

Climdev-Africa Youth Platform

Empowering African Youth for Climate Change Dialogue and Response Actions

Background

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The Paris Agreement lays out long-term ambitions for climate change response and urges the engagement of non-State actors, especially young people, in the solution space. This development is a significant shift in promoting equity and intergenerational participation that necessitates a framework for enhancing youth preparedness for national climate response actions. Article 12 of the Paris Agreement states that “Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement”. Thus, engaging and supporting African youth on all fronts of climate change leadership and action is crucial for speeding up the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

In response to the call for the engagement of young people in climate change actions by African Heads of State and Government in the Malabo Declaration of 2014, the Climate for Development Programme (ClimDev-Africa) set up the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform in 2015 as a regional platform for the interaction of African youth networks on climate change. The Platform is a transformative, one-of-a-kind intellectual and social platform that seeks to develop, connect and inspire African youth to deal with climate change. It brings together the brightest young minds from across Africa and the diaspora to help resolve some of the most pressing climate change and sustainable development issues facing African nations today.



Goal

The goal of the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform is to empower African youth by enhancing their capabilities and skillsets on a range of climate change response actions to support Africa’s transformation agenda and transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathways.

Objectives

1. To enhance climate change dialogues in public and university campuses, and mainstream climate change into the curricula and programmes of African universities and other tertiary institutions.
2. To establish networks, dialogue platforms and discussion forums for African young people for sharing climate information and knowledge.



3. Develop tailored programmes and training to enhance the skillsets and capabilities of African young people regarding climate change response in Africa.
4. Create special windows for African youth participation in national climate change response actions such as involvement in ClimDev-Africa funded in-country projects, special funding programmes for youth projects, youth education and competitions.
5. Establish national youth databases, hotlines and helpdesks to support national climate response.

Strategic approach

A two-pronged approach that couples a structured and non-structured approach to learning and capacity development (see figure below) will be employed for youth skill development.

Key activities

1. Mainstream climate change into the curricula and programmes of African universities and other tertiary institutions.
2. Facilitate discussion forums on the Paris Agreement and its implementation in Africa.
3. Enhance the ability for competitive proposal development and project implementation.
4. Establish youth resource databases, national hotlines and helpdesks.

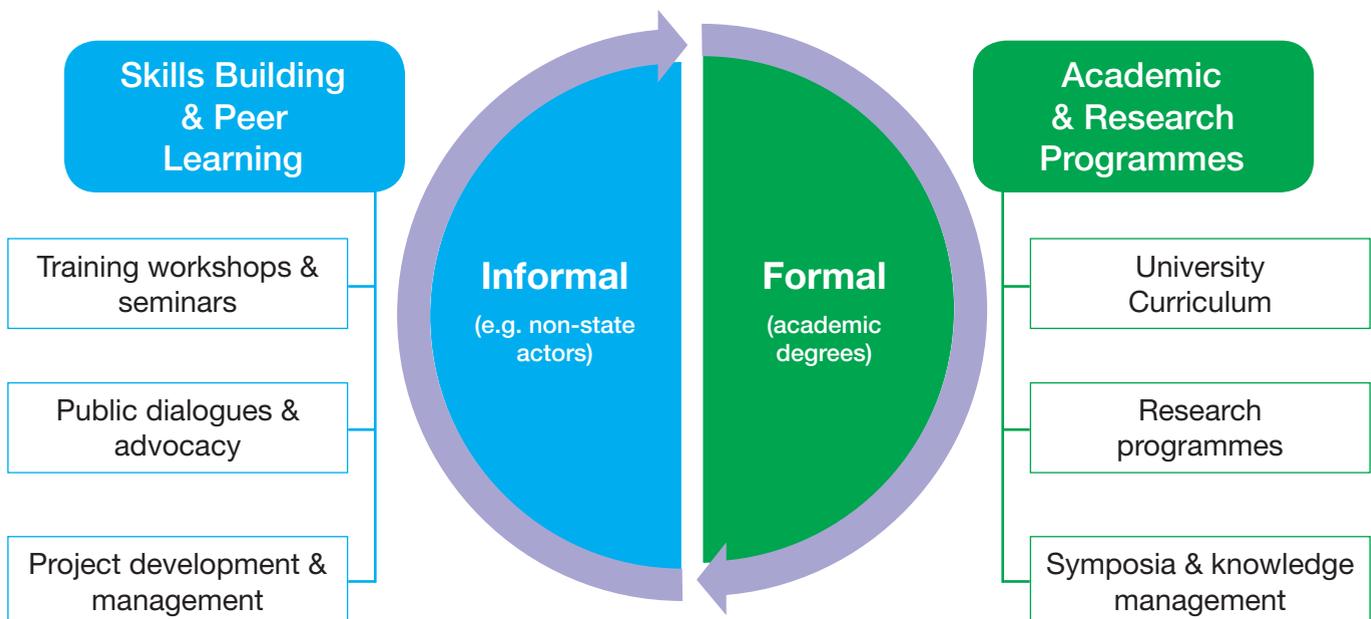
Expected outcomes

African youth are engaged and participating in national climate change response programmes.

Helpdesks and hotlines for national climate change support are established.

Confidence, capabilities and skillsets of African youth on climate change are developed.

African youth capability enhancement initiative on climate change



About ClimDev-Africa

The ClimDev-Africa Programme is an initiative of the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. It is mandated at the highest level by African leaders (African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government). The Programme was established to create a solid foundation for Africa's response to climate change and works closely with other African and non-African institutions and partners specialized in climate and development.



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