprehensive view. Any gaps and discrepancies between the desk literature review and the data findings were noted and discussed.

3.6 Quality Appraisal

Measures were put in place to safeguard the quality and integrity of the data, from the collection stage to the analysis. To ensure their efficacy and validity, the data collection instruments were rigorously tested in a pilot phase involving a subset of data representative of the larger population to ensure that the findings from the pilot would be applicable to the full study. Five trial interviews were conducted using the interview questionnaire to determine the average duration and identify any potential issues. The criteria used to evaluate the instruments included the clarity, relevance, and comprehensiveness of the questions and the time required to complete each interview and survey. It was discovered that each interview took approximately 40 minutes while completing the survey questions took about 15 minutes. This testing phase allowed us to fine-tune the instruments by identifying any ambiguities or issues in the questions. For the data analysis, we organised the data systematically to ensure clear disaggregation and to clearly define codes. The analysis was also done iteratively to ensure oversights were minimised.

3.7 Challenges and Limitations

We faced some challenges in our methodology which included:

- **Language Barrier:** There was a language barrier particularly when analysing data from Portuguese-speaking countries. To address this, we relied on a translation software to harmonise the data for analysis in English.
- **Internet Connectivity Issues:** In some regions, we faced intermittent or unreliable internet connectivity, which hampered our ability to access online resources and communicate with participants. To mitigate this issue, we adapted by resorting to direct phone calls in certain cases.
- **Difficulty in Identifying Youth Climate Movements:** Despite concerted efforts, we encountered difficulties in identifying and recruiting youth climate movements, particularly in countries with limited organisational visibility or political restrictions. For instance, in Eritrea, only one national organisation could be identified, limiting the diversity of perspectives represented in our study.

All conclusions shared in this report must take into account potential impacts of the limitations outlined.



4. The Trend and Impact of Youth Climate Movements In Africa

Summary of findings

- Awareness and increased mobilisation around climate issues among Africa's young people are increasing in recent times and are being institutionalised into youth registered groups.
- There is a significant involvement of women in the youth climate movement, with 40% of movements having 50% or more women in leadership positions.
- The youth climate movement in Africa focus strongly on policy advocacy (26%) and capacity building and training (25%).
- The youth climate movement in Africa are making a substantial impact by actively participating in advocacy, policy influence, and direct community engagement.
- Most collaborations are forged with local NGOs and community groups (21 %) as well as local and national government agencies (19%).
- There is a strong dependence on the financial backing of international donors and organisations.

This section delves into the nuanced landscape of youth-led climate organisations in Africa, examining their scope of work, their profound impact, the challenges they encounter and strategic recommendations to bolster their effectiveness. Through a comprehensive analysis of data collected from **75 youth climate organisations**, this section sheds light on the dynamic role African youth play in confronting the pressing challenges of climate change.

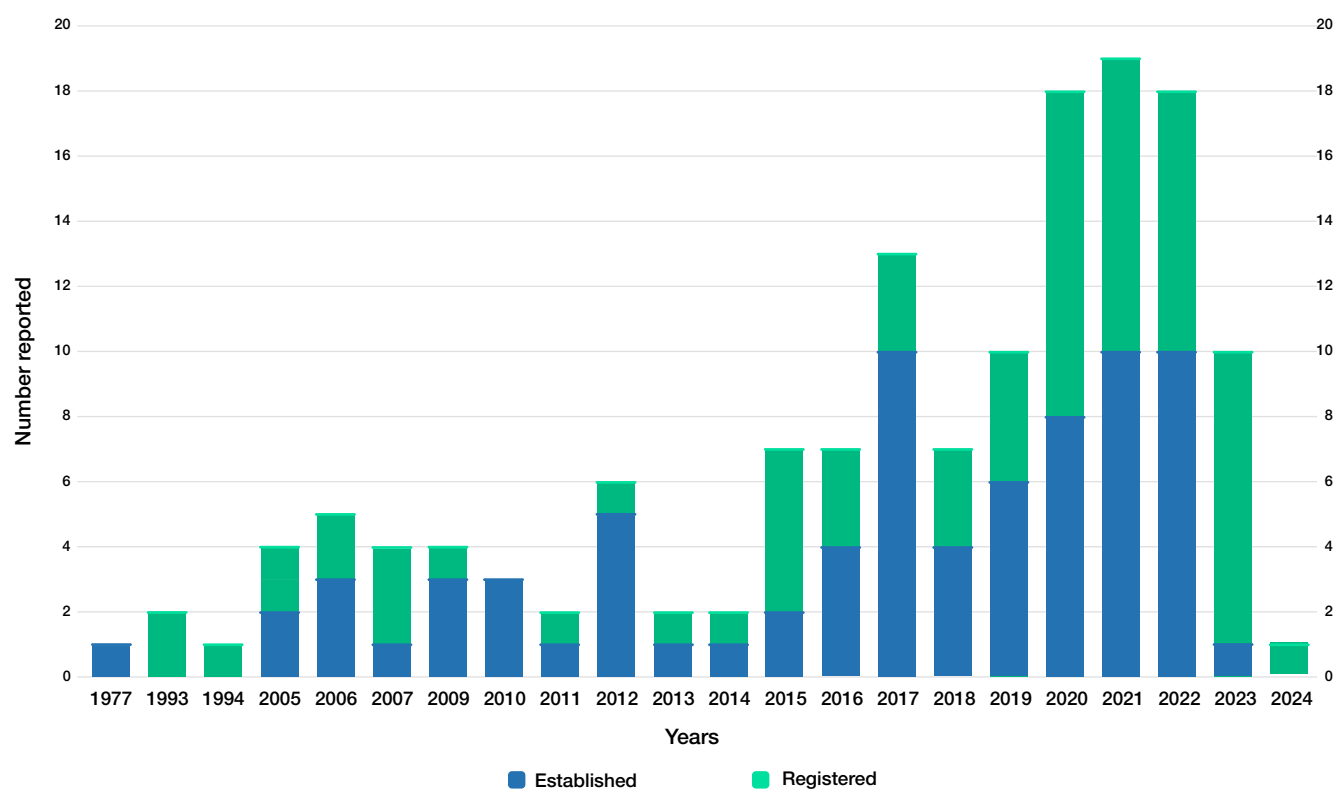
4.1 Trends In Emergence Of Youth Climate Movements In Africa

The emergence of youth climate movement in Africa has seen steady growth, especially in the last decade, with notable spikes in 2017, 2021, and 2022. These pivotal years coincided with key global climate events, such as the UN Climate Change Conference (COP) 24, which was the second COP after the monumental Paris Agreement was introduced in 2015 and COP26 in 2021 post-COVID-19. Furthermore, there were various climate summits and initiatives in 2022, including a rise in youth-led climate litigation where lawsuits were filed against governments and corporations for failing to take adequate action on climate change and in the same year, youth climate activism reached a new crescendo, evidenced even in youth making a significant

percentage of the record 49,704 people that attended in COP27 ²².

The global milestones that have been achieved lately have highlighted the importance of addressing climate change and have motivated young Africans to take action and hold world leaders accountable. This demonstrates that there is an increased awareness and mobilisation among African youth regarding climate issues. As these youth-led movements gain more support, they are influencing the conversation and bringing about real change locally, regionally, and internationally.

Figure 1. Trend in Emergence of Youth Climate Movements



From 2020 to 2023, there has been a surge in legal registrations, with only 9% of the organisations interviewed still in the registration process or lacking legal recognition (see Fig. 1). This surge can be greatly attributed to collaborations with established civil society organisations, academic institutions, and international partners that enhance their credibility and help facilitate their registration. For instance, EcoAct Tanzania, which uses plastic waste to produce eco-friendly plastic lumber, has had collaborations with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) that provided funding, technology transfer and support for their formal registration.

official registration.

Also, the increased awareness of the role youth can play in climate action through activism and the urgency thereof, such as through high-profile global campaigns like [Fridays for Future](#) (or School Strike for Climate), have motivated more young people to deepen their activism by formalising their organisations. These efforts affirm the burgeoning momentum around youth climate activism in Africa and the fact that these efforts are being institutionalised and hence here to stay. It is important to note that we only considered legal recognition in the home countries, as this provides the basis for an organisation to be seen as a legally registered entity.

4.2 Gender Dynamics In African Youth Climate Movements

There is a significant number of women in leadership positions in the youth climate movement in Africa. As shown in Table 2, 40% of these movements have 50% or more women in leadership positions. Although this is not perfect parity, it is commendable, especially given that the population of women in Africa exceeds that of men.²³

The rise of women in leadership roles within youth climate movement is consistent with broader global and regional trends towards gender equality and empowerment. According to the World Bank, women's labour force participation has been steadily increasing. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, the female labour force participation rate rose from 52.2% in 1990 to 58.3% in 2020²⁴. The African Union Gender Prevalence in Leadership Survey (2018) also found that 24% of African parliamentarians are women, a significant increase from 10% in 1997²⁵. This demonstrates a growing presence of women in socio-political leadership across the continent. A study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) further affirmed the increasing role of women in environmental governance and community mobilisation across Africa²⁶. This underscores the trend of women taking on traditionally male-held roles, including leadership in environmental advocacy, policy-making, and community mobilisation.

Table 2. Women in leadership positions in youth-led climate organisations.

Percentage of women in leadership positions	Number of interviewed organisations
1 - 10	2
11 - 20	5
21 - 30	5
31 - 40	12
41 - 50	21
51 - 60	9
61 - 70	12
71 - 80	6
91 - 100	3
NA	1

This significant presence of women in these leadership roles identified can also be credited to some initiatives specifically designed to support and enhance the role of women in climate

leadership. For example, the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) supports women's organisations across Africa, including those focused on climate change and environmental justice. The progress seen in the leadership composition of youth climate movement is consistent with the effectiveness of some of these initiatives and the dedication of women across the continent. Research and reports such as Smith and Johnson (2019)²⁷ and Garcia and Patel (2020)²⁸ have demonstrated the impact of initiatives like the AWDF in enhancing women's roles in leadership positions within environmental and climate sectors. The [AWDF's](#) support has contributed to increasing the representation of women in leadership roles, thus promoting gender equality in these movements. Additionally, about 35% of the 75 African youth organisations interviewed confirmed the impact of these initiatives on gender-inclusive leadership within their movements. As these movements continue to grow, the involvement of women will remain crucial to achieving sustainable and equitable climate solutions.

It is also worth noting that the progress seen within African youth climate movement is a positive step towards greater gender equality. It highlights the potential for achieving sustainable and inclusive climate solutions through the empowerment of women. While the representation of women in leadership positions within the youth climate movement is commendable, achieving gender parity remains an ongoing challenge. Despite the significant presence of women in leadership roles, there may still exist barriers or structural inequalities that hinder their full participation and influence within these movements. Future research and projects could delve deeper into the experiences and perspectives of women leaders in youth climate space to better understand the dynamics of gender inclusivity and empowerment within these contexts. Such endeavours will be crucial for advancing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the youth climate movement in Africa and beyond.

Moving forward, it is essential to continue supporting and amplifying the voices of women leaders to ensure that their contributions are recognized and that gender parity is ultimately achieved.

4.3 Scope of Activities of Youth Climate Movements

An assessment of the most successful and promising activities undertaken by African youth in climate action is covered in this section. In this context 'activities' refer to organised efforts and initiatives aimed at addressing climate change. This includes a variety of endeavours such as events, workshops, trainings, and other initiatives undertaken by African youth in climate action.

The key focus on policy advocacy and capacity building and training may reflect the eagerness of youth to participate in climate action, even if they are not properly engaged, and

appreciate the need to improve their competencies to optimise their impact. Despite these efforts, there is limited participation in activities, such as research, and an even wider gap in gender issues. Several factors contribute to this gap. Based on the interviews with the 75 African youth climate organisations, it was found that 60% of these organisations lack access to adequate funding and resources necessary to conduct comprehensive research projects. The limited financial support and institutional backing through, for instance lack of data availability, access and transparency, often limits their ability to engage in in-depth research and data collection. With gender issues, the youth climate organisations indicated that inclusion remains a challenge due to persistent societal and cultural norms that restrict the full participation of women and marginalised groups in leadership and decision-making processes. Although progress has been made (see 4.2), there is still a need for targeted efforts to promote gender equity within youth climate movements.

Table 3. Range of activities undertaken by youth climate movements in Africa.

Activity	East	Central	North	West	South	Total
Policy advocacy	7	6	4	5	4	26
Capacity building and training	6	7	4	4	4	25
Youth engagement	3	2	2	2	3	12
Environmental protection	3	4	1	2	2	12
Raising Awareness	2	3	3	1	2	11
Green business and climate-smart agriculture	1	3	2	2	2	10
Project implementation	2	3	1	2	2	10
Recycling and waste management	1	3	1	2	1	8
Partnerships and collaborations	1	2	1	2	1	7
Conservation efforts	1	2	1	2	1	7
Research	1	2	2	1	1	7
Gender inclusion and equality	0	1	1	1	1	4

The sections below outline the different ways in which African youth are engaged in their communities and regionally on climate action.

4.3.1 Advocacy

Youth climate movement in Africa focuses strongly on policy advocacy (26%), such as proposing policy changes to protect coastal areas from pollution by Guardiões da Costa Mwangolé in Angola, influencing global discussions on Plastics and Nature-based Solutions by the African environmental network, and advocating for changes in governmental policies affecting the environment and natural resources exploitation by Observatoire de gestion de ressources naturelles et de l'environnement in Central African Republic (table 3). At the national level, multiple youth groups have managed to organise themselves and get involved in structured advocacy campaigns and efforts towards policy change. Youth groups in countries such as [Ghana](#), Uganda, Tanzania and Nigeria are involved in national climate policy implementation and follow-up ²⁹. Others such as Associação Nação Verde and Cambeu from Angola are proposing policy changes to protect coastal areas from pollution. .

Globally, African youth's participation in climate policy and diplomacy discussions is evident, with young negotiators from various countries, such as Zimbabwe, Liberia, Rwanda, and Egypt actively participating in global climate negotiations. An example of good practice is Tunisia, which created the National Youth Negotiators Group, a structure empowering and engaging youth leaders to be official negotiators on behalf of the country. Today, Tunisia's lead negotiators on critical topics such as adaptation and finance are youth. Moreover, youth are also participating in climate negotiations by being involved in regional and global youth constituencies such as the Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (YOUNGO) and lobbying together for outcomes aligned with their interests.

Youth engagement in climate policy advocacy and diplomacy discussions is evident , with young negotiators from various countries, such as Liberia and Nigeria actively participating in global climate negotiations ³⁰. A notable example is the training programme that the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) implemented in 2023, which is the African Youth Negotiators Programme. The programme trained 30 African youth on global climate negotiations and supported half of them to take part in the African Climate Summit.

Many of these trained youth were able to take part in COP and engage in climate negotiations.

Africa also boasts of young advocates who are standing up and voicing their concerns about climate issues. Figures such as Vanessa Nakate from Uganda, Elizabeth Wathuti from Kenya, and Ayakha Melithafa from South Africa, among others, are leading efforts to mobilise their peers and hold stakeholders accountable for prioritising environmental considerations.

4.3.2 Capacity Development

Youth organisations are leading different training and empowerment programmes in their communities (25%). Many organisations are designing and delivering capacity-building programmes to support different actors and equip them with the necessary tools and skills to engage in the climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience dynamic. For instance, multiple initiatives highlight good practices around training local government representatives on sustainability and climate change and how they can adapt local policies to become more climate-friendly. Youth are working with local farmers to equip them with climate-smart and climate-resilient agricultural skills and help them adapt to climate change in their daily practices. Other youth groups are training journalists on climate change and sustainability and supporting them to work on building communication plans and adequate messaging on climate to reach the population. In Togo, the NGO [Jeunes Volontaires Pour l'environnement](#) is empowering farmers through agroecology training, enabling them to adapt to climate change and improve their agricultural practices.

4.3.3 Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Youth entrepreneurship has the potential to address poverty and unemployment and, at the same time, solve the negative consequences of climate change. On the continent, agriculture innovation has even more potential outcomes. According to the African Development Bank, investment in agriculture is five times more effective in reducing poverty and improving food security than investments in other sectors. Youth innovation is transforming African agriculture, as Rogito (2024)³¹ indicates. Youth are using artificial intelligence for predictive analytics in crop yield, which helps increase yield and reduce waste. Youth are applying blockchain in agriculture, which enhances supply chain transparency and traceability. They are also using drones for precision farming, using apps to offer real-time market data and advice for farmers and connecting them with buyers. Youth are exploring sustainable agriculture practices such as vertical farming and hydroponics, which require less land and water and are relevant in urban areas.³¹

African youth are demonstrating remarkable creativity by creating innovative solutions to address the impacts of climate change in other areas. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), ChemchemAgro has developed a machine-learning app for strategic beehive placement. In Mali, Jeunes Agriinnovateurs have created an E-Compost software that transforms invasive water hyacinth into premium compost. Youth in Zambia created an app benefiting over 5,000 women farmers, facilitating clean energy adoption and enhancing agricultural output.³² In Nigeria, the youth are gathering plastic from the beach and creating sustainable sneakers out of it.³³ Additionally, in Morocco, youth have created devices that provide sustainable energy from waves.³⁴

Beyond addressing environmental challenges, these youth-led innovations often evolve into enterprises that generate job opportunities for young people, create impact in the community and generate revenue. Today, different stakeholders nationally, regionally and globally are supporting this youth innovation dynamic and offering incubation and acceleration programmes to support youth engaging in such practices and helping scale their solutions. An example is the African Development Bank's (AfDB) and Global Centre on Adaptation's (GCA) YouthAdapt prize, which has been recognised and awarded to over 45 youths over the past three years. An example of a success story around engaging and supporting African youth in climate entrepreneurship is the African Youth Climate Hub by the Mohamed 6 Foundation. The hub offers an online platform for youth interested in climate action. It equips them with capacity-building resources and a climate academy with online courses. It also hosts a continental programme for the support, incubation, and acceleration of green youth solutions. Their website offers a database of green youth innovations and projects, which allows exchange and inspiration between youth

4.3.4 Project Implementation

The dynamism and mobilisation capacity of youth are driving local action across different ways. This is evident in activities such as beach cleaning and waste management initiatives. They actively participate in environmental cleanliness in forested areas, they engage in reforestation action and projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and natural species. While in rural areas, youth are helping populations affected by natural disasters by participating in infrastructure development projects. Youth organisations have the power to mobilise membership and youth to take concrete actions in the field that can help enact change at multiple levels. For instance, in Kenya, the African Climate and Environment Foundation is actively involved in the restoration of the Congo River estuarine mangrove ecosystem contributing to the conservation of vital coastal habitats. In West Africa, the Climate Innovation Hub is making strides on university

campuses in Togo, Niger, Senegal, and Ivory Coast by raising awareness and implementing waste management systems to make the campuses more sustainable.

4.3.5 Research and Data Collection

Whether in the field or academic settings, African youth are leading data collection and research work within their communities. Local youth organisations can be considered experts when it comes to understanding their communities, not only regarding major concerns and challenges but also the cultural and social practices, community-approved and disapproved behaviours, as well as the nuances of what is considered acceptable and unacceptable. Additionally, they are well-versed in identifying good practices and local solutions tailored to the unique needs and dynamics of their communities.

Many challenges persist regarding research on the continent, including inadequate facilities and a lack of funds. Openness to collaboration and exchange is one way that young scientists are using to access global resources.³⁵ An example is the [Young Earth System Scientists Community](#) which offers a space for young researchers and scientists to exchange and interact with each other and work on collaborative research and discussions. It is led by young researchers themselves who work together to learn and collaborate and collectively address earth and nature-related issues in their communities .

4.3.6 Raising Awareness

Research by Oyelaran-Oyeyinka et al. (2020)³⁶ conducted across multiple African countries reveals that a substantial proportion of youth possess a basic understanding of climate change and its causes. While this foundational awareness is noteworthy, it is not enough. A study by Umeh (2019)³⁷ showed that African youth often possess knowledge of generic climate change but often lack specialisation in mitigation or adaptation strategies³⁸. Thus, it is essential to raise awareness to address different elements related to climate change.

Youth play a crucial role in raising awareness about different environmental issues. Multiple youth organisations are actively engaging locally and interacting with different groups to raise their awareness and educate them. These audiences include youth themselves, local farmers, the general population, the private sector, as well as public stakeholders and policymakers. Today, with the emergence of social media and technologies, youth are using them as a tool to spread climate awareness in their communities. Some organisations are adapting these technologies to local contexts, delivering climate messaging in regional languages and culturally acceptable ways. Youth are also adopting innovative solutions to raise climate awareness, such as art, sports, engaging media celebrities, collaborating with religious and cultural leaders, and working with communities. Action for Climate Education (ACE) emerges as a significant focal point where youth on the continent are taking the lead. Youth such as Temilade from Nigeria is ensuring that climate education and awareness are communicated to local communities in their language, utilising relatable examples. Notably, Temilade has taken concrete steps by creating books and resources that simplify the intricacies of climate change for Nigerian children and the general public³⁹.

4.3.7 Continental Engagement and Youth Collaboration

Youth are not only leading local and national action, but they are also uniting regionally and globally through various networks and groups. This allows them to exchange ideas, learn from each other's experiences, discuss common challenges, and collaborate on projects with a broader impact. Some notable groups and networks include the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), the Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO), YOUNGO and its African Youth Movement (AYM4COP), youth4nature, the African Youth Climate Hub (AYCH), the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC), and Plant for Planet, among others. These platforms provide opportunities for African youth to organise regional projects and events. For instance, YOUNGO supports youth groups to organise the Regional Conference of African Youth (RCOY Africa) every year to unite, empower, and engage youth in policy discussions and recommendations. These networks also facilitate the sharing of best practices. For example, AYICC created the [Green Book](#), which has a list of youth-led climate projects , while AYCH maintains a database of youth projects and innovations on their [website](#).

Thematic Areas of Focus of Youth Climate Movements

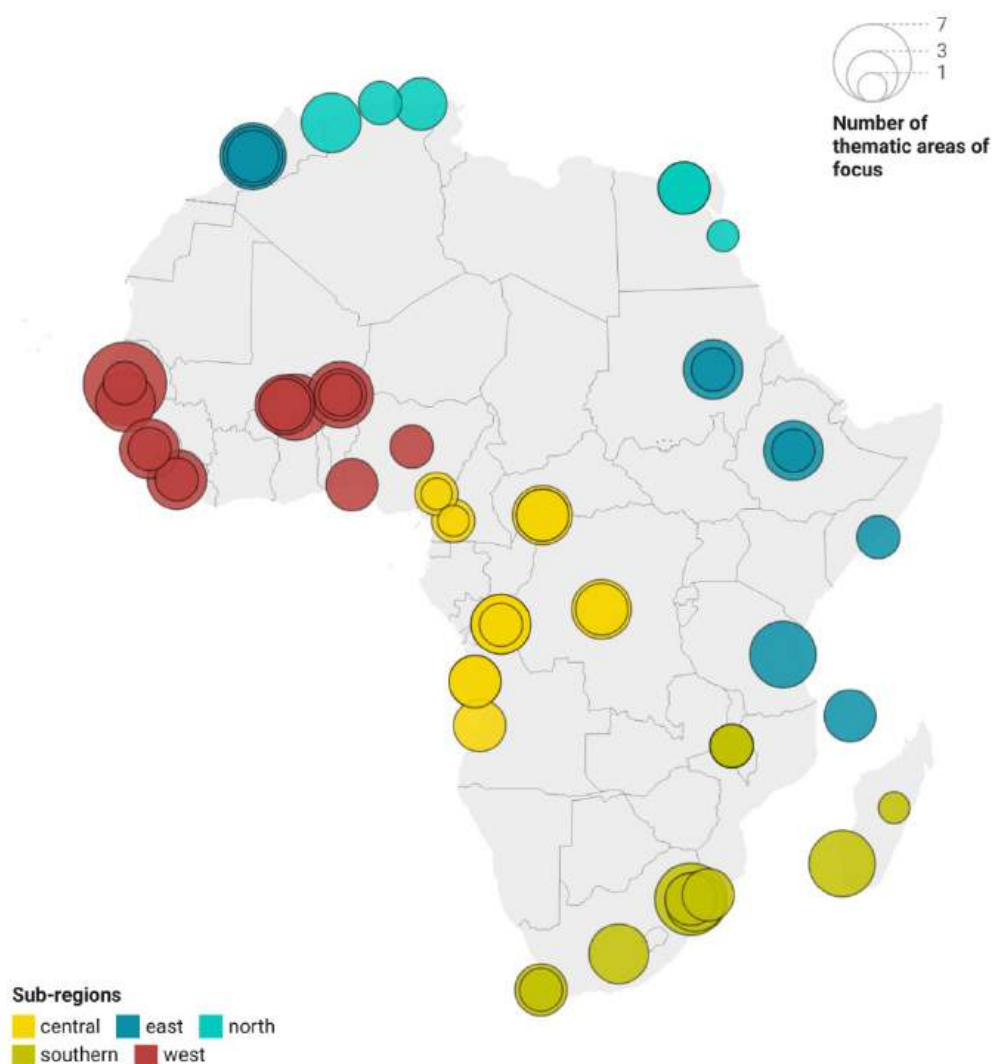


Figure 2: Overview of the activities of youth climate movements in Africa based on the number of thematic areas of focus.

However, the sub-regions show distinct priorities, which likely reflect the unique pressing issues in the respective sub-regions (fig. 2). In East Africa, the emphasis is on project implementation (e.g., in promoting circular economy practices, reducing plastic pollution and sustainable energy systems) alongside advocacy. For organisations in Central Africa, efforts are centred more on environmental protection, and activities range from promoting forest and ocean conservation, organising campaigns for species (e.g., turtles) protection, to establishing “blue rooms” and small museums for children to promote ocean education. The highlight in North Africa is climate education. West Africa also integrates youth engagement, such as rallying young people to participate in climate governance and engaging indigenous populations, with environmental protection. Southern Africa champions green businesses like training youth in the installation and maintenance of solar panels and climate-smart agriculture practices. With each sub-region having its unique focus, partners would be more aware of what support the youth climate movement would benefit the most from.

Youth engagement in climate policy advocacy and diplomacy discussions is evident, with young negotiators from various countries, such as Liberia and Nigeria actively participating in global climate negotiations. A notable example is the training programme that the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) implemented in 2023, which is the African Youth Negotiators Programme. The programme trained 30 African youth on global climate negotiations and supported half of them to take part in the African Climate Summit. Many of these trained youth were able to take part in COP and engage in climate negotiations.

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4.4 Partnerships and Collaborations

Youth climate activists in Africa are leveraging strategic partnerships and collaborations to enhance their impact and sustainability across various environmental initiatives, including capacity-building efforts, enhancing organisational capabilities and securing long-term support. These alliances span local and international NGOs, government bodies, educational institutions, the private sector, and other youth organisations, as shown in Fig. 3. Generally, most of these collaborations are forged with local NGOs and community groups (21%) as well as local and national government agencies (19%). Collaborations with financial institutions and philanthropies are however the lowest (5%).

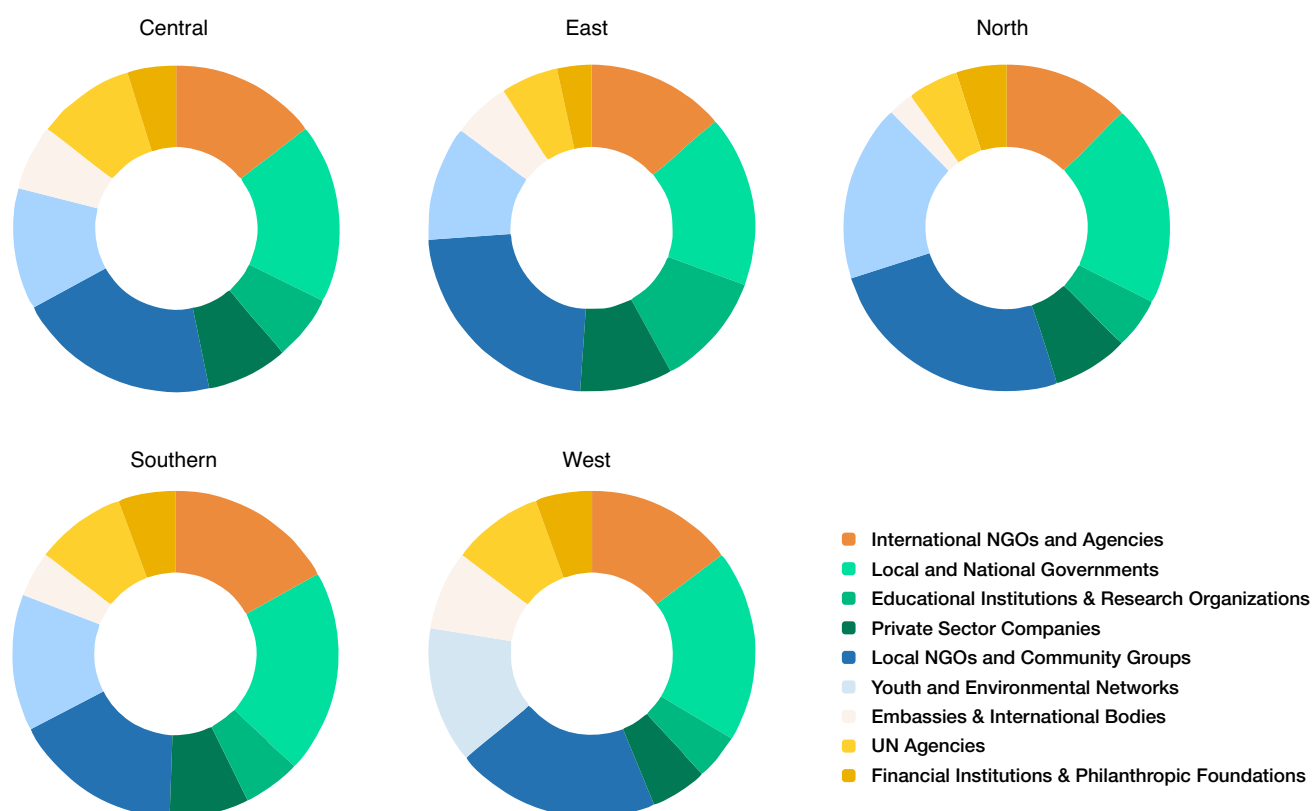
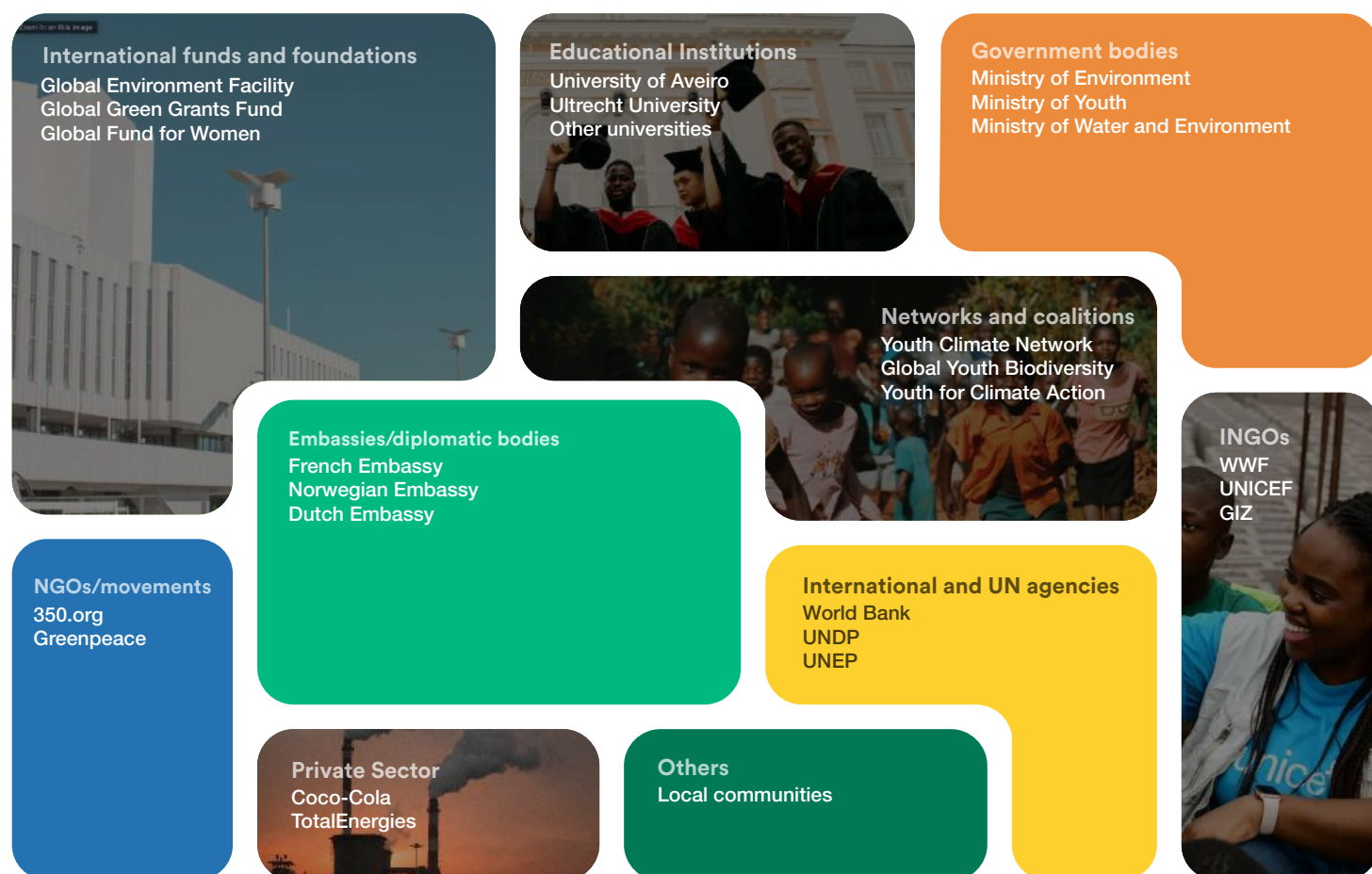


Figure 3. Frequency analysis of types of partnerships and collaborations formed.

In Central Africa, there is a notable frequency of partnerships with international NGOs and agencies like UNICEF and UNESCO. This frequency is measured by the number of active collaborations reported by youth climate organisations in the region during our interviews and surveys. Specifically, 35% of the 75 African youth climate organisations interviewed indicated they had ongoing partnerships with these international entities. In Southern Africa, there is significant reliance on international organisations and foreign embassies like those of France and Norway. Western African youth climate movement balances collaborations across local NGOs, international organisations, and government agencies, among others.

In terms of the key objectives of these collaborations, the emphasis is on resource and knowledge sharing for implementing various projects. For example, movements in Central Africa actively collaborate with the private sector (e.g., Coca-Cola) in waste management and fisheries through corporate social responsibility initiatives, while Southern Africa shows strong local government involvement in strategic environmental planning and policy input. Collaborations with universities and research institutions that provide access to scientific research and technological tools (e.g., the University of Aveiro and Utrecht University) also help activists in Angola and Nigeria to integrate climate education into curricula and enhance their technological capabilities for environmental projects (fig. 4).

Figure 4. Most reported partnerships and collaborations.



Note: The data for this map was derived from interview responses collected from 75 African youth climate organisations. The types of partnerships and collaborations formed were categorised based on their responses, and the frequency of each type was mapped accordingly.

Table 4. Examples of partners and collaborators youth climate movements in Africa are working with.

Type of partner/collaborator	Examples
Local NGOs	Belle avenir NGO, Clean Earth Gambia, EcoAngola
International NGOs	Oxfam, ActionAid Liberia, Conservation International
State agencies	Ministries of Environment, Environmental Protection Agencies, Ministry of Youth
Educational institutions	University of Aveiro, local universities providing research support
Private sector	Coca-Cola, Total Energies, businesses supporting through CSR initiatives
Other youth organisations	Youth Alliance for Sustainable Development, Green Clubs, national youth climate networks
International bodies	UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNDP), EU Delegation, various embassy programmes
Others	Local community groups, media partnerships, informal networks

Most climate movements are also influencing environmental policy, as this was a common thread across all sub-regions. In Eastern Africa, there is a strong focus on engaging local governments to influence policy directly. This is mirrored in Northern Africa, where there is concentrated partnership with local government and regional environmental agencies for enhancing local environmental governance. Moreover, engagements with international NGOs such as Oxfam and ActionAid Liberia, alongside local entities like Ministries of Environment, bolster efforts in policy advocacy and community outreach (Table 4).

There is also a strong dependence on the financial backing of international donors and organisations. These organisations provide the necessary funding for sustaining long-term environmental initiatives. This is particularly most vivid in Southern and Central Africa (e.g., Greenpeace Africa in DR Congo), where international funding supports a wide range of projects from educational programmes to direct environmental conservation efforts.

In a nutshell, the youth climate movement in Africa is maximising the proximity of stakeholders in their locales to advance their activities, as expected. But there is also a visible presence of international organisations, including NGOs and foreign missions, in local communities, even more than national and local government agencies, in terms of supporting the youth climate movement to drive

4.5 Youth Climate Movements in Africa: Transforming Environmental Advocacy and Action

The youth climate movement in Africa are dynamically shaping the climate and environment landscape through various impactful activities, despite facing numerous challenges, limited resources and restricted access to decision-making, that impede the full realisation of their potential. These impacts are captured below.

4.5.1 Raising Awareness

Youth activists are notably proactive in raising awareness about climate change issues in the region. They engage with young people and local communities through educational programmes, workshops, and social media campaigns, effectively increasing environmental consciousness among their cohorts and students. For instance, as representatives of RCOI Comoros said,

“We do open days. We raise awareness of youth and students... We get other youth to become active and work on climate change.”

These efforts are evident across the sub-regions, including in East Africa (e.g., Kenya), Angola, Nigeria and Liberia, where activists have even influenced the successful integration of climate change education into school curricula. [The Liberian Youth for Climate Action](#) in Liberia runs programmes that educate young people about climate change to promote environmental conservation and climate literacy among the youth. In addition to targeting youth, these organisations also focus on other members of society, such as local leaders, farmers, and community members. For example, in Malawi, the Malawi National Youth Network on Climate Change organises town hall meetings that bring together diverse community members to discuss local environmental issues and solutions. Another example is the [Nigerian Youth Network on Climate Change \(RJNCC\)](#) which works with other partners in supporting civil society actors, including women's and youth organisations, to participate in decision-making spaces; support the development of a strategy for mobilising financial resources for education and; building capacity to be resilient to shocks linked to climate change through its AGAMA Adalci-Ga Matassa programme. Similarly, in Kenya, the Wangari Maathai Foundation engages with local communities to promote environmental stewardship and conservation efforts. In Nigeria, the [Connected Advocacy for Empowerment and Youth Development Initiative](#) collaborates with local leaders to raise awareness about climate resilience and adaptation strategies.

4.5.2 Advocacy for Influencing Climate Policy

Although the impact on policy varies significantly by region, youth activists are increasingly involved in shaping environmental policies by contributing to environmental strategies. Notable successes include

influencing national forestry policies in Southern Africa and integrating environmental education into school curriculums in North Africa, such as in Egypt and Morocco. For instance, the Green Belt Movement in Kenya has successfully lobbied for policies that protect and restore forest areas, which has had significant environmental and socio-economic benefits.⁴⁰

Internationally, when youth movements occasionally join official delegations at forums and conferences, they are also able to make notable successes. These impacts range from youth engagement at global platforms, such as at COP27, where youth advocacy efforts helped to ease and increase access to accreditation for young delegates for more effective participation.⁴¹ This momentum continued into COP28, with one organisation reporting that they obtained accreditation for more than 10 of their staff well ahead of time and without as many difficulties as previously.⁴² Another organisation highlighted the tremendous

“Youth wasn’t recognised at first, then we united and at COP27 we started being heard and we worked on our presence and advocacy, now our Environment Minister is 27 years old, he is youth. We are now discussing young negotiators in Madagascar”.⁴³

These efforts have helped to shift perceptions and policy discussions. These achievements underscore the growing influence of youth in climate policy advocacy, both regionally and globally, as they continue to push for meaningful participation and representation in environmental decision-making.

4.5.3 Resource Mobilisation and Innovation for Sustainability Projects

Funding remains one of the biggest setbacks the youth climate movement faces. Limited access to financial resources often hinders the ability of these movements to scale their activities and achieve long-term sustainability. This is due to various factors, including limited fundraising experience, lack of visibility, and competition for grants with more established organisations. However, many youth movements have been adept at mobilising support through various innovative strategies. They write grant proposals to solicit funding from international donors, mobilise community contributions, and foster partnerships with local businesses and international NGOs. These collaborations not only provide financial resources but also technical expertise, capacity building, and networking opportunities, which are crucial for the success and sustainability of their initiatives. Examples of these from our interviews include mangrove restoration (e.g., community action platform on environment and development in Gambia) community recycling centres (e.g., Association Banda Bitsi in Comoros), and sustainable agriculture practices (e.g. Puntland Sustainable Agri Livestock Network and green solami initiatives in Somali and Jeunesse unie pour développement durable Burkina Faso).



“As we make people understand relations between agriculture and climate change... Youth are now doing activism and also different activities like green and blue businesses.” Doors of Hope Foundation, Tanzania.”

Box 1. Case study of the impact made by youth climate movements.

Case example 1: National Tree Forum in Niger

The L'initiative Pour L'Arbre pioneered the National Tree Forum in Niamey in 2023. Through this initiative, dozens of stakeholders and 400 youth were convened for forestry policy and 1300 volunteers were mobilized for large-scale tree-planting activities, including creating an urban oasis in the capital. Uniquely, the forum explored local and innovative approaches that could be used to improve forestry health against the worsening climate crisis.

Case example 2: Launch of a Marine and Environmental Sciences course

In 2015, the Association of Women for the Defense of the Environment succeeded in its advocacy to curate a course in the city of Bissau and the Lusofona University of Guinea for training professionals and building capacity in marine protection. The motivation had stemmed from deep interest in the topic from the young people they engage in their activities. Since the introduction of the course, thousands of youths have been graduated with expertise as maritime and environmental engineers who work in governance, non-profit, academia and other sectors.

4.5.4 Strategic Partnerships for Capacity Building

Youth organisations form strategic partnerships with governmental bodies, NGOs, and international entities, enhancing their ability to engage in environmental governance. These collaborations have not only provided resources but have also helped in training (new) activists and developing innovative solutions, such as green and blue businesses. These initiatives emphasise the combination of traditional knowledge with modern conservation techniques, as seen in East Africa (e.g., Rise Up Foundation in Tanzania), and help in building capacity among youth to take on larger roles in environmental advocacy. In Angola and Gambia, youth movements have utilised partnerships to enhance their influence on policy and education, leading to significant local initiatives like beach clean-ups and anti-plastic campaigns.

4.5.5 Legislative and Community Impact

Youth movements are not only engaging in policy dialogues but are also actively involved in legislative processes, submitting petitions and participating in public consultations to influence environmental protection frameworks, especially in their respective countries and local communities. Their community impact is significant, with projects that combine environmental action with social benefits, like job creation through recycling programmes. In international arenas such as COP meetings, youth activists have influenced discussions and decisions, highlighting their growing recognition and impact on global environmental policies.

In conclusion, youth climate movements in Africa are making a substantial impact by actively participating in advocacy, policy influence, and direct community engagement. Their efforts are gradually reshaping environmental policies and practices, ensuring a more sustainable future influenced by the vibrant energy and innovative perspectives of Africa's youth.

5. Challenges Faced by Youth Climate Movements in Africa:

Barriers to Advancing Environmental Advocacy and Action

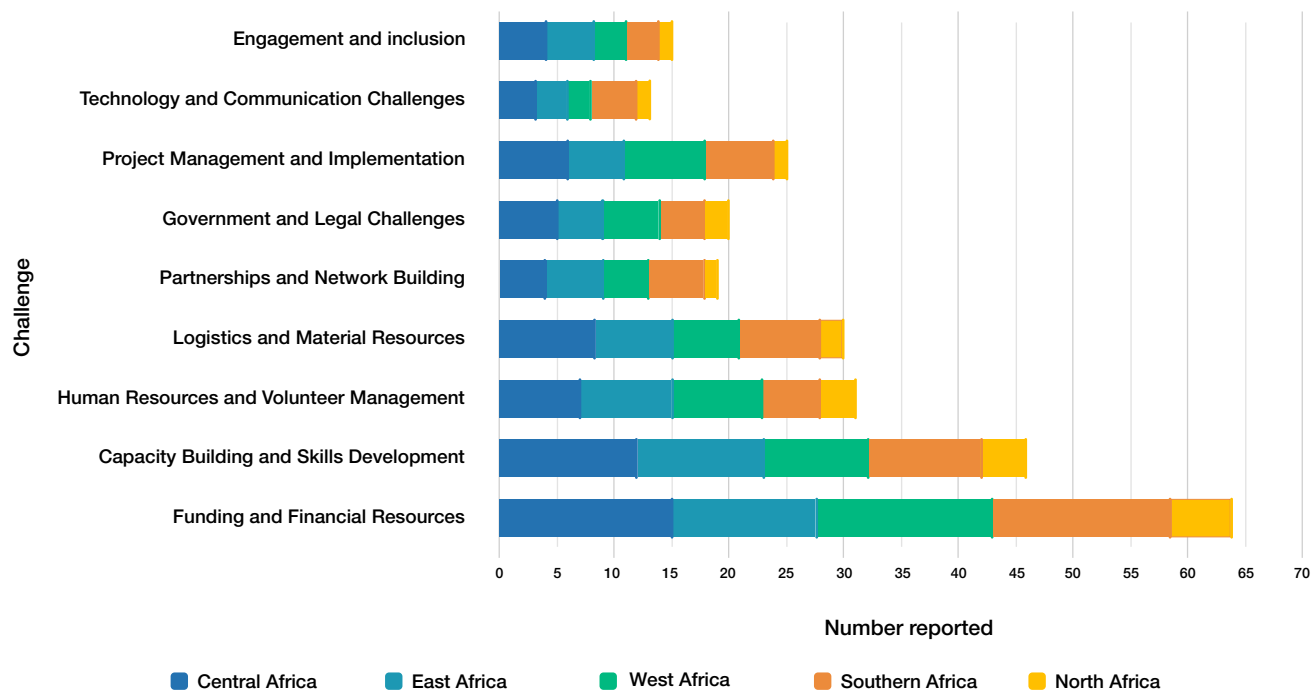
Summary of findings

- Critical challenges hindering the youth climate movement are finance, human resource and volunteer management, capacity, institutional and legal issues, and technology and communication gaps.
- In the interim, strategic partnerships, capacity building and social media are being used to manage existing challenges.



There are several opportunities available, including funding; an enthusiastic youthful human resource; local, national and international organisations willing to partner; innovation, and technology that are not always accessible or sustainable.

Figure 5. Most reported challenges faced by youth climate movements in Africa.



1. Lack of Funding and Financial Resources

The most commonly reported challenge for the organisations interviewed is funding. It affects every aspect of their operations. Nearly all of the 75 organisations struggle to secure enough financial resources to sustain their activities and expand their impact. Many youth groups, especially grassroots organisations, lack access to resources to help them implement their work, especially financial resources. Youth organisations expressed difficulty in accessing both national and global funding opportunities. For example, an organisation in Central Africa said,

“Finance challenges, not all youth have resources, to be able to formalise the NGOs we had to do a lot of work.”

In Southern Africa, the challenge is even greater because large organisations control funds, as one group expressed frustration that,

“Small funds are so much controlled or are released very late.”

Several factors contribute to these challenges, including the lack of institutional capacity to host and manage finances, insufficient awareness of available opportunities, and limited experience in navigating fundraising applications. YOUNGO’s Africa Youth Needs Report identifies financial constraints as the key expressed need by African youth. The [report](#) indicates a lack of financial resources and instruments for climate action in Africa . The risk appetite of investors and organisations is very low and thus the financial flows are constrained. Additionally, limited financial literacy among youth limits their ability to secure funding or

manage resources effectively.

Many of the organisations interviewed pointed out several factors that make it difficult for them to access a variety of funding sources, particularly from international organisations and private donors. One of the main factors is the limited awareness of funding opportunities available to them, as well as the complex application processes that make it difficult for them to secure funding from development partners and donors. Accessibility to funds is also a significant issue, as large funds can be hard to access for small youth organisations. The youth climate movement tends to be small and grassroots, and some of them are not registered or have strong institutional structures. These organisations find it difficult to access institutional and donor funding. Moreover, limited fundraising capacity and competition for scarce resources exacerbate the problem, as many organisations compete for the same pool of resources. Established organisations usually have a superior capacity to navigate the funding processes and attract donors, leaving smaller grassroots organisations at a disadvantage.

It was also established from the survey that grassroots youth organisations generally operate on small budgets, relying mainly on volunteers and community support. They struggle to compete for larger funding opportunities or navigate complex application processes and have limited access to networks of donors and philanthropic organisations compared to urban youth organisations. Urban youth organisations, on the other hand,

enjoy greater visibility and recognition within their communities and among potential donors, enhancing their credibility and attractiveness as funding recipients. Grassroots youth organisations, located in remote or marginalised areas, struggle to gain visibility and compete for attention amidst larger, more established youth organisations.

Urban youth organisations tend to have better access to essential infrastructure such as reliable internet connectivity, transportation networks, and administrative support services, which can facilitate fundraising efforts and organisational management. In contrast, grassroots youth organisations operating in rural or under-resourced areas may face infrastructural challenges that impede their ability to effectively communicate, coordinate, and fundraise. Overall, while both grassroots and urban youth organisations face funding constraints, grassroots youth organisations face additional barriers related to limited networking opportunities, resource constraints, visibility, and access to infrastructure and support services.

2. Human Resources and Volunteer Management Constraints

Many organisations face significant challenges in managing human resources, particularly in maintaining volunteers when financial incentives are practically impossible. An example from West Africa illustrates this, where the organisation said,

“Youth sometimes use their resources, only those who have resources can move and go to events and do activities. This is not equitable.”

This highlights the difficulty in sustaining volunteer-based operations, especially as in most regions, economic hardships are prevalent. Although limited financial resources were a significant factor, the lack of opportunities for growth, advancement, and recognition also contributed to the demotivation of volunteers and staff. Poor leadership is another issue, with many youth-led climate organisations suffering from a lack of experience and management, including poor communication, insufficient support and mentorship for volunteers, and a lack of opportunities for professional development.

3. Institutional and Legal Challenges

Navigating political and government bureaucracy and managing legal hurdles were also reported to be prominent issues, particularly in regions with unstable political climates or restrictive environments. In Guinea Bissau, for example, an organisation detailed their struggles with the legalisation process, noting,

“Legalisation process requires commitment and a small amount of capital resources, bureaucracy, and it takes time.”

Such regions experience disruptions in regulatory frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and administrative processes, which creates uncertainty and unpredictability for youth climate organisations seeking legal recognition. The costs associated with legalising or registering a youth-led organisation are also significant challenges, particularly for rural or grassroots organisations with limited financial resources. Moreover, complex and time-consuming bureaucratic processes for registering and legalising organisations pose significant barriers, particularly for youth-led organisations with limited resources and capacity. Lengthy approval timelines, excessive documentation requirements, and opaque procedures further frustrate efforts to establish legal status and legitimacy.

Moreso, multiple youth climate organisations on the continent express challenges when contacting their public stakeholders and trying to engage with them. Youth find it difficult to establish collaborations with local and/or national governments and be recognised as essential actors in their strategies. This also applies to other stakeholders, including national agencies and the private sector, which sometimes don't value and engage in collaborations with young groups.

There is also a lack of youth involvement in political and decision-making levels both nationally and globally.⁴⁴ People under the age of 35 are rarely found in formal political leadership positions. In a third of countries, eligibility for the national parliament starts at 25 years of age or higher and it is common practice to refer to politicians as 'young' if they are below 35-40 years of age. The youth are not adequately represented in formal political institutions and often have limited political power and influence compared to older generations. Youth climate activists may lack experience in navigating complex political and bureaucratic systems, making it challenging to advocate for and implement effective climate policies.⁴⁵ Another issue is the lack of recognition and tokenism for youth. Multiple actors that do involve youth in some processes tend to do it in a tokenistic way and lack meaningful and empowering processes to ensure youth participation is impactful and appreciated.⁴⁶

4. Technological and Communication Challenges

While expected to some degree, the extent of technological and communication challenges was notable. These issues are not just about access to technology but also involve strategic communication capabilities. A poignant example from DR Congo revealed,

“For comms, we don't have a written strategy. We don't have a communication coordinator who is from the field.”

This highlights the broader lack of preparedness in utilising digital tools and platforms for effective advocacy and engagement.

During interviews with 75 youth climate organisations, it was revealed that unreliable internet connectivity, limited access to digital devices, and inadequate infrastructure were major challenges, particularly in rural or remote areas. Specifically, 62% of the organisations reported difficulties with reliable internet access, and 58% mentioned limited availability of digital devices necessary for their operations. These factors make it difficult to effectively utilise digital tools and platforms for advocacy and engagement.

Furthermore, there is a significant gap in digital literacy and proficiency among some staff and volunteers of these youth climate organisations. While 45% of the staff possess basic skills in using digital tools and social media platforms, there are limitations in understanding more advanced concepts such as social media algorithms, content strategy, and data analysis. This lack of specialised skills hinders them from crafting engaging content that resonates with their target audiences and analysing data metrics to inform communication strategies. In addition, 70% of these organisations do not have a communications plan and strategy, further hindering their capacity to communicate effectively with their target audiences. This lack of strategic communication planning makes it challenging for youth climate organisations to build visibility, engage stakeholders, and mobilise support for their initiatives.

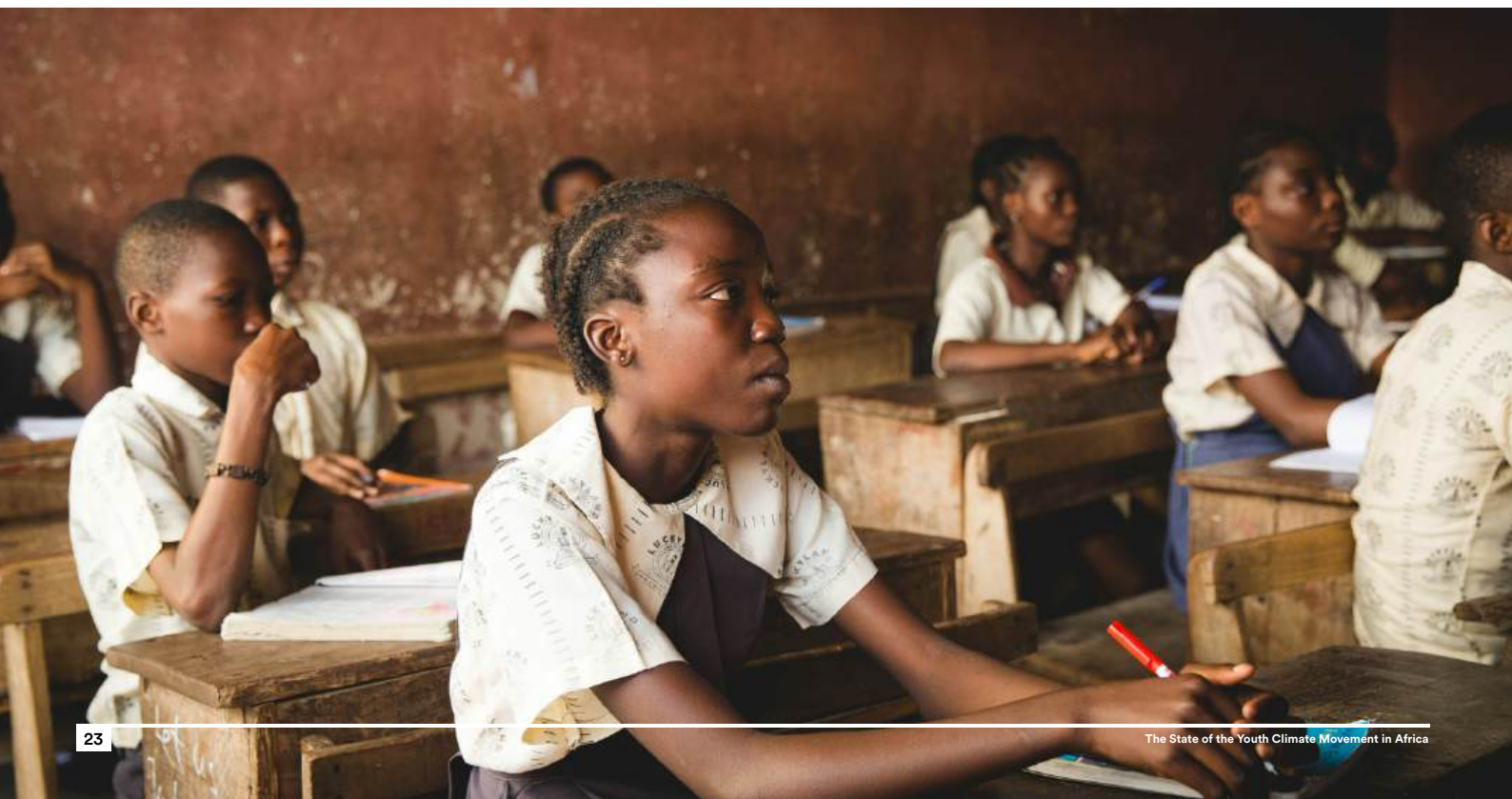
5. Engagement and Inclusion Issues

While many young people actively participate in youth climate organisations, not all youth climate organisations experience equal engagement. Some youth climate organisations, especially vulnerable ones, face challenges in participating in such dynamics. For instance, due to travel constraints, youth climate organisations in local areas and cities far from the capital find it

challenging to engage in national events and activities. Youth with disabilities need accessible structures and inclusive approaches to ensure they are equally engaged in youth climate organisations' work. Some youth climate organisations lack women's representation and involvement, either in the membership in general or in leadership roles. Gender inequality is observed across age groups, from the young to the elderly, highlighting disparities between men and women.⁴⁷

The difficulty in engaging broader community segments, especially marginalised groups, is a frequently reported challenge. Youth climate organisations struggle not only with volunteer engagement but also with ensuring their activities and leadership are inclusive, representing minorities and gender. The AfroBarometer survey provides insights into the level of awareness of young Africans about climate change by posing the question, *"Have you heard about climate change or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet?"* Results show that most African youth (59%) have heard the term climate change. However, awareness levels vary, with young males, youth in urban areas, youth with higher education levels, and those in employment exhibiting higher awareness of climate change compared to female youth, youth in rural areas, and youth with no employment and less education.⁴⁸

These disparities underscore the importance of adopting inclusive approaches and targeted awareness campaigns to ensure that all youth, regardless of their circumstances, can actively participate in and contribute to climate action initiatives. Engagement and inclusivity are significant challenges for youth climate organisations, as they must navigate the complexities of representing and involving diverse groups, overcoming logistical barriers, and addressing inequalities in awareness and participation.



6. Lack of Capacity Building and Skills for Project Implementation

Capacity building is essential for the effectiveness of any organisation, yet many youth climate organisations report significant gaps in this area. Many youth climate organisations express a need for capacity building and support in multiple areas. Institutional capacity is a crucial one. Multiple youth climate organisations are not registered and work informally, which prevents them from accessing resources and opportunities. Even among registered youth climate organisations, a common challenge is inadequate management and organisational skills, with many lacking crucial documentation such as annual financial records and reports. In addition to addressing registration and documentation issues, youth climate organisations identified several areas where they require capacity building and support. These include developing human resource management plans, building effective communication strategies, enhancing project management, monitoring and evaluation skills, formulating partnership strategies, and developing comprehensive organisational strategies. Such examples of essential organisational dimensions are missing for youth climate organisations indicating the need to empower and support these youth organisations to strengthen themselves internally.

Another critical area for capacity building is fundraising and grant writing. Many youth climate organisations struggle to secure funding due to limited experience in navigating complex application processes and insufficient awareness of available opportunities. This is particularly problematic for smaller grassroots youth climate organisations that compete with larger, more established entities for limited resources. For instance, in Southern Africa, one youth climate organisation interviewed expressed frustration that

“Small funds are so much controlled or are released very late.”

Furthermore, capacity building pertains to climate technical knowledge and education. There is a significant challenge in integrating climate and environmental issues into the educational curriculum. Most of the educational content students are learning today is no longer relevant to current developmental challenges ⁴⁷. Organisations across all regions expressed a need for improved skills, particularly in managing projects, environmental policy, and tailoring advocacy. This challenge stems from the difficulty of identifying young people who readily have all the necessary skills for undertaking climate action. This leads to many youth climate organisations struggling with designing, executing, and monitoring projects effectively. An example from Southern Africa where a youth climate organisation struggles with project implementation highlights the broader challenge:

“For project design implementation evaluation we use our knowledge but our team needs more capacity there.”

The data from 75 youth climate organisations has revealed a demand for various job roles to support their activities. Specifically, there is a significant need for project managers, communication and advocacy specialists, and environment/climate-specific experts. According to the interviews, 68% of the youth climate organisations require project managers to handle the complexity of their initiatives, 74% need communication and advocacy specialists to enhance their outreach and policy influence, and 81% need environment/climate-specific experts to provide technical knowledge and guidance for their projects.

7. Logistics and Material Resources Constraints

Operational logistics and access to material resources, such as office space and equipment, are critical yet often overlooked challenges that many organisations face. The lack of basic infrastructural support severely limits the operational efficiency of these organisations. Youth-led organisations, in particular, operate on a tight budget or depend on limited funding sources, making it difficult for them to allocate resources for operational logistics and material needs. As a result, they face challenges in covering transportation costs for fieldwork and activities, as well as in renting office space. They also struggle to access institutional support such as grants or in-kind donations to address their logistical and material needs.

Climate philanthropic organisations or corporate partners do not often support these youth-led organisations, making it challenging for them to get the necessary resources. One of the main reasons climate philanthropic organisations or corporate partners do not often support these youth-led climate organisations is the perceived risk associated with funding smaller, less established entities. These funders view youth-led climate organisations as lacking the necessary institutional capacity, experience, and track record to manage substantial grants effectively. This perception is often compounded by the fact that many youth-led climate organisations are not formally registered and may lack crucial documentation such as annual financial records and reports. For example, 65% of the 75 youth climate organisations interviewed reported difficulties in maintaining necessary documentation and formal registrations, which are often prerequisites for receiving funding.

Additionally, there is a general lack of interest among some climate philanthropies and corporate partners in youth engagement, stemming from a focus on more established organisations with proven impact and stability.



Larger organisations with robust institutional frameworks are typically seen as safer bets for investment, as they are perceived to have a higher likelihood of achieving sustainable outcomes and proper fund management. This focus on larger entities leaves smaller, youth-led climate organisations at a disadvantage when competing for limited resources.

Renting office space in cities and towns is prohibitively expensive, especially for youth climate organisations with limited financial resources. As a result, these youth climate organisations have to operate from informal or shared spaces, which lack the essential amenities and infrastructure needed for effective operations. Moreover, youth-led climate organisations lack access to essential equipment and resources, such as computers, printers, projectors, and office supplies, which are necessary for day-to-day operations, meetings, and outreach activities. Overall, the lack of proper infrastructure and material resources hinders the growth and success of these youth-led climate organisations.

8. Partnerships and Network Building Constraints

Building effective partnerships and networks is crucial for resource sharing and scaling impact. However, many organisations find it challenging to establish and maintain robust partnerships, especially with international or well-established entities. An organisation in West Africa lamented a key reason for this struggle, explaining that,

“Most big organisations don’t trust small NGOs, especially like us who are just starting.”

Interestingly, partnership emerges both as an area of intervention and a challenge within the context of youth climate activism in Africa. Youth climate organisations in Africa are leveraging strategic partnerships and collaborations to enhance their impact and sustainability across various environmental initiatives, including capacity-building efforts, enhancing organisational capabilities, and securing long-term support.

Despite the emphasis on partnerships and collaborations, many youth climate organisations still face challenges in building these relationships. The dichotomy between the importance of partnerships and the challenges in establishing them reflects broader issues in trust and capacity. Data analysis from the 75 youth climate organisations suggests that smaller, youth-led climate organisations often struggle to gain the trust of larger, more established entities. This lack of trust is rooted in concerns about the capacity of smaller organisations to effectively manage partnerships, execute projects, and use funds responsibly.

Moreover, the low frequency of partnerships with financial institutions and climate philanthropies highlights a gap in securing financial support through these channels. This challenge is compounded by the limited awareness and understanding among youth climate organisations of the opportunities available for partnership and funding. Many youth climate organisations may not have the resources or experience to navigate the complex landscape of partnership-building effectively.

In summary, while youth climate organisations in Africa are actively engaging in partnerships to enhance their impact, the challenges in establishing these partnerships underscore the need for capacity-building efforts.

9. Lack of coordination

Many youth climate organisations both locally and regionally, are working on similar issues and lack coordination and knowledge about each other's work. This leads to duplicative efforts and makes it harder to push the youth climate agenda. Either due to fear of losing individual identity or access to resources, many youth climate organisations work in [silos](#). This lack of collaboration and understanding between peers leads to fragmentation of the youth climate movement and results in competing for limited resources, while collaboration and unity have the potential to connect youth to available resources and [services](#).

Youth organisations express the need to connect with peers and be able to share and exchange information about their work and practices. Youth could benefit from having access to existing practices that are implemented in similar contexts and which they can replicate and tailor to their local context or learn lessons from. Youth are leading actions nationally, but their stories are not documented or amplified. These good practices and local wisdom get lost in these situations and go unheard of. Youth must be able to have a space to share their work and have it recognised to get feedback and new ideas for improvement.

10. Indigenous knowledge challenges

Knowledge and expertise from local and indigenous groups can provide effective solutions to local problems. Scholars have demonstrated that there is much to learn from indigenous and community-based approaches to climate change adaptation, resilience, and disaster preparedness.⁴⁹ Losing indigenous knowledge practices can have a significant negative impact on the livelihoods, production systems (bio-resource-based markets) and health of local communities. However, indigenous knowledge is at risk of being lost due to factors such as the ageing of knowledge holders, lack of systematic documentation, and the rapid disappearance of key indicators like specific plant and animal species.⁵⁰ This makes it difficult for youth climate organisations to access and utilise this valuable knowledge in their work. Indigenous knowledge is often passed down orally and is deeply rooted in specific local contexts. The lack of systematic documentation and formal study poses challenges in investigating its accuracy and reliability. Youth climate organisations often struggle to validate and integrate this knowledge into their climate activities. Additionally, indigenous knowledge is sometimes associated with mystical beliefs and is not always taken seriously by policymakers, scientists, and even local communities. This also undermines the efforts of youth climate organisations to advocate for the integration of

Indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation and resilience strategies. Another challenge is integrating indigenous knowledge with modern scientific approaches⁴⁷. The socio-ecological systems in developing countries, where indigenous knowledge is most prevalent, are often vastly different from those in developed countries. The reliance on advanced technology and sophisticated scientific models in developed countries may not always be suitable or adaptable to the local context in Africa. Ensuring the transfer of indigenous knowledge from older generations to younger ones is a significant challenge. Youth climate organisations need to create platforms and opportunities for intergenerational dialogue and learning, but this requires resources and commitment from both young and older community members.

Engaging with indigenous knowledge requires a deep understanding and respect for cultural practices and beliefs. Youth climate organisations must navigate cultural sensitivities and build trust with Indigenous communities, which can be a complex and time-consuming process. Documenting and integrating indigenous knowledge often requires substantial resources, including time, funding, and expertise. Youth climate organisations, which are already operating under resource constraints, find it difficult to allocate the necessary resources to this effort.

11. Youth Livelihoods

Youth is a critical age where there is a need for socio-economic stability. Many young people face a crisis in getting proper jobs and establishing a stable personal life.⁵¹ This affects their level of engagement and interest in climate work, as they prioritise immediate economic needs over longer-term environmental concerns. As for youth who are engaged in their communities, they usually face multiple problems in different sectors, which makes it hard for them to focus or prioritise a specific issue and not other challenges. This leads to competing priorities, making it difficult to focus on climate issues exclusively. For a youth-led climate organisation, this reflects the struggles they face to attract and retain committed members who can consistently contribute to climate activities. Poverty exacerbated by climate change further limits resources available for young people to engage effectively in climate action. In agricultural-dependent households, climate-related impacts like droughts or floods directly lead to increased poverty and reduced capacity to participate in climate activities.⁴⁷ Another challenge is limited financial resources in households and communities affected by climate change which also translates to a lack of resources for youth-led climate organisations. This impacts their ability to



implement projects, conduct advocacy, or even operate effectively.

The combination of economic instability, competing priorities, and poverty further dampens youth engagement and interest in climate work. This affects the recruitment and retention of young people in youth climate organisations, making it challenging to sustain long-term climate activities.

12. Competing Priorities

Tackling climate change is a multifaceted challenge that demands prioritisation, especially in a continent dealing with competing concerns such as education, social and health issues, unemployment, and political instability. The presence of numerous concerns and objectives often leads organisations and governments to redirect attention and resources (both financial and human) away from climate-related activities.⁵² This makes it difficult for youth climate organisations to secure the funding and support needed to sustain their climate activities. The multitude of urgent issues also dilutes attention and focus on climate change. Policymakers and the public end up prioritising immediate concerns like poverty alleviation or healthcare over longer-term climate action, leading to a lack of sustained commitment to climate initiatives.

Despite the interconnected nature of climate change with other socio-economic issues, stakeholders struggle to recognise the co-benefits of integrating climate action with other development goals. This results in fragmented approaches where climate considerations are not incorporated into broader policies and programmes. Youth climate organisations find it challenging to advocate for climate action when other issues are seen as more immediate or critical. Gaining political support for climate activities can be tough when leaders are focused on addressing other urgent crises. Engaging the public and gaining widespread support for climate action is challenging when communities are dealing with pressing day-to-day concerns. People view climate change as a secondary issue compared to immediate needs like employment or healthcare. Building effective collaborations with other organisations and stakeholders is difficult when climate change is not seen as a priority. Youth climate organisations struggle to find partners who are equally committed to integrating climate action into their agenda. According to a survey by the [Afrobarometer](#), over 75% of respondents in 39 countries say that governments need to do more to address climate change.

These multifaceted challenges underscore the need for a holistic approach to support the youth climate movement. While financial aid is most critical, capacity building, infrastructure development, and strategic guidance are needed to enhance their impact and sustainability.

5.1 How Challenges Are Being Addressed

Efforts to address their challenges have focused heavily on capacity building, education, strategic partnerships, and community engagement (fig. 6). According to the interviews conducted, 65% of the youth organisations identified capacity building as a cornerstone, with activists prioritising ongoing education not only within their teams but also among the broader community, especially youth for their sustainability and effectiveness. This includes conducting workshops, training, and awareness campaigns to enhance understanding of climate issues, advocacy strategies, and leadership skills. This is evident in actions like going “*directly to youth in schools and the places youth are in*” as done in Addis Ababa, for instance, and partnering with organisations to amplify their impact, as noted by activists in Central Africa.

“To mitigate skill gaps, 60% of the youth climate organisations interviewed reported conducting capacity-building workshops to enhance their skills in grant writing, fundraising, and financial management.”

They do this intending to improve members' ability to access and secure funding from diverse sources by equipping their members with the necessary knowledge and tools. Findings from desk research indicate that academic training in social sciences, particularly in development studies, international development, sustainability, and public advocacy, is gaining traction in Africa. More colleges and universities are offering these courses, reflecting a growing recognition of their importance in addressing contemporary challenges. Trends in enrollment show an increasing number of students pursuing these fields, driven by a heightened awareness of global issues and a desire to contribute to sustainable development. For instance, studies have shown a marked increase in enrollment in sustainability and development-related courses across African higher education institutions, indicating a positive trend towards equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed for climate action and development work.^{53 54 55}

To reduce reliance on a single source of funding, youth-led climate organisations are exploring opportunities to diversify their funding streams. Some of them are venturing into entrepreneurial activities that serve as climate solutions and generate income to finance their activities.

In response to funding challenges, some youth climate organisations are exploring innovative funding strategies. In North Africa, youth climate organisations are enhancing their digital competencies to maintain operational independence and are experimenting with crowdfunding campaigns and social enterprises to diversify their funding sources. According to the interviews conducted, 45% of the organisations interviewed indicated their efforts to diversify their funding streams. This includes applying for grants, launching online fundraising campaigns, and developing income-generating projects. These strategies are aimed at reducing dependency on a single funding source and providing greater financial stability.

Strategic partnerships have also been crucial for enhancing resource sharing and visibility. Approximately 15% of the interviewed organisations have formed alliances with local and international NGOs, government bodies, and private sector entities. Collaborating with other youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders, both locally and internationally, has been crucial for resource sharing, amplifying impact, and enhancing visibility. It was indicated that though not many partnerships have been formed, partnering with like-minded youth climate organisations leverages complementary strengths and pools resources for greater effectiveness.

The use of digital platforms, including social media, for advocacy and education is a significant trend too because it helps activists to reach wider audiences, especially among the tech-savvy youth. By harnessing the power of technology, youth-led organisations can amplify their message, mobilise support, and influence public discourse on climate issues. 80% of the urban youth climate organisations reported leveraging social media campaigns to raise awareness about climate issues and mobilise community action. In Somalia and East Africa, for instance, activists are leveraging technologies for “*remote communication and monitoring*,” enabling them to overcome geographical barriers and engage with communities in remote areas.

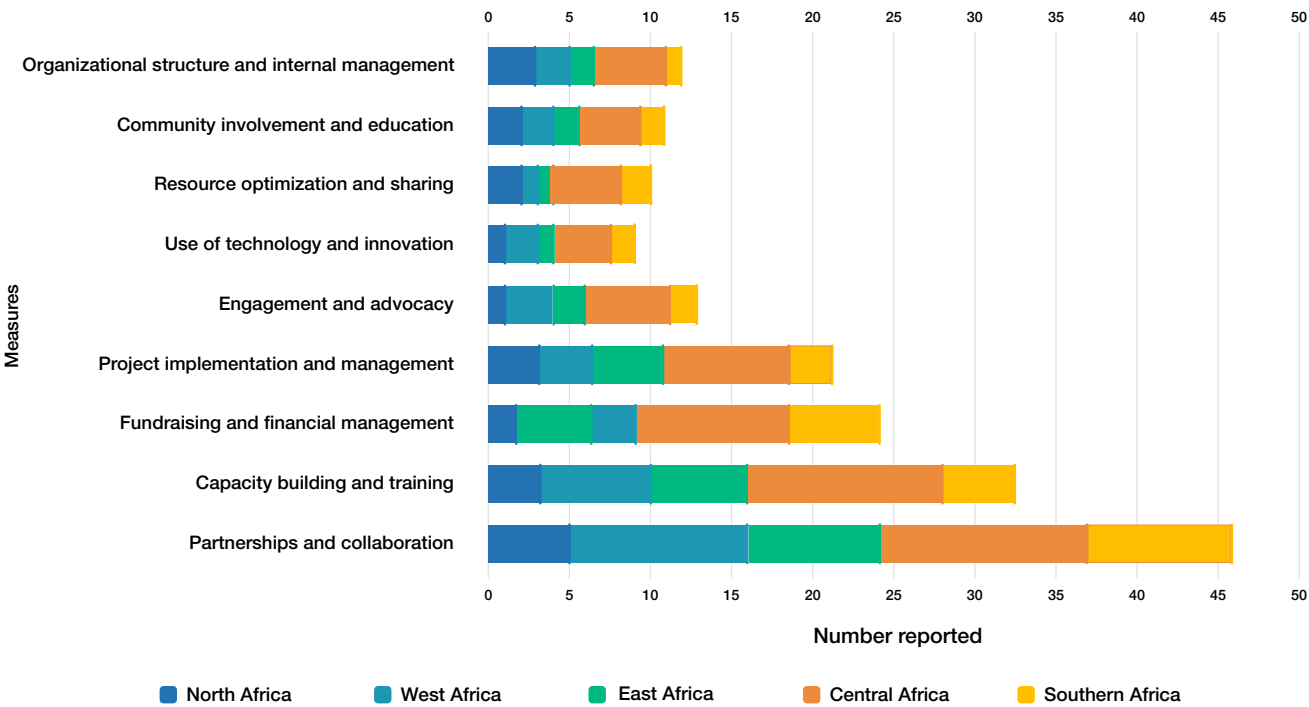
Community engagement is vital for ensuring the inclusivity and effectiveness of climate initiatives. Around 50% of the organisations have adopted participatory approaches, involving community members in decision-making processes and project implementation. This approach not only empowers local communities but also ensures that climate actions are contextually relevant and sustainable. For example, in West Africa, organisations conduct community dialogues to integrate traditional knowledge with modern climate strategies.

To navigate institutional and legal challenges, some organisations suggested having legal assistance and advocacy support to help address the challenge. Approximately 30% of the organisations suggested partnering with legal experts to help streamline their registration processes and navigate bureaucratic hurdles would be ideal. However, they do not have the financial muscle to undertake this action.

Efforts to enhance visibility and build robust networks have included participation in international forums and conferences. About 15% of the organisations reported that attending global climate events has provided them with platforms to showcase their work, attract potential donors, and form strategic alliances. For instance, participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP) and the UNFCCC regional climate weeks, specifically the Africa Climate Week has opened opportunities for African youth organisations to engage with global stakeholders.

Furthermore, there is an emerging focus on the mental health and well-being of activists, addressing the emotional toll of environmental advocacy through initiatives like the “climate anxiety project” in Tanzania. This project aims to address the psychological impacts of climate change activism and provide support mechanisms for activists. Nearly 40% of the organisations surveyed have integrated mental health support into their programmes, recognising its importance for sustained activism. Prioritising mental health and self-care practices is essential for sustaining activism and preventing burnout among youth activists. Creating safe spaces for open dialogue, peer support, and access to mental health resources can help mitigate the negative effects of climate anxiety and stress.

Figure 6. How youth climate movements are presently navigating their challenges.



In summary, Sub-regional nuances reflect diverse strategies tailored to local contexts. In Southern Africa, the emphasis on technological adoption and innovative community engagement stands out, while North Africa focuses on innovative funding strategies such as crowd funding and enhancing digital competencies to maintain operational independence. East Africa invests in public awareness and collaborates with academic institutions for research-driven advocacy. These strategies underline a proactive adaptation to both local and global challenges, with a laudable approach of integrating traditional knowledge and modern technology to bolster both the relevance and effectiveness of environmental initiatives. These multifaceted strategies underscore a proactive and adaptive approach to overcoming the challenges faced by the youth climate movement in Africa.

5.2 Promising Opportunities

Despite the many challenges youth climate activists face, there are numerous opportunities available to drive meaningful change (table 5). First, youth climate activists across Africa overwhelmingly emphasised the availability of funding/resources, as an opportunity, especially in Central and Southern Africa. Examples range from crowdfunding campaigns (e.g., by the Kenyan activist Elizabeth Wathuti) which have been used to secure grants from the Green Climate Fund:

“With adequate funding, we can scale our tree planting initiatives and create sustainable livelihoods for communities.”

Despite the challenges in accessing funding due to bureaucratic processes, 30% of the organisations have successfully accessed grants from international organisations and climate finance mechanisms.

Additionally, youth involvement/engagement emerged as a prominent opportunity, with 28% of the organisations reporting active participation in climate strikes, community projects addressing environmental degradation, and youth summits fostering dialogue and action. For instance, activists like Vanessa Nakate in Uganda have organised climate strikes that garner significant attention and participation.

Partnerships/collaborations were also highlighted as crucial avenues for amplifying impact. Approximately 20% of the organisations interviewed have established collaborations with local NGOs like Greenpeace Africa, government agencies, and

international organisations such as UNICEF. These partnerships have facilitated joint climate action projects and resource sharing.

Furthermore, innovation/entrepreneurship was frequently cited, which showcases youth's interest in developing climate-resilient technologies like solar-powered irrigation systems, with examples in Nigeria, and sustainable business ventures like eco-friendly fashion startups in Ghana. 25% of the organisations interviewed have launched green startups or implemented innovative climate solutions.

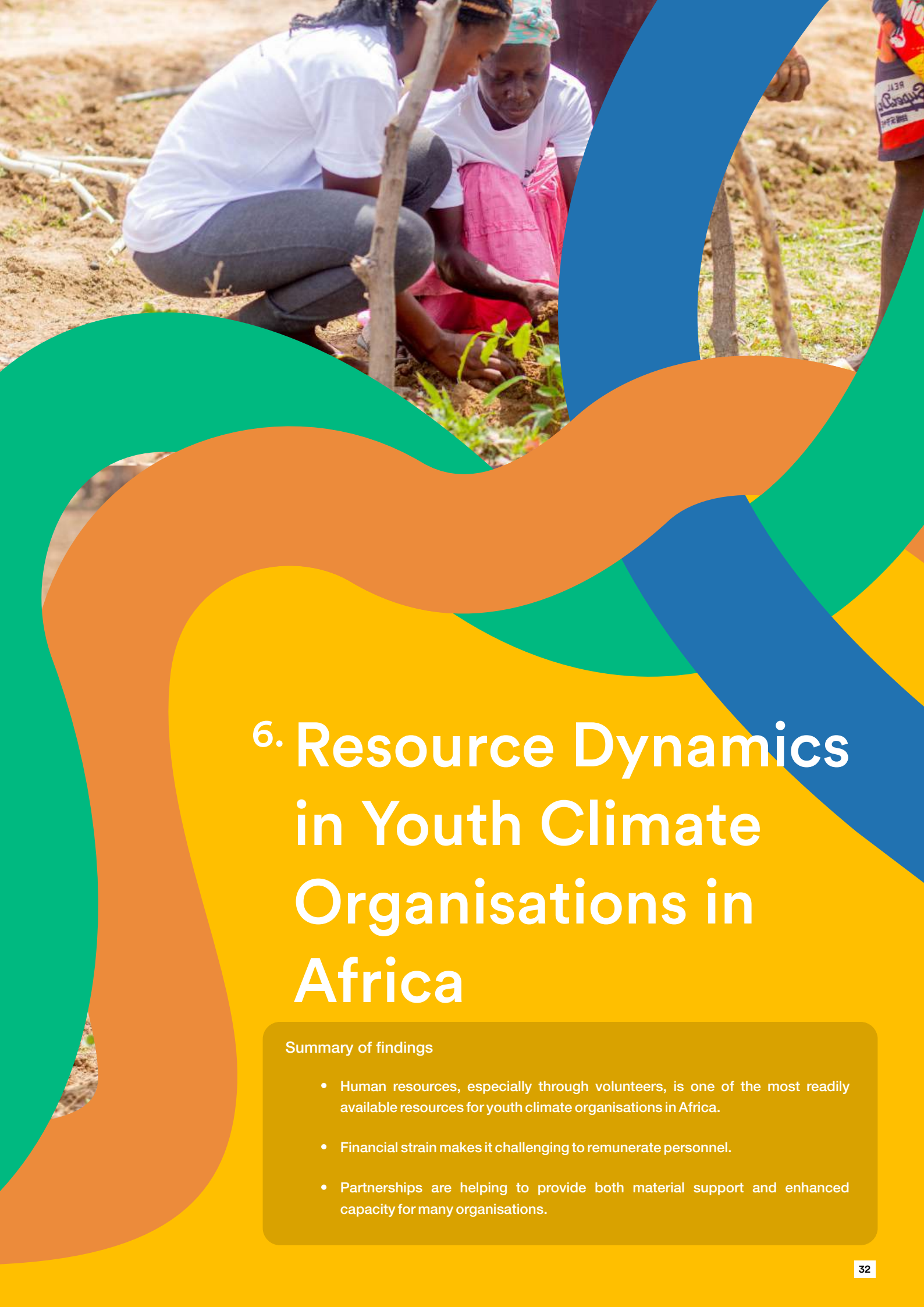
There was relatively low reporting on policy advocacy/influence among youth activists, even though advocacy campaigns like the #FridaysForFuture movement and lobbying policymakers were mentioned. Only 12% of the organisations highlighted policy advocacy as a significant opportunity, which is unexpected given the critical role of policy advocacy in driving systemic change and the fact that several movements focus their efforts in this area.

There was also less emphasis on access to information/technology, despite the importance of digital platforms and online resources for climate advocacy. But opportunities exist including utilising social media platforms like Twitter (now X) and Instagram for knowledge sharing and leveraging other technologies for data collection for climate change research. Ultimately, while some activists utilise platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram for organising and knowledge exchange, broader digital engagement is limited, and this opportunity remains to be fully harnessed.



Table 5. Report of available opportunities for youth climate movements in Africa.

Opportunity	Examples	East	Central	North	West	South	Total
Access to funding or resources	Accessing grants from international organisations; participation in competitions; securing funding from NGOs and businesses; crowdfunding campaigns; accessing climate finance mechanisms; applying for scholarships	2	6	4	5	6	23
Capacity building or training	Training programs on climate resilience; workshops on sustainable agriculture practices; mentorship initiatives for young entrepreneurs; educational courses on renewable energy technologies; skill-building workshops on climate	1	4	2	3	2	12
Youth involvement or engagement	Youth-led climate strikes and protests; participation in youth-led movements such as Fridays for Future; youth summits and conferences; engagement in community-based climate projects; youth-led environmental clean-up	5	5	2	5	4	21
Partnerships or collaborations	Collaborating with local NGOs on climate initiatives; partnerships with government agencies for climate action projects; alliances with international organisations; joint ventures with private sector for green businesses	2	4	2	4	3	15
Policy advocacy or influence	Engaging in advocacy campaigns for climate-friendly policies; lobbying policymakers for legislative changes; participating in policy dialogues and consultations; influencing political agendas on climate action	2	2	1	2	2	9
Innovation or entrepreneurship	Developing climate-resilient technologies; launching green startups; implementing sustainable agriculture practices; creating eco-friendly products; initiating renewable energy	3	5	2	5	4	19
Awareness or education	Conducting climate awareness campaigns in schools; organizing environmental workshops for communities; using art and media for climate education; creating educational resources on climate change mitigation	4	3	3	3	3	16
Access to information or technology	Utilising digital platforms for climate advocacy; accessing online resources on climate science; leveraging technology for data collection and analysis; utilising social media for knowledge sharing on climate issues	3	2	2	3	2	12



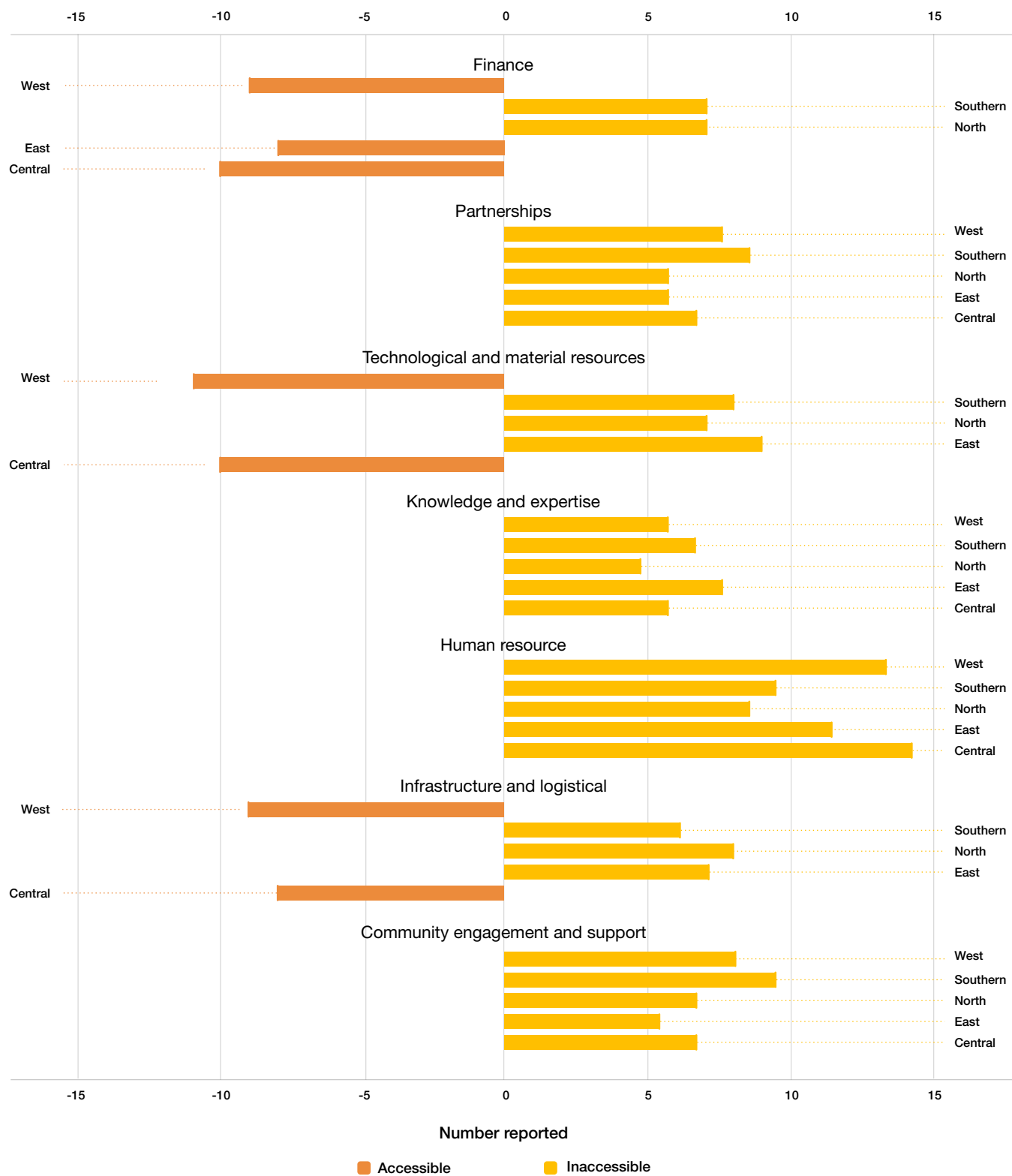
6. Resource Dynamics in Youth Climate Organisations in Africa

Summary of findings

- Human resources, especially through volunteers, is one of the most readily available resources for youth climate organisations in Africa.
- Financial strain makes it challenging to remunerate personnel.
- Partnerships are helping to provide both material support and enhanced capacity for many organisations.

The evidence shows that human resources especially through volunteers and the involvement of diverse professionals ranging from marine biologists to environmental scientists is one of the most readily available resources for youth climate organisations in Africa. Most movements, such as in Central Africa, boast of a dynamic teams inclusive of students from various disciplines. However, the general landscape of financial resources presents stark challenges. As many rely on sporadic donations, membership contributions, or limited project-specific funding, as an East African organisation's reliance on personal contributions for operational sustainability, a pervasive financial strain exists, which makes it challenging to remunerate personnel or even highly experienced staff.

Figure 7. The availability of resources and their accessibility.



NB: Yellow bars represent resources that are not accessible while orange bars represent those that are accessible and the number of times each was reported in the interviews.”

Technological and material resources also show surprising variability in their availability. While some organisations manage with basic office setups and limited technological tools, others face severe deficits in essential equipment, like an Angolan organisation that resorts to borrowing diving gear for environmental projects. This shows a significant gap in necessary operational tools. Infrastructure, though occasionally adequate, often does not meet the needs for effective project implementation, especially where specialised activities are involved (fig. 7).

Moreover, partnerships stand out as a crucial asset, providing both material support and enhanced capacity for many groups. *Strategic global collaborations with universities, local governments, and international NGOs* not only furnish resources like office spaces and meeting venues but also facilitate knowledge exchange and technical assistance. For instance, a Southern African organisation's collaboration with German corporations to organise major events exemplifies how international partnerships can substantially augment local capacities. Community engagement further plays a pivotal role, with varying degrees of success; some organisations like those in Southern Africa benefit from deep community ties and support, which are essential for the grassroots implementation of projects.

More profoundly, climate movements in North Africa's better-established networks offer them more consistent access to infrastructural and financial resources, contrasting sharply with Central and West Africa, where logistical and financial constraints are more pronounced. The disparity highlights not only the varied challenges faced by these organisations but also the potential areas for targeted support and development. Thus, enhancing access to financial and technological resources, alongside strengthening partnerships, could dramatically improve the efficacy and impact of youth-led climate initiatives in Africa.





7. Looking Ahead on Youth Climate Activism in Africa

Summary of findings

- Enhancing access to financial and technological resources, alongside strengthening partnerships, could dramatically improve the efficacy and impact of youth-led climate initiatives.
- International collaborations are desired and will help to share strategic insights and resources for unified action.

Youth call for trust and space to manage environmental projects and engage in high-level policy discussions.

Recommendations point to the need to ensure youth are not only participants but active influencers in these arenas be it at the global or local level.

Several recommendations were proposed for strengthening youth climate activism in Africa. Key amongst these strategies include enhancing educational opportunities, building robust networks, simplifying and diversifying access to funding, ensuring meaningful participation in policy development, and fostering safe and inclusive environments for all activists (table 6).

Table 6. Recommendations for improving youth climate movements in Africa.

Theme	Specific recommendation	Explanation	Sub-region to prioritise
Capacity building and education	Training in climate issues	Emphasise the need for comprehensive climate education to enhance advocacy and informed climate action.	Central
	Skill development	Provide training in project management, grant writing, negotiation, and leadership.	Central
Networking and collaboration	Formal networks	Establish structured networks for sharing knowledge and resources to foster collaboration among youth groups.	East
	Inclusive platforms	Create platforms that facilitate inclusive participation and exchange among African youth.	Southern
Funding and resource accessibility	Enhanced funding access	Advocate for easier access to funds for youth-led projects, including simplifying grant application processes and	East
	Sustainable financial strategies	Encourage the development of financial strategies that provide stability.	East
	Diversifying funding	Supporting youth in acquiring multiple sources of income for their climate work	Central
Policy advocacy and representation	Youth representation	Push for greater youth involvement in policy-making processes to ensure their perspectives are considered.	Southern
	Engagement in decision-making	Enable real-time participation of youth in significant events and decision-making forums.	Southern
	Trusting youth with responsibilities	Providing youth with positions where they can influence and contribute to policy action	West
Partnerships and institutional support	Strengthen partnerships	Foster stronger collaborations between youth organisations and various stakeholders to enhance resource sharing and joint action.	Southern
	Institutional backing	Gain the support of established institutions to provide legitimacy and structure to youth climate efforts.	Southern
	Ease bureaucracies	Simplify institutional processes required for youth groups to lead on climate action	Central
Innovation and entrepreneurship	Climate entrepreneurship	Encourage youth to engage in climate-related entrepreneurship, providing necessary training and resources.	East
	Technology and innovation	Leverage technology to enhance communication, project management, and impact measurement.	North, Southern
	Knowledge sharing	Provide spaces and processes to give access for youth to different knowledge and experience resources	North, West
Diversity and inclusion	Gender inclusivity	Focus on increasing the participation and leadership of women and other marginalised groups.	Southern
	Cultural sensitivity	Ensure that initiatives are culturally appropriate and involve indigenous knowledge and practices.	West

Table 3. Range of activities undertaken by the youth climate movement in Africa (*Continued*).

Theme	Specific recommendation	Explanation	Sub-region to prioritise
Awareness and community engagement	Grassroots mobilisation	Enhance efforts at the community level to raise awareness and engage local populations in activism.	Central
	Public campaigns	Use social media and other platforms to drive broad public engagement and support for climate issues.	North, West
	Leverage technology	Facilitate youth access to new technologies and support their capacity to utilise it.	East
Safety and security for activists	Protection measures	Implement safety protocols and provide security measures for activists, especially in regions with conflict.	Central
	Legal and psychological support	Offer legal aid and psychological support to activists facing threats or harassment.	Central

Enhancing collaboration is consistently highlighted as crucial for amplifying the impact of climate movements and sharing resources. Activists advocate for the creation of formal networks and platforms that facilitate knowledge exchange and joint advocacy. For example, one suggestion involves *“creating spaces for exchange between youth from different countries”*. This showcases a desire for interconnectedness that extends beyond local and national boundaries. This approach is seen as essential for sharing strategic insights and resources, and for unified action on pan-African youth issues.

Capacity building is another core theme emphasised, where the need for mentorship and training is mentioned. This will involve improving technical expertise, negotiating skills, and the ability to approach and engage stakeholders, such as government officials, effectively. Activists call for *“training and capacity for youth in climate, giving them responsibilities to take the lead,”* which underscores the importance of preparing and trusting young people to manage environmental projects and engage in high-level policy discussions.

In terms of policy engagement, there is a strong push for greater youth involvement in decision-making processes. This includes having a say in environmental policy formulation and implementation. Recommendations point to the need to ensure youth are not only participants but active influencers in these arenas be it at the global or local level. The goal is to ensure that policies reflect the needs and perspectives of young people, who are often most affected by climate policies, yet are little engaged.

Financial access and support are also critical, with many activists noting the difficulty in securing sustainable funding. There is a call for simplifying grant application criteria and providing grant application education to help youth-led organisations navigate funding landscapes more effectively. One activist mentioned, *“Donors need to simplify grants criteria for youth”* which hints at the bureaucratic barriers that often hinder youth organisations from accessing necessary funds. And, beyond funding, reporting regulations ought to be similarly simplified and made less bureaucratic.

Overall, the synthesis of these recommendations paints a picture of a proactive, engaged, and resourceful youth movement in Africa that seeks greater integration, support, and recognition. These strategies, if implemented, could significantly enhance the effectiveness of youth climate activism across the continent, driving more meaningful and sustained environmental action.



8. Conclusion

The youth climate movement in Africa has emerged as pivotal and sustainable forces for change. They showcase remarkable resilience, innovation, and commitment to fostering a sustainable future. Significantly, many of these movements are increasingly led by women and young people, aligning with efforts towards gender equity and bringing diverse perspectives to the fore of environmental governance. The activities within these movements are comprehensive and span climate policy advocacy, youth capacity building, green business and climate-smart agriculture, research, and tailored regional initiatives that address specific local challenges like addressing plastic pollution, environmental conservation, and climate-smart agriculture. This strategic and holistic approach is bolstered by dynamic partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including local NGOs, government bodies, and international organisations. These collaborations facilitate crucial resource and knowledge exchange and help to maximize the impact of initiatives. Despite facing challenges, such as limited funding, human resource constraints, and technological gaps, these movements skillfully navigate these obstacles through innovative community engagement and the adept use of digital platforms for broader advocacy and outreach.

Looking ahead, it is essential to enhance support for the youth climate movement to consolidate their impact and ensure a more sustainable and equitable future. Recommendations include simplifying access to funding and reducing bureaucratic burdens and requirements, which are vital steps to empower youth as principal architects of climate policy and local action. Ensuring meaningful youth participation in policy development is also crucial, as it allows policies to reflect and respond to the needs of the masses of young people affected by climate and environmental changes. Furthermore, strengthening capacity-building initiatives will prepare young activists not just to participate, but to lead in environmental policy discussions and implementations. Thus, there is a clarion call to trust youth with more responsibilities.

By supporting these movements in expanding their capabilities and influence, we not only tackle local and global environmental challenges but also pave the way for a resilient, innovative, and inclusive approach to climate governance across Africa with lessons for other regions.

Overall, the synthesis of these recommendations paints a picture of a proactive, engaged, and resourceful youth movement in Africa that seeks greater integration, support, and recognition. These strategies, if implemented, could significantly enhance the effectiveness of youth climate activism across the continent, driving more meaningful and sustained environmental action.

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This collective effort underscores the power of collaboration in addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change. Together, we can make a difference for Africa and the world.

Thank you.

10. Appendices

10.1 Assessment and Ranking Framework

1. Ranking Criteria

A. Climate Vulnerability

We prioritised countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change as they provided insights into unique challenges and opportunities for youth climate organisations. It was important to prioritise fragile countries, identify their issues even beyond the project and look at how we can respond to their needs to achieve global equity. We examined countries with higher risk which are more susceptible to suffering from extreme weather events and consequences. They are the most in need of urgent action and support. Engaging with youth climate organisations there was strategic to amplify the voices of those who are most affected by climate change.

We consulted the World Risk Index ⁵⁶ to prioritise countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change. The index calculates the risk for each country to fall victim to disasters due to extreme weather events and climate change. It was assumed that disaster risks are not solely shaped by the occurrence, intensity, and duration of extreme natural events, but that social factors, political conditions, and economic structures also play a role in risk level.

Indicator

- Each country had an index score. The countries with higher risk index scores got higher scores in the selection process.

B. Country Population

Prioritising countries with the highest populations in the selection process was crucial to ensuring that the chosen nations represented a substantial portion of the continent's overall population. By focusing on countries with larger populations, the project maximised its potential impact and reach, addressing the needs and perspectives of a significant proportion of African youth. This approach aligned with the principle of inclusivity, as it acknowledged the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by a substantial number of young people across densely populated regions. Additionally, engaging with countries with high populations enhanced the project's potential for scalability and replication, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the youth climate movement throughout Africa.

We used the World Population Review which showed data about countries and their populations. ⁵⁷

Indicators

- Countries with higher populations got a higher score in the selection process.

C. Economic Situation

Prioritising poor countries in the selection process was essential as it directed attention and resources to regions where economic challenges often exacerbated the impacts of climate change. Economic vulnerability hinders communities' ability to adapt and respond effectively to environmental shifts, placing a disproportionate burden on disadvantaged populations.

By prioritising economically challenged countries, the project aimed to address the unique needs and resilience-building efforts of these communities. This approach aligned with the principles of social justice and sustainable development, ensuring that the project's outcomes contributed meaningfully to the empowerment and support of youth in the face of climate-related challenges in economically disadvantaged areas. Youth in poor countries had more challenges in travelling to global events and having their voices represented. ⁵⁸

We used the World Bank classification for countries' economic situation. ⁵⁹

Indicator:

- Based on World Bank classification, the poorest countries got a higher score in the selection process

D. Data Availability on Youth Climate Movements

Prioritising countries with lower data availability on the youth climate movement was vital for ensuring a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of the diverse initiatives taking place across the continent. In regions where data was scarce, there existed a risk of overlooking the valuable contributions and challenges faced by youth actively engaged in climate movements. By focusing on countries with limited data, the project aimed to fill critical knowledge gaps and amplify the voices of youth-led initiatives that may otherwise remain unnoticed. This approach fostered a more inclusive narrative, shedding light on lesser-known movements and ensuring that the mapping efforts contributed to a holistic representation of the youth climate ecosystem in Africa.

To measure data availability on climate youth movements in each country, We used Google Scholar and conducted a search using the following query:

("Youth Climate Movement" OR "Youth Climate Activism" OR "Youth organisations" OR "Youth organisations" OR "Youth-led Climate Initiatives") AND ("Country name" OR "Country name Youth" OR "Youth in Country name") AND ("Climate Change" OR "Environmental Activism" OR "Sustainability Initiatives")

We noted down the number of results in each country which

showed the level of data availability in that country.

Indicator:

- Countries with fewer result numbers got a higher score in the selection process.

2. Diversity Criteria

E. Regional Diversity

Prioritising regional diversity in the selection process was crucial for fostering a nuanced and holistic understanding of the youth climate movement in Africa. By ensuring representation from diverse regions, the project aimed to capture the unique challenges, solutions, and perspectives that emerged in response to distinct environmental and cultural landscapes. This approach not only enhanced the relevance and applicability of findings but also promoted a more inclusive narrative that acknowledged the dynamic interplay between regional factors and youth engagement in climate action. Regional diversity, therefore, became an essential criterion to ensure that the project's outcomes resonated with the diverse realities and priorities of African youth across the continent.

Indicator:

- At least 2 countries from each region. Minimum of 2 per region based on the percentage calculations done below.
- The proportion of countries selected for each region was close by 5% at least to the proportion of countries represented by this region in the continent (East Africa represented 31% of African countries, then the number of countries selected from East Africa represented between 26% to 36% of total selected countries)
- Ensured at least 2 small island states were selected

F. Cultural and Language Diversity

Ensuring cultural and language diversity in the selection of countries was paramount for fostering a comprehensive understanding of the youth climate movement across Africa. The continent boasts a rich tapestry of languages, cultures, and ethnicities, each contributing unique perspectives and approaches to addressing climate challenges. By intentionally including different languages and ethnicities, the project aimed to capture the diverse voices and experiences that characterised Africa's multi-faceted identity. This approach not only enriched the breadth of insights gathered but also promoted inclusivity, acknowledging the cultural nuances that influence how youth engaged with and responded to climate issues. Ultimately, this diversity-driven criterion ensured that the mapping efforts were representative, respectful, and reflective of the rich cultural mosaic that defined the African continent.

Indicators:

- Ensured we had at least 8 francophones, 3 Arab-speaking and 1 Portuguese-speaking country selected
- Ensured the countries selected included at least 14 major ethnic groups. A major ethnic group has 3 million or more in

the population .⁶⁰

These were the main criteria which were importantly considered to achieve the project goals. There were other potential criteria such as the country's level of education, political situation, level of transparency, and others. These were not a priority in the decision-making process. These could be considered instead in the results analysis to try to identify trends and correlations.

The objective of this framework was to use the aforementioned criteria to rank and choose the 25 countries which were targeted in the consultations work.

First: We worked on an Excel sheet that included the 54 African countries and included information about:

- Climate vulnerability level: world risk index score.
- World Bank economic state
- Country population
- Level of data availability
- Official language(s)
- Ethnic group⁶¹

Find the excel sheet [here](#)

Second: Scoring

Each ranking criterion got a score based on the value identified for each country:

- Economic state: Scored between 1 and 4 with poorer countries getting a higher score. This fitted our goal of ensuring that youth voices from low-income settings were captured and prioritised.

- Low income: Score 4
- Lower middle income: Score 3
- Upper middle income: Score 2
- High income: Score 1

- Population Size: Scored between 1 and 5, with a higher score given to more populated countries. This prioritised countries with more youth to ensure more inclusion and representation.

- Very Low Population (Score 1): Below 5 million people
- Low Population (Score 2): 5 million to 20 million people
- Moderate Population (Score 3): 20 million to 40 million people
- High Population (Score 4): 40 million to 100 million people
- Very High Population (Score 5): Above 100 million people

- Climate Vulnerability: Scored between 1 and 5, with a higher score given to more vulnerable countries. This prioritised countries at higher risk of climate disasters and consequences and in bigger need for support and youth engagement.

- Very low: Score 1
- Low: Score 2
- Medium: Score 3
- High: Score 4
- Very high: Score 5

- Data Availability: Scored between 1 and 5, with a higher score given to countries with fewer data on the youth climate movement. This way, our results had a strong added value and captured unheard voices in the continent.

- Very low: Score 5
- Low: Score 4
- Medium: Score 3
- High: Score 2
- Very high: Score 1

Each country got an average score by calculating the average of the 4 criteria as follows:

- Each criterion got 25% of the total score.
- To ensure all criteria had similar scoring systems and weight, the score of the economic state was multiplied by 1.25. (this criterion had a maximum score of 4, while all others had a maximum score of 5. The multiplication in 1.25 made it equal to others)
- Final formula for average score: (Economic state score x 1.25) + Population size score + vulnerability score + Data availability score

Third: We determined how many countries was to chosen from each African region.

Based on the UN geoscheme⁶² the continent was divided into 5 regions. North Africa with 6 countries, Southern Africa with 5 countries, Central Africa with 9 countries, West Africa with 16 countries, and East Africa with 18 countries. Based on the percentage of countries in each region. We estimated the number of countries to be selected from each region:

- North Africa: 2 to 3 countries

- Southern Africa: 2 to 3 countries
- Central Africa: 4 to 5 countries
- West Africa: 7 to 8 countries
- East Africa: 8 to 9 countries

Fourth: Criteria for Diversity and Inclusion

After scoring, we selected countries from each region based on the numbers we identified. When we finished the selection we made sure the different diversity criteria were achieved. These included

- At least 8 francophone countries, 3 Arab-speaking countries and at least 1 Portuguese-speaking country
- Inclusion of at least 15 major ethnicities
- Ensured the presence of at least 2 island states.

In instances where some of these criteria were not reached, we substituted of a couple of countries while we prioritised countries with the top average scores.

B. Youth Organisations' Selection

The goal was to ensure the representativity and diversity of youth organisations.

We first used purposive sampling to prioritise organisations. The 3 selected youth organisations from each country needed to fit the following conditions:

- One urban-based youth climate organisation
- One rural-based youth climate organisation
- One youth climate network representing multiple youth organisations
- In case of the non-availability of one of the mentioned types of youth climate organisations, it was replaced by youth climate organisations from the other types.

In the case multiple organisations fitted into one of the three categories, we used non-probability sampling. We used our networks to identify organisations and movements which were accessible and have been doing projects in their countries.

We also used surveys which was shared with all youth climate organisations and groups in the selected 25 countries to capture other insights from youth.

10.2 Structure of Interview and Survey

The interview and survey gathered different elements regarding the youth climate organisations themselves, their work, as well as their challenges and future opportunities for growth. It included the following sections:

- Demographic and Personal Information
 - Name of the organisation
 - Name and position of the representative
 - Year of creation
 - Organisation mission
 - Number of staff
 - Number of volunteers
 - Location
 - Country(ies) of work
 - Primary target audience(s)
 - Topics addressed
 - Type of activities
 - Percentage of women in leadership positions
 - Contact details
- Challenges and Opportunities
 - What are the issues faced by the organisation?
 - Regarding funding and finance (prompt, what are current funding sources and how can you diversify funds)
 - Regarding project design, implementation and evaluation
 - Regarding organisational management and members' engagement
 - Regarding communication
 - Regarding administrative procedures and regulations
 - Others
 - What are strategies you employed to overcome some of these challenges
 - What could be done better in your work?
 - What kind of resources are needed to support your organisation? (financial, human resources, technologies, capacity building, access to resources, connections with stakeholders, administrative support...)
 - What are the strengths of your organisation? (can you provide examples and details)
 - What are your existing partnerships and external collaborations?
 - What can you offer to other youth groups in the continent or your country?
 - Any other comments or reflections

Find the interview and survey document [here](#)

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