

Concept Note- YOUNGO Led Session at Africa Climate Week 2023

Bridging the gap : Funding the future we want

Tentative date: 7th September 2023 at 14h30-16h30 EAT (Kenyan Time)

Duration : 2hrs

Contact info:

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A. Background

A.1 Overview on Green Job Fair

The transition to a greener economy is not only essential for preserving the planet but also presents immense opportunities for economic growth and job creation. One pivotal initiative in this regard is the Green Job Fair, an event that brings together employers, job seekers, and organizations in Africa committed to fostering environmentally responsible practices. Overall, the concept of a Green Job Fair in Africa shows enormous promise for growing environmentally conscious career options, stimulating innovation, and creating a network of committed individuals and organizations dedicated to shaping a more sustainable future for the continent. Such fairs have the ability to catalyze positive change by providing young Africans with the tools, knowledge, and connections they need to play an active role in establishing a greener economy.

Rationale:

- African youth can discover a wide range of job opportunities, internships, and entry-level positions that align with their values and career aspirations.
- Attending a Green Job Fair allows young Africans to identify the skill sets that are in demand and seek additional training or education to enhance their employability in these sectors.
- Green job fairs are hubs for innovation and research, as they attract companies that invest in cutting-edge technologies to interact with potential young employees and attract talented African youth who share their vision for sustainability.
- The event shall create a platform for young African job seekers to network with industry professionals and experts. It also fosters collaboration between businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and environmental organizations to work together towards a common goal of sustainability.

A.2 Overview on connecting funders with African youth:

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges of our time, threatening the well-being and sustainability of future generations. As the front-line stewards of our planet, today's youth bear the brunt of this crisis, facing an uncertain future shaped by the actions we take today. Engaging young people in climate action is not only essential but also empowering for their development as responsible global citizens. However, to channel their enthusiasm and dedication effectively, youth-led climate projects require adequate funding and support.

Rationale:

- Youth have proven time and again that they possess the passion, creativity, and determination to drive meaningful change. Their unique perspectives and innovative ideas are often at the forefront of climate activism and environmental initiatives.
- Lack of financial support may prevent them from attending conferences, conducting research, or implementing projects. By allocating funds to youth-led climate initiatives, we level the playing field and ensure that financial constraints do not impede their efforts.
- Funding acts as a catalyst for building a strong and interconnected network of youth climate leaders, thereby maximizing their collective potential to influence policy changes and drive grassroots movements.

Addressing the gap:

Empowering young people with adequate funding not only supports their initiatives but also cultivates a generation of climate-conscious leaders equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive positive change. The session will set the tone for a long term objective of scaling and enhancing access to finance for African youth. It shall be divided into two parts :

(i) showcasing viable youth-led climate projects - A call to express interest shall be circulated amongst YOUNGO's youth network. **Around 7 youth projects** that require **immediate funding shall be selected based on a set of criteria**. The main aim is to put forward viable youth-led climate projects, share their best practices, identify the needs and gaps for funding. Ultimately, to bridge the gap between youth and funders in the African region.

(ii) Connecting with funders and regranters in African region: A report published by YOUNGO Finance and Market Working Group in 2022¹ highlights the lack of awareness by youth on financing opportunities available in the region. This eventually hinders their access to climate financing for youth. By hearing from the funders and regranters in the region, it will shed light on the opportunities for funding, highlight the barriers to overcome for youth to access the funding and connect the youth in the room with the latter. **Around 10 funders** and regranters from the region shall be invited to **attend the session and present their initiatives**. We shall also provide them with an **exhibition booth**.

¹ <https://youngoclimate.org/youth-needs-for-climate-finance/>

B. Proposed Programme

Time	Action	Speaker/ Responsible
14:30-15:15	Green Job Fair	Liz and Team
15:15-15:30	Break and switching to part two	Team
15:30- 15:33	Opening Remarks on funding for youth	Representative from Youth Climate Justice Fund- Passy Amasso
15:33-16:10	Presenting Youth Led Projects in Africa Funding Opportunities for African Youth Rotation of video and funder presentation	Video of 5-7 youth projects Funders- max 6 funders
16:15-16:25	Conversation with Funders	Q&A session
16:25-16:30	Closing Remarks	Karishma Ansaram- Finance Youth Fellow High Level Champions Team
	Moderator	

Confirmed Projects and Speakers (Funders):

- Video 1 (2mins) : ThinkBikes - Tech and Innovation
- Video 2 (2mins): Nurtured Agro Resources Ltd- Agri and Gender
- Funder (5mins): FSD Africa- Mark Napier, CEO
- Funder (5mins): Nelson Mandela Children Fund- Samke Mnguni, Youth Leadership Programme Manager
- Video 3 (2mins): Nimsy Agro Solar Concept - Energy and Water
- Video 4 (2mins): Make a Change in Community Initiative- Clean cooking alliance:
- Funder (5mins) : GEF Small Grants Programme- Marie-Laure Mpeck Nyemeck, Africa Focal Point
- Funder (5mins): Global Resilience Partnerships (GRP) -June Kimaiyo Youth Engagement Officer

- Video 5 (2mins): TBC
- Video 6 (2mins): YouMeta, Ed Tech- Green Jobs
- Funder (5mins): Youth4Climate and UNDP- Agostino Inguscio- Head of the UNDP Rome Centre
- Funder (5mins) : West African Development Bank- Moubarak Mokaila, Regional Coordinator
- Speaker (5mins): Race to Zero, Climate Champions Team- Mahesh Pillay, Business Engagement Lead