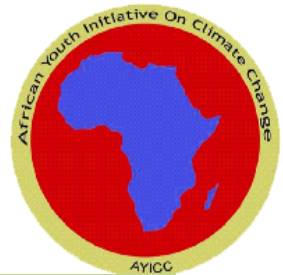




African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC) 2015

Theme: “African Youth Responses to Climate Change and Food Security, Action from the Frontline”

Project title	AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AfriYOCC)
Duration	<i>2 days Pre-Youth Event of the Climate Change and Development Conference (CCDA-V)</i>
Period	October 26th – 27th , 2015
Location	Victoria Falls-Zimbabwe
Contact person	Convener Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay Executive Coordinator, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)
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Supported by	Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)



1.0 RATIONALE FOR AN AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AfriYOCC-2015)

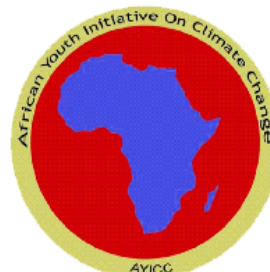
Globally, Africa is seen as a continent particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The anticipated detrimental impacts associated with the environmental challenge of climate change will ultimately modify Africa's economies and livelihoods, health, social structure, infrastructure and natural systems. Over the years, African youth have proved their potential in both promoting and implementing climate change adaptation projects in their communities. Their innovations have continually been adopted in responding to climate change impacts. This has however been amidst various challenges that include low capacity and education, high rates of poverty and lack of financial resources. Also, African youth have been minimally represented in the respective country policy processes as well as during the UNFCCC climate change negotiations. Above 50% of the African population are the youth, this therefore clearly shows whom adverse climatic changes impacts are affecting. Additionally, it justifies the urgent need for youth capacity development to respond to climate change and inclusion as key stakeholders in policy process and negotiations. Just by the numbers, the potential of the youth to result to significant positive change in climate change mitigation and adaptation is undeniable. The formation of African Youth Initiative of Climate Change (AYICC) was among the best foot forward to respond to the mentioned issues.

Youths, being the bearers of current actions, are integral in any development processes. It is the right of everyone to expect development, environmental sustainability, sound resource management, and freedom from poverty and dependency that so often follow environmental degradation and policy mistakes. AYICC aims to spear-head new innovations, look into new systems of success to share with policy and decision-makers, and generally aim to improve on the current system which is causing long-term and irreversible degradation to our livelihoods – as the leading youth organization on climate change in Africa.

African Union solidified their commitments to Africa's youth participation in addressing climate change in 2014, during the 23rd AU Summits of Heads of States in Malabo. The summit requested the African Union Commission to set up a "Youth Programme" of the Committee of African Heads of States and Government of Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

The African Climate Policy Centre under ClimDev, organized a brainstorming workshop in January 2015, to kick-start the implementation of the CAHOSCC Youth Programme on Climate Change (CYPCC). The workshop brought together exceptionally qualified and enthusiastic young Africans working in the area of climate change and sustainable development to establish the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform (CLAYP).

The Platform seeks to be a unique, transformative, intellectual and social platform that seeks to inspire and connect African youths to act against climate change. CLAYP aims to attract African youth from across the continent and the Diaspora and to partner with global youth groups as well as supporters and champions of youth programmes.



In cognizance of the role and potential of the African youth in climate change mitigation and adaptation and overall sustainable development trajectory, the ***African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC)***, being the first of its kind in the history of the continent shall be held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in between ***26th to 27th October 2015 as a Pre-Youth Event of the Climate Change and Development Conference (CCDA-V) organized by the African Climate Policy Centre.***

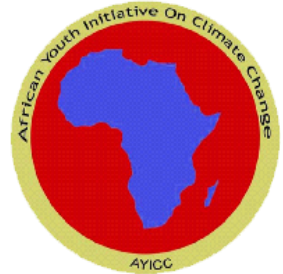
It shall provide an avenue for African youths to showcase their climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, projects and initiatives. Best practices arising from the various AYICC country chapters shall be showcased and eventually developed to an ***African youth climate change adaptation and mitigation best practices data base and handbook.***

The meeting will also discuss the role of African youths in accelerating the implementation of the second decade of CAADP implementation with the validation of the Malabo Declaration Roadmap and Implementation Plan. More importantly, the development theme adopted by the African Union for the year 2015, “Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063” agenda. The meeting will dilate on the current post2015 development agenda and the role of young people in championing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

AYICC currently serves as a member of the "Reference Group" for the biggest global campaign movement in the world Action/2015 www.action2015.org, representing Global Youth and Sub-Saharan Africa. AYICC also mainstreams the voices of Africa youth in the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition as a member of the Steering Committee and lead facilitator in mobilizing Africa's youth towards the implementation of CAADP.

The delegates shall have an opportunity to visit ongoing climate change adaptation and agricultural projects in Ethiopia for hands-on skills and knowledge replicable in their countries. The conference shall critically examine the various country positions and the overall continents positions of the African Groups of Negotiations, their achievements and potentials towards binding agreements in the future. It shall examine the youth voices in these positions and further develop ***African youth position for CoP21.*** Consequently, it shall boost the skills and capacities of African youth to substantially contribute to the process leading towards and during COP21. Through partnership with both governmental and non governmental agencies, the conference shall not only negotiate for more youth representation in the respective country policy process towards the forthcoming CoPs and country specific policies but also provide learning by engagement opportunity for African youths. This will greatly improve their current capacity and potential to actively participate in both national and international platforms for policy formulation and implementation.

The conference will provide a platform to re-assess the current position of our negotiators and create awareness about the critical role young people should play



in shifting agendas in the forth coming UNFCCC negotiations in Paris December 2015.

Too long, youth of Africa have not actively participated into climate change discussions both at the local and regional levels but conversely possess enormous capabilities in addressing these challenges. The former is the result of young people being viewed as trouble makers and unaware of finding solutions for situations confronting the entire region.

The conference will be an appropriate avenue where African youth can come together and discuss issues relating to various topics including the role of youth in adaptation and mitigation projects, public awareness and participation, biodiversity and their role in controlling effects of climate change, the active participation of youth in UNFCCC negotiations, etc. While a 3 day gathering seem insufficient, the conference will pave the way for active engagement of African youth into issues affecting their livelihoods.

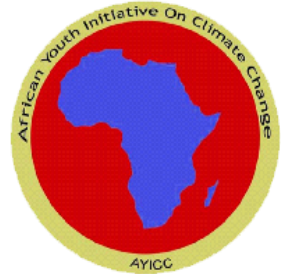
African youth have for long been sidelined to the periphery of the substantive civic and policy issues facing the continent. However, the worst affected are those rural based youths and those residing in farming communities, peri-urban areas and those from conflict and post conflict countries. This has resulted in youths from these marginalized communities having no knowledge and information on the basic climate change science and adaptation and mitigation mechanisms.

Although the situation of young people appears dire, youths, when given a platform can play an active role in climate change adaptation strategies, policy formulation and implementations. However, amongst what is lacking, capacity building and resources to implement climate actions are key factors. There is capacity amongst many young people who are already in these circles of upcoming academia, policy specialists, lawyers, journalists and scientists' alike. These capacities need to be strengthened and their skills need to be shared amongst the wider group of young people on the continent so that best practices are disseminated and resources are expanded. In order to do to so, a number of broad capacity building themes have been identified.

While it is an undeniable fact that climate change is affecting all regions globally, especially in developing countries, the adverse effects in the future is likely to increase if a legally binding global deal is not signed and effectuated. Even if a deal is signed in COP21 in Paris, the impacts of climate change will definitely continue into the future. This suggests that young people will have to not just understand what climate change is and how it is affecting our world, but most importantly, participate actively into finding amicable solutions.

The impacts of climate change is greatly affecting the African region with the presence of prolong drought, increased flooding, reduction in agricultural yield, and all sorts of environmental damages that threaten the already slow pace of economic development and poverty eradication.

Young people of Africa have therefore consider it an inherent imperative to contribute to their future by organizing the ***1st African Youth Conference on Climate Change in October 2015***



1.1 CONFERENCE STRATEGY

The conference programme shall be based on climate adaptation and mitigation through ***agriculture, technology and education***. It shall be highly interactive with unique workshop-style design that enables participants to develop their potential through practical experience. Participants will divide to participate in thematic workshops and come up an African Youth position paper and concrete activities to be included in the ***African Youth Strategy on Climate Change***.

The delegates shall be engaged in pre-conference activities that shall include and not limited to review of country positions to CoP 21, formulation of country youth positions that shall contribute to the ***African Youth Position to CoP 21***, mapping of youth climate change and/or mitigation projects within the conference key focus areas for selection as best practice and include in the ***African youth climate change adaptation and mitigation best practices data base and handbook*** and aggressively fundraise towards their participation and a successful workshop.

We expect about 150 youth leaders to participate in this conference. The conference is convened by the AYICC continental secretariat in collaboration with United Nations Association of Zimbabwe chapter and AYICC Zimbabwe. AYICC leadership will work closely during and after the conference with the participants and partners to develop follow up mechanisms and activities.

1.2 CONFERENCE THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

- a. Youth in Agribusiness
- b. Climate Change and Development in Africa
- c. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security
- d. Green Economy and Technology Transfer
- e. Climate Justice and Human Rights

1.3 OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

The overarching aims of the AfriYOCC 2015, is to create a platform for African youths and to come together to discuss current and emerging issues on climate change in Africa and mobilization for COP21. To share experiences, knowledge and actions on climate change and development in Africa and hold face-to-face strategic meetings on country and local level activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The conference will also be a preparatory meeting of youth participation in the ***Climate Change and Development Conference (CCDA-V) 28 to 30 October 2015***.



1.4 CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- To develop an African youth position paper ahead of CoP21 in Paris
- Launch of *CAHOSCC Youth Programme on Climate Change* (CYPCC) through the *ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform (CLAYP)*.
- Launch of the AYICC best practice data' base for youth response to climate change in Africa.
- Launch of the "*Youth Farms Pilot Project*" in 10 African Countries
- To develop the requisite skills needed by African youth to actively participate in climate change negotiations thereby influencing political decisions and policies at the national, regional and international levels.
- Adopt an African youth engagement strategy for the second decade of CAADP implementation with the validation of the AU Heads of State Malabo Declaration Roadmap and Implementation
- To provide a platform for AYICC leaders and members to review AYICC Strategy, leadership and operations.

1.5 CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

At the end of the conference, youth participants and AYICC members will leave with;

- (a) An African youth position paper for CoP21
- (b) A clear understanding of the AYICC strategy and operations and renewed zeal for its vision.
- (c) Knowledge, new ideas and practices for potential replication in their countries
- (d) New partners to liaise with on climate change issues across the continent

1.6 THE CONFERENCE OUTPUTS INCLUDE, INTER ALIA,

- (e) An African Youth position paper for CoP21, an engagement strategy in involving African youths in climate change policy and negotiations
- (f) A final Best Practices Database of AYICC and Youth actions on climate change for dissemination through online or other channels
- (g) An African youth strategy (2015-2020) on climate change and development in Africa
- (h) Conference and video reports
- (i) A new AYICC continental leadership



1.7 CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

These will include but are not limited to;

- Exhibition of projects by participants and partner organizations (Green Space),
- Side events,
- Field trips,
- Caucus meetings to develop the various outcome documents,
- Youth project presentations,
- Speaker presentations on thematic areas,
- Plenary session,

These will be spread across the two days

1.8 TARGET GROUP AND PARTICIPATION

1. The African youth and AYICC members
2. Youth led climate and environmental organizations
3. Youth climate activist
4. Government and nongovernmental organizations in Africa. Especially those with an interests in climate change, food security and sustainable agriculture
5. Grassroots youths/women and farmers
6. Youths from indigenous communities
7. Media and Artists

1.9 DATES AND VENUE

The meeting will commence on **26th October 2015**, and conclude on the **27th October 2015**. Official sessions start in the morning at 08:30hrs and end 18:00hrs in the evening.

1.10 PARTNERS

- a) African Climate Policy Centre
- b) African Union Commission
- c) NEPAD
- d) United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)
- e) UNFCCC Secretariat
- f) Ministries of Environment and Agriculture-Zimbabwe
- g) All AU member countries ministries of environment, youth affairs or climate change secretariats and agencies
- h) Pan African Climate Justice Association (PACJA)
- i) GCCA



- j) CAN International
- k) AVAAZ.ORG
- l) Biovision
- m) Action/2015.org
- n) CADDP Non-State Actors Coalition
- o) African Artists Peace Initiative
- p) African Youth Panel (AYP)
- q) African Youth Alliance on Post2015 (AYAP)
- r) Pan-African Youth Union

1.11 WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU AS A PARTNER/SPONSOR

The conference theme is deliberate, as we believe that African youth have a key role to play in reversing the threats of climate change and related issues.

The benefits are enumerated below:

- AYICC and the congress make you a partner not only for the congress but for long term engagements which we will both agree on. Opportunities include contributing to the lobby positions and handbook on best practices, AYICC website, facebook page, newsletters and campaigns.
- You will be given an opportunity to set the conference agenda and a speaking slot and take part in post conference strategy.
- AYICC can provide and make available a platform of 45 national chapters with over 20,000 members that could serve as a focal point and partners in implementing country specific projects and research activities.
- Extra Large Size Logo of organization in conference banner backdrop
- Name and Logo of your organization in all promotional materials (banners, flyers, facebook page and posters)
- Companies name and logo included in the final conference report

1.12 OVERVIEW OF AFRIYOCC PROGRAM 2015

	Day 1 26th October 2015	Day 2 27 October 2015
Morning	<p>Opening Plenary (Plenary Session) Youth speakers and partner organizations will deliver remarks, expectations and commitments on conference theme.</p>	<p>Launching of the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform (CLAP) in response to the AU Heads of States Summit Malabo Declaration on establishment of CAHOSCC Youth Programme on Climate Change (CYPCC).</p>
Afternoon	<p>Thematic Workshops (Breakout Sessions) Training sessions run parallel based on all 5 thematic focus areas of the conference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launch of the AYICC best practice data' base for youth actions on climate change in Africa ➤ Developing the African Youth Position on CoP21 and youth engagement strategy for CoP21 and beyond.
Evening	<p>Welcome Dinner</p>	<p>Sight-seeing to climate adaptation projects in Ethiopia</p> <p>Launch of African Artists Unite for Climate Justice Campaign. Partnership initiative between AYICC and the African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)</p>



AYICC BACKGROUND

The **African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)** is an umbrella youth network of African based youth organizations, university groups, rural youth groups, schools, and individuals working on climate change and sustainable development issues. It aims at developing capacity and strong partnerships among African youth to understand the urgent need to take action against the impacts of climate change for both present and future generations.

The initiative (always referred to as the movement) was conceived in Nairobi Kenya in 2006, during the second Conference of Youth (COY2) preceding the 12th Conference of Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - COP12). The main reason for its founding was to ensure the inclusion, and active participation of youth voices from the south, and specifically Africa, in the international climate change negotiations. This was needed as the young people are almost half of African population and are most affected by climate change impacts. They also got massive potential to support the continent to take action on global warming.

During its formation, it comprised of 8 country chapters and current has grown to 45 country chapters with over 20,000 members across Africa and the Diaspora. This initiative has provided a platform for knowledge, ideas and experiences sharing. It has also an avenue for development of skills and strategies on youth action on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the African continent.

The members of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) address the bigger picture of climate change by appreciating its links with sustainable development in the African context.

In this regard to link climate change and achievement of the millennium development goals and the role of African youth in this process, who are over 50% of the African population.

This network links, and shares knowledge, ideas, experiences, skills and strategies on youth action around the continent on climate change mitigation and adaptation. It has been identified by most youth to have the potential to provide a platform for them to address their regional challenges at such international gatherings as the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCSD, among others. Since the inception of AYICC.

Since its inception, we have worked in partnership with international youth movements and have played a great role in the establishment of the International Youth Climate Movement whose youth member organizations are now officially acknowledged by the UNFCCC as the YOUNGO (Youth NGOs involved in the climate change negotiations process). Since COY2 in Nairobi, it has had youth delegates' representation in all COP meetings. In 2011, the Kenyan chapter under the umbrella of the Kenya Climate Youth Network and support from various partners organised the road to Durban climate caravan that transverse African countries to the onset of COP 17. During this period, the youth delegates created awareness on climate change on the communities along the caravan corridor and the need to have a binding agreement in Durban.



In addition to the above, we have had landmark successes that include:

- A reach out programme for a children's home (Watoto Wema in Ruai) and School climate change education program run in select schools in Kenya.
- Leadership and mentorship programmes especially on volunteerism.
- Community development projects particularly on clean energy (energy saving stoves for rural folks)
- Capacity development of youth on agribusiness
- Advocacy campaigns e.g. lobbied for lanes to be set aside along the major highways for non motorised transport especially for cyclists.
- Policy engagements i.e. contributing to the climate change bill 2012, as stakeholders

AYICC ensured over the years, that African youth are equipped to participate in future UNFCCC meetings and other global initiatives for sustainable solutions to environmental degradation and climate change. In addition, AYICC strives to encourage and motivate action at grass-roots level.

2.1 Our Goal

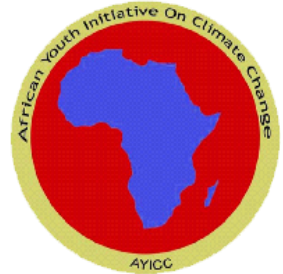
To develop capacity and strong partnerships among African youth to understand the urgent need to take action against the impacts of climate change for both present and future generations.

2.2 Our Vision

An African continent with an empowered and united youth, who are proactively involved in the decision-making processes and in the adoption of sustainable options towards a better climate and social equity.

2.3 Our Core Objectives

- b) To provide a platform for young people in the African Countries to engage in dialogue and share experiences with regard to youth participation in climate change and sustainable development.
- c) To advocate and lobby for pro-active representation and participation of youth in climate change and sustainable development activities at a local, national and international level.
- d) To build partnerships and mobilize resources for youth and youth organizations to actively participate in the implementation of climate change response strategies and projects in their member countries.
- e) Play a leading role in promoting and implementing climate change education and research, adaptation and mitigation in Africa.



- f) Initiate and support youth leadership processes by creating a platform for transfer of leadership skills and principles of transparent governance.

2.4 Our strategic priorities in achieving these objectives:

- Policy dialogues
- Networking and partnerships, including South/South and South/North
- Communication and Education
- Precaution strategies
- Research, Advocacy and Action Learning

Our charter (Charter of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change) can be found on www.ayicc.net. Presently the concept of AYICC has been taken forward by African youth in the absence of any financial assistance, the greatest resource being the time and skills that the leadership committee and members contribute. However, in order to scale up our actions and make AYICC vision a reality, there is need for more human and financial resources.